

association of classic trials clubs

FROM : THE SECRETARY
John West, B.Sc., C.Chem., M.R.S.C.

please reply to: 3 Chipping Close,
Symn Lane,
Wotton-under-Edge,
Gloucestershire,
GL12 7BB.

18th April 1986

TO ALL ACTC COUNCIL DELEGATES & CLUB SECRETARIES

Dear Sportsman,

Please find enclosed the Agenda and copious associated paperwork for the Council meeting on Sunday 18th May. I am sure that the reason for the relatively late mailing of the Agenda is apparent!

It seems an age since our last meeting at the beginning of the trials season and, indeed, a lot of water has passed under the bridge since then, some may even say of tidal wave proportions!

The meeting will be the first since the Re-organisation of grass roots motor sport by the RAC MSA as the Association is now recognised as an "Association of Motor Clubs" as opposed to a Recognised Club in its own right. One extra advantage is that there is no Recognition Fee to pay in line with a Regional Association, so the Treasurer has a smile on his face.

It is with regret that I formally have to report to you that our "official" ACTC representatives to the RAC MSC Autotests and Trials Committee and the Regional Committee were not finally invited, apparently, I am told, owing to my presence on the Autotests and Trials Committee and that I always "toe the ACTC party line"! Clearly, the RAC MSA have failed us in this respect which is highly regrettable. I have to advise you that Mike Hinde, now Autotests and Trials Vice Chairman, and already without any constituents or mandates IS "classic trials" third representative". We only asked for a little bit of democracy and have been given myopia.

It is also with regret that I have to advise you that Brian Cope has resigned his position of Championship Secretary for the Association. Brian has made a mammoth effort over the last few years to realise his ambition of a top line championship in classic trials on behalf of the sport. The immediate and continuing success of the ACTC Championship is a great tribute and, I hope, reward of his herculean efforts. In the short term, at least, I would ask member clubs formally inviting the Association to restricted trials to contact me in the first instance. Other emergency caretaking arrangements have already been undertaken by your Chairman and Vice Chairman.

As you will already know from my letter dated 3rd December, The RAC MSA regrettably have made a declaration to investigate an RAC British Classic Trials Championship! This was confirmed in March and a Classic Trials

Working Group has been established to consider the matter. Both your Chairman and myself together with HW T-P and invited members of some of our clubs will constitute the Group, whose Chairman is Mike Hinde. A preliminary meeting is scheduled for 25th April, so that we will have something to report in Council.

As I see it, there are three alternate ways forward to which Council will need to address itself:-

1. Allow such a championship to run in parallel with our own with the RAC Championship getting which events it can from any member clubs willing to participate.
2. Council agreeing a collective decision so that no member club will offer the RAC MSA an event. The RAC MSA Championship could not then be feasible without our support and would inevitably fall.
3. Arrive at a compromise situation whereby ACTC co-promotes its Championship with the RAC MSA so that would be only ONE national classic trials championship, adopting the title "British" and utilising current ACTC events. Hopefully, this would ensure no future conflict, confusion or animosity and even, maybe, bring the RAC MSA and ACTC closer together.

The Classic Trials Working Group has also been mandated to look at Classes and Vehicle Regulations. However, as you will see from the enclosed papers, the ACTC Officers have already met, considered the problems and have made some recommendations for Council's consideration. Clearly, your Chairman and I expect the RAC MSA Working Group to adopt, initially, these circulated proposals and await a final democratic decision by ACTC Council, probably not until September, before adopting such decisions and recommending any Technical Regulations Change to the RAC MSC Autotests and Trials Committee. It is an unnecessary link and extra forum in the chain but we are stuck with it, at least for 1986.

On the Rights of Way front, our life blood, the sport is currently facing a major crisis that could result in wholesale major losses of famous observed sections. It IS something to worry about as a change in legislation is afoot. Martin Halliday has been burning gallons of midnight oil to promote our interests to preserve classic trials and keep the organisation as obstacle free as possible. Currently, he is advising the RAC MSA and ACU who are, as governing bodies, acting on our behalf. Martin is only asking for certain other countryside users to be fair, tolerant and reasonable (all of which appear to in short supply these days). Do wish him well in this tough job and he will give a full report in Council.

Martin has written to me asking for his thanks to be passed on to Council for the inscribed tankard presented to him at The ACTC Awards Presentation in Sidmouth for his work as Secretary of the ACTC.

A number of other items are worthy of reporting, so, as the Council meeting looks like being a long one, I will list them here:-

- a. We have had another car fire on a trial. Perhaps all of our scrutineers should be looking at fuel lines - I found a large number of loose examples on the Edinburgh and Exeter Trials.

- b. I attended the Sports Council Seminar in Motor Sports at Welwyn Garden City in October to represent classic trials interests along with HW T-P. The most interesting item was a preview of the Sports Council/Countryside Commision Report into "Access to the Countryside" for sport and recreation and to which our Treasurer represented classic trials interests and which is to be published in May.
- c. Do you think the current Medical Declaration on the Application Form for the RAC MSA Competition Licence is excessive and even off-putting, especially to the physiologically sub Sebastian Coe types? Could this affect the future numbers of competitors as we now need Licences? Do let me know at the Council meeting.
- d. The Organisers Handbook has been updated to include the Re-organisation of club level motor sport.
- e. Did YOU publicise the items at the end of the Minutes of the last meeting in your club magazine?
- f. Please would you complete the enclosed pro-forma anent Dates and Officials in order to save as much time as possible in the meeting and return to me as soon as possible.

I have again asked Gerry of the Bung Inn if we can USE the larger room for our meeting for your comfort. Gerry and Diane do an excellent line in lunches and I suggest you contact them directly if you intend lunching there before the meeting.

Finally, as you will see from the Agenda, this meeting is of the highest importance and I do hope that you will, once again, make every effort to attend.

Looking forward to seeing you on the 18th May and hopefully things will look up during the second half of 1986.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN WEST

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'John West', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

ASSOCIATION OF CLASSIC TRIALS CLUBS

The May Council Meeting of the Association of Classic Trials Clubs will be held on Sunday 18th May 1986 at 14.30 at the Bung Inn, Redhill, Nr Bristol, Avon (Map Reference 172/513640).

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting (1st September 1985).
3. Matters arising therefrom other than detailed later on the Agenda.
4. Financial Report from the Treasurer.
5. Public Liability Insurance. To consider whether this is now necessary in view of the current status of ACTC as "An Association of Motor Clubs" with no liabilities on any motor competition.
6. To adopt the following Resolution:-
 - "1. The association authorises Midland Bank plc:
 - a. to honour all cheques and other orders or instructions authorising payment signed on behalf of the association by any two of the persons holding the positions for the time being of Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary ("the signatory") whether any account of the association is in credit or debit;
 - b. to deliver up any item held by the Bank on behalf of the association in safe custody or for any other purpose against the written receipt or instructions of the signatory; and
 - c. to accept from the signatory any other instructions with regard to any account in the association's name.
 2. The association agrees that any indebtedness or liability incurred to the Bank under this authority shall in the absence of any express written agreement by the Bank to the contrary be due and payable on demand.
 3. The Treasurer shall as and when necessary supply to the Bank list/s of current officers authorised to sign with specimen signatures and the Bank may rely upon such lists signed by the Chairman and the Secretary."
7. Dates for Classic Trials in 1987.
8. To receive a Progress Report from the Class 7 working Group (Minute 94a).
9. To receive a Report from the Tyre Pressure Working Group (Minute 94b).
10. To receive the Report (see enclosed) of the Officers Meeting on 8th March to consider Car Classification and Technical Regulations.

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Against
For
Abstention

11. To receive the Report (see enclosed) of the Officers Meeting on 8th March to consider the relationship of ACTC with the RAC MSA.
12. To consider the following Resolution submitted by Shenstone & District Car Club:-

"This Association has no confidence in the ability of the RAC Motor Sports Association and its Autotest and Trials Committee to safeguard the future welfare of the sport of classic trialling."

A paper is enclosed from Shenstone & District Car Club.
13. To receive a Report from the Rights of Way Officer.
14. Classic Trials Championship.

In view of recent developments to consider the following:-

 - a. The existing state of the ACTC 1986 Championship.
 - b. To either elect a new Championship Secretary or to investigate temporary "caretaking" arrangements.
 - c. The future of the ACTC Championship and its relation to the proposed RAC Championship.
15. To consider a request from the MCC that all member clubs be formally advised, by trials organisers, of ACTC invitation to their Restricted events, including mailing of Supplementary Regulations and Final Results, in order to publicise the events to competitors who are not on the Championship mailing list.
16. The Definition of a Classic Trial (Minute 92).

Minehead M.C. have submitted a paper subsequent to the debate at the last meeting(see enclosed).
17. Commercial Vehicles in Classic Trials.

The MCC have already resolved this problem in their own Standing Supplementary Regulations and the RAC Autotest & Trials Committee will consider the matter further in June upon receiving a report from the Secretary.
18. To consider a request from the Secretary.

"Are member clubs satisfied with the current Medical Declaration that competitors are required to undertake in applying for their RAC MSA Competition Licences?"
19. Any Other Business.
20. Date, time and place of next meeting.

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John West
Secretary