

Circuit Excel Association of South Australia



May General Meeting

May Circuit Excel SA General Meeting, hosted at Supashock Advanced Suspension. Meeting will commence with a tour of the facility, before commencement of the general business side of the meeting.

When	06-05-2019 at 7:00 PM
Location:	Supashock Advanced Suspension, 35 Woomera Ave, Edinburgh SA 5111, Australia
Chairperson	Nathan Green
Minute taker	Ashleigh Bennett
Present	Santo Arabia , James Benford , Ashleigh Bennett (Secretary), Leon Bondarenko (Vice President), Martyn Butler , Paul Falco , Nathan Green (President, State Council Delegate), RICHARD HOPKINS , Michael Nowickij , Shayne Nowickij , John Reynolds , Nick Scaife , David Shaw , Gil Slade , Isaac Sparks , Scott Stephenson , Gregory Stuut , Jason Thiele , Justin Wanzek , Simon Wills (Promotions & Sponsorship Coordinator), Adam Young , Andrew Young (CEMC Delegate), James Zeitz
Apologies	Shane Chancellor , Michael Clemente , Jay Donald , Simon Helps , Graham Hewett , Darren Matiske , Wayne Pannowitch (Treasurer)

Minutes

1. Open Meeting

Opened 8:15pm. Nathan Green in chair.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (February 2019)

Accepted - Moved Martyn Butler, Seconded Richard Hopkins.

3. President's Report

Welcome all members and thank you to our Host, Supashock for showing us their proud world class operations here, highlighting the innovation and investment

they have made in industry right here in South Australia.

Welcome and introduction of Isaac and Martyn Sparks, who have built a stock excel and looking to build up to competition over the year – Target November. Gil invited the Sparks to reach out for whatever support they need for the build and preparation.

Circuit Excel continues to be a strong RACE category here in SA and across Australia.

While round 1 seems a long time ago, we should reflect on another great event where we managed to present a strong field, with some great racing. I had the unique pleasure to watch some of the racing at the front (as I had my first ever DNF) and agree it was first class. While the event was marred by some notable damage to a few cars, overall the feedback for our category is good. With respect to driving standards, we are talking with the tower to improve the communications and educate competitors of the processes (meeting next week) so look forward to more info prior to round 2.

Comment (Driving Standards): “Coming through the field the driving standards and courtesy offered by drivers being overtaken was good until the incident”. “Continual blocking in some areas of the field brings about frustration and is not racing”. The feedback received will be discussed to identify the best way to communicate and manage expectations with respect to Driving Standards. Since round 1 we have seen racing in all states, including our event at Bathurst. Despite a few early red flags, we saw some great racing and a number of members got to experience the Mountain first hand. We look to extend this opportunity into the future for many more to tick off their bucket list.

Congratulations to Asher and the rest of the CIO crew as all the hard work paid off, living a dream of being hard earned Bathurst winners. In coming weeks we see Excels on the Supercars support bill via HERA Vic, where a number of South Australians (see below) will join others to put on a show in front of the big guys, so we wish them all luck. The category will again be on show!

Good luck to:

ASHER JOHNSTON, SHANE NOWICKYJ, GRAHAM HEWETT, THOMAS BENFORD, MITCHELL MCGARRY, SCOTT STEPHENSON, GIL SLADE, NICK SCAIFE

Despite these great opportunities, local state series are a priority and we need to maintain our support for those events and organisers. Round 2 is coming up late June and we hope to see strong grids including new racers from Mt Gambier and hopefully more from across the border to experience the bend.

It is important we all do what we can to maintain the strength of these rounds as overall round numbers will help minimise cost increases, etc. At present, the SCC are maintaining the entry fees and intend to retain the international circuit bookings for round 2 and 4.

CAMS update:

New website up and running, noted some legacy links don't work (ie: to old versions of regs, etc, ensure all club sites links are current)

PCSA cancelled a supersprint, choosing to run a “Bend” day instead – noted no CAMS application was received

Harry Day has joined SA office to assist Tanja with Sport and Club Development.

Noted a couple of clubs received CAMS Club Development Funding, including Austin 7 who ran a “training day” in conjunction with their Modern Regularities CAMS office remaining at Kent Town (lease renewed), currently looking at costs to

update facility.

CAMS Award dinners, pencilled in for SA 7th February and NT 15th February, venues TBC (Consider when planning post 2019 presentation night)

Pre-logbook audit / inspections – list of those eligible currently under review.

Intent is that all listed could do all categories, however this is subject to panel reviews (ie: Rally, Offroad and Circuit – in progress)

IPRA (SA) has submitted an expression of interest to support Asia LMP event in January

Saloon Car Nationals @ hidden valley in September; Commodore cup Enduro slated to join Saloon Car Nationals

Supercars – Hidden Valley – 2 local grids – IPRA and HQ.

In the background, we are talking with other competitors/categories who might be interested in a mixed cars enduro format if an event could be identified.

Promotions:

New naming rights sponsor and what that will mean for CEASA.

New round sponsors for rounds 4 and 5.

Round 2 Sponsor spot still available !

U Pull Tt and Bursons back on board for the season ahead.

Social media:

Want more content from members if possible. ie: interesting stories or videos of fun racing, etc.

Lisa Totani sought feedback of FB live video's done at Bathurst. Has offered to do something similar at future rounds if available.

Competition:

The Nationals update.

Format is loosely confirmed. Target price circa 750 for 3 days. Lots of interest from interstate. Acceptance criteria TBC – Expressions of Interest to be sent out to gauge numbers of entries. Lisa Totani on board for event management.

Enduro was not continued due to lack of numbers. Club would be interested to see if there were any members that did not put in for EOI but were keen anyway.

Driver standards: meeting with officials setup to manage driving standards (Next week), with the objective to clear up lines of communications and etiquette (on and off track).

Comment: there is a significant gap in the SA calendar between Rounds 1 & 2 which would be good to fill with another event – ie: enduro or similar

4. Secretary's Report

Currently 72 active & financial members, consisting of 53 individual (General) memberships, and 19 Family Memberships (6 "adults" and 13 "junior" types). A few new memberships in the last month.

Reported the proposed Circuit Excel enduro for June 1st has been abandoned due to low interest, as only 12 expression of interest forms received. Whilst good to see a few interstate entries, there were a small number from SA with co-drivers listed as TBC, or not yet licenced, which poses a risk those entries may pull out if they weren't able to get a co-driver or have them licenced in time.

5. Treasurer's Report

Wayne was an apology for the meeting, has told everything is looking fine.

6. CEMC Delegate Report

CAMS have now asked us to have communication channels between the States member clubs and CAMS. The agreed new communication channel that CEMC and CAMS has set up is to forward all queries that members have with technical issues to the CEMC state delegate. The State Delegate will then forward theses onto CAMS. From CAMS perspective we need to be aware that there are around 400 log-booked Excels so they are finding Excels are generating a lot of their technical queries. So please in the future forward all technical issues to me not CAMS.

The regulation review is now be compiled. The feedback received has been collated into one document is currently being fed into a draft set of regulations for 2020, we are currently at Revision A. CEMC worked to overcome a grey area that was brought to our attention with the batteries, this has now been added to the regulations as per 12.1(f) issued on the 15/4/2019

(f) Until 31 December 2019, the vehicle battery location and the vehicle battery type are both free.

Currently we are still working with the Suspension supplier's particularly with those that has made changes to their homologated products without submitting an engineering change request. We have asked all suppliers to submit their dampers.

At Bathurst we had Scrutineers and Eligibility Officers actively doing checks. All cars were checked for ride height, camber, weight and diffs. Several cars had sumps removed with one car found to have modifications made to the crankshaft that was deemed to be outside of the regulations. After the completion of racing 3 cars had to remove their heads and have a full inspection, no irregularities were found with these cars. CAMS are encouraging these styles of inspections more often and are looking at the cost of covering heads bolts and VRS kits. David Shaw is currently working with all engines sealers and has formed an engine sealers group.

Nathan and I will be part of a meeting and discussions about a proposed National Series that is aimed at kicking off in 2020 if it is given the go ahead. We have a meeting / discussion with the other State Presidents and CEMC Delegates this Wednesday night. Below is some of the information that has been disseminated thus far.

Why a national series?

As a club & state based category, Excels have experienced significant growth and brought people into and back into circuit racing due to the one-make formula and relatively low costs associated. Part of this success is also due to the Excels being seen as a development category where drivers who are looking to progress from go-karts into other forms of motorsport can compete on major circuits and against benchmark competition. Over the last three years a number of marque events including Bathurst, the Shannons QLD round and 3 "Excel Nationals" have seen the best from each state racing on the same schedule, generating publicity for the category, interstate comradery and great racing. The national series is looking to capitalise on the momentum that the category has generated thus far and build on the success of existing national events to promote Excel's as the place to be - encouraging people to come into the sport at club/state level and join in the fun.

Key objectives:

Construct a national-level competition to positively promote and market Excel racing at all levels

Maintain the cost-effectiveness of the category; club/state racing should not suffer a financial penalty due to a national competition

Work within the category charter and CAMS driver development framework

Have a properly structured/tiered competition between club, state and national - strongly connected and working together at each level to ensure the best interests of the category are maintained with appropriate governance

Provide a clear pathway for drivers to start at club level, progress to state and finish at national level (if they so desire); Promote club growth - for every new national competitor we want to see multiple new state level competitors to maintain a strong talent pipeline.

Help competitors grow and develop by providing services/training such as securing sponsorship, driver development/coaching, media training, budgeting etc

More information to come on this topic.

7. Eligibility Officer's Report

General discussion regarding transfer of role to Fred Severin and how to better facilitate communications and engagement with club.

8. Promotion's Report

Simon announced Wynn's as the new naming rights sponsor for Circuit Excel SA championship.

Also confirmed he has secured new round sponsors for rounds 4 and 5 (to be announced later). Just need one for round 2 and we are all filled.

Also U Pull It and Bursons back on board for the season ahead.

Social media happenings. Want more content from members if possible.

9. General Correspondence & Business

SA Motorsport Tyres – Workshop has moved (and expanded with dedicated facilities). Now at 91 Harrison Road Dudley Park; Operating hours while they are not providing track support is 8am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday. New call divert number is 1300 022 948

Congratulations to Scott Stephenson, Helen Stephenson and the rest of the “Driven to Excel” team who had a breakthrough win in the Peter Hall Memorial 6 hour.

10. Set Date for next meeting and Close

17th June (Prior round 2); Venue: Pub environment (TBA) near Tonsley (ie: South)

End of minutes.