



GROUP S RACING ASSOCIATION INC. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2018: Group S was back at Bathurst, and made history in the first event at The Bend.

Firstly to all our members, a big heartfelt thank you. Thank you for your ongoing support on and off the track to Group S Racing. 2018 was once again another successful year of racing for Group S in so many ways. As the GSRA moves towards being a little more agile in our approach, many of the lessons learned in 2017 have had the opportunity to be refined further in 2018. This will continue in 2019 as we continue to strive for continuous improvement.

The work 'behind the scenes' continues to be substantial, but very worthwhile and beneficial for Group S and its members. Again, the hard work from your GSRA committee is hopefully being seen and appreciated, and I thank them all for their commitment and tireless work in the year just gone. 2019 is shaping up to be another big year.

Ryan Curnick is taking time off official Committee duties in 2019, but still very much being involved in an ex-officio position looking after Technical Advisory with Brian Weston, whilst also providing Technical Research to the GSRA. Ryan has provided great input over the last 2 years, despite him being unable to compete as often as he wanted due to work and commitments at home.

As a result of Ryan stepping down, we welcome Nick Sebesfi to the Committee. Nick has been a competitor in Group S for some years in his MG Midget, and introduced his son Andrew, and now brother Alan to Group S. With three Sebesfi's on the same track and the same time, it is sure to cause headaches to the commentators! Hard enough having two Taylor's, Narkiewicz's and Byrne's already!

2018 highlights

In 2018 we continued to build on some of the initiatives implemented in 2017, namely the name boards, paddock areas at race meetings, drinks and nibbles, qualifying sheets and post-race surveys. Anyone wanting a replacement board (of if you don't have one), please contact Tom Walstab our Vice President, and we can arrange for one to be produced for a small fee. Things like the name boards being displayed in the paddock, adds to the presence Group S provides to promoters, and to our own category.

As everyone would know, Group S participated at the Bathurst 12 Hour in February. This international motorsport event was a highlight for those 60 members who participated. A big thank you to the Group S

members who volunteered to help over the weekend. After impressing the promoters in 2018, we have been invited back in 2019. For the 2019 Bathurst took less 28 hours to sell out, and a healthy wait list was created. Truly a tremendous effort and show of support for the event and the circuit. To preserve the exclusivity of the 12 Hour event, organisers and the GSRA have agreed to make our inclusion every 2 years from 2019 onwards, meaning that the next Group S event at Bathurst 12 Hour will be in 2021. The event will be again live streamed, so be sure to check out your fellow members during the event. Look out for race times on TeamApp and the Group S social media channels.

2018 also marked the opening of the new motorsport facility at Tailem Bend, aptly named 'The Bend'. This \$110m motorsport complex is simply outstanding, and a true credit to the Shahin family who have invested into this world class facility. Competing with Shannon's Nationals (another first for Group S), we created history by being one of the privileged categories to compete at the first race meeting at the facility in April. The event itself was memorable in so many ways, none more so than the apocalyptic weather experienced over the 3 days meeting. I know that I am one of many who can't wait to go back. In 2020, we plan to go back with Shannon's Nationals, and will confirm as soon as possible if and when this is locked in.

Group S continued our full calendar with 14 events in 2018 (a record number, however I will stand to be corrected on this. Members participated in many of the great events all around Australia, including VHRR Phillip Island Classic and Winton FOS, Austin 7 Winton Historics, HSRCA SMSP and Wakefield events, being the most well supported.

For 2019, NSW will welcome back an additional round, with the Muscle Car Masters and the HSRCA events at SMSP now providing three separate opportunities to compete at the outer metro venue. Wakefield already has two events locked in, with a further third awaiting confirmation. Bathurst adds to another round to the NSW calendar, but will be classified as an away round for all Championship Cups

Member subscription fees

For 2018 the GSRA agreed to raise member fees to \$100, and I can confirm that this remains for 2019. Renewals are now open via TeamApp (our preferred method for renewal). For those preferring EFT, we still will offer this in 2019. The banking details are on the Group S website.

The GSRA will continue to seek more ways to provide value for members.

A new addition for the member renewals is the ability to add team member cards. Be it for your wife, mechanic, head chef, daughter, son, or best mate, these are available for a limited time through TeamApp with your membership renewal. We hope this further adds to the camaraderie we see within the Group S racing fraternity. Thanks to Tom Walstab for this great initiative.

GSRA Membership

The Association has now completed 13 very successful years. Our membership consistently sat around 160 with the typical annual fluctuations as members leave to pursue other interests, and replaced with new members entering.

In all over 95% of the Group S entrants in 2018 were members of the GSRA. Group S continues to provide the largest or second largest grid at almost every meeting in 2018, and the number of active members was over 120.

In a time where many other categories are experiencing a significant drop in competitors, our membership continues to provide the backbone support required by many historic promoters to enable those events to be run. In 2018, we have already seen those promoters having to search outside of historic motorsport categories to sure up income required to ensure the events are not running at a loss.

Again, I thank each GSRA member for their ongoing support, both in terms of entries and membership to keep our category strong, relevant, and a leader in the Australian historic motorsport community. Keep up the great work and support you are providing.

Racing in 2018

We have had another great season of racing including the two new events, namely the Bathurst 12 Hour, and The Bend. Our three state based Championships were fiercely contested. The results are available on the Group S website, and the majority of the awards will be handed out at Bathurst 12 Hour, with those remaining handed out at Phillip Island and Wakefield for those that cannot attend Bathurst.

In 2018 we again continued to work closely with our historic race promoters; HSRCA, VHRR, ARDC, HRCC, SCCSA, MGCC Tasmania and Austin 7 Club. For the most part, we have again been able to continue to provide strong grids and continue to foster healthy and mutually beneficial working relationships. The feedback that members pass on via the GSRA Post Race Survey's continue to be welcomed by the promoters, as they seek to find ways to ensure the longevity and success of their events. As previously mentioned, there is no doubt that many of the historic promoters are struggling to continue to invite only historic categories to their events, and this has seen the introduction of other non-historic categories into these events.

Committee member Hung Do continues to be the quiet achieving champion behind the scenes of Group S, calculating and publishing the points for all our race meetings. The statistics from our meetings are impressive, and below are some of the highlights.

- 14 Events across 5 states
- 126 individual people competing
- Average of 26 competitors per race meet

- Over 360 individual entries
- Average of around 2.8 events per member
- SBb (1600-2000cc) was the largest class with 30 cars
- SCc (2600-3000cc) was the second largest class with 19
- SBc (2000-3000cc) was smallest class with 3 cars
- Phillip Island Classic had the largest number of entries; 65 cars entered
- Most events in 2018
 - 7 – Kent Brown, Wayne Seabrook and Tony Antoun
 - 6 – Brian Weston, Joe Di Bartolo, Rodger Chapman, Doug Barbour, Ian Ross, Ray Narkiewicz and Simon Meyer
 - 5 – 10 members competed at 5 events
 - 4 – 19 members competed at 4 events
 - 3 – 28 members competed at 3 events

The most travelled member was Kent Brown who competed in 4 events outside his home state of ACT/NSW. Congratulations Kent on being such a great supporter of Group S.

Thank you again to Hung Do for his dedication and contribution to Group S Racing and providing such great analytical insights of our competition.

Lap Records

New lap records have been set during the year by a range of class capacity cars and at various tracks, including all new records for the first running at Tailem Bend. Thank you to Colin Wilson-Brown for continuing to provide the service of maintaining Lap Records on the Group S website and TeamApp.

Racing in 2019

The 2019 GSRA calendar is already available on TeamApp, which now includes improved functionality to allow you to RSVP. I encourage all members to complete the RSVP for all events. This assists the GSRA and the event promoters regarding potential entry numbers. An RSVP does not confirm your entry, merely your intent to compete.

The 2019 calendar has shaped up again to provide an excellent range of racing opportunities across five states. Members who wish to copy the calendar to their phone or computer can do so by using TeamApp Calendar "Subscribe" button on the top left. It literally is two clicks to install, so go and try it!

The 2019 season kicks off at the Bathurst 12 Hour, with 55 cars taking to 'The Mountain'. Phillip Island Classic shortly thereafter, where Group S has only been offered one grid, however this too is full and oversubscribed. At this stage around 20 Group S competitors will miss out at Phillip Island Classic, and as a result, the GSRA is

looking for another event at the Island sometime in 2019. Stay tuned if we have any developments regarding this.

If there is one thing I urge members to do in 2019, it is enter early! We have seen grids fill very quickly in 4 events towards the end of 2018 and early 2019. If you delay entering, you are likely to miss out.

Class and capacity

The class and capacity structure was reviewed at the start of 2017 by Hung Do and myself. The changes implemented for the 2018 season seemingly have worked well, however the continue decline of Group Sa entries is concerning, and follows recent trends. As advised at the conclusion of the last review, the GSRA plan to conduct another review at the end of the 2019 season.

For any Sa members or past competitors, please seek out any of the GSRA committee directly, or indeed myself, to share any thoughts and/or suggestions on how we can get more Sa cars back on the track.

Driving Standards

Driving standards is always a contentious topic. I will say that in 2019, the GSRA will advise each and every event's Clerk of Course to deal with car-to-car contact seriously. In 2018, the GSRA updated the Driver Code of Conduct, available on TeamApp and the GSRA website. We all compete in historic racing for the fun of it. The fun quickly disappears when overly aggressive driving, and poor driving ruin it for all involved, including those other competitors who invariably lose laps to safety cars and red flags. There have been less incidents that caused damage to competitors' cars in 2018, less than in 2017. Let's aim for zero contact in 2019, and be the benchmark in historic motorsport, with everyone looking out for each other, whilst still providing entertaining close racing.

National Race Numbers

The GSRA continues to administer a Race Number Register. In 2017 we moved to a National number system in a bid to try and limit the number of duplicate numbers between NSW and Victoria. As a reminder, the revised 'house rules' require you to compete within the last 12 months or your reserved number will be lost. A reserved racing number means just that, you race and you use it, or you don't race, and you lose it. Thanks to Tom Walstab for continuing to maintain this list. As a reminder the reserve number list is on the website and on TeamApp on the Race Numbers tab.

CAMS related topics

I recommend that you visit the CAMS website regularly to see if any Technical Bulletins have been promulgated that effect Group S. The Minutes of the AHMSC also make interesting reading and I commend them to you as another valuable source of information.

The AHMSC continue to meet and their updates of minutes are available online on the CAMS website. There are some changes and amendments that start on the 1.1.2019 so I would encourage you all to review these once posted on the CAMS website.

REMINDER: As a reminder to all Group S members, engine sealing is mandatory as at 1.1.2018. Please make yourself aware of the process on the CAMS website.

We have been advised that any car being presented to race in 2019 without a correctly located seal will be referred to the CAMS Stewards for consideration. Competing in a car with no seal may result in being excluded from further competition until the non-compliance has been rectified.

TeamApp

TeamApp has continued to evolve with more users actively using the App. Infact Group S has been approached by other categories asking how they too could use TeamApp, as Group S is seen as a leader in this space.

As well as general notifications about Group S, we are increasingly using TeamApp as the central source for all things Group S, including entries for events. We urge all members to download and use TeamApp assuming you are not using it already. Tom Walstab is available to assist any members who may be having difficulty joining or accessing the App.

We know of a very small number of users (less than 5) that use Windows phones, and TeamApp is not supported by those devices. As a reminder, important TeamApp notifications are also sent via email at the same time, and it is responsibility of those users to ensure that they can receive messages via email. We can only do so much, and require support of members with this.

Post Race Surveys

The committee has also continued to provide Post Race Surveys. Thank you to those that continue to provide your feedback. We encourage all members to fill in their opinions, as it is only with this format that we can substantiate and validate our comments, concerns, and appreciation.

All surveys are available to be viewed on the Group S website under Documents.

Championship presentations

As mentioned above, Bathurst 12 hour is the first event in 2019, and we plan to conduct the presentations at Bathurst for all three Cups on the Friday afternoon around 5pm (TBC). Most award winners will be present at this event and the GSRA feel this would be a great way to celebrate.

We will however continue with the traditional drinks and nibbles at Phillip Island and Wakefield, and use that as an opportunity to hand out any remaining trophies.

We will try to host 'drinks and nibbles' at each event on the Saturday afternoon after racing has concluded. These opportunities to get everyone together is something that many believe essential in maintaining the great rapport and camaraderie between competitors. Nick Sebesfi will be the main contact for organizing this at the NSW events, whilst Tom and myself will continue to arrange those in VIC. Should anyone in QLD and SA wish to assist, it would be most welcomed.

Keep an eye on TeamApp at your next race meeting for time and venue, or look for one of the GSRA committee.

Sponsorship

In 2018 we announced the sponsorship by Gulf Oil Australia. Gulf is a name embedded in motorsport history, with the famous blue and orange liveries still adorning cars today as they did back in the 60s and 70s. In 2018 I will admit the year disappeared quickly, and we did not do as much as we wanted with Gulf. Partly our fault, and partly theirs as they continue to establish Gulf here in Australia.

Gulf Oil have agreed to continue their support of Group S in 2019, which will see more visible benefits provided to all members. At the time of writing, the CAMS paperwork has yet to be submitted for the 2019 season, however we expect an approval to again allow the Gulf logos to be mounted beside your race numbers on the side of the car, and a Gulf Oil window banner for those with suitable windscreens.

We thank Michael and Phil from Gulf Oil for their support, and look forward to further involvement in 2019, and again showcase what a good fit Gulf and Group S are.

In addition to Gulf Oil, we had sponsorship from Spirit or Racing (clothing), Bowden's Own (car care products) and Torq Racewear at various stages in 2018. We welcome both Spirit or Racing and Bowden's Own again in 2019 for the Bathurst event, and thank them all for their support in 2018.

Sponsors Vehicle Stickers

As a reminder to all members that are carrying the Group S sponsor stickers. There are strict guidelines regarding what is approved by CAMS, and how cars are to be presented. Please ensure that your car is compliant and refer to the Group S website. If you are unsure, please speak with Alex Webster or Bob Buck to seek clarification or direction.

Your GSRA Committee

It has been a pleasure to work with all committee members, GSRA ex-officio appointees and all of you; the GSRA members.

I wish to thank the Committee for their advice, guidance, efforts, vigorous debate and discussions, commitment and support. Great teamwork is yielding some great results, and we seek to continue this unity going forward in 2019 and beyond.

Notably I wish to thank and acknowledge Nicholas Taylor who has taken on the ex-officio role of Social Media Coordinator. His efforts are the reason we have a strong following on Facebook and Instagram. As these social media platforms are followed by Group S members and fans, I urge all members to send content to Nick, or tag Group S Racing to any posts.

Also I wish to acknowledge the contributions of Bob Buck, the CAMS Group S Technical Officer, who also contributed a wealth of guidance and advice from an eligibility perspective in 2018. Please feel free to reach out to Bob if you have questions or concerns about your car, or topics such as engine sealing.

Thanks go to each and every GSRA member, without whom, we would not have this great association. Rest assured we will continue to bring more to the table in 2019, and continue to professionalise and promote our great group of historic amateur racers.

I wish you and your families and friends a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, safe and enjoyable 2019.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Webster." The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke underneath the name.

Alex Webster

President

Group S Racing Association

10th December 2018