



NASA MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

Issue 13 – September 2018

Now that we've allowed the dust to settle (and the fog to clear!) from the two National Championship weekends, we'll start this newsletter by congratulating the South Wales League on their superb achievement in hosting the year's two major events with just two weeks between them. Both weekends presented exceptional challenges in terms of the totally contrasting weather conditions, but the South Wales team did us proud in the way they overcame these. Also many thanks to everyone who assisted the NASA Race Control, Pit Control, Marshalling and Scrutineering teams (with special thanks to Andrew English and his team for their contributions to improving the all-important on site communications) and of course to all the drivers, club members and supporters who travelled from far and wide to make the two events the success that they were.

With the Nationals over we're now moving rapidly to the end of the 2018 season, so this newsletter's mainly focused on our planning for 2019 and beyond. Not that we're forgetting about 2018 just yet with plenty of racing yet to fit in over the next six weeks or so.

NATIONALS 2019 AND 2020

As soon as one year's Nationals are over, it's time to be looking forward to the next. Just to confirm, the men's Nationals will be hosted by Evesham Autograss Club at the John Wilkin Raceway (formerly Dodwell Raceway), Stratford-upon-Avon, on 3/4 August 2019. The Ladies' and Juniors' Nationals will be hosted by the Southern League at Bearley Raceway, Somerset, on 31 August/1 September 2019.

We can now confirm that the host for the 2020 Men's Nationals will be Yorkshire Dales Autograss Club. The venue will be the familiar Thornborough track which will be seeing its fifth men's Nationals since 2003 and the date for your diaries is 1/2 August 2020.

We are still looking for applications to host the Ladies' and Juniors' Nationals on 5/6 September 2020 so please will any interested clubs or leagues contact us as soon as possible.

Any clubs or leagues that may be interested in hosting the Nationals in 2021 or beyond should let us know of their interest even if they're not yet ready to put in a formal proposal as we're still keen to establish a longer term plan for the Nationals.

NATIONALS DISQUALIFICATIONS

Unfortunately we again had a few post race scrutineering failures at the Nationals, plus one competitor who was excluded after routine checks during the heats at the men's Nationals. As a result, these drivers were all excluded from the Nationals results. All have had their competition licences withdrawn until 1 July 2019.



NASA MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

Issue 13 – September 2018

The penalties are currently under appeal and the outcome of the appeals will be confirmed in due course – at that stage we intend to publish further details of the irregularities that led to the disqualifications.

The competitors affected were:

Dan Keddie (6F Class 1)
Michael Winkworth (C211E Class 1)
Tom Stevens (LUD55 Junior Class 1)
Aimee Holden (1F Ladies' Class 2)
Sophie Lewis (TA36 Ladies' Class 2)

Also at the Nationals, PJ Cronly (WW18) failed a mandatory breath tests, which means that he's been subject to the standard penalty for this, the withdrawal of his competition licence for a 12 month period.

There's been one other recent breath test failure, this time at the Fastest Man on Grass event and as a result Barry Miles (SC94) has also had his competition licence withdrawn for 12 months.

FIXTURE PLANNING FOR 2019

Those of you who are on our contact list for club fixture planning will be receiving an email shortly with the forms to complete for the 2019 fixture list. If you receive our email and think it's not for you, please forward it to the person in your club best able to deal with it. If you don't receive it and need it, please let us know!

We'll be working on a shorter timescale to gather fixture details this year – in the past we've stretched the deadline as far as late November, but this year we're asking for all clubs to submit provisional dates by 11 October. This is because the league chairmen's committee have asked for a fixture planning session to be held at the Walsall meeting on Saturday 13 October, which we thought was an excellent idea. What we'd really like to do is start this meeting by presenting a spreadsheet of everyone's proposed dates, grouped by region, and then working through it week by week to identify any clashes or other problems.

It might work or it might not, but we agree with the many members who have suggested that the current number of clashing meetings in the Autograss calendar is unsustainable, so we'll support any ideas that could help achieve a more balanced calendar. At the same time, we recognise that different clubs have different needs, so we can't try to impose solutions. Some need to present a full programme to keep their local members committed, while others are dependant on support from neighbouring leagues. Some have restrictions on the use of their venues, others need to maximise income to cover annual costs.

We know that some clubs will struggle to meet the timescale; they might have to work round other users of their venues, or have planning issues to resolve, but let's do our best!



NASA MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

Issue 13 – September 2018

At the beginning of this year we published an outline calendar showing dates of the major meetings for the next three years. Recently a lot of you have been looking for this, so we've attached it again to this newsletter. We'd hoped that at this stage it would be populated by the venues for all the 2019 series rounds. We've added venues for the UKAC and All Ireland series but there are still a couple of details to confirm before the BAS venues can be released. It's also time to start gathering advertisers for the fixture booklet – as usual the aim is for the advertising to cover all the printing costs so that we can continue to distribute the printed fixture list free of charge. We print between 10,000 and 12,000 copies of the fixture book each year. About half of them disappear over the course of the NEC show weekend (next year we might have to anticipate increased demand at the "Motorsport with Attitude" show in Peterborough as well) and the rest are distributed to clubs, both for their members and to use at local promotional events and for spectators at their meetings. Anyone interested in advertising, please get in touch.

THE AGM IS COMING ... AND IT MATTERS!

Another consequence of the approaching end of the season is that, before we know it, it will be time for the NASA AGM. This takes place on Sunday 25 November at our usual venue in Walsall. Although the only people with a vote at this meeting are the 20 nominated league representatives (plus the one "honorary member") all NASA members are invited to attend.

The main business of the meeting is the election, or re-election, of NASA directors and officials for the coming year. This year, two directors reach the end of their three year term and will be up for re-election, these being Margaret Allen and Vernon Mackenzie.

But the important point is that this year we've been running with only seven directors, this being the minimum number allowed by our Articles of Association. We've stated in the past that we consider the optimum number of directors to be ten – so this means there are three vacancies on the board that we'd like to see filled by new applicants. Now, we don't want anybody to be killed in the rush to put their names forward, but there are only four conditions to meet if you want to be nominated:

- You must have been a NASA licence holder at least since 1 April this year
- You must be proposed and seconded by two "full members" of NASA – that means two league representatives
- If you've previously been a director and either been dismissed or voted out, you can't stand again for three years

And most important:

- Your nomination must be received by the Company Secretary (Jeffrey Parish) at least "40 clear days" before the AGM. That means that this year's deadline is Monday 15 October – which conveniently is two days after the October league chairmen's meeting, so nobody will have an excuse for not getting their paperwork sorted.

The same nomination procedure and deadline applies to the election of the "senior NASA officials" for 2019, these being:



NASA MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

Issue 13 – September 2018

- NASA Association Chairman
- NASA Association Vice Chairman
- NASA Chief Marshal
- NASA Deputy Chief Marshal
- NASA Assistant Scrutineers (currently three positions)

It's also worth mentioning that the AGM is normally the only occasion when we can vote on changes to NASA's constitution (the Articles of Association and by-Laws). If anyone wants to propose changes, we suggest that they bring these to the October chairmen's meeting. If anyone wants a copy of these documents they're always available on request.

THE 2019 SHOWS

We're already receiving a steady stream of requests from drivers interested in displaying cars at the 2019 racing car shows – "shows" as the established Autosport International show at the NEC in January is being joined on our schedule by the new "Motorsport with Attitude" show at Peterborough Arena in February.

We're not yet accepting applications for either show as we're still awaiting further details from both show organisers before our attendance is officially confirmed. There'll be announcements on NASA's website and Facebook page as soon as we have the go-ahead. One thing that has been decided is that detailed arrangements for the new show at Peterborough will be delegated to the East Anglian League as that league stands to benefit most from the promotion in their area, but we still intend that any promotion will be branded as National Autograss.

EUROPEAN MOTOR INSURANCE DIRECTIVE

Those of you who were paying attention to our newsletters last year will recall that we drew your attention to the potentially disastrous consequences of proposed European wide changes to motor insurance requirements – otherwise known as the "Vnuk case" after a case decided in the European appeal courts.

The proposed European directive would make compulsory third party insurance applicable to all motorised vehicles - including those that are only used off-road and, crucially, those used in motorsport. This could potentially close down all motorsport in Europe as such insurance simply isn't available, and is never likely to be (imagine making an insurance claim against every driver who makes contact with you on the track!)

NASA, in common with all other UK motorsport governing bodies, made written representations to the EC about the proposals. Our main argument was that organised motorsport should be exempt because every event carries public liability insurance that makes individual cover unnecessary. But our arguments seem to have been ignored as the EC is pressing on with its new directive and eventually every national government in Europe will be expected to change its national law to comply.



NASA MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

Issue 13 – September 2018

There's a lot that's not clear to us at the moment. We don't understand yet how this would be affected by Brexit – cross-border insurance arrangements might mean that Brexit won't help us. We're also not sure how seriously other European countries are taking the threat, because apparently the vast majority of objections to the proposal came from the UK. We've heard a lot from motorsport bodies in the UK about this, but relatively little from Ireland, where the threat's just as real.

Without going into too much detail here, the message to our members is, if you get the opportunity, read up online on more of the background to this threat to our sport, and if possible write to your MP and MEP stressing the potential damage to motorsport as a sport and an industry from this ill thought out legislation.

We'd like to thank Chris Jones, from NASA's insurance broker Integro, for his help in keeping the NASA Board up to date on this subject – although what Chris tells us is just as scary as what you've no doubt read in the press!

NON-NASA MEETINGS

This is the time of year when we tend to get interest in racing Autograss cars at non-NASA events, either in the closing weeks of the season when there are fewer Autograss meetings or after the end of the official season. (By our definition the official season this year ends on 30 December, as there's an event listed in the fixture book for that date, but in practical terms we'll take it as 11 November).

Although none of the events that have featured in previous years seem to be going ahead, it's worth reminding everyone that any event to which Autograss cars are specifically invited must have NASA permission to run, and that permission must be confirmed **BEFORE** the event is advertised and entries are accepted. The procedure will be found in your members' handbook.

This only applies to events specifically aimed at Autograss cars – so if any individual driver decides to reclassify their grass car as a Hot Rod, or anything else, for the day to race it in another class, that's not a problem as far as NASA are concerned.

We're aware of some "private practice days" being run at non-NASA venues, which we consider to be outside our jurisdiction, but we'd like to make all members aware of the potential consequences if anything goes wrong while testing a race car at a venue that's not covered by an event permit or public liability insurance. Any injury or damage claims that may arise could potentially mean unlimited liability for the driver, organiser and landowner.

NEWSLETTERS ...

Any comments on this newsletter, or information or issues you'd like covered in our next issue, please get in touch – email jeffrey.parish@national-autograss.co.uk

NATIONAL AUTOGRASS OUTLINE CALENDAR 2019

March	Saturday	02/03/2019	
	Sunday	03/03/2019	
	Saturday	09/03/2019	
	Sunday	10/03/2019	
	Saturday	16/03/2019	
	Sunday	17/03/2019	
	Saturday	23/03/2019	
	Sunday	24/03/2019	
April	Saturday	30/03/2019	
	Sunday	31/03/2019	
	Saturday	06/04/2019	NATIONAL QUALIFYING
	Sunday	07/04/2019	
	Saturday	13/04/2019	NATIONAL QUALIFYING
	Sunday	14/04/2019	
	Friday	19/04/2019	
	Saturday	20/04/2019	EASTER
	Sunday	21/04/2019	
	Monday	22/04/2019	
May	Saturday	27/04/2019	NATIONAL QUALIFYING
	Sunday	28/04/2019	
	Saturday	04/05/2019	EARLY MAY BANK HOLIDAY
	Sunday	05/05/2019	
	Monday	06/05/2019	
	Saturday	11/05/2019	NATIONAL QUALIFYING
	Sunday	12/05/2019	
	Saturday	18/05/2019	BAS 1 TBC / UKAC 1 STURTON & STOW
	Sunday	19/05/2019	
	Saturday	25/05/2019	SPRING BANK HOLIDAY (UK)
June	Sunday	26/05/2019	
	Monday	27/05/2018	
	Saturday	01/06/2019	AIAS 1 CARLOW
	Sunday	02/06/2019	
	Saturday	08/06/2019	NATIONAL QUALIFYING
	Sunday	09/06/2019	
	Saturday	15/06/2019	NATIONAL QUALIFYING
	Sunday	16/06/2019	
	Saturday	22/06/2019	BAS 2 TBC / UKAC 2 HEREFORD
	Sunday	23/06/2019	
July	Saturday	29/06/2019	
	Sunday	30/06/2019	
	Saturday	06/07/2019	AIAS 2 CAUSEWAY
	Sunday	07/07/2019	
	Saturday	13/07/2019	BAS 3 TBC / UKAC 3 EAST MIDLANDS LEAGUE (NOTTINGHAM)
	Sunday	14/07/2019	
	Saturday	20/07/2019	
	Sunday	21/07/2019	
	Saturday	27/07/2019	
	Sunday	28/07/2019	
August	Saturday	03/08/2019	NATIONALS - EVESHAM
	Sunday	04/08/2019	
	Saturday	10/08/2019	
	Sunday	11/08/2019	
	Saturday	17/08/2019	BAS 4 TBC / UKAC 4 LEEWOOD
	Sunday	18/08/2019	
	Saturday	24/08/2019	AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY (UK)
	Sunday	25/08/2019	
	Monday	26/08/2019	
	Saturday	31/08/2019	LADIES' & JUNIORS' NATIONALS - SOUTHERN LEAGUE
September	Sunday	01/09/2019	
	Saturday	07/09/2019	AIAS 3 MALLOW
	Sunday	08/09/2019	
	Saturday	14/09/2019	BAS 5 TBC / UKAC 5 RADFORD
	Sunday	15/09/2019	
	Saturday	21/09/2019	
	Sunday	22/09/2019	
	Saturday	28/09/2019	BAS/UKAC RESERVE
	Sunday	29/09/2019	
	October	Saturday	05/10/2019
Sunday		06/10/2019	
Saturday		12/10/2019	
Sunday		13/10/2019	
Saturday		19/10/2019	
Sunday		20/10/2019	
Saturday		26/10/2019	
Sunday	27/10/2019		

NATIONAL AUTOGRASS OUTLINE CALENDAR 2020

March	Saturday	07/03/2020	
	Sunday	08/03/2020	
	Saturday	14/03/2020	
	Sunday	15/03/2020	
	Saturday	21/03/2020	
	Sunday	22/03/2020	
April	Saturday	28/03/2020	
	Sunday	29/03/2020	
	Saturday	04/04/2020	NATIONAL QUALIFYING
	Sunday	05/04/2020	
	Friday	10/04/2020	
	Saturday	11/04/2020	EASTER
	Sunday	12/04/2020	
	Monday	13/04/2020	
	Saturday	18/04/2020	NATIONAL QUALIFYING
	Sunday	19/04/2020	
May	Saturday	25/04/2020	NATIONAL QUALIFYING
	Sunday	26/04/2020	
	Saturday	02/05/2020	
	Sunday	03/05/2020	EARLY MAY BANK HOLIDAY
	Monday	05/04/2020	
	Saturday	09/05/2020	NATIONAL QUALIFYING
	Sunday	10/05/2020	
	Saturday	16/05/2020	BAS / UKAC 1
	Sunday	17/05/2020	
	Saturday	23/05/2020	
	Sunday	24/05/2020	SPRING BANK HOLIDAY
	Monday	25/05/2020	
June	Saturday	30/05/2020	
	Sunday	31/05/2020	
	Saturday	06/06/2020	NATIONAL QUALIFYING
	Sunday	07/06/2020	
	Saturday	13/06/2020	NATIONAL QUALIFYING
	Sunday	14/06/2020	
	Saturday	20/06/2020	BAS/UKAC 2
	Sunday	21/06/2020	
	Saturday	27/06/2020	
	Sunday	28/06/2020	
July	Saturday	04/07/2020	
	Sunday	05/07/2020	
	Saturday	11/07/2020	BAS/UKAC 3
	Sunday	12/07/2020	
	Saturday	18/07/2020	
	Sunday	19/07/2020	
August	Saturday	25/07/2020	
	Sunday	26/07/2020	
	Saturday	01/08/2020	NATIONALS - YORKSHIRE DALES
	Sunday	02/08/2020	
	Saturday	08/08/2020	
	Sunday	09/08/2020	
	Saturday	15/08/2020	BAS/UKAC 4
	Sunday	16/08/2020	
	Saturday	22/08/2020	
	Sunday	23/08/2020	
September	Saturday	29/08/2020	
	Sunday	30/08/2020	AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY
	Monday	31/08/2020	
	Saturday	05/09/2020	LADIES & JUNIORS NATIONALS
	Sunday	06/09/2020	
	Saturday	12/09/2020	
	Sunday	13/09/2020	
	Saturday	19/09/2020	BAS/UKAC 5
	Sunday	20/09/2020	
	Saturday	26/09/2020	
October	Sunday	27/09/2020	
	Saturday	03/10/2020	BAS/UKAC RESERVE
	Sunday	04/10/2020	
	Saturday	10/10/2020	
	Sunday	11/10/2020	
	Saturday	17/10/2020	
	Sunday	18/10/2020	
	Saturday	24/10/2020	
Sunday	25/10/2020		

NATIONAL AUTOGRASS OUTLINE CALENDAR 2021

March	Saturday	06/03/2021	
	Sunday	07/03/2021	
	Saturday	13/03/2021	
	Sunday	14/03/2021	
	Saturday	20/03/2021	
	Sunday	21/03/2021	
April	Saturday	27/03/2021	
	Sunday	28/03/2021	
	Friday	02/04/2021	EASTER
	Saturday	03/04/2021	
	Sunday	04/04/2021	
	Monday	05/04/2021	
	Saturday	10/04/2021	NATIONAL QUALIFYING
	Sunday	11/04/2021	
	Saturday	17/04/2021	NATIONAL QUALIFYING
	Sunday	18/04/2021	
Saturday	24/04/2021	NATIONAL QUALIFYING	
Sunday	25/04/2021		
May	Saturday	01/05/2021	EARLY MAY BANK HOLIDAY
	Sunday	02/05/2021	
	Monday	03/05/2021	
	Saturday	08/05/2021	NATIONAL QUALIFYING
	Sunday	09/05/2021	
	Saturday	15/05/2021	NATIONAL QUALIFYING
	Sunday	16/05/2021	
	Saturday	22/05/2021	BAS / UKAC 1
	Sunday	23/05/2021	
	Saturday	29/05/2021	SPRING BANK HOLIDAY
	Sunday	30/05/2021	
	Monday	31/05/2021	
June	Saturday	05/06/2021	
	Sunday	06/06/2021	
	Saturday	12/06/2021	NATIONAL QUALIFYING
	Sunday	13/06/2021	
	Saturday	19/06/2021	
	Sunday	20/06/2021	
	Saturday	26/06/2021	BAS/UKAC 2
	Sunday	27/06/2021	
	Saturday	03/07/2021	
	Sunday	04/07/2021	
July	Saturday	10/07/2021	
	Sunday	11/07/2021	
	Saturday	17/07/2021	BAS/UKAC 3
	Sunday	18/07/2021	
	Saturday	24/07/2021	
	Sunday	25/07/2021	
Saturday	31/07/2021		
Sunday	01/08/2021		
August	Saturday	07/08/2021	NATIONALS
	Sunday	08/08/2021	
	Saturday	14/08/2021	
	Sunday	15/08/2021	
	Saturday	21/08/2021	BAS/UKAC 4
	Sunday	22/08/2021	
	Saturday	28/08/2021	AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY
	Sunday	29/08/2021	
Monday	30/08/2021		
September	Saturday	04/09/2021	LADIES & JUNIORS
	Sunday	05/09/2021	
	Saturday	11/09/2021	
	Sunday	12/09/2021	
	Saturday	18/09/2021	BAS/UKAC 5
	Sunday	19/09/2021	
Saturday	25/09/2021		
Sunday	26/09/2021		
October	Saturday	02/10/2021	BAS/UKAC RESERVE
	Sunday	03/10/2021	
	Saturday	09/10/2021	
	Sunday	10/10/2021	
	Saturday	16/10/2021	
	Sunday	17/10/2021	
	Saturday	23/10/2021	
	Sunday	24/10/2021	
	Saturday	30/10/2021	
	Sunday	31/10/2021	