



# Group S Racing Association Inc.

[www.groups racing.org.au](http://www.groups racing.org.au)

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Mr Geoff Pike  
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On behalf of the Group S Racing Association, I am writing to compliment Festival of Sporting Cars for an outstanding race meeting at Bathurst over Easter.

The meeting has been the subject of much exemplary comment by members who were greatly appreciative of the opportunity to race at iconic Mt Panorama.

The GSRA also understands the difficulties that FoSC had to overcome in staging this wonderful initiative and the small delays on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning were a small inconvenience; they were accepted understandably by our members.

The GSRA now looks forward to a 2009 Bathurst meeting and wishes to make some constructive suggestions for 2009. These suggestions have been arrived at after debriefing this year's event at committee and after taking members' comments into consideration.

Specifically, the GSRA offers the following suggestions for the Easter 2009 meeting.

- The "six car" familiarity sessions were of limited value especially for those at the rear of the familiarity train.
- Drivers who competed at the mount in 2008 should be cleared for immediate open practice in 2009 - FoSC might still wish to run some familiarity sessions for drivers who have no experience at Mt Panorama.
- The five race format of 4 x 3 laps plus 1 x 4 laps (16 in all) needs review. Given the amount of time taken in marshalling and vacating the circuit, and the comment by drivers that it generally took some three laps for race traffic in the large fields to thin, and for drivers to establish a rhythm, a format of four races of 4/5 laps should be considered as an alternative to this year's five race format.
- The combined field of Sa and Sb cars proved compatible and was very well received.

- The mix of Sc with Nc was not ideal and the GSRA would like to explore with FoSC alternatives for 2009, dependent of course on Sc support for the meeting - the GSRA noted that 2008 Sc entry numbers were less than expected.
- The availability and quality of food at the meeting should be improved by increasing the number and quality of catering contractors; this especially so should spectators arrive in greater numbers in 2009.
- The meeting suffered from the lack of a serviceable public address system.

The practice of FoSC inviting only entrants who have demonstrated the maturity and competence to race on the demanding and unforgiving Mt Panorama should be continued.

The GSRA has no interest in racing with individuals in under-prepared cars or who exhibit a cavalier attitude to their fellow racers or to the mountain.

The GSRA is also considering calls from members for this great weekend of motor sport to be included in the 2009 GSRA pointscore. Perhaps the best way to explore this and the issues we raise is for the GSRA to delegate a small sub-committee to work with FoSC to ensure that the 2009 meeting builds on the outstanding 2008 meeting.

The GSRA has been a foundation supporter of Festival of Sporting Cars and its predecessor MG Racing and looks forward to working with and supporting FoSC at the mountain in 2009.

Finally, please pass on our congratulations and thanks to all concerned with the 2008 event; planners, officials, administrators and volunteers – the GSRA greatly appreciates their efforts without which the 2008 event could not be staged.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Weston  
President – GSRA

*The GSRA was established in January 2006 and it recently issued GSRA member number 139. It represents the Group S owners and drivers resident in NSW, ACT, VIC, SA and QLD and is affiliated with the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport.*