

AUTOSPORT CLUB

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 2020

Welcome to the Autosport Club's Annual General Meeting for the year ending 2020.

This last year has been a year like no other. There was a lot of uncertainty around whether events could proceed or not and under what conditions. We had to adapt quickly to get events operating in a totally new environment.

First up was Mt Alex Sprint on 7 June. It was a god send to be able to offer members and others a crack at a shingle road again after a sustained lockdown period. We had to run under Level 2 rules which meant writing an entirely new Safety Plan adhering to strict Govt and MSNZ Covid regulations. This restricted us to a maximum of 40 entries. Everything was done online, including entry, payment, briefing and the scrutineering was done remotely. Exact contact details were recorded for everyone who entered the area with a maximum gathering of 100. Unfortunately, there was no prizegiving permitted.

In all it was a great day after a frosty and fine start with Matt Summerfield in his Mirage AP4 taking line honours ahead of Sean Haggarty in his Subaru. It was great to see 3 or 4 Marlborough boys down for the day.

Next up was Kaiwara Road Sprint. This was our 3rd attempt to run this event. Extreme fire danger prevented us from running in February, then along came Covid upsetting our April reschedule so we finally ran on 19 July. Due to persistent rain in the week leading up to the event and throughout the day the CofC made a wise decision to reduce to 2 timed runs only. Congrats went to David Quantock in his Mirage AP4 for taking the overall win.

Next on the event was Pipers Valley planned for 29 August. Regretfully the CCC cancelled our application to run this event for a variety of reasons. However we are really happy to announce that Pipers has been approved for our first event for the 2021 season in just over a week's time.

Our first Autocross for the year was held on 6 September in a huge open paddock at Kirwee. Many thanks go to Garret Thomas for securing this paddock once again for us. A truly professional course was set up by Daniel Males, Club Captain, and who did a great job organising the day. Top gun was Karl Celeste in his formidable Mini.

Hanmer Rally was again cancelled for 2020 and whereas there are still issues influencing the running of this event, your committee is hopeful of a return to the Hanmer Forests at some point in the future.

Due to Covid the much awaited New Zealand round of the WRC was cancelled as was the NZRC competition. At best we could run Canterbury in The Mainland Series and a decision was made to go eyes out to promote and showcase The Lone Star of Canterbury Rally 2020 as a coveted event. We moved the date to Labour weekend and fielded 55 entries on a very hot and dusty day running 7 special stages totalling 120km of forestry and North Canterbury public roads. The event was live streamed by Momac and was eagerly supported by The Hurunui District Council.

Special mention is made to Paul Bradshaw for his consistent relationship building with the Hurunui District Council, for plotting the course and checking and rechecking details with Wayne Barnard and Leigh Marston in support.

Overall winners of the day were Robbie and Amy Stokes in their Fiesta AP4 with just a mere 8 seconds separating them from Josh Marston and Andrew Graves in their Holden Barina AP4. Regan Ross and Katrina Renshaw followed a further 1 minute back in a creditable 3rd place in Regan's latest acquirement a Fiesta R5. A typical battle ensued for 2WD honours with Klinky pipping Deane by just 24 seconds. To note was Josh's placing here secured top honours for the Mainland Series.

After a challenging 1st year as President I am amazed at the level of commitment by the club committee and the rally committee and take my hat off to Graham Wilson for giving 14 years as president and who still remains on our rally committee.

My sincere thanks to all on the committees but especially those in definite roles. Chris Herdman, Vice president and my mentor, Daniel Males Club Captain, Sarah Brennan club secretary, Jamie Clapperton treasurer and Sarah's support, Karl Celeste our informative websiter, Tony Witheridge timekeeper, Leigh Marston rally committee team manager, Wayne Barnard (Barney) the greatest book of knowledge we have and mentor, Paul Bradshaw our rally course kingpin, Leanne Jolly rally secretary and John Weir, Daniel Males and Richard Twose our scrutineers.

This year in an attempt to host more events and attract more entries we are running a few events in conjunction with the Ashburton Car Club within the Selwyn District. To kick this off will be their shingle sprint on Upper Downs Road on 6 March with our Pipers event on 7 March followed by Rakaia Zig Zag on 2 May. These events will go towards our overall club championship points.

Of particular concern to me is our need for succession planning for the club. It is evident that the majority in the teams have been in their roles for several years and none is getting any younger. My plea is for some younger members to step up and look toward learning the ropes to secure the future viability of the club. There are 2 slots open on the club committee and on the rally committee. Your club is also in need of a greater pool of volunteers to call on for on the day assistance, so if you have spare time please let us know. Just call me anytime and we can put you to work and if you already do volunteer work a great big thank you.

Have a great year rallying and I now call for Election of Officers for 2021

Murray Christofferson

President

24 February 2021