

**Minutes - Group S Racing Association Inc
Extraordinary Committee Meeting
Monday 25 June 2007**

Venue

Email - meeting opened 7pm Friday 22 June - closed midnight Monday 25 June

Participants

Committee – Brian Weston (President), David Withers (Vice-President), Paul Newby (Secretary), Andre Breit (Treasurer), Paul Sabine (Committee - GSRA Victoria Registrar), Colin Wilson-Brown (Committee - Race Numbers/Championship Pointscore)

Ex-officio – Geoff Williams (Webmaster), John Young (Newsletter Editor), Rick Marks (GSRA Group Sa Registrar), Peter Hall (GSRA South Aust Registrar), Manuel Pena (GSRA Queensland Registrar)

Invited – Geoff Morse (HSRCA Group S Registrar), Bruce Richards (CAMS Historic Commission Group S Portfolio Manager)

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Held over for GSRA Committee in-person meeting

Sub Committee Report on MG Racing Program for Group S at OPGP on 6/7/8 July 2007 - Colin Wilson-Brown (Chair), David Withers, Geoff Williams and John Young

For individual FoSC meetings, GSRA has aimed at:

- achieving at least 3 dedicated Group S races, and
- if necessary, trading off the mix-match races in order to achieve a “better quality” Group S program.

This policy has been developed following the survey of GSRA members (see Attachment A), and following feedback received from members about a dislike of the number of mix-match races by FoSC at Wakefield Park on 28/29 October 2006.

For the 6/7/8 July FoSC, the GSRA requested 3 dedicated Group S races. On June 19 FoSC advised that Group S entries (48) exceeded grid capacity (38) and that it would be necessary to split the field.

GSRA accepted that, but requested that 3 Group S races should be held as follows:

- that the Group S field would be split into Sc racing alone (approx 22 cars) and Sb/Sa racing combined (approx 26 cars), as was done at the Wakefield Park FoSC in October 2006.

On 22 June FoSC advised that they are unable to accommodate this request and will be running:

- Two dedicated Group S races for the fastest 38 Group S cars - these 38 Group S cars will receive another 3 mix-match races.
- The 10 slowest Group S cars (4 Sa plus 6 Sb) will race with 18 Group N cars in two combined Group S/N races (Group N has 56 entries). The 10 slowest Group S cars will then be programmed in three mix-match races.

FoSC advise this outcome is driven in part by their commitment to offer five races and maximum track time to all competitors, and in part by commercial reasons; they need to run a range of events to attract other classes such as F-Vee and Improved Production, to ensure that FoSC has a future following the withdrawal of MGCCS as FoSC backer.

GSRA have expressed disappointment that FoSC has been unable to meet Group S requests. Nevertheless we appreciate the conflicting demands placed upon FoSC and expect that they will deliver another excellent race meeting.

The GSRA needs to explain this situation to our members, but despite misgivings, we should not be seen to be criticising FoSC Inc at this critical time in their development.

Recommendation

That the GSRA committee endorse the promulgation of the following update to members:

"FoSC have advised they have 48 Group S entries for their meeting at Oran Park GP on 6/7/8 July. This exceeds the OPGP track density of 38.

Although the GSRA had recommended that Group S entrants be split into two fields with Sa/Sb racing combined and Sc racing alone; FoSC have been unable for commercial reasons to accommodate this request.

FoSC intend to provide only two dedicated Group S races for the fastest 38 Group S cars. These 38 Group S cars will then receive a further 3 mix-match races.

The 10 slowest Group S cars (4 Sa plus 6 Sb) will race with 18 slower Group N cars in two dedicated Group S/N combined races (Group N has 56 entries). The 10 slowest Group S cars will then be programmed in three mix-match races.

The GSRA regrets this outcome but has accepted assurances that FoSC will seek to better accommodate GSRA requests as FoSC Inc develops its racing program. FoSC has been well-supported by the GSRA and with the recent announcement of a FoSC meeting at Bathurst in Easter 2008, the GSRA particularly wishes to see FoSC continue to develop their race meetings and to provide an improved dedicated Group S program.

For member information, the GSRA committee has requested individual FoSC meetings to include:

- at least 3 dedicated Group S races, and
- if necessary, trade off some of the mix-match races in order to achieve a "better quality" Group S program.

This policy was decided following the results of the GSRA member questionnaire of March 2006, and following member feedback to the GSRA committee following the Wakefield Park FoSC of October 2006 when Sc raced alone (16 cars) and Sb/Sa raced combined (24 cars).

The GSRA committee is now reviewing the desired GSRA race mix at FoSC meetings so members are asked to make their views known to the committee, particularly with regard to the balance between dedicated Group S races, racing with Group N, racing on an all-marque basis (eg; all-MG, etc), and racing with Group 2B/2F cars.

The GSRA committee is yet to decide how the 6/7/8 July FoSC race program should be accommodated into the GSRA Catalina Cup and Goldfields' Cup pointscore competitions."

Close

Extraordinary Committee Meeting closed at midnight Monday 25 June.

Brian Weston
President

Paul Newby
Secretary

Attachment A: GSRA MEMBER QUESTIONNAIRE re FOSC MEETINGS - March 2006

60 questionnaires circulated - 35 responses received - a fair response rate (58%) for voluntary questionnaires. Respectively: 7, 20 and 8 responses from Sa, Sb and Sc.

Question 14 showed strong support for increasing the Group S quota of races at MG Racing meetings from 2 to 3.

Question 15 addressed "same marque racing" at MG Racing meetings and showed a variation between Sa, Sb and Sc regarding "Group S same make races" or "same marque racing" such as all-MG and all-Alfa. The questionnaire did not solicit views from members about GRSA members racing with Group N or with Groups 2B/2F cars.

Sa Result - GSRA Member Questionnaire Responses 7

Q14 - At a typical five race MG Racing meeting - prefer how many Group S races?
2 races - 0 3 races - 5 4 races - 0 5 races - 0 don't care - 2

Q15 - Prefer same make races to be "restricted to Group S same make" or "same make all comers"?
Prefer Group S, same make - 2 Sometimes, just Group S - 0 Prefer all comers, same make - 5

Sb Result - GSRA Member Questionnaire Responses 20

Q14 - At a typical five race MG Racing meeting - prefer how many Group S races?
2 races - 3 3 races - 9 4 races - 4 5 races - 0 don't care - 2

Q15 - Prefer same make races to be "restricted to Group S same make" or "same make all comers"?
Prefer Group S, same make - 4 Sometimes just Group S - 1 Prefer all comers same make - 12

Sc Result - GSRA Member Questionnaire Responses 8

Q14 - At a typical five race MG Racing meeting - prefer how many Group S races?
2 races - 1 3 races - 4 4 races - 1 5 races - 1 don't care - 0

Q15 - Prefer same make races to be "restricted to Group S same make" or "same make all comers"?
Prefer Group S, same make - 4 Sometimes, just Group S - 2 Prefer all comers, same make - 0

Combined Sa/Sb/Sc - GSRA Member Questionnaire Responses 35

2 races - 4 3 races - 18 4 races - 5 5 races - 1 don't care - 4

Prefer Group S, same make - 10 Sometimes, just Group S - 3 Prefer all comers, same make - 17