



NASA MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

Issue 3 – June 2016

Welcome to the third issue of NASA's members' newsletter. With the season now in full swing, National Qualifying virtually over and the big two-day meetings now coming thick and fast, your Board members have been out and about wherever possible at meetings large and small.

We had a difficult start to the year in many areas with an unprecedented number of events cancelled due to the weather – in fact the only NASA League that has not suffered any cancellations so far this year is Scotland! Congratulations to them, and we hope we haven't put a curse on them by publishing this fact!

We've seen a small, but still worrying, drop in the total number of licences issued at this stage of the season, and one item high on our agenda is to look at ways we can encourage and support some of the smaller clubs who may be struggling to stage viable events under current conditions. All feedback to the Board is welcome, as always.

Repeating what we've said in previous newsletters, we very much want two-way communication with our members. If you have any issues that you'd like to bring to the directors' attention, your first option is to follow the established procedure and ask your league representatives to submit agenda items for the Chairmen's, Scrutineers', Marshals' or Safety Officers' committees. You're also welcome though to contact any director personally (our contact details are all on the website and in the fixture books) or to email us all via diane.tomkinson@national-autograss.co.uk.

NASA EGM SATURDAY 18 JUNE

All official League Representatives (i.e. the League Chairmen's Committee) should have received notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting, which will be held just before the start of the regular committee meetings at Walsall on 18 June. The EGM is required (as it is every year) to approve NASA's 2015 accounts – it has to be done this way because the deadline for the accounts to be filed at Companies House falls before our AGM. It's important that we have a quorum for this meeting so please, any league rep who can't be there, sign and return the proxy voting form that you've been sent (scan and email it, or even send a photo from your phone if that's easier).

The chairmen's, marshals and safety officers' and scrutineers' committees take place on the same day, all starting at 11 am and once again we'd like to see as



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many league officials as possible at these meetings. Any club officials who'd like to attend with their league delegates will also be welcome.

There are a couple of important issues on the agenda to be voted on by the league chairmen, so it's especially important that everyone should be there to represent their members' views. The discussion over a possible change of date for the Ladies' and Juniors' Nationals is scheduled to be put to a vote, and also a possible change to the running order of the National finals.

Both these issues have been discussed at previous Chairmen's meetings and referred back to leagues and clubs for feedback. We hope all league reps have now obtained their members' views and are ready to vote as this meeting's the last chance to decide these matters.

MEDICAL AND CONTACT DETAILS

Racing members should have noticed that there's a section in your racing licence to be completed with any relevant medical details and also contact details of next of kin. We understand that a large number of racers haven't been completing these details and if you haven't done so we urge you to fill in this section of your licence – of course we hope it will never be needed, but in the event of an accident it can cause problems if this information is missing.

SCRUTINEERING UPDATE

Please keep an eye on the NASA website, where any official scrutineering updates will be published during the season.

One area that's been receiving close attention is the fitting of seats and safety harnesses. Club scrutineers should be aware that several potentially dangerous seat/harness installations have been picked up and rectified so far this year, and checks in this area are strongly recommended at all events; where necessary drivers should be asked to get out of cars at scrutineering so that effective checking is possible.

Another issue that's being regularly reported is a lack of appropriate towing eyes or loops on many race cars. Please make sure your cars are compliant with the rules on this – failure can not only delay the running of events to everyone's detriment, but the non-compliant drivers are risking unnecessary damage to their cars if recovery's required.



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RE-TAGGING OF CARS

Now that the rollcage tagging programme is well established, there have been increasing cases of cars "losing" their tags for one reason or another. A typical scenario we are hearing about is powder coaters removing tags from chassis without checking with the owners.

In such cases cars will need to be re-tested and tagged and there is clearly a cost involved, so car owners in this situation will be charged a £20 fee for the re-tagging. In most cases it will be necessary for the car to be delivered to the tagging official.

SAFETY OFFICER ADVICE

Please will all club and league safety officers note that your track inspection and race meeting report forms must be received by Pat Patrick WITHIN seven days of every event. These are vital documents that receive close scrutiny and it's essential that they're received on time.

CONCORD CLUB

We have now been advised that Concord Autograss Club in Essex will be unable to host any racing events in the 2016 season following difficulties with their established racing venue. We're sorry to hear that this long established club is in this position, but we wish the Concord members well in their racing at neighbouring clubs for the remainder of the year and wish them every success in finding a new venue.

DISCIPLINARY REPORT

We're sorry to say that we've had the first case of a driver receiving an automatic 12 month ban from racing, following the failure of a random breath test carried out in the holding lanes immediately before a race.

Chapter 15 of your Members' Handbook sets out a mandatory 12 month licence suspension for failing a breath test in these circumstances, with no right of appeal. The NASA Board therefore has no power of discretion over the penalty in this case. Therefore we must advise that Karl Mosley (SC82) is suspended from holding a NASA competition licence until 5 June 2017.



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DRUG TESTING

As an update to the last newsletter; drug testing equipment has now been purchased by NASA and we are in the process of arranging training courses for the selected officials who will initially be certified to use the equipment. Random testing is therefore expected to begin in the near future.

CANCELLED AND REARRANGED MEETINGS

Thank you to those clubs that have been forced to cancel meetings, and also to those who have scheduled replacement dates, for keeping the key NASA officials informed and helping us to provide the most up to date information on the NASA website.

One issue that's arisen is that, in a few cases, clubs have been late in realising that a new RT12 permit application form needs to be completed and forwarded to Pat Patrick in advance of any rearranged date – the permit for the cancelled meeting is not automatically transferred.

LADIES' RACING CLARIFICATION

We've heard recently of at least one case that indicates that there may still be some confusion surrounding the mixing of men's and ladies' class races.

Men's and ladies' licence holders may only "race against" each other in Open races.

However, it is permitted to run men's and ladies' class races together on the track if there are insufficient numbers to make up a ladies' class race. After discussion at last year's AGM it was agreed that this could be done if there were three or fewer competitors in any ladies' class (11,12, 13 or 14). However, the men's and ladies' classes would be sharing the track but racing separately.

For example if there is only one Ladies' Class 13 competitor present, Class 13 could be run alongside men's Class 7, BUT – the ladies' licence holder must be signed on in her ladies' class and must be scored separately from the men's class on track. We hope this example will help clubs to avoid any further confusion.



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SAD NEWS

Since our last newsletter, the Board's been sorry to hear of the passing of some much loved and respected members within our sport.

Christine Rogers was well known to probably the majority of our members; as well as being a mainstay of the South Wales League in many official capacities over the years, she also helped and officiated at many National and Open events around the country. She was always there to support her husband Norman in his long time role as South Wales League Chairman, and their sons Phil and Steven in their racing. We send our condolences to all her family and friends.

Heather Lyons, who will be remembered by racers and visitors to Northern Ireland as playing an important role in Down Autograss Club, sadly passed away recently. Our sympathies to her husband Jim, the former Down Autograss chairman, and their family and friends.

Down Autograss has endured a tragic period with the death in road accidents of two successful young racing members; Scott McNeill was a former Junior Champion who'd subsequently raced in Class 1 and F600 and made many friends throughout Ireland and beyond.

Micky McManus was a graduate of the Kildare Hot Rod racing clubs who'd competed successfully with Down Autograss in Class 7 and Class 8 and will be sadly missed by family and racing friends on both sides of the Irish border.

Another tragic loss for Down Autograss is Ryan Mills, who passed away after a battle with cancer at only 25 years old. A former Class 2 racer, Ryan had entered Class 4 this year and was competing alongside his father and brother as recently as May.

We have also heard of the tragic death of former North Wales member Trystan Roberts, who was a leading Junior Specials competitor before turning to rallying.

NASA send our sympathies to the families and friends of all these much missed members.