



Cross Border Championship - Mid Season Report to the WMC Committee and Competitors June 2015

The 2015 Season is the first season where the XBC has been run by Ronnie MacGregor and Dave Exton, with Jim O'Neil providing WMC committee and MSA liaison, and with Margaret Coleman providing administrative support.

The Championship has been revamped and rebranded, with almost every aspect having been examined and considered in response to competitor consultation and discussion.

Against a reported steady decline in Motorsport, the new organisers have managed to muster an entry level, which if all participate, will represent a 20% increase over participation in 2014.

Most competition classes have seen increased entry numbers, and this is good for healthy competition.

A remarkable total of seven newcomers has been seen this season, an increase of 350% on 2014, and this will help to ensure the future health of the Championship. These newcomers are valued, and are being supported by more experienced competitors.

Ladies participation has increased by 400% over previous years, which can only be good in what is often perceived as a male dominated sport.

In its first year, the XBC Championship has brought ten new and active members to WMC, who would not otherwise be members.

At the season mid point, we can see that every event to date has been well supported, and the newly published entry list for the forthcoming Forrestburn event would suggest an increase of over 100% on last year's WMC members' participation at this event.

Competitor feedback to date has been positive without exception, with the most common comment being to the effect that the event list is superb. Since this list was constructed on the basis of results from our competitor survey, we feel that this demonstrates the value of close communication between competitor and organiser.

WMC Committee feedback leads the Speed Sub-Committee to feel that whilst it has the general support of the main WMC committee, this is not unanimous nor to be assumed, and the Speed Sub-Committee continues to work to resolve each problem or criticism that might arise.

In general, the mood of the competitors seems good, and it would appear that the Championship has been well received, and is in a stronger position now to be taken forward into future years.

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Behind the Scenes

The volume of work that has already been done behind the scenes is considerable, and this work continues, invisible to most, to ensure the continued smooth running of the Championship.

In addition to providing support for our competitors as we move through the season, current tasks include ensuring that all XBC competitors have active WMC membership. The XBC entry list was passed to Jim O'Neil in April for this purpose, and since access to the WMC membership list is required, it is anticipated that another WMC committee member may have the ultimate responsibility to report to us in this regard. We await the results of this check.

We are aware that some competitors have sent in their WMC membership applications, but have not received any response or confirmation. Competitors are reminded that membership of WMC is a requirement of participation in the XBC, and that it is their responsibility to resolve any possible membership issue directly with WMC.

Pressure of time is such that it is unlikely that the fledgling XBC website will see significant development this season. In its current very basic state it fulfils its primary purpose as a repository for document downloads required, providing support for competitors. In response to a request from the WMC main committee, a link to the WMC web site has been provided from the WMC logo at the bottom of the XBC home page. The provision of a reciprocal link to the XBC site from the main WMC site is currently awaited.

Much work has already been done in preparation for the October Kames Sprint. There are still a few loose ends to tie up, and it is anticipated that the event Regs. will be submitted for MSA approval in July.

The Future

At the end of the season, it is intended to once more gather and analyse competitor opinion on the 2015 season, and thoughts for the future.

One subject already touched on, and which would be a significant departure from historic methodology, is to consider whether or not the overall Championship should be handicapped in some way, such that a car in any class has the possibility of an outright win. As the season progresses, competitors may wish to give this some thought in preparation.

The XBC organisers will also take stock of their experience of this first year, and consider other changes that might be required for the benefit and security of the Championship. Competitors can be assured that their views will be taken into account, and that the organisers are not afraid to bring about considered change, be it trivial or radical, in order to best serve the needs of the Championship and its Competitors.

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