



Scottish Sprint & Hillclimb Championship

Chairman's Message #18 July 2014 – Re-issued due to errors in the information provided

The Championship Committee held an additional meeting on Saturday 19th July at the Huntingtower Hotel in Perth. Here's a summary of some of our discussions and decisions.

Sprint Scoring; One of the main triggers for holding this extra meeting was to fully discuss the current Sprint Championship scoring system including the possibility of introducing run-offs. Roy Napier had previously advised the committee that ADMC would be running run-offs at their July and September events and depending on the success of these, along with feedback from competitors, there may be a possibility of a sponsorship offer to add Run-offs to the Sprint Championship.

Around 10 or 11 years ago when the Sprint Championship and the Hillclimb Championship joined forces with a common set of technical regulations, a decision was made by the committee to have the Sprints maintain a class-based scoring system (whereby any class-winner breaking enough records could win the championship) and the Hills to keep the "Fastest to the top wins" system. In addition to this, the Sprints have a Top Ten Championship which rewards the fastest drivers across the discipline.

At our last committee meeting in March, all club representatives were asked to canvas their members on their views of the current sprint scoring system. I had also asked for comments and proposals from you all in my last "Chairman's Message." Roy opened a discussion topic on Flatchat to gather views which resulted in a few pages of comments and thoughts. Peter Locke put together a spreadsheet comparing a few different scoring methods based on last year's results – with the conclusion drawn that there was little difference between them. I received some correspondence from competitors with their views on the current system – which was circulated to all on the committee prior to the meeting. The committee didn't receive any proposals for a new scoring system – either before the meeting or during it. In summary, the majority of views expressed were that the current Sprint scoring system, although not perfect, was seen to be working and the few soft records had all but disappeared. The committee discussed the issue at length and came to the same conclusion – and voted unanimously to keep the current Sprint Scoring system. There was no proposal tabled to introduce a run-off system in the Sprint Championship. The committee agreed to raise the profile of the Top Ten Championship. A further proposal was passed unanimously to keep the scoring and regulations (Hills and Sprints) fixed for a period of 3 years (In other words, up to and including the 2017 season). The only exception to this would be safety related issues and our intention to introduce an H0 class for Classic and Thoroughbred racing cars.

Class H0; It has been the Committee's intention for some time now to introduce a class for Classic and Thoroughbred racing cars and we are slowly moving forward with the plan. The idea is to mirror the technical regs and Target-time scoring system currently used in A7 – with the difference being this would be for competition cars of all sorts that are not road

cars. Contrary to what I may have inferred in a previous message, this class would not replace A7, but would be in addition to it. If you are interested in this and have a suitable car please get in touch. If you have any ideas or thoughts on the scoring system and technical regulations do let me know.

Website / IT / Flatchat; Many of you may remember that Flatchat suffered an electronic melt-down last year – which took the forum down for a number of weeks until our team of experts got it all sorted out. Eric, Peter and Iain Anderson pulled the stops out and got it all back up and running after a lot of effort. The Championship website is currently run by Iain Anderson, but his hosting site isn't able to accommodate Flatchat so we've been looking for a long term solution to get all our IT stuff into one place. Eric Kiltie has also pretty much run Flatchat single-handed up until that time, along with Peter's help since the resurrection, so, it was time to get this all sorted out! The committee approved moving all our IT requirements (Website, Flatchat, Speedsport hosting etc) to a single supplier and Peter Locke has accepted this task under his LCS banner. We have a sub-committee/working group that will oversee the task and in-time aim to improve the services we offer you our members. This should mean Speedsport magazine will be available more frequently, with increased content, our website should offer up the Championship results promptly after events and overall provide an improved service. We will be looking to grow our team of moderators overseeing Flatchat so if this is something that appeals to you please get in touch.

Participation at events; Both myself and Leslie-Ann, our Championship Secretary have received communications from competitors who are unhappy with the behaviour of a few fellow competitors.

At one of my first ever events, after finishing my competition runs, I was getting ready to head off. As I was running in A3, the event was far from over, but with a 2 ½ hour drive home I was keen to get going. One of the long-time regulars on seeing me getting ready to go came up to me for a chat – Why aren't you staying for prize-giving? He asked. You know, one day you might be up there to collect a prize – wouldn't you like to have folk there to applaud and congratulate you?

We are seeing an ever increasing number of competitors leaving events early. At most venues, this causes mayhem with departing vehicles and trailers trying to weave their way amongst competing cars queued up waiting to take their runs. Most event SR's state quite categorically that this is not permitted and that only in exceptional circumstances will permission be granted by the Clerk of the Course to leave early. Some SR's state that event scores may be forfeit if competitors behave this way, but it appears to be happening more and more.

There are also a number of competitors who frequently choose not to take all the runs offered to them. I'm sure most of you have had occasion where one's car is playing-up, making worrying noises, tyres on their last legs, low on fuel - or just plain broken! The list of possible reasons to not run is endless, but I think we owe it to the organising club to make our best effort to complete as many runs as we are offered. The club has gone to a lot of

effort and expense in putting on the event and is reliant on the spectator's gate money to help fund the event. In a nutshell, such behaviour is;

- Not in the spirit of the our sport
- Highly detrimental to the image we present to the public
- Short-changes the paying spectators
- Sets a bad example to our fellow competitors especially newcomers
- Shows a complete lack of respect to the organising club and volunteers
- Shows a complete lack of support to all award winners

Of course, there is nothing in our Championship regs or the event regs requiring us to take all the runs offered to us but after all, isn't that what we are there for? I would ask you all to consider this the next time you're competing.

Treasurer Required; Gus Carnegie has been our Treasurer for a number of years now and during that time has looked after the Championship's purse-strings as if they were his own! With some of his family now relocated round the other side of the world, he's spending more time "Down Under" and has regretfully decided not to stand for re-election in October. So, the Championship committee is looking for a new Treasurer – if you are interested, or know someone who may be suitable for the position please get in contact with myself or Gus, or indeed any of the committee. Like all the committee positions, it is voluntary, and with an expectation of a two year posting before re-election.

Marshal training; I'm sure you are all aware of that common tannoy announcement at the beginning of an event asking for volunteers to come and marshal so the event can start. Having both experienced and competent marshals available at every post is a necessity and a requirement for the events to run – a fact not overlooked by the Committee. Many of our Speed events struggle to get suitable numbers of volunteers so the Committee has committed to investing more in training. This includes all the other necessary roles – if you or someone you know is interested in Marshaling, Timekeeping, Rescue Units, Scrutineering, Clerks, Stewards – do please speak to your club rep or contact one of the committee members for more information.

Our next committee meeting and AGM will be held on the 4th October 2014.

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