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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF EASTERN MOTOR CLUBS
27th July. 2021**

Held as Zoom virtual meeting – locations various

The meeting commenced at 20.00 hrs

Attendance

Members

20 were present representing 14 clubs as follows

Gary Nicholls	Chairman / CMC
Stanley Graham	Vice Chairman / Anglia Motorsport Club
Alan Barnard	West Essex MC
Mike Biss	Boundless
John Boot	West Suffolk MC
Tony Burchnall	Eastern Counties MC
John Davie	Green Belt MC
Matt Endean	Motorsport UK Committees / CMC
Suze Endean	Chelmsford MC
Lucy Fryer	Chelmsford MC
Clive Grounds	Training / Cambridge CC
Paul Jeeves	Middx CAC
Stuart Kingham	Wickford AC
Tony Michael	Web / Comp Sec / CMC
Dan Pearson	Anglia Motor Sport
Mark Wagstaff	Eastwood and DMC
Pete Walters	Speed Championship / Herts County A & AC
Michael Weeks	Southern MC
Dave Whyman	Sutton and Cheam MC
Brian Hemmings	Secretary / Anglia MSC

Welcome

The chairman welcomed everyone

Apologies

Apologies were received from Andrew Bisping (ACSMC), Liz Jordan (ASEMC / MMKMC), Mark Baulch (ACSMC), Simon Taylor (Farnborough MC), Allan Smith (Wickford

AC). Rod McKenna (CRSW), Andrew Williamson (MiddxCAC), Chris Musselle (Treasurer / CCC), Mark Banham (Kings Lynn and DMC), Paul Barrett (Rally Championship / CMC), Tony Clements (Regional Committee Rep / CMC), Barry Morris (Borough 19), Allan Smith (Wickford AC)

Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday the 11th May. 2021 were reviewed and unanimously agreed to be a true representation. Proposed Eastern Counties (Tony Burchnell) Seconded HCAAC (Pete Walters)

Matters Arising not covered elsewhere

Quiet lanes

An update was provided by the Vice Chairman derived from a local meeting held in his residential area. It was confirmed that Suffolk County Council are planning to designate a significant length of road (300 Km +) as Quiet lanes covering the costs of implementation e.g.signage. The objective is to highlight these roads as being targeted for the use of cyclists walkers etc. although there are no additional regulations associated with the designation and therefore it appears no practical changes to usage.

It was noted that Parish Councils continue to lobby for speed restrictions but this is a separate issue.

It was agreed that the situation should be monitored as it evolves, to assess developments.

Reports

Chairman

The chairman highlighted how pleasing it is to see events starting to be run again as we are starting to see the impact of Covid related restrictions progressively reducing.

He indicated that there had recently been a "Council" meeting that had covered a wide range of topics including Diversity and Sustainability. He undertook to circulate relevant information to those interested.

Treasurer

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting highlighting the financial position.

The treasurer was thanked for the information with no questions of clarity being raised. A request to supply the treasurer with forecast information on any anticipated abnormal expenditures in 2022 was reiterated.

The meeting was informed that it is likely that a request for membership will be received from Weald Motor Club. The meeting agreed that should a request be received it would be appropriate to grant provisional membership until the next general meeting when it could be ratified.

Secretary

Various messages had been received from Motorsport UK and other associations.

In particular reminders for club activities e.g webinars and the club survey had been received from Motorsport UK with a request to circulate these to member clubs. Circulating reminders in this way appears to have been relatively successful in ensuring club awareness and therefore will continue. The secretary apologised that this will result in some duplicate

messages being received by clubs but asked that this was seen as being an acceptable consequence.

The Association currently has 34 paid up members

Training

The training officer outlined that a change to the previous approach to marshals training is being considered. An approach using a number of shorter (up to 1 hour) webinar style presentations with each focusing on a specific topic area is being considered. Because of the style and duration of the sessions they could be run on a weekday evening which would provide more latitude in terms of timing within the calendar. These sessions could either replace or more probably be aligned with the previously held physical training days. A questionnaire will be sent out to clubs and previous attendees to assess the requirement. Costs of webinar functionality is being investigated to support this approach. Also under review is the potential to widen the coverage to include a wider range of disciplines rather than “rally only” as has previously been the case. This should align with the development of marshals registrations and training pathways.

Regional Committee

There were no significant updates as there hadn't been a Regional Committee meeting since the last association meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for the 18th Aug. when it is anticipated that the next phase in the Motorsport UK development initiative will be presented. Following a discussion on venues the secretary was requested to ask if an update on progress in the discussions between Motorsport UK and the MoD on venue availability could be provided at the Regional Committee meeting.

Championship Reports

Rally

Summary provided post meeting

The championship is mid-year, so very quiet - 44 entries, which is a record, and fingers crossed for Abingdon and Wethersfield to be confirmed. Round 4 is this weekend. No discussions yet on 2022, but some dates are already firmed up and I will look at Hertfordshire Stages for 2023.

An update was provided that a championship round, the Wethersfield Rally, would not take place on the planned date in Sept due to availability uncertainty of the venue. It is hoped to run at the end of Oct. but this remains provisional until venue availability can be confirmed.

Speed

The season is progressing and is at round 9 of the 19 planned. 3 early rounds have had to be cancelled due to restrictions but it is hoped that all remaining rounds will run.

The recent North Weald event had succumbed to the torrential rain and had to be abandoned mid afternoon but with two rounds completed results qualify for the championship.

There are 51 registered competitors.

Looking to 2022 there is a possibility of a hill/climb/sprint as the opening round.

An opportunity for an additional venue in the South East is also being investigated.

Other Matters

Motorsport Month

The Association has been approached by Motorsport UK to run a pilot of a Motorsport Month concept with a view to extending it to all regions in the future if successful.

The concept is to take events being run within a region in a "period of time" and use these as a basis to grow awareness of motorsport and increase participation within the region.

Motorsport UK would support the activity and would provide assistance in promoting the initiative and providing appropriate support to events. The focus would be primarily on club and grass roots events and participation.

Following discussion there was a unanimous view that the association should be involved and progress an initiative of this type but significant concern that there isn't enough resource available alongside other commitments to achieve a successful programme in the proposed time frame.

It was agreed that a small working group would meet to progress the initiative to establish if/how a realistic plan can be achieved.

Regional Development

Progress on creating the regions "information centre" is continuing. It was agreed that a progress review would be held in order to circulate a summary of progress to date and information currently available.

Further information on the next steps in the Motorsport UK Regional development plan is anticipated during Aug. to support and confirm direction for future evolution.

AoB

Air Ambulance

An approach had been received from the Anglian air ambulance with a view to establishing a closer relationship with motor sport clubs in the region. It's already recognised that motorsport is a significant supporter of the charity(s) but it was felt that a closer working relationship could be beneficial for both parties. The direction being suggested is some form of working association where clubs/events could utilise the relationship to demonstrate a role in the community while providing fund raising opportunities for the charity where appropriate. It would not be intended that there would be any form of financial commitment or exclusivity of chosen charity involved.

It was agreed that this would be an excellent approach if a suitable approach can be developed and agreed. The potential to be progressed to establish if a suitable working arrangement or partnership can be developed.

12 Car Insurance

An issue experienced by an event with the practical use of the Marsh Insurance process was raised for clubs awareness.

A recent 12 Car regularity event had to be cancelled at the last moment because of issues with the covering insurance. It was suggested that clubs using this service should ensure that there are no problems in sufficient time to review them with the company before the event.

Support for Sport Representatives

It was brought to the meetings attention that a competitor within the region is being selected to represent the country at an international motor sport event. Participation will require significant self funding and the question of support was raised and discussed. There was general agreement that there should be support from motorsport in the region and following discussion on the fairest and best way of providing this it was agreed to collect more information with a view to determining the most appropriate action(s).

Date of Next Meeting

The next delegates meeting will be on the 12th October. This will be preceded by the 2021 AGM