



ASSOCIATION OF WEST MIDLANDS MOTOR CLUBS

MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION MEETING HELD AT BROMSGROVE GOLF CENTRE

On Tuesday 12th November 2024

Present:

Kevin Witton (Chair)

David Simons (Secretary)

Ian Jarrett (Training Officer)

John Jones (Vice Chair)

John Arnold (President)

Guest: Hugh Chambers, Chief Executive Officer Motorsport UK

Delegates from the following clubs:

MG Car Club, WM Police MC, Rugby MC, WSSCC, VSCC, 60 & Worcs MC, Kidderminster MC, BTRDA, Midland Manor MC, BRMC, Ludlow Castle MC, Boundless by CSMA

(Plus Matt Walk, Stage Rally Co-ordinator; two delegates on Zoom)

1. Apologies

Mike Broad, Cyril Loman, Bath MC, Mark Hoppe, Dowty MC and CMSGCC

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 6th August 2024

Proposed: Ian Jarrett

Seconded: Phil Darbyshire

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Correspondence

Various items of correspondence have been received since the last Meeting, including, but not limited to:

- Minutes from meetings of other Associations (and Cotswold Group);
- Various Regulation changes proposed for consultation;
- Clerks & Stewards Bulletins;
- Scrutineers Bulletins;
- Information from LARA on arrangements for events;
- Motorsport UK Licencing – Information on new on-line platform.
- Claire Kirkpatrick – Club and Volunteer Awards
- Sue Fletcher – Update on BMT Grant Applications

5. New Clubs / Official Changes / Date Changes

New Clubs: No new applications have been made

Official Changes: Member Clubs are advised to make their own amendments on the Association website.

One club has paid a subscription for 2025, others are reminded that payment will be due in the near future.

Date Changes: None advised. The new calendar is now active on the Association's website

6. Championship Reports

6.1 Stage Rally (Heart of England Championship)

Prior to the meeting, Matt Walk submitted a report as follows:

“The 2024 season is drawing to a close, with the Overall Championship set to be decided on the final round. We received a total of 93 registrations, with 88 scoring points throughout the season.

Planning for the 2025 season is well underway, with the Calendar agreed and the Regulations almost complete. Once MSUK have issued the new NCR's, our Regulations can be completed and sent off in order to obtain our permit. We have 11 events scheduled across 10 weekends between March and December.

We have agreed, in principle, a substantial prize for one competitor/crew who competes in 6 or more events throughout the season, which is aimed at rewarding those who support the Championship and provide a clear pathway for those looking to progress in Club Level Rallying. We are also working to secure new Sponsorship to reduce the Championships financial burden on the Association.

We have also decided not to award Gender Specific awards for 2025 and beyond as we felt they were no longer needed in the modern world.”

Matt was in attendance at the meeting confirmed that draft regulations were now complete and there was one round left at Donington Park on 1st December 2024.

6.2 Car Trial

Prior to the meeting, Mark Hoppe sent a detailed report as follows:

“The 2024 championship has recently concluded with a new winner in the form of Kevin Roberts (Bala) runner up was Mark Hoppe.

A disappointing level of registrations this year, including the sad loss of contender Colin Reid during the season. We lost 3 rounds this year, with Bristol Pegasus again failing to get the event on due to weather, 60&Worcs getting no real interest and the loss of venue for 2024 at the Falcon Guy Fawkes trials

I am working on a 2025 calendar which will be like 2024 and I will try to reignite the registration levels.

In all honesty the registration levels for championships are challenging (putting my ASWMC and BTRDA hats on) – it seems that the quality of competition being so high with the top few triallists across the country, the more casual competitor perhaps feels that there is no point in joining the championship. It's a tricky one to call, but if you look at the major championships, the winners are:

MSUK – Tim Dovey

BTRDA – Mark Hoppe
ASWMC Tim Dovey
AWMMC Kev Roberts
ANWCC Kev Roberts
WAMC – Kev Roberts
CMSG – Phil Buckle

This suggests they are locked out by a handful of drivers. However, if we tried to restrict entries I think it would be bad news. Perhaps we could amend scores to “handicap” the experts, to encourage tier 2 drivers to register? (Just ideas off the top of my head.)

Overall – OK and a good competition at the top end, but work to be done. I will carry on in 2025 if I have your support.”

7. Motorsport UK Representatives

Hugh Chambers, CEO:

Hugh first emphasised the importance of the Club Network as the backbone of motorsport in the UK and gave a comprehensive report on progress at Motorsport UK since taking over as CEO in 2018.

He emphasised the importance of the challenges the sport faces, notably Climate Change and its implications, in the years ahead, against a background of declining activity and numbers involved. The average age of volunteers is also a matter of concern, as is diversity. There is a grass roots karting initiative to involve more women.

Hugh noted that we face an uninformed outside perception that motorsport is for rich people polluting the world, which needs to be addressed. He has been in contact with the new Labour Government as part of an attempt to address this.

The sport has to take a lead in developing new technologies, as it has in the past with disc brakes and seat belts, etc. Sustainable fuels comes into this category,

Active attempts are being made to modernise; the introductions of National Competition Regulations (“NCR’s”) and Sport:80 are part of this. A major events team is up and running, the British Kart Championship is being promoted as is F4 and the British Rally Championship is now televised. There is an on-going project to bring the WRC back to the UK.

The sport needs more volunteers and venues are also at risk as most of approx. 1,000 venues are temporary in nature. Safeguarding is also a priority, but the good news is that the number of competitors is increasing.

After Hugh’s presentation there was a question/discussion slot in which the following items were covered:

- Is there anything that can be done to alter the perception that club rallying is for older cars? (Ian Jarrett) It was considered that heritage was important,

but urban perceptions may be a problem. The Heart of England Championship encourages the use of newer cars (Matt Walk), but these involve younger competitors and class structures are under review.

- Can motorsport be regarded as “upskilling” for road safety? Hugh confirmed that although the FIA has an initiative on road safety, we do not have a direct connection with this, although apprentice training is supported. The “Girls on Track” scheme is about motoring generally.
- Sport 80: will this cause difficulties for older volunteers and competitors? Hugh confirmed that there were some teething problems and that anyone in difficulty can write-in for assistance.
- NCR’s: Webinars will be up-and-running soon. An edition is available on the Resource site, hyperlinks will be added soon.

8. Training Officer’s Report

Ian Jarrett sent some information prior to the meeting and reported as follows:

Fire training had recently been repeated at Shelsley Walsh; many thanks for the facility and support provided by MAC. The training team had also recently visited Harewood hill climb in Yorkshire to view similar training being carried out there.

Current training material needs updating to cater for the NCR’s.

John Jones has recently completed a BRMC report for the WAMC, which is also relevant here. [The report is attached as a Appendix to these minutes.]

9. MoD Liaison Officer’s Report

David S reported as follows:

On 22 August 2024, we had a meeting at Bicester with two senior officers from the Army Training Command. As a result of that meeting, we now have a list of Army training venues, many of which are potentially available for motorsport use. I believe the list has been circulated.

Whilst the information is not confidential or classified, as a matter of courtesy to the Army, the circulation of it should be limited to those Club representatives who are potentially able to make use of the information. Enquiries should be directed through me, please.

I now have a schematic map of the venues, together with a list of the standard hire/use charges for the MOD facilities.

10. Motorsport UK Committees and Groups

Regional Committee:

John A reported on recent developments, mentioning a number of matters discussed at a recent meeting on 5th November 2024, including:

- (Some of the issues referred to in Hugh’s presentation, including NCR’s & Sport 80.);

- Forestry charges – in progress/updating;
- MLO's & venues;
- RLO's;
- Investigation of a potential venue at Twyford Woods;
- Rally Charter and Sustainability/Sustainable fuels;
- A disappointing response on Club & Volunteer of the Year.

Rallies Committee:

Kevin W reported a meeting held on 14th October 2024, which continued the subject matter of previous meetings notably including (but not limited to): NCR's, Class Structure, Tyres, etc.

The new Rallies Committee will meet next year, for the first time in February 2025 and one of the issues to be discussed will be co-driver training and whether this will be provided free-of-charge.

Clerks & Stewards Working Group

David S reported: We have had no further activity since the last report I gave, so I assume the Clerks & Stewards training initiatives are on-going.

I suspect attention is now being directed to the introduction of the NCR's. On a point of clarification, the idea of re-introducing interviewing for prospective Clerks and Stewards was not just to determine suitability, but also to identify particular training requirements for each individual as part of a modular process.

11. Treasurer's Report

Kevin W reported: There is a total of £15,792.00 in the bank and £100.00 in the Cheque Account. Money is available for worthwhile causes/projects on a 50/50 matched funding basis.

There should be additional income of approx. £3k at the end of the year.



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12. Any Other Business

Cathy Denyer asked if the two days requirement for the AGBO Stages Rally was really necessary, but the Championship requires a two day split.

David S asked if there could be some guidance notes on the judicial powers of Championship Stewards, in the light of a recent National Court decision.

Ludlow Castle Motor Club has a charity event on 21st February 2025

Then was a general discussion on how publicity for events could be improved, an Events Calendar for the website was suggested.

Matt Walk confirmed that the H of E Rally Championship Awards Night is on 22nd February 2025.

The next meeting will include the AGM to start at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 4th March 2025.

The meeting will be held at Bromsgrove Golf and Conference Centre B60 1LD