



WELCOME

MSA keeping you informed

Welcome to the first edition of the Motor Sports Association's new monthly newsletter. It is designed to keep the UK's motor sport community regularly updated with the work of the governing body and provides a dedicated communication channel to disseminate important announcements.

It also provides an opportunity to keep those within the sport up to date with some of the fundamental changes that have taken place at Motor Sports House in recent years. The administrative side of the company is far more effective and efficient than ever before and this in turn has allowed the MSA to take a more prominent role in the development of the sport. We currently re-invest around £1m each year in the implementation of the MSA's Whole Sport Plan which focuses on three key areas: increasing participation, investing in the sport's infrastructure and identifying promising talent.

This newsletter is one of the first elements of the MSA's new communications activity. I hope you find it an interesting read and if you have any material for future editions, please send it to media@msauk.org



Colin Hilton
MSA Chief Executive

MSA looks to the future with new logo

The MSA has refreshed its corporate identity with the introduction of a new logo for the first time since 1998. The move reflects a more contemporary and dynamic governing body, in keeping with the activities of the modern MSA in the regulation, administration and development of UK motor sport. However, the new logo has been designed to sit comfortably alongside the previous version, so that officials, marshals and clubs are under no pressure to replace clothing, stationery and other items immediately.



MSA sets the standards

The MSA has been appointed as one of the first two Regional Training Providers by the FIA Institute for Motor Sport Safety and Sustainability to help increase the safety and training standards of motor sport officials across the world. The UK has consistently enjoyed an international reputation for the quality of its training programmes and the calibre of officials that this has created. The MSA will become a key partner in the education and training of officials in other countries as part of the projects approved by the FIA Motor Sport Safety Development Fund. As a training provider, the MSA's skills and expertise will be used to encourage and implement ever higher standards of training and safety in every region.



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Recognition for David Butler MBE and Howard Strawford at the Motor Sports Council Annual Dinner

The first Motor Sports Council Annual Dinner to be hosted by new Chairman Tony Scott Andrews took place at the Royal Automobile Club on Tuesday 10th March. David Butler MBE was awarded the Prince Michael Award of Merit, the MSA's most prestigious individual award for those adjudged to have given 'a meritorious service to British motor sport'. Scott Andrews also made presentations to Stuart Turner and 750MC Competition Secretary Robin Knight, both of whom retired from the MSC at the end of 2009. MSA Chairman Alan Gow then awarded the MSA Lifetime Achievement Award to Howard Strawford, in recognition of six decades' service to the sport.



Anthony Davidson wins Sebring 12 Hours

Go Motorsport Ambassador Anthony Davidson got his sportscar career off to a perfect start with victory in the Sebring 12 Hours for the Peugeot squad. Davidson and team-mates Marc Gene and Alex Wurz shared the race lead with the sister Peugeot 908; both were separated by just two seconds as they entered the final two hours of the race, with Wurz pulling away to take a slender win for the #07 machine.

Time Attack joins the fold

The Motor Sports Association has confirmed official recognition for the Time Attack Series having worked closely with the organisers to bring the sport under the umbrella of the governing body. Time Attack events will now run under an MSA permit and adhere to all the necessary requirements, including the appointment of MSA licensed officials, a recognised judicial process and fully trained marshalling cover.

Colin Hilton attends World Council meeting

MSA Chief Executive Colin Hilton travelled to Bahrain ahead of Formula One's season-opening Bahrain Grand Prix to attend a meeting of the FIA World Motor Sport Council.

Select Committee report published

The cross-party Business, Innovation and Skills Select Committee has published its final report, Full speed ahead: maintaining UK excellence in motorsport and aerospace. The report is the result of the Committee's investigation into the UK's aerospace and motorsport industries to which MSA Chief Executive Colin Hilton gave evidence in December. The Committee describes the UK's motorsport and aerospace industries as "two of the crown jewels of UK manufacturing" that "form a core part of the UK's higher value-added economy." The Committee challenges the Government to ensure that the "correct public policy framework is in place to promote their future growth."

Licensing

The MSA Licensing Department has reported another extremely successful renewal period. To date 25,411 licences have been processed, with 99% delivered within two weeks. Online applications have risen again this year to approximately 27%, but there is still scope for this to increase substantially.

MSA fixture list

The MSA's Competitions & Clubs department is urging all clubs to update the fixture list on the MSA website as often as possible to aid communication and comply with regulations.



Jenson Button takes early championship lead

Reigning world champion Jenson Button has claimed his first wins as a Vodafone McLaren Mercedes driver, winning two of this season's first four grands prix to take an early lead in the 2010 title race. At the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne, the Go Motorsport ambassador made the brave decision to fit slick tyres before the rest of the field and reaped the rewards on the drying Albert Park track. A couple of weeks later, Jenson repeated the trick at the Chinese Grand Prix, this time electing to stay on slicks as his rivals pitted for intermediate rubber.

Racing Steps backs MSA Academy

The Racing Steps Foundation (RSF) – an organisation that helps young British racing drivers to realise their dreams – has become the first partner of the MSA's Whole Sport Development plan. RSF will support the governing body's commitment to its young licence holders by providing financial backing to increase the reach of the MSA's existing programme to deliver wider benefit to the 2000 drivers aged under 17.

**Racing Steps
Foundation**



Women in Motorsport celebrate International Women's Day at Silverstone

The leading names in women's motor sport gathered at Silverstone on Monday 8th March to celebrate International Women's Day. More than 50 women turned out to support the MSA's Women in Motorsport Group, including television presenter Louise Goodman and 2009 BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year nominee Sarah Moore, the reigning Ginetta Junior champion. Sue Sanders, Chairman of the MSA Women in Motorsport Group, said: "This has been a fantastic opportunity to demonstrate the diverse range of roles that women undertake within the sport at all levels."

MSA announces Young Driver of the Year award

The MSA has created a Young Driver of the Year award to be presented annually to one of the students enrolled on its Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence (AASE). The winner – to be decided by MSA judges based on sporting and academic achievement within AASE – will collect a trophy and £1000 at the MSA's prestigious Night of Champions ceremony at the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall next January. "We wanted to recognise the commitment the students are putting in and give them an incentive to keep pushing themselves," said MSA Performance Director Robert Reid.



CIK karting comes to UK

The FIA-CIK Superkart race meeting at Silverstone over the Easter weekend was a great success with some excellent performances from British drivers. The UK karting community is now eagerly anticipating the European Championship Qualifier at PFI at the beginning of May, the first time the UK will have staged a CIK short circuit international meeting since 1991.

MSA Manifesto for Motorsport

The MSA, in conjunction with the Motorsport Industry Association and the Auto-Cycle Union, has unveiled a Manifesto for Motorsport, highlighting ways in which the government could assist the development and on-going success of the sport in the UK.

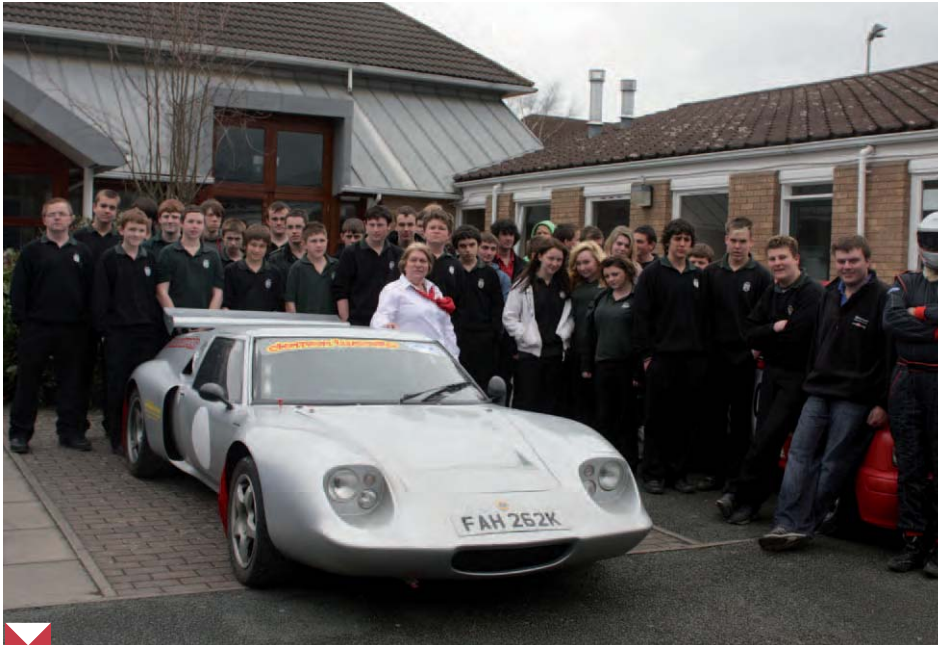
The MSA's Public Affairs activity, to be led by retained agency Bell Pottinger, will focus on three key policy areas throughout 2010: closed road events, planning issues and environmental initiatives.

The MSA is calling on its members and anyone interested in motor sport to sign a petition to back the campaign to bring closed road events to the UK mainland. The petition can be found at www.petition.co.uk/MSA

For a full copy of the MSA's 2010 manifesto, please visit www.msauk.org/manifesto



Widening participation and raising awareness of motor sport around the country, particularly among young people



Regional Development Officers

The MSA's Regional Development Officers have been busy visiting schools and colleges around the country to encourage wider participation in motor sport.

New North Wales representative Alistair Dodd kicked off his RDO career at Welshpool High School (pictured above) in association with organisers of the local Bulldog Rally, while in South Wales Mark James spoke to more than 500 pupils in one day in Llandovery.

Rob Manger has been active at schools in the South/South West, in addition to competing and conducting media interviews to promote the cause further.

Anthony Dunn (pictured below) and Stephen Johnson are covering the North of England, with Duncan Vincent mining rich seams of talent in Scotland and Jonathan MacDonald the same in Northern Ireland. Tom Gaymor in the South East completes the team and is also working with the MSA Academy as a student assessor.

The two other newbies are Richard Egger in the East and Ralph Harwood-Penn in the Midlands, bringing the number of RDOs to ten as we head into year two of the programme.



Anyone with suitable contacts that could assist the team in arranging a schools visit should make contact with the Go Motorsport office:

info@GoMotorsport.net

Web traffic

Analysis of the Volunteers in Motorsport website shows that 42,000 unique visits were recorded in the first quarter of the year. The MSA and Go Motorsport sites are the two largest referring sources of traffic (after the usual Google of course).



Alex Roache

BSKC final

The British Schools Karting Championship was won by Hutchensons' Grammar School in the final held at Daytona Speedway in Milton Keynes. The BSKC benefited from Sport England funding this year to assist with the promotion of the series to schools as well as providing subsidised entry fees for pupils from less fortunate backgrounds. More than 700 school teams contested the 2010 championship and feedback from participating schools has been uniformly positive.



Marshals' trip to McLaren

The Vodafone McLaren Mercedes Formula One team is repaying some of British motor sport's unsung heroes by offering 25 volunteer marshals a chance to win a very special behind-the-scenes visit to the remarkable McLaren Technology Centre, home to the racing winning MP4-25s as raced by Jenson Button and Lewis Hamilton. For further details, please visit GoMotorsport.net



National squad gathers at Silverstone

Team UK convened at Silverstone's Porsche Experience Centre recently for its first training session of the year. Nine of the ten elite race and rally drivers spent two intensive days working with recognised sports performance experts in preparation for the 2010 season. The activity was overseen by National Race Coach David Brabham and National Rally Coach Mark Higgins, under the guidance of MSA Performance Director Robert Reid.



Webb takes podiums at F3 opener

Oli Webb claimed two podium finishes in the opening round of the Cooper Tires British Formula 3 International Series at his home circuit, Oulton Park. Webb was a close runner-up to Jean-Eric Vergne in the first and third races and thus holds second place in the points standings. "It's great to leave what we consider to be our weakest track as top rookie and second overall in the championship. I think we have a strong chance this year," he said.



McCormack takes second on French debut

Marty McCormack took second place on his debut in the French Citroën Racing Trophy after travelling to Le Touquet for the 50th Rallye Le Touquet-Pas-de-Calais. The Northern Irishman overcame torrential rain, a damaged differential and a subsequent time penalty to claim his spot on the class podium, despite a lack of experience on French tarmac.

Weston Jnr and Gould off to strong starts

Dave Weston Jnr and Adam Gould claimed podium finishes in the first round of the Dulux Trade MSA British Rally Championship, the Bulldog International Rally. Weston Jnr ran faultlessly to second place, while Gould impressed with third after an overnight trip to Exeter to replace suspension parts damaged on the pre-event shakedown. Meanwhile fellow Team UK member Alastair Fisher retired from second place when a broken differential led to a blown clutch.



Formula Renault success for Stevens and Tincknell

Will Stevens leads the Michelin Formula Renault UK Championship after taking a victory and a second place in the opening round of the season at Thruxton. Meanwhile Harry Tincknell holds fourth place in the championship, having driven to third place in both contests despite carrying a damaged front wing in race one.



Sims wins first time out in Euro F3

Alexander Sims opened his 2010 Formula 3 Euro Series account with a fine victory at Paul Ricard. A gearing error left the title favourite sixth on the grid but he fought back to third in race one before strolling to a dominant win in race two. "I'm very pleased to have turned things around after qualifying," said the Team UK driver. "To take two podiums, including a win, is a great start to the year."

Team UK bursaries

The MSA is to make a bursary of up to £10,000 available to each Team UK member this year, to assist their living costs and daily expenses. The Team UK drivers must apply formally for the bursary so that the MSA can assess their individual needs. In order to qualify for the monthly payments, drivers must satisfy several criteria that include the carrying of logos and decals, attendance at training events and full engagement with the Team UK programme.

MSA ACADEMY



Master Classes

The MSA is working with the Youth Sport Trust to create six bespoke Master Class workshops that will be delivered free of charge to young drivers at national junior championship events. Drivers will be introduced to some of the basic concepts of human performance including determination, diet and nutrition and goal setting. There will also be a session for parents that will highlight how best they can work with their child to ensure that they get the support they need to achieve results.



AASE students convene in London

The MSA Academy's Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence (AASE) students gathered in South London for their third residential session, focusing on their BTEC Nationals in Sport studies and receiving lectures on sport science and media & communications. Formula BMW Euro Series driver Mackenzie Taylor said: "As we get further into the AASE programme it becomes more and more obvious how valuable it is to me as a driver. It is laying down strong foundations on which to build my career."



REGULATIONS UPDATE

Intermediate Kart Class

The MSA Kart Sporting Committee has approved the introduction of a new Intermediate kart class from next year. The new class will address disparities between Cadets and the current Junior classes, which allow 11-year-olds to compete against 17-year-olds, creating safety issues for younger drivers as a result of the significant differences between driver weight, kart speed and chassis size.

Helmet standards

The Motor Sports Council has extended the life of the BS 6658-85 Type A/FR helmet standard by two years to 31st December 2015, despite the FIA's announcement that it will cease to recognise the standard after 31st December 2013. Meanwhile the Snell SA2000 standard will now be valid until 31st December 2014, rather than 1st January 2011 as stated in the 2010 Blue Book.

Kart bodywork

The MSA has confirmed that competitors can shorten the Nassau panel on their Cadet karts to fit with the front fairing, provided that the bodywork continues to comply with the Blue Book regulations. However, for homologated bodywork in the Junior and Senior classes, as well as in the future in the Cadet class, such modifications are not permitted and if carried out would void the homologation.

Group N Turbo Restrictors

Following enquiries regarding changes to Group N turbo restrictor sizes the MSA has confirmed that vehicles retaining the 32mm restrictor will still be compliant with Group N regulations and therefore eligible for competition, as the FIA regulation states: "The maximum internal diameter of the restrictor is 33mm."

Tyre list

The MSA Technical Department has been made aware of an error in the Permitted Tyres listing in the 2010 Competitors' and Officials' Yearbook. On page 201 the AA 01 (A Drive) and Parada Spec-2 [PAO2], which appear on List 1B under Pirelli, should in fact appear on List 1A under Yokohama.

Additions to (L) Permitted Tyres

Please note the following Pirelli additions to Permitted Tyres (L) List 5(a) All Terrain: Scorpion Zero; Scorpion Zero Asimmetrico; Scorpion STR; Scorpion ATR; Scorpion Ice & Snow.

These are summaries of recent regulation changes and clarifications issued by the Motor Sports Association.

Full details of all regulation changes can be found on the MSA website.

www.msauk.org

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Annual MSA seminars conclude for 2010

The MSA recently concluded its series of annual seminars, this year targeted at Club and Event Officials and delivered at 15 venues across the UK. The seminars were attended by 529 MSA Member Club representatives, up by around 20% on the last series held in 2008. The seminars were led by MSA Head of External Affairs Allan Dean-Lewis and a presentation team comprising Tony Fletcher, Ian Watson, Nigel Drayton and Dave Lucas, who in turn were assisted at some venues by Steve Chapman and Rod Taylor. The next series of seminars planned for early 2011 will be targeted at MSA Licensed Officials.

JUDICIAL

Bo'ness Hillclimb

The National Court held an Investigatory Inquiry to consider the results of the Bo'ness Hillclimb Revival Meeting of the 12th to 13th September 2009. It was decided that Willie Toye and Gordon Naesmith shall be reinstated in the results and gain their points from rounds 11 and 12 of the Bo'ness Hillclimb, while Barry Riddell loses his points. The Panel also ordered the organisers to pay costs of £250.

Messrs Turner & Medcalf

The National Court held an inquiry to consider Race 7 of the BDC Race Meeting at Silverstone on 8th August 2009. Official Results for Race 7 showed that the winning car had been driven by Mr J Turner, who collected the winners garland and trophy, when it had in fact been driven by Mr W Medcalf, who had not qualified. Both were fined £500 by the Clerk of the Course and excluded from the meeting. The matter was subsequently considered by the Stewards, who then referred it to the Motor Sports Council. The Court upheld the fines after concluding that both Mr Turner and Mr Medcalf had acted contrary to the Regulations, while acknowledging that the signing-on system had been potentially confusing and that there had been failures by Bentley Drivers Club Race Administration.

Michael Smith

The National Court considered the Appeal of Daniel Crankshaw against Stewards' decisions at the Three Sisters kart meeting of 27th September 2009. It was Mr Crankshaw's case that he was verbally abused and physically assaulted by Mr Michael Smith, following an on-track incident between the two. The matter was referred to the Clerk of the Course, who issued Mr Smith with two license penalty points. However, the Court deemed this to be inappropriate and decided that the MSA shall not issue Mr Smith with a licence until 8th February 2011. Mr Smith must also pay £500 towards costs.

Mario Labetsos

The National Court considered the case of Mario Labetsos to ascertain whether the imposition of a further penalty upon Mr Labetsos would be appropriate following an incident at Rye House on 7th February 2010.

Mr Labetsos was unhappy with an on-track manoeuvre made by another competitor, Mr Greg Finke. Mr Labetsos then deliberately drove into the back of Finke's kart causing Finke to retire from the race.

Immediately after this incident Labetsos subjected Finke to both verbal and physical abuse and pushed Finke such that he fell backwards over his kart. The altercation came to an end only when a paramedic standing nearby felt it necessary to separate the two and lead Labetsos away.

The Clerk of the Course was called to the incident and whilst the Clerk was speaking to a third party, Labetsos again subjected Finke to both verbal and physical abuse. It was necessary for the paramedic to separate the parties once more but in the course of this intervention he was struck on the arm and chest by Labetsos.

Labetsos was referred by the Clerk of the Course to the Stewards who suspended his licence for thirty days and referred the matter to the MSA who, in turn, referred it to this Court.

Mr Labetsos expressed his regret for what had occurred. However, the Court considered that for one competitor to deliberately drive into another and then subject not only that same competitor but also a paramedic attending the meeting to both verbal and physical abuse is utterly unacceptable and quite deplorable.

The Court considered it appropriate to impose a further penalty and suspended Mr Labetsos' licence for a total period of 18 months, the final six months of which will itself be suspended. Mr Labetsos was also ordered to pay costs of £250.

These are summaries of the findings of the National Court. Full details will be published in *Motorsports Now!*.

APPOINTMENTS

Committee Chairmen

Steve Stringwell has been appointed Chairman of the MSA Judicial Panel and Ian Watson has become Chairman of the MSA Race Committee. Both will now take a seat on the Motor Sports Council.



Cheryl Lynch

MSA Race and Speed Executive Cheryl Lynch is the first female representative to be nominated successfully by the MSA to an FIA Commission and joined the first meeting of the FIA Off-Road Commission in Strasbourg in January.

Tim Swietochowski

Journalism graduate Tim Swietochowski has joined the MSA as Communications Officer after a spell at Haymarket and extensive work experience with various motoring magazines.

Committee Nominations

The MSA is seeking nominations for suitable applicants wishing to serve on the MSA Specialist Committees. Full details can be found on the MSA website.

OTHER NEWS

TAG Heuer transponder

The MSA has granted approval for the TAG Heuer by Chronolec LS transponder to be used for timekeeping at MSA short circuit karting events.