



Caterham Graduates Racing Club News – 6 June 2020

First, may we thank you for your patience in waiting for news of the restart of our racing season, and secondly, thank you for your participation in the Drivers Questionnaire – 81 out of 93 Racing Members responded. This level of involvement has been important to us, so that we can understand what you want, and has been a key part in our decision making for the restart of 2020.

Understandably some Members have decided not to race in 2020, and we very much hope to see you back with us in 2021. However, the majority of Racing Members (64 in the questionnaire) said they want to race in 2020.

We have based our planning for 2020 around your responses, and while we have endeavoured to provide what you want, we clearly can't please everyone all the time; however, we consider that in the circumstances, we have achieved a balanced and fair result. It's been a lot of work re-planning the season, and we hope you will like what has been achieved, and where you don't quite like it, you will understand the reasons why.

Well here goes, this is what we plan to provide in 2020, along with a summary of the questionnaire results (Members + former Members/Guests) and news on some important decisions for 2021.

For those that find the prospect of reading 10 pages of close typed A4 rather daunting, here is a summary of the key points in this edition of CGRC News:-

- **There is much uncertainty, but we want to do the best we can for our members**
- **This will not be a Championship / CGRC Trophy year, but an opportunity to have some fun racing and (for our newer members) experience some new circuits**
- **We have a provisional calendar with seven meetings at some exciting circuits**
- **We will prioritise the Classic Class, as this will be their last year**
- **Some great feedback on the surveys which has informed our thinking**
- **Where possible we have included answers to issues raised by members**
- **The plans for 2021 ...**
- **Most importantly - we need you to tell us where and when you want to race by completing your race schedule ASAP and definitely before this Thursday 11 June**

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Back to Racing

MSUK are issuing permits to start racing from 4 July, subject to specific measures being adopted by organising clubs. We will not outline the new requirements here, and will do that following further discussions with BARC, 750 Motor Club, BRSCC and, if appropriate, the circuits involved. However, for anyone wishing to read the current MSUK guidance and Q + A, they can be found here:-

<https://www.motorsportuk.org/restart/>

<https://www.motorsportuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/getting-motorsport-back-on-track-race-appendix-v18-may-2020.pdf>

<https://www.motorsportuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/getting-motorsport-back-on-track-q-and-a-v18-may-2020.pdf>

As we are sure you can understand, there are many challenges to overcome.

We can only run one grid at each meeting (more on this later), so there is the potential for oversubscription, and we are keen to avoid disappointing members (again, more later). There are also issues over the restriction of scrutineering cover, particularly eligibility scrutineering. We are unlikely to have Keith available at the majority of meetings in the light of the travelling restrictions that are proposed for scrutineers by organising clubs.

Then, of course, we need to adhere to social distancing rules, government mandates, organiser's rules and the new MSUK guidance.

All of which means that plans may have to change especially if the government change dates for the release of restrictions, in particular the timing for the lifting of restrictions on hotel accommodation etc.

CGRC Championship and the CGRC Trophy

The Board has taken the significant decision NOT to run the Championship or CGRC Trophy in 2020.

We feel there remains too much uncertainty over racing this year, and we don't want members to feel that they need to enter an event to ensure a good Championship or Trophy result. Instead, we just want our members to have fun and race as much or as little as they wish. We will seek to accommodate as many as possible members at each meeting and try to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to race. This may mean that available grid space across the seven meetings will be shared amongst those that wish to compete.

The Board's decision was taken in light of the above and the response to the questionnaire, where 70% said that they felt that a Championship was not important in the current climate.

Therefore we are running a series of meetings, results will be posted to the CGRC website, but the Championship and Trophy tables will not be updated.

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We know that for some of you that competing in the Championship or Trophy is important. We are sorry to disappoint; however, we believe it is the fairest way to address the situation we find ourselves in, and allow as many members to race as much as they wish in 2020.

We will be presenting awards at each round (1st, 2nd and 3rd and Best Improvers 1st, 2nd and 3rd). Quite how the presentations/celebrations are going to happen is yet to be worked out.

Provisional Calendar

Over last few weeks, we've been working with BARC and other clubs to secure additional meetings to replace the five lost.

As you can imagine there has been significant demand for grid space, with Championships and Series all looking to replace lost races over the four months from March to June. In the circumstances, there was little ability for us to pick and choose.

In addition to our prior commitments to BARC, comprising the three surviving meetings from our original calendar (Snetterton 200, Oulton Park International and Silverstone International), we are delighted to say that we have secured an additional four meetings. There are two further meetings with BARC and a meeting each with the 750 Motor Club and BRSCC. Included are some circuits that we have not visited for a while, and will be new to our more recent Members. All provide an opportunity for great close Caterham racing, and we hope you will like them.

The provisional calendar is as follows:-

Revised CGRC Calendar (Provisional) - 2020

Circuit	Date	Club	Grid Limit
Croft	11/12 July	BARC	40
Mallory Park	26 July	750MC	30
Cadwell Park	1/2 August	BRSCC	28
Snetterton 200	29 August	BARC	38
Oulton International	12 September	BARC	38
Pembrey	3/4 October	BARC	34
Silverstone International	10/11 October	BARC	44

We stress the calendar is **provisional**, so please bear this in mind when booking testing and accommodation. We will look to confirm ASAP but wanted you to hear what is planned as soon as we had any news.

Our additional meetings are at Croft (a Club favourite raced in 2019), Mallory Park (a former trotting track with Gerrards, the longest corner and the tightest hairpin in UK motorsport, somewhere we have not raced for many years), Cadwell Park (one of the best Caterham circuits in the UK – this is the same meeting as Caterham Motorsport), and Pembrey racing on the "new" layout taking in the Senna Esses (yes it's a long drive down the M4, and it's in early October, but Pembrey always provides great close racing, with the unforgettable Hatchetts Hairpin providing a particular challenge at the end of the pit straight!).

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Many of you commented in the recent survey that Snetterton 200 was a disappointment and you prefer the 300 circuit. Unfortunately, we could not change our previous commitment to BARC. The 200 circuit is very much like the "old" Snetterton with the challenge of Riches at the end of the Senna Straight, the slipstream fest that is Bentley Straight, the tight esses at Brundle and Nelson and the fast sweeping Coram Curve. We hope that when you try it, you will enjoy it.

We are sharing three of our meetings (Croft, Oulton Park International and Silverstone International) with the Britcar Dunlop Endurance Championship, with a varied selection of exotic machinery, including David Braham's Brabham Automotive BT62.

And also we should not forget our races at Snetterton are the precursor to the 2CV 24 hour. What about staying on and trying your hand at some 24hr racing (drives usually available) or driving the safety car for a stint or two? If you are interested contact Andrew Outterside at commercial@cgrc.uk

Grids

Unfortunately, we still have an issue with grid capacity, and given the competition for grid space, we have not been able to secure two grids at each meeting as we probably still need. Instead, we have taken the step of securing as many meetings as possible (see above), allowing Members the best opportunity to race and also enjoy some new circuits.

We have been able to secure some additional race time at the majority of meetings. Depending on the demand for each meeting, this will allow us a number of format options:-

- 1. Free practice, qualifying and two races**
- 2. Qualifying, and three races**
- 3. Qualifying, and three races (with a guarantee that everyone entered will have two races)**

Option 3 will be employed where entries exceed the grid limit allowing us to qualify grid limit plus 20%. Should we use Option 3, the entry fee will be reduced to reflect the loss of racing time. This will probably be dealt by way of a refund from the Club.

We aim to make a decision on the format two weeks before each meeting. The decision will be based on the number of entries at the time and predicted entries on the race schedules.

Having single grids will mean that we are likely to have oversubscription on some rounds. All rounds are open to all classes, with Full and Trophy members having equal priority. Flex members will be able to race if there is space. We will address the anticipated capacity issues on a round-by-round basis and seek to ensure that everyone has the fair opportunity to race as much as possible.

Testing

Testing and track days have started again, and we anticipate testing will be available on Friday before each event, except for Mallory Park. Mallory, where due to strict noise restrictions testing usually is on a Wednesday. Booking should be made directly with the circuits. Details will be posted in the calendar on the website.

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RACE SCHEDULES - THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT - YOUR RACE SCHEDULE NEEDS COMPLETING ASAP

Accurate completion of your race schedule is critical to ensure we can accommodate your wishes to race and organise the appropriate capacity for each meeting.

Please be honest with your answers as our planning relies on the quality of the answers, and if the information about your intentions is wrong, you and other members may be disadvantaged.

We need you to tell us where and when you want to race – please complete your race schedule ASAP and definitely before this Thursday 11 June

To do this, you need to log in to the Member's Area to access your race schedule.

See here - <https://www.cgrc.uk/members.asp?s=raceschedule>

You will then find your race schedule under the Members Links tab.

Entries and Pricing

Entries will be made as follows for the different types of membership

Full Racing Members:-

- BARC Meetings - BARC online system
- 750 Motor Club (Mallory) and BRSCC (Cadwell) Meetings – CGRC online system

Trophy Members:-

- BARC Meetings - BARC online system
- 750 Motor Club (Mallory) and BRSCC (Cadwell) Meetings – CGRC online system

Please note – Trophy Membership provides for entry to three meetings at the standard entry fee. For entry to additional meetings a £50 supplement applies and is payable via the CGRC online system.

Flex Members:-

- All Meetings – CGRC online system

Please note – Flex Membership entries include a £50 supplement to the standard entry fee plus, in the case of BARC meetings a weekend membership fee.

We will let you know when the BARC and CGRC online systems are open.

Pricing is not confirmed as yet but is likely to be:-

- £445 for a double-header meeting
- £495 for a triple-header or a meeting at a "premium" / expensive circuit, i.e. Silverstone International and Oulton Park International

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Race Administration / CGRC Regulations and Set-Up

Many details about race administration, particularly social distancing on race days, remain to be worked out with the organising clubs, however, what we can say at present is:-

- Meetings/races will be run in line MSUK COVID19 guidance as interpreted by the individual meeting organisers / Clubs.
- The published CGRC 2020 Championship Regulations – https://www.cgrc.uk/docs/202033_2020%20CGRC%20Regulations.pdf will apply, with revisions advised in the Final Instructions for the meeting, or by way of an official Bulletin on the noticeboard at the circuit. Alternatively, a separate Club bulletin will be issued before the meeting.
- Scores will be based on finishing position in Class – there will be no jokers, a no requirement for dropped scores.
- The CGRC Driving Standards Team will be fully operational, and cameras will be required to be operational as per the CGRC Regulations. Given that Championship / Trophy points are not being awarded, there will be no 3x penalty multiplier for licence points, nor the associated CGRC appeal process. All other sanctions remain in place as per the CGRC and MSUK Regulations.
- Catering and the CGRC Awning is unlikely to be provided at some of the meetings, in particular the first three. Where catering is not available a refund reflecting this will be given to those members that had entered the meeting.

More on all this later.

Racing Membership

While Full and Trophy membership are closed, Flex membership is available for anyone who wishes to race with CGRC in 2020, should space be available at any of the rounds. It is probably best to defer joining until we know levels of interest in each meeting. The cost of Flex membership for 2020 is £50 – you can join here - <https://www.cgrc.uk/enrolment.asp>

Please contact Andrew Outterside at membership@cgrc.uk if you wish to discuss Flex membership for 2020 or are interested in racing with the Club in 2021.

Members and former Members/Guests Questionnaire (summary of results)

We very much appreciate the response to the questionnaire from current and former members and guests and the positive feedback received. This has been key to the Club's planning for 2020.

Set out below is a summary of the key results:-

- Some 90% of current racing members plan to race with the CGRC when the 2020 season restarts.

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- 60% of current racing members are looking for one race per month for the remainder of the season - which is consistent with our overall demand/demographic.
- We recognise the interest in "special" events and will take that into account in our 2021 planning.
- We have a clear 60:40 split in the membership between those who want to compete in a full Championship versus those who want a mini-Championship/Trophy or flexible racing. While 70% feel a Championship is not important in the current climate.
- Across the Board, 90% of those surveyed still want to race irrespective of social distancing.
- The majority of racing members are committed to race with us in 2021. Combined with those who haven't entirely made their mind, this represents 95% of drivers!
- Sigma 150 (Caterham Motorsport 310R) is our potential growth area and opportunity for 2021.
- We recognise that Snetterton 200 was not a popular choice of circuit, nor was the repeated visits to Silverstone, especially Silverstone National.
- Everyone is very busy, however over 30% would be happy to help out in some capacity. This is excellent news – thank you.
- We would also like to say "THANK YOU" for the appreciation of all the work that is being put in, and we are delighted, to quote one member *"I'm really excited to see the energy and ideas coming from the club"*.
- We also appreciate all the constructive feedback we received and for everyone taking the time to complete the survey.

For anyone who wishes to see the responses to the questionnaires (excluding the additional comments), they can be found here:-

Current Racing Members – https://www.cgrc.uk/docs/202067_2020%20CGRC%20Survey%20-%20Members.pdf

Former Racing Members and Guests – https://www.cgrc.uk/docs/202067_2020%20CGRC%20Survey%20-%20Old%20Members.pdf

The Board would like to record their thanks to Adam Harrison, for his support with the design and analysis of the questionnaire.

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2021 and other news

The Future of the Club

In the last CGRC News, the Board identified a number of possible options for the future management/organisation of the Club.

They were as follows:-

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 considered that the Club should explore the volunteer model (1), before looking at other options available to the Club.

We are delighted to say that 30% of those that responded to the questionnaire said they would be prepared to help out in some capacity. This is an excellent result, and the Board are now considering how we mobilise the help that has been offered. Many thanks, we will be in touch.

Classes for 2021

Additional responses to the questionnaire asked if the Classic Class will conclude, as planned, this year.

Given that we have secured seven meetings for the "shortened" 2020 season, this will allow the Classic class to have an excellent last season. To ensure this happens, entries from drivers in the Classic class will be given priority at all meetings in 2020.

While we are aware that several Classic drivers will retire at the end of this year, we hope others will join one of the three other classes and continue racing with the Club, just as others have in recent years including:-

- Robin Webb - 2019 Class Champion – now in Sigma 135
- Matthew Willoughby - 2018 Class Champion – now in Sigmax
- Marc Noaro - 2018 - 3rd in Class – now in Sigma 135
- Michael Segal – now in Sigma 135

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So, for 2021 the Club will race three classes:-

- Sigma 150 (Caterham Motorsport 310R)
- Sigma 135 (Caterham Motorsport 270R or Caterham Roadsport with 270R power upgrade)
- Sigmax (formerly Caterham Supersport manufactured up to 2013)

Grids / Races for 2021

To accommodate members who have indicated they wish to race with the Club, we plan to secure a minimum of two grids for each of our UK meetings. Subject to membership levels we will also look to increase to a third grid, especially at some lower grid capacity circuits.

Each grid will have a minimum of two races and could have three where the circuit and timetables allow. We are very likely to include "free practice" at each round, to enable members who have not tested a chance to familiarise themselves with the circuit before qualifying

We will be asking Members again about their intentions for 2021 so that we have the best information to plan for 2021 and avoid the issues we have experienced this year.

Volunteers

As mentioned earlier, we are delighted with the offers of help from Club members and will be in touch shortly with you all. However, we mention below a specific need for someone with particular skills who could help move on a couple of important projects:-

Help Required:- Web Design

The Club is looking to migrate our website onto a new hosting platform. The new platform will provide a framework for member and club management. Sorry if this sounds like a job ad (which it basically is), but we are looking for someone to assist with the development of this. Ideally, we need someone that has web UI design experience with a knowledge of Bootstrap rather than an outright coder. Please contact John on Benfield at competitions@cgrc.uk if you feel you can help.

Help Required:- Publisher Software

The Club is looking to use Microsoft Publisher for CGRC News. We are looking for someone to design and produce a template. Ideally, we need someone that has experience of Microsoft Publisher or comparable software. Please contact Andrew Outterside at commercial@cgrc.uk if you can help.

Update - Seats for International Racing

Additional responses to the questionnaire asked for an update on seats.

We had resolved this issue for the cancelled Zandvoort race meeting, following discussions with Caterham Motorsport and BRSCC. A specific agreement had been reached with KNAF (the equivalent

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of MSUK) based on the use of a conventional Caterham Tillet seat without alteration, or a bag or bead seat with a suitable fireproof covering. For those bag or bead seats without with a fireproof covering, it would be covered in an approved fireproof tape, which Caterham would have supplied to us.

While this was a solution to racing at the Zandvoort meeting with Caterham Motorsport, the matter remains to be resolved for other international meetings. MSUK are aware of the issue and are trying to reach a solution that will not require significant expenditure for Club racers to comply.

Finally and importantly, please ensure you complete **your race schedule ASAP and definitely before this Thursday 11 June**

You need to log in to the Member's Area to access your race schedule. See here - <https://www.cgrc.uk/members.asp?s=raceschedule> . You will then find your race schedule under the Members Links tab.

If you have any queries about the arrangements for 2020, please contact John Benfield, Peter Marsh or Andrew Outterside.

In the meantime, we hope that you continue to stay safe and well, and we very much look forward to seeing you on track over the next few months or in 2021.

CGRC Executive Directors

Barry White - chairman@cgrc.uk

Peter Marsh - treasurer@cgrc.uk

John Benfield - competitions@cgrc.uk

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

07 June 2020

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