



NATIONAL AUTOGRASS SPORT ASSOCIATION LTD.

Minutes of Marshals and Safety Officers combined meeting held on 17th February 2013, Travelodge, Birmingham Road, Walsall

PRESENT:

Vernon Mackenzie(VM)	NASA Director
Stuart Thomas (ST)	NASA Chief Marshal
Sandy Williams	Secretary, Marshals / Safety Officers

Chris Jones	Risk Services Manager, Doodson Broking Group
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<u>League Chief Marshal</u>	<u>League Safety Officer</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>League</u>
Nick Weir	Andrew Whitmore	01	East Midlands
Phill Preece	Malcolm Butler	02	Gloucestershire
<i>Adam Jones</i> n/a	<i>Duncan Rea</i> n/a	04	South Wales
Ray Wyeth	Mike Collins	05	Southern
James Lewis	Eric Gittoes	06	West Midlands
Jayne Barrett	Alan Bluck	07	MAP
<i>Andrew Blomfield</i>	Rhys Jones	09	North Western
Martyn Tinker	John Howland	10	North Yorkshire
<i>Andy Page</i> n/a	Ian Nippres	11	Essex
Mally Wing	<i>Tim Simpson</i> n/a	12	Yorkshire
Stuart Thomas	Stuart Thomas	13	West Wales
<i>Bob French</i> n/a	<i>Paul Hassell</i> n/a	14	East Anglian
<i>Gary Merton</i> n/a	<i>Martin Gould</i> n/a	15	Shropshire
<i>Paul Mason</i> n/a	<i>Simon Boddy</i> n/a	16	CGTRO
Paul Finn	John Berry	18	Kent
David Shields	<i>Malcolm Dawson</i> n/a	19	Dales
<i>John Haffey</i> n/a	<i>Norman Jess</i> n/a	21	Northern Ireland
<i>Seamus O'Riordan</i> n/a	Michelle Tee n/a	22	Wiltshire
Kevin Pearsall	<i>Shane Houlihan</i> n/a	23	Southern Ireland
<i>Hugh Brown</i> n/a	Melvyn Clayton	24	Fenland
	<i>Greg Cooper</i> n/a	25	Scotland

Names in bold Marshals and Safety Officers who attended the meeting
n/a not attended the meeting

Marshals:-

David Glover	N. Yorkshire
Heather Thomas	Bredon Hill
Jan Waterhouse	Radford
Jason Baker	CGTRO
Tim Simpson	Scarborough
Andy Preece	East Midlands
Arran Warburton	East Anglian

Safety Officers:-

Chris Tee	Wiltshire
Marcus Mills	West Midlands

Apologies:-

Simon Boddy	CGTRO
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The meeting commenced at 11.20 am.

(ST) thanked all for attending today.

- **Track Inspection Forms for 2013 season:** These were issued by Pat Patrick to various leagues.
- **Director:** Stuart confirmed that Vernon Mackenzie is the Director for the Marshals and Safety Officers.
- **Doodson:** Stuart welcomed Chris Jones, Risk Services Manager for the Doodson Broking Group (NASA insurers) and asked Chris if he would like to introduce himself:-

Chris said he is employed by Doodson on the Risk Management side, to try and help prevent a catastrophic accident happening and to work with the Claims team. He has made an offer to the NASA Directors to work with us. Various questions were asked "Why does Autograss need fencing etc. when Rally Cross doesn't"? "Grand Parades at race meetings no longer allowed?"

Rules have been written in the past, maybe Risk Assessments need to be carried out to see what can be done for the future.

- **New Marshals barrier:** VM: The board had been approached by Scunthorpe club wanting to try a new "Recticel Safeguard Marshals Barrier" – Vernon explained the barrier type – The board have given permission for Scunthorpe to trial these for one year, after which it will be reviewed.

Note: feedback required from clubs/leagues regarding these barriers.

- **Silage Bales:** Clubs / Leagues **do not** have to write in to NASA to advise these are being used.
- **Page 54 of members handbook "Alternative Marshals Barriers – Silage Bales":** Eric Gittoes (WML) this rule has been amended, is it correct? Discussion followed, Vernon read out the rule, he confirmed - keep to the rule that is in the book, which is as follows:
"Effective from 2013 Marshal's Barriers may be constructed using sleeved silage bales. The same triangular plan area and height as the Tyre Type barrier must be constructed. The rear row of silage bales must be supported by four off, equally spaced 6" stakes, each a minimum two feet into the ground and level with the top of the marshals post, i.e. 3 feet high. The entire barrier – silage bales and stakes – must then be banded together using two, equally spaced, 2" wide ratchet straps"
- **Advertising Banners:** It was confirmed that these can be wrapped around Marshals barriers.
- **Any observations from 2012 season:** Ray Wyeth asked Chris Jones (Doodson) had he come up with anything from last season? Chris replied: no comment at the moment, ask in about 3 months time.
- **Page 35, new rule 2: "The finish line marshal should be situated in the inner area of the track and stood behind a Marshal's Post".** Eric Gittoes (WML): queried this rule. Vernon said – visibility issue, hence no finisher on the outside, must be on the inside. Jayne Barrett (MAP/Radford) – they will have a safety issue with the finisher being on the inside. Vernon: Better for start and finish line to be on the same side, can Radford revert back to how they used to have it? Jayne – too wet for race control to be over on the same side as the start line.

Vernon to get this rule clarified – SHOULD or MUST

- **Crossover Board:** Discussion, this is no longer a rule, a few present still wanted the use of a Crossover Board, but the majority don't want this back as a rule, this had been taken out of the rule book at the request of the majority of marshals who were voting on behalf of their leagues. Even though no board, a driver can be black / green flagged for dangerous driving coming off from the start line. The question was asked "who decides who has crossed over", this is usually the marshal on the first post. Start line marshals maybe in a better position to determine?

Page 39, rule 31 was read out: *“A competitor will be Black Flagged for deliberate pushing without taking evasive action. If it causes the other competitor to lose position, the race may be stopped and re-run. If a Black Flag is shown on the last lap, the race will be run to the end. The Chief Marshal is authorised to re-instate a car that has been deliberately pushed by another into its previous running position for the purpose of points calculations or trophy awards”.*

Note: Vernon will discuss with the Directors, but feedback also required from clubs / leagues / drivers to see if the Crossover Board needs to be re-introduced and bring back to the next meeting.

- **Attendance at these meetings:** A comment was made that there should be more league marshals / safety officers attending these meetings.
- **Window Nets:** Discussion, it was felt that there must be a standardised way of releasing window nets. Chris Tee suggested the use of a luminous yellow marker pointing to where a net can be released? Vernon said this is an experimental year, he asked the marshals / safety officers to walk over to the scrutineering lanes and the pits and observe and talk to drivers, make notes of anything they think could make their job easier, feedback is required.

Experimental year, (see above statement), feedback required.

- **Track Inspections 2013 being carried out by the following:**
 - East Midlands – Vernon Mackenzie
 - Gloucester – Derek Hardy
 - South Wales – Simon Bentley
 - Southern – Derek Hardy
 - West Midlands (exc. Severn Valley) – Jeffrey Parish
 - Severn Valley – Vernon Mackenzie
 - MAP – Vernon Mackenzie
 - North Western – (exc. Leewood) Simon Bentley
 - Leewood – Jeffrey Parish
 - North Yorkshire – Pat Patrick
 - Essex – Jeffrey Parish
 - Yorkshire – Pat Patrick
 - PAC – Simon Bentley
 - Penhow – Derek Hardy
 - East Anglian – Vernon Mackenzie
 - Shropshire – Simon Bentley
 - CGTRO – Pat Patrick (VM assist at Trent)
 - Kent – Jeffrey Parish
 - Dales – Pat Patrick
 - Northern Ireland – Simon Bentley and Jeffrey Parish
 - Wiltshire – Simon Bentley
 - Southern Ireland – Simon Bentley and Jeffrey Parish
 - Fenland – Jeffrey Parish
 - Scotland – Don Hilton

Minutes of the 13th October 2012 meeting were accepted as a true record, proposed by Ray Wyeth, seconded by David Shields.

Matters arising from these minutes:

- **Cameras:** Discussion held, these should be used as a back up for the marshals, used as a tool not the decision maker. It was confirmed that Paul Strong has stood down from being the marshal monitoring the cameras.
- **Spotters Towers (Nationals):** General feeling was that we have spotters. Vernon to confirm if this is a requirement.
- **New Flag:** “do we need a flag to show drivers they are a back marker and to get them to ‘move over’? - Not enough response received regarding this. Discussion held, NO new flag required.
- **BAS 2013:** “who is chief track marshal at the 2013 BAS rounds”? Stuart Thomas confirmed the following:
South Wales: Adam Jones. **Cwmdu:** to be confirmed, **York:** Martyn Tinker. **Solway:** David Shields.
Severn Valley: to be confirmed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Vernon referred to the 2013 Members Handbook and pointed out the following rules, some of which are new:

- **Page 3 – Racing / Officiating whilst injured:** “A Licence holder may not race if he/she is physically injured in whatever way and as a result is unable to carry out their normal job of work. Furthermore a Licence Holder may not race/officiate if he/she is either in receipt of benefit payment from the NASA insurers. Neither may they race/officiate if they have been involved in a racing accident and either have or are going to make a claim from the NASA insurers. Following recovery from injury and/or cessation of insurance benefit payments, NASA may seek medical confirmation that the Licence holder is fit to return to racing and/or officiating”.

Vernon confirmed, when making a claim you must return your licence along with the claim form

- **Page 4 – Test Day:** “Any meeting promoted as a “Test Day” will be considered as a race meeting and will be classified as a Restricted Open”.
- **Page 5 – Non-NASA Race Meetings (read this page in the 2013 members handbook for all details):**
Vernon confirmed, not covered by NASA Insurance.
- **Page 16 – Rule 10:** “Drivers must adopt a NASA approved method of arm protection. This means that either window nets must be fitted to the drivers side window of the car (or both sides if in a special or centrally seated) or Arm Restraints of the type that permit adequate movement to drive the car but prevent the arm from going outside the car and being potentially being crushed in the event of a roll over. Both Window Nets and Arm Restraints must be of a NASA approved type. See Class Rule Book. Failure to adopt these measures will result in an automatic black flag if so observed and will jeopardise any subsequent related injury claim that may be made”.

Feedback required on Window Nets / Arm Restraints.

- **Page 22 – Item 14, DRUGS / MEDICINES:**
 - 1.” It is prohibited to drive, race, officiate or mechanic at any NASA event whilst unfit through drugs whether illegal or prescribed. If a NASA Official believes that drugs are present at the venue the Secretary or Chairman of the event will call the police to investigate.
 2. It is a member’s responsibility to ensure that he/she is not unfit as in 1 above.
 3. Use or possession of non prescribed drugs whilst at any NASA event is a serious matter and will lead to severe disciplinary action under the tariff”.

Ray Wyeth: Commonsense must prevail regarding Prescribed Drugs.

- **Page 22 – Item 15, DRINKING AND DRIVING / OFFICIATING:** Item no. 2 has changed from 2012, it now reads as follows (as printed in the book):

2. "A person under the age of 18 may not consume alcohol in public areas at a NASA event. Consuming alcohol in a public area will result in the under 18 year old person being evicted from the event along with the adult responsible for them. Any person found supplying alcohol to an under 18 year old will be evicted from the event and reported to NASA for consideration of disciplinary action".

Vernon: if you, as an official see someone at a meeting, under age and drinking – report them to a club official or the security personnel.

- **Page 35 – item 19, RACING PROCEDURE:**

2. "The finish line marshal should be situated in the inner area of the track and stood behind a Marshal's Post". (note: this was discussed earlier in the meeting, see page 2 above).

4. "Marshals and / or drivers must not touch a potentially injured competitor unless specifically instructed to do so by a medically qualified person present. They must otherwise leave all handling of any injured person to the medical staff present".

Commonsense must prevail.

- **Page 37 – item 19,** "A driver making a "jumped start", ie starting to race before the signal is given to do so will receive a black flag. However if in the judgement of the Startline Marshal the driver in realising he/she has jumped the start, then immediately holds back and acknowledges their mistake the Startline Marshal may let the car proceed to race without penalty".
- **Page 38 – item 26,** "Any driver knocking down 2 or more track marker cones in a race will receive a Green Flag".
- **Page 38 – item 27,** "Any driver deemed to have gained an advantage by racing on the infield or by knocking down one track marker cone in an attempt to gain an advantage, will be Black Flagged".
- **Page 39 – item 31,** "A competitor will be Black Flagged for deliberate pushing without taking evasive action. If it causes the other competitor to lose position, the race may be stopped and re-run. If a Black Flag is shown on the last lap, the race will be run to the end. The Chief Marshal is authorised to re-instate a car that has been deliberately pushed by another into its previous running position for the purpose of points calculations or trophy awards".
- **Page 39 – item 32,** "The Chief Marshal is also empowered to disqualify a vehicle for a serious infringement on the last lap, after the race has been completed. If a vehicle is to be disqualified in this way, the competitor, pits control and race control will be notified immediately the race is over by the Chief Marshal".

PLEASE READ YOUR 2013 MEMBERS HANDBOOK – note: THERE ARE SOME NEW RULES

- **Page 54 – item 9,** "The Marshals protection barriers must be positioned with the outer wall at a maximum of 12 feet (3.7 metres) from the centre of the track marker".

BREATHALYSERS: Comments were made about the breathalysers we are using at present, they don't seem to be working correctly! Is there any news on the supply of better ones?
Clubs/Leagues can purchase from another source, other than NASA – so long as they have a certificate.

Vernon to discuss with the Directors at their next meeting.

ASSISTANT CHIEF MARSHALS FOR 2013: Stuart confirmed these are: Andy Preece and Ray Wyeth.

Anyone interested in assisting at the Nationals – forms available for completing with name, address etc. Names put forward today:

- Ray Wyeth Mens & L/J
- Andy Preece Mens & L/J
- David Shields L/J only
- Phill Preece Mens & L/J
- Malcolm Butler Mens & L/J
- Arran Warburton Mens & L/J
- Charlie Turner Mens & L/J
- Jason Baker Mens & L/J

Please contact Stuart (07813 667220) or Sandy (01522 684493) if you are interested in Marshalling.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.45 pm.

AGM – Sunday 24 November 2013 (12 noon)

DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2013 – 22 June & 12 October

Please note: if a league requires any items for discussion – these must be put in writing to The Chief Track Marshal, 2 weeks before the meeting takes place. The letter must be signed by the League Chairman and Chief Marshal / or Safety Officer.

SECRETARY: Mrs Sandy Williams, 153 Rookery Lane, Lincoln. LN6 7PW (Tel: 01522 684493)
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