

The Welsh Association of Motor Clubs



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SOUTHERN CENTRE General Meeting – Tuesday 3rd March 2015 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, Fran Davies Tarmac/KoE Championship Secretary, John Surridge – Road Rally Secretary, Jerry Herbert – Cross Country.

And representatives of the following clubs: Ecurie Cymraeg, HOVAC, Forresters C.C, Lampeter & District MC,GVMC, Amman & District MC, HRCR, Ross & District MC, Brecon MC, Principality Automobile Club, Carmarthen MC, Epynt MC, HERO, Barc, IRDC, Marches 4x4, , HRCR, TVMC.

1. **Apologies:** Rob Baldwin, Phil Jones, Bath MC, Mike Taylor, Andrew Thomson, Ryland James, Geoff Field, Paul Loveridge, Dave Howells, Neil Henderson.
2. **Minutes of last meeting.**
Proposed Dorian Evans Seconded Alun Morgan
3. **Matters Arising**
Amendments required for last minutes have now been done.
4. **Road Rally Championship (John Surridge)**
Date change for Powys Lanes may affect entries ? Also the sealing of engines may put competitors off.

The 2015 Championship has attracted 77 Registrations, 41 Drivers and 36 Navigators which although down on last year, is still a healthy number

Two rounds of the Championship have now run, the opening round, The Mike Darowen Rally unfortunately attracted Police attention with a spectator point early on causing problems with traffic on the main road nearby. The problem was made worse by the fact that there were no marshals present.

Some competitors have expressed concern that we did not police the engine capacity rule last year and it would appear that some registered contenders scored good points in the Championship in cars that many other competitors feel are not eligible. As those competitors are again registered for the Championship, the engines of three competing cars were sealed at the start of the Bro Caron. This does mean that Championship points cannot be finalised until the engines have been stripped and a decision reached about their legality.

The story continues.....

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5. Tarmacadam Championship (Fran Davies)

The first round of the Championship – Rali Cwm Gwendraeth was held on a dry and sunny day at Pembrey. 32 drivers and 25 navigators have registered for the championship. The next rounds will be The Melvyn Evans Motorsport Tour of Epynt on the 8th March, and the Tour of Caerwent on the 22nd March. Unfortunately we have lost two rounds from the Championship namely The Harlech stages and Mid Summer Caerwent Rallies as we did not have 100% response to the date changes.

NF- loss of Caerwent due to MOD date change. Competitors must respond to the championship Secretary.

6. Forest Championship Clubman (Jimmy Jones)

2 rounds of The www.jelfmotorsport.com Welsh Clubman's Forest Championship run to date.

There is a total of 49 registered contenders.

Joint current leaders are Terry Brown/ Den Golding Ben Ilewelin / Ross Whittock

Best 5 scores to count

The www.jelfmotorsport.com Welsh Clubman's Forest Championship has a 5 remaining

May 16 th	Plains Rally	Knutsford & District M C
Jun 20 th	Red Dragon Stages	Port Talbot M C
Jul 18 th	Sweet Lamb Stages	Epynt M C / Forresters CC
Aug 15 th	Neath Valley Stages	Three Counties C C
Oct 17 th	Cambrian Rally	North Wales C C
	Reserve Event	
Sep 5 th	Woodpecker Stages	Sixty & Worcestershire M C

7. Forest Championship National (Dave Evison)

No Report

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

Currently we have 23 registered contenders. Round 1 has taken place the Wydean with round 2 the Rally North Wales on 28th March. Round 3 has now a new title being the Dixies Historic Challenge which replaces Historic Mini Epynt.

We have currently 7 crews entered on the Rally North Wales.



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9. King of Epynt (Fran Davies)

The four rounds in the Challenge are –

8th March Melvyn Evans Motorsport Tour of Epynt Rally

31st May Welsh Marches Mini Epynt Rally

28th July Harry Flatters Rally

30th August Old Forge Garage Mewla Rally

We now look forward to the opening round on the 8th of March organised by Port Talbot Motor Club.

10. Club Championship (Jimmy Jones)

3 clubs leading with Club Championship.

Current leaders Three Counties Car Club with 60 points.

11. Sprint & Hillclimb Championship (Dave Thomas)

Regulations have now been approved by the MSA and published on WAMC website and sent to all 2014 registered contenders together with a 2015 Registration Form.

Calendar has now settled following late changes to Castle Combe with the event reverting, after two date changes, to its originally proposed date.

15 registrations have been received to date; I would presume this to be good considering the total number of registrations for 2014 was 30 odd.

The first event is a Sprint at Rockingham organised by BARC on 22nd March 2015 (not 23rd as in the yearbook).

12. Junior Challenge (Dorian Evans)

The first round of the 2015 WAMC Junior Challenge will be the Spring RosSolo on the 15th March, to be held at Mitcheldean.

I haven't received any registrations as yet, but I've been told that the 2 contenders who completed against each other most last year intend to have another shot at it. I also hope to persuade some of the junior competitors at the first round to sign up.

13. Pembrey Liaison Officer (Gethin Rees)

No Report

14. Epynt & Caerwent Liaison officer (Phil Jones) Southern Centre Chairman gave report

Annual meeting held on 4th December Minutes attached. MOD will NOT in 2015 be levying an additional charge for loose surface events as had been minuted. Quiet at the moment, SWAC event 3rd May will be called Dixies Historic Rally.

Next events –

Tour of Epynt 9th March

Tour of Caerwent 22nd March



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15. Forestry Liaison Officer (Neil Henderson)

No Report

16. MSARLO (Andrew Thomson) Southern Centre chairman gave report

So here we are three months into 2015 and another busy season of Motor Sport ahead. By now I hope that all clubs that traverse the lanes in my area will have received the MSARLO requirements document for this year. If not, then send me an email and I will forward you a copy.

Most of you by now will have heard that if you are running a Road Rally with a timed to the second permit then you are not permitted to run 'special tests'! This will come as quite a blow to some of you, but I am sorry my hands are tied on this!

So far this year, I have already had 10 events run, and all without any major issues. Can I just remind you all that it is a WAMC requirement, and courtesy, to contact the other clubs who also run events in the area that you intend to use and notify them of your intentions? This can be of great benefit to your event, more entries from those clubs, more marshals or manpower to assist with the event, and all from a simple email or phone call to the other club. As the advert once said, 'it's good to talk', try it ?

I am still not receiving the post event PR reports from a number of events. The Rali Eli were complaining before their event about other clubs going into their area and causing PR problems, I asked them on several occasions to put down all of these points in a report and let me have them, sadly I am still waiting !!!

On the note of PR reports, the 1000 Lanes had a large number of calls about their event for the third year running, but this year's event also attracted 5 complaints. I contacted the club twice since the event and I have not received a response to my letters requesting their feedback on these complaints which I have asked them to sort out !! sadly, this does not put out a good example to the other clubs. The police are far

from happy with this event and the lack of response, and the club should note that they will need the cooperation of the Gwent force again this year for their event.

Finally, please remember that as the appointed MSARLO to this area I am here to help and unless you contact me and talk to me then I can't help you.

17. Cross Country (Jerry Herbert)

No news, as the first event is Myherin 11th-12th April. Regs are out, waiting for competitors to sign up.

18. Go Motorsport (Ryland James) No Report

The Southern Centre Chairman reported that Ryland has stood down from this position. WAMC would like to pass on their thanks to Ryland for his work with Go Motorsport. Andrew Bisbin will stand in until a replacement is found.

19. Training. Neil Fuller Gave a report.

Clubs have indicated that there is a lack of training, the MSA have increased the budget for training. Clubs are to contact Alan Page for more information. You will be put in touch with a trainer and costs will be covered.

The WAMC will provide some regional training which will be predominantly based on Stage Rallying. There is also a British Marshals Training Fund and a club development fund for venue improvement etc.

20. Correspondance

None

21. Club official changes

Please contact Geoff Field with any changes

22. MSA Reports.

Rallies Committee 27th January 2015

FHR devices: There has been no Council meeting since the last Rallies Committee meeting in October 2004, when Rallies Committee and others were asked to discuss the use of FHR devices being mandated from 01/01/2016. It was decided there wasn't enough hard evidence to prove their effectiveness currently and warrant their mandatory use at the moment, although their use should be strongly advised.

Buying advice on seats: A buying advice document has been produced by the technical department, which would be released shortly.

Rally Car Weights and Measures: A new proposal has been drawn up and will be put out for consultation shortly.

MSA Safety and Medical Radio Frequency: A new frequency have been secured, split into two channels as per the existing frequency, and will be rolled out later this year. Retuning to add the new channels can be done with the existing radio's annual service to minimise the costs. Some radios with limited channel capacity may need to be replaced and the MSA is working towards managing the implications.

Tracking: Various tracking systems are due to be trialled on the Mid Wales and Malcolm Wilson Rallies. A report on their suitability, and costs involved will be made to the next committee meeting in March.

Split Categories: The number of splits or gaps allowed on events was reduced for 2015 from 2 to 1, although this can be split over 2 permits. Different ways of working this are to be trialled on the forthcoming Red Kite and Malcolm Wilson Rallies, with competitor feedback to be sourced by the next committee meeting in March.

Low Cost Rallying: The number of licence holders in rallies has been slowly declining. A working groups met in early January to discuss low cost rallying, and Routes into Rallying. An action plan is to be finalised by the end of the year, with various targets, including a "Sales Brochure" of the various levels of events on offer, and a simplification of the Blue Book.

Stage Rally Licence Upgrades: A proposal by Ian Davies in October on amending the requirements of obtaining a Stage Rally Licence has been put on hold temporarily until the "Low Cost Rallying" plan is finalised.

Road Rally Timekeepers: A proposal by Ian Davies regarding the removal of the need for licensed timekeepers on road rallies has not yet been discussed by the Timekeepers Committee. It has been discussed by the Regional Committee, who were against the removal of this list.

Rule Changes: No comments were received by the end of the consultation period (23/01/2015) regarding the proposal to R46.3.7 to allow modification of rear wheel drive cars to 4 wheel drive.

The Scottish Government Motor Sport Safety Review: The MSA are in meetings with the Scottish Government in order to prepare its responses to the various aspects of the Report. A lot of what was proposed is either already happening, or is in the process of being introduced, and the other aspects will need to be discussed further. The Police report into the Jim Clark incidents is expected during the summer.

Zero Cars / Safety Cars / Spectator & Competitor Safety: The draft guidelines produced last year were still in draft form pending the Scottish Review. A discussion took place about the unwarranted use of flashing lights by marshals when exiting or entering a stage, particularly at night. It was agreed that there is no need to use flashing lights unnecessarily, and this should be highlighted by the Clerks of Course and Radio Control before exiting stages.

E-marked Tyres: The MSA is preparing to seek Counsel's Opinion on the matter of E marked tyres, exemptions from the requirement to use an E marked tyre and "fit for purpose".

Competitors attention should be drawn to an item on Page 12 of the MSA News in January which could have further implication to non E-marked tyres in the future:

"In the 2015 MSA Yearbook, Section (L) Permitted Tyres, many of the tyres listed in List 1B are marked with an asterisk to indicate future withdrawal from the list. To clarify, this is because there are some demanding criteria being introduced for tyres to be E-marked, covering areas such as road noise, durability and wet surface performance etc. The tyre manufacturers are well aware that many of their existing "sports performance tyres" will not meet these criteria, so manufacture will cease over the next few months".

Rule Changes: A proposal to the Historic Committee was discussed to allow for Targa, and other Road Rallies held during daylight hours to apply for R19.5.1 waivers for Historic Road Rally Cars fully complying with R19.1.

Closed Roads: The de-regulation bill, which includes legislation to allow closed roads is still at the House of Lords and the hope is that the bill will be passed by the 31st of March 2015. The secondary legislation providing the logistics of closing roads for competition is still in outline draft form. It is feared that if not passed, the Election will take over, and the opportunity may be lost or at best delayed.

The next Rallies Committee Meeting will be 31st March, although there have been 2 "Stakeholder" meetings called in March to discuss initially the impact of the Scottish Government's Review into Safety at Motor Sports Events on Forest Stage Events in England and Wales, and other rallies also.

The agenda for both meetings will be:

Start : 19.30.

Presentation of the Scottish Government's Report.

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Presentation by Forestry England and Natural Resources Wales.

Presentation by the MSA.

Questions and Answers.

Stakeholder meeting. All CoC's for Stage Rallying (Forestry) are invited to attend 17th March Bromsgrove in light of the Scottish report. Any recommendations, the MSA will act on.

23. AOB

Jimmy Jones on behalf of Mike Taylor – there are certain clubs that have yet to renew their membership fees. Can these clubs please make payment ASAP.

The new Autosolo Championship will be coordinated by James Chapelle.

Poor attendance at WAMC meetings was discussed at the main meeting. There has been a proposal to cut the agenda at the centre meetings to encourage attendance at the main meetings.

Closed Roads – reading at the House of Commons. This must be rubber stamped by 31st March. If there is Royal assent, it will then become Law and will need Statutory Instruments by mid 2016. If rejected it may be shelved.

Awards evening – services to Motorsport went to Mike Kennet.

Mal Gibbs trophy went to Terry Brown.

Kenny Owen S14 year book – letter sent to Geoff regarding S14.

Dave Mac – any news on the Circuit of Wales? Enquiry March 10th of allocation of land to the site.

WAMC main meeting April 19th. It is also the AGM.

Next Southern Centre meeting **Tuesday 2nd June at 20.00hrs.**