

Report to SACC clubs from the MSA Regional Meeting held on 10 February 2016:

By way of a reminder to SACC clubs, the Regional Committee is an important link between clubs, their members and the MSA. The Committee objectives include making recommendations, giving advice or providing comment on sporting and other matters to the MSA Council or any of the Specialist Committees on any issues relating to the work of the Regional Associations and/or their Member Clubs. Specifically, Regional Committee comments on, and where appropriate, suggests amendments to rule changes and other policy matters which will affect Clubs.

The Chairman said that it was not too early in the year to start thinking about nominations for Club of the Year and Volunteer of the Year. Scotland did well in 2015 and should look again to having some strong nominations.

Attention was also drawn to the new marshal's accreditation scheme. As at the date of the meeting, 1,585 people had completed the accreditation. Of these, more than 400 were not previously registered as marshals. The challenge for us all is to keep up this momentum and to promote the marshal accreditation as a good thing to all our club members.

Mention was made of enhancements to the Club Development and Rescue Development (now to be called Safety) Funds. Already in 2016 there have been 19 grants amounting to £52,358 against total project value of £105,500 – a strong start to the year. Funds are available for tape and signage. £45,000 has been paid out on 123 grants for radio upgrades (although an apology was made for the delay in some of these due to higher than expected demand).

Rob Jones updated the meeting on recent changes at the MSA. He introduced Jonathan Day as the new Development Director. John Ryan takes over as Technical Director. John distributed some further guidance on use of FHRs which has already been distributed to SACC clubs. Kate Adamson will join soon as Safety Director. This new role includes circuit inspections but John Syme will support Kate on a transitional basis through 2016. Tim Swietochowski is now Head of Communications.

On the subject of Rally Future, Rob stressed that this was now at the 'end of the beginning' and is still far from being the end game. It should be seen by all clubs as a route-map to secure the future of the discipline. He added that 21 of the 29 recommendations had been implemented and that ongoing work was now under the chairmanship of Ian Davies (Jacqueline Campbell having reached the end of her secondment). Rob went on to stress however that MESR goes beyond rallying and that 'SAFETY' must be at the front of mind for every event across all disciplines.

As a result of this progress, a new contract has been agreed between the MSA and the Forestry Commission with costs increased by 0.7% on 2015 in line with RPI. The planned Rally Future forums have taken longer than anticipated to put in place with only two (Northern Ireland and West Midlands) having taken place. It will be well into the summer before one happens in Scotland although the southern clubs may be invited to a joint event with clubs in Cumbria.

Rob went on to highlight that the MSA had again been able to make a refund to clubs on their permit fees and that per capita fee rates had been frozen for the 7th consecutive year. He said this was the result of sound financial management and does demonstrate that the MSA has the interest of clubs and competitors at heart. He contrasted this with Motor Sport Ireland which for 2016, was adding a levy of up to 250 euro on top of rally entry fees to cover increased insurance costs.

Tim Swietochowski answered several queries on 'media accreditation' and the criteria for MSA media application. Clubs are now able to check on the MSA website to confirm that individuals are accredited. Clubs should also keep in mind that they can apply for temporary MSA accreditation for suitable local media who support individual events. If approved, a numbered tabard will be issued which must be returned immediately after the event.

On GoMotorsport, Jess Fack mentioned changes to Regional Development Officer Network structures and new appointments. Go Motorsport Live events have proved successful and planning is underway to ensure continued management of these events with all areas to have an opportunity to host and be part of one. Jess also provided feedback on Autosport 2016 with 1,229 people signed-on over 4 days to take part in the AutoSolo demonstration. Two RDO's agreed to review the Club Manual and update each of the sections to make it a more useable resource. Finally Jess advised that RDO's had been allocated funding for 'Special Development Projects' at local level. SACC clubs are encouraged to think about how they can promote the sport and especially how to make effective use of our RDO, Alison Clark

SACC clubs are asked to remember the various Inter-Association events and to encourage their members to consider putting up teams to represent Scotland. Details are circulated to clubs as soon as they are known to us. We would especially like to support South of Scotland CC who are running the autotest event in 2016. The Association is happy to provide some financial support to help offset travel costs. For 2016, an AutoSolo event will be included with ASWMC running the first event.

Peter Weall