

2021 Competition AGM Report

The 2021 MX-5 Club motorsport calendar was looking really good – unlike some past years, clashes were very few, so it was looking like it was going to be a great year – until the Delta strain of COVID-19 hit us, and like most other things, our motorsport was put on hold.

This report relates to the half of the 2021 calendar that we did actually get to run events.

Club Track Days

The Club booked 7 Club Practice Days in 2021 – 1 at SMSP Amaroo, 4 at Wakefield Park, 2 at Pheasant Wood, plus a non-competition practice day at Pheasant Wood so that the Victorian Club members could have a run at Pheasant Wood before the Interstate Challenge at Wakefield the next day. Great calendar, but it all got put on hold after the Monday track day on the 17th May.

COVID-19 hit us in June. We did intend to run a track day at the end of June (was a Driver Training day) but by then, all events like this were closed down, and the event was cancelled. Initially, events in August and September were cancelled – we were holding out some hope of doing something in October (end), but eventually that event was cancelled too.

The Club has now not run an event at Sydney Motorsport Park for two years in a row.

The Interstate Challenge was cancelled (was August 22nd). The NSW Club will again host it in 2022.

The Club is intending to run the last track day of the 2021 year on 7th November at Wakefield Park.

I would to thank all our volunteers who helped run our Club track days. A big thank you too to Barry and Jenny Luttrell, the club event secretaries who has managed all the entries for our Club track days, looking after registrations in the COVID world we live in.

I'd like to also thank Joe Kovacic, for playing such a pivotal role in the smooth running of our track days, as the grid marshal.

Club Driver Training Days

As a result of COVID-19, there were no Driver Training events scheduled at the start of 2021, but after enthusiastic representations from members, and after COVID-19 had eased in H1 2021, an event was scheduled for late June – just in time for the Delta strain. Entries for this event were poor however.

This event was recycled as a track day (partly because of the poor entries), but that was ultimately cancelled, as noted above.

The Club did pencil in two dates later in the year for Driver Training days (I was optimistic), but these have not (or will not) take place.

Given the lack of commitment to Driver Training days seen in 2021, and the uncertainty around members attending these events until the COVID-19 situation stabilizes, only one Driver Training day will be included in the 2022 calendar at the moment, although dates can be added when and if deemed appropriate in 2022 since scheduling of these events is much easier than track days.

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Club Motorkhanas

The Club again booked 3 Club Motorkhanas in 2021. The scheduling wasn't great though with the 1st event mid-year and the 2nd and 3rd events being too close together at the end of the year (my mistake).

The Club ran the first motorkhana in June, which ran as well as ever, even although we didn't get a full field.

The second motorkhana was cancelled partly because of COVID-19 (we would have just been out of lockdown), and partly because it was too close to the third one. However, the third event was cancelled by the ARDC because the V8 Supercars are taking over SMSP late this year. Can't win...

Fortunately the 2022 motorkhana calendar is looking a lot better organized, so let's hope that we don't have any more COVID-19 surprises.

NSW State Motorkhana

In 2021, The MX-5 Club again picked up a round of the NSW State Motorkhana - again at the SMSP skidpan. However, this event was taken out by COVID-19 and the lockdown we had to have.

MX-5 Cup

The 2021 MX-5 Cup race series consisted of 6 events at Wakefield Park and Sydney Motorsport Park. The great news for the 2021 MX-5 Cup calendar was the MX-5 Nationals, which was to be on the 23rd October (day after the AGM).

Two rounds of the MX-5 Cup were run before COVID hit us, with some good racing.

The MX-5 Nationals was to be a full day program for MX-5s only at SMSP run by MRA and promoted by Todd Herring and Terry Denovan from MRA. Would have had significant involvement from the MX-5 Club as well. This event would have included other MX-5 events as well as MX-5 Cup, such as supersprint sessions and regularities. Unfortunately, COVID-19 came along before planning got too far for this event. Let's hope that this event is on the 2022 calendar.

Due to COVID-19, the 23rd October has now become a regular MRA race meeting (including MX-5 Cup), so we will have had 3 of the 6 rounds originally planned for 2021.

NSW Supersprints

There was some resurgence of interest in the NSW Supersprint Championship in 2021 from MX-5 Club members, which has resulted in the Club coming 2nd in the championship (at time of writing).

The ARDC are strongly in front however on 8,227.876 points to the MX-5 Club's 4,835.640 points. At least we are well clear of the HSV Club this time on 3,170.343 points. Unfortunately, the ARDC has won every round, including the one run by the MX-5 Club, so we still have a way to go. There is a new points system this year though, and it may not have done us any favours...

Due to COVID-19 however, only three rounds have been run so far in 2021, including the one run by the MX-5 Club in May, which as always was by far the best. In fact, this year's event was even better than last year. Even better, we made money on this event for the second year in a row.

There one more round of the championship that has been organized later this year on the 28th November.

Easter SMSP 6 Hour

After being cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19, it was great to see this event run in 2021, before the 2nd (COVID) coming. In a new twist, this years event was a one day/night affair, so it made for a long day for everyone involved.

Once again, there was a strong entry from the MX-5 Club with 9 teams (with one MX-5 Club team from Victoria). Despite that, we could only manage 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 10th, 11th, 14th, 16th 18th and 32nd on the day.

Philip Island 6 Hour

This event was also unfortunately cancelled yet again in 2021 due to COVID-19. Gotta feel for those guys.

Alfa 12 Hour regularity at Winton

Ditto with this event. Let's hope that 2022 is brighter for our regularity competitors.

2022 Motorsport

The 2022 competition calendar is in a relatively advanced state. Will be a bumper year to make up for 2021 with 8 Club track days, plus an extra day at Pheasant Wood on the Saturday between the Interstate Challenge at Wakefield Park on the 22nd August. That includes 1 SMSP day, 4 Wakefield Park days and 3 Pheasant Wood days, two of which will hopefully be on the extended track.

The same 4 SMSP motorkhana events are planned, including our round of the NSW State Motorkhana Championship.

Due to COVID-19, we will not run an Amaroo track day in the first half of 2022 – one is planned for the second half.

Our NSW Supersprint round is on the 22nd May, with the traditional Monday track day the next day.

We will run one Driver Training day initially and if that goes well, we may decide to run a second one.

After having my arm twisted, we may also run one hillclimb in 2022 at Raymond Terrace.

The MX-5 Cup race meetings are still being finalized.

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