

NATIONAL AUTOGRASS SPORT ASSOCIATION LTD



Chairman's Meeting

19th Feb 2017

Venue: Metro Inns Birmingham Road, Walsall

Start time 11 noon

Minutes

No	Name	Nominating League	Initials
00	Barbara Harper	Honorary member	BH
01	Nick Weir	East Midland League	NW
02	Darryl Smart	Gloucestershire League	DS
04	*Phil Olsson	South Wales League	PO
05	Ray Wyeth	Southern League	RW
06	Tony Griffiths	West Midland League	TG
07	Barry Holloway	MAP League	BH
09	Malcolm Cooper	North Western League	MC
10	Martin Tinker	North Yorkshire League	MT
11	Lynn Thomas	Essex League	LT
12		Yorkshire League	Absent
13			
14	David Robins	East Anglian League	DR
15	Patricia Ashley	Shropshire League	PA
16	Peter West	CGTRO League	PW
18	Derek Linch	Kent League	DL
19	Phil Sherwood	The Dales League	PS
21		Northern Ireland League	Absent
22	Simon Jackson	Wiltshire League	SJ
23	Paul Meaney	Southern Ireland League	Absent
24		Fenland League	Absent
25	Colin Read	Scottish League	CS
26			

Officials = DT = Diane Tomkinson Secretary EA = Ernie Ashley MA = Margaret Allen KM = Keith Matthews

Visitors = JB Joan Bevan -MM Mike Mumford -HL Heath Luck -MS M Sherwood

**REGISTERED OFFICE:
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1. Apologies

Paul Meaney

2. Minutes of the Chairman's meeting Oct 2016

DR asked if it was right MT at meeting as a League Rep discussion took place, there was a 'gentleman's' agreement if this happens the candidate can only do this for 12months then must retire from one role –unanimous vote was taken to make this a written rule.

PW asked if the Concussion Policy was sorted – DT confirmed Warren Beatty was dealing not sorted to date.

3. Adoption of the minutes of the Chairman's meeting Oct 2016

Proposed – RW Second – LT

4. Treasurers Report

First I would like to go back to end of 2016, have given you copies Turnover for 2016.

You can see from that Total Expenditure for NASA 2016. (£195969.48)

There were no outstanding money owed to NASA at year end.

The paperwork as all been taken to Accountants now with completion of full audit by the 01st May, 2017, ready for EGM at June Chairmans meeting.

The money in the bank at 31st December 2016 was Current Account £87190.16 and Deposit Account £6593.80 If there is anything on there you are not sure of please ask. 2017.

From the list given to you, you can see all invoices have gone out to clubs. The first batch on 01st January and the insurance invoices went out on 01st February.

I have paid all Stationery and printing invoices including Fixture list. The Insurance have had Two payments made of £38592.08 and the last payment will be made on the 08th March.

The insurance company allows us to make our insurance payment in 3 payments with no Added charge for doing so.

From October to February it is a time when we have no money coming in but a lot of payments needing to be paid.

From the list given you can see that I have paid £90317.65 out to date.

We need the money we have in the bank at the end of the year to cover paying everything till

The payments start coming back in from Clubs and Leagues.

If we were a business whether in retail or building or a factory they would hope to make as much money as possible over the Christmas period, for us being amateur motor sport run by people who Volunteer their time, the winter is when the money stops coming in. The money I have had in for the 2017 season to yesterday is £74820.25 some clubs and league have not yet paid the invoices that were due on the 01st February, but some always need a reminder and some are getting changes done at the bank for change of treasurer. Reminders will go out by the end of February.

If anyone as a query or a problem of any kind I think most of you know by now, I will always do my best to help.

The NEC Show total cost was £4511.92 have breakdown with me (list provided)

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It was suggested that the board try to obtain block bookings for tickets for the show at a reduced price ? and do the same with the hotel book rooms in advance when cheap and the sell on to those that need them.

The money in the Bank on the 18th February, 2017 is

Current Account £73424.98.

Deposit Account £6593.80

Make sure safety officers get a copy of the medical report on a race day it can help with Insurance Claims

DR asked if clubs had Public Liability insurance every day or just race days ie if someone tripped over a piece of the clubs machinery on the landowners field would they be liable – to be looked into

MA reminded everyone that on work party days insurance is in force but signing on sheets must be completed and sent in. **Suggestion that licence dates from previous year should be extended, as most work parties are in jan/feb and new licences have not been taken out.**

Insurance renewal is 8th Jan – Licences maybe run till end of Feb

5. Membership / licence report

Thank you for listening and thank you for your support and also thanks to my 7 registration secretaries for their loyalty and hard work to make this department work as it does.

All my girls are working very hard to turn around licences as quick as they can, but please make sure everyone is aware of the new medical conditions point on the form. We have already had some forms with medical condition box ticked and accompanied by doctors letters which has been great but we have a problem in that people ticking the box and sending no doctors letter, so can you try to get this through to your members please. There is a note in the new newsletter about this. Next year there will be a new format for the licence forms with instead of one tick box there will be several. Once the form has been agreed we can publish one for you all to look at. DR asked if the medical consent was for illnesses in last 12 months, still work in progress but if in doubt get a letter from GP.

At this time last year we had 1621 licences and this year it is 1427 which as you can see is a considerable drop. So a worrying situation. It has always been in the past that when we start down and seems to be the same right the way through to the end of the season. If you as a league think you have a problem it would be useful if you could give me some feedback as to why your membership is dropping or adversely increasing, so I can collate some information regarding that. Request from chairman to have a breakdown of classes and drivers that have raced to show a more accurate reflection of actually drivers we have – BH this can be done as this information is collated for the Allocations. Chairman had previously been discussing that this information would help target classes and see why they are declining. It was emphasised that 'grass roots' racing needed to take place ie Stock Hatch and F600 needed pushing as at present they are the cheapest forms in our sport.

I intend to produce a spreadsheet (see attached) which shows what each league has got what at the time of each chairmen's meeting. I would like your input please on whether you would like any further information from me regarding your league's membership.

But of course you can get in touch with me and I can supply individual league information at any time. You only have to email me or get the Club's to email me (not your league's individual registration secretary) for any information, which is fine. I have written an email all the defending champions and within a day or so received replies from 5 so halfway there with that.

Please note that cut off dates this year – see attached

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As always with signing on sheets please make sure that they are posted in good time to reach Elaine (whose address is on the bottom of the signing on sheets) in due time to reach her within the 7 days allocated. You can always get proof of posting and email her to say you have sent them and if you want an acknowledgment of signing on sheets being received, I can also arrange to sort that out, but please let me know.

Ladies and juniors forms are on our website and are also being sent out with licences when they are asked for. Scanned copies are acceptable followed up with the original in the post. But again please make it known to your members as long as they get in touch with me prior to the cut-off date, applications will be accepted. Applications will not be received after the cut-off date.

My only proviso to all of that is we do the best we can, as we are unpaid volunteers, not paid employees and as such we are doing all the work we do for the love of the sport, which is our hobby, so I think we all have emotions regarding it. Many thanks.

6. Directors Report

Scrutineers Report

The scrutineering team will start to produce new rule books for 2018, the first of the monthly meetings will take place in March with the aim to do one each month, as mentioned in the recent scrutineers update and in the newsletter, the aim is to simplify the rules and do away with any confusion or contradictions there may have been in the old books.

If anyone has any ideas or suggestions that may help they can email Vernon Mackenzie.

Also during the next few months we will introduce the red tag, this will be more complicated than the blue tag and will be another step towards cars having a NASA log book, the red tag will be fitted with the blue tag, making scrutineering at race meetings more of a brief safety check. **Discussion took place would the red tag supersede the blue tag especially on new cars is there a need for a blue tag ? KM to find out.**

For a car to get a red tag it will have to pass a series of checks, these checks will be carried out by selected people around the UK, who will complete a tick box styled form, then issue the tag, no equipment will be needed and I estimate that it will take 3 years. To get a red tag the car will have to meet specific class rules along with further safety checks to the roll cage, such as a visible check of all welding, seat and seat belt fixings and general construction, some of which has already been advised during blue tagging. For 2017 competitors will have to have a blue roll cage tag fitted to be allowed to race, the only exception to this will be by written permission from myself, and will apply mainly to newly built cars, when prior to the event permission will be given only when arrangements have been made to get the vehicle tagged.

Since January the 20th tagging sessions have taken place at Scotland, Scunthorpe, the Dales, South Wales, Gloucester, Southern, Map, North western, Wiltshire, Fenland and Shropshire, with days planned at West Midlands, York and 4 days in Ireland, over the next few weeks. Blue tagging has taken 2years, we now have over 2600 cars fitted with a blue tag and registered to its owner, this needs constantly updating which we can only do with the members help, so any change to class, race number, owner etc we need to know, it's simple now with the online form on the NASA website.

The most recent tagging spreadsheets are available for every league today, they do not include anything that has been done in the last two weeks. At the end of February another spreadsheet will be sent to all leagues, that should be all tagging sessions completed except Ireland, they will be completed after the first weekend in March. In today's scrutineers meeting class scrutineers will be selected, there have been more volunteers this year so all positions should be filled. Clubs and leagues should make sure that all cars are scrutineered correctly and that all cars that take part in national qualifying comply before the first qualifying round. Vernon Mackenzie.

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We have a new Board this year with a new Chairman and will be looking to work closely with the sub-committees within NASA, primarily the Chairman's committee. I believe that I will make a good conduit between the Board and Chairmen having chaired both committees and thus have a good understanding of both bodies wants and needs. We intend to be more open and transparent than might have been the case in the past and will be looking to the Chairmen for assistance more often. I will be chairing the Board in a different style and will not be micro-managing the individual Directors appointed to their various tasks, rather they will be reporting and held to task at that time. By definition we will be using logic over emotion.

New by-laws for discussion and amendment as necessary. **DT advised she would email Monday.** The plan is for the Chairmen to report any required changes that can be included for a final draft at the April meeting with a view to adoption at the EGM in June. The beauty of the by-laws is that they can be changed comparatively easily compared to the Articles of association.

New application forms will be used in 2018 to replace the interim one used this year to include more specific medical declarations.

Vnuk. The Board will keep a close eye on developments and report as required. We ask all members to fill in the online petition. – per newsletter

With the above in mind the Board are investigating the cost of becoming a member of LARA again.

A driver release form for day licences is being created to include medical declarations.

Going forwards it is the intention for the Board to provide more detailed financial information for the Chairmen as required.

The Board will be collating detailed membership information. The prime reason for this is so we can see what we are doing correctly and what isn't working so well. We also intend to acquire and share actual numbers attending at race meetings, again to find our strengths and weaknesses and give or ask for assistance as required.

A concussion policy is in the process of being created in line with other sports.

As you will all be aware the alcohol testing limits for this year have been dropped to the professional driver's limit. The new breathalysing equipment has been trialled and the Board would like to see every League if not club having access to the identical equipment so that we have conformity across the sport. **Vote was unanimous that all leagues have one (except Essex as currently no venue) it was also proposed that BAS/UKAC/AIS also had their own machine. Reps would report back before Monday if any of the clubs in their league needed one.**

Now that we have a policy, procedure and trained personnel in place drug testing will commence this year. Obviously, no warnings will be given as to when and where.

John Symes, the consultant we instructed regarding our track construction and safety levels will be coming to the next Board meeting to discuss how we move forwards. **PO asked if John Symes advises us to do something and for what ever reason was not practical to do for our sport would that be an issue. DL said he had been more than happy with the set up at Kent. KM confirmed all we could do was see what he had to say and take from there.**

We would like feedback from the Chairmen regarding the unenforceable rule of spectators in the pits. We will also ask John Symes for his input. **Discussion if it should be removed as a rule but not advertised, Also felt it might increase the excitement for spectators being part of the action like other sports, it was felt only pits not grid lanes or start line – agreed take advice from John Symes before deciding further.**

We are requesting feedback on when and where it is essential that overalls are worn for both competitors and officials. **Thoughts to be brought to next meeting ie when overalls needed when hi viz needed – when both.**

The Board are considering creating a track inspection team as against it being carried out primarily by Directors.

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A new marshal's handbook is to be produced and responsibility for this has now fallen to Phil Rogers who will be enlisting assistance to ensure this is available for the 2018 season.

The Board will be creating a new disciplinary committee which will draw upon the Chairman's Committee for its members. Martyn Tinker will be the Director in charge of disciplinary will head the committee. **MT said he was collecting names for the committee and would have substitutes if conflict of interest became an issue. EA asked who was on the list MT said no one at the moment still in hand. Vote was carried in favour**

Construction rule updates have been published.

New rule books are to be created this year and the target is to have them available for the 2018 season.

Blue tagging has been carried out at various venues throughout the beginning of this year and is continuing at great pace to ensure that all competitors can get their cars tagged. The intention is that once racing commences this year it will become the competitor's responsibility to take their car to the tester rather than the other way around. There will be a small amount of leniency allowed at the start of racing regarding tagged cars and the Scrutineers will define this after today's meetings.

Please ensure when your members purchase a pre-tagged car that they use the NASA site to register it.

Red tagging is to commence this year and teams are being formed to carry this massive task out.

Questionnaires are being sent out to BAS, UKAC, AIS and any other series/championships being run under NASA sanction to ensure they are operating within the NASA rules. Once completed, permits will be given to allow the series/championship to be held.

No Board member should be a Director or primary of any of these series to prevent the obvious conflict of interest. To this end, Warren Beatty has resigned his UKAC position as a primary. **PW asked if this was a problem KM confirmed No** The Board are in negotiations with Speedworth and BRISCA to consider the possibility to mutually negotiate a contract for the 2018 Autosport Show. In any case, it is intended to start negotiations early this year to ensure the best deal, if we decide to be present, as early as possible so that planning for our display and inclusion in the Live Action arena can be forward planned.

One of the Board's primary areas of attention is to be 'grass roots racing' in an effort to ensure the long-term survival of the sport. **KM advised that he and Warren Beatty had purchased a F600 for £4500 ready to race to promote cheap racing.**

Heath Luck from the Stock Hatch Committee was present and gave details of the Stock Hatches and costing's to race/build a car a lot of clubs were now promoting this and was no longer just a northern class. HL asked for the Class to be recognised by NASA they compile to all the rules ie tagging, scrutineering . Stock Hatch and F600 had their own National Championships and did not want to be included in the main National Championships. At present all their drivers can turn up and compete at their event and they are happy with that. A vote was cast in favour of Stockhatch and F600 to be recognised by NASA. NW suggested maybe f600 could be amalgamated with J Specials so that parents/juniors can race one car.

7. Nationals 2017

TG reported all was going well the hosts had met with the Directors in charge. The drivers draw/permutations would be done prior to the event ie a meeting at Walsall

8. Nationals 2018

PO reported a committee had been formed they were looking into other venues and would liaise if it is to change from Red Roses existing track. TG was unaware that SWL had got the Nationals – confirmed only application received.

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DR asked could they incorporate SH and F600 if needed H Luck confirmed this was not a request of either forumalea.

11. Correspondence:-

Discuss communication between clubs/league officials – reps agreed a facebook page private for league reps only to have communication DT to arrange.

LT asked for clarification and a vote with regards re election of suspended/disciplined/resigning directors of a term in which they must wait before re applying (after suggestions after AGM something needed to be in place. RW suggested that only suspended/disciplined directors/directors could not re stand for 3 years. TG suggested any director who did not get elected/re stand/disciplined could not stand for re election within 3 years RW proposal received 8 votes TG proposal received 6.

Paul Meaney – email – NW said he had no issues with other people finding out information before he relayed it no one It was felt this was a league/club issue

Breatherlyser – see above

Company Articles/By Laws – suspended/out voted directors – see Directors Report

12. Log Book

13. AOB

TG asked if a driver fails the breath test could the length of ban be worked out according to how much he was over ? there was no proposal to change the current rule.

TG provided details of an event at Bromyard that was taking place to promote Autograss.

TG asked when the rule 17.7 appeared in the rule book with out Chairman being consulted – DT had no access to lap top but agreed to find out and respond.