



# NSW Rally Panel

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2014  
Teleconference

## MINUTES

### 1. Attendees

**Present:**

Andrew Crowley (Secretary) (AC), Col Fletcher (CF), Chris Giddins (CG), Darren Mowett (DM), Lui MacLennan (LM), Matthew Martin (MM).

**CAMS Personnel:**

Nil

**Observers/Visitors:**

Nil

### 2. Opening / Welcome

The Panel members present collectively declared the meeting open at 7:36pm.

### 3. Selection of Chairman for this meeting

Motion: That Matthew Martin perform the role of Chairman for this meeting.

Moved: CF            Seconded: AC            All in favour. CARRIED.

### 4. Apologies

Katie Fletcher (KF) – work commitment.

### 5. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Motion: That the NSW Rally Panel accept the Minutes of the Panel Meeting held by teleconference on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2014 as being a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved: CG            Seconded: MM            All in favour. CARRIED.

### 6. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Nil

### 7. Decisions made by email vote between meetings

- BMSRC Tumut Rally to be made the final round of the DRS/ERS, replacing the cancelled Tour of Knodingbul event. Email sent to 65 registered competitors on 19/8/2014 by KF. There were 20 responses including the front running crews in both series, with a majority vote to add Tumut to the calendar. Panel members then held a vote by email with 8 For, 1 Against. CARRIED.
- WAC Awaba State Rallysprint to be moved from 30/8/2014 to 11/10/2014 after original date cancelled due to rain. Email vote with 6 For, 3 Abstained. CARRIED.



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## 8. Correspondence

- Email from Mike Cherry (15/8/2014) regarding media release following Myall Stages Rally. Concerned that outright winners overshadowed registered competitors.
- Email from DM (18/8/2014) regarding safety recall of Leatt MRX Head & Neck Restraint System by Simpson Performance Products.
- Email from Laurie Cunningham (25/8/2014) – resignation from NSW Rally Panel as Chairman and Panel member, effective immediately.
- Applications from various CAMS car clubs to conduct 2015 events, refer draft calendar:
  - Light Car Club of Canberra (27/8/2014)
  - Westlakes Automobile Club (30/8/2014)
  - Central North Coast Sporting Car Club (1/9/2014)
  - Nissan Datsun Drivers Club (2/9/2014)
  - New England Sporting Car Club (3/9/2014)
  - Sapphire Coast Sporting Car Club (16/9/2014)
- Series registrations – 1 for DRS.
- Clock order for Sportsclassic Rally on 27/9/2014 from Gwyn Mulholland of Bathurst Light Car Club (17/9/2014)
- Bulletin from BLCC amending start time of Sportsclassic Rally from 1:00pm to 1:30pm.

## 9. Finance

- Financial reports distributed by MM prior to meeting (11/9/2014 and 15/9/2014) for the information of Panel members.
- \$540 expense for Hillclimb Panel wrongly allocated to Rally Panel has now been removed from our budget.
- Previous reporting issues from CAMS soon to be resolved with the appointment of new Chief Financial Officer in Melbourne office. CF to confirm with Ben Pretty.
- Sponsorship invoices re-issued on 17/9/2014 by CAMS and Ben Pretty has assured MM that CAMS will follow up outstanding payments from series sponsors.
- MM estimates a \$5000 profit for the year of 2014, better than the original forecast due to savings in outsourced Public Relations/Media expenses.

## 10. Chairman's Position

- Despite the resignation of two Panel Chairmen in recent months, the NSW Rally Panel continues to function well and members are carrying on with all current projects underway. MM has been elected to chair this September meeting in the interim. At the State Executive meeting of 18/10/2014, a new Chairman will be selected from the candidates who have registered interest in the position for 2015. The person chosen at that meeting will become the new Rally Panel Chairman, effective immediately, and serve the remainder of 2014 and all of 2015.



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## 11. Rally NSW Working Group Update

- Border Ranges Rally in August had great Facebook coverage as discussed at previous meeting. The efforts of the Rally NSW team impressed those from north of the border.
- Bathurst DRS 27<sup>th</sup> September. Concerns about phone reception in Sunny Corner for uploading interviews and results as at previous events, as well as limited Rally NSW manpower on the weekend. Kris Muller has been asked to go to the event and record some videos to upload to Facebook. CF will be at the event in the Service Park but is servicing for two crews with limited time available to assist. MM suggested that obtaining a radio and listening to the Rally HQ channel as has been done at previous events is a great way to get up to the minute news and results.
- Karen Martin is now a member of the Rally NSW working group assisting KF and MM with media releases and updating content on the website.
- Latest articles on the website include Mickey Rourke describing his injuries and recovery following the crash and fire at Myall Stages Rally. All agreed it was an excellent article with many positive reviews on social media. 'Barry the Gnome' has also written a highly informative article about the recent WRC in Coffs Harbour.
- Plans afoot for Karen Martin to interview the top five DRS crews for an article for the website leading up to the final round of the series.
- Tumut Rally 18<sup>th</sup> October. Media presence won't be as great as at previous rounds. KF, CG and AC competing, MM and CF unable to attend. Charlie Drake will be there doing interviews but we still require a helper to work with him on the day. Similarly to Bathurst there are concerns over mobile phone coverage for live updates. May have to text results and news to someone at home with access to the internet to then update Facebook. Videos won't be able to be uploaded until back in town after the event.

## 12. Past Events

- Coffs Harbour WRC in early September. Not a series round but popular with spectators, many Panel members in attendance.

## 13. Coming Events

- BLCC Sportsclassic Rally – Sunny Corner - 27<sup>th</sup> September. At the close of entries there were 27 cars entered for the event. 167km competitive, start and finish at Mt Panorama car club rooms. Service Park in Sunny Corner and remote refuel towards Dark Corner. CF expressed concern that the format of the event is very different from previous DRS rounds and this may have cost some entries due to longer distance and inability for crews to self service. CG commented that many competitors had commented at previous rounds that they were looking for longer events and this event provided something different and good value for money. Proximity to the Coffs Harbour WRC and people choosing to spectate there rather than compete in events around this time of year could also have affected entries. CF, KF and AC will be attending event.
- WAC Volksmuller State Rallysprint – Awaba – 11<sup>th</sup> October. CG to forward supp regs to KF for Rally NSW website.



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- BMSC Tumut Valley Rally/Bondo Forest Rally – 18<sup>th</sup> October
- NSSCC Twilight Tarmac Rallysprint Round 1 – WSID – 23<sup>rd</sup> October
- NDDC Sportsclassic Rallysprint – Nerong State Forest – 26<sup>th</sup> October. Multi-club non series event, WAC providing many of the event officials.

## 14. Update on new clocks and hiring fees

- MM advised that car clubs have been dealing directly with Richard Houghton to borrow the rally clocks for their events, free of charge. The clocks have been a great success at events but the Panel has no control over the number being hired. New clock order form designed and implemented by MM, event organisers to now contact the Rally Panel directly for obtaining clocks. MM to contact Richard Houghton to find out how many clocks have been hired by clubs to date in 2014 to better gauge success of the scheme.
- Event organisers to be loaned one service park clock set and stage clock sets up to a limit of 4 for DRS/ERS, 6 for NSWRC and 1 for RSS events for no charge, with additional clock sets to incur a hire fee. The Panel agreed that subsidised clock hire is a great way for CAMS to give something back to the sport and ensure that all events take up the use of the new clocks to make series events consistent. It is hoped that in future, series sponsorship will enable clock hire to remain free for many years to come.
- Richard Houghton developing finish line clocks with laser beam timing trigger to be tested at the first of the NSSCC Twilight Tarmac Rallysprint events in October.

Motion: To continue with a limited subsidy of clock hire for events comprising the NRC, DRS, ERS and RSS series for 2015.

Moved: CG                      Seconded: CF                      All in favour. CARRIED.

## 15. 2015 Competition Conditions and Organising Conditions

- Draft copies of these documents were distributed by MM on 9/9/2014 and discussed at length by email leading up to this meeting. NSW Excel series to refer to the National Excel vehicle regulations in the CAMS Manual to ensure consistency with other states. From the recent survey of competitors organised by KF, it is evident that there are many competitors with 4WD Turbo vehicles looking for cheaper multi-club rather than State Championship level events to compete in. Current DRS rules in 2014 exclude these vehicles from the pointscore.

Motion: To proceed with the 2015 Competition Conditions and Organising Conditions as presented by MM, with amendments to include 4WD Turbo vehicles in DRS events with a similar cut-off by driver seeding level.

Moved: MM                      Seconded: CF                      All in favour. CARRIED.

Motion: To change series registration fee structure to be \$20 for the first series chosen and \$10 for each additional series. Registration for a series to allow competitors to score points as a driver or co-driver in that series for the one registration fee, no change from 2014.

Moved: CF                      Seconded: AC                      All in favour. CARRIED.



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## 16. 2015 Draft Calendar

- Draft dates from various CAMS car clubs are still coming in, MM developing a draft calendar of these dates and working closely with Michael Bannon of AMSAG to minimise date clashes wherever possible.
- Draft ARC dates only just received this week from Jon Thomson.
- With dates still being applied for and having only just received the ARC dates, the Panel will wait for another month before releasing the 2015 Draft Calendar.

## 17. 2014 Presentation Night

- Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015 looking like a possible date, tickets estimated to cost \$60 - \$65 per head with no drinks package as this significantly increases costs.
- The 2013 Presentation Night held in February 2014 cost approximately \$4000 more than ticket sale revenue, but all agreed that it was a great night to create enthusiasm for the 2014 championship season and launch Rally NSW. Higher participation rates in all levels of the sport this year should ensure greater interest in the next presentation night.

## 18. Rally Australia – involvement for Rally NSW for 2015?

- MM to approach Alan Vaughan about the possibility of having the Rally NSW tent and a display at next year's event to better promote NSW rallying to the large numbers of spectators at the WRC.

## 19. Key Officials licensing and succession planning

- MM described the difficulties in getting car clubs to commit to 2015 calendar events due to major officials retiring and lack of available CAMS accredited officials in Event Command roles running rallies in NSW. AC stressed how important it is for up and coming officials to be mentored at events in the roles of Assistant Clerk of Course, Assistant Secretary, etc, whilst being assessed for Bronze level licence upgrades at the same time. Panel to encourage more of this to occur in 2015 for car clubs, as there are numerous very experienced officials currently working at events still under a Trainee licence each time, rather than progressing to General and Bronze levels. AC reminded all that licence maintenance requirements have been relaxed – once a Bronze always a Bronze.
- CG expressed frustration at a delay in obtaining a permit for a recent rally sprint for Westlakes Auto Club as the CAMS Melbourne Office were requesting a Bronze Timekeeper on the permit application. CF and AC were both sure that this level of licence not required for rally events but AC to obtain CAMS Officials Licence Matrix via State Officiating Panel and circulate to the Rally Panel to clear up confusion. The matrix is meant to be a guide to the major officials required to run events but the Panel has concerns that new staff in the Melbourne office may be interpreting it as law, creating barriers to clubs that currently run successful rallies from being able to continue.



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## 20. Rally Registration Update

- CF addressed the group with the latest news on Rally Rego. The scheme is still in the testing phase with a handful of cars already registered and many enquiries from interested competitors.
- The plan was to have a maximum of six certifiers for the scheme throughout NSW to better control the scheme, but four have already been appointed by CAMS in the Sydney region alone. CF expressed frustration and stressed the importance of all applications being approved by the Rally Panel to ensure that competitors in regional areas are better served by having a good spread of inspectors around NSW.
- The Technical Manual (current version – November 2013) is still being updated with changes to the Brake Test section and removal of the FIA compliance references in the rollcage section. A widespread advertising campaign and proper launch of the system should not occur until the Technical Manual issues are resolved.
- AMSAG are now an approved body with the RMS and working closely with CAMS to update the Technical Manual as well as finalising their own list of inspectors.
- CF stressed how important it is to implement the scheme in a measured and structured way to ensure it is done right the first time. The RMS plans to stop the process of issuing Rally UVPs in the near future, as well as cracking down on non-engineered competition cars that are currently on full road registration. Existing rally cars on the current (older) CAMS Rally Registration scheme are still allowed to renew at this stage, but CF predicts in coming months that owners of these vehicles will be required to join the new Rally Vehicle Scheme when their registration is up for renewal.

## 21. General Business

- CG reminded the Panel that whilst email surveys of competitors are a great way to gather information, not everyone looks at their email daily and may take a while to respond. CF suggested where possible, and unless urgent, future surveys to have a closing date of 14 days from the initial survey date to accommodate all registered competitors.
- Sapphire Coast Sporting Car Club now affiliated with CAMS.
- Kam Baker, Garry Yeomans and Richard Opie suggested as suitable Event Checkers for the NRC round planned for Glen Innes. DM to contact regarding selection for next year's event.

## 22. Close and Next Meeting

There being no further business, the acting Chairman closed the meeting at 9:45pm.

Next Meeting: Blacktown RSL Club on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 10:00am.

## 23. Distribution to

State Executive, ARCom, Ben Pretty, NSW Stewards Panel, NSW Scrutiny Panel, NSW Officials Panel.



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## 24. Action Points

Item	Responsibilities	Timeline
Email Ben Pretty on status of new CFO in CAMS Melbourne office.	CF	ASAP
Follow up payment of outstanding invoices for series sponsors.	CAMS, Ben Pretty	Ongoing
Selection of new Rally Panel Chairman for remainder of 2014 and all of 2015.	State Exec	18/10/2014
Supp Regs for upcoming State Rallysprint at Awaba forwarded to KF for website.	CG	ASAP
Contact Richard Houghton for clock hire invoices for events in 2014 up to present date.	MM	ASAP
Approval of 2015 Competition Conditions and Organiser Conditions.	State Exec	18/10/2014
2015 CAMS Rally Calendar including liaise with AMSAG Calendar.	MM	Nov meeting
2014 Presentation Night discussion.	Panel	Nov meeting
Liaise with Rally Australia organisers regarding Rally NSW tent and display in Service Park and/or spectator areas in 2015.	MM	Ongoing
Distribute CAMS Officials Licence Matrix to Panel.	AC	ASAP
Update Technical Manual with RMS for Rally Vehicle Scheme.	CF	Ongoing
Finalise list of Scrutineers/Inspectors in NSW for Rally Vehicle Scheme.	CF	Ongoing
Contact local event checker/s for Glen Innes event next year.	DM	Nov meeting



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## 25. List of Attendees

Panel Member	Meetings	Reason
Andrew Crowley	5/5	
Colin Fletcher	3/5	3,3
Chris Giddins	4/5	3
Darren Mowett	5/5	
Jon Thomson	4/5	9
Katie Fletcher	4/5	3
Lui MacLennan	4/5	3
Michael Harding	2/5	3,3,9
Matthew Martin	5/5	

### Legend

1. Absent due to officiating
2. Absent due to club commitment
3. Absent due to work commitment
4. Absent due to urgent commitment
5. Absent due to competition
6. Absent due to personal leave
7. Absent due to National meeting
8. Absent due to illness
9. Absent no apology