



Caterham Graduates Championship CGRC News - 05/2020

The Restart of Racing

As you are probably aware plans are underway to start racing, following the announcement of revised calendars for BTCC and British GT. The revised calendars run from early August to mid-November.

In a recent statement, Ben Taylor at BARC said:-

"We are in the process of considering how we can resume racing, having spent time liaising with Motorsport UK on a guidelines document applicable to all race clubs and based on the latest guidance from Government.

As a result, we are hopeful of being able to announce a revised calendar for the rest of this season in early June.

It is inevitable that we will have to make adjustments to how we run our events, and the next task is to work out just what those adjustments might be. Using the Motorsport UK guidelines, we will put in place a number of changes as to how our race events will work to maintain a safe environment for everyone."

Motorsport UK guidelines, led by Government require protocols, have just been published and can be found here:- https://www.motorsportuk.org/restart/?mc_cid=e11ef38382&mc_eid=50f0182b88

BARC has said to us that they should be able to give us a minimum of four weeks advance notice of when we are likely to start the season.

BARC has asked us what the Club would like assuming we can go back to racing. To assist this, we have produced a questionnaire (see below) and would be grateful if you could please take time to complete so we can understand your wishes. It should take no more than 5 minutes.

A new calendar will, of course, still be provisional, and all dates remain subject to Government and Motorsport UK measures covering the resumption of sporting events. They will determine under what scenarios races are held, and the extent to which public and team personnel might be limited.

Following the unfortunate cancellation of the Zandvoort GP meeting with Caterham Motorsport, we have been in discussion with Caterham and BRSCC on joining them at an alternative date for a meeting at a UK venue. We have said "yes please", however much will depend on what dates are available and can be offered to us.

Members' Questionnaire

To help us make an informed decision about what we should ask BARC for in 2020 and to allow us to plan for 2021, we would be grateful if you could complete a brief questionnaire, which should take no more than five minutes of your time.

Club Finances

Notwithstanding the various financial commitments the Club entered into before the start of the season, and the lack of sponsorship income to date, the Club remains in a reasonable financial position. We have not lost any money over Zandvoort being cancelled and have received our deposit back from 750 Motor Club regarding the Anglesey meeting.

Should racing start again in 2020, we will need to be careful about our commitments and grid purchasing. Please ensure you let us know what you feel about racing in 2020 in the questionnaire. It's important that we hear from as many Members as possible, so we can accommodate what you want and what you can commit to in the remainder of 2020.

BARC Refunds

34 Members applied for refunds of their race entry fees, and we supplied all the details to BARC. All refunds should have been received in your nominated bank account by the time this note reaches you. If you have not received the funds, please email Claire Murdoch, BARC's Group Accountant, on cmurdoch@barc.net

The Future of the Club – PLEASE READ - THIS IS IMPORTANT

In the "downtime" the Board has spent time focusing their thoughts on the future of the Club.

The Club has successfully navigated the new club racing environment, with the increased financial exposure as a result of paying for grid space/race time. This places an increased responsibility on Clubs and their members, and it is against this background that the Board has considered how CGRC should approach the future.

Adam Harrison assisted the Board in considering the issues, using Adam's experience as a management consultant. Charles Elliott also contributed, given his recent experience of being a former Club Executive Director.

The Club is an independent not for profit organisation that is constituted as a limited company. A basic level of administration and compliance is associated with the status as a limited company. However, the main areas where work is undertaken involves the following:-

- Finance – payment of suppliers, production of management accounts and annual accounting
- Administration - dealing with suppliers (contracts/payments), club records, insurance etc
- Liaison with those organising race meetings – pre-event/at event/post-event
- Arranging race meetings and officials, for non-BARC meetings, including the overseas meeting
- Arranging the pre-season track day
- Pre-season race calendar setting
- Production of Championship Regulations
- Arranging sponsorship and liaison with sponsors
- Production and distribution of decal packs
- Coordination with Championship Eligibility Scrutineer
- Arranging catering and club awning
- Provision of trophies, awards and fizz
- Provision of race day coordinator
- Set up and break down of club equipment in the awning
- Member communications – pre-event briefings, CGRC News, club questionnaires etc
- Website and payment systems maintenance and administration
- Updating of the website "For Sale" section
- Social media output and other publicity
- Arranging social events at race meetings and the annual awards dinner
- New member marketing and new member joining

The services outlined above have evolved in response to Members' requirements over the years, along with the need to position the Club as a viable option for those who wish to race a Caterham. The recent work in tackling the new issues of financial governance and the ongoing administration of the Club has been a significant undertaking for the Board.

The Club wishes to grow membership so that it can sustain at least two grids at all UK rounds. We consider this means a total membership of some 110 – 120 members. For 2020 we have a total of 93 members for the three types of racing membership.

If the Club is to grow and maintain a sustainable position going forward, the Board considers that the running of the Club needs to change.

The administration and management of the Club currently fall to four Executive Directors along with the assistance of the remaining Director, our former Chairman, Roger Ford. In addition, some racing and social members have volunteered to get involved in specific projects. All the Directors are very much committed to the Club. They volunteer their time and experience to the effective running and financial control of the Club, for the exclusive benefit of all the members.

Business commitments and other factors mean that there is limited time available for volunteer work, and it is clear that, for all Directors, the current workload is unsustainable, taking away the enjoyment of belonging to and racing with the Club. In addition, the current situation puts the Club at risk, as there are no apparent successors to the existing Directors to ensure the stability of the Club going forward.

The Board has identified a number of possible options for the future (there may well be others, and we would welcome your thoughts). The current options include the following:-

1. Continue with the volunteer model. Draw on additional volunteer resources from the Club membership. This does not necessarily mean taking up a board position; however, it will involve being responsible for a specific area or areas.
2. Pay for someone, or an organisation, to assist with the running of the Club. This will have an obvious impact on the Club's costs that is likely to be reflected in increased membership fees and/or entry fees.
3. The Club merges with another racing organisation. This will lead to a loss of the Club's independence and some control, along with an increase in costs.

The Board consider that the Club should fully explore option 1, before looking at other options available to the Club.

With this in mind, we want to hear from any member who wishes to contribute. Please consider this request seriously, as our current team cannot continue the existing workload for much longer.

If you are interested in exploring this opportunity, please contact Andrew Outterside commercial@cgrc.uk or Peter Marsh treasurer@cgrc.uk

The Club's Values

As part of the work recently undertaken by the Board, we considered the Club's values - what we stand for and what we want to be. The Board proposes that we focus on being **FIRST**;

- **Fun.** We had planned social events at every round. We want drivers and their families and guests to enjoy the whole experience, not just the races.
- **Inclusive.** A family-friendly club that welcomes all who share our values.
- **Respectful.** Both on and off track, it has to be in all our mindsets.
- **Safe.** A continual focus on high driving standards, overseen by a dedicated Driving Standards Team, comprising experienced CGRC members. Safety is a guiding principle, both on and off the circuit.
- **cost-effective** (a bit of a fudge on the acronym but ...). Motorsport is not a cheap hobby, but we aim to make it as cost-effective as possible. We are not for profit cost-conscious organisation and give members flexible options so that they can race as much or as little as they wish.

We welcome the views on Members on the values proposed and any other values you consider to be appropriate. Please send any comments to Barry White – chairman@cgrc.uk

Communications

The Club communicates through various channels. If you are new to the Club we list below the most frequently used channels:-

Direct Email to Members – please ensure your contact address in your profile is up to date

CGRC Website Forum – <https://www.cgrc.uk/forum.asp>

CGRC Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/CaterhamGraduates/>

Facebook Community – simply ask to join
https://www.facebook.com/groups/CaterhamGraduates/?source_id=397743975720

CGRC WhatsApp Group - In 2019 we introduced a WhatsApp group to provide updates and race day information. It is used by the Race Day Administrator and CGRC Exec and is for drivers and race/support team personnel.

To access the WhatsApp group, you will need to download WhatsApp and follow this link:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/EfxY6RGtjC40StJ0caSTEs>

If you have any issues with the above link, please email John Benfield competitions@cgrc.uk

Please note that by joining the group, your telephone number will be visible to all within the group.

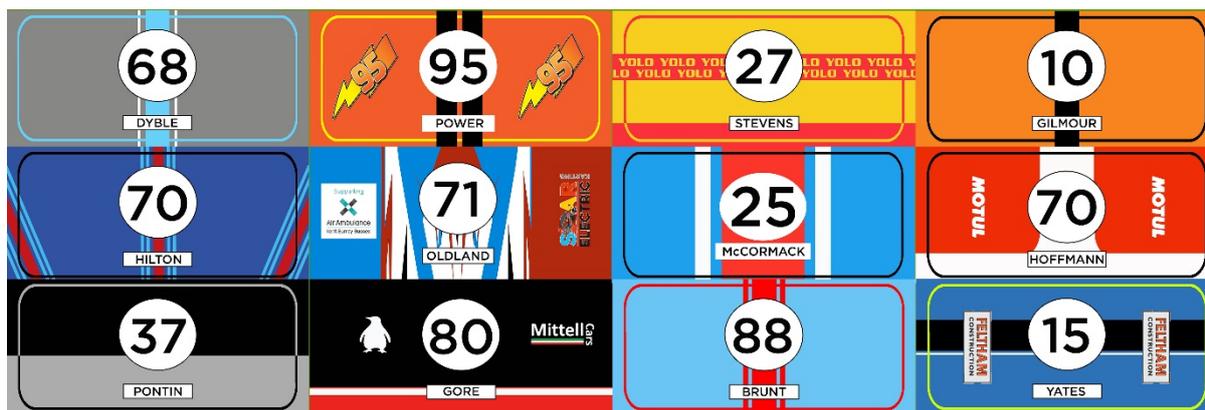
Motorsport Livery Mugs

Jon Bryant has a new business - **Motorsport Livery Mugs**, which puts your race car livery, name and number on high-quality mugs so that even while you're not racing, you can show everyone on your Zoom meetings that you're a racing driver! And when we do get back to racing, there's no more mixing up your mug with others at race weekends.



The mugs are dishwasher and microwave safe and are colour matched to your bespoke race car livery. If you have a more complicated wrap scheme (Zed, we're all looking at you), then the wrap file would be useful for can be colour matched regardless.

Single mugs cost £18 inc P&P, 2 mugs for £30, 3 for £40 and 4 for £50. Additional quantities are available so send an email for a quote.



CGRC members will receive a **10% discount** on all orders when quoting the discount code "GRADUATES" when ordering via email to motorsportmugs@gmail.com.

For more examples, visit www.facebook.com/pg/motorsportliverymugs and drop them a line to see how yours will look.

Caterham racing in a locked-down world!

The lockdown has spawned several Caterham specific on-line racing sims. Below we set out details of two that are proving popular within the Caterham racing community:-

Caterhamracer.com

Chris "Cheesy" Hutchinson, Caterham Motorsport 310R Champion in 2018, has recently launched <https://caterhamracer.com/>

Cheesy explains "The aim of the site is primarily to give Caterham drivers in the UK a way to race each other. We've got drivers from the Graduates community, Caterham Motorsport community and CSSC all competing together. Additionally, we're open to support team personnel (and team bosses), who want to get involved.

We're trying to support as many people as possible to get involved - so long as they have a PC capable of running Assetto Corsa, a wheel/pedal combination and a reasonably fast and stable internet connection.

Some people will have limited prior sim racing experience, and some will have lots. We are already at the point where we will need to have multiple grids to satisfy demand - and we're completely open to this and are working towards how this will work.

Live broadcasts across Facebook and YouTube are being created for Caterham enthusiasts, supporters, drivers' families. Follow the Facebook page and to subscribe to the YouTube channel to get all the content available in their feeds."

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Caterhamracercom-102189921450670>

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCs6WEMQbwAOKK9yqmkVa3IA>

Any driver wanting to get involved should contact Chris / Cheesy via Facebook or at info@caterhamracer.com

PT Motorsport eRacing Series

Ian Payne's PT Motorsport has also launched an on-line racing sim and can be accessed via PT Sports Cars Facebook page. There will shortly be a YouTube channel as well.

Recent circuits featured include Castle Combe and the new track at Zandvoort GP track. Our friend Chris Dawes is commentating. A recording of the Zandvoort race can be seen here:-

https://www.facebook.com/ptsportscars/videos/583933465563679/?_tn=%2Cd%2CP-R&eid=ARCrFeJGs5F-s1KRm0ljqvYRs51zwsbz-IXcbQPcs1Z7qe45Ulv72Cha15_RLv4hgXVfwfrXgFbQmLhI

Any driver wishing to join in should contact Ian Payne on 07811 190400

2020 Dinner - Saturday 21 November

We have provisionally booked Hellidon Lakes Golf and Spa Hotel on Saturday 21 November for our annual dinner.

The Hotel is set in spectacular grounds with a spa, swimming pool, gym, health and beauty centre, and a golf course - <https://hellidonlakeshotel.co.uk/>

Ticket prices and discounted bed and breakfast rates will be announced shortly.

In the meantime, we hope that you continue to stay safe and very much look forward to hearing your views on 2020 and 2021, and to seeing you back on a grid sometime soon.

CGRC Executive Directors

Barry White - chairman@cgrc.uk

Peter Marsh - treasurer@cgrc.uk

John Benfield - competitions@cgrc.uk

Andrew Outterside - commercial@cgrc.uk / membership@cgrc.uk

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