ANWCC Minutes of Meeting
held 10th November 2026
via Zoom

Action Summary

The following actions are summarised from the meeting minutes:

Minute	Action	Who
2026.36 - AOB	Raise concerns regarding low attendance of award winners at trophy presentations with the organisers of the Protyre Circuit Rally Championship.	Mark Wilkinson
2026.45 - Sustainability	Review the Association Environmental Management System and report to the AGM in February 2027	Tracey Smith
2026.51 – Training	Promote BMMC annual Oulton Park marshal training event with club members.	All Clubs
	Provide feedback to Oz Philips on the need for Speed Grade 2 training.	Speed Clubs
2026.55 - AOB	Follow up with Motorsport UK regarding lithium battery safety.	Mark Wilkinson
2026.60 - Matters Arising	Follow up outstanding correspondence on landowner negotiations with Motorsport UK	Mark Wilkinson
2026.62- Discussion (f) Sprint/Hillclimb	Approach race timekeepers to encourage them to undertake training for speed events.	Eric Cowcill
2026.63- Recruitment and the Regional Development Plan	Display ANWCC flags at events to promote the Association championships.	All Clubs
	Contact previous participants to remind them about registration for 2027.	Dave Thomas
2026.75-Any Other Business	Suggest to Motorsport UK the use of high-visibility stickers on the navigator's side of rally cars to assist timekeepers at controls.	Mark Wilkinson

Apologies for Absence:

Nancy Russell (Stockport 061), Martin Jelley (Preston and District Vintage CC), Colin Lester-Jones and David Mitchell (North Wales CC), Jim Maguire (Buccaneer Motor Sports Club), David Rainsbury (MGCC (NW)), Dave Smithson (BMMC), Sue and Terry Bateman (Superkarting-UK), David Simons (AWMMC), Kevin Witton (Forestry Liaison Officer), Mark Quayle (Motorsport IOM Car Club) and Mike Phillips (Knutsford & District Motor Club).

Present were:

Roy Bell (ANEMMC), Michael Ashcroft (Aintree CC), Jonathan Armishaw (AMRO), Tim Bendelow (ANCC), Steve Johnson (Boundless by CSMA NW MSG, Accrington MSC & U17MC(NW)), Oz Phillips (BMMC NW & Accrington MSC), John Jones and Jon Cordery(BRMC), Lisa Maguire (Buccaneer MSC), Ray Simpson (Boundless by CSMA NW MSG), Simon Bentley (De Lacy MC), David James (North Humberside MC), Will Banks (Ecurie Royal Oak MC), Steven Kenyon (Garstang & Preston MC), Roger Hopkins (Knutsford & DMC), Richard Murtha (Lancashire AC 1902), Chris Brown (Lindholme MSC), Phil Howarth (Liverpool MC), Chris Winstanley (Longton & DMC), Martin Blackburn (Manx MSMA), Paul Goodman (MG CC North West), Andy Rushton and Barry Wilkinson (Pendle DMC), Eric Cowcill (Potteries & Newcastle MC), David Gregory (Quinton MC), Steve Flanaghan and Andrew Knott (Sheffield & Hallamshire MC), Neville Simmons (Team JJ Marshal's Club), Ann McCormack and Michael Spiers (Warrington & DMC) and a delegate from Eden Valley MC.

Officials present were:

Mark Wilkinson (Chairman/Stockport 061/Motor Sport (North West)/2300 Club), John Harden (Vice-Chairman, SD34 MSG and Liverpool MC), Jack Mather (Vice-Chairman and BLMCC), Jim Spencer (Treasurer/BRCA and Hagley), Dave V Thomas (Championships Co-Ordinator, North Wales CC), Jonathan Baines (Assistant Championships Co-Ordinator), Maurice Ellison (Press Officer and Clitheroe DMC), Katy Mashiter (Training and KLMC/Morecambe CC) and Tracey Smith (Secretary/BRMC).

2026.58 - Welcome

Mark Wilkinson welcomed delegates to the meeting.

Mark announced that Phil Foster, Regional Committee Chairman, had sadly passed away at the end of October. He had been a member of Motor Sports Council since 2020 was due to retire as Chair of the Regional Committee at the end of this year. Mark offered his deepest condolences to friends and family.

Tracey Smith congratulated David Rainsbury on his retirement after 55 years serving on the MGCC North West Committee and more than 45 years as Clerk of the Course.

2026.59 - Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes were proposed as an accurate record by John Harden and seconded by Katy Mashiter.

Actions from the previous meeting:

2026.36 (AOB) - Mark Wilkinson to raise concerns regarding low attendance of award winners at trophy presentations with the organisers of the Protyre Circuit Rally Championship. *Pending- deferred to next organisers meeting*.

2026.42 (Motorsport UK Reports) – all clubs to discuss venues (fixed or temporary) at risk of being lost with club members and add details to the register of at-risk venues. *Complete-see minutes 2026.60*.

2026.42 (Motorsport UK Reports) – all clubs to submit nominations for the annual MSUK Awards. *Complete- nominations had closed*.

2026.42 (Motorsport UK Reports) – Andrew Knott to resend previous correspondence on landowner negotiations to Claire Kirkpatrick. *Complete*.

2026.44 (Recruitment) – Jack Mather to speak with Dave Thomas regarding promotional flags and banners order. *Complete-see minutes 2026.63*.

2026.45 (Sustainability) – Tracey Smith to review the Association Environmental Management System and report to the AGM in February 2027. *Pending-deferred to AGM.*

2026.51 (Training) - all delegates to promote BMMC annual marshal training event at Oulton Park with their club members. *Pending-the event is provisionally planned for February at Oulton Park, subject to final confirmation. Oz Phillips will share training date and registration information with Katy Mashiter and Tracey Smith once confirmed.*

2026.51 (Training) - all clubs to provide feedback to Oz Phillips on the need for Speed Grade 2 training. *Pending-Oz Phillips reported that no clubs had been in touch and encouraged all clubs organising speed events to ask their members if Speed Grade 2 training was needed. This can be arranged via Zoom if necessary. Interested clubs should email Oz at nw.chair@marshals.co.uk.*

2026.55 (AOB) - Claire Kirkpatrick to raise concerns regarding lithium battery safety with Ian Smith, Technical Director. *Pending-Mark Wilkinson to follow up with Claire Kirkpatrick.*

2026.60 - Matters Arising

Venues at Risk- Andrew Knott stated that he had written to Motorsport UK (MSUK) outlining the fact that all venues were at risk. He also asked MSUK to change the venues at risk reporting form to reflect the difference between leaseholder and licence holder. Andrew stated that previous correspondence regarding venue negotiations had been forwarded to MSUK but had not received a response. Mark Wilkinson agreed to follow this up.

Ray Simpson reported Manchester College is no longer available for events, requiring alternative venues to be identified.

2026.61 - Motorsport UK Reports

Mark Wilkinson provided an update from today's MSUK Regional Committee meeting. The meeting was chaired by John Arnold in place of the late Phil Foster. Andrew Bisping was elected as the new Chair and Sandy Denham as Vice Chair.

CQC registration requirements for paramedics and rescue units remain under consideration. Martin's Law is expected to come into effect during spring or summer 2027, although implementation arrangements remain outstanding. The use of AI safety cameras and incident data recorders were also discussed. Hugh Chambers provided an update on Vision 2030 and Rally Scotland. MSUK also reported positive participation figures, including a 15% increase in social media followers, a 50% increase in click-throughs to the 'Get Started in Motorsport' website and a 5% improvement in marshal retention.

Paul Goodman raised concerns regarding the implementation of accelerometer devices (Impact Data Recorders or IDR's) mandated by MSUK for race, rally and rallycross cars. He highlighted the lack of clear communication regarding the purpose of the devices and the potential cost implications for competitors.

Jim Spencer explained that the devices were intended to provide accurate G-force data experienced by both vehicles and drivers, which could be shared with insurers. Potential benefits included improved safety monitoring and support for insurance claims. The data collected could also help inform future safety equipment lifing policies, including those relating to seats and harnesses. John Harden advised that MSUK had previously provided information about the devices at earlier meetings. Eric Cowcill added that the initiative had originated from the FIA, driven by the need to collect data across senior racing categories. It was recognised that further clarification was required

from MSUK regarding the practical implementation of the scheme, the associated costs and the intended benefits.

Tim Bendelow reported that the Association of Northern Car Clubs (ANCC) is considering establishing a Speed Championship, subject to feedback from member clubs.

Roy Bell reported that a new Association of North East Midland Motor Clubs (ANEMMC) Chair is due to be elected following the resignation of Karen Spencer.

Andrew Knott reported that Sheffield and Hallamshire Motor Club had raised concerns with MSUK regarding the use of AI cameras and subsequent handling of an investigation at Leconfield and the lack of consultation with the club directly involved. A further letter has been sent to MSUK and a response is awaited.

2026.62 – Discussion

a) Racing

Nothing to report.

b) Rallying

Nothing to report.

c) Karting

Nothing to report.

d) Cross-Country

Nothing to report.

e) Autotest/Autosolo

Nothing to report.

f) Sprint/Hillclimb

John Harden reported a critical shortage of timekeepers for sprint and hill climb events following the withdrawal of David Clay's Time Team company from events, with the exception of Harewood. John warned that the shortage presents a potential risk to the delivery of events in 2027. However, he had managed to secure timekeepers for the Aintree and Barbon events. Paul Goodman confirmed that Richard Blackshaw of RAB Timing had agreed, in principle, to cover events at Scammonden Dam.

The Committee discussed the wider issue of a shortage of qualified timekeepers and the difficulties in recruiting and training new officials. Concerns included the complexity of the current training and assessment process, the lack of opportunities for practical training and the limited number of new timekeepers entering the sport. It was agreed that MSUK needed to prioritise timekeeper training and review the existing training pathway to ensure that potential trainees were not deterred by what appeared to be overly onerous requirements.

Mark reported that Andrew Bisping had previously highlighted the need for accurate, reliable and affordable timing to the MSUK Sprint and Hill Climb Subcommittee. In his report Andrew emphasised that the shortage of timekeepers presented a significant operational risk to the sport, compounded by concerns over personnel availability and system reliability. It was agreed that parallel actions should be pursued through the Timekeeping Committee and a wider technology review, including consideration of the FIA's 'Timing in a Box' solution. Eric Cowcill advised that the use of transponders and the 'Timing in a Box' solution were not viable alternatives due to cost and technical limitations.

It was suggested that existing rally timekeepers, such as Richard Blackshaw, could potentially be trained to cover speed events using their existing equipment.

It was also noted that there was a significant shortage of younger timekeepers across the different disciplines, with the exception of race. Eric Cowcill agreed to approach race timekeepers to encourage them to undertake training for speed events.

Paul Goodman provided an update on the status of Scammonden Dam. Negotiations with Yorkshire Water regarding Scammonden remain ongoing, with a draft agreement now with the solicitors.

2026.63 – Recruitment and the Regional Development Plan

Five Association flags are now available for use at events. Delegates were encouraged to display them to promote the Association.

A separate discussion is needed to identify priority events for recruitment activity during 2027.

The importance of promoting ANWCC Championships to existing competitors was also highlighted, including direct communications to remind previous participants about registration and forthcoming events.

2026.64 - Sustainability

Nothing to report.

2026.65 – Safeguarding

Katy Mashiter confirmed that there were no issues to report.

2026.66 - Secretary's Report

a.) Correspondence

Clubs have been invited to register details of their 2027 Club Officials with ANWCC and to submit their event calendars for inclusion in the relevant Championships. The deadline for event registration is 31 December 2026. Events registered after this date will not be included in the championships, unless they are needed to replace a cancelled event during the year. All clubs are encouraged to promote the ANWCC 2027 Championships to their members. Registrations are now open via the website.

Tracey Smith thanked Jonathan Armishaw for sharing meeting minutes from other associations.

Association of Eastern Motor Clubs (AEMC) had circulated a questionnaire, which received a moderate response but provided some valuable insights into the challenges around engaging with their member clubs. ANWCC previously conducted a survey to gauge member engagement but received only one response. The value of undertaking another survey remains under consideration.

b.) New Member Clubs

No new applications to join ANWCC were received.

c.) Proposed 2027 Meeting Dates

Dave Thomas has requested an alternative date for the August meeting. The following 2027 meeting dates were agreed:

- 9th February 2027 (including AGM)
- 11th May 2027
- 3rd August 2027 and

- 9th November 2027

2026.67 - Treasurer's Report

Jim Spencer reported that that MSUK had reimbursed the outstanding training costs.

ANWCC is not expected to cover its operating costs this year due to expenditure on website renewal, security and promotional materials. However, the current financial position remains healthy, with sufficient funds available.

Registration with the Information Commissioner's Office was renewed in October.

2026.68 – Championships

Dave Thomas reported a total of 309 contenders registered for the championships, compared with 302 in 2025. There were 134 events, down from 150 the previous year. Most championships remain stable, although Historic Rally, Autotests and Trials continue to experience difficulties attracting sufficient competitors and events. The Speed Championship achieved a record year. Dave thanked Jonathan Baines for his contribution.

Dave provided an update on the status of each championship, noting that several were due to conclude over the coming weekend. Mark Wilkinson congratulated the championship winners.

Dave reported that he had not yet received the MSUK championship application forms for the non-speed series. Dave Thomas and Paul Goodman both raised concerns regarding the Speed Event Permit Application Form, describing it as lengthy and overly complex. They highlighted the inclusion of references to National Competition Rules (NCRs), which may be subject to change during the year and the use of unclear terminology around 'recommended' requirements.

It was noted that the 2027 MINI Challenge would become a standalone championship. The successful series had previously operated under an ANWCC permit for four years but the Club was now eligible to run its own championship. Competitors will be encouraged to register for the ANWCC Stage Rally Championship as well.

No significant amendments are proposed to the 2027 Championship Regulations, other than correcting an error in the Speed Championship information. A suggestion for a regulation change had been received; splitting Class A (over 2000 cc 4WD) in stage rallies into MSUK Classes 1 (R5-type cars) and 2 (other 4WD cars). The issue had arisen at larger events where the high number of R5 entries affected class points in the Stage Championship, although this did not affect the ANWCC Forest Series. No change was considered necessary at this time.

Dave reported that 2027 registration fees will increase from £18 to £20, with the option for competitors to make an additional voluntary donation to the Marshals' Fund.

The 2026 Awards evening will be held at Mere Court on Saturday 23rd January 2027. Details will follow in due course with ticket applications open on 1st December.

Marshals Monthly £30 Prize Draw-the winners were:

- August - Henry Kitching (Ilkley & DMC)
- September - Paul Cross (Caernarvonshire & Anglesey MC)
- October - Dave Smithson (BMMC and Liverpool MC)

Mark Wilkinson congratulated the winners of the prize draw and asked clubs to promote all championships, including the marshal championship with their members and at their events.

2026.69 - Press

Nothing to report from Maurice Ellison.

Dave Thomas expressed his disappointment that Motoring News rarely credited ANWCC Championships in articles.

2026.70 – Training

Katy Mashiter reported that trainers had not been informed by MSUK how the new training funding application process would operate. Concern was expressed that, although clubs are required to nominate a trainer when applying for funding, no details are provided on how to contact or book the nominated trainer. Furthermore, MSUK does not notify the selected trainer that they have been nominated. When these concerns were raised, MSUK responded that further information would be shared with trainers.

Jim Spencer confirmed that while the BMT funding claim will reduce to 75% from 100%, this should not deter clubs from running training programmes as the association currently has sufficient budget to cover the additional costs.

Neville Simmons is now a Rally Marshal Assessor and offered to support clubs requiring assessments.

Tracey Smith stated that Andrew Le Hegarat had been recruited as BRMC Training Coordinator.

2026.71 - Forestry Liaison Officer Report

Nothing to report from Kevin Witton.

2026.72 - Route Liaison Officer Report

Nothing to report from Gordon Pirie.

2026.73 - MOD Liaison Officer Report

Nick Stafford provided a written report. Access to MoD infrastructure was becoming increasingly challenging, as assets that had previously been idle were being brought back into use, particularly for training purposes. Clubs using MoD facilities should be aware of the possibility of late cancellation of availability. It was suggested that clubs should exercise caution when committing resources and making arrangements for events, given the potential for facilities to become unavailable at short notice.

David Simons (AWMMC) reported via email that there had been no further MoD liaison activity since the previous meeting. He had suggested to MSUK that, given the lack of recent progress, relationships with the Armed Forces should be developed at a national level. It was noted that the previous initiative involving Army Training Command appeared to have lost momentum.

Andrew Knott highlighted the need for a more direct and effective liaison process between clubs, regional representatives and military contacts. He expressed an interest in taking on the vacant Military Liaison Officer (MLO) role for the West Midlands. Mark Wilkinson suggested that Andrew contact Simon Fowler at MSUK directly.

2026.74 - LARA

Eric Cowcill provided an update from September's LARA meeting. Active Travel England had recently produced guidance encouraging access to the countryside using non-motorised means. Motorcyclists were also recognised within the initiative. The guidance applies to England only and does not cover Wales or Scotland.

Under DEFRA's Environmental Land Management policy, grants are available to landowners to encourage environmental land management. This may have implications for landowners considering

whether to make land available for motorsport events. Concern was raised that farmers might be financially better off accepting government grants rather than allowing clubs to hire fields for motorsport activities.

It was reported that traffic restrictions at Bamford Clough had been lifted, allowing access in both directions, although the downhill route was considered too steep to be used safely. The recent Edinburgh trial was understood to have used the route uphill. The Natural Landscapes Management Plan was also highlighted as identifying areas where access and management of venues could become problematic. The Cotswolds were noted as an area experiencing opposition to motorised sport. No local issues were reported in our region.

Derbyshire County Council does not automatically require a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order for Schedule 33 authorisations involving road rallies and footpath closures. Each application is considered on its individual merits.

LARA was considering compiling a list of key heritage motoring events to help recognise and protect long-established events that may be experiencing difficulties in maintaining their continuity.

2026.75 - Any Other Business

Jim Spencer reported that the British Radio Car Association had now been formally recognised as a MSUK affiliate club.

Ann McCormack suggested introducing day-glow stickers on the navigator's side of competing vehicles to help rally timekeepers identify which side of the vehicle to approach at time controls. It was suggested that a consistent approach should be adopted across the sport.

2026.76 - Date of next meeting

Tuesday 9th February 2027 from 7.30 pm at the Mere and Tabley Community Club, Warrington Rd, Mere, Knutsford WA16 0TD.

2026.76 - Meeting ended at 21:20 hours.