



2023 SDMA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2023

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This report is of SDMA activities and results for the 12 months from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, with comments on future issues facing the club and an update on a significant matter which has occurred after the reporting period.

EVENTS

SDMA ran 11 events: eight single-lap rounds of the ACT HillClimb Championship, one single lap round of the NSW HillClimb Championship and two double-lap events. Over the 12 months, 566 drivers competed and almost all events (nine out of eleven) offered five runs on the day. The three non-ACT Championship events were the rounds of the NSW HillClimb Championship on 2 October 2022, the Heart Kids two lap HillClimb on 6 November 2022 and the club two lap hillclimb on 4 June 2023.

After SDMA hosted the final round of the 2022 NSW HillClimb Championship in October, the club wrote to the Motorsport Australia Hill Climb Advisory Panel expressing concern about how the round had been promoted and supported by the Panel. The Panel response was disappointing and the Committee reluctantly decided in November that the club would not host another State Round if SDMA was always going to be given the final event of the championship, with consequent reduced NSW registered competitor participation. Given the overall scarcity of possible SDMA event dates, the Committee believes that the club's priority should be maximising the number of ACT HillClimb Championship events which are open to all club members.

Two measures adopted at the 2022 AGM were implemented from 1 January 2023: the noise limit for club events was reduced to 85dB (from 87 dB) and a revised competition class structure was introduced. Both measures have been introduced smoothly and without disruption, albeit with some teething issues in the case of the revised classes as competitors became accustomed to the new categories.

FINANCES

As shown in the Audited Financial Statements, the club remains in a sound financial position. We are able to meet the costs of normal repairs and maintenance and capital improvements such as the new toilet block in the lower pits, the fit-out of the new workshop and event administration containers as well as disability access and facilities planned for the central Pit Stop Cafe area. Our reserves should be sufficient for us to credibly approach the ACT Government for assistance with the cost of resurfacing the track, when that becomes necessary in the next few years.

The Committee recommends no increase in membership fees or, at this stage, event entry fees.

Like other voluntary organisations SDMA will be affected by the general economic downturn and cost of living pressures. There have been reduced entry numbers for the last two events (August and September) but we are still well above break-even levels (ironically, the smaller fields allowed six runs to be offered at both events, gratifying those competing.) The committee will monitor cost pressures and, as a community focussed club, seek to minimise unavoidable increases.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership remains stable with total membership, including family groups, of around 270 people.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

The most significant issue facing the club in the short and medium terms is the difficulty of getting sufficient members to be officials at events and to turn out at track or facility improvement working bees. The burden continues to fall on a small and very willing group of members who volunteer without fail and contribute mightily, but this is neither fair to them nor sustainable for the club. Despite frequent pleas from me through *Over The Hill* and in special emails, we always sail close to the wind with event officials/volunteers and workers for track maintenance and improvement days.

The Committee will continue to publicise the need for more event officials and will also try to attract more members to working bees. In relation to the latter, the club may have to accept a more strategic approach to maintenance tasks and improvement projects involving less reliance on volunteers and greater use of paid contractors.

DEVELOPMENT SINCE THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD

On Friday 22 September, Motorsport Australia advised that it was bringing forward to 1 October 2023 a planned but, to our knowledge, up until then unannounced 15 per cent increase in event and licence fees.

For SDMA, it means the cost of a one lap club event permit will rise from \$810 to \$932 (about \$2 per competitor in a full 60 entrant field), with commensurate rises in permit costs for two lap and State level events. It will also presumably mean higher MA affiliation fees and track licencing fees.

At this stage I don't think we need to increase event entry fees for the rest of 2023 but we will publicise MA's decision in the next issues of *Over The Hill* and review 2024 entry fees later this year.

John

24 September 2023