



SMS REPORT March 2017

Student Auto Test

On Saturday 4th February SMS and Glenrothes Motorsport Club organised an Auto test training day for students at Knockhill.

Auto testing has proven to be one of the most popular activities delivered within the SMS student events over the past couple of years, so the training day was intended to give student club members the opportunity to spend a bit longer practicing in car in order to refine their skills before trying their hand at competing.

The event was well attended, with 29 students entered on the day from a range of universities. In the morning, students were treated to some in car advice from experienced auto tester Daniel Rae before moving onto a competitive auto test in the afternoon.

Despite some challenging conditions (horizontal snow at points!) a good day was had by all, with only minor “modifications” made to the Glenrothes MSC Ford KA!

Thank you to Knockhill for accommodating the event and to Glenrothes Motorsports club for their efforts running the Auto Test on the day. The following feedback, sent to us from the Aberdeen University team, certainly suggests that the efforts were appreciated and worthwhile:

“This is probably one of the best £10 I have spent”

“It’s probably the most fun I have had in a car!”

“I know the aim of Scottish Motor Sports is to make the sport more approachable and remove the stigma of it being a bottomless pit financially and I have to say that from the event on Saturday, a lot of people were convinced. Further to the actual driving, everyone enjoyed meeting the other students – it was great to see everyone discussing different approaches to the test and helping each other as well as having a laugh at some of our “driver errors”.

A special thank you (and apologies) to all the guys from Glenrothes Car Club for coming out and volunteering two cars which definitely didn’t have the easiest day in their life. I know these events do not just happen and it was a long time out in some horrendous conditions and a lot of picking up of poles so please pass on the biggest of thanks to members who came and gave us a shot.”

www.scottishmotorsports.co.uk





MSA Coach Training

The weekend of the 4th & 5th February saw us run the first ever MSA club coach training session, at Knockhill. The training - led by MSA Academy coach, James Wozencroft - was run for the nominated club coaches from the junior rally championship, Scottish Motor Racing Club and West of Scotland Kart club.

Following the club coaches completion of the MSA level 2 coaching qualification last September, the intention of the training was to go over the MSA's performance master class materials and put into context how the coaches expertise can be utilised in the club environment.

Having developed coaching plans for WSKC and SMRC, we are now working with these clubs and their coaches to provide them with the support to implement programmes effectively (the proposed programmes typically involved a couple of classroom based sessions for new and developing members, as well as having 'floating coaches' present on competition days). The junior rally programme is already well established and efforts, in this case, are therefore channelled into providing mentor support for their championship coach.

It has been a long journey to get to the stage of having a coaching workforce within a small number of clubs. There is still a long way to go but we hope this marks the beginning of a new culture where coaching is taken seriously by clubs as a tool for both member recruitment and competitor development. We look forward to updating you with progress on club coaching throughout 2017.

We'd like to thank the SMRC for giving us access to their office, at Knockhill, for delivering the training on the 4th and 5th.

Student Marshalling at the Snowman Rally

SMS Development Officer, Gillian Sefton, organised an opportunity for students to try marshalling at the Snowman Rally on the 18th February. This 'marshal taster session' is part of the SMS strategy to increase volunteering numbers across the sport.

Reps from Strathclyde and Dundee university motorsport clubs made the trip to marshal stages 4 and 5 of the rally with Gillian. Spectators on the road caused a small delay to the start of their stage but this gave them experience of managing spectators and emphasised the importance of the marshal's role in keeping the event moving. Once the rally got underway the students were able to enjoy watching the array of SRC rally cars through the stage until the rally came to a halt when a spectator took unwell at a position further through the stage. Again, this provided a learning

www.scottishmotorsports.co.uk





experience for the students, demonstrating how rally organisers have to be prepared to deal with the unexpected at all times!

Overall, despite only two students making the journey to marshal at the snowman it turned out to be a successful day with both students commenting on what a great time they had. Since the Rally, both students who took part have contacted us to enquire about further opportunities in which they can become involved. They both explained that they would like to utilise their summer months to gain volunteering experience at various different Motorsport events and suggested that an internship programme would be of great interest to them if it was possible to implement in the future. This insight will help us to better plan future marshalling experiences.

We are aiming to encourage more students along to events in the central belt over the next couple of months.

Membership Audit

We recently completed our annual club membership audit to help us track the sports growth. Club membership figures and licence figures are reported back to Sportscotland each year as part of our annual investment application, so gathering this information is very important to the sports continued recognition and support from sportscotland.

Despite not getting returns from a couple of clubs, we're pleased to report that total MSA club membership has grown in Scotland from 6270 members in 2015 to 6414 members in 2016.

Thank you to everyone that completed the survey; we look forward to supporting this growth further in 2017!

Rory Bryant

National Development Manager

www.scottishmotorsports.co.uk

