

# The Welsh Association of Motor Clubs



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## **SOUTHERN CENTRE General Meeting – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2014** Held at the White Hall Hotel, Llandovery

**Present :** Neil Fuller- Southern Centre Chairperson, Jimmy Jones/Heather Rees-Jones – Forest Clubman/Club, Rebecca Richards – Southern Centre Secretary, Dorian Evans – Junior Championship, Chris Summerfield – DSO, Geoff Field – WAMC Secretary, Jerry Herbert, Fran Davies Tarmac/KoE Championship Secretary, Paul Loveridge – WAMC Chairman, Neil Henderson – FLO, John Surridge – Road Rally Secretary,

**And representatives of the following clubs:** Ecurie Cymraeg, HOVAC, Forresters C.C, Lampeter & District MC, PTMC, GVMC, Ammanford & District MC, HRCR, Marches 4x4, MSA

1. **Apologies:** Gethin Rees, Phil Jones, Rob Baldwin, Andrew Thomson, Mike Taylor, RST MC, TVMC
2. **Minutes of last meeting.**  
Proposed Dorian Evans    Seconded Chris Summerfield
3. **Matters Arising**  
Corrections to Minutes 4<sup>th</sup> March (point 15 Issue with Wild Boar in the Forest of Dean is not a problem).  
Correction to Minutes December 2013 Rob Baldwin was not present at the meeting.
4. **Road Rally Championship (John Surridge)**

The 2014 Championship has attracted 102 Registrations, 51 Drivers and 51 Navigators

Five rounds of the Championship have now run and the current leaders are Mark GT Roberts on 481 points followed by Ian 'Dude' Roberts on 480 points. Reian Jones is currently third with 476 points. Leading Navigators are Gwawr Hughes and Dylan Jenkins, both on 479 points, followed by Michael Gilbey on 473 points

There was some controversy on the recent Night Owl rally, where several competitors were excluded for Give Way offences. This should serve as a warning to all competitors that failure to comply with the Give Way rule will result in exclusion.

Could organisers of Championship rounds please make contact with me prior to Regs being published so that I can make sure that the Championship sponsors details appear, and also could they make sure that the Championship signing on forms are sent to me as soon as possible after the event so that I can allocate points.

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Round 6, the Eagle rally, organised by Newtown & District MC will have taken place by the time of the meeting but after this report was prepared.

## 5. Tarmacadam Championship (Fran Davies)

Six rounds of the Championship have now run, and registrations have closed. We have 40 Drivers and 32 Navigators registered. Tour of Caerwent was celebrating its 20th Anniversary, and competitors were given mugs to mark this occasion. The first entry list was on display and running at Car 8 was our sponsor Steve Harkness. Leading the Drivers is Rob Tout with 127 points, second Carl O'Grady 103 points, & third Ian Kevlin with 98 points.. Emma Todd is leading the Navigators with 111 points, second Kath Curzon with 106 points, and third Ian Meakin with 87 points.. The Ladies Award is being lead by Emma, & the Under 25 Driver by Aaron Jones. The next round will be the Harry Flatters on the 27th of July. The Gareth Jaffa Appeal Fund have kindly made a gift of £1,000 each to Colin Price & Phil Cook who were involved in the accident on The Tour of Epynt. Phil is still a patient at Cardiff, and Colin had an operation on his foot last Friday but he is now at home

## 6. Forest Championship Clubman (Jimmy Jones)

The Plains Rally organised by Knutsford & District M C host the third round of the In Car Services & Evans Motorsport Tyres Welsh Clubman's Forest Championship.

The event was based in Welshpool and started from the Main Town Car Park with a long run out of 36 miles to the first stage of the day being Hafren Forest followed by stages in Cwmcelli, Gartheiniog, Pantperthog, Dyfi, and the Woodyard. Service was in Dolgellau this year.

Some of the competitors complained of dust problems on stages due to the catch other competitors.

### Current Championship Positions

Overall Leaders	Simon Pickering	Colin Jenkins
Front Wheel Drive Category	Paul Davies	James Morgan
Rear Wheel Drive Category	Simon Pickering	Colin Jenkins
Class 1	Sion Ellis	Eryl Evans
Class 2	Damian Thomas	Tudur Rees
Class 3	Simon Pickering	Colin Jenkins
Class 4	David Jones	Glyn Price
Class 5	Graham Thatcher	
Class 6	John Baker	Emyr Jones
Under 25 Driver	James Nicholls	
Under 25 Co Driver		James Morgan
Senior Driver	David Jones	
Senior Co Driver		Glyn Price

### Remaining Championship Rounds

15th June	Coracle Stages	Carmarthen M C & Epynt M C
9th August	Neath Valley Stages	Three Counties C C

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21st September  
19th October

Red Dragon Stages  
Cambrian Rally

Port Talbot M C  
North Wales C C

## **7. Forest Championship National (Dave Evison) Chairman gave report.**

After four rounds total registrations stand at 82. Leading Overall & Grp N Driver Paul Davy Co Driver Roger Allan. Leading Two Wheel Driver Matthew Robinson Co driver Sam Collis. Leading Under 25's Driver Rory Jones Co driver Will Rogers. Please visit the championship website for full details of points allocated to date.

The last championship round, The Plains had an entry of 130 (131 2013) and leading championship contender was Euan Thornburn. The event started in Welshpool and featured stages in Hafren, Dyfi, Gartheiniog, Pantperthog and the Woodyard. The next event is Severn Valley.

Following the unfortunate cancellation of Rally North Wales, the championship returns to South Wales in August, the reserve round Neath Valley Stages is now round six. The championship retains the best 6 scores from 8 rounds.

TV coverage by Special Stage Extra goes out on Motors TV on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month, featuring action from the previous month's event(s)

The championship is again part of the Wales Rally initiative "The Road to Wales" where a dedicated page on WRGB website updates details after each event with the latest qualifying crews.

A tender has been lodged by the WAMC to run the MSA Welsh Rally Championship. The MSA have announced that successful tenderers will be announced in the very near future.

### Remaining Rounds:

31<sup>st</sup> May Severn Valley  
12<sup>th</sup> July Nicky Grist stages  
9<sup>th</sup> August Neath Valley Stages  
30<sup>th</sup> August Woodpecker Stages  
18<sup>th</sup> October The Cambrian

## **8. Historic Rally Championship (Rob Baldwin) Chairman gave report**

Following round four last weekend the Severn Valley Historic Stages Peter Jones and graham Joseph have pulled out a clear lead in the TR 7 V8 with the next four places being very close. We now have 38 registered contenders which is down on last year but this seems to be a general trend coupled with the defection by some contenders to what is a modern championship with Historic classes but has been media driven to appear as a Historic championship.

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Overall positions:

Peter Jones Graham Joseph 112 points  
 David Stokes Guy Weaver 62 points  
 Nick Danks Martin Corbett 60 points  
 Graham Thatcher Robert James 57 points  
 Simon Pickering Colin Jenkins 57 points

Next event Nicky Grist Stages 12<sup>th</sup> July.

## 9. King of Epynt (Fran Davies)

Registrations for this championship have now closed and we have 29 Drivers and 20 Co drivers registered. The second round was Mini Epynt which was held last Sunday. Leading the Drivers is Rob Tout, and the brothers Stuart and Richard Bliss in second and third positions. The Co drivers are being led by Jamie Vaughn, Richard Suter & Nigel Hewitt are joint second. The next round will be The Harry Flatters on the 27<sup>th</sup> July.

## 10. Club Championship (Jimmy Jones)

Forresters C. C.	192	Herefordshire M. C.	33
Port Talbot M. C.	169	Carmarthen M. C.	29
Welsh Border C. C.	151	Clwyd Vale M. C.	24
Lampeter & Dist.M. C.	134	Sixty & Worcs. M. C.	24
Teify Valley M. C.	124	Southern C. C.	22
H. R. C. R.	107	Ystrad Mynach M. C.	22
Dovey Valley M. C.	105	Caernarfon & Anglesey M. C.	18
Forest Of Dean M. C.	98	Swansea M. C.	18
Ammanford M. C.	90	Weston-Super-Mare M. C.	17
Aberystwyth & Dist M. C.	89	Kidwelly M C	14
Maesteg M. C.	83	I R D C	11
W. & S. S. C. C.	69	Cannock & Dist. M. C.	10
Amman & Dist. M. C.	60	Ross & District M. C.	10
Ludlow Castle M. C.	56	Whitchurch M. C.	8
Llandysul M. C.	54	Bala & District M. C.	7
Gwendraeth	53	Epynt M. C.	7

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Valley M. C.			
Three Counties Car Club	53	Broughton & Bretton M. C.	6
Brecon M. C.	38	Pembrokeshire M. C.	5
Chester M. C.	38	Potteries & Newcastle M. C.	5
Heads of Valley A. C.	37	Quinton M. C.	2
Harlech & District M. C.	35	Stockport 061 M. C.	2
Newtown & Dist. A. C.	35	Warrington M C	2
North Wales C. C.	35	South Hams M. C.	1
Clwyd Vale M. C.	24	Tavern M. C.	1

## 11. Sprint & Hillclimb Championship (Wyn Edwards) – No Report

## 12. Junior Challenge (Dorian Evans)

Two rounds have taken place so far in the 2014 WAMC Junior Challenge, the Llys y Fran Hillclimb on May 11<sup>th</sup>, and the Eagle Road Rally, on the 31<sup>st</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Last year's Junior Champion was unable to get her defence off the ground at Llys y Fran due to a broken gearbox on her Ariel Locost at the Llandow Sprint the previous day.

Therefore it was left to Rheinallt George to claim Maximum points on the Day in his Fiesta ST, shared with his father Hefin. They also registered as a Team.

There were 8 new registrations on the Eagle Rally in Newtown, bringing the total Junior Competitors to 10, with 3 Team registrations compared with 15 registrations last year.

Best performance on the night came from 16 year old Navigator Dafydd Evans, who came home 9<sup>th</sup> overall on the event, although another contender, Lewis Morgan had been 2<sup>nd</sup> overall at the petrol halt, only to break down in the second half.

The next Junior Challenge Round is the Epynt Hillclimb on 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> June, which will be a double header, with points available for both days.

The points standings are as follows:

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## **Overall Championship**

Rheinallt George	10
Dafydd Evans	10
Osian Davies	9
Daniel Jones	8
Fiona Moss	7
Gareth Parry	6
Lewis Morgan	1
Daniel Petrie	1
Harry Whiting	1

## **Class JC2 1001 - 1600cc**

Daniel Jones	20
Fiona Moss	19
Gareth Parry	18
Harry Whiting	1

## **Class JC3 1601 - 2000cc**

Rheinallt George	20
Dafydd Evans	20
Osian Davies	19
Lewis Morgan	1
Daniel Petrie	1

## **Team Championship**

Team George	10
Team Whiting	1

### **13. Pembrey Liaison Officer (Gethin Rees)**

#### **Chairman gave report**

BARC Wales have run their Summer Sprint at Pembrey last week (31st May / 1st June) with around 70 competitors competing on both days.

This weekend (7th&8th June) sees RallyX return to the venue with the BTRDA clubmans championship being held on both Saturday and Sunday with around 50 cars entering each day.

Kidwelly MC will be running their ever popular MotoKana on Sunday the 15th June, and I understand that they have a full entry for this event once again.

While the Vintage Sports Car Club return to Pembrey on the 28th&29th June for a weekend of sprinting and racing.

The Welsh festival of motorsport has now been rescheduled for the 24th & 25th of August (Bank holiday).

### **14. Epynt & Caerwent Liaison officer (Phil Jones)**

#### **Chairman gave report**

Disappointment for Forresters Car Club due to not being able to run the Tour of Caerwent on 23rd March. I think they took a brave and sensible decision to cancel the event, trying to run a rally with so many troops on the training area about to deploy could have caused major conflicts and disruption to both sides. The next event at Caerwent will be September, Twilight has a date but not sure if they will be using the training area, then the Patriot Stages on 28th September.

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A number of events on Epynt recently with no adverse comment from Sennybridge. Section 33 footpath permission is still rumbling on, I will be grateful if clubs using the ranges will let me know if they get problems in applying to Powys CC due to the late consent issued by Sennybridge. If this does cause a problem then I will try and get permission issued earlier. The current Commander R Howard Gash has had his tenure extended by five years, he is looking more closely at road closure and diversions and I understand his view is that army units should not be diverted, this could have huge implications for the temporary closure of the centre road to create longer and more interesting stage routes. We will have to wait and see. The next event on Epynt is the Brecon Hill Climb on 14 and 15 June, followed by the Nicky Grist Stages on 12 July.

## **15. Forestry Liaison Officer (Neil Henderson) Chairman gave report**

The VSCC Herefordshire Trial and Ross & District MSC Kyrle Trial have taken place successfully, but because of exclusion zones around nesting birds the next event, The Ross Traders Classic Tour, will not take place until 19th July.

The FC have announced that as a result of their prompt action The Forest of Dean is currently free of Phytophthora ramorum.

## **16. MSARLO (Andrew Thomson) chairman gave report**

We have been quite busy over the past few months with various Events and again on the whole things have been very good. It looks as though all Road Rallies are now using the “e” marked tyres option in the Dyfed Powys, Gwent and South Wales Police area. It is pleasing to see that this is not having any effect on the number of entries received for the events. I think that the Meetings which the Southern Association holds in January every year for Organisers are valuable and a good way to discuss and ask questions about things that are on people’s minds or which have cropped up over the previous year. Well done to Neil Fuller for organising these.

I have heard that a certain Dave Thomas from the ANWCC has been contacting Organisers in my area trying to get them to change their decision on running “e” marked tyres only on their events. This is not acceptable and well done to you all for standing up to him and sticking to your decisions.

Sadly an event which I was full of praise for last year has gone totally the other way this year!! The Aberystwyth & District Night Owl Rally under the Clerk of Course Andrew Edwards fell well short of the mark this year!! Andrew did not keep me updated with any re-routes, let me know of any issues with PR work, and ignored instructions from myself!! There were a number of other issues regarding the Clerk, but these are being dealt with in house and I hope to have some feedback soon.

Organisers should remember that the Crews are now running “e” marked tyres and have not got the big strong walls that Gravel tyres have so PLEASE think about the use of “whites” and how rough they are? If you have no choice other than to run a rough white then think about lowering the average speed or even running it as a Neutral section just to get crews through it?

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There are more and more Touring Assemblies traversing the lanes in my area. There is a minimum six week rule for any two rallies to use the same section of road, but it is three weeks for any other type of event. Bearing this, and the requirement that Clubs must communicate with each other, in mind I found that there was a major clash of route on map 161 with two events. The first was the Ross Endurance Rally, and the Second was the Ross Bluebell Run which was running two weeks apart and in my area the majority of their routes were clashing. This should not have happened in the first place as they should be communicating within the Club and sorting things out before sending proposed routes in to me!! It was eventually sorted when the Run finally sent me a route which did not clash with the Endurance Rally, but caused a lot of friction to get it sorted. The Regulations are there for everyone and if you are requested to amend your route it is for a good reason, so please listen to the requests!!

A couple of Events have been very close to the three month minimum deadline; please get your routes in Early!! One Club who has for the last three events been late in sending in their routes to the MSA is Ecurie Cymraeg, they have had their last warning so please take note and send things in early!!

JH – Touring Assemblies don't have to be organized by a Motor club resulting in the RLO being unable to control these.

NF – If unaffiliated MSA clubs organize – they don't need a permit either.

PL – no road books are required. 12 car events require permits from the MSA, but issues with insurance require permits for less than 12 cars.

GF- Andrew Thomson to organize another Police meeting. Date TBC. JJ to organize this.

## **17. Cross Country (Jerry Herbert)**

The second of six two day events took place at Aberbeeg on 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> May.

The next round is at Forrest Estate, Dumfries and Galloway on 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> June

Entries are still very low at the moment, but as the best of five rounds count, the hope is that numbers will increase for subsequent rounds.

On the LARA front, things have quietened down recently. Political advice is to keep a low profile at the moment, as so far events have passed by without any comment, and further lobbying might attract interest – let sleeping dogs lie for the moment. The situation is being constantly monitored closely.

Further political events, local elections/EU stuff etc and a General Election next year is diverting attention.

It is rumored that the Powys CC situation might be resolved in the near future !



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LARA – H&S, employment tribunals, use of land, Rights of way. May allow (Antis) a way in. White roads may become 'Rights of way' under section 33. (LARA attachment with Minutes).

DH - '38 Degrees' allows access to voting online.

## **18. Go Motorsport (Ryland James) No report**

## **19. MSA Unlicensed seminars**

NF – how many knew about the seminars ?, how many attended ? the information is being sent out to clubs, but not cascaded down to members.

RJ – unfortunately the seminars are scheduled at the same time as large events – lack of attendance.

NF – topics covered

- Organizing
- Event management
- Managing risk

For the next round 2016 – suggestions welcomed – dealing with fatalities for CoC and unlicensed Officials

JS – training for CoC/DSO's road rallying.

## **20. Correspondance**

NF – awards

- Club of the year
- Volunteer official of the year

## **21. Club Official changes**

None to report

## **22. MSA Reports ( Paul Loveridge / Geoff Field) Geoff gave report**

Report from Rallies Committee Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014

1. Payment of Fines and Fees by credit card is to be trialled for 6 months, with surcharge costs being met by the MSA.

2. The requested advice on buying seats hadn't been received, so the Chairman asked that this be done (a report on the testing of the seats had been received).

3. Motorola no longer make radio sets that are suitable for rally use – other manufacturers "might" follow this decision, so it needs to be checked. The "new" frequency exploration is ongoing.

4. Rallies Committee members were asked to read the draft Rally Safety Guidelines document that Sue Sanders had written and to let her have any comments on it. There was some debate about the use of Course Cars on events and it was agreed that information on that could be included in the document too.

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5. There was extensive discussion on a means of introducing low cost rallying, including a very good presentation by Sue Sanders, Nathan Crewe and Matt Endean. Working groups to be formed to progress this.
6. GoMotorsport – ideas for promoting motor sport to be sent to Jess Fack.
7. Schedule Timing is to be made available as an option to Target Timing to give events more flexibility and to keep competitors in an event for longer.
8. HANS (and similar) devices were discussed and it was agreed that more information is needed on their effectiveness before we should consider making them mandatory.
9. It was agreed that the BARS test/courses should be developed to include more information on signage.
10. There was some discussion on the Deregulation Bill – LARA and the MSA are on the case with this.
11. Ian Davis is dealing with some Section 33 issues with Mark Stafford-Tolley, of Powys CC.
12. There was some discussion on the use of non e-marked tyres for road rallies in Wales – Dyfed Powys Police are insisting on the use of e-marked tyres ONLY. This issue is ongoing.

## **Report from Regional Committee on Wednesday 21st May 2014**

1. Nominations are invited for Specialist Committee membership.
2. Motor Sport Council meetings will take place three times per year, instead of four.
3. Taster events – the question of Night Navigation events, under this heading, is ongoing.
4. 302 MSA Clubs responded to the recent Survey of the 740 registered, and there was a lot of discussion on the findings from this.
5. Changes in MSA/IMS staff include Alan Page taking over Training and Ben Taylor taking over as the Head of IMS, following Andrew Coe's departure. A new General Secretary will be announced soon.
6. Closed Roads – a meeting to finalise the draft document for this was taking place the day of the Regional meeting.
7. Risk retention has seen a reduction in premiums and a 30% rebate to organising clubs.
8. Championship tenders are still being processed.

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9. The MSA have increased their donation to LARA in recognition of the increased workload and expenses that they have. The ACU have reduced their commitment to Associate Members only, rather than staying as full members.

10. The Inter-Association Sprint will take place at Castle Combe on 26th July.

11. There was a very good turnout for the recent Club Seminars and the new format met with widespread approval. This is going to be further developed for future years.

12. WAMC needs to identify a suitable event for the Inter-Association Trial this year.

## **23. AOB**

NF – Inter – regional Off Road 4x4 Trial (TYRO).

'Phoenix car clubs' – MSA proposed changes there need to be 25 members (full list of names & addresses to be submitted) a recognized club shall be a member of an Association (local)

JJ – forms have been circulated to all clubs re: championship dates. Have not received many replies to this.

Date of next meeting

**Tuesday 2nd September 2014**