

2023 ARMS AGM Race Workshop Meeting Minutes

Saturday, November 25, 2023

Attendance

In Person - Debbie Miller, Dwight Spencer, Mark Elliott, Ingo Strackerjan, Leigh Pettipas, Scott Montgomerie, Joel Nelson, Brian Partridge, Dave Charters, Pidge Partridge, Stacy Chapman, Graham McCrea, Shawn Gayton, Stephen Lockhart, Mike McCrea, Blu Vandaalen, Cal Vandaalen, Gordon Murray, Libby Partridge, Alan Gray, Andy Clement, Nick Murray, Brent O'Connor, Daniel Dugdale, Travis Soucoup, Mike McAdams, Mike Reese, Jeff Martin,

Online - Alex Brunt, Brian Gay, Gerald Elliott, Steve Phillips

Arrived Late - Cathy Partridge, Kevin ???, Ming Wong

Proxies

- Ingo Strackerjan
 - Lucas Strackerjan
- Joel Nelson
 - Brad Sellars
 - Colin Naulls
- Brian Partridge
 - Andy Mitchell
 - Skye Mullen

Tentative Calendar

May 25-26

June 22-23

July 20-21

~~Aug 17-18~~

~~Aug 24-25~~

Sept 14-15

Oct 12

Discussed the possible event dates, and with some discussion decided to drop the August date, which SARL wants (after also discussing an alternative August Date), and only have 4 dates, plus the JCM on Oct 12. It was agreed that we would ideally have the JCM on a Saturday instead of Sunday.

Minutes from 2022 Meeting

Joel motioned that we skip the reading of the 2022 minutes, Scott M seconded. Brent motioned that the minutes be accepted as printed in the pre-meeting material, Scott M seconded. Motion accepted.

Helmet (and other item) Expiry

SA2010 helmets are set to expire on Dec 31, 2023; the wording in the rule book is out of date. James suggested that the wording in the GCRs be modified to read wording similar to “10 years from printed manufacture date, barring mitigating circumstances”. Issues with manufacturing timing or other changes will be managed through official bulletins. Exact wording to be updated and issued in the rule book in early 2024. This will also apply to belts and anything else with expiry dates in the rule book.

Graham inquired about whether the intention was to have a no more than 10 year old standard or a 10 date of manufacture. You could determine how old the helmet. This should be taken into consideration when finalizing the wording of the rule change.

ACTION ITEM: Race Committee to finalize wording and update the rule book with proper expiry date wording.

Licensing

James noted that the licensing form and the application process will be streamlined into an online process to make it easier to use and easier to issue the licenses.

James indicated that we will be proposing to ARMS that we move away from medical forms to strictly self-tech medical forms.

Brent indicated that there should be a mechanism whereby the race director can demand that someone be checked by a medical professional and provide a signed yes/no. Mike McAdams asked how we verify that, and it was discussed that efforts should be made to indicate validity but that it will always be possible for people to create fake items if really motivated.

ACTION ITEM: James and Brent (ARMS License Registrar), with help from Daphne, to update licensing form and application process.

Scrutineering

James also indicated that scrutineering and tech forms will be moved online as well, so they can be completed ahead of time and a smoother process of tech-ing cars and gear.

ACTION ITEM: James, with help from Daphne, to update the scrutineering process.

Financials

James indicated it was not a great year, but not an awful year. We lost a little \$1609.29, as indicated by the [financial documents](#), which were distributed electronically before the meeting. The promotions fund was able to cover this loss. James indicated that it all comes down to car count; once the number drops below 15, it starts to drop into the negative numbers pretty quickly. James noted that we discussed the minimum number of cars needed in the 2022 workshop.

Indicated that lapping could be better advertised, and make sure that it is always assumed that lapping will occur on race days for people to partake in.

Refunds by Team Only

We need to move back to an entry being one car, so that we will no longer be offering “second driver” refunds. It’s too hard to calculate and track, and we don’t have the funds at the moment to manage it anyway. Will be clarifying the rule in the rule book / supp regs for 2024.

ACTION ITEM: Race Committee to finalize wording and update the supp regs with proper refund wording.

Promotions Financials

[INSERT THE PROMOTIONS FINANCIAL INFORMATION HERE]

JCM \$1000 donation.

Minimum Number of Entries / Cancellations

Cal indicated the early registration should be two weeks before, not the Friday before, with an additional late fee for registering the day of the race.

Discussion about how it happens, Joel indicated that by March we will know how much we will have coming in from sponsorship and what other items need money, so what there remains to manage the budget can be determined and work from there about acceptable losses, and/or be able to discuss taking a loss (or not) to ARMS.

Alex Brunt indicated that it also impacts the lappers who have signed up. Mike Reese mentioned that it matters to sponsors if 25% of the summer, and is a valid use of sponsorship money.

Discussed that we can plan on all events going forward in 2024, and re-evaluate it at the next workshop.

ACTION ITEM: Race Director, with the help of the Race Committee, to finalize a budget with car counts by the end of March, so both racers and ARMS will be aware of the expected summer situation.

ACTION ITEM: Race Director and Race Committee to discuss and finalize 2024 entry fees, including graduated late fees for the weekends.

Cost of 1 and 2 Day Weekends

The workshop reviewed the [2023 Rate Card](#), discussed the costs and the impact to the volunteer population. It's very real that the more grassroots disciplines are the feeder series for the more performance motorsports, so it's important to provide community building and opportunities, but it requires a high degree of coordination and a lot of volunteers to make a weekend happen.

Mike Reese indicated that he was supportive of 2-day weekends because he anticipated that they would be fun, but would not want to do it at the expense of creating animosity or burnout in the community. Several people indicated that they would rather do 1-day weekends well than attempt 2-day weekends, and get back into a more solid place financially and volunteer/community-wise.

There was some discussion about what race day format makes sense, Leigh indicated that it's next to impossible to keep running in his car on the current schedule for the whole day. Cal noted that there were few people in the second series all season.

Brent asked about the possibility of doing race day on Saturday instead of Sunday. Alex Brunt indicated that he would like to see it done shared with a time attack for one weekend next year, as a mixed weekend. The more activity the better, including camping, etc. Suggested it should be a trial run.

Joel indicated that we should decide on that by the end of February, Scott M noted that any trial run weekends should be at the end of the season.

ACTION ITEM: Race Director and Performance Solo Director, with the help of the Race Committee, to finalize a plan for a mixed discipline weekend late in the season, by end of February.

Other Electronic Enhancements

Information about electronic options for additional items was provided in the [2023 Rate Card](#).

Google Forms could continue to be used, other options could be used, discussion about other uses and ways to use existing tools to collect information and make it visible to all racers. Talked about electronic flagging systems in-car and other; the general sentiment that it isn't for us right now, or on our current budget.

Motioned that both items be moved to the race committee for further discussion.

ACTION ITEM: Race Director and Race Committee to discuss and finalize an approach for registration and publishing the entry list.

ACTION ITEM: Race Director and Race Committee to discuss and finalize an approach, if any, for electronic flagging systems.

Race Day Format

Talked about the fact that there are overall problems with interest in all the races, series, which will not be solved. Race committee to continue to try to figure something out.

ACTION ITEM: Race Director and Race Committee to discuss and finalize a 2024 Race Day format.

Points

Discussed that it was critical that points are kept up to date and visible for the season.

Scott suggested an overall (for all sprints) points collection for the day (i.e. 4 races, and drop 1) one championship. Pros and cons to having multiple series.

[ask for some clarification on this to put in the notes. Joel to help me write it out.]

JCM

Agreed that we will have JCM on its own weekend, with the event also being an end of season party at the track.

JCM will be moved back to a qualified race.

Discussion on making more or less stops based on GT class / speeds. Options discussed, will send it to race committee to finalize for the 2024 JCM.

ACTION ITEM: Race Director and Race Committee to discuss and finalize 2024 JCM race format.

Nick Murray and Leigh Pettipas offered to help Joel Nelson organize the JCM for 2024.

ACTION ITEM: Joel Nelson to be sure to press gang Nick Murray and Leigh Pettipas in organizing the 2024 JCM.

Rule Changes

Decals

Joel indicated that they would like to leave the decals the same size, because they are easiest to see in photos. Blu indicated the decals are too big, and questioned the value and whether they were paid for. Joel stated that the sponsorship account is trying to make race viable and keep us and AMP afloat. Blu indicated that he prefers the style guide to indicate where the stickers go; Leigh showed that there is a package indication.

Motion that in order for the cars to be scored in the championship(s) the decals must be on the car, as supplied by the sponsorship committee.

Motioned by Mike Reese, seconded by Scott M

Motion carried, all votes in favour save one.

ACTION ITEM: Race Committee to update rule book and 2024 regs with mandatory decal wording.

Incident Causing Penalty

Question: If you are the cause of a yellow (or red) should you be disqualified/parked at the race? Discussion of the idea that it should be two incidents (but then discussion about how that would be most of the race anyway). Indicated that it should be at officials discretion because there are too many variables.

ACTION ITEM: No update required.

Shorting the Endurance Race(s) Pit Stop(s)

Question: Do racers want to vary the amount you are penalized based on how much you short the pit stop? I.E. 1 lap penalty for every 10 seconds you've shorted. General sentiment was in favour of such a change (despite the fact that this was discussed and agreed on in the 2022 workshop.)

ACTION ITEM: Race Committee to finalize short pit stop penalty and update the rule book.

In-Paddock Behavior

Daphne discussed how there have been a few reports of unpleasant behavior towards other racers in the paddock without formal complaints or backing that could be dealt with by stewards. The workshop discussed how to manage this with applying the rules under unsportsmanlike behavior. Generally agreed that it is something that should be brought forward, and that the stewards will do inquiries for unsportsmanlike behavior in the paddock when asked.

ACTION ITEM: Daphne to update the stewards on expectations with regard to in-paddock behavior inquiries.

Safety

Daphne indicated that there were an number of alarming incidents of unsafe behavior at the track this year, both by racers and their crew in the pit lane, such as putting legs out in pit lane while working under a car, and by unsupervised children playing in the paddock while cars were active. This will be clarified in the “New Racers Cheatsheet” that will be distributed next year, along with the expectation that such unsafe behavior will result in penalties.

ACTION ITEM: Daphne to work with the Race Committee to create a “cheat sheet” for racers, especially new racers, on the general behavior and expectations at the track.

Other Items

Brian Gay indicated he would continue on as Head Instructor.

Mike Reese was a huge help to the rookies in 2023, James asked him to continue this in a more formal capacity for 2024.

ACTION ITEM: Race Director and Race Committee to find an appropriate title and way to make new racers aware of Mike’s role for 2024.

Items from the Floor

Leigh asked about points - more reason to do all race weekends, should there be bonus points? Could we give more points for each of the sprints? Race committee to review this to find an incentive for all 4 weekends.

ACTION ITEM: Race Director and Race Committee to consider this angle in the planning of the race day format.

Brent asked if we could do a draw for a weekend back of money at the end of the season, for having registered and pay for all 4 races for the weekend. Race committee to finalize the details.

ACTION ITEM: Race Director and Race Committee to consider this angle in the planning of the race day format.

Sponsorship Committee Report

Joel and Leigh have been running the committee for the past few years. Brent O’Connor, Mike Reese and Daniel Dugdale have offered to join for 2024. The intention is to grow and make it better and better; there is \$XX in the bank that they will do their best to give back and make racing the best it can be. Please bring ideas and feedback to the group to make it better.

Sponsors received a hard-mounted photo of the JCM pack with all the 2023 sponsor logos on it. Leigh indicated that they intend to have small incentives to give away each weekend, similar items. More bandwidth with extra people should make it possible to do more. Looking to improve social media presence in 2024 to improve awareness and people coming out to

spectate. Libby and Mike are looking to get more information on the drivers and track life in general, and bring more awareness to social media. Leigh indicated that they'd like to have a big celebration at the end of the year like a banquet to celebrate the season.

Blu indicated that items should have a QR Code to direct people exactly to the information you want to provide.

Sports and RV Show

Brian Partridge indicated that they will be at the show this coming year, it will be an anniversary event. It was asked why we don't do events like Driven or more other focused events - answer was that it didn't exist at the time we started, and that other events happen when the motorsports season is in full swing and everyone who would volunteer is too busy.

New Race Director

Nate Perron indicated that he is willing to put his name forward as Race Director. Nominated by Leigh, seconded by Mike MacAdams.

Motion to Adjourn from Stephen Lockhart.