

# Road Events Report

## September 2020

### 2021 SAMSC Scottish Navigational Rally Championship

Following the abandonment of the 2020 Championship I have been in touch with the organisers of the various clubs running, or not, rounds in the Championship, asking them to provisionally identify whether they hope to run a Championship counter and if so when. This needs to be identified so the Championship permit can be applied for from MSUK.

Championship aside SDMC is hoping to run a Hairst Rally, but on a changed date of 17<sup>th</sup> October. This will be more of an experimental event complying with Covid rules and using a different type of time recording (see Boffins b) below).

**Championship Points** - As you will recall from 1st January 2019, the MSUK agreed that for a trial 2 year period competitors will receive points whether the event is either of Interclub (old Nat B) or RS Clubman (old Clubman) status, for Association Championships, in order to boost numbers. Without events running this year due to Covid restrictions will we be able to extend the 2 year period until the end of 2021 season? A question I hope we will be able to have an answer for before Championship Regulations are drawn up.

### On-line activities during lockdown:

Whilst these tended to take a break after the online Ali Shuffle at the end of July they have restarted with Stewart Marry organising the Rally64south at the end of August with a healthy list of 40 entries, showing that they are still popular.

### Boffins at work!

When Covid-19 struck and rallies were not allowed to take place there was a flurry of activity by various folk looking at ways in which clubs could innovate in order to comply with Covid-19 restrictions on navigational rallying. Many ideas have been floated, mainly with use of various apps. on smart phone etc.

A couple of projects have emerged in the north-east which, whilst not in themselves providing a full answer to the restrictions, are aiming at providing a solution to another problem most events have, getting enough marshals to run events!



- a) Firstly can I introduce you to the 'Marshaliser' Project - This is used in place of marshals at some, or all controls, of a rally. Each box will move to a new word at exactly minute intervals so when a crew arrive at a control they will have to record the word which is displayed on the correct minute that they are due. If they arrive early and take a word at an earlier time the organisers will know how many minutes they're early and penalise accordingly. If they arrive late they take the word showing and the organisers will know how late they are.

There no practical way of crew guessing or working out the next word, even if they knew all 200 words in the decoder spreadsheet. All the word clocks will be the same so the opening car doesn't have to be specific about which one goes where (they will be attached to Control Board & stake.). This system requires no high tech being required by the competing crew. There are currently 6 Marshalisers in production as well as the original prototype and it is hoped to run a short trial event later this year to find out what can go wrong so it can be fixed!

b) Not content with one project different boffins are looking at another system which is also designed to reduce the need for control marshals on navigational rallies.

In this system the competitors use an on App their mobile phones that uses GPS signals to trigger a time when they arrive at a control point. It is an adaptation of a system used for American TSD (Time/Speed/Distance) rallies originally produced by Rich Bireta. He has amended the system so that it generates time of day at each control rather than the elapsed time to the second that the TSD rallies use.

When a car reaches a Control Point the GPS will trigger and record the time ,which is displayed to the competitor, it is also sent to a cloud based server whenever the phone has a signal, as a last resort all the times could be uploaded at the end of the rally.

The times are output as a csv file that is loaded into a spreadsheet to generate the results. Following much hard work the spreadsheet now includes the 3/4 rule, OTL, penalty free lateness and making up time!

Ian Davies of MSUK has been consulted over these plans and has already issued a dispensation of general regulations until the end of 2020 for this. As mentioned earlier in the report it is planned to run a Hairst Rally by this method on 17<sup>th</sup> October.

It is hoped that SAMSC will support both these projects and if one, or other, proves successful that other clubs might also adopt them. Difficulty in finding marshals has been used in the past for not organising navigational rallies.

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