

COMPETITORS FORUM

Thursday, 17th August 2023 – 6.00pm

Via ZOOM

MINUTES

Attendees: Jonathan Charlesson, David Smith, David Humphreys, Ross Tapper, Kim Merchant, Scott Beckwith, Tan Bailey, Luke Dunkley, Julian Wright, Sam Whitehouse, Karl Drummond, Karren Drummond, Mike Kerridge, Mike Gigney, Scott Bennett, Mandy Lister, Neil Trethowen, Kirsty Moore, Lisa White, Alex White

Apologies:

1. Meeting Open – 6.00pm

2. Welcome

- David Smith opened meeting highlighting the forum discussions would be limited to WA Car Club events only and a Rally Panel representative (Julian Wright) was dialled in to the meeting.

3. Karri Rally

- Feedback from Clerk of the Course
 - Jonathan Charlesson expressed the thoughts of Neil Trethowen who at this point was not active on the Zoom meeting. Acknowledging whilst the cancellation was disappointing to all. The priority was that of the safety of the Whites (Competitors) who had come off the road in stage. This along with RallySafe issues resulted in the cancellation of the final two stages. It was also acknowledged that the ceremonial start organisation could be improved for next year.
- Pre-event (Entry Form, Documentation, Emails etc)
 - General agreement the Documentation request was made easy and provided in a timely manner.



- Overview maps would be appreciated earlier prior to the event to allow team adequate planning time for recce.
- Important entries from competitors are received as early as possible to allow reasonable time for organisers planning and to review and request further documentation as required.
- **Scrutiny**
 - Targeted scrutiny approach for Karri Rally, cars were selected on a range of selection criteria as per the MWARCS.
 - Scrutiny went quickly and was ahead of schedule – will be tighten up for the next event. Mike Gigney asked whether times could be tighter so people weren't left hanging around. The intention was to spend more time on each car.
- **Recce**
 - General agreement there was plenty of time for recce and that it ran well. Would be too tight if there was another stage.
 - Comments were made that competitors were observed complying with the Supplementary Regulations guidelines pertaining to recce start times and showed respect representing the sport well.
- **Ceremonial Start**
 - This was a new initiative.
 - Contribution was made from the Shire of Manjimup.
 - To improve build up and organisation next year for the ceremonial start. Cars will be bumped in with a staggered arrival time.
 - Suggestion was made to build upon this year's event. Organisers should look at Gympie QLD rally as an example. They hold a Friday night event to support the rally. Car display, food and drink trucks etc. NZ do something similar. VIP to flag cars off.
 - Ceremonial start to be included within the itinerary and a map to be provided. Possibly reverse the flow of cars ie enter from the service park end at Rose St.
 - Promotes professionalism within the sport.



- **Event – Roadbook, Signage, Stage selection, Schedule etc**
 - SS1 – instruction 6,9,12 turn right instruction – Interpretation question about accuracy. Roadbook written at 40km on the correct side of the road.
 - Using tulips in the roadbook is the best guide.
 - Requested feedback on the Double cautions boards on SS2 on instruction 6 & 7. Agreement that all was good and they were located appropriately. Instruction numbers and signage were well positioned
 - Stage selection was good. Stages held up well. Well balanced stages according to Scott Beckwith. Need to keep an eye on the sandy sections as they cut up quickly.
 - Concern was raised regarding bridge being slippy and maybe a third run it could have been difficult.
 - Need third stage for next year. Is an additional third stage a plan for 2024? Neil: would like to see a third included, however issues with communication. Requires more volunteers to support the third stage safely. Advantage of 3rd stage is that it limits the impact of cancelling a stage if needed.
- **MotoX Stage**
 - It was run very well this year. Good stage. Layout better than last year.
 - Some services crews were able to view and was enjoyed by all.
 - Good support from spectators, crowds were up on last year.
 - Opportunity to increase numbers by working with the local Motorbike/speedway/car clubs to create a broader event.
- **Service Park**
 - Good room, no issues. Much better than the old hockey field.
 - Everyone respected the park and crews cleaned their bays well with almost nothing remaining on inspection. Neil thanked all service crews and competitors.

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PO Box 88, Forreestfield, WA 6058

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- **Post Event Awards / Function**
 - Great finish to the event
 - Suggestion: have a results screen displayed in the venue.
 - Good turn out. Good food and drinks.
- **Officials Any standouts for Official / Young Official of the Year?
How do we attract more?**
 - Mentioned to make a note of any officials or young officials for each event now so they were on hand when the call for nominations occurs at the end of the year.
 - Opportunity to source officials through the clubs i.e. Moto x club, speedway club etc. to help with running more or longer stages.
 - Video: Luke Dunkley suggested developing a short Road closure video (for social media etc) to promote the benefits of participating in road closures or as an official. This will provide further opportunities for expanded stages within the events and avoid last minute stage cancellation.

6. Other Items –

- It was raised that some drivers arriving at time control not ready, gloves, belts etc. A reminder to everyone to be vigilant with our safety equipment.
- An observation was made that crew members were drinking alcohol in the service park at Karri and also in parc fermé at Grimwade Stages. Crews should be reminded of the regulations in regard to drinking restrictions until the end of competition.
- Accommodation was an issue for many teams with the mining sector placing high demand on local accommodation. The \$5 camping was very well received and would be beneficial if this could be booked well in advance if required. Neil advised he would explore.

7. Next WA Car Club Competitor Forum

Thursday, 2nd November 2023 (after Experts Cup) @ 7pm (TBC)
Perth Motorplex

8. Meeting Closed – 7.10pm