

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of the ACTC
Sunday 24th April 2016
at The Major's Retreat, Tormarton

Officers and Members present:

Giles Greenslade – Chairman	Dick Andrews – Ross
Simon Woodall – President / VWOC	Ian Facey - Holsworthy
Barbara Selkirk – Treasurer / VWOC	Nick Farmer – Windwhistle / Woolbridge
James Shallcross – Championship Monitor / Camel Vale	Dave Haizelden – Torbay
Pete Hart – Class 7 / Bristol / Dellow	Dick Hutchings – Minehead
Pat Toulmin – Restart Editor	Barrie Kirton – MCC
Andrew Brown – Rights of way	Norton Selwood – Windwhistle
	Dudley Sterry – MCC
Mal Allen - Pegasus	Carl Talbot – Stroud
Brian Andrew – Holsworthy	Jonathan Toulmin – MAC
	Geoff Westcott – Exmoor MC

20 persons present with 15 member clubs represented.

Apologies for absence:

Stuart Harrold – Honorary Secretary	Neil Forrest – Ross
Alan Foster – Vice President	Mike Hayward – Falcon
John Blakeley – ACTC Scrutineer	Robin Moore – Launceston & North Cornwall
Stephen Bailey – Motorcycle co-ordinator	Brian Osborn – MGCC
	Myke Pocock – Fell Side
John Bartham – North Devon	Derek Reynolds – Fell Side
Bill Bennett - MGCC	Mark Tooth – Bristol
Barry Clarke - VSCC	Greg Warren - Torbay

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (AGM held 6th September 2015)

Approved nem. con.

3. Matters arising therefrom (and not covered in items below)

- 3.1 Steering Committee. There had been no response from competitors so far. Competitors should be reminded to report class-specific issues to their class representative on the Steering Committee, and the Steering Committee would then report to the Technical Committee for action. There was discussion about ACTC clubs not communicating adequately with their members. It was suggested that ACTC should make more use of social media to communicate directly with all competitors, not just those who are ACTC-registered. Jonathan Toulmin suggested that an ACTC flyer, to be distributed at targeted events, might help to increase membership.
- 3.2 Engine rule changes. Discussed under item 16 below.
- 3.3 Tyres. January 1st 2018 date confirmed. No further action required.
- 3.4 Regional championships. Discussed under item 18.2 below.

- 3.5 Video cameras. These had been added to the scrutineering card as requested. It was noted that the MSA had amended its rules to allow the use of video cameras by default, i.e. unless specifically prohibited in the SRs for an event. It was further noted that the ACTC scrutineering process covered the mountings, not whether use was permitted or not.
- 3.6 Forestry Commission documentation. Nothing to report (to be carried forward to next meeting). It was noted that future risk assessments should include wildlife.

4. To receive nominations and to elect:

- 4.1 President. Simon Woodall indicated that he was happy to continue. His nomination was proposed by MAC, seconded by Pegasus, and carried nem. con.
- 4.2 No new Vice Presidents were proposed and no vote was required.

5. To receive nominations and to elect:

- 5.1 Chairman. Giles Greenslade indicated that he was happy to continue. His nomination was proposed by Bristol, seconded by Stroud, and carried nem. con.
- 5.2 Other Officers. Bill Bennett had indicated that he was happy to offer his services as General Secretary. His nomination was proposed by VWOC, seconded by Ross, and carried nem. con. The remaining Officers had all indicated that they were prepared to continue in their existing roles and they were re-elected without a vote. Giles Greenslade stated that he was continuing to undertake the role of Championship Secretary on a temporary basis and hoped to co-opt someone, before the AGM, to take-on the role full time.

6. Financial report

- 6.1 Barbara Selkirk explained the accounts stating that, in principle, the Association broke-even for 2015 and there were healthy reserves in the Fighting Fund. No changes in the subscriptions were proposed.
- 6.2 It was noted that two clubs had yet to pay their 2016 subscriptions.
- 6.3 The cost of Restart magazine was discussed. This is minuted under item 8.2 below.
- 6.4 The cost of subsidising the Dinner Dance was discussed. There were strong views from several of those present that this was both inevitable and desirable. No changes proposed for 2016. Date is Saturday 18th June.

7. Motorcycle matters

- 7.1 In the absence of Stephen Bailey, there was nothing to report.
- 7.2 Geoff Westcott reminded the meeting that RTA insurance for motorcycles was now included in the entry fee for all motorcycle events running under an ACU permit. Simon Woodall commented this might make the ACU more attractive to those clubs currently running events under an AMCA permit.

8. Restart / Website report

- 8.1 Pat Toulmin confirmed that PDF copies of Restart, going back to Volume 12 (2001/2) but with a few omissions, were now available on the website. Missing issues are: January 2008. Volume 18, Issue 4; January 2011. Volume 21, Issue 4; March 2011. Volume 22, Issue 1; November 2011. Volume 22, Issue 3; March 2012. Volume 23, Issue 1. It was suggested that a request for the missing electronic copies was put on the website and on social media.
Action: James Shallcross.
- 8.2 The cost of Restart magazine was discussed, together with the possibility of moving to a digital-only format, but this was rejected for now. It was agreed to keep the long-term future of a hard copy magazine under review. It was further noted: (i) that giving members a discount for receiving only digital copies would cause a significant increase in the per-copy cost of each paper copy, and (ii) that postage was a significant element of the cost of the paper copy magazine.
- 8.3 James Shallcross had nothing specific to report apart from the continuing success of receiving Championship monitoring reports through the website. This is minuted under item 12 below.

9. Rights of Way & LARA Report

- 9.1 Andrew Brown referred the meeting to his report issued with the Agenda. There were two additional items.
- 9.2 Andrew confirmed that he was making a concerted effort to include all 2016 events on the Trials Sections Database, and had received 100% response from clubs so far this year. The intention is to identify the proportion of sections in current use which could be affected by any future legislation changing the status of UURs (Unsurfaced Unclassified Roads) and BOATs (Byways Open to All Traffic).
- 9.3 Andrew noted that he had been nominated for the role of LARA Chairman when the current Chairman retires in May, but was not yet 100% convinced that he was prepared to accept the nomination.

10. Scrutineering Report

- 10.1 In the absence of John Blakeley, there was nothing to report.

11. Awards Presentation Evening

- 11.1 Giles Greenslade confirmed that the format would more-or-less as last year. Date is Saturday 18th June. See also item 6.4 above.

12. Championship Quality Reporting

- 12.1 James Shallcross explained that this is now handled through the website, although the system is invitation-only and is not visible to casual viewers. Any entrant, once invited, can now file a quality report. Numbers received to date vary from as little as 4 per event to as many as 24 per event.
- 12.2 Feedback is direct from James to the organising club with full data including names where provided. James also produces an anonymised report for more general circulation. Pete Hart reported that the system had worked extremely well for the 2015 Allen.

13. MSA Trials Committee Report

- 13.1 Simon Woodall referred the meeting to his report circulated with the Agenda. He wished to discuss two items in the report, and one additional item.
- 13.2 Lighting technology. Simon explained that the MSA wished to add a "Blue Book section T" equivalent to their current clause R.18.5.5. This was in the interests of the sport and to minimise the possibility of future PR problems. There was considerable discussion, resulting in the following proposed wording:
"Auxiliary lamps using gas discharge or LED technology are not permitted unless fitted as standard equipment. Except for vehicles in Classes 2 and 5(b), gas discharge or LED headlamp units or bulbs may not be retro fitted."
The above wording was proposed by MCC, seconded by MAC, and approved nem. con.
Action: Simon Woodall to refer proposed wording to the MSA Trials Committee.
- 13.3 Differentials. There was a long discussion, the result of which was a decision not to make any rule changes but to advise competitors that the Salisbury Free Diff by Elite Transmissions had the potential to bind, and thus fail a roller diff test, after very little use.
- 13.4 ACTC Passenger Membership status. Simon explained that MSA rule T.3.1.6 required passengers at National B events (i.e. ACTC Championship events) to produce a valid club membership card. To comply with this requirement, the ACTC had covered passengers who were not members of an ACTC member club by introducing the ACTC Passenger Membership scheme. The MSA has now advised the ACTC that this scheme is not, for a variety of reasons, acceptable as a way of complying with their requirements.
- 13.5 Simon Woodall offered a possible solution, which would require changes to the ACTC Articles of Association. The ACTC would change from a "recognised group" to a club. The ACTC would then have individual members only, and these members would be, by default, all the current individual members of the ACTC Member Clubs. Simon Woodall confirmed that the membership of the ACTC Council could be different from the individual membership and no changes to the ACTC management structure were needed. This would eliminate the need for Competition Licences and allow all events to be run under a Clubmans Permit. It was noted that the ASWMC might object to this change in the ACTC status and that the complexity of the solution might make it unacceptable to others.
- 13.6 Pete Hart suggested an alternative approach, to request the MSA to extend rule D.4.5.4, to include Recognised Groups. This would remove the need for Passenger Members, allow Championships rounds to be Clubman status, and would require no change in ACTC status. This option was discussed at length but it was agreed to pursue the option above.
- 13.7 Simon Woodall confirmed that the next step was to discuss the possible solution with Ian Davis of the MSA. Ian had suggested the ALRC (Association of Land Rover Clubs) as a suitable "model" but those present at the meeting were not sure this was appropriate. **Action: Simon Woodall.**

14. Discussion Paper from Torbay MC

14.1 Keith Sanders was not present but the topic was opened to the floor. James Shallcross thought that Keith “had a point”. Why does ACTC exist? Do we need a Ten Year Plan? Do we need more consistency between events? What sort of events do we want? There was considerable discussion summarised by Dudley Sterry as “Vive La Difference” (between events). Simon Woodall explained that the original reason for founding the ACTC was to agree a standard set of rules, and a major motivation behind running a championship was to ensure the quality of events. Both goals had, in essence, been achieved and ACTC was now more about maintaining the status quo. Future threats caused by the dominance of classes 7 and 8 were noted, as was the potential for encouragement of the front wheel drive class. It was agreed to return to this topic at the next Council Meeting in September.

15. Engine Changes

- 15.1 Giles Greenslade introduced his paper on the topic, noting that the vote would now be taken at the September Meeting and not at this Meeting as originally intended. Clubs should be prepared to vote on the basis that the decision would last at least ten years. There was a lengthy discussion, most of which covered “old ground”.
- 15.2 Simon Woodall explained, yet again, that the current rule derived from the 1960s.
- 15.3 Pete Hart pointed-out that, although the current rule is general, only certain manufacturers (primarily Ford) had made a sufficient variety of engines, over a sufficiently long period of time, for competitors to be able to gain advantage from the rule. This was inherently unfair to production cars which were not Ford-engined.
- 15.4 The issue of cost was raised yet again, primarily the (low) cost of a second-hand Ford Duratec against the (high) cost of rebuilding a Ford Crossflow. There was also discussion about whether the primary advantage of a modern engine was high power or low weight.
- 15.5 It was noted that the current debate was primarily about the installation of Ford Duratec engines in Ford Escorts (Mks 1 and 2), and Reliant Scimitars, but there was the potential for the issue to become relevant, in the future, to engines manufactured by others.

16. Championship Schedule

- 16.1 2016. Issue 4. The only change from Issue 3 is that the Kyrle has moved from 5th November to 29th October. It was noted that there was no date shown for the Ebworth Trial.
- 16.2 2017. Issue 2. Circulated at the meeting. **See Attachment**. Giles Greenslade commented that only Torbay and Launceston & North Cornwall had responded to his request for confirmation of dates after Issue 1 was circulated with the Agenda. All VSCC events had been excluded as no dates were known. Some dates, and other issues, were confirmed in the meeting. The Bovey Down would move to 30th April. The Mechanics was confirmed as 15th October, although a date clash with the Exmoor Clouds was noted. The Clee may accept motorcycle entries in 2017. Giles will circulate Issue 3 when appropriate.
- 16.3 It was also noted that some clubs were changing dates without prior discussion with ACTC. This was annoying to both ACTC and competitors. **Action: All ACTC Member Clubs.**

17. Championship reports

- 17.1 All present were referred to the website which had just been updated with the latest Championship tables.

17.2 The very small numbers registered in the motorcycle championships were noted. This was acknowledged as an ongoing issue despite an increase in the number of motorcycle entries generally, and an increase in the number of events catering for motorcycles. More promotion of ACTC might be worthwhile. **Action: To be decided.**

18. Any other business

18.1 Barbara Selkirk proposed a vote of thanks to Chris Phillips for his sterling work as Championship Secretary over many years. This met with unanimous approval.

18.2 Simon Woodall presented his paper on Regional Championships and explained that the main reason for introducing them was to encourage more people to register for the Championship. Various revisions were discussed and Simon confirmed that a revised proposal would be attached to the Minutes. **See Attachment.** It was noted that the idea could be dropped after a couple of years: if it proved unworkable; cost too much time to manage; or failed to achieve its stated goal of increasing membership. **Action: Simon Woodall.**

18.3 The meeting noted the continuing difficulty in finding a new Clerk of the Course for the MCC Exeter Trial.

19. Date, time and place of 2016 AGM & Council Meeting

19.1 Confirmed as Sunday 4th September 2016 at 2.00pm. The Major's Retreat, Tormarton.

The meeting closed at 5.36pm.

ACTC Regional Championship

It has to be emphasised that the primary purpose of this is a way of attracting more competitors to join the ACTC and hence become involved, participate and have a greater understanding in the ACTC and what it does for Classic Trialling. [Keith Saunders presented some statistics at ACTC committee showing that 2/3 of current competitors are not ACTC members]. The reasoning behind the idea was that a great number of competitors don't enter the National Championships primarily because of the high cost of travel/accommodation, time off work etc. involved with committing to such a large and widespread championship, adding smaller Regional Championships negates these costs and (hopefully) encourages ACTC membership.

The proposal has found a great deal of favour and enthusiasm when discussed with current competitors, a large percentage have agreed that it would definitely encourage them to join the ACTC. (according to the members of Stroud MC)

It is proposed that the Regional Championships will run concurrent with the existing ACTC Championship rounds [other Trials could be invited to join to make up numbers in specific Regions] The reasoning behind keeping it aligned with current ACTC rounds is that it will not require any extra work to implement or run [other than some extra columns on the ACTC Championship Coordinators results spread sheet]

The proposed 4 Regions are: North, Midlands, West, South

Each Region to have 4 Trials, with 1 or 2 Trials overlapping into adjacent Region [these would depend on no. of Regions implemented and is to encourage competitors to migrate to other Regions if they do well in the overlap events]

For Cars:

North	Northern, Yorkshire Dales, Durham Dales, Clee Hills
Midland	Cotswold Clouds, Kyrle, Clee Hills, Allen
South	Allen, Hardy, Torbay, Exmoor Clouds
West	Tamar, Camel, North Devon Exmoor, Taw+Torrige

For Bikes:

North	Northern, Yorkshire Dales, Durham Dales, Clee Hills
South	Hardy, Torbay, Exmoor Clouds; Neil Westcott
Southwest	Tamar, Camel, Taw+Torrige, Chairmans
West	North Devon Exmoor, Tarka, Neil Westcott; Exmoor Clouds

Scoring would be as per Crackington and Pouncey Championships with the Best 4 to count.

When a competitor registers for the Championship their scores for each region plus their two best scores from two events from outside their region would give 6 from which the best 4 would be taken. As this setup is aimed at those who do not do many events the Trophy winners from the Crackington & Wheelspin Leagues for the two previous years would be excluded.

Initially I would not propose the acquisition of any perpetual trophies, unless someone is prepared to give us any. I would, however, suggest that the format include a novice award to encourage the newcomers into the sport to sign up.