

SMS NOVEMBER UPDATE

SMS CLUB DEVELOPMENT DAY

We ran our second SMS Club Development Day on the 3rd November, at Blair Drummond Hall. Representatives attended the day – which is intended to provide an informal environment for clubs to exchange best practice and learn about some key development topics – from 13 MSA & SACU clubs.



The following subjects were covered during the day:

Building Partnerships: Gillian Sefton (SMS)

This session focussed on how motorsport clubs can benefit from working with Local Authorities (LA's) effectively. The session outlined LA's agendas/motives for working with partner's (e.g Health and Well Being, Education, Sport & leisure) and made suggestions on how clubs can effectively work with them to deliver values against such agenda's.

How to Promote a Club in A Digital Age?: Rory Bryant (SMS)

The power of social media was discussed within this session, highlighting why many companies now use social media to promote their services. Attendees took part in activities to help them think about the most important aspects of a digital marketing campaign (knowing what you are going to sell!), why it's important for clubs to have a big social media following and how they can go about building it.

What's Your Purpose - The Purpose of your Motor Club: Greg Symes (MSA)

Why do clubs exist? This was the question that we aimed to answer within the session. The delegates took part in some interactive exercises where they were encouraged to think about whether or not their club is fit for purpose, if everyone within the club is pulling in the same direction and what their next steps should be.

Volunteer Development: Rupert Hine (Scottish Association of Motor Clubs Training Coordinator)

An update on types of training delivered by the SAMSC Training team was delivered, including an overview of the SMRC Volunteer Leadership Programme and how this could be applied within different clubs. As an activity, delegates were asked to think about where they want their club to be in 5 years, what they need from their volunteer workforce to deliver this and what training plan they are going to put in place to achieve

E-sports – What's It All About? Josh Martin (E-sports driver / Producer)

The delegates were provided with an introduction to the world of Esports from Scottish competitor, Josh Martin. Josh explained how this emerging new activity works, the scale of Esports and discussed how traditional motorsport clubs could potentially benefit from engaging with an Esports audience.

Whilst the participant feedback was very positive, we were disappointed by the overall attendance on the day. With this in mind, we will review how we run the 2019 Club Development Day and will make announcements in due course on proposed alterations to the format.

SMS ACADEMY 2018/19

The successful applicants to the 2018/19 SMS Academy were announced at Knockhill on 17th October, where the first session of the programme took place.

The SMS Academy was set up in 2017 to support young riders and drivers (aged 14-20) who are showing potential to excel in the sport. Having successfully supported 23 young drivers and riders in the 2017/18 programme, applications launched in August for a new fresh squad to come in and benefit from the Academy's support. Since launching the application, we received a huge amount of interest in the programme. This made the job of the selection panel – which included representatives from Scottish Motor Sports, the Scottish Auto Cycle Union (SACU) and the Motor Sports Association (MSA) - extremely difficult but after some deliberation, the following competitors were selected:

Adon Davie (Prestonpans, SACU, Road Race)
Amy McCubbin (Muirkirk, MSA, Junior Rally)
Angus Bruce (Kelso, SACU, Enduros)
Calum Pert (Edzell, SACU, Road Race)
Cameron Davidson (Lesmahagow, MSA, Junior Rally)
Declan Connell (Dunfermline, SACU, Road Race)
Finlay Sword (Kilsyth, MSA, Karting)
Fraser Anderson (Helensburgh, MSA, Junior Rally)
Jack Hart (Renfrew, SACU, Road Race)
Kyle Nisbet (Port Seton, MSA, Race)
Lewis Nicol (Cupar, SACU, Road Race)
Logan Hannah (East Kilbride, MSA, Race)
Marc Gibson (Balfron, SACU, Race)
Matthew Collings (Dunfermline, MSA, Karting)
Oliver Hunter (Ayr, MSA, Junior Rally)
Robbie Wood (Melrose, SACU, Quad)
Ross Maguire (Wishaw, SACU, Road Race)
Sophie Simpson (Stewarton, SACU, Trials)
Thomas Johnstone (Kettlebridge, SACU, Junior Rally)
William Walker (Bothwell, MSA, Karting)

The athletes profiles can be viewed on the Academy section of the SMS website [HERE](#)

The SMS Academy members will each be allocated a coach to offer remote support and advice when needed across the year. Between now and August 2019, the members will take part in four

development workshops, which will support them in all aspects of their development, equipping them with the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to maximise their performance.



The first SMS Academy workshop is taking place today - Wednesday 17th October - at Knockhill, where the Academy members are getting an introduction to the programme, creating their own development plan for the upcoming year and learning about sponsorship, amongst other subjects. The programme will again be delivered by fully qualified MSA Level 2 coaches; Blair Brown and Malcolm McNab will be continuing as Academy coaches but they will also be joined by SACU Enduro competitor, Kevin Murray, who – having went through his level 2 coaching qualification last year, will be tasked with leading some of the more technical discussions with the riders on the programme.



New for the 2018/19 programme will be a specific session for the parents in January; parents of the Academy athletes will be invited to attend a special Introduction to Coaching session that will be aimed at developing their own understanding of talent development and coaching to help them best support their son/daughters development. This is being introduced following feedback from last year's programme, where parents expressed that they would like to have more involvement in their son/daughters development on the SMS Academy.

There will also be additional support for the SACU riders on the programme this year, thanks to sponsorship from Ride Scotland; the online magazine, covering all the latest news for bikers in Scotland. This new sponsorship will support the riders through additional coaching at events / training days, to help facilitate the riders to put what they have learned in the SMS Academy sessions, into practice. In addition, the programme will again benefit from the support of Knockhill Racing Circuit, who will be supporting the programme through the provision of their Media Centre Facility for the sessions.

SCOTTISH ROAD CAR SERIES SHOW DOWN

The inaugural Scottish Road Car Series came to an exciting close on 21st October at Kames, with a 24 car entry, a new winner, a former British Touring Car Champion, a capacity crowd and nail biting battle for 3rd place in the championship!



Showers and blustery weather throughout the day made for some challenging conditions for drivers and organisers alike but this most certainly did not dampen spirits! New for this event was a special ProAm format to encourage drivers to pair up to compete as a duo. There were a few entries in this class but notably, Double British Touring Car Champion, John Cleland made a guest appearance in the ProAm class in the Scottish Motor Racing Club's Citroen C1 race car, which was there to promote the affordable new Citroen C1 Cup racing series that will launch in 2019. Joining

John in the Citroen, was our competition winner – Scott Addison – who put in an impressive performance alongside his esteemed team mate. Both John and Scott well and truly rang the Citroen C1's neck to finish 3rd in the ProAm class.

A strong crowd gathered for this event courtesy of Tartan Tarmac, who held one of their breakfast meetings at the event. The Kames venue was at capacity by 11am, with well over 100 vehicles on site and many more lining the road outside the venue.

Fraser Stark did his utmost to keep the crowd entertained in his impressive BMW M3 drift car, which was entered in the Street class (for non-road legal vehicles). Likewise, recently crowned series champion, Steven McConnell put in an equally flamboyant performance in the Nissan Skyline he shared with Stephen George which also turned out to be a crowd pleaser.

On form James Stephen, unfortunately had to retire from the event after a clutch cable issue in the Megane he was sharing with David Abbot. Elsewhere, it was good to see Colin Duthie of Disability Motorsports Scotland making his debut in the series in their hand control Citroen C2 car. Colin was joined by junior Rally competitor – Amy McCubbin – who used her rally experience to help navigate Colin around the East Ayrshire Car Club's technical tests. Colin was using the event to evaluate opportunities for more of their membership to compete in the series in 2019.



This event also attracted a couple of competitors from other motorsports disciplines, including Scottish racer, Emily Glanvill, and former Scottish Fiesta Racing Champion; George Orr. Emily put in a fine performance in the Skoda she shared with series regular – Andrew MacDonald – to finish in 7th and George Orr put in a stonking performance on his debut to go fastest in John McLeod's Audi TT and win the event. The Audi was clearly well suited to the Kames venue, with John taking a fine 2nd, followed by Championship rival Bob Mather in 3rd.



Credit: Kevin Brown

This result also saw George Orr and John McLeod take the ProAm win from the pairing of Andrew MacDonald and Emily Glanvill. Andrew MacDonald also took driver of the day for his efforts hustling his big diesel round the tight East Ayrshire venue.

Coming into this round it was very close between John McLeod & Bob Mather for 3rd in the championship; once dropped scores are taken into account this result ties the pairing on 76 points but Bob's early season win at Ardeer means he just pips John for 3rd overall making it a nail bitingly close finish! Well done Bob but also to John, in what has been his first ever venture into motorsport competition this year.

We also have to congratulate our series champion – Steven McConnell – who has been hugely impressive all year, in every car he'd driven. Congratulations also to Ryan Gardiner for taking a well-earned runner up spot in his Mazda.

All in all, it has been a successful debut year for the Scottish Road Car series; over 60 people registered for the series and we have been delighted to see that number include so many newcomers to the sport. The standard of driving at the front of the field has been very high but it's been equally impressive to see how far some motorsport newbies have progressed over the year and to witness the camaraderie that has developed between competitors throughout the whole field.



We'd like to say a big thank you to all the clubs and volunteers who have worked to put some fantastic events on throughout the year and we would also like to say a huge thank you to all the competitors who have support the series; we're going to be working on plans for 2019 to make the series bigger and better and look forward to sharing our vision for the series and hearing your thoughts on it over the coming months.

STUDENT CHALLENGE

The newly formed Scottish Student Motorsport Management Team, ran their first event on 29 September at Knockhill. 23 students from three different universities signed up to take part in a karting and Auto Test Challenge.

Thanks to Glenrothes Motor Sports Club for running the Auto Test and providing the students with the use of their Ford Fiesta.

This was the first of a series of events that the student management team will be pulling together for students in Scotland. For more info on upcoming events, visit the new Scottish Student Motorsport website for more info: <https://www.stumotorsports.co.uk/>



Credit: Ellen J Beskow Photography @ejbphotography