

Sporting Trials Committee Meeting Minutes 10th October 2017.

Drayton Manor Hotel Board Room. 1700 hrs.

Present

Officers:-	Stuart Beare	- Chairman	Committee	Richard Sharp
	Peter Fensom	- Minutes Secretary		Andrew Woodhead
				George Watson
				Julian Fack
				Josh Veale
		Apologies		Ian Wright
				Ian Fulwood
				David Hailes

The meeting opened at 1700hrs.

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th June were signed as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Differential Progress

SB opened the discussion with a brief explanation of how over the last month he has had conversations with more than fifteen drivers about the Committee response to the unrest within the Sporting Trials community regarding the MSA findings on the super diff, also the perceived idea that drivers are currently using diffs that do not conform to the Blue Book and the position of the committee on tests that have taken place between similar cars using Super diffs and normal diffs that have shown an advantage in one case and none in

another . SB explained that the committee was well aware of the unrest of drivers and, over the last year had directed the committee to pursue a policy of allowing all diffs irrespective of their manufacture to be used in the championship as long as they conformed to the Blue Book, he in turn would allow AW and JF to develop testing equipment specifically designed pick up any car with any form of limited slip differential, progress on development is ongoing but initial results show good potential for the future.

Unfortunately it has now become obvious that certain diffs when worn will provide an advantage over other diffs and therefore a more direct approach is needed to ensure that all competitors are competing on a level playing field.

SB spoke of committee members that have completely changed their opinion on the Committee approach to the problem and how they would like to explore a more simplistic way of solving the issue in a way similar to the use of tyres and engine capacities, SB said he is sympathetic to the approach but wants to keep an open mind on subject.

RS asked JV to give a brief explanation on how the sport came to identify the diff problem and how we reached the position we now see ourselves in with the MSA passing judgement on one diff provided by a driver which resulted in the MSA declaring that it did not conform to the Blue Book rules.

JV explained that the diff in question came out of a classic car and it was only that particular diff that did not conform to the rules, he said that the MSA would help in any way they could but were not prepared to explain in writing why they felt the diff was unsuitable.

Committee members discussed the technical advantages of certain types of diff manufacture and were surprised that there are more than two types of so called super diffs currently in use in trials cars, RS showed the committee a diff taken out of his trials car that afternoon that had seen service for many years, it had hardly any wear and was surprisingly firm, discussion took place over the diff as opinion varied as to whether it was advantageous or not.

SB brought the discussion to a halt with a recommendation that the committee had been on a journey over the last year that had seen them go down a route that had seemed at the outset to be the most logical step to take, they had

listened to opinion and outcomes of test that had shown less than conclusive results ,they have seen ill-judged biased comments made in print and at meetings with individuals pursuing their own agendas without regard to the good of the sport, it was time to give all drivers the opportunity to experience the same journey by calling an open meeting and explaining where we are and what options we have for the future.

SB explained that from representations he has received there seems to be two routes that can be taken but any open meeting might provide more.

Route one:- Allow any diff to be used and police their use with test equipment.

Route Two:- Allow only the use of approved diffs in particular axles.

No diff would be banned only free running diffs would make the list.

SB proposed that the Open Drivers meeting would take place on Tuesday 14th November at the National Adventure Farm at Burton on Trent.

Committee members started to compile a list of acceptable diffs but would also accept representation from all parties at the open meeting.

SB said that he would consider that if the open meeting went the way of using only approved diffs he would form a small subcommittee to judge the acceptance of certain diffs onto the list.

SB was given unanimous approval of his proposals.

2018 Championship Calendar

PF explained that BTRDA Council require the full calendar by the next meeting he has fitted the Geoff Taylor into April as requested by the Club but no other movements are programmed. MSA will be consulted about their nomination for their Championship. Committee approved the programme for circulation to Clubs for comment. Members were given copies of the Events.

Driver's classes

New changes have been accepted by Clubs and results show drivers are pleased with changes however a few clubs are still running a green class which no longer exists.

MSA and BTRDA Reports.

MSA want to encourage more entrants to their events to increase competition and improve revenue, members were asked their opinion on changing sporting trials to paying a fee and doing away with free inclusion in the Championship.

JV was told by all members that should that occur nobody will apply.

MSA was asked to clarify the use of trees to push the car into forward motion whilst on a section. Blue Book already makes it clear that it would be an aid to traction and is unacceptable.

MSA was asked by the HSTA whether the car could be made the entrant not the driver, it would enable multiple drivers to compete in any round. This is ongoing.

BTRDA told all competition licence holders to be aware that Utube is monitored for misconduct whilst in competition and action will follow if any infringement is seen.

BTRDA require all 2018 Budgets by the next meeting PF had provided a draft budget for SB to forward to Tim Bearde.

Committee Secretary Responsibilities.

PF asked for the Club Liaison portion of the job to be accepted by a member of the committee as confusion has arisen with clubs contacting Janet Derbyshire for help when Janet has more than her fair share of responsibility. JV has been assuming the role for the sending of competition packs to the clubs and is now running out of supplies. JV said he is prepared to carry out the task of Club Liaison in the future.

Gold Star Final.

AW said his club is well advanced with preparations although discussions have taken place at club level to move the competition site to Eden Hall as it will

accommodate all aspects of parking and competition irrespective of weather conditions.

Martin Grimwood C and C for the Gold Star has already recruited 20 Marshalls, members voted on the award of the Harrison Trophy who comes from the north of the country.

A.O.B.

JV through his report in Clear Round raised the subject of too many trials, currently there was no appetite for any reduction.

Date of next meeting Tuesday 21st November at Drayton Manor.