

## Welsh Association of Motor Clubs

Name: DORIAN EVANS

### RALLIES COMMITTEE

APRIL 2015

#### Rallies Committee 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015

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. 804 radios may need modifying. 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 Board has agreed to provide funds to cover some of the cost of modifying, servicing or possible replacement of some sets, at a possible cost of up to £250,000 in total.

Tracking Systems – 2 systems have been tested on the Mid Wales Stages, one using both GSM coverage alongside satellite coverage, the second being GSM only, which suffered due to lack of coverage at some points. A third system, Rallitrack, has not been able to present a working trial on two rallies in March, a third chance will be given to them on the Pirelli Rally.

Timekeepers – It was decided to delete the regulation that requires an MSA or Regional timekeeper on road rallies timed to less than one minute.

False Starts on special stages – A new regulation is to be introduced which will define where a beam recording false starts should be placed (30cm – 40cm in front of the start line).

Vehicle weight limits – The consultation responses were considered and it was agreed to proceed with this regulation change in an unaltered state. This is subject to no further consultation responses, which raise significant points, arriving before the closing date of 30th April.

Single Venue Rally – The penalties section for target timed events will be modified to allow a competitor to miss a stage on a single venue rally and continue. The penalty will be a stage maximum.

All new rule changes above will go out for consultation.

Scottish Government Review – The implementation of the 30 points raised in the report is now under way with varying lengths of time required to complete each aspect. Interim rally safety recommendations will be published later this month and all multi venue stage rallies will be required to follow these with immediate effect.

There have been 3 stakeholder meetings recently involving presentations from the MSA, FC and NRW, and attended by mostly Stage Rally Organisers. Jacqueline Campbell made a presentation on behalf of the MSA, and the basis of her message was that most organisers do an excellent job in organising the competitive element of events, but work needed doing on the “public entertainment” aspect of rally organisation.

The FC and NRW presentations made no secret of the fact that there is no master agreement currently in force, and there wouldn't be one if the 30 points raised in the report are not addressed.

At the rallies committee meeting I asked how badly the FC and NRW need rallies, the answer being “not at all”. Both are themselves under a Health and Safety revue, and well do without the hassle that rallying creates.

Deregulation Bill – This achieved Royal Assent in the last week of March but to use the legislation to close roads we have to wait until the enabling legislation is created. This will be at least 12 – 15 months away but we have achieved a major step forward. Closed Roads will likely be used as part of an existing event, rather than a new completely closed road event.

An additional meeting of the Rallies Committee will be held on Tuesday 11th August. This is to allow any regulation changes that the implementation of certain aspects of the Scottish review will require to be agreed in time for the September meeting of the Motor Sports Council.

Special tests – By definition these may only be used on road rallies timed to the minute. I asked that since in the recent past road rallies timed to the second had been authorised to have special tests, without any problems, whether the definition could be changed to allow this, but this was turned down. Road Rallies timed to the second cannot make use of Special tests

Date Changes – Contract Law dictates that there is no way of championship events changing their dates without the written consent of all registered contenders. Stating in championship regulations that dates may be changed would still contravene contract law, despite this being the recommended action from Colin Hilton in the past.

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