



NSW Rally Panel

Wednesday 13th August 2014
Teleconference

MINUTES

1. Attendees

Present:

Laurie Cunningham (Chair) (LC), Andrew Crowley (AC), Chris Giddins (CG), Darren Mowett (DM), Jon Thomson (JT), Katie Fletcher (KF), Lui MacLennan (LM), Michael Harding (MH), Matthew Martin (MM).

CAMS Personnel:

Nil

Observers/Visitors:

Chris Cunningham (Acting Minute Secretary) (CC), Adrian Dudok (AD).

2. Opening / Welcome

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7:35pm.

Similarly to the July meeting, CC appointed as Acting Minute Secretary for this meeting.

3. Apologies

Nil

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Amendments to the draft meeting minutes for July were made after discussions by email and at the commencement of this meeting.

Motion: That the NSW Rally Panel accept the revised Minutes of the Panel Meeting held by teleconference on Wednesday 16th July 2014 as being a true and accurate record of the meeting.

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

5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

- Update on action points, responsibilities and attendance needed due to changes in Panel membership in recent times.
- AC nominated by MM for the position of Secretary, starting from the September meeting onwards. Nomination accepted by AC and elected by the Panel unopposed.



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6. Decisions made by email vote between meetings

- Rally NSW Working Group Proposal discussed at July meeting approved by the Panel to be distributed to State Executive for the August State Executive meeting.
- Tumut Rally on 18th October suggested as an alternative DRS round following cancellation of Tour of Knodingbul on 23rd August. Panel agreed that a replacement round would benefit the series, but concluded that further consultation of registered competitors is required before changing the calendar. Refer Item 11 below.

7. Correspondence

- Letter from CNCSCC - Tour of Knodingbul cancellation (MC – 5/8/2014)
- Email requesting Panel to consider a State Series for Introductory Rallies following on from the popularity of this section of the Myall event (MC – 6/8/2014)
- Media release by North Shore Sporting Car Club. They are holding a six round closed to club tarmac ralliesprint series at Western Sydney International Dragway between October 2014 and March 2015. Events to be held on Thursday nights and open to level 2S licence holders as an S1 Ralliesprint.

8. Reports

- Rally NSW Proposal for State Executive (KF - 16/7/2014).
- Rally NSW Report 1st June – 16th July 2014 (KF - 16/7/2014).
- Rally NSW Working Group Report (MM - 12/8/2014)
- Rally Panel Financial Report - July 2014 (MM - 12/8/2014)
- Draft 2015 Competition Conditions for discussion (LC - 13/8/2014)

9. Rally NSW Budget

- MM discussed the financial report for July and Year to Date, and gave an update on current sponsorship for Rally NSW. Further work required on financial reporting from CAMS, but the issues are being worked through and progress has been made.

10. Rally Car Fires

- Group discussion on the recent vehicle fires at Rally of the Bay, Scouts Rally SA and Myall Stages Rally. DM and CG provided extra information on the fire at Myall Stages having been competitors at the event. JT suggested that any improvements in fire safety for crews relating to apparel, changes in vehicle build specifications or additional safety equipment, would be better dealt with at a national level by ARCom and then implemented through the CAMS Manual of Motorsport for the benefit of all competitors Australia-wide. LC to contact ARCom to investigate this matter further.



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11. Tumut DRS – 18th October

- MM has been in discussions with BMSC and ACT Regional Rally Series Committee to gauge interest in them including DRS competitors in what was originally a stand-alone State Championship Round. Event is being organised by David Ballard of BMSC, with AD as the licenced Clerk of Course on the supp regs. AD confirmed that there were already plans in place for a short event for ACT Series competitors and long event for State competitors. It would be quite easy to accommodate the DRS and Excel competitors in the short event and split the field to have a separate trophy presentation. The panel agreed that KF would conduct a survey of all DRS registered competitors by email, then report back to the Panel ASAP on support for including Tumut as a DRS round. If favourable, MM to approach David Ballard to modify the supp regs to suit.

12. 2015 Competition Conditions

- Draft Competition Conditions for 2015 presented by LC. Not all panel members had time to read before the meeting so still very much at the discussion stage for now. Proposed changes included a separate 2WD and 4WD State Champion as well as additional series conducted alongside State rounds for 2WD Classics and 4WD Classics. MM expressed concern that major changes were being proposed to the NSWRC before it had been given time to see the results of the 2014 rules.
- All agreed that the DRS and Excel series for 2014 have been a success with improved competitor interest. Questions on vehicle eligibility for the DRS for 2015 remain, particularly whether to introduce 4WD Turbo cars or keep the same requirements for another year.
- Support for the State Championship has not been as successful in 2014, with numerous possible reasons discussed. Some suggested a weak calendar with the multiple day pace-noted rounds of NatCap and the Border Ranges Rally being a disincentive for some crews to commit to the Championship due to time away from home and work. AD suggested that fewer car clubs are now willing to conduct State rounds as a result of the move to stand-alone State and DRS rounds. The DRS rounds attract a viable number of competitors but a State round by itself will only have a small field in the current climate. The Panel agreed there may be instances in 2015 where events may have to be combined to ensure their success, but this will be discussed on a case by case basis as it is very important to recognise the success of DRS crews who have traditionally been overshadowed in combined events. Increased safety requirements (competitor apparel and frontal head restraints) as well as higher entry fees were discussed as other reasons that the State Championship is struggling relative to the DRS.
- Numerous ideas were debated as to how to improve participation in the State Championship. With many differing viewpoints in the Panel, it was resolved that a survey of competitors is required to determine what initiatives for 2014 have been successful, and how the Competition Conditions can be improved upon for 2015. KF to prepare a questionnaire using Survey Monkey to include topics discussed at the August meeting and other ideas suggested by Panel members via email. Survey to be distributed to all competitors currently registered for 2014, as well as those on the Rally



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NSW email list from past events and a link placed on the Rally NSW Facebook group. KF to report back to the Panel ASAP so that progress can be made on the 2015 Competition Conditions.

13. Past Events

- Brakes Direct Border Ranges Rally (State) – 2nd/3rd August
Report by MM who competed at this event.
- Myall Stages Rally (DRS/Excel) – 9th August
Reports by CG, DM, and KF who competed at this event.

14. Coming Events

- Rally NSW meeting - 18th August
- *CNCSCC Tour of Knodingbul - 23rd August (Cancelled)*
- WAC Awaba State Rallysprint - 30th August
- BLCC Sportsclassic Bathurst Rally - 27th September
- BMSC Tumut Rally - 18th October
- Hastings State Rallysprint - 29th November

15. Rally NSW - Update

- MM and KF spoke about the media effort at recent Border Ranges and Myall Stages events, and what support would be available for BLCC for the Bathurst DRS in September and for BMSC for the Tumut Rally in October.

16. Progress on 2015 Events

- LC reported that letters had been sent to all clubs. Panel agreed to wait until the applications closed at the end of August, then formulate a draft calendar at the next meeting in September.

17. Presentation Night

- To be discussed at next Panel meeting, or after Competition Conditions are completed.



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18. General Business

- MH explained to the Panel that there are competitors who would be very interested in a rally series based in NSW with all events pacenoted as a cheaper alternative to the ARC and as a way for local crews to improve their skills before trying higher level events interstate. Panel agreed for KF to add specific questions to the Competitor Survey to gauge interest in such a series. MH to provide email addresses to KF for NSW based ARC competitors who may not be registered for State or DRS this year but interested in 2015.
- AC suggested that the Panel work with the AMSAG Executive to avoid calendar clashes in 2015 to ensure strong fields at all of our events. LC and MM to follow up with Michael Bannon in coming weeks.

19. Close and Next Meeting

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:00pm.

Next Meeting: Teleconference – Wednesday 24th September at 7:30pm.

20. Distribution to

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

21. Action Points

Item	Responsibilities	Timeline
Letters to MC and TA re: resignation.	LC	ASAP
Rally NSW Working Group proposal to be forwarded to State Executive.	LC, JT	Prior to August State Exec
Email survey of DRS registered competitors to replace Tour of Knodingbul with Tumut Rally.	KF	ASAP
Liaise with BMSC to modify supp regs for the Tumut Rally to include DRS and Excel.	MM, AC	After DRS survey completed
Email survey of all NSW rally competitors to assist in formulating 2015 Conditions.	KF	Before September meeting
2015 Competition Conditions & Organiser Conditions discussion.	Panel	Email and Next meeting
2014 Presentation Night discussion.	Panel	Next meeting
2015 Rally Calendar.	Panel	Next meeting
Letter to ARCOM requesting advice on recent vehicle fires in rally events.	LC	September 2014



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22. List of Attendees

Panel Member	Meetings	Reason
Andrew Crowley	4/4	
Chris Giddins	3/4	3
Colin Fletcher	2/4	3,3
Darren Mowett	4/4	
Jon Thomson	4/4	
Katie Fletcher	3/4	3
Laurie Cunningham	4/4	
Lui MacLennan	3/4	3
Matthew Martin	4/4	
Michael Harding	2/4	3,3
Mike Cherry	2/2	
Tom Anderson	0/4	8,8,8,8

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