

**FIA CONFEDERATION OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN  
MOTORSPORT (C.A.C.M.S)**

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FIA CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN  
COUNTRIES IN MOTORSPORT (CACMS) HELD AT JACARANDA HOTEL,  
NAIROBI, KENYA, ON THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2008 AT 14.30HRS.**

**Present**

Surinder Thatthi (Chairman)  
Nizar Jivani  
Satinder Singh Birdi  
David Bitalo  
Lillian Busingye  
Kisitu Mayanja  
Willie du Plessis  
Anthony Taylor (Karting)  
Richard Leeke  
Jerome Bailey  
Jan Demeester  
Dismas Kayibanda  
Asfan Tsegaye  
Simone Ferrari  
Ishaku Bamauji  
Colin Schreiber  
Muna Singh  
Maina Muturi  
Viren Goricha  
Raju Chana (Karting)  
Ian Duncan (Cross Country)

**ASN**

CACMS  
Automobile Association of Tanzania (AAT)  
Automobile Association of Tanzania (AAT)  
Fed. Of Motorsport Clubs of Uganda (FMU)  
Fed. Of Motorsport Clubs of Uganda (FMU)  
Fed. Of Motorsport Clubs of Uganda (FMU)  
Motorsport South Africa (MSA)  
Motorsport South Africa (MSA)  
Motorsport South Africa (MSA)  
Motorsport South Africa (MSA)  
Rwanda Automobile Club (RAC)  
Rwanda Automobile Club (RAC)  
Ethiopia Motor Sport Association (EMSA)  
Ethiopia Motor Sport Association (EMSA)  
Automobile Sports Club of Nigeria  
Zimbabwe Motor Sport Federation (ZMSF)  
Zambia Motor Sports Association (ZMSA)  
Kenya Motor Sport Foundation (KMSF)  
Kenya Motor Sport Foundation (KMSF)  
Kenya Motor Sport Foundation (KMSF)  
Kenya Motor Sport Foundation (KMSF)

**9 African countries in all represented**

**Also in Attendance**

Wulf Biebinger  
Paul Archenoul

FIA Observer KCB Safari Rally  
ARC Navigator (Zimbabwe)

**APOLOGIES**

Mr. Ralph Stead  
Ms. Rose Rushforth  
Mr. Derek Conroy  
Mr. Oscar Kihika  
Mr. Jack Wavamuno

Zimbabwe Motor Sport Federation (ZMSF)  
Zimbabwe Motor Sport Federation (ZMSF)  
Zambia Motor Sport association (ZMSA)  
Fed. Of Motorsport Clubs of Uganda (FMU)  
Fed. Of Motorsport Clubs of Uganda (FMU)

## **1. WELCOME**

- 1.1 The CACMS Chairman Mr. Surinder Thatthi, thanked all members for coming and welcomed them to the meeting. He noted that for the first time the President of the Ethiopian Motor Sport Association and the representative of Automobile Sports Club of Nigeria had come to the CACMS meeting.  
The Chairman introduced all members present and asked the Chairman of the Kenya Motor Sports Foundation to give his message to the participants.
- 1.2 The Chairman of Kenya Motor Sport Foundation Mr. Maina Muturi welcomed all members to Kenya and declared the meeting open. Mr. Muturi extended the invitation to members present to stay to watch the KCB Safari Rally Round 3 of the FIA Africa Rally Championship 2008.
- 1.3 The Chairman advised the meeting that regular meetings of CACMS over the last 7 years had brought about great change in the African Rally Championship during the last five years and Karting has taken off well in many countries of Africa. These meetings have resulted in better cooperation with the FIA and encouraged cross border participation on our continent which is the aims of this Confederation.

## **2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the previous meeting held in Harare, Zimbabwe on the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2007 were proposed as correct by Satinder Birdi (Tanzania) and seconded by Richard Leeke (South Africa).

## **3. MATTERS ARISING**

- 3.1. The Chairman reported that Namibia will not be holding a candidate ARC rally this year and hoped that they will return in the year 2009. NMSF (Namibia) recently had their elections and CACMS will circulate the list of the new Office Bearers.
- 3.2. Mr. Richard Leeke reported that South Africa will not be running the World Cup for Cross Country Rallies again as there was no commitment from the FIA Championship contenders to participate in all the rounds so the last round in SA had only one international competitor and yet the cost to the organisers of permit fees and FIA officials cost in enormous and not worth the effort.
- 3.3. Mr. Richard Leeke and Mr. Willie Du Plessis both reported that another WRC candidate Zulu Rally was on hold pending a suitable sponsor being found. There were no plans to run another WRC candidate rally in the near future. South Africa ran a WRC candidate rally very successfully in 2007 and would have easily secured a place in the WRC but the promoter withdrew the candidature from the FIA in the last week thus causing an upset in the WRC plans of the sporting team who had the event all planned out very well. It was noted that the FIA accepted the word of the promoter Topcar Sports Management about withdrawal

of the WRC candidature and had no official notification from the ASN Motorsport South Africa.

It was wrong in principal of the FIA WRC Commission to accept the promoter's message without confirming this with the ASN Motorsport South Africa.

All in all the sporting team did a very good job in running this event which attained a very high standard and was observed by Fred Gallagher who was the WRC observer.

- 3.4. The Chairman reported that the FIA ban on Group S cars from running within the African Rally Championship is being affected as from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008. It was noted that the Group S cars that still compete in the National Rally Championships could run behind the African Rally Championship event in a separate event.

Mr. Richard Leeke reported that the homologation in South Africa of those cars that are built in South Africa is very near to FIA, but not FIA homologated, and the cars are very competitive so it is very dangerous for the safety of the drivers to run these SA cars behind the main rally.

WAIVER REQUEST – Mr. Richard Leeke requested that there was a need to apply for a waiver to the FIA to allow the SA rally cars to run within the field for safety reasons if the Sasol Rally is to be part of the ARC in 2009.

The Chairman requested for the application of the waiver from the MSA Rallies Commission of South Africa which should be sent to Mr. Gerald Richard and copied to him. The Chairman agreed to assist in drafting the application and send it to Mr. Willie du Plessis.

#### **4. PROGRESS OF KARTING**

- 4.1 The Chairman of the KMSF Kenya Karting Commission, Mr. Raju Chana reported that Karting in Kenya had taken off well and has been running successfully for the last three years. They start with the 50cc. class and have now introduced the 60cc Juniors class as per CIK regulations. Their youngest participants range from the ages of five to eight year old. Early this year the Commission introduced the CIK classes KF2 and KF3 and all the older karts still run in an open class. The KF2 / KF3 classes are being encouraged although there are not so many competitors as yet but it is building up very fast. The largest entry of karts as at today is the 50cc with close to 20 karts.

Mr. Chana reported that in Kenya the best track is in Nakuru but the track layout is too small at 650m for the KF2 / KF3 karts. Discussions are in progress for a larger track. He said on various occasions car parks are being used as circuits.

- 4.2 Mr. Satinder Singh Birdi of Tanzania reported that they have managed to speak to potential sponsors and they are looking for land to plan the circuit. So far no progress has been made on the karting front.

- 4.3 Mr. David Bitalo of Uganda reported that karting in Uganda is run privately. The Uganda Federation is looking for land to plan a circuit.
- 4.4 Mr. Bamaiyu of Nigeria reported that karting is run privately.
- 4.5 The President of the Association of Ethiopia reported that karting was just being introduced. There are a few private karts in Addis Ababa.
- 4.6 Mr. Kayibanda from Rwanda reported that they have a sponsor who has offered his land to be converted into a karting track. He hopes to start this year.
- 4.7 Mr. Muna Singh reported that there was no karting in Zambia.
- 4.8 Mr. Phil Archenoul from Zimbabwe reported that karting has lot of action in Harare. Rotax Juniors and Masters are being run actively. There are 20 active participants to date. Another track exists in Bulwayo but is not used at present.

The members from Zimbabwe requested to know the advantages of CIK formulas. Mr. Raju Chana briefed them and reported that they are easily available and can be purchased everywhere and that the cross border participation is better with the same formulas.

- 4.9 Mr. Anthony Taylor – Chairman of the MSA Karting Commission from South Africa reported that there are 606 licensed kart drivers in SA and they have many licensed venues, and one CIK approved circuit. He reported in SA they have four National Championship Classes run in four Provinces annually. South Africa has introduced the FIA-CIK formulas of KF2 & KF3 in 2008 and their intension is to build up on these classes in the future. Junior classes of 50cc & 60cc karts are popular classes. The old Rotax and 100cc direct drive classes are still big but the Commission would like to reduce them by promoting the new KF2 and KF3 classes. South Africa is very interested in more participation from Africa to come to their meetings and they wish to travel to other countries if invited.
- 4.10 The Chairman reported that 21 out of 23 Formula One drivers are from karting thus this is a very important discipline to encourage the young into motorsport. Children should be encouraged and KF2 / KF3 karts should be encouraged in Africa so that we could start an African Championship for Karting on our continent.  
  
He reported to members that the FIA Safety Motor Sport Development Fund is operational and requested ASN's in Africa to apply for the same for funding for the development of Karting in their countries.
- 4.11 Mr. Richard Leeke advised that Mr. Paulo Pizza-Musso from South Africa was an expert in track design and if any country in Africa wants to plan the track to contact Mr. Anthony Taylor to forward to them the contacts. Other experts of track

designing suggested by Mr. Vincent Caro and contacts of a track designer in Serbia which CACMS can circulate to all members.

#### 4.12 KARTING Inter-Continental Events in Africa

It was agreed to encourage cross border participation. The Chairman reported that there are three countries that are already participating in the cross border events namely South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Mr. Anthony Taylor was requested to look into the possibilities for other member countries like Kenya to participate. Mr. Surinder Thatthi requested Mr. Taylor to find out if it would be possible for an invitation to be extended for Mr. Raju Chana and a member of Zimbabwe to attend the event in Mozambique.

The suggestion of encouraging the youngsters to participate was discussed and members agreed that Open Days should be held to motivate them.

The Chairman requested all the Federations to make an attempt to have a karting start in their countries and to encourage the building of tracks.

### 5. CROSS COUNTRY RALLIES

5.1 Ian Duncan the Chairman of Cross Country Commission in Kenya briefed the members on Cross Country Rally events held in Kenya which are a track events with a 20-30 km circuit. There are between 20-30 entrants per rally which include cars, quads, buggies and bikes. The 4WD cars and pickups are being encouraged to participate in the events. Mr. Duncan emphasized on the safety of running the events. To make the events run better more finance is required.

5.2 Mr. Richard Leeke reported that there are eight National Series "Off-road" events run annually in South Africa with up to 80 participants taking part. They also run the Regional Series three times a year which cover a distance of 500kms and the events are run over a period of two days. It is very expensive to run the FIA classes. On the safety aspect he mentioned that bikes and cars do not rally together.

5.3 Mr. Surinder Thatthi requested Mr. Richard Leeke to send the soft copies of information on Cross Country (Off-Road) Rallying in South Africa to all the member countries.

### 6. AFRICAN RALLY CHAMPIONSHIPS

6.1 The Chairman requested the members of Rwanda Automobile Club to explain as to why they withdrew from running the ARC in 2007.

They explained as follows:

The event was postponed due to withdrawal of their main sponsors. They never cancelled the rally and instead postponed it. "It is their sincere wish and hope to

run the rally in 2009”, said the Chairman of Rwanda Auto Club. He added that all the preparations for running the next rally were underway and they will be sending invitations to all the member countries for their support.

The following remarks were presented by the ARC drivers present:-

Mr. Muna Singh from Zambia Mr. Phil Archenoul from Zimbabwe remarked that Rwanda has always run a good event.

Mr. Surinder Thatthi, the Chairman said that he travelled to Rwanda to try to save the event in 2008 and remarked that the problem for not running the ARC was not only sponsorship but a problem within the drivers some of who had Group S cars and were not willing to run behind the main rally.

- 6.2 Intention to Rejoin the ARC in 2009 (Rwanda) – The Chairman asked the members “Do we accept Rwanda’s explanation as they put it on “Force majeure basis” for reason being the lack of Sponsorship.

Tanzania felt this should not be accepted for they went through a similar scenario and had to run another candidate event.

The members felt that FIA rules should be adhered to and that Rwanda should run a Candidate Rally in 2009 before they are considered to run an ARC event again. The Chairman highlighted that FIA Rallies Commission does not consider Sponsorship as a Force Majeure.

The Chairman of Rwanda Automobile Club at this point said, “He does not have any objections to running a Candidate rally in 2009 in order to get back to the ARC event in 2010. Rwanda was not happy about this decision but will comply.

- 6.3 The suggestions made for the Starting Order of an ARC events were:  
Mr. Muna Singh suggested that the top national drivers of the host country should be seeded first or some other system be adopted to allow the top drivers in the African Championship to choose their starting position.  
Mr. Willie Du Plesiss suggested that the Championship leader should start off first.

This matter was debated but no clear system was decided and the Chairman asked Muna Singh to write a text for the starting order which could be circulated to the members for their comments.

- 6.4 The Zimbabwe representative brought up the issue of shock absorbers and Jerry Bailey advised the meeting that the FIA Appendix J had a new rule on Suspension as from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008 banning “the use of bearings with linear guidance” in the suspension.

It was noted that many cars running in Africa had suspensions with these bearings and that in the last two ARC events cars have been using these suspensions. This matter was debated and all decided that since we were now in the middle of the season and one day before the start of Safari Rally it would be impossible for the drivers to change their suspension – It was agreed by all that the CACMS should

apply for dispensation for all events in 2008 to waive this requirement and that all drivers should be advised by their ASN's that as from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009 only suspension with plain bearings are to be used.

## **7. THE 2009 AFRICAN RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP CALENDAR**

The calendar proposed by South Africa was discussed and Uganda objected to the move of the date from April to September for their Rally and cited that they would have to re-consider their participation in the ARC 2009 if they had to move.

The ARC drivers also said that to run South Africa in April would mean that the drivers would have drive the 5000 km from South to North twice since the championship would have no flow which the ARC has achieved after many years.

The Chairman explained the reasons for South Africa to insist a date in April was because the forests had a fire risk as from May to September for this was the dry season in South Africa and the owners of the forest would not allow the Sasol Rally to run in the forests around Sabie and White River.

It was important for the African Rally Championship to have South Africa return into the championship for they are the biggest motorsport partners in Africa.

In an effort to find a solution it was agreed that Mr. Willie Du Plessis should see if Sasol Rally would consider moving to October and see if this is possible.

The provisional calendar suggested is as follows:

<b>20-22 February 2009</b>	- Rally of Tanzania
<b>27-29 March 2009</b>	- KCB Safari Rally Kenya*
<b>24-26 April 2009</b>	- KCB Pearl of Africa Uganda Rally
<i>5-7 June 2009</i>	- <i>Rwanda Rally Candidate event</i>
<b>3-5 July 2009</b>	- Zambia International Rally
<b>14-16 August 2009</b>	- Zimbabwe Challenge Rally
23-24 October 2009	- Sasol Rally South Africa *Subject to MSA Rally Com

\* Please note subsequently after this meeting the organisers of the Safari Rally have received a request to move the date of the Safari Rally by one week to 1-3 May 2009 and this will be sent out by CACMS to all.

## **8. THE SUPER RALLY RULES**

It was agreed unanimously to continue without the Super Rally in the African Rally Championship for 2009.

## **9. SAFETY CLOTHING**

The Chairman said that the FIA rules on safety clothing have to be adhered to and it is now compulsory as from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008 that all drivers in the ARC must wear FIA

approved full underwear. The HANS Device is highly recommended to be used during the events and will become compulsory from 2010.

## 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Mr. Richard Leeke expressed his concern that there was no mention of the Pirelli Star Driver. It was noted that this scheme was already under way in Africa and that the funds from the FIA had arrived and were being given to the Pirelli Star driver contestants.

10.2 Electronic Timing and Tracking System – Mr. Richard Leeke asked the members if they had any suggestions on the Electronic Timing and Tracking System. In Kenya it was reported that he tried to get a system to work with the Security Group for use in the KCB Safari Rally which did not work and was turning out to be very expensive. Mr. Surinder Thatthi requested the members present to investigate which is the best system.

11.3 Control Tyres – Mr. Surinder Thatthi reported that he had received a letter from Pirelli to try to replicate the Pirelli Star Driver type deal on the FIA African Rally Championship. The important aspects of their proposal are:

- A competitive price on the supply of tyres
- A regulation with the limit on the maximum number of tyres per event
- Win a bonus in tyres, according to the results in overall classification
- Creation of an African Pirelli Cup, in addition to the Pirelli star driver already running, which will allow the winner under 27 to join the WRC in one or more event with his own car and compete against other Pirelli drivers from around the world.

The members present were interested in this proposal and CACMS should contact Alexandre Vermont – Pirelli's Motorsport Commercial Manager to discuss this proposal further.

11.4 Time Cards – It was suggested to go back to using the simple time cards as the carbonised cards incur a huge expense. Mr. Surinder Thatthi to suggest to FIA for the change at the next Rally Commission meeting.

11.5 Motorsport in Ethiopia – The President of the Motorsport Club of Ethiopia requested to be allowed to run a candidate rally to the ARC. All welcomed Ethiopia to run a rally and the Chairman suggested that he would like to come visit them in Addis to discuss how to move forward on this project.

11.6 Nigeria – Mr. Ishaku from Nigeria requested the Chairman for assistance to be provided in organising rallies in Nigeria. He reported that to get sponsors is not an issue and that he was looking for the expertise to run the event he is planning.

**11. Next CACMS MEETING**

The date and venue of the next CACMS meeting will be communicated.

The Chairman thanked all who attended the meeting.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 19.05 p.m.

Signed:.....

**CACMS CHAIRMAN**

Date: .....