



Motor Sport

A concordat between the Forestry Commission and Motor Sports Association

The Forestry Commission manages one million hectares of the national forest estate in England, Scotland and Wales on behalf of the Governments of each country.

The Motor Sports Association is the UK Governing Body for motor sport. Its aims are to ensure the safe and fair organisation of motor sport events and to ensure that this use is sustainable. There are 750 motor clubs registered with the MSA organising over 40 Special Stage Rallies per annum in the national forests.

Concordat

The Forestry Commission and Motor Sports Association are working together to manage motor sports on the Commission estate. The Commission recognises that its estate provides some of the finest venues in Britain for special stage car rallies and off road events. Forest roads are also ideal for historic and endurance rallies, and the estate offers excellent opportunities for the public to watch these exciting sports. However, the Commission's estate is used for a wide range of other activities, and it is important that all forest users have equal opportunities to practice their sport or just enjoy the peace and quiet of the forest environment.

The organisations signed a new Master Agreement in 2004, setting out how motor sport will be managed on the public forest estate until the end of 2007.

This Concordat establishes a partnership for managing and developing motorsport alongside the other activities which are supported by the Commission.

Event Planning and Organisation

- The Commission will not unreasonably withhold permission for an event but will always consider its responsibilities to protect the environment, wildlife and the interests of other forest users. It will also take into account operational factors such as tree harvesting, and the impact of events on its customers.
- Rallying has to be a sustainable activity with consideration of economic, social and environmental factors.
- The MSA will encourage Event organisers to plan ahead, so that as much notice as possible can be given to the Commission. This will help to avoid situations where routes cannot be agreed because there is limited time for consultation and opportunities for change.
- Motor sport can be dangerous, and both organisations will work together to provide a safe and sustainable framework within which motor sport can exist alongside other legitimate forest uses.

Road Repair and Maintenance/ Fitness for Purpose

- The Commission will use its best endeavours to provide roads for rallying and other events.
- Repairs will be carried out and wherever possible allowed time to settle before events take place.
- The Commission will work to improve the quality of the roads used for events, by spending income received from events on repair and longer term upgrading.
- The MSA will look for ways in which damage can be reduced, for example by discouraging speeding on approaches to and from stages, and
- In the medium to longer term continually review technical progress, for example vehicle performance and tyre technology.

Liaison

- Both organisations will meet regularly to discuss developments in their businesses with potential impact on either organisation's interests.
- Local Forestry Commission staff and Forestry Liaison Officers will meet at least once each year, in each country.
- An annual meeting will be held between the MSA and Commission to review the working of the Master Agreement.

Sponsorship and Recognition

- Both organisations will work together to publicise the role of the Commission in providing venues for motor sport.
- The Commission will promote rallying as an activity which can be carried out in selected forests without interfering with other recreational uses.
- The MSA will promote the Commission as a major supporter of motorsport and encourage event and championship organisers to work with the Commission to explore ways of improving the publicity the Commission receives at local level.
- The MSA will encourage organisers of events to seek sponsorship towards work needed to improve forest infrastructure for rallying, and
- the Commission will support this by providing information and access to forests for feasibility studies.

Opportunities for Rallying

- Both organisations will work together to seek innovative solutions to encourage rallying for novice drivers, and also to find ways whereby the sport can develop low cost options which are sustainable on the Commission estate.

Engineering Solutions

- The Commission will carry out research into road management;
- Both organisations will investigate opportunities which may involve either road treatment or engineering solutions for reducing long term road deterioration.

Implementation

- No action arising from the Concordat will override the statutory responsibilities and duties of either organisation.
- The MSA will provide a list of Forestry Liaison Officers to the Commission each year.
- The Commission will provide a list of its local managers to the MSA each year.
- The contents of this Concordat will be communicated to Commission staff, and to all Rally Organisers and other relevant stakeholders.
- This Concordat will be published on the website of each organisation.
- This Concordat will be reviewed when the Master Agreement is reviewed in 2007.

Signed in agreement on the 1st July 2005



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