



NSW Rally Panel

April 20 2013
Blacktown RSL

MINUTES

1. Attendees

Present

Colin Fletcher (chair) (CF), Jon Thomson (JT), Tom Anderson (TA), Mike Cherry (MC), Matthew Martin (MM), Darren Mowett (DM), Michael Harding (MH).

CAMS Personnel

Nil

Observers/Visitors:

Nil

2. Opening / Welcome

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 11:10 am and welcomed the new members of the panel.

The resignation of Julie Lucas was received with regret on April 15. The panel wishes to thank Julie for the tremendous contribution she has made. A replacement Secretary for the panel will now be sought.

3. Apologies

Adrian Dudok (AD), Ray Baker (RB), Laurie Cunningham (LC), Lui MacLennan (LM), Chris Giddins (CG).

4. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the Panel Meeting held by Teleconference on Tuesday March 12, 2013 have been confirmed and received as a true and accurate record of meeting by the Panel.

Moved: JT

Seconded: TA

5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

- Re: Targeted Scrutiny. Mr Healy has provided the panel with documentation. The panel needs time to review and format a workable process.
- CF has called and spoken to Mr Reynolds about his concern with the 2013 pointscore system. Mr Reynolds appreciates that the current system is not what was intended to be implemented by the 2012 panel and that the 2013 panel are working in consultation with competitors and organisers to develop a much superior and fairer system for 2014.
- CF has liaised with the NSW CAMS office to confirm the panel's responsibilities for allocation of a checker to the Condo Off Road Rally. The office has confirmed that the only obligation that the panel has to this event is to include it on the NSW Rally calendar each year.

6. Panel Priorities and Objectives for 2013

A draft document was tabled and discussed. Panel members have been invited to contribute to the content of this document before it can be finalised.

7. Proposed Structure of Competition for 2014

Timeframe

It was agreed that it is necessary to get the proposed structure for the 2014 competition and pointscore formatted as a matter of priority. A timeline of the end of July 2014 was proposed as this will allow an opportunity for organisers and competitors to be able to contribute to the plans during the August Rally Panel meeting leaving enough time for the ratification by the Executive and then release to the rally community well before the end of 2013.

Excel Series

Rounds of the 2013 Excel Rally Series are now only attracting one or two entries. It was agreed that the Excel Series appears to be no longer viable in its current form.

MM proposed that we put out an expression of interest to Excel competitors to commit to the 2014 Series before the panel moves to delete the series from the 2014 structure. MM agreed to draft a communiqué to Excel competitors calling for expressions of interest. MM also proposed some ideas for overhauling the concept and perhaps blending the Excel Rally Series into a "Hot Hatch/Pocket Rocket" Rally Series to include similar front drive four cylinder hatches.

It was suggested that perhaps this blended category could form the basis for a new or replacement series for what is currently the Clubman Rally Series.

Clubman Rally Series

The panel recognises that the NSW Clubman Rally Series is failing to attract competitors. The very few registered Clubman competitors now means that in most cases, a Clubman Series rally is no longer financially viable to be run on its own. Most Clubman events form part of NSWRC rounds.

It was discussed that the Clubman Series might be revitalised by re-launching it with a new name and a different format of events that are more in keeping with the sprint rallies often run as multi-club events. Importantly, the re-named Clubman series would not have rounds conducted in conjunction with NSWRC events.

Furthermore, in an effort to attract the numerous 2WD competitors who regularly compete in Rallysprints and/or AASA sanctioned events, the new series may propose to disallow registered competitors to attract series points when competing in 4WD vehicles.

The format considered revolves around simple, compact events which require less overnight accommodation and service crew requirements and perhaps include the aforementioned 1600cc front wheel drive class or replacement for the Excel series.

There was universal support to propose a new format for the 2014 Clubman Series and a new name and present this to the August Rally Panel meeting.

Introductory Rally's

It was proposed that the sport would benefit if more events included an introductory event. The panel acknowledged that NSSCC will include an Introductory Event as part of the 2013 Rally of the Bay and will undertake to encourage all organisers to offer an introductory category in 2014 events.

Rationalisation of Classes

Currently, there seems to be nearly as many classes and awards for those classes, as competitors. The panel discussed the option of rationalising classes and the number of trophies / awards that organisers are obligated to provide.

With regard to the NSWRC, it was discussed that there may be wide support for the recognition of outright positions (1st, 2nd and 3rd) as well as 1st, 2nd and 3rd for the 4WD Cup and 2WD Cup. The panel intends to put this to the forum or organisers and competitors in August for their comment.

The renamed Clubman series and the Excel / Hot Hatch series may only have awards mandated for 1st, 2nd and 3rd outright.

These would become the only awards mandated by the 2014 Organising Conditions, however, individual organisers would retain the right to add to these awards as they see fit.

Proposed change to the NSWRC Organising Conditions

It was discussed that the current rule used for all NSWRC events where a 5 second time penalty for each minute of late time used, be removed from the 2014 Organising Conditions.

The panel can see no benefit to either organisers or competitors for continuing with this rule, but can see the potential for negative issues as it could be deemed to encourage competitors to exceed speed limits on liaisons.

Pointscore

A great deal of discussion went into coming up with a more equitable point score that offers some parity for both 2WD and 4WD with a chance for the 2WD competitor to win the title, but ensuring that the fastest driver would still earn the most points at any given rally.

The detail of the pointscore discussed gave points 10 to 1 for the first in each category (4WD and 2WD) as well as points 10 to 1 for the first 10 outright positions. Working through the different permutations, it appears that this will provide the most equitable result while being the simplest to understand. However, it was agreed that further assessments be made based on real results. MM offered to do some pointscore modelling using the 2012 State Championship results and report back to the panel.

Registering for a Series or Championship

The current conditions allow for competitors to register up until the completion of Documentation at the first round of the series. Although this works as a “user friendly” initiative, late registrations can cause issues for organisers / scorers at the first round. Such issues were experienced at the National Capital Rally in March this year.

It was proposed that the registration requirements be amended for 2014 to accept registrations no later than 7 days before the first round for which the competitor wishes to be awarded series /championship points.

8. Change to Start Control procedure for 2014

The panel discussed the safety issues surrounding our current Start Control procedure.

- In the first instance, we require the Co-Driver to exit the vehicle and walk into the Control area. This process can involve twisted ankles or other injuries on unstable ground and the risk of impact with moving vehicles. Getting back into the car in a tight timeframe may mean that belts are not properly adjusted which could pose a danger in the event of an accident on the stage. The use of HANS devices is strongly encouraged, however, as more time is required to get back into a car, Co-Drivers are less likely to adopt this device while they are required to get out and back into the car at all stage starts.
- The current process requires an official to stand beside the competing car on the start line of a stage and count the car down to their start time. This practice presents impact risks to the official from either the competing vehicle or stones thrown by that vehicle.

The panel agreed to source large display clocks for use at start controls which can be mounted in plain view of competitors and officials at the start line so that competitors can start themselves into the stage and officials can monitor proper compliance with the time from a safe distance. The panel will either propose to amend the current control procedure to allow Co-Drivers to stay in their cars, or provide a second display clock at the Time Control.

MM is exploring the possibility of an app for smart phones and DM will approach Ben Semple about display clocks. Additionally, CF will follow up Dave Aitchison about the supply of large, robust display clocks.

9. Confirmation of decisions made by email vote between meetings

- The panel voted to accept the new members to the panel, which was later ratified by the State Executive.
- There was a “call” via email for comments regarding an increase in the hire charge for the current clocks. A final decision was referred to this panel meeting as it was considered that there were more elements to be considered before any change was adopted.

10. Correspondence

CNCSCC wrote to the panel requesting a change of date for their 2013 Cooperbrook Rally. Originally gazetted for Saturday, September 7, which is the week before the WRC at Coffs Harbour, the club has requested a date change to Saturday, September 28.

The panel has agreed to this change.

11. Past Events

MC gave a report about the Tour of Knodingbul Rally held on April 13. It attracted only 15 entries; had 15 starters and 15 finishers, but was considered a huge success by all competitors and the organisers. CNCSCC intend to conduct this event again in 2014.

12. Upcoming Events

None are scheduled before the next panel meeting.

13. Reports

ARCom

AD was absent, so none provided.

State Executive

JT gave an overview of the deliberations of the State Executive meeting held on April 13.

Rally Registration Scheme

CF is working closely with Mr Ben Pretty on the Rally Registration Scheme and reported the latest position to the panel.

14. General Business

MOU with National Parks

MC raised the point of needing to improve relationships with statutory bodies such as forestry, RMS, etc. It was also discussed that perhaps a memorandum of understanding with National Parks would assist organisers.

Communication with Competitors

In line with our Priority for Communication, the rally panel should be regularly publishing a newsletter which is published on www.nswrally.com and emailed to competitors. The first newsletter should contain some photos and info about the members of the rally panel. Subsequent newsletters should contain information about what the panel is discussing and

deciding, its aims and strategies as well as changes from ARCOM and updates on the rally rego scheme.

It was proposed that the minutes of Rally Panel meetings should also be available on the website.

In order to enhance entry numbers, MC proposed that supplementary regulations for all NSW events be available on www.nswrally.com and that all competitors be advised via email once they are posted. Those competitors that wish to receive hard copies of regulations could nominate this and regulations for all events (that they have interest in) could be posted from the NSW office.

Discussion required with the NSW office to explore the feasibility of such a process. CF to action.

Competitor Database

The need for a comprehensive competitor database was discussed. CF to explore this further with the NSW office.

Clock Hire Fees

It was discussed that although the current clock hire fees are too low, the reliability of the current clocks does not necessarily warrant an increase in hire fees. Furthermore, following discussion about the purchase of new display clocks, it was considered that the new clocks may justify a higher fee structure.

It was moved TA, 2nd MC that the current clock hire fee structure be left unchanged for the time being. Carried, unanimously.

Simplifying Documentation Verification

MC spoke at length of how we can make the documentation verification process much simple and “user friendly” for competitors.

In the first instance, we need to encourage all organisers to accept entries via email and payments via direct debit/paypal.

In line with current e-discovery legislation, organisers can receive scanned copies of all documents with an entry. This would include CAMS and drivers licences, registration papers, car club memberships.

As a result, there would be no need for a competitor to attend documentation verification for anything except to pick up the documentation and competition numbers for the event.

The panel proposes to discuss this concept in detail at the August organisers forum.

Narooma Booma 2014

MM advised the panel that MCC would be keen to be the promoters of the Narooma Booma in 2014 if a qualified person would accept the role of Clerk of Course.

Wakefield Park Rallysprint

The panel was advised that a rallysprint to be held at Wakefield Park under a AASA permit does not require competing vehicles to have any ROP.

Challenges within our Sport

MM is drafting a submission to the panel of a number of issues that he feels are making the sport too difficult to enter or to continue in. The panel looks forward to receiving this submission as it believes that it will assist in the formulation of changes to improve the participation rate in the sport.

15. Action Points

Item	Responsibilities and	Timeline
Priorities and Objectives	All – to review and offer amendments, if required	May Panel Meeting
Targeted scrutiny	Panel members to review and discuss at the next meeting	June Panel Meeting
2014 Competition & Organising Conditions	All panel members to review and prepare proposals	June Panel Meeting
Excel Series	MM to seek EOI for 2014 series	May Panel Meeting
“New” Clubman series	All to consider an appropriate name and document the structure	June Panel Meeting
Assessment of proposed 2014 pointscore	MM to use proposed 2014 pointscore against 2012 NSWRC results to assess suitability	May Panel Meeting
2014 Series Registration form	CF to review in light of “7 days” clause	June Panel Meeting
Source new display clocks	CF and DM to explore options	June Panel Meeting
App for smart phones	MM to explore	May Panel Meeting
Revise Time Control procedure	MC to document for consideration by the panel	May Panel Meeting
Date change in NSW Calendar	RB - Cooperook Rally date change	ASAP
Competitor Database	CF to explore with NSW Office	June Panel Meeting
Newsletter	JT to advise on practicality and content	May Panel Meeting
Issues in our sport	MM to draft	May Panel Meeting

16. Close and Next Meeting

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 4:25pm.

Next Meeting: ... May 14 by Teleconference

17. Distribution to

State Executive, ARCom, NSW Stewards Panel, Ben Pretty

18. List of Attendees

Col Fletcher	3/3
Laurie Cunningham	2/3 ¹
Jon Thomson	3/3
Adrian Dudok	1/3 ^{4,1}
Tom Anderson	2/3 ⁶
Ray Baker	0/3 ³
Lui MacLennan	0/1 ⁶
Matthew Martin	1/1
Mike Cherry	1/1
Darren Mowett	1/1
Michael Harding	1/1
Chris Giddins	0/1 ³

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