

British Motor Sports

History of Governance

The spirit of the early British motor clubs continues to drive motor sport organisation and regulation today, with over seven hundred clubs sharing agreed codes of practice under the umbrella of Motorsport UK.

Any successful sport requires sound processes, rules and codes of practice to govern its operation. For motor sport, the history of this governance can be traced back to the turn of the last century when the development of the motor car led to the early formation of a number of motor clubs.

Early history

Prominent amongst these was The Automobile Club of Great Britain & Ireland (later renamed The Royal Automobile Club) which in subsequent years emerged as the leading organisation representing motorists' interests and organising motor sport events. Until the early 1970s motor sport was organised by affiliated clubs overseen by the RAC's Competitions Committee – a body of volunteers who ensured that the sport was conducted safely and to a common set of rules.

These rules were agreed between participating clubs and competitors and ensured that competition was fair. The framework of a judicial system had also by then been put in place and over subsequent years this has evolved into the system in use today (see Part 2: The regulations).

The late 1970s saw a re-structuring of the governance of the sport. In 1975 the Competitions Committee was replaced by a new RAC Motor Sports Council and four years later the RAC Motor Sports Association was formed to look after the day-to-day running of the sport.

The role of The Motor Sports Council

Today the Council acts in the role of a Sporting Commission, making and amending the rules governing motor sport in Britain, while Motorsport UK communicates and administers those rules within the sport.

The 26 member Council normally sits three times a year and has overall responsibility for rule-making and judicial matters. It is supported by:

- fifteen specialist motor sport committees
- five specialist motor sport sub-committees.

In all these are made up of over 200 volunteers from various motor sport disciplines. Membership of these committees is drawn from a wide range of competitors, organisers and administrators across the full spectrum of motor sport. All committees operate in a democratic and transparent manner.

The Council fulfils its regulatory role by:

- Considering and approving the regulations that govern the sport
- Overseeing the judicial processes and administering the National Court to resolve disputes
- Ensuring the regulation of safety within the sport.

The role of Motorsport UK

The Council's work is supported and underwritten by Motorsport UK.

Motorsport UK provides an administrative and financial infrastructure for the sport. It ensures sufficient funds are available for the training of officials and marshals, for the development of technical skills and training of scrutineers, and to support the rule-making and judicial bodies in general in ensuring that motor sport continues to be conducted in a fair and safe manner.

Today over seven hundred motor clubs are registered with Motorsport UK and cater for the whole range of motor sport activity, from the grass root amateur to the professional elite. These activities include circuit car and kart racing, rallying, rallycross, trials, autotests and a number of other disciplines all operating under the Motorsport UK umbrella to ensure fairness, safety and consistency.

At an international level, Motorsport UK is affiliated to the world governing body for four or more wheeled motor sport – the Fédération Internationale de L'Automobile (FIA) – which

Lifetime Achievement Award

This is the highest honour bestowed by the Motorsport UK Board. It is presented annually to a member of the UK motor sport community in recognition of outstanding achievement over many years in the sport. The award is not limited to competitors or volunteers:

2005 Tom Delaney	2010 No award	2015 David Morley
2006 No award	2011 Denis Cardell	2016 Sir Stirling Moss
2007 Peter Cooper	Tony Fletcher	David Butler MBE
2008 Howard Lapsley	2012 Ron Smith	2017 Sir Frank Williams
Les Needham	2013 Andy Watson	Murray Walker OBE
2009 Howard Strawford	2014 Len Pullen	

Motor Sports Council

Prince Michael Award of Merit

The Prince Michael Award of Merit is a prestigious personal award made by the Motor Sports Council to a maximum of two recipients each year in recognition of meritorious service to British motor sport. Meritorious service encompasses distinguished service or significant contribution to British motor sports; outstanding achievement in British motor sports.

Nomination papers are available from the Motorsport UK's General Secretary at Motorsport UK House and should be returned completed, before the end of October each year.

Award of Merit Winners

1991 Jack Romain	1997 Alec Rivers Fletcher;	2007 Colin Rossborough
1992 Tony Bird	Donald Grieve	2008 Stuart Turner
1993 Peter Cooper;	1998 Michael Fenwick;	2009 David Butler MBE
Tony Fletcher	Keith Douglas	2011 Michael Southcombe
1994 John Felix; George Hall	2000 Robert Rae	2013 Colin Hilton;
1995 Brian Molyneux	2002 Tony Reynolds	Ronnie Trouton MBE
1996 Tom Dooley;	2004 Ken Walker	2015 Les Needham
Dick Newsum		

Centenary Award of Merit

1997 Professor Sid Watkins



recognises it as the National Sporting Authority (ASN) in Britain.

International events are regulated under the auspices of the FIA's International Sporting Code which is published in the FIA Yearbook of Automobile Sport.

Motorsport UK itself is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, ploughing any surplus revenue after tax back into the sport. Its main income is generated by issuing competition licenses for participants and permits for motor sport events and Championships. It is based in modern 1,400 square metre offices at Colnbrook close to London Heathrow Airport, where some 49 full time staff are employed in all aspects of running motor sport in this country.

In addition to licensing 30,000 competitors (many of whom will have attended approved driver training schools), Motorsport UK has over 4,000 licensed officials and over 10,000 registered marshals on its database. It currently issues permits for some 4,700 events each year, carries out safety inspections of around 140 motor sport venues and supports training of an army of volunteer officials.

Nearly 8,000 marshals and volunteer officials received training last year, funded by the British Motor Sports Training Trust, a registered charity for which Motorsport UK provides Trustees and

administration. It also provides administrative support to the Royal Automobile Club under its statutory role for Route Authorisation on the Public Highway under the 1969 Motor Vehicles (Competitions & Trials) Regulations, and for events off-road under the 1995 Regulations.

The British Championships

The British Championships are run annually for each of the motor sport disciplines. These are governed by Motorsport UK Regulations and involve a series of events which take place throughout the year, all under the control of Motorsport UK registered clubs. They culminate in the award of a British Championship Trophy for each discipline, and details of current winners are contained in this book.

The Championships promote and develop excellence in motor sport and enable the best British competitors to reach international competitive standards.

Commercial activities

Motorsport UK organises the British Grand Prix and the International Rally of Great Britain, (both currently being rounds of FIA World Championships) and a number of other classic events, the surpluses from which are used to develop the sport.

Officiel d'Honneur Appointments

The following have accepted the position of Officiel d'Honneur for 2019:

M F L Allison

G H Bailey

W Beattie

I D Bennie

K N Blackburn

G S B Blythe

H T Chapell

T J Hassall

A Dean-Lewis

J Kilmartin

R McCabe

N S Manser

W M Patterson

P J Smith

Dr D B Stevens MBE

A Ward

J B H Wood

B Wright

Motorsport UK House

OPEN

Monday–Thursday
9.30–5.30

Friday
9.30–5.00
(phone enquiries
10.00–5.00 please)

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Licence Section:
Tel: 01753 765050
Fax: 01753 685426

Website:
www.motorsportuk.org

SPECTATE SAFELY!



Be alert!

Always expect the unexpected
Stay at the designated spectator areas
Remember that in an accident anything can happen
Always follow the instructions of the marshals

Your safety – Your life

ONLY A SAFE RALLY IS A GOOD RALLY

#AriNeedsYou  motorsportuk.org

How to promote your event

For many clubs, just running an event for the enjoyment of a close group of competitors and volunteers is what motorsport is all about. However, for those looking to grow their events, some marketing is needed. And the good news is that the basics of event marketing are more straightforward than you might think.

What is event marketing?

Event marketing is about working out who you want to talk to (your audiences), what you want to say to them and ultimately what you want them to do, and then using various tools and channels to reach them.

For example, you might want to reach competitors and encourage them to enter, or volunteers and persuade them to help. Or you might want to get through to businesses and convince them to support your event, or target fans and get them to buy tickets.

OK, we need marketing. What should we do?

You need to create a marketing plan. They are a mix of art and science, so no two plans will be the same. Broadly, though, a motorsport event will need a plan that covers pre-, on- and post-event marketing.

Once you have identified your target audiences and defined your key messages (what you really want them to know about your event, including how they can get involved) you can start on your pre-event marketing.

This might entail creating a webpage about your event, including how to sign up, then sending a press release to local and motorsport media, and running a social media campaign to raise awareness and drive people to your site.

Or you might team up with a locally based business and see how you can support each other – maybe they could offer sponsorship, and in return you could feature their brand in your marketing outputs and invite them to have a presence at your event? They are likely to promote their involvement in your event too, so you will have the added benefit of reaching their own audiences.

With any luck, your pre-event marketing will produce the results you want, and your event will have a bumper entry list, a full complement of marshals and an enthusiastic group of spectators. Now that your audience has come to your front door, do not miss the opportunity to tell them what other events or opportunities you have coming up.

Why not prepare some promotional leaflets letting competitors, volunteers and fans know what else you have to offer, and how and why they should come back to see you again? You could also run a competition for a passenger ride, merchandise or tickets, in order to collect email addresses and grow your contact list.

Your successful pre- and on-event marketing activity should have allowed you to capture lots of contact data for your audiences, so you can reach out to them post-event with a brief look back at your meeting, plus details of what else you have to offer. You will also be starting next year's pre-event communications one step ahead, with all those new customers at your fingertips in your contacts list.

**Don't stop –
keep growing!**