



**MINUTES OF THE DELEGATES MEETING OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF NORTH-WESTERN CAR CLUBS
HELD AT THE HOLIDAY INN, RUNCORN, ON TUESDAY 8 MAY 2007**

WELCOME

The Chairman, Bob Milloy, welcomed delegates to the meeting and introduced John Symes, MSA Technical and Risk Manager.

ATTENDANCE

20 member clubs were represented by 19 delegates as follows:

BRMC (Mike Farnworth), BRSCC NW (Mike Harris), Bury AC (Richard Murtha), Caernarvon & Anglesey MC (Jim Jones), Formula 1000 Rally Club (Dave Thomas), Garstang & Preston MC (Steve Kenyon, Terry May), High Moor MC (Gary Heslop), HRCR (Stan Appleton), Ilkley & DMC (Stan Appleton), Kirkby Lonsdale MC (Bob Milloy, Katy Mashiter), Knutsford & DMC (Steve Skepper), Lancs & Ches CC (Martin Nield), Liverpool MC (Ron Hunt), Motor Sport NW Ltd (Martin Nield), North Wales CC (Dave Thomas), Phoenix Rescue Services (Tony McGuire), Potteries & Newcastle MC (Eric Cowcill), Stockport MC (Bob Milloy), Wallasey MC (Bill Turner, Mike Harris), Wigan & DMC (Martin Fox, Helen Fox).

Officials present were: Bob Milloy (Chairman), Eric Cowcill (Treasurer), Katy Mashiter (Press Officer), Dave Thomas (Championships Coordinator), Mike Farnworth (Training Officer), Stan Appleton (General Secretary).

APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded from Mike Ashcroft (Longton & DMC), Nigel Bayley (ERO), Mike Yates (Slaithwaite MC), Steve Johnson (CSMA, Accrington MSC), Jim Spencer (BRCA), Stephen Cawley (Bolton le Moors MC), Mark, Ken and Steph Wilkinson (Stockport MC), Ian Price (Accrington MSC), Peter Riley (Longton & DMC), Gordon Waddington (Lindholme MC), John Harden (Liverpool MC/Aintree LO), Tom Dooley, David Bailey, Sue Sanders-Peppitt (Potteries & Newcastle MC).

MINUTES

The minutes of the February 2007 Delegates' Meeting were agreed as a true record on a proposal from Wallasey MC, seconded by Kirkby Lonsdale MC.

MATTERS ARISING

VAT on MOD land fees – MSA has confirmed that this is not recoverable. MSA negotiates a direct contract with Forestry Commission but individual clubs negotiate with MOD.

50th Anniversary – Oulton Park for the Gold Cup meeting seems the preferred option. Costs will be obtained. A variety of cars are needed representing the range of disciplines and ages covered. A link with Motorsport Week should be achievable.

MSA MATTERS

TECHNICAL AND RISK

John Symes explained his role as Technical and Risk Manager and some of his key tasks. He is responsible for the text of the monthly Scrutineers News and has a rolling programme to inspect the 140 venues holding track licences. He deals with claims against MSA's insurance policies and whilst acknowledging the occasional 'big hit' he is able to successfully defend 30-40 potential claims each year. This is broadened to include claims for non-MSA events run at MSA-licensed venues as well as non-permit events such as parades, galas and open days. Clubs need to pay close attention to the detail of their paperwork and their decision-making processes.

On technical matters it often seems that the same question and issue recurs, with many competitors ignorant of the Blue Book paragraphs that could answer their question. Regulations are there for the purpose of either maintaining a fairly level playing-field or else are for managing risk to reasonable levels. Many get misinformed by rumours from internet forums rather than going back to the printed regulations.

A new round of seminars for Environmental Scrutineers is to be announced. Virtually all venues have some degree of noise sensitivity now with differing controls and measures in place, in some cases permitting a trade-off to enable an element of 'full-on' vehicles to be balanced by other more modest cars, as with drag racing. The ACU have improved the compliance of motorbikes with sound levels monitoring.

COUNCIL

Eric Cowcill reported that marshals were to be directly represented on the Marshalling Advisory Panel. Cadet Marshals had been approved from 1.1.08; the organizing club needed to have its own Child Protection Officer.

The controversial K37 proposals had gone back out for consultation with some minor tweaks. It was planned to implement this from 1.1.09 for newly built cars and from 1.1.10 for existing cars. Plans for Junior Rally Drivers had been approved.

A paper on fuel sampling had been discussed, focusing on where it might be done on rallies. John Symes reminded delegates that it had been normal practice in racing for many years. Delegates discussed octane levels with John Symes reporting that the British Standard only specifies a minimum but fuel companies had confirmed that 4* fuel would not exceed 100 octane and that it was the highest standard universally available in the UK. The FIA's limit of 102 octane reflects the ready availability of the higher figure at pumps in some other parts of the world. Eric Cowcill confirmed that for the remainder of 2007 clubs should discuss with Ian Davis how to frame their regulations to overcome problems. Whilst the vocal argument had come from competitors the views of marshals were overlooked, with some now unwilling to staff arrival controls because of the noxious air.

REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Bob Milloy reported a discussion led by Nicky Moffitt about the role of regional associations and of Regional Committee aimed at giving them more influence.

National Motorsport Week was to be actively promoted.

Nominations were encouraged for the Prince Michael Award.

The Club Development Fund is now accompanied by a Rescue and Recovery Fund.

Regional liaison officers are required for Volunteers in Motorsport – Katy Mashiter felt she may be willing to take this on.

ANWCC came 3rd in the Inter-Association Autotest (thanks to Duncan Wild for coordinating). The I-a PCT will be at Kidderminster on 3 June, the I-a Road Rally is to be run by Clitheroe and CSMA on 28 October and the I-a Stage Rally will again be the Tour of Mull.

The structure of fees for forest rallying has now gone to Rallies Committee, whether per capita or a flat rate per mile.

RALLIES COMMITTEE

Bob Milloy reported that 100 comments had been received about the K37 proposals, many in favour of the changes. There were still issues about weight and rim widths that needed to be resolved. The figures quoted are those of the FIA but give Darrians a particular problem.

Clarification was still needed of the current proposals for Category 3 cars. Consultation had been extended to June 2007 which meant that it would not reach Council until September.

SPEED COMMITTEE

Dave Thomas reported that Peter Riley had commented about an 'adult seat' being specified for two/four seater cars.

TIMING COMMITTEE

Eric Cowcill announced the introduction of a 'Cadet Timekeeper' category to help with the present shortage of timekeepers, giving basic training.

CORRESPONDENCE AND SECRETARY'S REPORT

Stan Appleton warned delegates of the risks of taking issues such as K37 or fuel-sampling beyond the realm of MSA jurisdiction and involving government departments or agencies with their grievances. This would be quite counter-productive and could jeopardise many of our current freedoms.

Correspondence from MSA had included a very useful 5 in 1 DVD covering a range of marshalling, fire-fighting and first aid matters. It was recommended for clubnight viewing.

Delegates discussed association support for potential nominations for MSA Committees.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Eric Cowcill had nothing to report, except that affiliation fees hadn't been paid by BARC, Lancs & Ches Rover Owners, and Rally Support NW.

CHAMPIONSHIP COORDINATOR'S REPORT

325 competitors had registered to date, compared with 395 at this point in 2006. This has financial implications as championship fees are a major part of the association's income. For example only £860 is available for the marshals' fund compared with £1200 in 2006.

34 events have run so far with a variable results service. The coordinator relies on prompt accurate information with changes made to entry lists where substitutes have been involved. Support for stage and forest events is good. Some road rallies have still been oversubscribed and historic road rallies are healthy. As only two association clubs were still running endurance road rallies this championship had been cancelled.

Sprints were healthy despite Ty Croes not being ready. The hillclimb series had not yet started. Caernarvon & Anglesey was the leading club from Clwyd Vale.

The Marshals Draw was made, rewarding P Davies, S Cawley, S Matthews, E Fisher, P Buckle, I Mather.

AINTREE LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT

John Harden had sent a written report confirming that a full season of events had been agreed with the Racecourse Company and that relations were good. Aintree is to have a new Managing Director whose attitude to motorsport will be critical.

FORESTRY LIAISON OFFICERS' REPORT

No report.

OTHER VENUES

Work was still being done at Weeton. Swinderby would be unavailable after Bury's event. Rufforth is now extremely noise-sensitive and can have limited use only. A completion date for Ty Croes was awaited; it looked very good if rather quick !

TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT

Mike Farnworth reported that it was likely that he would be sitting on the MSA Training Steering Group. It looked as though some dates for 2008 training events would clash with competition events but we would stick with our plans. Katy Mashiter was now an accredited instructor.

PRESS OFFICER'S REPORT

Katy Mashiter had nothing to report.

RALLY LIAISON OFFICERS' REPORT

No report.

OTHER BUSINESS

Common sense needs to be used by over-zealous lay scrutineers on road rallies – a 'Volunteers in Motorsport' sticker recently had to be covered as it was perceived as advertising !
Jim Jones (C&A MC) asked whether ANWCC could give financial support to a multi-club consortium to take over the available North Wales forest allocation. Eric Cowcill reported that whilst association operating costs have come down, largely because of electronic media, funds were OK but were generally spent within the year. Stan Appleton suggested that clubs such as Lindholme, Telford and Amman who already take a financial risk in running their own forest rally would be unlikely to support another event however minimally. Bob Milloy felt that whilst Motor Sport NW has worked well there could be difficulties with the inter-club politics of such a venture. Gary Heslop (High Moor MC) asked for improved liaison between Ian Davis and John Symes of MSA and the appointed MSA Steward about the layout of single-venue tests, to get some consistency in planning and interpretation for safety reasons. John Symes confirmed that whilst Ian Davis vets the diagrams, it's up to the steward on the day to use his experience and judgement. This was one of the most testing types of event for a steward and may be appropriate for the next stewards' seminar.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 14 August 2007

AGENDA

For the Delegates' Meeting of the Association of North Western Car Clubs, which will be held at Holiday Inn, Runcorn, on Tuesday 14 August 2007 at 2000hrs.

We shall be joined by Allan Dean-Lewis, MSA External Affairs Executive.

Apologies for absence

Minutes of last meeting (May 2007)

Matters arising

MSA Matters

Reports

General Secretary, including correspondence

Treasurer

Championship Coordinator

Forestry/Facilities Liaison Officer

Aintree Liaison Officer

Other Venue Liaison

Press Officer

Training Officer

C&T Rallies Liaison Officer

Any other business

Date and place of next meeting

Stan Appleton
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(NB Change of address)