



AUSTRALIAN RALLY COMMISSION

Meeting held at the CAMS National Office
851 Dandenong Rd, Malvern East, VIC 3145

Friday 19th August 2011

0910 AEST

MINUTES

1. OPENING

1.1 Present

Present: Colin Trinder (Chairman), Ben Rainsford (Deputy Chairman), Alan Cook (CAMS Board Portfolio Holder), Peter Macneall, Michael Clements, Darryn Snooks, Adrian Dudok, Ross Ferguson, Ross Runnalls, David Morgan (CAMS CEO), Scott Pedder (ARC CEO), Jos Roder (CAMS Executive Officer/Minute Secretary)

1.2 Welcome

The Chairman, Mr Trinder opened the meeting at 0910hrs and welcomed all the Commissioners, Mr Scott Pedder from the Australian Rally Championship (ARC) and Mr David Morgan the CEO of CAMS.

1.3 Declared Interests

The Chairman called on those present to declare any matter that might amount to a potential conflict of interest. Mr Ben Rainsford declared an Interest in relation to his role as Chairman of the Board of Rally Australia.

1.4 Apologies

Lawrie Schmitt (CAMS Manager – Motorsport Operations), George Shepheard (illness).

1.5 Additional Agenda Items

- SUV Draft Regs 4.8.1
- Alpine Rally 4.12.1
- Vehicle recognition – email from Justin Sinclair 4.12.2
- Logbooks 4.12.3
- Confirmation of Licence Requirements at Rally Australia 4.7.1

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

2.1 Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the Meeting held in June were previously approved via email.

2.2 Confirmation of Decisions between Meetings.

The Commission noted the following decisions made between meetings;

B11/057 – 2011 Classic Rally Cars

To permit substitute cylinder heads in Classic Rally Cars

B11/066 – 2011 Group 3C – Production Rally Cars

To remove the requirement for Excel Rally Car engines to be sealed.

B11/071 – Tarmac Rally Technical Regulations - Classic

Allow freedom to instrument binnacle for Classic Tarmac Rally cars in C3 Class.

B11/072 – Schedule R – General Requirements for all Rally Cars

Amendment to National level SOS/OK signage requirements

2.3 CAMS CEO David Morgan

The Chairman invited Mr Morgan to address the Commission. Key messages included advice that the rally discipline appeared to have turned a corner from a low point in 2008/09 with increasing numbers of licences issued and events conducted in most states.

Mr Morgan agreed he would provide a summary of the disciplines performance information to the Commission at a later date.

3. Items Carried Over From Previous Minutes

3.1 Hall Of Fame

The Chairman Mr Trinder, Bob Watson and Ross Tapper have provided a revised proposal to the Commission with framework for the establishment of a National Rally Hall of Fame for approval.

The Commission agreed the proposal should be steered through the CAMS Honours and Awards Committee and the CAMS Board. The Chairman undertook to arrange for this to occur.

Secretary's Note: The proposal was subsequently discussed with the President and the current thinking is that the concept should be subsumed into a wider CAMS recognition scheme and award ceremony.

3.2 Extensions to P6

Mr Shephard was unfortunately ill and so was unable to follow up with the Commission on the best way to divide the P6 class in Production Rally Cars around the issue of GC8 model Subarus.

Mr Roder at CAMS undertook to recirculate the document previously prepared by Mr Shephard and seek to resolve the issue out of session by email vote or Teleconference.

3.3 PRC Review Update

The proposed Group 3C -Production Rally Cars (PRC) regulations have been released after ARCom's following approval of the document.

The State Panel Chairs are to receive a marked up version so they can see the changes. While the layout has changed the content and principles underpinning the spirit and intent of the PRC category have not been dramatically altered.

A Reminder will be inserted in Speed Read and ARCom will endorse the final version following feedback by the 1 October deadline.

3.4 Removal of Barriers to entering Rally

Mr Rainsford has received some further suggestions regarding barriers to becoming involved in rallying from Mr Dudok. Mr Rainsford will compile a list of the input he has received to date and will present this to the Commission at the next face-to-face meeting.

3.5 CAMS Come & Try Policy

The Commission has previously recommended that Rallying be added to the list of disciplines falling within CAMS Come and Try Policy.

The Commission considered a short non special stage rally could be included as an acceptable solution to include Rallying in the Come and Try Policy.

A proposal is to be produced by Mr Macneall and Mr Dudok to be forwarded on to Mr Roder at CAMS for inclusion on the Agenda of the next CAMS Board meeting.

3.6 Camera Mountings

The Commission noted the paper prepared by Mr Mullan at Black Magic Media regarding mounting issues with mini-camera mountings.

The Commission supported the views of Mr Mullan and requested that this feedback be referred back to CAMS for consideration in the final technical regulation.

3.7 Incident Database

The Commission is currently still seeking support for the creation of an incident database system to help improve the detection and understanding of potential systemic issues with safety arising from any incidents within the sport.

ARCom will prepare a recommendation for the CAMS Board to seek that this database be setup. Noting that the back-capture of data is likely to be time consuming and require a degree of confidentiality, an option for an ARCom Commissioner to sign a confidentiality agreement to undertake this task will be investigated with CAMS.

3.8 Distance-based Permit Fees

The Commission is still considering how effective implementation of a fee structure for Rally events based on a metric that reflects risk could be achieved. Stage distance has been considered but administrative issues with implementing such a scheme are problematic.

After further discussion and further input from Mr Andrea at CAMS the Commission agreed that they would no longer pursue this approach and that the current fixed permit fee system would remain.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 ACTC/AMTC

Michael Clements spoke to the Commission around concerns that both groups of the 2011 Organisers of the ACTC/AMTC had for the situation for 2012 with the Octagon Australia events again in the CAMS fold. The additional prospect of a possible Victorian round was mooted. It is hoped that this would assist the viability of the Championships.

The Commission agreed that both Championships would continue to co-exist.

The Commission noted that the current ACTC/AMTC events were still well supported and had unique marketable aspects such as use of A to A timing and are an officially recognised CAMS Championship.

4.2 Adoption of Octagon Tarmac Vehicle Eligibility Regulations

Mr Clements expressed his intention to further discuss differences with Michael Smith at CAMS between both Octagon regulations and existing CAMS technical requirements.

The CAMS Administration will continue to work on the integration of both sets of regulations and engage with all Tarmac Organisers with some form of solutions to be presented by the end of September.

The Calendar of ACTC/AMTC 2012 dates and the Octagon Tarmac event dates are to be confirmed.

4.3 Budget and Finance report for Rally discipline

Mr Morgan covered this as part of his presentation to the Commission.

4.4 2012 ARC Calendar

A draft ARC 2012 Calendar has been prepared with indicative dates but without any confirmation at this stage.

1. Calder Park, VIC : March 2-4
2. Quit Forest Rally, WA : 31 March-1 April
3. IROQ, Qld : 26-27 May (set by APRC)
4. Scouts Rally, SA : 28-29 July (would like to go later but depends on Coffs Harbour date)
5. Coffs Harbour, NSW : September/October (Note: Bathurst, MotoGP, Surfers V8s all in October)
6. Victoria : December 1-2 or November 9-10

The Commission noted the confirmation that a new event 'Rally Calder' will be included in the Calendar. The stadium-based concept realises the Commission's ambitions to promote an event of this nature as part of the ARC.

The Commission also noted the two Organisers who have expressed an interest in conducting a round of the ARC in Victoria. The Commission has no issue with more than one event in Victoria but will seek advice from the ARC on the approach they intend to take in circumstances where there are competing bids for ARC events.

4.5 QRC S2000

The Commission discussed the issue surrounding recent questions raised in Queensland regarding eligibility of S2000 for State Championship awards. While the Commission considered that the conduct of individual State Championships was not a matter that it should involve itself in, the Commission also noted that it did not consider it was within the power of individual states to exclude otherwise eligible vehicles from State Championships without reference to the Commission seeking a change to the head regulations in the Rally Code.

To make it clear that the eligibility criteria of the National Rally Code applies to each State Championship competition, Commissioners were in agreement that the Rally Car Eligibility will be amended to remove references to the word "may" to avoid any potential confusion in interpretation that discretion rests with individual states, regarding determinations about eligibility without reference to the Commission.

"Rally Car Eligibility

Valid until 31 December, 2011

~~The following schedule specifies which categories and classes of vehicles may be used in different Australian rallies:"~~

The Commission also agreed that the table should be amended to confirm no age limit should apply to group N vehicles at State level and below.

NRC Article 2.3 also has a note under the table which is redundant and should be removed.

A Bulletin will be shortly issued to address each of these eligibility-based issues.

4.6 Engine/Cylinder Head Substitute Fee Request

It was raised at an Administration level that the Commission consider adopting a fee as part of any application for a substitute engine or cylinder head in rallying due to the time-consuming nature of requests and the amount of research required to confirm details provided by applicants.

The Chairman, Mr Trinder stated that a set format and guidelines would have to be developed so the process is clear, transparent and can provide a fair timeline for turnaround time on any decision.

Many of these substitution questions relate to Classic Rally Car engine substitution requests. Mr Darryn Snooks felt that perhaps ACRA could handle these requests initially as an 'agent' for the Commission before formal approval is sought. Details would need to be worked out but the Commission was happy with the concept.

The Commission will monitor the process further and retain the option to charge for incomplete applications that require significant work.

The Commission in conjunction with the ARC technical team who drafted the G2 regulations will consider the appointment of a technical adviser to address technical questions about the category.

4.7 WRC Report

Mr Rainsford reported there were 103 entries confirmed for the event. Ticket sales have been strong - up on previous years

The Chairman, Mr Trinder on behalf of the Commission wished to congratulate the Organisers and Commissioners who have been working on the event.

The Commission noted that the sporting regulations would need to be varied so they do not disadvantage any competitor entered in the international event who also wished to score points in the Australian Rally Championship.

4.7.1

An Event bulletin would be published pertaining to the common arrangements between ARC competitors in the Coffs Coast Forest Rally and in Rally Australia.

The Commission requested that Jos Roder arrange to check the level of licences held by the competitors prior to event documentation to ensure that all had the correct National licence.

4.8 ARC 2WD/SUV Class Update and Regulations Update

The Commission discussed the future of the ARC Championship point allocations and how that will change given the transitional changeover to 2WD.

The Commission agreed that for 2012 a 2WD Australian Rally Champion and a 4WD Australian Rally Champion would be awarded. From 2013 this will become the Australian Rally Champion with only 2WD eligible for the outright award. 4WD vehicles will be still eligible to compete in their own class and class awards only.

The draft G2 and SUV regulations were considered and approved.

The Commission will write to the Board seeking these changes to the Championship award structure.

4.9 Calder Park Rally Extreme – Launch

Mr Pedder provided a presentation on the Calder event and explained how the Launch day would be run.

The Commission commended Mr Pedder on the extraordinary efforts he has been putting in to the development of the ARC.

4.10 Automated vehicle tracking information update

Mr Pedder provided the Commission with a presentation explaining the new rally tracking and safety technology developed by RallySafe and used in Targa Tasmania. The advanced GPS-based tracking and warning system has many key potential safety/timing and results benefits associated with it for both organisers and competitors (eg: advanced in-car warnings of a stopped or slow car ahead).

Mr Pedder advised that it was his desire to introduce this system into the ARC in 2012 subject to costs and other contractual arrangements.

4.11 Caution notes clarification in the National Rally Code

Mr Graham Humphreys from NSW has proposed to the Commission that the usage and implementation of Caution notation in Rallies be standardised. Mr Humphreys recommended the following:

“3.2 Cautions:

- (i) *Wherever the word “caution” is used in an instruction, its degree ~~must~~ **shall** be indicated by the use of exclamation marks.*
- (ii) *One exclamation mark (!) indicates a hazard where no significant reduction in speed is required but where difficulty might be encountered if crews were unaware of the hazard. It is not necessary to use the instruction “caution” with this indication.*
- (iii) *Two exclamation marks (!!) indicate a situation where damage to a vehicle or crew could result from negotiating the hazard at speed. This indication ~~will normally~~ **shall** be used in conjunction with the instruction “caution”.*
- (iv) *Three exclamation marks (!!!) indicates a severe hazard which cannot be negotiated without a significant reduction in speed. This indication ~~will normally~~ **shall** be used in conjunction with the instruction “extreme caution”.*
- (v) *Whenever exclamation marks are used in a diagram, the instruction must describe the hazard.”*

The Commission accepted Mr Humphreys proposal and approved this recommendation. A Bulletin will be produced communicating the change to competitors.

4.12 Rally Car Eligibility for at Club and Multi Club level

4.12.1

Mr Humphreys from NSW has proposed to the Commission that eligibility be widened to permit vehicles that only comply with the minimum requirements of Schedule R to compete in Club and Multi Club non-series events that do not have awards. The Commission devoted considerable time to considering the issue of the level of modification permitted for rally cars when it considered the implementation of a Club Rally Car category from 2010. The Commission remains comfortable with the previous decision that vehicles modified beyond what is permitted under the Club Rally Car rules should not be eligible for awards or points, and that the level of modification permitted in the Club Rally Cars category should be generally adopted as the extent of modification acceptable for Rallying at Club level.

However, the Commission considered that there may be individual vehicles that meet the spirit and intent if not the letter of the Club Rally Car regulations and if this were the case the Commission may consider recognising these vehicles on a case by case basis upon application from the competitor.

Jos Roder at CAMS will speak with Mr Dave Woods regarding his feedback in relation to the degree of compliance with Club Rally Car regulations in the all comers category at IROQ and advise the Commission.

4.12.2

In a similar vein the Alpine Rally organisers have written to ARCom requesting a broad exemption to the Rally Car Eligibility regulations for their event.

The Commission considered that there may be individual vehicles that meet the spirit and intent, if not the letter, of the Club Rally Car regulations and if this were the case the Commission may consider recognising these vehicles on a case by case basis. Mr Roder would inform the Alpine Rally organisers.

4.13 Schedule G Fuel Amendment Recommendation

The Commission noted that the CAMS Fuels Regulation Committee had amended the definition of unleaded racing fuel in Schedule G to replace the reference to fuel being available from a 'service station pump' to fuel being 'sourced from an oil company' to reflect the fact that in motorsport most fuel is dispensed at tracks and in service parks from a variety of containers such as drums but almost never from a service station pump.

4.14 Non-compliant NZ Rally Cars in Australian Events

The Commission has noted the CAMS Board Brief supporting the Commission's recommendation that vehicles domiciled in New Zealand and recognised by Motor Sport New Zealand are allowed to compete in rallies in Australia. The Commission further discussed the timeframe involved for these vehicles competing in Australia and agreed that

competition over a 3 month period would be the appropriate time before the vehicle would have to become compliant with Australian requirements or be returned to NZ and re-imported to Australia.

4.15 Engine Substitution Toyota Corolla

The Commission approved a proposed 4AGE engine substitution in Classic Rally Cars for the Toyota TE20/27 model and a Bulletin will be issued to reflect this.

Secretary's Note: Bulletin B11/092 was issued to reflect this approved substitute.

4.16 National Code of Practice/Australian Rally Registration

The Chairman, Mr Trinder noted that George Shephard was absent and unable to update the Commission on QLD transport discussions regarding Rally registration.

The commission noted Campbell Andrea's input during the meeting on this issue and also noted Mr John Bruning from CAMS written report on NSW status of rally registration proceedings.

The Commission and CAMS administration will continue to work to ensure that all states have a practical system for registering rally cars compliant with CAMS regulations.

4.17 Rally of QLD SOS Incident

Mr Macneall provided a report to the Commission in relation to an incident at the International Rally of Queensland. The Commissioners will pass on to organisers the importance of being vigilant and diligent regarding tracking of vehicles in stages.

The Commission will also take steps to remind competitors that it is their responsibility to display SOS/OK boards in the event of stopping on a stage for whatever reason and that penalties will be applied if this is not done.

4.18 Classic Rally Championship

A proposal has been received from the Australian Classic Rally Association (ACRA) in regards to a Classic Rally Championship being officially recognised by CAMS.

The Commission approved the Championship implementation in principle and will seek Board approval.

4.19 Recognition of period modifications in Classic competition

The commission looked at the issue of period modification and in particular the examples of the Datsun 1600 and 180B with 2.4 litre engines. These vehicles are eligible for Club Rally Cars. The Commission was not inclined to amend current regulations to recognise such in Production Rally Cars.

4.20 Rally/Race cross over regulations

ARCom wishes to thank the AMRC for providing the document. The Commission is in favour of vehicles crossing to other disciplines and notes that those vehicles must comply with relevant regulations to the discipline.

4.21 QLD TRE WG Recommendation

Mr Tony Best, Chairman of the QLD Touring Road Event Working Group, provided a recommendation to the Commission in regarding a number of matters applying to Touring Road events, licence levels and the terminology.

The Commission considered the proposals but noted certain potential anomalies and were not inclined to make any changes at this time.

Mr Roder at CAMS will reply to Mr Best with the reasoning behind the decision.

4.22 Strategic Plan progress updates

4.22.1

The Commission wished to note Mr David Lambie's report from the National Officiating Panel in Victoria and will consider the response to the Officials Commission out of session.

4.22.2

Mr Ross Runnalls provided the Commission with an update on the strategic planning document he has updated, with all Commissioners to provide feedback to Mr Runnalls before the document is circulated to State Rally Panels.

4.23 Rally Car other Logbook Clarification

Mr Graeme Palmer has asked the Commission if a new Log Book code for Tarmac Rally Cars should be introduced as currently vehicles fit under Rally Car Other.

The Commission agreed that this logbook category should be created however wished to consider the administrative issues in the implementation with CAMS administration before giving final approval to this.

4.24 Schedule C Battery Isolation – Tarmac Rally regulations

The Commission considered the recommendation from Mr Palmer in regards to the addition of clarification of the need for Battery Isolation switches. The Commission noted that the switches are common practice in most forms of motorsport.

Further advice will be sought from Mr Sam Krieger, Tarmac Rally Technical Commissioner and the issue considered again at the next meeting.

4.25 Single Event Rally Licence

Mr Graeme Miles has provided a recommendation in the interest of simplifying the requirements for entry level rally events. The recommendation proposes allowing navigators to turn up and compete on the day without having to do an online lecture if something similar can be provided for, in the form of an event-based lecture to be presented by a senior official.

The Commission discussed the methods that could be used to implement this process and agreed in principle, however this would need to be done safely, fairly and without adding workload to organisers and CAMS administration.

Mr Miles suggestion that expired licences being able to be renewed at event documentation was also discussed and the Commission was not inclined to agree with this particular recommendation due to practical considerations. Mr Roder will provide feedback to Mr Miles regarding the matter.

The Commission thanked Mr Miles for his proposal.

5. CLOSE

The meeting was closed at 1620 AEST by the Chairman, Mr Colin Trinder.

5.1 Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Commission will be a teleconference scheduled for a time to be advised.

I have sighted these minutes and declare they are a true and accurate record of the meeting:

Colin Trinder
Chairman