

## 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.

**A**ny 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.

Today, the Motor Sports Council informs and advises the Board on key issues, represents the full spectrum of UK motor sport and provides a conduit of information from the market to the governing body, Motorsport UK. The Council's role is also to develop strategic thinking in relation to key issues in the sport and provide direction to the Board as a result.

It is supported by:

- thirteen specialist motor sport committees;
- five specialist motor sport sub-committees and;
- seven advisory groups.

### The role of Motorsport UK

Motorsport UK is the ultimate decision-making body responsible for the governance of UK motor sport. It is represented by a Board of directors;

professionals who are drawn from both the sport and external disciplines with the required skills and expertise. Its role includes:

- providing strategic leadership of the organisation;
- promoting the long-term success and sustainability of all four-wheel motor sport in the UK, ensuring the sport continues to thrive from thrives and is supported from all continues to be conducted in a fair and safe manner;
- training of Marshals, Officials and Scrutineers;
- overseeing and implementing changes to National Competition Rules and Regulations;
- supporting the rule making and judicial process, ensuring the sport continues to be conducted in a fair and safe manner.

Today over seven hundred motor clubs are registered with Motorsport UK and represent 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 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, investing 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 a new office at Bicester Heritage in the "motorsport valley" corridor, where some 62 full time staff are employed in all aspects of running motor sport in this country.

In addition to licensing in the region of 39,000 Competitors (many of whom will have attended

## 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	2012 Ron Smith	2017 Sir Frank Williams
2007 Peter Cooper	2013 Andy Watson	Murray Walker OBE
2008 Howard Lapsley	2014 Len Pullen	2021 Sir Jackie Stewart
Les Needham	2015 David Morley	Jimmy McRae
2009 Howard Strawford	2016 Sir Stirling Moss	Jonathan Lord
2011 Denis Cardell	David Butler MBE	
Tony Fletcher		

## Prince Michael Award of Merit

The Prince Michael Award of Merit is a prestigious personal award made by Motorsport UK 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.

### Award of Merit Winners

1991 Jack Romain	1997 Alec Rivers Fletcher;	2008 Stuart Turner
1992 Tony Bird	Donald Grieve	2009 David Butler MBE
1993 Peter Cooper;	1998 Michael Fenwick;	2011 Michael Southcombe
Tony Fletcher	Keith Douglas	2013 Colin Hilton;
1994 John Felix; George Hall	2000 Robert Rae	Ronnie Trouton MBE
1995 Brian Molyneux	2002 Tony Reynolds	2015 Les Needham
1996 Tom Dooley;	2004 Ken Walker	2018 Tony Scott-Andrews
Dick Newsom	2007 Colin Rossborough	2021 Dr Ian Roberts

### Centenary Award of Merit

1997 Professor Sid Watkins



approved driver training schools), Motorsport UK has in the region of 4,000 licensed Officials and 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 6,000 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.

Motorsport UK is also a statutory body, authorising the routes of motorsport events on the highway in England and Wales, The Motor Vehicles (Competitions and Trials) Regulations, motorsport events in public places in England, Wales and Scotland, the Motor Vehicles (Off Road Events) Regulations and for motorsport events on closed public roads in England, Wales and Scotland, The Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec 12(1A)

### **The National Court**

The National Court is independent of Motorsport UK as the ASN. Its administration is overseen by an external independent lawyer and it has 5 permanent Chairs, 1 of whom is a retired lawyer, 2 who are practising barristers and 1 Queen's Counsel.

The role of the Court includes its status as the National Court of Appeal under the Code and to

exercise judicial powers by applying and interpreting the National Competition Rules (and where appropriate the Code), the National Court Judicial Rules and practice directions.

### **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 undertakes a range of commercial activities to sustain championships and disciplines and develop third party revenue streams to help sustain and grow the sport. These primarily relate to the organisation of championships and events including the British Karting Championships, the British Rally Championship, British Formula 4 and the organisation of the Formula 1 British Grand Prix among other events.

# Officiel d'Honneur Appointments

The following have accepted the position of Officiel d'Honneur for 2022:

*M F L Allison*

*T J Hassall*

*G H Bailey*

*A Dean-Lewis MBE*

*W Beattie*

*R McCabe*

*I D Bennie*

*N S Manser*

*K N Blackburn*

*J B H Wood*

*G S B Blythe*

*B Wright*

*H T Chapell*

*P Liddle*

## Motorsport UK

OPEN

Monday–Thursday  
9.30–5.30

Friday  
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10.00–5.00 please)

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Licence Section:  
Tel: 01753 765050  
Fax: 01753 685426

**Website:**  
[www.motorsportuk.org](http://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](http://motorsportuk.org)