

Peter Weall's Manifesto

I want to thank you for nominating me as SACC chairman and confirm that I am willing to stand. But before you cast votes on behalf of your club, I want to say a few words. This is important to me because with no other nominations, it might look like something of a fit up.

I was elected as vice chairman just two and a half years ago at the September 2013 General Meeting to fill a position made vacant by the resignation of Ian Campbell. I wasn't at that meeting and had been asked only a few hours earlier if I would be willing to have my name put forward. The meeting minutes record that I was the only nomination for the position. The minutes don't record what was said about me to support the nomination.

Some of the people in that meeting would have known me; but others might well have asked who I was. At the time, I didn't hold any committee position with a member club and I had not been to an Association meeting since the days of the West Association when I represented the now defunct Lanarkshire Car Club. Because of this, I was very surprised to get calls the next day to say that I was it. I had no idea what I had let myself in for.

I spent the first few months laying low and trying to soak up everything around SACC, not least the politics between, and in some cases within, the various member clubs and motor sport disciplines. My next step was to get myself out there around these various different events. This has added to greatly my knowledge but at the same time, I trust it has allowed some of you to get to know me better. The plan was for me to learn the ropes from Roger and this has worked to some degree but has been made more difficult recently by his illness.

So what might you get from me as SACC Chairman?

I was recently asked by someone if I thought that motor sport in Scotland was in good health? I thought very carefully about my answer but my one word response was to say yes. I can look back over 40 years of motor sport in Scotland and if I do so, I can see better times; but I can also see worse times. 2016 will be tough for us both economically and in terms of event organisation as we work through the changes brought on by the MESR.

But at the same time, there are positive signs. You don't need me to tell you that Scottish motor sport has a long history and proud heritage. But we need more than that to secure the future. We have a good basic infrastructure with great venues spread round the country. We have Kames, Larkhall and Forrestburn up to Boyndie and Golspie to name just a few. We have events and classes with healthy levels of entry. Yes there is room for some more but the base is there.

Opportunities include financial support from SportsScotland to help develop participation in all motor sport disciplines. Funding wouldn't be offered if they thought the sport was in terminal decline and unless they believe motor sport in Scotland was able to grow from where it is now. Trust me when I say that SportsScotland don't give funds to basket case sports.

I have a strong personal vision for the future of motor sport. I want people outside Scotland to look at us and to say "there is a group of people who know what they are doing".

- They have strong clubs that are attracting new people to the sport.
- They put on great events run by highly competent people.
- They are working to develop the champions of the future.

If I take on the Chairman role, I will use it to share that vision; to promote it to anyone and everyone that I come into contact with. But it will be the clubs around Scotland that make it happen, not SACC. I want the SACC member clubs to grow and prosper and through them, through you, built on the current level of good health to the point where motor sport in Scotland is super fit.

But be clear, the Association does not have all the answers nor does it have limitless resources. I will be looking to all of the member clubs to play a full and active part in delivering the vision that I have suggested. More than that, I want your clubs to take ownership of and responsibility for the future health of Scottish motorsport.

The SACC chairman should take a lead role by making sure the Association gives what support it can to the member clubs. The role will include working closely as part of the SMS group to make sure that any funds that come into the sport from Scottish Government are spent wisely.

Where might we make a start?

We need to see consumers of motorsport as customers, and by that I mean not just competitors but also volunteer officials including marshals and I guess spectators. We need to attract more people, especially younger people. We need to work out what they want from the sport and then make sure it is made available to them. Having done that, we need to make sure we communicate effectively about what we are doing.

So there you have my manifesto. If you can buy in to this then I am happy to be you chairman. The chairman of SACC should be seen as a leadership role; someone who provides direction, instructions and guidance. But at the same time, it needs to be a listening role; someone who lend an ear when issues come up and can help resolve them. I don't want to be a micro manager but to empower you, the member clubs, to do the right thing.

The Association chairman is also a strong part of your voice at the MSA and other outside agencies that have influence over our sport.

Having listened to all this, if you think I am the right person to lead SACC then vote me in. If that's not what you want then I urge you to pick someone else.

Peter Weall

15/3/2016