

## **NSW RALLY ADVISOR PANEL**

### **Teleconference**

**Saturday March 9<sup>th</sup> 2010**

**Meeting opened:** 7.36 pm

**Attendees:** Graham Humphreys (Chairman); Phil Morley (Secretary); Adrian Dudok; Ray Baker; Kirrilee Gentleman; Kam Baker (Vice Chairman); Richard Opie; Lui MacLennan

**Apologies:** Jon Thomson; Adam Casmiri;

**Visitors:** Fro Horobin; Darren Green;

### **Discussions of Stephen (Fro) Horobin's letter**

As Fro Horobin had to go to another teleconference, Graham, Humphreys (Chairman) had the Panel discuss the letter first. The letter is attached as Appendix A at the end of the minutes.

Fro spoke to his letter and stated that he felt that Clubman had lost the original concept, as an entry level for competitors. He cited as the main problem as being vehicle eligibility and inclusion within State Championship rallies (some being pace-noted) as being the main problems. The panel members cited the low competitor base at this time, Graham Humphreys quoted some statistics from previous Registered Competitors lists and where those competitors lived within the state. Other panel members said that if State and Clubman championships were not combined, then clubs would find it unviable to conduct events. Two suggestions were put forward in the form of one: making the Clubman Series only eligible for Hyundai Excels. This then introduced the idea of making it only eligible for 2 wheel drive vehicles. The second suggestion was for the Clubman Series to be conducted as a one round series. Discussions continued with the Panel to look again at the problem at a later date for a solution. Fro Horobin said he would be willing to do some work on the solution if the Panel asked to do something.

### **02-1002-RAP-01**

#### **Confirmation of minutes: 6<sup>th</sup> February 2010.**

Minutes are accepted. Moved: Adrian Dudok  
Seconded: Ray Baker

#### **Confirmation of decisions made between meetings, (email votes):**

Nil

#### **Business arising from the previous minutes:**

Nil

### **02-1002-RAP-02**

#### **Correspondence:**

- Letter from Stephen (Fro) Horobin:
- See above and Appendix A
- Application for Rally Licence:

- The matter of an applicant applying for a licence who was over 25 and therefore not required to complete 2 OLT's, the new arrangements for 2010. His driving record was presented and discussed. Michael Gates presented this as a case and felt the regulation should be modified slightly to read '**currently** holds a civil licence for 5+ **uninterrupted** years....' instead of 'anyone over the age of 25 who has held a civil licence for 5+ years can forgo the OLT'. The Rally Panel believes the current wording should remain.
- Application for Stage 1 Rallysprint Venue Licence, (Ringwood Park Motorsport Complex): Darren Green, the Event Checker, gave a report on the venue. He said that it had been used as a rallysprint venue in Feb 2010 and apart from some driver misjudgements; event had proved to be both challenging and enjoyable. He went on to say that it had been used in 2009 and he had made some recommendations that had been carried out before the Feb 2010 event. After this event, he made 2 further recommendations for the event scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> April. These were to re-construct the area called the 'Tabletop' and that the cars should be run at 2 minute intervals. The Panel agreed that the venue be approved as a Stage 1 Rallysprint Licence Venue. The panel thanked Darren for his time and efforts on this matter.

### **02-1001-RAP-03**

#### **Reports:**

- ARCom Adrian Dudok:  
Points from the last meeting held were concerning some house keeping matters about the ARC. State members were asked to get a list of potential ARC competitors from each state with the view if inviting them to compete in the ARC. The panel asked if there were to be any incentives offered to these competitors. Adrian Dudok replied that at this stage nothing had been mentioned. The Panel felt that with the current field's strengths if something was offered to the competitors then the State rounds may suffer in their field's strengths. The panel agreed to circulate an email of potential names.
- State Executive Graham Humphreys:  
Nothing to report as the next meeting was to be held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March.
- Forest MOU Phil Morley:  
Phil Morley reported that a number of emails between himself and John Burning of CAMS had occurred and that now there was a final MOU to be presented to Forests NSW. Phil Morley was waiting for John Burning to arrange an appointment with the appropriate section responsible for MOU's with Forests NSW.
- Rally Registration Graham Humphreys:  
Graham Humphreys reported that a final paper has been agreed upon for presentation to the RTA and is waiting for approval from the State

Executive. The next State Executive meeting to be held will be tomorrow, Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March. There had been some issues with the recording of details of bona fide rally cars and the signing off of these cars. Both AASA and AMSAG will need to use the same system as CAMS. The RTA requires one person to be responsible. Note: the document has been forwarded to the NSW RTA for consideration on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March.

- Panel Finances Graham Humphreys:  
N93 NSW/ACT Rally Fund: Balance: \$4063.88  
N96 Rally Clock Fund: Balance: \$18462.15
- Paste Events:  
Red Mist Rallysprint; Ringwood Complex: State Championship Round 1: 11 competitors in total; 8 runs allocated. Good video made of the proceedings and available on YouTube.  
Nabiac Rallysprint: State Championship Round 2: 31 entries; Results sheet needs to show vehicle details.  
Kosciusko Classic; Touring Assembly; report from Lui MacLennan; 58 entries, held over 2 days, very successful
- Upcoming Events:  
Car Net Auctions Rally of Lithgow: report from Phil Morley; event planning well under way, many new problems for this year's organising team but now everything is starting to fall into place, at this stage no entries have received.  
Four Mile Creek Rallysprint; BLCC: Graham Humphreys reported that paperwork is in place and that the event will give competitors some 96 kms competitive distance.

**Motions on Notice:**

Nil

**02-1001-RAP-04**

**General Business:**

- Kam Baker reported on a change of Director for the Clubman Rally on the 26<sup>th</sup> June, organised by the CNCSCC. Discussion took place and both Kam and Graham Humphreys would look into the change of director situation.
- Lui MacLennan mentioned the lack of Touring Assembly Regulations and their lack of inclusion in the CAMS Manual. Lui has taken to liaise with Graham Humphreys and other members of the Panel to address this problem for 2011.

As there was no further general business Graham Humphreys thanked all panel members for their attendance.

The meeting was closed at 9.45 PM.

**Items for next meeting:**

- Statement for nswrally.com re-registration
- Panel finance statements
- Pointscoreers for the various series
- Report on Forest MOU
- Report on Rally Registration

**List of Attendees:**

Graham Humphreys	(2/2)	
Kam Baker	(1/2)	6
Phil Morley	(2/2)	
Adrian Dudok	(2/2)	
Kirrilee Gentleman	(2/2)	
Ray Baker	(2/2)	
Lui MacLennan	(1/2)	6
Richard Opie	(1/2)	6
Adam Casmiri	(1/2)	3
Jon Thomson	(1/2)	6

**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

**APPENDIX A**

*Chairman – NSW Rally Advisory Panel  
NSW Rally Panel  
via email*

*Graham (and fellow rallyists),  
As discussed at the CAMS Rally Presentation Dinner, I am writing to put forward my views on the NSW Clubman Rally Series.  
Having been a registered competitor in the NSW Clubman Rally Series for the last two years, and competed at many NSW State and Clubman events since 2003, I have formed views on the state of the NSW Championships and Series, and rallying generally in NSW. Changes for the 2009 NSW Clubman Series have been a source of concern and consternation, and those changes have carried over to the 2010 NSW Clubman Series.  
As described by Jon Thompson in the introduction to the NSW Clubman awards at the presentation on Saturday night, NSW Clubman should be a stepping stone to competition at State level. It is described as a level of competition that is meant to be less expensive than state competition. As it was for 2009, and as it stands for 2010, it is not meeting those goals.  
Allowing Evo 1-3 Mitsubishi Lancers and GC8 Subaru WRXs increases the eligible competitor pool*

for NSW Clubman. But these vehicles are running at the front of our NSW State Championship, and indeed, Nigel Shellshear tied for the 2009 State Championship in a Clubman-eligible Evolution 3 Lancer. Also of note is that Clubman eligible vehicles won the last two NSW State Championship rounds outright.

Vehicle eligibility aside, the differentiation between State and Clubman is severely lessened by the combination of events. The 2010 NSW State Championship consists of 8 rounds, 3 of which are pacenoted events. Despite NSW Clubman purportedly being a "budget" series and distinct from NSW State, 4 of those events are shared with the 2010 NSW Clubman Series, 2 of which are pacenoted.

This also brings in problems regarding apparel requirements, as despite being part of a "lower level" series, due to the vagaries of CAMS and Event Regulations, Clubman competitors end up being required to have the same apparel as State competitors to compete at all NSW Clubman rounds. Given the current regulations, it has many competitors that I spoke with wondering why Clubman exists, when the difference in costs (both direct and indirect) involved in competing are increasingly similar to those to compete in the NSW State Championship.

Effectively, we have gone from having Novice, Clubman and State competition in NSW, and in less than five years, have worked our way to having a State Championship, and the rest being a shadow of its former self. This is not healthy for rallying across the state.

Remediation of this situation requires much thought. As you are well aware, I am familiar with many of the challenges facing you and your Panel in trying to find the balance required to grow the sport into the future.

Whilst allowing early Evolution Lancers and WRXs may seem to be a way to bolster the NSW Clubman series, I'd suggest that it is actually working as a disincentive for those that would see themselves as Clubman-level competitors to register and compete in the Clubman series.

Encouraging differentiation of Clubman from State competition should also be a focus, particularly ensuring that the requirements are kept at the minimum for Clubman competition, to ensure that Clubman works towards its goal of being more affordable for lower-level competitors. Apparel requirements should be a big part of this, and requiring the lower level apparel be acceptable for entrants to all Clubman events, even when that event is run concurrently with State competition, should be a priority.

I would also strongly suggest removing pace-noted events from the NSW Clubman calendar. Whilst I understand their inclusion in the State Championship, their inclusion in Clubman runs contra to the budget nature that Clubman is purported to have.

Moving monologues like the one you provided at the NSW Rally Presentation Dinner have many

competitors questioning their on-going involvement in CAMS Rallying in NSW. Competitors are well aware of the challenges facing us all with Forest Access, Vehicle Registration and finding Event Officials. Indeed, many mentioned these in their speeches. But we look to you for optimism and information so that we can work toward solutions.

The problems we know about, what we can do and the progress made towards solving these problems is what we want to hear about.

Providing multiple levels of progression in the sport, and providing paths for progression in the sport is something that the entire rally community needs and wants. Please ensure the return to relevance for NSW Clubman, so that we can see our sport revived and renewed, with competitors at all levels throughout NSW.

Should you wish to discuss this further, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours in rallying

Fro Horobin  
0428 972 481