



Guyson Scottish Sprint & Hillclimb Championship

Chairman's Message #22 May 2016

Welcome all to the 2016 Sprint and Hillclimb season – I guess by now, most of you have already competed at your first event(s) of the year having had two double header Sprint weekends at Kames, a double header Hillclimb at Doune and a double-header Hillclimb at Fintray already ticked off the calendar.

Despite Registrations for our three championships being down on last years figures, event attendances so far this year have been encouraging and we're hopeful that the 2016 season will continue with similar levels of support.

The Championship Committee met at the end of March for the first of three meetings planned for 2016; the second is planned for the 23rd July and the final one on the 15th October. Please do contact your club rep with any discussion topics for inclusion in the agenda.

I am delighted to be able to announce two new sponsors that we've attracted for this season (and hopefully beyond);

- Woodford Trailers (Eileen and Liam Wood of Glenburgie Cars) sponsoring the Competition Car division in all three of our Championships
- IWS Consultants Ltd (Ian Scoular) sponsoring the Sprint Top Ten Championship

On behalf of the whole committee, I'd like to repeat our thanks to our new sponsors as well as the continuing support of all our other sponsors including our title sponsor Guyson International.

Decals representing our new sponsors are currently being produced and should be available shortly from the championship co-ordinators.

As competitors, you may not be aware that the MSA have been expending a lot of effort on getting all our marshals registered. This is a positive move which will enable the clubs, events and championships to have access to a list of trained and registered marshals to call upon as needed. The programme is still very much in it's infancy, and to start with is focused primarily on rallies, but it will filter down to speed events given time. I would encourage you all to persuade marshals in your club and at your events to register; the forms to register will be available at sign-on at your next event. Our sport is always short of marshals and without them, we wouldn't be able to compete so we all need to help bring in more helpers. Perhaps you have some friends or family you could persuade to come along with you to your next event and sign-on to marshal for the day? Or maybe your car isn't ready yet (or broken) and you could come and marshal instead? Most clubs provide a lunch voucher and some even pay you! It's a fantastic opportunity to get close to the action and put something back into

the sport. It's also a good chance to watch your competitor's lines round that tricky corner you just can't get right.....

Our long-standing Editor Robert Smith, the man behind Speedsport Scotland magazine has decided to hang-up his pen and camera and retire. Considering he's well into his 70's I think he's served his time and traipsing round so many events takes its toll at any age! In recent times, it's become more and more difficult to obtain event reports from the clubs for inclusion in the magazine, and it has relied heavily upon Robert himself to compile the reports and write-ups. We also struggle for content from our member clubs and competitors to help fill out the magazine. On behalf of the whole committee and all our members, I'd like to thank Robert for his immense contribution over the years. This thanks should also be extended to Ian Thompson who has assisted Robert with the editing and final proofing as well as providing so many excellent photos for inclusion.

With Roberts's retirement, the Committee has tried to find a replacement editor but with no luck, and have therefore had to look at alternatives. We continue to maintain the web and the Flatchat forum and will be offering a new presence on Facebook. A page for the championship will be created where news and information can be shared quickly. This will be run to the same standards as for Flatchat and the MSA online recommendations and will be moderated. Facebook offers the chance to see new items as they are available rather than requiring reminding to read web page and may assist in attracting new younger members. We will monitor the use and review the alternatives. The www.speedsportscotland.org.uk site will remain for the meantime and continue as an archive of issues and we hope to expand this with a digitisation program of past magazines. Moving forward, another facebook page will be created where the information we have in the past published via the magazine will now be presented as and when available. Full details will be mailed out when these are finalised.

It may seem very early to be discussing this considering the season is only a few events old, but this year's Award dinner and dance is confirmed for Saturday 26th November at the same venue as last year, the Morlich Hotel at the Aviemore resort. Do make a note in your diary for our end of season celebration and awards presentations.

In order to support a new event organised by Black Dog Events, the SSHC will have a stand at the Royal Deeside Speed Festival to be held at Kincardine Castle on the 21st August. The plan is to display a selection of our member's cars so if this is of interest to you, please get in touch via your club rep.

Our next committee meeting will be held on 23rd July 2016.

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