

Chairman's Report to the June General Meeting of SAMSC

Where does the time go? The year is almost half way through. As usual, I have been to a number of events either as a marshal or official. Given my background, it will not come as a surprise that this is mostly rally based and I have been at all of the rounds of the SRC and STRC run this year. But I have also managed to fit in a training day, a race meeting and a sprint as well as the first round on the new format Scottish Road Car Series for AutoSOLO. I will not steal any thunder from Rory in covering this other than to say that it has been very successful in the design objective of getting new people involved in the sport.

I have also represented SAMSC at a number of events organised by the Scottish Sports Association including a reception at the Scottish Parliament held to celebrate Volunteering in Scottish Sport. The opportunity to meet with staff and volunteer officials from other sports is very useful and serves to highlight that they all face the same issues as we do in terms of participant numbers, both competitors and volunteer officials.

On the subject of closed road motorsport in Scotland, I know that you are all frustrated by the apparent lack of progress but I want to stress that there has been considerable work going on behind the scenes and it is not always possible or advisable to put this in the public domain. Most of you will have seen the joint press release issued by SMS and the MSA on 8th June saying that Transport Scotland will launch a public consultation on developing the new legislation required. SAMSC has been asked to represent the MSA member clubs in this process and I will be involved along with some other individuals.

Getting to this stage is the result of considerable effort by SMS and the MSA (and others) to get this on to the Scottish Government programme. It is not because there is any objection; far from it. Various parties in Scottish Government including ministers responsible for Sport, Transport and the Economy are all supportive. It's just that the parliamentary process is governed by a framework within which it needs to operate (including going out to public consultation) and they have lots of other things on their plate at the same time. This is also the reason why the suggested work to adapt the existing Orders to allow the Jim Clark and Mull rallies to run in 2018 was dropped in favour of focussing effort on getting the full legislative change as soon as possible.

A final reminder to everyone about vacancies on a number of MSA Specialist Committees. Further details, including the number of vacancies on each committee and how to submit a nomination, is on the MSA website. Applications for all vacancies must be received by the MSA before 22 June 2018; please note any applications received after this date will not be considered. SAMSC have already issued letters of support to a number of individuals who have put themselves forward.

Pete Weall

Chair Scottish Association of Motor Sport Clubs