

NATIONAL AUTOGRASS SPORT ASSOCIATION LTD



Chairman's Meeting

Sunday 15th February 2015

Venue: Metro Inns Birmingham Road, Walsall

Start time 11am

AGENDA

1. Apologies – Derek Linch
2. Minutes of the Chairman's meeting October 2014
Joan Beven asked for some points to be amended as misworded last time
After WWL a penalty -----. Tony Griffiths asked if it was a financial penalty Joan said no. Jeffrey Parish then gave details of penalty. (not me).
S Bentley confirmed the version of events ----- This is wrong - and I said this in the meeting and explained that West Wales gave presentation for men's nationals, one club league (as presentation shows). Myself and Michaela came out of presentation and Penhow went in to do their presentation for L&J nationals. Simon came out to the car park with us and asked would we consider both nationals. I replied we don't want to be greedy and the men's we wanted but if needed we would. (Penhow came on trial with West Wales January 2013).

Ray Wyeth asked if minutes are taken when directors have meetings with host leagues –Ernie to find out.
3. Adoption of the minutes of the Chairman's meeting October 2014 -
Based on the amendments Joan asked for the Minutes were proposed by Pete West & seconded Nick Constantine
4. Treasurers Report – Current Account £59,002.99 Deposit Account £6,587.48 Margaret asked that Event Permits be paid for by 1.3.15 so paperwork could be issued. The first instalment was paid to the Insurers of £48,560.64.
On going insurance claims: Vicky Appleton Paul Gilliland. Tony Appleton should be signed off this month and hopefully Vicky. Sarah Johnston was still not allowed a licence. Two cases were with solicitors Mr McCracken and Ms Middleton. T Griffiths asked if Margaret was happy with the finances as current account seems low Margaret confirmed that she was happy seemed low as everything was paid for ie fixture books etc but £180k had been invoiced out so that would start to come in shortly. N Clarke asked what the total insurance premium was, Margaret confirmed £116k.

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Margaret stressed to everyone IF any incidents happened that may result in a claim she needed to be the first point of contact and reminded everyone ALL signing on sheets needed to be completed correctly and a report on the incident must go to Pat Patrick. Sometimes it can be a few years after the event that this information is required so needs to be right.

5. Membership / licence report – following information was read out by Ernie on behalf of Barbara Harper
Numbers of licences issued to date:

10.2.2014 = 1410

10.2.2015 = 1470

This looks good at the moment but may pan out later on.

Can I remind all of you about licences and signing on sheets.

Forms needs to be completed and signed correctly and legibly with the correct amount of postage being put on all envelopes, which includes the return one to yourself. Failure to follow the correct procedure will only result in the delay of your licences being issued.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANYTHING RECORDED AS THESE MAY END UP AT THE POST OFFICE.

Signing on sheets also need to be completed correctly and to have legible writing please. The NASA column on the left is not to be used. Once again please make sure that the correct postage is on the envelopes when sent to Elaine, which should be sent within 7 days. All these things will be checked on arrival with Elaine.

Your cooperation with all of these things would be much appreciated.

We cannot do our jobs without the correct input from all of you.

6. Directors Report this is the report that was provided by the board and read out by Ernie – matters arising in red;

Directors' roles and responsibilities

The directors have so far held two formal meetings in 2015. At the first meeting, Keith Matthews was welcomed as the newest member of the board. Roles and responsibilities for 2015 were allocated as follows:

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Chairman of the Board (unanimously elected) | Simon Bentley |
| Registration co-ordinator | Barbara Harper |
| Treasurer and insurance co-ordinator | Margaret Allen |
| Permits & track inspections | Pat Patrick |
| Scrutineering | Vernon Mackenzie |
| Marshalling, safety & risk management | Warren Beatty |
| Disciplinary | Warren Beatty, Derek Hardy, |

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Publicity/shows

Website and social media

Ladies' racing promotion

Junior racing promotion

Men's Nationals 2015

Ladies & Juniors Nationals 2015

Nationals 2016

Company secretary

Keith Matthews & Pat Patrick

Simon Bentley & Vernon Mackenzie

Don Hilton

Barbara Harper

Keith Matthews

Simon Bentley & Vernon Mackenzie

Warren Beatty & Pat Patrick

Keith Matthews & Derek Hardy

Jeffrey Parish

Track inspection responsibilities have been allocated as follows:

East Midlands, North Yorkshire & Yorkshire

Gloucestershire, Southern & Penhow

South Wales, Wiltshire, West Midlands & PAC

MAP & Fenland

North Western & Shropshire

Kent, Essex & East Anglia, Ireland & Scotland

CGTRO

The Dales

Pat Patrick

Derek Hardy

Simon Bentley

Vernon Mackenzie

Warren Beatty

Jeffrey Parish

Keith Matthews

Don Hilton

Directors' attendance at committee meetings

Members will have noticed that the usual directors are not in attendance at this meeting. For some time the board has been aware of comments from some members of the chairmen's committee that they would be able to have more frank and open discussion with no directors present. The board has decided to allow this to take place on an experimental basis.

The board also wished to show its confidence in Ernie Ashley as your chairman, by entrusting Ernie to be the main medium of communication between your committee and the board.

Any chairman or league representative wanting to consult the directors personally may still, as previously, address any questions or comments to the board, via the board secretary, Diane Tomkinson. **Discussions took place and it was felt that with no one from the board being present this delays any reply's or answers the chairman require, Ernie confirmed that he would take back to the board and anything urgent then answers could be emailed out. It was also felt this was distancing the board and chairman instead of working as a team vote took place and 15 voted in favour of requesting a director/s be present in future.**

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New scrutineering panel

The majority of members of the new NASA scrutineering team have been selected in accordance with Vernon Mackenzie's proposal, which was approved by the chairmen at last year's AGM. Several meetings have already been held between Vernon and other members of the team, and there have also been meetings to which representative car constructors have been invited for open discussion.

The scrutineering team provisionally includes:

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Scrutineering director | Vernon Mackenzie |
| Deputy Chief Scrutineer | Rob Simmonds |
| Class 1 | Mark Empson |
| Class 2 | Mark Uka Joan said Mark had already resigned |
| Class 3 | Dave George |
| Class 4 | TBA |
| Class 5 & 7 | Gerald Bennetto & Vernon Mackenzie |
| Class 6 | Rob Corbett |
| Specials | Lance Bowen, Neil Rawlinson & Graham Bennett |
| Junior Specials | TBA |

NEC show

The NEC show went well in both the show halls and the live action arena. The cars presented were all a credit to the sport, many members were involved in presenting the sport to the public and there was positive feedback at all levels including from celebrity visitors, notably Petter Solberg. **Steve Langley suggested that a 'club' car was on the main NASA display the cars on the stand were very good but cost wise anyone looking to start in the sport may think its too expensive. Ernie confirmed the board had already discussed this and was looking into for next year.**

NASA approved championships

As announced last year, NASA permits are now required for all championships or series that go beyond the scope of a club or league championship. The following six series have been approved for 2015:

- The Kent Cams/Simpson Race Exhausts British Autograss Series
Championship co-ordinator: Steve Langley
NASA liaison directors: Simon Bentley & Keith Matthews
- The Prolinx UK Autograss Championship
Championship co-ordinator: Paul Waldron
NASA liaison directors: Warren Beatty & Barbara Harper
- The All Ireland Autograss Series
Championship co-ordinator: Bobby Nugent
NASA liaison director: Jeffrey Parish
- The Eastern Open Challenge

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Championship co-ordinator: Carole Shaw

NASA liaison directors: Vernon Mackenzie & Jeffrey Parish

➤ The British Formula 600 Championship

Championship co-ordinator: Hilary Bird

NASA liaison director: Jeffrey Parish

➤ The JB Marketing Stock Hatch Tour

Championship co-ordinator: Jason Baker

NASA liaison director: Jeffrey Parish

Dates and venues for all these series are now available either in the NASA fixture list or on the series' own websites.

Medical cover

On the advice of our insurers and risk managers, for 2015 we require medical service providers at race meetings to carry the following minimal levels of insurance cover:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Employer's liability | £10 million |
| Public liability | £5 million |

All clubs are being asked to obtain evidence of this cover at the beginning of the year and to forward this to Pat Patrick to be retained with their permit and track layout details.

Dave Mansfield questioned these figures and said their medical crew may not be able to cover their meetings due to increase in costs. Nick Constantine confirmed these figures had been confirmed June last year that they would come in for 2016.

Track layout

Permission has been given to Scarborough club to trial an experimental marshals' post position, moving the first corner post to the outside of the track.

Fixture books

The format of the fixture book is under review – one option being considered, dependent on cost, is an upgrade to a more “glossy” and eye-catching publication in a larger format. This is based on feedback that a lot of members are placing more reliance on the internet than printed fixtures, so the main value of the fixture book may be as a promotional aid.

Discussion took place on cost implications of a glossy book, current book whilst not appealing for the show it did fit in your licence holder. Suggestions maybe a flyer with race dates on for show but book available also, it was confirmed this year it did pay for its self. Some Leagues had not received their fixture books yet. Ernie had some to

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hand out and Margaret confirmed if needed she could get more printed. Chairman were to take back to members for their opinions

West Wales League

As agreed following last year's Ladies' and Juniors' Nationals, the board is continuing to monitor the relationship between West Wales League and Penhow club. Warren Beatty has been appointed as the liaison/contact director for this. **Joan was asked how things were working and said no comment at the moment. But WWL had asked for Warren to be their liaison.**

Website

Jason Baker is continuing to maintain the NASA website. Alongside the main site, NASA intend to make increasing use of social media.

Scunthorpe test day 22nd February

Procedures have now been laid down by the organising club to resolve the safety concerns arising from last year's event. Various NASA directors will be assisting the organisers by observing the event.

Nationals file

The Nationals file is currently being updated for 2015 in consultation with both 2015 hosts. The only change concerning racing procedure is that the system for dealing with stopped races will be the same for heats and finals. Up to now a final had to complete the full distance, so a final would have to be rerun even if it was stopped with the leader out of the last corner. In future if a heat or final is stopped after the leader has taken the last lap flag, the result may be taken from the last completed lap, subject to the chief marshal's verdict.

For the 2015 Men's Nationals the pairings draw will take place at the venue on the Thursday night and will again be broadcast live on the internet. Printed pairing sheets will then be prepared for distribution and insertion in programmes on the Friday. **Steve Langley confirmed that Lance had told him that Mark Hoppe had been approached re the equipment/process. Discussion took place how it would work on the Thursday, where would it be held Tony Griffiths confirmed in the beer tent but he didn't agree with it**

Disciplinary

Following issues arising from the Autosport International Show, Cameron Mills C9 was banned from holding a NASA licence for 12 months. Cameron appealed the decision and it was agreed that he would be able to hold a member's or mechanic's licence, but the ban from holding a racing licence stands.

The disciplinary proceedings related to a charge of "bringing the sport into disrepute" under rule 17.7 of the 2015 members' handbook. To clear up any misunderstanding, the licence suspension is not directly linked to the results of the breathalyser testing carried out at the NEC. The penalty for failing a pre-event breath test is exclusion from the event concerned, and that penalty was duly served at the NEC. However there were wider reaching issues that resulted in Cameron being reported to the board for disciplinary action.

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The judgement that Cameron brought the sport into disrepute was based mainly on the following factors:

- 1) There was a long list of Class 8 drivers who applied to represent the sport in Class 8 at the NEC. Cameron was selected in preference to other deserving drivers due to his status as National Champion. It was therefore considered that his subsequent actions, which disqualified him from appearing in all the weekend shows, were an insult to those drivers who hadn't been selected, and was disloyal to the NASA directors who had supported his selection. **Steve Holmes although not a league delegate asked if he could speak to put forward more information (see below) In respect of this point Tony said he did not apply he was asked to attend.**
- 2) Unlike at a normal race meeting, the conduct of drivers in the Live Action Arena is closely observed by the management and officials of the show organisers and other sports, and for NASA to have this type of problem with one of our highest profile competitors reflects badly on the sport and on our membership as a whole. The incident also presented a bad impression to the competitors in other sports taking part in the live action. **Tony confirmed that he had spoken to Malcolm Forbes from Haymarket who was not aware of this, Steve also said if the breathalyser was done discreetly then how would anyone else be aware.**
- 3) Cameron's on-track achievements in the last two years have inevitably made him into a role model for other members, and in particular the younger racers. It was considered that this position brings some responsibility to set an example of conduct and Cameron's actions have fallen short of the standard of behaviour expected of any member, let alone one with such a high profile in the sport. **It was also discussed in the room just because he was the national champion this should not have made any difference.**
- 4) Cameron had been spoken to regarding his behaviour prior to the event and, like all other drivers performing, was told in advance that we would breathalyse all drivers. This he agreed to and on more than one occasion he assured the directors of his good behaviour. Following the event no apology was received until the initial penalty was given. **Tony confirmed he had advised Cameron not to apologies.**
- 5) The directors have now received personal apologies from Cameron and an acknowledgement that he understands the issues that his behaviour has created for the sport. Although the board felt it was not appropriate to remove the one year suspension from racing, they were influenced to allow Cameron to hold a member's/mechanic's licence so that he may actively participate as a working member of his club and league.

Steve Holmes statement touched on the following:-

Cameron failed 2 tests – they have proof another driver took a third test and failed.

The meeting was not a NASA meeting run to the rule book however he does not support drink driving.

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Was the test carried out correctly and fairly ?

The penalty was given that weekend not to race, a further penalty was given at a later date.

Given that the breathalyser should have been done discreetly then to who was the sport shown in bad light ? ie brought into disrepute ?

It was not an Autograss meeting, there was no trouble, no one outside the sport involved the penalty was given on the day and was accepted without argument.

In the appeal it was put to the board that a 2 year suspended sentence and a breath test be taken before every race meeting Cameron attends so this young driver at the pinnacle of his sport and also an excellent club member with league responsibilities be allowed to race.

There can be no arguments that this precedents are being set as this was not an autograss meeting governed strictly by the rule book. We feel Cameron is being treated unfairly and would ask for all the delegates support.

Kevin Griffiths and Steve Langley questioned if drivers who failed the breathalyser at the Nationals if they should have been banned for 1 year as this was a major event with sponsors etc present.

Daryl Smart and Dave Robins felt a vote could not take place to support Steve's appeal until they were made fully aware of the board's reasoning behind why they felt it was disrepute. It was agreed Ernie would ask the board for more in-depth reasoning and clarification on what/how it was 'disrepute' General feeling in the room on the information provided by Steve & Tony that decision appeared harsh.

The only other outstanding NASA disciplinary penalties are:

Brian Goodchild - may not hold a NASA licence until January 2017

John Warren – may not hold a NASA licence until 28 May 2016

Liam Nicholls - may not hold a NASA licence until 21 May 2015

Abi Shields – may not hold a NASA licence until 21 May 2015

- 7. Nationals 2015 Mens – Tony Griffith said no comment the league was in turmoil at this moment in time the league was split over the Cam Mills situation. Dave Robins asked if 'we' should be concerned at these comments Tony confirmed the Nationals will take place but under circumstances not as it would the situation has caused issues.**

Ladies – Nick Constantine said nothing to report all was ok

8. Nationals 2016 – no rep available

9. Correspondence - none

- 10 Log Book – **Keith Matthews had previously kept the log book up to date, it was agreed it still needed to be updated and used to prevent old topics being repeated.**

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11. A O B

Day Licences Ernie asked if chairmen thought they should be only used for Class 1 & 2 plus Juniors, as letting an inexperienced driver into a Class 7, 8, 9, or 10 has safety issues, after some discussion it was decided to leave it as it is but being sure those who use them can handle the cars competently.

Ernie asked for a clamp down on driving standards is needed in the likes of class 5 & 7 mainly due to wheel climbing, and this would be brought up in the marshals meeting.

Ernie asked if the chairmen wanted directors to look into a revamp of the website, make it more professional and eye catching, this could cost up to £3,000, the chairman agreed it was too much money so leave website as it is as it is adequate.

Race numbers legibility in these days of the fancy Graphics and not being legible to lap scorers roof numbers are not complying with the rule book in some instances, feedback is required on this from club officials, with scrutineers warning drivers they must be legible in lap scoring and if not put it in their licences.

Penalties issued at Nationals for technical infringements will be dealt with faster, this applied to all disciplinaries.

There is a issue with ladies racing in men's classes when they could and should be racing in there own classes, its ok if you only have a couple of ladies at a meeting to send them out with men's classes but gaining their own points. It was suggested that 3 or less IF ALL ladies agreed could race with men but anymore should be classed as a race.

Ray Wyeth asked if all clubs could liase with each other on race dates to try and not clash with neighbouring clubs other leagues confirmed they already did this and should be up to each league/club to do this locally.

Lyn wanted to reiterate that the meetings were more beneficial with Directors present. Ernie stressed these meetings were ideal time for ideas on subjects be raised.