AGM 2024 Motorsport Secretary Report

Overview

This year the Club motorsport program consisted of:

- 4 Club track days (including the 2024 Interstate Challenge),
- 3 Club motorkhanas,
- 1 driver training day,
- 5 MX-5 Cup rounds,
- 1 NSW motorkhana round, and
- 1 NSW supersprint round.

I would like to thank all our volunteers who helped organise and run our Club events in 2024, and will highlight a few key individuals.

Managing entries and organising permits is critical to successful events, and was handled diligently by the team of Barry Luttrell, Maria Martin and Gaynor Lawler. All three of them managed a mixture of our track day, motorkhana and supersprint events.

Gerardo Martin and Phil Donnelley were our primary scrutineers at track and motorkhana events, with support from a team of regular helpers.

David Wilson took the lead in running our Club motorkhanas and state motorkhana, and Blake Roy organised our driver training day.

Jean Cook was always on hand to help, and was our regular track day Steward.

Thanks to Paul Nudd for co-ordinating the MX-5 Cup championship.

We had numerous people who assisted as flag marshals at our track events or as timers at our motorkhanas. Thanks very much to you all.

Club Track Days

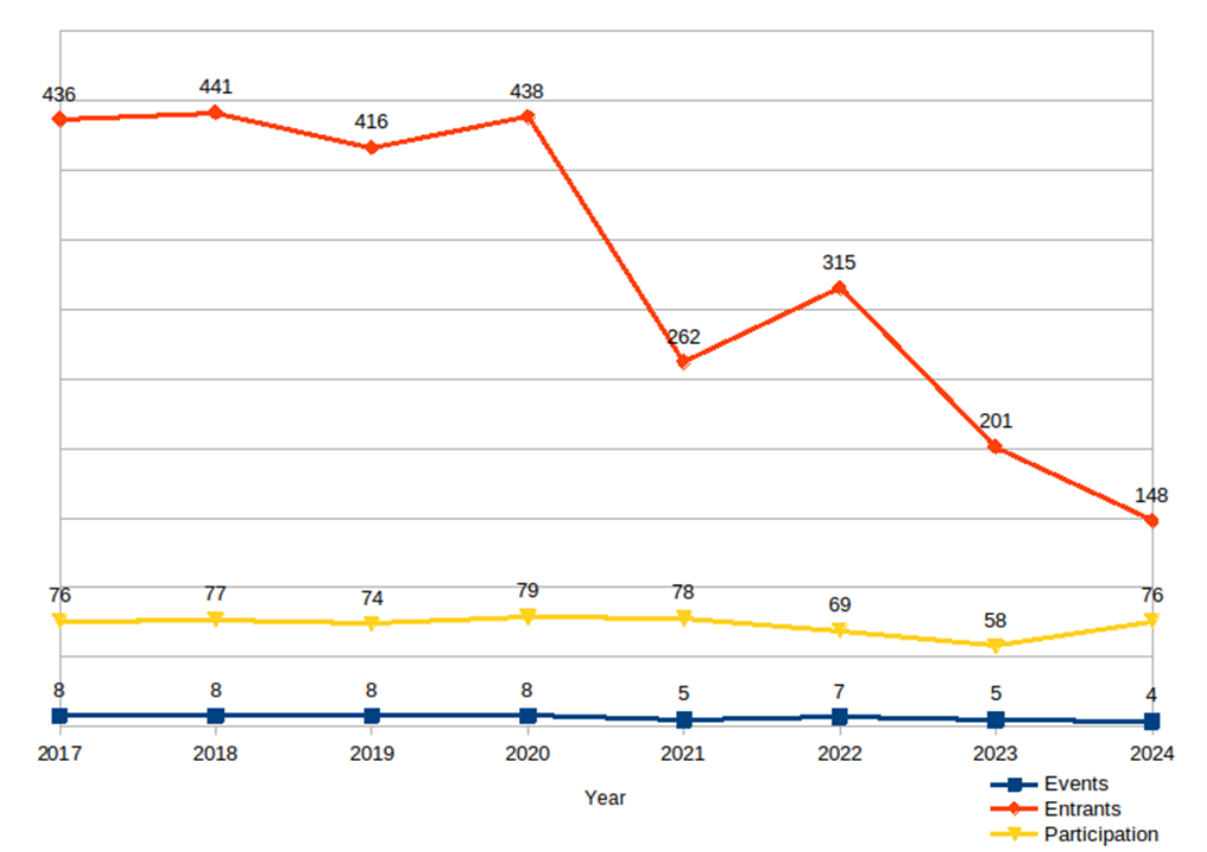
The Club ran three track days this year, with two at SMSP Amaroo, and one at Pheasant Wood. One of the SMSP South events was on a Saturday evening, the first night event run by the Club. An additional planned event at One Raceway was cancelled due to lagging construction, and another at Pheasant Wood planned for the Monday following the state supersprint was cancelled due to expected low participation.

The number of entrants at our track day events was down again this year, to the lowest level in the last 7 years.

One measure of the success of our track days is the participation rate. This is calculated as the number of entrants at events as a percentage of the places available at those events. The participation rate rose in 2024, probably as a result of fewer events being scheduled. The reduced number of events in 2024 was due to deliberate strategy decided last year, and also through cancelled events that were not replaced.

The graph below shows the number of entrants, participation rate, and number of events per year over the last 7 years. The number of entrants fell again this year, but the participation rate improved, likely due to fewer events being offered. Even at that level of participation our Club track day events are not sustainable, primarily due to costs increasing faster than entry fees.

For 2025, the MX-5 Club of NSW intends to join the Combined Sport Car Association (CSCA), which runs an annual championship over events offered by each of the 7 participating car clubs. Each member club typically offers one of their events each year as a CSCA supersprint. Joining the CSCA would give us access to a wider group of entrants for at least one Club run event a year, and would also allow us to substitute CSCA club run events for our MX-5 Club events, reducing our exposure to losses from under-subsidised MX-5 Club only events.



Club Driver Training Days

The driver training days are intended to assist those Club members wanting to take their first steps from street driving onto a track, or to help lesser experienced drivers improve their track driving skills. Experienced Club motorsport drivers are on hand to provide in-car tuition, particularly for those people driving on a track for the first time.

This year, the Club ran one Driver Training day at the Pheasant Wood Circuit with 39 drivers participating, including 8 first-timers to track driving.

A big thanks to Blake Roy for organising that event.

Club & State Motorkhanas

There were 4 Club motorkhanas scheduled this year, including one run in conjunction with the MX-5 Club hosted state motorkhana round at Nirimba TAFE.

Thanks to Maria Martin, Barry Luttrell and Gaynor Lawler for organising the Club & state motorkhanas this year, and to David Wilson for running both the Club motorkhanas and the NSW motorkhana. Thanks also to all the volunteers who helped.

MX-5 Cup

The MX-5 Cup series has continued to grow stronger in 2024, with 5 rounds across the SMSP track layouts, and fields of between 13 and 22 cars at the events, and a total of 36 drivers scoring points in the MX-5 Cup Championship.

Thanks to Paul Nudd for promoting and managing the series and reporting results.

NSW Supersprint Championship

The 2024 series saw only a handful of Club members regularly participating. There were 6 rounds run during the year, although the results from Round 3 were not included as it was terminated early due to weather. The MX-5 Club of NSW finished 3rd in the club championship. Thanks to Gerardo Martin for his role as a delegate on the NSW Supersprint panel.

Team Regularities

Club members participated in 4 team regularities this year:

- 3 teams at the NSW 6 Hour at SMSP GP circuit in April, along with a few additional Club members in mixed teams,
- 1 team at the Sandown 360 at Sandown Raceway in April,
- 23 teams at the Alfa 10 Hour at Winton in October with two additional Club members in mixed teams.

Teams consisting of MX-5 Club of NSW members were 2nd & 3rd at the NSW 6 Hour, 1st at the Sandown 360, and 1st and 2nd at the Alfa 10 Hour. There was no Victorian 6 Hour at Phillip Island this year, as the event has been cancelled for the foreseeable future.

2025 Motorsport Program

The current target for the motorsport program in 2025 is to have:

- 2 track days at SMSP South Circuit,
- 1 track day at Pheasant Wood Circuit,
- 1 driver training day at Pheasant Wood Circuit,
- 3 Club motorkhanas at SMSP skidpan,
- 1 NSW Supersprint at Pheasant Wood Circuit, and
- 1 NSW Motorkhana & Club Motorkhana at Nirimba.

We can expect to see the MX-5 Cup series continue in 2025, most likely with 6 rounds at meetings run by MRA.

We also intend to run a round of the CSCA Supersprint Championship, either at one of our planned SMSP or Pheasant Wood track days, or maybe at an additional event at One Raceway.

We will also look to incorporate rounds of the CSCA Supersprint Championship run by other member clubs, into our Club track day championship.

Motorsport Secretary

I am not nominating for the Motorsport Secretary role again this AGM. As of the time this report was written, I am not aware of anyone else nominating for the role.

If the Club does not have a Motorsport Secretary, it is likely that much of the planned 2025 motorsport program will not go ahead, and the Club's track day championship will fail after 27 years.

If you have an interest in MX-5 Club motorsport and have ideas on how to make it more successful and exciting, please contact President Ian Combes to discuss how you can help. I will continue to be available to offer advice and support for any individual or group that steps into the Motorsport Secretary role.

David Lawler
Motorsport Secretary
Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW Inc.