

MSA Regional Committee Meeting 18 May 2016

The meeting opened with a moment of reflection on the lives of Roger Reed and also Dr Phil Rayner both long standing servants of the MSA who has died recently. The chairman then went on to say that the focus of the MSA was on the negotiations with NRW regarding forest charges and he encouraged everyone to support the Rally4Wales initiative. Rally Future also remains a high priority. He went on to give the usual reminders to everyone to think about nominations for Club of the Year and Volunteer of the Year and also drew attention to the various Inter Association events.

MSA Chief executive, Rob Jones, opened his usual full report by also speaking very warmly about Roger and Phil before introducing Kate Adamson, the new MSA Safety Director. He spoke about the progress made by Rally Future (previously MESR) in the 2 years since the fatal accident on the JCMR. He mentioned the ongoing public meetings designed to explain the MSA response and at which audiences were told that 21 of the 29 recommendations have been implemented. Rob commended the sport throughout the UK for the way that the need for cultural change had been generally accepted and embraced. He went on to talk in some detail about the discussions with NRW and said that while it was not appropriate for the MSA to publically back the R4W initiative, he also encouraged support for it from clubs and individuals. Turning away from rallying, he mentioned the good news regarding the MSA formula being branded as FIA F4 and the return of F3 to the UK. The positive moves in karting with a new range of engines being homologated was mentioned with Rob saying again that he saw karting as a strong development ladder.

Rob then mentioned that the MSA Strategic Review was nearing completion and was due to be presented to the Board in June. The strategy will be underpinned by a new IT system at the MSA which is expected to significantly improve the way the MSA supports clubs and licence holders. He touched on Dare2Bdifferent and also the Vnuk case, both of which are covered fully in MSA publications. In terms of closed roads, the good news is that this has now moved back up the Government agenda and Ian Davies is closely involved in the next stage which is drafting the secondary legislation.

MSA Development Director, Johnathan Day, then covered his area of responsibility. He is now some 5 months into the role and he began by saying that there would be a meeting of RDOs soon to review what they do. Jess Fack reminded everyone to encourage clubs to engage with their RDO (for SACC this is Alison Clark). Johnathan turned to Alan Page who gave an update on the significant investment of funding into volunteer training with more than 60 events and more than 4,000 people engaged so far in 2016 with more than £114,000 made available to clubs. The plan is to start putting the 2017 programme together in September. This is in addition to 14 MSA seminars with an audience of around 650. A review of all the MSA training material is under way to ensure this is fully fit for use in 2016. It was also mentioned that the online rally marshal training has, at the date of the meeting, been completed by 3,863 people. Finally, Johnathan mention Safeguarding and said that he was reviewing this and there would be some changes. The MSA policy will be updated and in the meantime, it is OK for clubs to be 'on hold'.

The Regional meeting went on to touch on a range of issues that should all be covered in specialist reports.

Peter Weall