



Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW Inc
ABN 82 599 208 521

2023 Annual General Meeting Motorsport Secretary's Report

Overview

This year the club motorsport program consisted of:

- 5 club track days,
- 3 club motorkhanas,
- 1 driver training day,
- 1 hillclimb,
- 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 2023, 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 3 of them managed a mixture of our track day, motorkhana and supersprint events. Andrew Digney organised the hillclimb.

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

Thanks to Joe Kovacic, our uber grid marshal for his key role in ensuring our track days run smoothly.

David Wilson took the lead in running our club motorkhanas and state motorkhana, while Andrew Digney did the same for our club hillclimb, and Blake Roy organised our driver training day.

Jean Cook was always on hand to help and was our regular event steward.

Thanks to Paul Nudd for coordinating 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 5 track days this year, with 2 at SMSP Amaroo, and 3 at Pheasant Wood. The number of entrants at our track day events was down again this year, to the lowest level in the last 6 years.

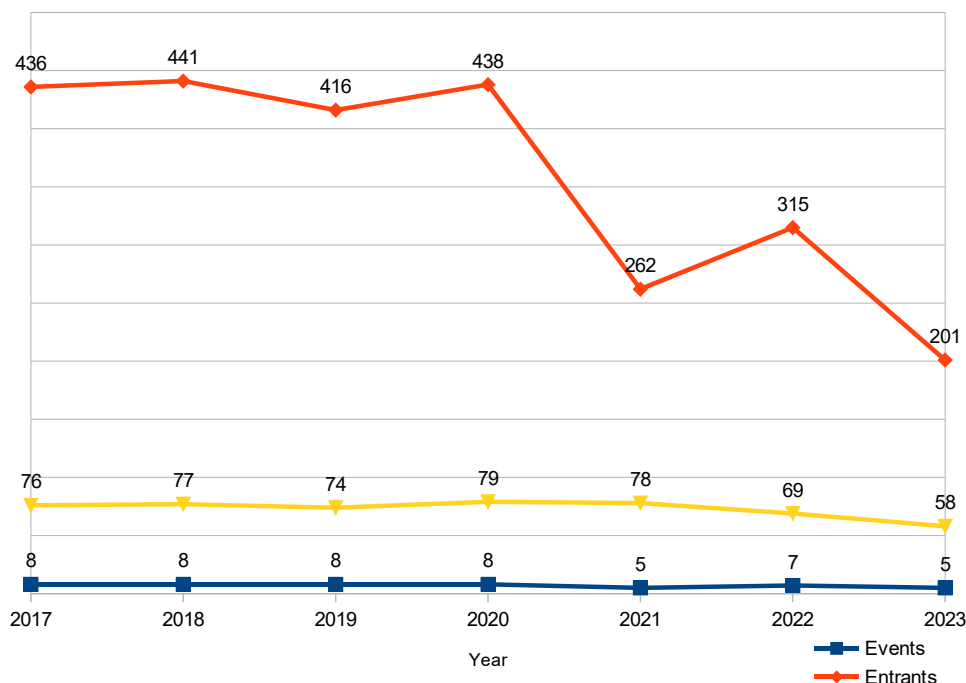
One measure of the success of our track days is the participation rate. This is calculated as the number of entrants at our events as a percentage of the places available at those events. The participation rate fell in 2022, and I believed this was because of the increased number of events that were scheduled. As a result I decided to only run 5 track days this year, in the hope it would improve the participation rate. Unfortunately, that rate has fallen, as has the total number of entrants, both to the lowest level in 6 years.

The graph below shows the number of entrants, participation rate, and number of events per year over the last 6 years.

At that level of participation our track day events are not sustainable and so to continue providing these events we must find a way to increase entrant numbers, or we will have to consider further reducing the number of events or even ceasing to run track days.



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There are a couple of initiatives planned to try and address entrant numbers, such as collaborations with other clubs such as the BRZ/86 Club, or new categories such as a regularity competition at our club track days. I also intend to offer 2 driver training days in 2024 as an entry point for new track day drivers.

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, and thanks to Blake Roy for organising that event.

Club & State Motorkhanas

There were 3 club motorkhanas scheduled this year, and the 2 rounds competed so far were enjoyed by the all the participating drivers. The 3rd and final round will be at the SMSP Skidpan in November. The MX-5 Club also ran a NSW motorkhana at Nirimba TAFE, in which a small group of club members participated.

Thanks to Maria Martin and Gaynor Lawler for organising the club motorkhanas, Barry Luttrell for managing the NSW motorkhana, and David Wilson for running both the club motorkhanas and the NSW motorkhana. Thanks also to all the volunteers who helped, particularly the regular timers, Bryan Shedden, Greg Unger, Phil Donnelley and Phil Reid.

Club Hillclimbs

There was one club hillclimb in 2023 at Raymond Terrace. Thanks to Andrew Digney for organising and running the event.



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MX-5 Cup

The MX-5 Cup series has continued to grow stronger in 2023, with 5 rounds across the SMSP track layouts, and fields of between 18 and 22 cars at all events.

This season continued the tradition of close but fair racing, with good camaraderie between the drivers.

A 6th round was scheduled for November, but the track booking was cancelled by ARDC and so moved by MRA to December at Pheasant Wood. As that round will be after the 2023 award presentations, it will be a stand-alone event.

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

NSW Supersprint Championship

The 2023 series saw about 5 club members regularly participating.

At the time this report was written there had been 5 rounds of the championship completed, with the MX-5 Club is 3rd in the club championship, and with a 6th round to come in November.

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:

- 5 teams at the NSW 6 Hour at SMSP GP circuit in March,
- 1 team at the Sandown 360 at Sandown Raceway in April,
- 2 teams at the Victorian 6 Hour at Philip Island in July, and
- 3 teams at the Alfa 10 Hour at Winton in October.

2024 Motorsport Program

The goal for the motorsport program in 2024 is to have:

- 2 track days at SMSP South Circuit, with one of those being a Saturday evening event,
- 2 track days at Pheasant Wood Circuit,
- 1 track day at One Raceway (Wakefield Park),
- 2 driver training days at Pheasant Wood Circuit,
- 3 club motorkhanas at SMSP skidpan,
- 1 NSW Supersprint at Pheasant Wood Circuit,
- 1 NSW Motorkhana at Nirimba, and
- 1 hillclimb at Ringwood.

We can expect to see the MX-5 Cup series continue in 2024, most likely with 6 rounds at meetings run by MRA.

Motorsport Secretary

I do not intend to nominate for this role again in 2024 and would like to do a handover of the position to one or more club members between now and the 2024 AGM. If you have an interest in MX-5 Club motorsport and have ideas on how to make it more successful and exciting, please contact me so we can discuss how you can help.

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