



Newsletter February 2005

INTRODUCTION by Bruce Lyle, Chairman

Well, 2005 got off to a really good start for me, with a visit to Autosport International on opening day with my old mate, Alistair Miller of AMTV. The show just goes from strength to strength, and to see a whole F1 grid arranged vertically, along one wall – well, how cool is that! As usual, we bumped into a whole wheren of folk, starting with the winners of the Best Stand in the Show Award, the British Rally Championship. These guys have really got the show on the road, under the very able guidance of Mark Taylor, and we look forward to the arrival of the whole circus in Dumfries in June for the 60th running of the Scottish. I was very pleased to meet lots of London-Sydney folk, including little Joy Rainey, whose exploits in her Morris Minor on the event are described in her new book, *Fast Lady*. A very suave looking Alister McRae was to be seen, and heard, being interviewed live on not one, but two stands. He comes over well – his old man must have been coaching him! I was really taken by the sheer professionalism of the whole thing, and I was not distracted one little bit by the many pretty girls!

Next was the first Motor Sports Council meeting of the year, followed by the Annual Dinner. An interesting presentation on Risk Management was followed by Gavin Miller, of Inside Line from Strathaven, and Mike Broad, describing how they are going to find, and help, the next generation of Colin McRaes, with their latest initiative, called British Rally Elite, well supported by initial funding from the MSA's Training Fund. Expect to see a British Junior Rally team emerging too. It sounds like a Scottish quango, as also behind the scheme are Robert Reid, and Robbie Head who is going to be coaching the young aspirants in – wait for it - presentation and media skills! A really great initiative – let's hope the natural talent is out there to be found. After the Dinner, I was delighted to get to know John Surtees over a dram, or two. What a star, and a lovely bloke. A true enthusiast.

We have been busy working with Knockhill and Alistair Miller on this year's UK Rally Challenge, which will happen on Sunday 17 July. We have it on good authority that it will be the best yet. It does not conflict with other events, and will feature strong national teams, and perhaps another special team, in the Nations Cup. Alistair is investigating the possibility of the event being televised LIVE. Watch this space!

Well, with the Snowman last weekend and the Palmerston Trade Furniture Stages coming up, the 2005 season has just been flagged off! The best of luck to you all.

AN INVITATION

Hi People

This is an official invitation to you all from SMS and Bell College to participate in our inaugural All Forwards Autotest which will take place on 20 March 2005 in Bell College Car Park, Hamilton. Please can you make this information available to all your club members if you are in any of the following clubs:

East Ayrshire CC

Scottish Sporting CC

Lanarkshire CC

GUMSC

EUMSC

Autotest Drivers Club

All students are eligible to enter if members of SMS. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further clarification/information on this event.

Hope to see you all there for some fun.

Regards

George Bream

Publicity Officer SMS

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SCOTTISH RALLY NEWS

Regulations will be available shortly for the 2005 Scottish Rally, which will be based Dumfries between Thursday 9 and Sunday 12 June. For this – the sixtieth Scottish Rally – we're expecting a very high quality entry, with the Kwik-Fit Pirelli British Championship regulars taking centre stage on Friday and Saturday and the County Saab Scottish Championship having pride of place on Sunday. The 2004 event won the Chairman's Cup for the best event in the SRC and was placed in the top three BRC events, so there's a lot to live up to.

Other championships featuring over the weekend are the Get Connected! BRC Stars of the Future, the MG X-Power ZR Championship, the Belmont 205 Ecosse Challenge and the West of Scotland Rally Championship – not forgetting, of course, the Army Land Rovers who have been a well-loved part of the Scottish Rally ever since the early sixties. We'll also be running a historic event on the Sunday over stages which haven't been rallied as part of the international event.

The timetable for the weekend is as follows:

Thursday 9 June: Media Day at the Forest of Ae near Dumfries.

Friday 10 June: Scrutineering of cars at Dumfries Ice Bowl.

International start ceremony in Dumfries. Special stages on Forestry Commission land in Dumfriesshire, including spectator stage at Heathhall. Overnight halt at Dumfries.

Saturday 11 June: Special stages on Forestry Commission land in Galloway, followed by the International finish ceremony in the centre of Dumfries and the presentation of prizes.

One-day "Stars of the Future" Rally.

Sunday 12 June: One-day National Rally counting towards the Scottish Rally Championship, with start and finish in Dumfries and a spectator stage at Heathhall.

One day Historic Rally for pre-1975 cars.

One-day Peugeot 205 Challenge Rally.

The Heathhall spectator stage is situated within two miles of Dumfries town centre and is run on the Friday evening and Sunday lunchtime. It is located next to the service area which will incorporate the Kwik-Fit Pirelli British Rally Championship Trade Road Show and various food outlets and stands. The stage includes a short tarmac section which ends with a hairpin bend into the gravel forest roads. Once into the forest it's only a matter of a few hundred yards before the cars turn left into the purpose-built spectator arena which incorporates a jump and water splash before turning left on to the main forest track to complete the fast and flowing stage.

This stage was used for the first time in 2004 and proved very popular with competitors and the thousands of spectators who had a grandstand view of the high speed action while listening to a professional commentator.

TRAINING SESSIONS

This is the time of year when training sessions take place in various disciplines of the sport. It's an increasingly important part of event organisation, as officials and marshals are expected to be up-to-date with the latest regulations and procedures. At the end of January there was a good turnout of MSA-licensed officials at North Queensferry for the MSA's annual seminar, with some entertaining talks and videos followed by lively discussion. Circuit marshals will shortly be having their pre-season training session at Knockhill, but we aren't aware of any formal sessions for rally marshals this year although one or two clubs and individuals have expressed interest. Let us know at RSAC Motorsport if you have any rally marshals interested in attending a session, and we'll see if something can be arranged.

KNOCKHILL NEWS

There's something for everyone at Knockhill throughout 2005, but the month of May looks particularly tasty, with the Knockhill Motorfair on the 7th and 8th, the British F3/GT meeting on the 21st and 22nd and the British Championship Rallycross on the 29th. Later on in the year there's our own UK Rally Challenge on 17 July and the BTCC meeting on 27 and 28 August. The Scottish Motor Racing Club programme gets under way on 10 April and there are five meetings between then and October. Bike fans won't want to miss the British Superbike meeting on 25-26 June.

Full details of all events at Knockhill are on the circuit website www.knockhill.com

LET ME KOALA GO LOOSE, BRUCE

Regular readers of this Newsletter will know that our Chairman Bruce Lyle took part in the 2004 London-Sydney Marathon as co-driver to Jim McRae. Bruce is now in demand as a speaker at Rotary Clubs, where his Marathon experiences form the basis of an entertaining talk. If any MCs would like to hear what it's like to do 10,000 miles in a month and to come close to becoming the second Scottish crew to win this gruelling event, Bruce would be happy to speak at one of your social evenings.

In fact any of our Directors (see list below) would be pleased to speak at one of your club nights on who we are and what we do. Contact Jonathan Lord or Catherine Higgins for more details.

WHO ARE WE?

The Board of RSAC Motorsport Limited consists of seven Directors:

Bruce Lyle (Chairman) – former successful competitor in racing and rallying

John Cowan – experienced official at national and international level

Mike Gascoigne - former RSAC and SMRC Chairman; race and rally official for many years

Gordon Hastie – multiple navigational rally champion and experienced official

Colin Hilton – Chief Executive of the MSA

Jonathan Lord – executive Director of RSAC Motorsport and our Clerk of the Course

Jim McRae – five times British Rally Champion and winner of many international rallies

The Management team consists of the six Scottish-based Directors plus:

John Cleland – multiple British Touring Car Champion

Andrew Pemberton – current stage rally co-driver and event official

Andrew Wood – former works rally driver and Scottish Rally Champion

Barry Wood – regular successful competitor in historic racing and rallying

The staff at our Linwood office are Jonathan Lord and our Motorsport Administrator Catherine Higgins.

Don't forget – we welcome your views on matters mentioned in this Newsletter. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any opinions regarding articles which have appeared. If you'd like to suggest items we could feature in the next edition, just phone or send us an e-mail.

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SCOTTISH MOTOR SPORT EVENTS IN MARCH/APRIL

CAR RACE – KNOCKHILL

10 APRIL		SCOTTISH MOTOR RACING CLUB
24 APRIL		SCOTTISH MOTOR RACING CLUB
21-22 MAY		BRITISH F3/GT

HILLCLIMBS

16/17 APRIL	DOUNE	LOTHIAN CC
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KART RACE

6 MARCH	LARKHALL	WEST OF SCOTLAND KC
13 MARCH	BANFF	GRAMPIAN KC
20 MARCH	CRAIL	EAST OF SCOTLAND KC
27 MARCH	GOLSPIE	NORTH OF SCOTLAND KC
3 APRIL	LARKHALL	WEST OF SCOTLAND KC
10 APRIL	BANFF	GRAMPIAN KC
17 APRIL	CRAIL	EAST OF SCOTLAND KC
24 APRIL	GOLSPIE	NORTH OF SCOTLAND KC

NAVIGATIONAL RALLIES

5 MARCH	NUIT BLANCHE RALLY	EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY MSC
5 MARCH	CLAYMORE RALLY	HIGHLAND CC
26-27 MARCH	GROPER'S RALLY	STONEHAVEN & DISTRICT MC
9 APRIL	MOONBEAM RALLY	SCOTTISH SPORTING CC
16 APRIL	TEVIOTDALE RALLY	HAWICK & BORDER CC

SPRINTS

24 APRIL	KAMES	SCOTTISH SPORTING CC
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STAGE RALLIES

Forest

19 MARCH	BORDER COUNTIES RALLY	HAWICK & BORDER CC
16 APRIL	GRANITE CITY RALLY	ABERDEEN & DISTRICT MC

Tarmac

2 APRIL	CHARTERHALL STAGES	BORDER ECOSSE CC
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RSAC MOTORSPORT DATES 2005

10-12 JUNE	RSAC SCOTTISH RALLY
17 JULY	UK RALLY CHALLENGE
22-23 JULY	SCOTTISH HILLRALLY
20 AUGUST	THREE LOCHS CLASSIC
24 SEPTEMBER	B-52 STAGES