

NATIONAL AUTOGRASS SPORT ASSOCIATION LTD



Chairman's Meeting

3rd October 2015

Venue: Metro Inns Birmingham Road, Walsall

Start time 12noon

MINUTES

1. Apologies - Derek -IK

2. Minutes of the Chairman's meeting June 2015

Retention of documents – slim file of all documents for race days need to be kept Ray asked for an update on what is required when an incident occurs. Dave – NASA to hold signing on sheets – yes but due to bulk be easier for clubs to store. Scanned copies are fine. Marg advised that incident report and signing on sheets are first things insurers ask for. 9yr retention. Serious Incident – Paul asked what is serious Ernie confirmed if car badly damaged need pictures to determine why. Overnight Parking – Further discussions needed for future ie if venue can accommodate then cars can go back into vehicles/trailers if rules adhered to but if not security not fair on those that don't have this facility, costs of security etc need further discussions and ideas for the future.

Mud Flaps – Carol questioned bringing them in Simon said clubs need to minimise the risk of flying stones Insurance/Solicitors are seeking advice.

If ukac cancelled what about refunds - If the meeting is cancelled and the driver/drivers are competing at the next round the monies will cover the fee for that round. If not the driver/drivers will be reimbursed.

Tagging on going Pete asked if going to SC test day Simon said ideal place

Paul – if powder coating/shot blast does it have to be re tagged Simon said that anyone told that their car was close they have been warned not to shot blast. Re test is also available. Tony asked when log booking will start Simon said held back with other issues but definitely for start of next year. Lyn suggested tag number be on licence application this would track where tags are going if cars sold. Dave asked if more testers Simon said yes discussions that talks of Don covering north.

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Joan asked finances of this Simon said approx. 2/3k but minimal against cost if accident occurred
Simon said long term they might get manufacture's to tag their own cars with an agreement.

Pete asked if Engine builders could be held accountable – Simon said it's something that can be brought in. Simon said post scrutineering needs reviewing. Pete said that once a statement came out about this year's everyone could see what had happened. Joan said that Nationals file needs to be sent to all leagues not just the hosts.

Dave asked for breakdown of membership Barb is going to provide info for AGM

Nick Clarke asked for clarification on rule of vehicles in middle of track

3. Adoption of the minutes of the Chairman's meeting June 2015 – Ray Wyeth Pete West

4. Treasurers Report

£90,216.04 Current Account £6,590.37

Marg is looking into costs for next year will have for AGM

Tax implications on insurance premiums

Ray asked if costings of tagging etc would make membership increase Marg/Simon said there will be an increase anyway but costings still being worked out

Ernie said he has noticed a drop in members, Pete said that he feels juniors are down. Nationals showed down turn in juniors. Analysis of classes and clubs figures will help see where downfalls are. Ladies down at club meetings. Feedback is needed on how to increase numbers. Lynn asked if the date of the L&J Nationals is an issue – different dates have been tried in the past and didn't really effect figures.

5. Membership / licence report

27 sept – 4234 members

277 members more by end of 2014 season but not fully up to date

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6. Directors Report

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

- As of 27 September 2015, total membership was 4,234
- This is 6% down on the 2014 end of year figure of 4,511
- More detailed breakdowns should be available, time permitting, at the AGM
- Feedback is invited from chairmen of factors affecting membership in your own areas, and suggestions of actions from clubs/leagues/NASA to increase numbers.
- Is the problem mainly recruitment of new members or retention of old members?

NATIONALS SCRUTINEERING/DISQUALIFICATIONS

- Detailed report has been issued to Chairmen and published online -
- All actions and appeals have now been completed.
- Appeals from Ladies and Juniors were heard this morning; the outcome will be announced publicly after the drivers have been officially informed.
- Offending parts removed from cars are available for inspection today
- information from scrutineering failures pre-race scrutineering will be available shortly

REACTION TO DISQUALIFICATIONS

- Some disqualified drivers were quick to accept the technical evidence and followed the laid down appeals procedure with evidence of mitigating circumstances.
- An enormous amount of Board time has been taken up dealing with a case where there appeared to be a reluctance to accept the technical evidence and the due processes that followed.
- The case involved an unacceptable level of abuse from certain parties, aimed at the board and individual directors. The Board is not prepared to tolerate this behaviour.

SCRUTINEERING SYSTEMS

- We are a year into the Board's programme of reform of the scrutineering system.
- Much work still has to be done to bring procedures up to date, but a considerable amount has been achieved so far.
- The roll cage testing and tagging programme has to date covered around 1,000 cars feedback so far is that this has been well received.
- The programme has been a success to date; a small number of dangerously constructed cars have been revealed and their owners have been grateful for the consideration given to their safety. Many other cars have been brought up to a safer standard with the help of advice from the NASA testers.
- The Board intends to continue the tagging programme and there are plans to add a third test machine to cover the north of England and Scotland. The testing will remain in the hands of three directors to ensure a consistency of interpretation of the tolerances allowed.
- Feedback and discussion is invited of the current scrutineering structure and planned future progress.

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RULE BOOKS

- No detailed changes have been made to the current rule books so the current printed rule books will continue in use in 2016. No new 2016 rule books will be printed.
- The current rule books have reached the end of their useful life and the process of re-writing them is now intended to start.
- Necessary changes for 2016 will be issued as bulletins on the NASA website and will be distributed via clubs.
- Rule books will still be available for new members and those changing class; these may be downloaded on line and printed books will still be available via Margaret Allen.
- Clubs planning to return 2015 rule books for credit may still do so; any books returned will be held in stock by Margaret for re-issue.
- The cost of the rule books will be absorbed into the 2016 licence fees charged by NASA; these fees for 2016 will be confirmed at the AGM.

DIRECTORS' DUTIES AND ELECTIONS FOR 2016

- A review of directors' roles and responsibilities has shown that the Board needs more resources to be available to them to strengthen the key departments (scrutineering, safety, marshalling).
- Nominations for new candidates for directorship will be accepted until 20 October.
- A notice will be published setting out the procedure to put a candidate forward. We are encouraging all candidates to expand the traditional CV into a "manifesto" setting out how they feel they can contribute to the Board's work and help protect and improve the sport. Voting members are urged to give close consideration to the potential contribution of each candidate.
- The "manifestos" will also be published online and licence holders will be encouraged to give feedback on their preferred candidates to their league reps.
- Three current directors will be seeking re-election this year; Margaret Allen, Derek Hardy and one to be selected.

DISCIPLINARY

- As we reach the end of the season, please note that the NASA disciplinary code and penalties will be applied to out of season functions, including the BAS and UKAC presentations.

LADIES' RACING

- Current rules allow men's and ladies' licence holders to race together in special races at Restricted Open meetings, at the discretion of the meeting chairman.
- This has been interpreted as allowing men's and ladies' class races to be run simultaneously where this helps to achieve a balanced race format at a smaller event. Eg if there is only one ladies' special driver at a meeting, a club may run, say Class 8 and Class 14 from the same grid.

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- However it is not permitted to split a ladies' class to allow one or more competitors to race with the men; nor can this be done unless all competitors agree.
- We've been advised of one recent case where this flexibility appears to have been abused, allowing one ladies' licence holder to compete in the men's class although there was a ladies' class available to compete in.
- Clubs are advised not to abuse the current rule as it could then be necessary to remove the flexibility allowed to chairmen.

NEC 2016

- Cars for the live action have been selected

CLASS 7

CW247 Keith Kelly
N70 Rich Lee
Y145 Richard Blockley
BC50 Matt Lloyd
C110 Bill Bradford
S1 Craig Kampschulte
C2 Craig Bagley
SP3 Mike Mackenzie
PHD72 Jake Roberts
E68 Richard Cooper

Reserve

SC61 Andy Holtby

CLASS 10

ARC1 Lee Seagreaves
SC13 Neil Rawlinson
SC93 Jack Rawlinson
NS9 Dave Holroyd
ARC5 Phil Coper
12F Carl Ray
A12 Laura Blaber
SL5 Mark Johnston
LM170 Vinny Gibbons
BC22 Lance Bowen

Reserve

SN19 Josh Hassell

JUNIOR SPECIALS

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S10 Chloe Solloway
P18EM Chloe Richardson
WR492 Molly Richardson
8F Abyjayde Bennett
BC7 Archie Bentley
SS61 Brad Turner
SL555 Harvey Johnston
SN318 Ryan Allgood

The cranks and sum guard was shown to those present.

Tim Harber was in the room and said the crank was not tagged on the night Simon showed him the list of items tagged & signed for on the night Tim denied it was his signature. Tim was then shown previous paperwork with a copy of his signature.

7. Nationals 2015 – Tony said went well, weren't happy with the track- the farmer did a lot of the work

Paul asked why at bas drivers are allowed to see videos and not at nats – Simon said that was not the case it's hard to deal with technology, if they have time they show people.

Lynn – live draw she said some of her feedback was draw prior was good. Dave had good feedback Stroud need to know club feedback so they know what to do.

Steve suggested do the pairings at Walsall so everyone would know the pairings but then chose the pairing letters on the Thursday of the nationals.

L&J Feedback Paul said medics were slow at going to incidents. Joan said wind up was not good and microphone at presentation. Joan asked why at Mens they could appeal against scrutineering decisions but at L&J they couldn't – to be discussed later

8. Nationals 2016 – all going well

9. Correspondence:-

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- Fixture Books – Jeffrey asked for dates for next year and advertisers £65 for clubs to have a page £175 for trade

- Members Handbook – J Parish pointed out a few updates –

Day licences can't be issued to anyone under a racing ban

You don't have to carry your rule book with you

Armco/ropes to be addressed after consultation in safety officers meeting – Simon said the solicitors/insurers are looking at safety of track structures, talk of 3rd wire, or extra stakes.

Cut of time for random breath test-set punishment ie you can't race until 30 mins after your 2nd test if you failed first one.

Incident procedures ie what to do if a serious incident occurs

Tagging changes/'fiddles' need to have punishment

- Insurance Ireland – P Meaney all clubs are looking to reduce amount of race meetings due to cost of insurance Marg pointed out that the premium has been set for 3 years. Nick asked if there had been a saving on cancelled insurance – about even. An option would be do UK subsidise Ireland. Paul also asked if they can make payments electronically as it costs them to send drafts – agreed. Lynn said they cut down on race meetings but didn't create anymore drivers to the other dates. Discussion took place with regards different costs on medics. Jeffrey said clubs should consider cancellation insurance if they are having to pay for medics if they cancel. Marg will speak to insurers soon about Ireland
- Drink Drive Bans – T Griffiths WML – Tony asked if someone fails breathalyser at nationals should they just get banned for that day? Simon said this can be covered when the rule is addressed as mentioned earlier feedback is needed if the current rule needs changing. Currently the rule does not differentiate between a club meeting and the nationals. Jeffrey said that some results had been provided on the tests over the year and felt the message is getting around. Paul suggested if you voluntarily take a test and you fail you should be allowed to race once you are clear to race this would give an incentive for drivers to do random breathalysers.
- Reduce Age of Juniors – Nigel Thompson SC – Pete said that other formulas are 10 – suggest we look at insurance before decide.
- Roll Cage Tagging – L Thomas Essex – covered above

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- Scrutineering Decisions/procedures –(T Harber) – T Griffiths WML Tagging Process (T Harber) – T Griffiths WML Incident Report (T Harber) – T Griffiths WML - Tony asked if Tim could speak Ernie asked if this a league request Tony said yes, after talks it was agreed to deal officially via Tony. Tony said that Tim was given the form to appeal the scrutineering decision Pete said this form was abolished when Dave Walker was a director. However, Gareth had issued the form and it had not been taken out of the NASA file. On this appeal it does state the driver can attend an appeal meeting this did not happen it was pointed out that it also states the scrutineer's decision is final. Simon said that when it came to light this form was in circulation it was removed for the L&J. Simon said this highlighted the mess scrutineering was in and that the new team were trying to put it right. Joan said the NASA file had updates that leagues were not aware of a new copy would go to everyone updates had only been issued to up and coming hosts.

Neil Lewis said on the NASA statement it said he had signed for his tagged items, he did not but they were his there was no issue but wanted the statement re wording.

10. Log Book – nothing to report

11. AOB

Vacancies for scrutineers of classes, Dave asked if host should provide independent measurers Simon said yes but host leagues didn't provide Paul Exon was only there for advice if needed.

Carol said at one of their race day incidents air ambulance came and next thing it was all over the press which then lead to health and safety becoming involved they visited the track and looked at all the paperwork they were impressed with everything the club had done and the NASA paperwork was very good carol pointed that it is important to send them back to Pat Patrick.