



SCOTTISH MOTOR SPORTS

Scottish Motor Sports, 28 West Main Street, Uphall, West Lothian EH52 5DW
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Motor Sport: A sport of National Performance Significance to Scotland

Submission to **sport**scotland

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1. Introduction

Scotland has an unrivalled track record of success in the world of motor sport, being one of only five countries in the world to have produced World Champions on two, three and four wheels. Since the introduction of formally recognised automotive World Championships, after the Second World War, Scotland has produced no fewer than ten World Champions, as well as a host of internationally recognised stars.

The names of Jim Clark, Sir Jackie Stewart and Colin McRae immediately spring to mind, but Scotland has produced many more world-beaters. Determination and talent have defined the successful careers of David Coulthard, Dario Franchitti, Paul di Resta, Niall MacKenzie, Steve Hislop, Allan McNish and Louise Aitken-Walker, while Richard Noble's land speed achievements have added another dimension. Looking further back, the heroic efforts of Ron Flockhart and Innes Ireland plus the fearless and redoubtable Bob McIntyre and Jimmy Guthrie, have put true grit into Scottish tarmac.

Scotland itself also features regularly on the world stage, hosting rounds of the European Rally Championship, the Intercontinental Rally Challenge, the World MotoCross Championship and the World Trials Championship, while it is also host to one of the longest running motor sporting events in the world, the unique Scottish Six Days Trial.

The success of Scottish motor sport has been largely achieved without any official recognition or support; as a result, those that have made it to the highest level will have done so off their own backs.

The motor sport communities of both two and four wheels have now joined forces to ensure that motor sport is able to take its rightful place at the top table of Scottish sport. The first step in this process is to achieve official recognition by **sportscotland** of motor sport as a sport of National Performance Significance to Scotland.

In order to achieve this, it is understood that the sport must demonstrate:

- significance to Scotland through participation, spectator numbers, events and media coverage.
- significance in the world, through the size and the scale of the sport worldwide.
- potential to deliver against performance outcomes on the world stage.



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2. The significance of motor sport to Scotland

The supporting presentation '*Motor Sport in Scotland*' provides a comprehensive account of 80 years of motor sport heritage on both two and four wheels. It reflects the growth of the sport, the success of Scottish riders and drivers, the popularity of Scottish events and the international credibility that Scotland's motor sport success has brought to the country.

Grassroots motor sport is the lifeblood of the sport. There are more than 100 clubs across two and four wheels, with a combined membership in excess of 16,000 people. Between them, these clubs organise more than 700 events every year, each of which is staffed and marshalled by members of Scotland's army of more than 1,000 registered and trained volunteers.

In the past five years, more than 6,000 Scottish competitors have held an official competition licence issued by the Motor Sports Association or the Scottish Auto Cycle Union to enable participation in the higher level of events.

Knockhill Race Circuit is Scotland's premier motor sport venue and the only permanent tarmac race track currently operating full time in Scotland. Its 150,000 annual visitors comprises 90,000 spectators, 10,000 event participants, 3,500 corporate guests, 31,500 driving experience visitors and 15,000 kart centre visitors.

Scotland boasts four MSA-licensed outdoor karting venues at Larkhall, Crail, Boyndie and Golspie which have been the proving ground for many of today's top motor sport stars, while a large number of commercial karting operators offer an exciting leisure activity for the wider public.

The Jim Clark Rally is a Stage Rally held every year on closed public roads around the Border town of Duns. It is a fixture on both the British Rally Championship and the Scottish Rally Championship calendars, drawing the best rally drivers from the UK and across Europe. Spectator figures for the three-day event are a total of 35,000 and studies of the economic impact suggest that the event is worth £3m to the Scottish Borders economy.

The Scottish Six Day Trial celebrated its centenary in 2011. Held every year in the Lochaber area around Fort William the SSDT is one of the few stand-alone motorsport events with a worldwide reputation, similar to the Isle of Man TT races and the Dakar Rallye. Entries are limited to 270 although more than 400 applications to compete are received every year, with around 50% of competitors coming from overseas. Event Scotland research estimates that the event brings around £1.5m in revenue to the Fort William and Lochaber area each year.

There can be little doubt that motor sport has played, and continues to play, a significant role in the development of Scotland's identity and its international credibility.



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3. The significance of motor sport in the world

The Motor Sports Association (MSA) is the national governing body, responsible for the regulation and administration of four-wheeled motor sport in the UK. The MSA is a member of the world governing body, the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) and holds a seat on the World Motor Sport Council. The FIA represents a total of 227 member organisations in 132 countries.

The FIA sanctions 29 championships worldwide, ranging from the FIA Formula 1 World Championship and the FIA World Rally Championship to regional championships in Europe, Middle East, Asia Pacific and Africa.

The Scottish Auto Cycle Union is the governing body for motorcycle sport in Scotland, allied through the ACU in England and Wales to the equivalent world governing body for motorcycle sport, the Fédération Internationale de Motorcyclisme (FIM).

Formula One is undoubtedly the headline-maker in world motor sport with an annual worldwide audience running into billions. The Formula One Drivers' championship has been won under the Scottish flag by Sir Jackie Stewart (three times) and Jim Clark (twice), while David Coulthard finished as runner-up in 2001.

However, other international motor sport continues to play a significant role around the world, including the IndyCar Series (won three times by Dario Franchitti) and NASCAR in the US, the new World Endurance Championship for Le Mans-style cars, the German DTM Championship (previously won by Paul di Resta) and the World Rally Championship (previously won by Scotsmen Colin McRae, Derek Ringer and Robert Reid).

Niall Mackenzie and Steve Hislop both have impressive records in Motorcycle Grand Prix and the World Superbike championship. Jimmy Guthrie had 19 Motorcycle Grand Prix wins in the 1930s, Bob McIntyre 5 GP wins in the 1950s and Jock Taylor World Sidecar Champion in 1980.

There can be little doubt that motor sport occupies a position of significant importance on the international sporting landscape.



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4. The potential to deliver against performance outcomes on the world stage

The principles of sport development are now well established as a progressive virtuous circle. This confirms that international success for athletes is an important factor in delivering a growth in the number of participants, while a greater number of participants inevitably increases the size of the pool of talent from which future stars will be drawn.

There is no doubt that the proud Scottish lineage of talent has the potential to become self-fulfilling, as can be demonstrated by the various common influences over the careers of such drivers as David Leslie, Allan McNish, David Coulthard and Dario Franchitti.

And while not every competitor can make it to the top of Formula One, MotoGP or the World Rally Championship, there are many other opportunities for drivers and riders around the world.

Furthermore, the network of Scottish personnel within the sport can provide sufficient mentors to make a positive impact on the careers of future competitors and teams.

It is therefore in the interests of the development of the sport, that significant effort is put into maintaining Scotland's extraordinary track record of international success and ensuring that the talent development process is self-perpetuating.

There are already Scottish drivers and riders on UK training schemes, but there is currently no dedicated scheme to assist the most promising Scottish motor sport competitors in their formative years. However, the principles and learnings of the MSA Academy's Performance Pathway could be utilised to facilitate a dedicated programme for Scottish drivers and riders. This would enable alignment where required with the UK-wide activity, which is itself aligned with the FIA Institute's international driver development scheme.

The track record of Scottish motor sport participants, whether drivers or team members, would indicate that Scotland should be confident of achieving continued success in this field.



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5. Motor sport: Accessible and Inclusive

Motor sport may not be a cheap activity, but despite the image portrayed by the highest profile events and the lifestyles of the rich and famous champions, the sport on both two and four wheels is still predominantly an amateur pastime.

As with any leisure activity, the sport's clubs are run almost exclusively by volunteers in their spare time and the 700 events they organise each year are enjoyed by everyday people of all ages and from all walks of life.

Motor sport is genuinely an inclusive sport, welcoming people from all backgrounds and catering for all shapes and sizes, in addition to being one of the very few sporting activities that allow male and female participants to compete alongside each other in the same event.

Furthermore, children are welcomed from the age of 6 in both karting and motocross, and from 14 in many other disciplines, creating a strong learning platform for skills that will serve young people well in later life: discipline, responsibility, risk management and teamwork, not to mention essential engineering skills.

It is true that the nature of motor sport dictates that a certain level of equipment will always be required, but in many cases the costs of club level motor sport can be surprisingly modest.

Many motor sport events can be undertaken in an everyday road car, some with no additional personal safety equipment and some without the need for any form of competition licence. A good example would be a full day's excitement at an AutoSolo (driving your own car as fast as possible around a series of courses laid out by cones on a sealed surface) that can be enjoyed for as little as £25.

A youngster starting out in cadet karting might need to spend around £300 on safety equipment, but could expect to complete a season of 12 events for less than £500 once they have bought the kart itself (which starts from around £1,000). Alternatively, equipment is also available to hire on an event-by-event basis.

The average cost for a Clubman off road motorcyclist, competing in 12 events throughout a season in one of the SACU championships, would be just over £2,000, and a suitable bike for that championship might cost another £2,500.

Circuit racing has always been more expensive, but here too there is value to be found in the introductory events and championships. The Scottish Motor Racing Club's BMW Compact championship might cost you £4,000 for the year, with a similar amount required to purchase the car. Arrive and drive hire deals are also available, such as £1,450 to drive a fully-prepared Mini in a round of the SMRC championship at Knockhill.



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6. Scottish Motor Sports (SMS)

A unified voice for motor sport within Scotland has recently been created. **Scottish Motor Sports** (SMS) has been set up with the endorsement of the UK governing body for four wheeled motorsport, the MSA, and the governing body for motorcycles and sidecars in Scotland, the SACU.

SMS is a strategic planning group, offering guidance to the sport on key strategic issues, and advice to the relevant agencies on all matters concerning motor sport.

The objectives of the new SMS group are to:

- Provide a platform for creating alignment in Scotland's motor sport community
- Provide a secure future for motor sport in Scotland with Government and legislators
- Provide a strong collective professional approach to communication across 2 and 4 wheel motor sport and other partners as necessary
- Provide a single over-arching strategic influence on behalf of 2 and 4 wheel motor sports in Scotland
- Encourage all areas of the sport to work together to promote joint performance initiatives

If motor sport is successful in achieving recognition as a sport of National Performance Significance to Scotland, SMS will embark on the creation of a three-year strategic plan for the development of the sport in Scotland, in order to:

1. Increase opportunities for young people to get involved with the sport.
2. Increase participation levels within the sport and break down barriers to entry.
3. Assist Scottish talent to achieve international success.
4. Support and strengthen the motor sport clubs in Scotland
5. Develop the community benefits associated with performance in motor sport
 - a. Road Safety
 - b. Risk Management
 - c. Schools/education
 - d. Engineering and STEM subjects
 - e. Economic impact



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7. Conclusion

SMS believes that there is a compelling case for motor sport to be recognised as a sport of National Performance Significance to Scotland and that this will better position the sport to serve the interests of the Scottish sporting community.

Scotland's track record in international motor sport is way in excess of what might have been expected of a country of similar standing. Perhaps more significantly, it is a consistent history of success over many decades that has seen Scotland's reputation continue to grow on the international stage as a result of its success within the field of motor sport.

There is now a need to meet new challenges in a new Century. With a strategic platform supported by a new group of partners, the development, growth and sustainability of two and four wheeled motor sport in Scotland can secure official recognition of the sport in keeping with its extraordinary record of International and domestic success.



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APPENDIX 1 – Motor Sport Clubs in Scotland

MOTOR CYCLE CLUBS

ARRAN MOTOCROSS CLUB	Isle of Arran
AVON VALLEY MCC	Lesmahagow
BOB MACGREGOR TRIALS CLUB	Killin
BON ACCORD MCC	Stonehaven
BO'NESS HILL CLIMB REVIVAL LTD	Eyemouth
BUCHAN OFF-ROAD MC CLUB	Fraserburgh
CAITHNESS MOTOCROSS CLUB	Thurso
CALEDONIA M/X CLUB	Cupar
DALMELLINGTON MCC	Dumfriesshire
DUNDEE OFF ROAD MOTORCYCLE PROJECT	Dundee
DUNFERMLINE & DISTRICT MCC	Haddington
EASTER ROSS MOTORCYCLE CLUB	Ross-shire
EAST LOTHIAN ROAD & TRAIL CLUB	Kirkintilloch
EDINBURGH & DISTRICT MC Ltd	Edinburgh
EDINBURGH ST GEORGE MC	Gorebridge
ELGIN ENDURANCE CLUB	Elgin
GLENROTHES YOUTH (YMX)	Fife
HAWICK & BORDERS MCC	Hawick
INVERNESS & DISTRICT MCC	Inverness
KNOCKHILL MOTOR SPORTS CLUB LTD	Fife
LANARKSHIRE MCC LTD	Edinburgh
LOCHABER & DISTRICT MC	Inverness-shire
LOCHINVER MOTORCYCLE CLUB	Lochinver
LOCH LOMOND MCC	Loch Lomond
LOTHIANS & BORDERS POLICE	Edinburgh
MELVILLE MC (SCOT) Ltd	Haddington
MID ARGYLL MOTOCROSS CLUB	Argyll
MOFFAT & DISTRICT MOTOR CLUB	Moffat
MOTO 316	East Lothian
NORTH LANARKSHIRE QUAD & SCRAMBLE CLUB	Lanarkshire
PERTH & DISTRICT MC	Perth



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PROJECT MOTOCROSS	Lochmaben
QUAD RACING SCOTLAND	Leven
RIGSIDE MOTOCROSS CLUB	Darvel
RHINS MCC	Stranraer
RURAL & URBAN TRAINING SCHEME	Newtongrange
SCOTTISH BORDERS ENDURO CLUB	Haddington
SCOTTISH CLASSIC RACING MCC	Saltcoats
SCOTTISH MOTORCYCLE MARSHALS ASSOCIATION	Penicuik
SCOTTISH SIDECAR RACING CLUB	East Lothian
SCOTTISH SPEEDWAY TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT CLUB	Glasgow
SCOTTISH VINTAGE RACING CLUB	Edinburgh
SHETLAND MOTOCROSS CLUB	Shetland
STEVENSTON & DISTRICT MCC	Ardrossan
STRATHCLYDE POLICE	East Kilbride
STRATHMORE MOTOCROSS CLUB	Ardler, By Meigle
WESTERN ISLES MOTOCROSS CLUB	Stornoway, Isle of Lewis
VMCC CENTRAL SCOTTISH SECTION	Carnoustie
VMCC HIGHLAND SECTION	Inverness
VMCC NORTH EAST SECTION	Turriff
VMCC STIRLING CASTLE SECTION	Glasgow

MOTOR CLUBS

55 CAR CLUB	Perth & Tayside
63 CAR CLUB	Elgin & Morayshire
750 MOTOR CLUB	Dundee & Tayside
ABERDEEN & DISTRICT MOTOR CLUB	Aberdeen & North East
ASSOCIATION OF SCOTTISH KART CLUBS	Scotland
BERWICK & DISTRICT MOTOR CLUB	Berwick & Borders
BO'NESS HILL CLIMB REVIVAL	Edinburgh West
BORDER ECOSSE CAR CLUB	Scottish Borders
BUCHAN OFF ROAD DRIVERS CLUB	Aberdeen & North East
CAITHNESS CAR CLUB	Wick, Thurso
CALEDONIAN CLASSIC & HISTORIC MSC	Dundee & Central Scotland
CSMA	Scotland





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CLASSIC CAR TOURS	Scotland
COLTNESS CAR CLUB	Central Scotland
DUNFERMLINE CAR CLUB	Dunfermline, Fife & Central Scotland
EAST ARYSHIRE CAR CLUB	South of Glasgow
EAST OF SCOTLAND KART CLUB	Crail, Fife
EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY MSC	Edinburgh
FIFTIES SPORTS CAR RACING CLUB	Scotland
FRIENDS OF THE REST	North West of Glasgow
GLASGOW UNIVERSITY MOTOR CLUB	Glasgow
GLENROTHES MOTOR SPORT CLUB	Glenrothes & Fife
GRAMPIAN AUTOMOBILE CLUB	Aberdeen & North East
GRAMPIAN KART CLUB	Boyndie, Banff
HAWICK & BORDER CAR CLUB	Hawick & Borders
HIGHLAND CAR CLUB	Inverness & Highlands
HIGHLAND SPEED CHAMPIONSHIP	Inverness & North of Scotland
ISLE OF SKYE RALLY CLUB	Skye
KNOCKHILL MOTOR SPORT CLUB	Knockhill, Fife
LOTHIAN CAR CLUB	Edinburgh & Central Scotland
LOWLAND SPEED CHAMPIONSHIP	Central & Southern Scotland
MACHARS CAR CLUB	South West Scotland
MONKLANDS SPORTING CAR CLUB	West Central Scotland
MUDPLUGGERS	4x4 Club
MULL CAR CLUB	Isle of Mull
N. ENGLAND & SCOTTISH CLASSIC RALLY ORGANISERS	Southern Scotland
NORTH OF SCOTLAND KART CLUB	Golspie, North of Inverness
REIVERS 4X4 CLUB	Scottish Borders
RAF MSA	Lossiemouth (near Elgin)
RSAC MOTORSPORT	Glasgow but all Scotland
SALTIRE RALLY CLUB	Southern & Central Scotland
SCOTIA CROSS COUNTRY MSC	Scotland
SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION OF CAR CLUBS	Scotland
SCOTTISH HILL RALLY CLUB	Scotland
SCOTTISH LAND ROVER OWNERS CLUB	Scotland
SCOTTISH MOTOR RACING CLUB	Knockhill



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SCOTTISH MOTORSPORT MARSHALS CLUB	Scotland
SCOTTISH MUD CLUB	Scotland
SCOTTISH OFF ROAD CLUB	Scotland
SCOTTISH SPORTING CAR CLUB	Glasgow and West Scotland
SCOTTISH SPRINT & HILL CLIMB CHAMPIONSHIP	Scotland
SOLWAY CAR CLUB	Castle Douglas & South West Scotland
SOUTH OF SCOTLAND CAR CLUB	Dumfries & Southern Scotland
SRC CAR CLUB	Scottish Rally Championship
STONEHAVEN & DISTRICT MOTOR CLUB	Stonehaven & North East
TAY 4X4 OFF ROAD CLUB	Dundee & East Tayside
UWS MOTORSPORTS	University of West of Scotland
WEST OF SCOTLAND KART CLUB	Larkhall, South East of Glasgow