

Welsh Association of Motor Clubs

Name: DORIAN EVANS

MSA RALLIES COMMITTEE

JANUARY 2015

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.