

Overview of 2020

As the 2020 season is only a few weeks away, fans and drivers are concerned over the lack of information available about meetings dates. There are many reasons for this, mainly concerned with uncertainty over the future of some tracks. Birmingham Wheels is the subject of a campaign to stop it being sold for redevelopment, Bell Vue is also under threat for the same reasons, and Swaffham Raceway has also been sold and the new owners are reported to be taking the track out of the ORCi. While we have a full fixture list ready for publication, until these issues are resolved it is difficult to do so, and we hope that everyone will understand. If both Swaffham and Birmingham are not able to host HF2, then we have to look for other venues to take extra dates, and this can mean an awful lot of shuffling to get a decent spread of dates. We can confirm that the opening two meetings will be Mildenhall on Sunday March 8th and Mendips Raceway on Sunday March 22nd.

Birmingham Wheels Tragedy.

The terrible accident at Birmingham Wheels which took the life of long term supporter and sponsor Colin North, has led to a huge amount of work for Spedeworth Incarace dealing with the EHO for the area, and constructing interim measures to allow racing to continue on oval racing circuits. The Inquest was opened and adjourned recently, and the Coroner has issued a Section 28 Improvement Notice on the whole of oval racing, giving the sport 56 days to submit and have approved methods of operation for the future, and if these conditions are not met, and a Stop Notice can be issued. Spedeworth Incarace have been running their meetings under Interim Measures which has allowed racing to continue for the time being, which fans may have seen in operation at recent events. This will affect the future of oval racing considerably.

Brisca F2 Diamond Jubilee.

There are two People Trophies meetings associated with the Diamond Jubilee of Brisca F2, which are scheduled for Kings Lynn on April 18th and Taunton Ben Fund Speed weekend in June. These meetings will attract a lot of F2 drivers, and we may have to give up our Kings Lynn date to allow for more Brisca F2 bookings. The alternative date of June 27th is unsuitable for us being in the middle of a busy period between the Pete Welland Memorial Trophy and the proposed visit to Crimond Raceway. I am still hoping to get a compromise with the organisers to allow us to race on April 18th.

Raceceivers.

Raceceivers are being introduced to all ORCI formulae. These are to enable the Steward of the meeting to communicate directly with drivers through a small person radio set and earphones. The product leaders are the Race Ceiver company from America, and the unit recommended is the Fusion +. I have been able to negotiate an exemption for all of those drivers who use hearing aids.

MWA Show.

Heritages F2 are supporting this show with a large stand for static displays and live action shows. Committee members Brian Owen and Alan Humphrey have been working very hard to make sure that cars and drivers are available, and it looks like a good show. It takes place at Peterborough Showground and Saturday and Sunday February 1st and 2nd, and I hope it will get the support it deserves. We have every intention of being able to launch the printed Fixtures List for 2020 at the Show, and other formulae are also working towards that as a deadline. Good reason to go along and support it, and collect your Fixture Lists.