



# Group S Racing Association Inc.

[www.groupsracing.org.au](http://www.groupsracing.org.au)

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## Committee Meeting Minutes (2017.10.23) Via email between 16th Sept - COB 23rd Sept 2017.

### Venue

Via email

Meeting opened on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2017 by Alex Webster.

### Attendees

- **Committee** – Alex Webster (President), Tom Walstab (Vice President), Geoff Byrne (Treasurer), André Breit (Secretary), Ryan Curnick (Committee), Hung Do (Committee)
- **Invited** - Dominique Chaleyey (Social Media Coordinator)

### CHECK IF REQUIRED

#### Minutes of Committee Meeting 52 of 10<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Proposed for acceptance as true record

Moved: Tom Walstab      Seconded: Alex Webster      Carried

### Business Arising from Minutes

Nil

### President's Report – Alex Webster

The year is rapidly disappearing, and thanks again to you all for your efforts in shaping and managing Group S. Baskerville is next week, and then only Sandown and SMSP. Entries for Sandown sit at 32. I am yet to find out where the HSRCA numbers are at. I will however send out a reminder for both events in the next week to drum up the last bit of support. It seems, as expected both have suffered from the date clash. This won't happen again - see below in the 2018 Calendar. Items of interest and discussion are all mentioned below.

## **Secretary's Report – André Breit**

- GSRA Membership Reconciliation
- Present membership total – 165
  - 4 ACT
  - 100 NSW
  - 8 QLD
  - 5 SA
  - 47 VIC
  - 0 WA
  - TAS 1
  - 159 Financial for 2017
  - 6 Financial for 2018

## **Treasurer's Report – Geoff Byrne**

- As at 18/9 current funds are \$59,129.58 after paying \$11,000 deposit on Bathurst . A full financial report will be prepared for the AGM

## ***Technical sub-committee Report***

Suggestion for AW to brief Brain Weston to assess the discussions regarding Oil systems, and any other items as identified in the discussion below (item Dry Sump and Accu sump considerations). Brian to then provide the committee an overview and assessment of the proposal to consider, and then agree upon to then include the Annual Survey.  
Suggestion Carried by Hung Do.

## **General Business**

### **1. 2018 Bathurst 12 Hour**

Full list of current entrants; Sponsor update; Potential entrants who should not be allowed to compete at Bathurst;

AW created a separate document and provided this to the committee for their review.

GB said we (GSRA) will need a defensible rationale on the expectation it will be challenged as he has already had questions on this issue

AB suggested that anyone that joined after the announcement should not be given priority over any member THAT WAS PAID up at the time of the announcement

AW asked AB to provide a list of those members who have joined/rejoined since the Bathurst announcement on 1st June please. Membership tenure could be considered as a reason to push someone down the list, however it is also a reason for people to rejoin. We need to be careful if this is a parameter we will invoke to give priority to long standing members.

### **2. 2018 GSRA Calendar**

including point score discussions for Bathurst round

AW provided a draft 2018 GSRA Calendar commenting that the ARDC and HSRCA have agreed in principal to move the Enduro weekend to October (giving clear air to Sandown in November), and the MSM meeting will combine with the SpeedFest to run over the June weekend. There is still no date for one of the QLD events.

AW will continue to work with the promoters to confirm the 2018 dates asap.

### **3. 2018 - New events / Promoters ie The Nationals, PIARC, State Series etc**

AW advised he had been liaising with several promoters including the Shannons Nationals, including PIARC and the VIC State Series to find other events in VIC and NSW.

AW also suggested a potential revision to the pointscore in NSW and see it reduced to 'one away' from the existing two, to match the Goldfields points set up, due to reduced number of NSW events. GB commented that the two NSW away encourages drivers to travel interstate, saying we have enough trouble getting drivers to go interstate as it is without reducing the incentive

AW – suggested to modify to include 2 away events for both Goldfields and the Capricorn, OR use the National Cup as a further incentive to travel, OR do both of the previous.

RC – suggested that some people have the means to travel to interstate rounds and some do not. I doubt the point score really comes into it.

ABT – suggested he does not believe that a GSRA 'National Cup' will increase interstate participation rate.

AW – acknowledged that there is no guarantee of more travelling interstate. Given the 100 members in NSW it would be great to see more head north. Equally getting more people to SA and TAS, be it from VIC or NSW. AW said he believed it is worth a try and see how it goes, with a review in late 2018 to agree to continue or discontinue.

### **4. 2019 Endurance Cup discussion**

AW provided a discussion document proposing an Endurance Cup in 2019 to be reviewed by the committee. If agreed the idea had merit, AW suggested to make this a question/suggestion in the GSRA Annual Survey to gauge potential support from the members.

TW and RC supported the idea.

GB referred to Brian Weston's comments about the stress of long distance races on our cars which for the most are not set up for this. GB also suggested some preliminary discussions with race promoters would be a good start before going to members.

AW reiterated the proposal was to create new events, with a separate championship, therefore it is an opt-in basis. Members can continue with the sprint type races at the existing events.

RC also mentioned he has seen people 'lost' to modern series often mention the allure of longer races.

AW – said he was happy to administer the discussions with existing event promoters to see if we can get on their events. In doing so we would be requesting a particular race format (by agreement here at the GSRA Committee, or by vote of the membership in the Annual Survey).

### **5. Review of class/capacity structure**

AW reaffirmed the directive agreed upon to see the 2017 results finish, at which point Hung and AW will review the proposed changes.

HD, TW – Agreed.

GB reiterated his views on the proposed changes, with the main concern a class covering the capacity 2 to 7 litres, sighting Group S is a Historic class and needs to hold true to those roots.

AB suggested we should be preserving history and changing it to suit participation rates.

### **6. CAMS – Technical representation at meetings**

AW confirmed good interactions with Bob Buck in recent times.

GB suggested we are getting too close to Bob Buck and need to ensure arms length relationship so he can do his job impartially and as an independent CAMS representative.  
ABT confirmed that Technical representation is needed. It should be done fairly and discreetly.

### **7. Engine Sealing Inspector for Group S**

AW confirmed that Group N have kindly provided their documentation for their own Group N Sealing process. AW proposed that GSRA should consider keeping a central register, as the CAMS overview does not provide for this. TW - Agree, a register is essential.

GB disagreed about the need for a register, but suggested the need of an agreed form a documentation that can/should be produced as part of scrutineering. As long as each car has this, we have an effective system. GB suggested GSRA need a list of approved sealers.

RC concurred he did not see the need of a register. RC suggested owners should simply store their relevant paperwork as they do log books, COD's etc.

ABT commented that CAMS are introducing the sealing of engines. That means that this should be monitored and checked by scrutineering and be the responsibility of EACH incumbent to ensure to be compliant and have the relevant substantiating document with them at each event. GSRA is not there to do the work for CAMS, to whom we all pay a lot of money.

### **8. Engine Sealing Process for Group S (included in the discussion above)**

See above

### **9. Dry Sump and Accu sump considerations**

A draft proposal document had been provided to the GSRA to allow Accu Sump and Dry Sump for Group S cars. This has come out of discussions with competitors who's cars cannot run, or have limited engine life/reliability due to the higher strains placed on the cars. By way of reference, Group N already have Accu-Sump approval in their regs, and GSRA could suggest adopting the same, or include Dry Sump as well.

HD suggested should other items such as aluminum radiator be allowed to help engine cooling.

GB confirmed he is all for modification that improve the reliability and minimise DNFs but not at the cost of compromising the historic nature of Group S vehicles. Accu Sumps may be OK but not dry sumps.

AW - I am unaware of difference in how a Dry vs Accu, and maybe this is best to ask Brian and Ryan (?) and get them to do some analysis to then report back to the committee prior to the AGM? As for an arms race, I think those running tricky internals have already made it on. I think the focus here should be on reliability, as this seems the major issue for many cars.

TW is in favour (declaring his personal interest for his car) of preserving these cars for racing, as parts become less affordable and rarer we will lose more cars from our grids if members can't protect from mechanical issues. Radiators materials upgrades should also be also considered.

HD added that GSRA look at this holistically then rather than just oil related allowances?

AW, HD, TW agreed BW should be involved in this discussion and assessment post the committee meeting close, and I propose a 'work group' headed by BW assess some of the potential ideas and options available for the Committee to review and discuss further with more knowledge and understanding of the ramifications.

### **10. Banking arrangements/alternatives**

GB confirmed he has gone through the procedures to change from St George to Westpac but held off implementing until the implementation of the new committee (December). GB said the current arrangements are not causing a problem as we have so little financial activity and cheques are still legal tender.

AW asked GB to push forward due to potential increased financial activity resulting from Bathurst. The new banking set up will save time and transparency.

### **11. Membership Fees 2018 - discussion around keeping as-is or raising them, and if so to what amount?**

AW suggested an increase in the membership fees in 2018 from \$50 up to \$100. Also suggested was the removal for early payment. The additional revenue is suggested to be used for member benefits such as event drinks, garage/marquees etc.

A quick review of other club fees are as follows.

Historic Touring Cars membership is \$150, both in VIC and in NSW.

SACC - \$205, HSRCA - \$150, VHRR - \$158, SCCA - \$85, Datsun CC - \$65, MGNSW - \$105, MGVIC - \$145 (+\$65 joining fee), Triumph NSW - \$70. I think the \$100 is fair and reasonable and allows in further investment and member benefits to be tabled later.

HD, TW and RC agreed with no discount for early bird, and agree with increase to \$100.

TW - I'm happy with \$100, if we show the benefits.

AW - FYI - Historic Touring Cars membership is \$150, both in VIC and in NSW.

GB and ABT suggested they did not see the need for an increase based on the current balance of funds in the GSRA account. What are we going to spend it on, on an equal distribution basis for all members?

### **12. TeamApp**

TW advised that the take up of TeamApp continues. Stan Alder provided feedback that the QLD races didn't get any coverage. TW has taken this onboard and will look to liaise with a competitor who is at the track to ensure all races receive team app coverage.

AW advised that we need to ensure that everyone at Bathurst is 100% on TeamApp, as given the nature of this event, we will need to be able to contact everyone quickly to advise changes etc.

### **13. Post-Race Survey - discussion of sample results to be issued on the website; discuss potential updates/changes to the survey format**

AW advised there had been a suggestion to publish the Post Race Surveys.

It was agreed by all to share the results, but names to remain confidential.

### **14. Website**

AW advised he had begun to review the content on the website, and will provide a separate document to Hung and Tom once completed. AW suggested it needs to be reworded in many cases and updated.

### **15. Social Media Co-Ordinator - update from Dominique; progress; goals; statistics**

AW welcomed Dominique to the role of SMC

DC provided the following summary.

\*Social Media is a slow burn & I am getting a feel for what people like to see, and how often.

\*Instagram: When I started posting on IG there were 265 followers, we now have 325. Picking up those 60 followers is great, the idea is to have engaged fans - people who comment, like, share & tag their friends in the photos. So that's up to me to keep the content interesting, fresh, fun.

\*Facebook: When I started posting on FB we had, at the time, 723 friends. We now have a count of 746, so it is positive that we have picked up 23 friends.

\*What I have noticed is a positive response in regards to showcasing the diverse mix of cars that Group S members race. People are aware that of the Porsche dominance, but they are also interested in learning about the other cars that probably don't get a look in that much - there are races within races, and it is my job to make all members feel seen and celebrated, despite where they end up in the finish line.

\*Where I am struggling is finding fresh photos of members racing - there are a load of great photos of cars racing in a Group S race, but as they are not members, I am not inclined to promote them. That was my understanding of the protocol - as we want to encourage members to join our community for these range of benefits.

\*Engaging with photographers has been key, and sharing their photos is encouraging to them, and now I believe they will be more active with their photography during our Group S races & also along pitman, because they know I will share their images with credit. It's working well.

\*Future projects: While I am relying solely on images that already exist, I am really looking forward to doing some filming at Sundown Historic's in November to generate fresh & new photos & video stories to release over the summer months in the lead up to Bathurst. More on that soon!

Thank you everyone & please send me feedback, thoughts, comments, suggestions.

AW thanked for her contribution Dominique.

## **16. Newsletter**

AW suggested a newsletter is going to be difficult to produce. Short sharp blasts or reviews on Team App should suffice?

TW agreed.

## **17. Regalia**

TW said he would look into this with some urgency, as this was overdue.

AW suggested looking into the creation of some badges, stickers etc for race winners, class winners etc from each meeting. Bathurst is an obvious one to also create some regalia etc.

## **18. Discussion of potential candidates for Secretary in 2018 (following André advising he will not be standing for office next year).**

AW thanked André for his years of service to GSRA. These roles can be somewhat thankless, and AW wanted to ensure that the minutes reflect the GSRA's thanks for his services.

The GSRA needs to find a suitable replacement for André, and seeks comment or suggestions so that we can make approaches in the coming weeks to lock this in.

## **Other business:**

### **A. GSRA National Cup proposal**

AW provided an idea to be run in 2018 being a National Cup.

HD, TW, RC, ABT and RC supported.

It was agreed to not name this cup and therefore allow for a 'Sponsor' in the future.

### **B. Driver of the meeting award.**

GB said he had been trying to get this off the ground for several years and there is a background paper he wrote some time back. It fell over due to the difficulty of an agreed process to make the choice at each meeting.



RC suggested to keep it simple and don't make it compulsory for every round. If someone stands out at a particular meeting then award it. Invite the competitors to suggest people for consideration. Perhaps even broaden the concept to be able to recognise someone that, for example, helped a fellow competitor.

AW suggested maybe the idea needs to be publicised a bit more and then decide on an ad-hoc basis if required.

ABT suggested it the "HEAD" flag-marshal at each meeting or have ONE flag marshal choose a driver. The "Driver of the meeting award" and the flag marshall should get something (regalia) as recognition,

### **Summary Actions (To Do's) from this meeting:**

1. AW will take the Bathurst discussion offline as committee still need to agree on those that we are rejecting based on the criteria on the T&Cs.
2. AW to speak with Brian Weston and advise him that GSRA will be asking him to provide some feedback/assessment regarding the technical topic/s.
3. AW to continue update draft calendar and work with additional promoters as able.
4. Endurance Cup to be added in to the Annual Survey to assess support level of GSRA membership
5. Capacity / Class structures to be reviewed again by HD and AW after conclusion of Sandown/SMSF in November.
6. Member fees to be increased to \$100 in 2018. Renewals be sent out by AW (due to ABT advising he will step down). AW to hand over to new Secretary once appointed.
7. AW to collate and send survey results to HD to publish on website. GSRA Committee to be in CC to review before posting.
8. AW to provide HD revised website content - to include TW to proof read and review.
9. National Cup/Trophy to be advised upon release of 2018 Calendar - AW to provide to committee in draft form for approval before sending.
10. Next Committee Meeting should occur prior to the AGM, but after the conclusion of the last two events. Suggest email meeting of 9am 15th November to 5pm 20th November.

**Close** - Meeting closed at COB 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2017



Alex Webster  
President

André Breit  
Secretary

Geoff Byrne  
Treasurer