

British Pedal Car Championship – Going Forward

Proposal Document

1: Background:

The 2020 British Pedal Car Championship is delayed until such time as H. M. Government relaxes the current necessary restrictions on movement and gatherings.

The earliest possible restart date is June 27th / 28th at the 24 hours of Shenington.

Rounds 1 & 2 of the championship are therefore postponed with the overwhelming likelihood being that they will not be able to be rescheduled.

2: The Issues:

2.a: For All Teams:

The BPCC could conceivably be contested over just 3 races totaling 2 weekends.

Particularly for teams distant to either of these events, there will be a much greater disadvantage than normal because each event now constitutes a much greater percentage of the overall championship.

2.b: For Junior Drivers:

The temporary halt in racing has taken away the chance of young drivers who are ready to move to the next level to compete in their age category for the last time and therefore fight for race wins and championships in their class.

3: Committee Proposal for the 24 hours of Shenington

3.a: The event:

If possible this should be run subject to the restrictions in place at the time.

Suggest that it needs to be accepted in the circumstances that it may not be possible to provide the same level of service to the teams that is usual for this event. I.e: There may be no café, no massage etc.

If it proves impossible in whatever circumstance arise to allow for night running then an open minded approach should be taken. Some pedal car racing will be better than no pedal car racing!

3.b: The date:

Should the circuit be unavailable on the proposed date then a rescheduled date – at this circuit or another - should be sought to avoid clashes with Ringwood and the Scoutcar Nationals if these events are still going ahead.

If an alternative venue has to be sought, and if that precludes night racing, then see above.

3.c: BPCC Points

For 2020 only, the 24 hours of Shenington is to run as a stand-alone event outside of the BPCC. See section 4 below for clarification.

3.d: Decision Timeline

Decision on Shenington to be made by mid-May with the alternatives being:

A further delay but teams will be fully briefed as to why more time is needed.

Go-ahead as planned.

Run the event as “Shenington-Lite”

Cancellation or postponement.

4: Committee Proposal for the British Pedal Car Championship

4.a: The Season:

The Championship Season to start with the first of the September race meetings (currently the Blackbushe weekend) and finish at the following June event (the 24 hour race if possible and practical).

If possible, this final event to move to 1st weekend in July.

Therefore we move to a “winter championship” (although at the current time no winter races as such are envisaged).

4.b: The Class Structure:

Age ranges to align with school years.

PC1: Open (4 drivers, 6 in 24 hour races)

PC2: All drivers must be in year 13 or below at the start of the season (4 drivers, 6 in 24 hour races)

PC3: All drivers must be in year 11 or below at the start of the season (4 drivers, 6 in 24 hour races).

PC4: All drivers must be in year 9 or below at the start of the season. (6 drivers in all races)

PC5: All drivers must be in year 7 or below at the start of the season. (6 drivers in all races)

Non-age related classes are unaffected.

4.c: Presentations & AGM:

Presentations to be done at the end of the 24 hour race. There needs to be a separate team of 2 or 3 people who will take on this role separate from those in race control on the day.

The AGM will take place in November.

There will therefore be more notice of events and 10 months for the teams to adapt to any rule changes for the following championship season. A separate committee meeting will be needed during May which can take place on line.

Given the recent situation, only the AGM will need to take place face-to-face. All other meetings can be done online.

4.d: EGM:

An EGM to be held online via “zoom” on: Sunday, 26th April at 10am

See Appendix 1 (below) for agenda

See Appendix 2 (below) for current officers of the committee

5: Reasoning & Conclusions

The advantages of moving to September – June calendar have been put forward before but there has never been a suitable way to transition. We have that opportunity now.

Age ranges can come in line with school years meaning drivers will be driving with their classmates.

We can give the youngsters who are missing out on their last season in racing another chance to finish their junior career.

Presentations can move from late at night at Curborough.

If a suitable (indoor) venue can be found in the future, a winter event can be added without the counter – argument that no one would see the need to travel for a non-BPCC event.

There is nothing stopping teams building new cars mid-season already (several teams have indeed constructed new cars in the summer-break in recent years) and no rule saying you have to run the same car all season so this remains unchanged.

There are many sports who run their season from Autumn through to Spring.

Ringwood becomes an end of season party for those who wish to attend!

Appendix 1:

British Federation of Pedal Car Racing

Extraordinary General Meeting: 10am - 26th April 2020

Agenda:

1: Apologies

2: Purpose of meeting:

To obtain backing from the membership for the method of re-starting the British Pedal Car Championship

The options to be considered are as follows:

Does the membership wish to go with proposals as outlined above?

Does the membership wish to run the 2020 BPCC over 2 meetings only?

Does the membership wish to elect a new committee to take the sport forward?

3: Election of new committee if deemed necessary as a result of item 2 above

Appendix 2:

British Federation of Pedal Car Racing

Current Committee & Officers

Officers:

Chairman - Alan Goodman

Secretary – Rose Ralphs

Treasurer – Chris Featherstone

Committee members:

Competition Secretary - Alan Crane

Scrutineer – Gary Richards

Dave Ralphs

Gary Hollingsworth

Jeremy Featherstone

Mark Williams

Rob Fulford

Tom Scarsbrook