



# The Welsh Association of Motor Clubs

31<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL WAMC/POLICE MEETING  
METROPOLE HOTEL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS  
WEDNESDAY, 29<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2014

1. Present: Paul Loveridge WAMC Chairman, Gwyn Reynolds Jones WAMC Northern Centre Chairman, Neil Fuller WAMC Southern Centre Chairman, John Surrige WAMC Road Rally, Chris Summerfield WAMC Road Rally DSO, Simon Fowler MSA, Ian Davis MSA, John Davies MSARLO North, Dave Lucas MSARLO West Mercia, Andrew Thomson MSARLO South, Dave Matthews Gwent Police, Andy Carter South Wales Police, Robert Haynes West Mercia Police, Ian Connolly West Mercia Police, Gareth Osmond Jones North Wales Police, Nigel Nelson Dyfed Powys Police, Kevin Whitton MSA FLO North Wales.
2. Welcome by the Chairperson
3. Apologies  
Geoff Field, Mike Taylor, Inspector Mark Davies, Sergeant Colm McNellis, Alun Morgan, Neil Henderson.
4. Reports from the MSA
  - a) Simon Fowler, 106 events have been authorised in Wales in 2013-14. The MSA have received only minor complaints and of those only 8 have been listed by the MSA. Simon is very pleased with the progress being made with paperwork by Welsh clubs and would like to pass on his congratulations
  - b) Ian Davis, outlined the progress of the 'Closed Roads Bill' through Parliament. The Bill is with the House of Lords at the moment. If finally passed we could see a change in the nature of some events. The MSA does not see 'full blown' events in the first few years of the closed roads bill. Ian answered questions from the police and outlined the draft legislation. Regulations are still in the draft stages but only the ACU and MSA will be able to authorise events. Clubs must be aware of the costs involved to outside agencies when planning new events on the highway under the new legislation. WRGB has a full entry with improved traffic orders in place for access and spectators.
5. Reports from delegates regarding events since the last meeting
  - a) Gwent Police – Mr Dave Matthews is happy with the 12 events in his area. He acknowledges the good communication and contact from clubs. Complaints from members of the public are down. Those that are received are dealt with quickly by the RLO and organising Clubs.
  - b) North Wales Police – Mr Gareth O Jones. Liaison between Clubs and the Police is good. Complaints are dealt with quickly by the organising clubs. An investigation is taking place where a fatality occurred to a motorcycle rider in the vicinity of an event. No evidence of a link.
  - c) South Wales Police – Mr Andy Carter reports no problems in his area with events 'all good'. They have though seen an increase in the number of Classic Car runs and Scenic Tours in the area.
  - d) West Mercia Police – Mr Bob Haynes /Ian Connolly have no reported problems in their area although they had received one formal complaint with regard to classic tours. They are very pleased with the digital mapping and ease of use. Digital mapping eases distribution within the force and has asked Simon Fowler to supply maps in a PDF file.
  - e) Dyfed – Powys Police – PC Nigel Nelson. This has been a busy year in the DP Police area. Four traffic Officers have been assigned as motorsport liaison officers. They are looking at building on the already good relationships between the Police and event Organisers. They will also be looking at consistency in the organisation of an event. DP Police also like the digital map software which has been well received throughout the force. Reports of one RTA directly linked to a rally and two cars were caught speeding on an event. After a quiet word they retired from the competition. DP police are also looking at a web based system where clubs can register an event online.

6. Reports from the FLOs
  - a) North Wales – Mr Kevin Witton reports that he has authorised 18 events in his area. Very few Road rallies now enter forestry land. Communication between FLO and clubs is good.
  - b) South Wales – Mr Keith Ashley, no report
  - c) F.O.D. – Mr Neil Henderson reports that he only has one major event in his district the Wydean Stages. Communication is good with the organisers actually placing an event radio in with the police at Coleford. This enables them to follow the event and act quickly to any incidents.
7. Reports from the RLOs
  - a) North Wales – Mr John Davies is happy with the way in which events are being conducted in his area. The communication between clubs is good. He has seen an increase in the number of Historic Tour events in North Wales. He has some concern over the amount of rubber which is left at some junctions and questions the over use of the handbrake by competitors. This is to be monitored with organisers being asked to include this in their driver's briefings. Police representatives were happy with this suggestion.
  - b) West Mercia – Mr Dave Lucas reports a quiet year in his area and has seen a rise in Motor Cycle events. Gaydon Motor Museum is increasingly being used as a venue for foreign clubs as a venue for events. He has no control over these clubs. The number of Scenic Tours in the West Mercia area is growing. Some concerns over unregulated events that pop up now and again.
  - c) South and Mid Wales – Mr Andrew Thomson reports that the last year has been very busy with 106 events in his area, ranging from 31 Touring Assemblies, 22 Stage Rallies to 19 Road Rallies. Dyfed Powys Police have designated four officers to work with event organisers liaising before the event and offer a 'on the night' debrief session to a CofC before the results from a road rally goes final. This will ensure that any problems encountered will be dealt with by the event very quickly. The response from clubs appears to be very positive. AT outlined the contents of a past RAC/MSA document as to the role of an RLO to the meeting. AT reports the use of 'E' marked Tyres on Road Rallies has been adopted by organisers in South Wales following our successful police meeting in January. Andrew then thanked a number of people for the help and support offered in his role as RLO in 2014.

The Chairman informed the RLO's present that three Scenic Tours were based in the Llandrindod Wells area on 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> October. Only two had been authorised by the respective RLO and MSA. This highlights the problem that organisers face when planning an event and a route in Wales.

Further discussion then took place with regard to the use of 'E' marked tyres in road rallying in the whole of Wales. Dyfed Powys Police have indicated that all events within their force area will be required to ensure that all competitors have 'E' marked tyres on their cars. The other Police forces present unanimously agreed that they would require the same in their areas. Gwyn Reynolds Jones outlined why his members and Clubs in North Wales had not gone down this route. Ian Davis outlined the MSA concerns, exemptions of use and the use of tyres marked for 'Competition Use Only'. The police representatives present informed ID that discussion centred only on the use of non 'E' marked tyres for road rallies and the use of tyres marked for 'Competition use Only'. No other form of event was in question. John Surridge the WAMC Road Rally Coordinator informed the meeting that 2014 sees his largest ever entry of competitors to the WAMC Championship. The use of 'E' marked tyres has been a requisite of the championship for over three years and is now totally accepted by his championship competitors. Further discussion followed as to 'Fit for Purpose' with the outcome that this would need to be tested in court. GRJ proposed that we should give a 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 date to the implementation of the use of 'E' marked tyres for road rallying in Wales. This would give competitors notice of the change and time to use up stocks of tyres. North Wales Police would like it recorded in the minutes that they would not agree to this set date and questioned why 'E' marked tyres had not been implemented in the North following discussion at this meeting last year. The police representatives present indicated that all

road rally events held in Wales use 'E' marked tyres. Ian Davis then requested that we contact our neighbouring associations and inform them this requirement for competitors who enter and compete in events in Wales.

8. Reports from WAMC delegates

- a) North Wales – Mr Gwyn Reynolds Jones. Some 22 events had been run in the Northern Centre in 2014. These were well organised with clubs communicating well with very few complaints from the public. Northern Centre Meetings are well attended and offer member clubs the opportunity to discuss motorsport in the area. WRGB is being held in North Wales. Local clubs are involved with the event offering marshals and support. Clubs have embraced the use of Digital Maps for route planning. GWJ would like to congratulate his member clubs for a successful year of motorsport.
- b) South Wales – Mr Neil Fuller, Attendance at Southern Centre meetings continues to be very good with over twenty clubs represented at each meeting. The majority of events in the Southern Centre have been organised to a high standard. Road Rallies have been running with full entries and organisers have been working with Andrew Thomson to ensure consistency in paperwork and route authorisation. One Forest Rally was cancelled due to a lack of entries which could be contributed to a date change. Member clubs are reminded that we must all work together and that clear communication between clubs, the RLO and the MSA to ensure a successful event. Our January Police and Road Rally organisers meeting was once again appreciated by the members. Clubs all feel that the meeting is worthwhile and welcome the opportunity to voice opinions to the representatives of the MSA and Police Authorities. NF also thanked those visitors present for their continued support of the WAMC in 2014
- c) Road Rally Sec – Mr John Surridge reported that 2014 sees the largest ever number of registered contenders for the WAMC Road Rally Championship. The events have all been well supported and offered a testing season for his crews, so much so that the final round will decide the overall championship winner for 2014. It is also good to see clubs bringing back 'old events' and JS is pleased to see a young members in the organising teams. All is looking really good for 2015.
- d) D.S.O. – Mr Chris Summerfield. Chris attended 12 events on behalf of the WAMC as a Driving Standards Observer. No crews have been excluded (as yet) in 2014. The new control procedure has been working well and has improved the safety at controls.
- e) Environmental Inspector – Mr Alun Morgan was not present. Mr Paul Loveridge gave the report. Alun appoints an environmental scrutineer to every WAMC event. He use scrutineers that are registered and who have calibrated sound equipment, with the two metre test now used throughout Wales. Clubs contact AM with the venue for the test location along with a photograph. Again AM and the WAMC is moving consistency forward with regard the way that environmental testing is carried out on events.

9. Any Other Business - None

10. Date of the next meeting, Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2015