



Group S Racing Association Inc.

www.groups racing.org.au

President - Brian Weston, 60 Empire Circuit, Forrest ACT 2603

Mr Ian Tate - President
Victorian Historic Racing Register
PO Box 3485
Melbourne, VIC 3001

For information:
Mr Jon Bate - Group S Representative

9th May 2006

Dear Sir,

I am writing to inform you of the establishment of the Group S Racing Association Inc and to provide some feedback to your organising committee from the annual Phillip Island Classic motor races.

The GSRA was established in January 2006. Our constitution states our purpose shall be to represent the interests of owners and drivers of Group S cars in the course of participation in historic sports car motor sport.

Our objectives are listed as to:

- provide a representational voice for the owners and drivers of Group S cars;
- promote Group S motor sport; and
- facilitate enjoyable participation in Group S historic motor sport.

We have an active committee with several ex-officio appointments assisting. Our constitution, administrative documentation together with other material is available through our website (www.groups racing.org.au).

Since January 2006 we have increased our membership to 65 members from NSW, ACT, Vic, SA and Qld. Sixty-three of these members own a Group S car while two members drive another entrant's Group S car. This is a significant number of Group S racers and we expect to expand our membership further.

Many of our members competed in the recent Phillip Island Classic and on behalf of the GSRA may I compliment the VHRR on the conduct of this "icon" event of the Australian motor racing calendar. I trust that Group S will continue to prominently feature on the race meeting's program in the years to come.

I am also very pleased to advise that our members greatly appreciated the ability to access the track and complete credentials documentation on the Thursday afternoon.

In previous years the rush, traffic congestion and queues involved in unloading cars, setting up garages, presenting documentation, attending scrutineering and being ready to practice at 9.50 am on Friday morning was a pretty frantic introduction into the weekend. Access to the track on Thursday has been a great improvement and the GSRA hopes that this and early processing of documentation can continue at future meetings.

However one matter that our members would wish to see the organising committee address is scrutineering. Current programming practice sees Group S needing to complete scrutineering by about 9.30 am on Friday, so that drivers can present at the dummy grid for the first of the Group S practice sessions at 9.50 am. Normally, this would not be too difficult except that at Phillip Island most Group S competitors cannot start their engines before 9.00 am, thus necessitating pushing and/or towing vehicles to scrutineering.

In the nearby asphalted pit area this is not so much of a problem but for the Group S competitors located in the southern paddock, the uphill grade plus the need to negotiate the congestion at "Piccadilly Circus" near the exit of the track entry tunnel causes much unnecessary agro. Many competitors resort to towing, sometimes two Group S cars in tandem; in such a congested area towing only serves to cause further traffic congestion as well as not being good OH&S practice.

The requirement to present again at scrutineering on Saturday and Sunday also adds to the frustration of the scrutineering process.

There may be several measures that could alleviate the difficulties of the scrutineering process, but perhaps one measure that might be considered is the establishment of a second scrutineering bay in the southern paddock. Certainly this has been employed before and has eased the difficulties of scrutineering for all competitors based in the southern paddock.

Another matter that has been noted by members is their preference for progressive grids to be used in Group S so that consistent race performance can be rewarded by progressive improvement in grid position over the weekend.

The association looks forward to supporting the VHRR over future Phillip Island Classic race meetings and offers these suggestions in the context of improving the attraction of the meeting to our members.

Yours faithfully,

Brian Weston
President - GSRA