



Announcement: Scottish Motor Sports announce 2017 SMS Academy members at Ignition Festival

This morning saw the successful applicants to the inaugural Scottish Motor Sports Academy announced at the Ignition Festival of Motoring, with the help of Formula One presenter Lee McKenzie and 2001 World Rally Champion, Robert Reid.

The SMS Academy was set up to support young riders and drivers (aged 14-20) who are showing potential to excel in the sport. Since announcing this new talent development initiative back in June, we have been inundated with applications and interest. This has made the job of the selection panel – which included three time Le Mans 24 hours winner Allan McNish and three times British Superbike Champion Niall Mackenzie – extremely difficult but after some deliberation, the following competitors have been selected:

Ben Dignan (Roybridge, SACU - Trials)
Ben Thomson (Kelso, SACU - Enduro)
Callum Grigor (Wishaw, SACU Road Race)
Cameron Evans (Renfrew, MSA - Kart)
Dexter Patterson (Glasgow, MSA - Kart)
Duncan MacColl (Lanarkshire, SACU - Trials)
Emily Glanvill (Penicuik, MSA - Race)
Gillian McGaw (Kilmarnock, SACU - Road Race)
Jack Davidson (Falkirk, MSA - Race)
Jack Gordon (Aberdeenshire, MSA -Kart)

James Coltart (Perthshire, MSA - Sprint)
Jamie Simpson (Ayrshire, SACU - Trials)
Jude Macdonald (Inverness, MSA - Jnr Rally)
Kyle Best (Cumbernauld, MSA - Kart)
Lewis Paterson (Perthshire, SACU - Road Race)
Malcolm Summers (Windygates, SACU - Trials)
Michael Macpherson (Black Isle, MSA - Race)
Peter Beaton (Ardersier, MSA - Jnr Rally)
Stuart Mack (East Lothian, SACU - Enduro)

The SACU have also selected an additional four riders from a younger age category (10-14) to receive some support from the SMS Academy. These four riders will be supported through a slightly less comprehensive 'Rising Stars' programme. The selected rising stars are:

Christina Palmer (Dunbar, Motocross)
Jamie Galloway (Thornton, Trials)

Owen Patterson (Perthshire, Road Race)
Ross Galloway (Thornton, Trials)

The SMS Academy members will each be allocated a coach to offer remote support and advice when needed across the year. Between now and August 2018, the members will take part in four development workshops, which will support them in all aspects of their development, equipping them with the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to maximise their performance.

The first SMS Academy workshop will be held on Wednesday 18th October at Knockhill, where the Academy members will be developing their own performance profiles and learning about sponsorship, amongst other subjects. The programme will be delivered by fully qualified MSA Level 2 coaches, Blair Brown and Malcolm McNab who both have a diverse range of motorsport experience of their own; Blair is a former quad bike racer and British Rally Championship driver whilst Malcolm is a former kart racer and experienced racing driver in the Scottish Mini Cooper Championship. Both coaches will be supported throughout the programme by MSA level 4 Coach, James Wozencroft, who also has experience on two and four wheels having competed up to junior world championship level in rallying and having also taken part in Enduro events on two wheels.





Stewart Harris, Chief Executive, sportscotland said:

“This is an exciting new initiative from our partners at Scottish Motor Sports to support the development of the next generation of one of Scotland’s most successful sports, and we are delighted to be involved.

“The drivers and riders will receive not only top quality coaching, but will also learn the other attributes and skills they will need to develop to succeed in their sport and I hope they will make the most of this terrific opportunity. I wish them every success and look forward to following their progress.”

SMS Development Manager, Rory Bryant, commented:

“It’s been absolutely fantastic to make this announcement in front of a big audience at the Ignition Festival today. There’s been a huge amount of interest in the Academy since we announced it back in June and it’s great to see it all finally coming together. On behalf of Scottish Motor Sports I’d like to congratulate and welcome all the new SMS Academy members, who we are very much looking forward to working with over the next year.”

In addition to the competitors supported on the SMS Academy, we’d also like to acknowledge the support already offered to Scottish competitors through the MSA Academy, which supports the following competitors:

Ben Donkin (Offered place on 2017 AASE programme)
Charley Sayer-Payne (Co-driver Programme)
Finlay Retson (Year 2 of AASE Programme)
Jake Hutchinson (Offered place on 2017 AASE programme)
Jonnie Mackay (Offered place on 2017 AASE programme)
Josh Hislop (Offered place on 2017 AASE programme)
Ross Martin (Squad Programme)
Sandy Mitchell (Offered place on 2017 AASE programme)
Seb Melrose (Squad Programme)
Toney Logie (Offered place on 2017 AASE programme)

Ends

Notes to editors:

Scotland’s motorsport heritage: Motorsport is without doubt one of the sports in which Scotland and Scottish competitors excel. 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. Indeed, the names Stewart, Franchitti, McRae, Taylor and Mackenzie resonate with mental images of success throughout the world. More detail on Scotland’s success in motorsport can be found at: www.scottishmotorsports.co.uk/page/Champions





Motor Sports Association (MSA) is the sole national governing body for four-wheel motor sport in the UK, as recognised by the world governing body, the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA). The MSA have 66 member clubs in Scotland, which are represented by one of the MSA's 13 Regional Associations throughout the UK, the Scottish Association of Car Clubs. In Scotland, the MSA represents approximately 2000 competition licence holders and 600 volunteer marshals and officials, and issues permits for around 450 motor sport events every year. In Scotland, the MSA has approximately 6000 club members in total.

The MSA Academy refers to the Motor Sports Associations talent development pathway that supports UK drivers and co-drivers.

Scottish Auto Cycle Union (SACU) is the recognised controlling body for motorcycle sport in Scotland, as recognised by the British governing body, the Auto Cycle Union (ACU). The SACU is a not-for-profit organisation (limited by guarantee) comprising of 36 affiliated member clubs. The SACU represents approximately 1250 licence holders and around 300 volunteer marshals and officials, and issues permits for around 300 motorcycle sport events every year. The SACU has approximately 2000 club members in total.

Scottish Motor Sports (SMS) is the development body – funded by sportscotland - for two and four wheel motor sports in Scotland. SMS comprises of a committee that works on behalf of the SACU and MSA to assist with the overall development of the sport through a collective approach to strategy and communications. The SMS committee is chaired by Tom Purves, Chairman of the Royal Automobile Club and non-executive Director of the Motor Sports Association. The rest of the group consist of representatives from various positions within 2 and 4 wheel motor sport, Sportscotland and also EventScotland.

Allan McNish, is a former racing driver, commentator, and journalist from Dumfries, Scotland. He is a three-time winner of the 24 Hours of Le Mans, most recently in 2013, as well as a three-time winner of the American Le Mans Series, which he last won in 2007. He won the FIA World Endurance Championship (FIA WEC) in 2013. He is also a co-commentator and pundit for Formula One coverage on TV, radio and online.

Niall Mackenzie - from Stirlingshire - won the British Superbike Championship three times from 1996 to 1998 with the Rob McElnea-run Yamaha team, and the British 250cc and 350cc titles twice earlier in his career. Starting in 1984, Niall had a long career in the Grand Prix motorcycle racing circuit which concluded in the 2000 British Superbike series. Mackenzie now supports his younger sons, Tarran and Taylor, who are forging successful careers for themselves riding in the British Supersport and British Superbike Championships respectively.

Knockhill Racing Circuit, located near Dunfermline in Fife, is Scotland's National Motorsport Centre. Knockhill have kindly agreed to support the SMS Academy by providing the use of their media centre for the delivery of the Academy programme. Amongst many motorsport events, Knockhill plays host to the British touring Car Championship and British Superbike Championship each year.

The Ignition Festival of Motoring will run for the second year in August 2017 at the SECC in Glasgow and will host the official announcement of the SMS Academy members on 4th August. IGNITION is a true celebration of all things motoring and our specially constructed street circuit gives you the unique opportunity to get up close to the sight, sound and smell of everything from rally cars to Formula 1, supercars to classic cars, motorbikes and all things wacky and wonderful.





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