



# Hillclimb Committee Meeting

11.00am Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023  
Cavallino House, 2 Church Way, Whittlebury, NN12 8XS

## AGENDA

*Attendees: Christian Mineeff (Chairman), Andy Bush (Championship Scrutineer), Steve Burns (Championship Coordinator), Steve Nunney, Angela Preece, Brian Jackson, Mark Pollard, Chris Leach (Minutes)*

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| 1. | <b>Chairman's Welcome &amp; Introduction</b>        | CM |
| 2. | <b>2023 FHC Coordinator's Report</b>                | SB |
| 3. | <b>2023 FHC Scrutineer &amp; Eligibility Report</b> | AB |
| 4. | <b>2024 Title Sponsor &amp; Draft 2024 Budget</b>   | MP |
| 5. | <b>2024 Championship Apparel Proposal</b>           | CL |
| 6. | <b>2024 FHC Events</b>                              | SB |



Event	Date
Round 1 - Bouley Bay	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2024
Round 2 - Curborough	21 <sup>st</sup> April 2024
Round 3 & Round 4 - Harewood	11 <sup>th</sup> /12 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
Round 5 & Round 6 - Gurston Down	15 <sup>th</sup> /16 <sup>th</sup> June 2024
Round 7 & Round 8 - Loton Park	13 <sup>th</sup> /14 <sup>th</sup> July 2024
Round 9 - Shelsley Walsh	10 <sup>th</sup> August 2024
Round 10 - Wiscombe Park	14 <sup>th</sup> September 2024
Round 11 & Round 12 - Prescott	5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup> October 2024

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| 7. | <b>2024 FHC Rules &amp; Regulations</b><br>Review Competitor & Committee Suggestions<br>Review 2024 Regulations |
| 8. | <b>Any Other Business</b>   |

**THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING**



## CHRIS LEACH

As part of Item-7 I'd like to discuss in addition to competitors' suggestions for 2024 regs:

- Ban on trailers blocks new entrants (propose removing this)
- Introduce a new Modified class (propose not eligible for championship win and introduce a cup similar to Baracca Classic)
- Classic tipos definition (propose to include 348 or 355)

## ANGELA PREECE

Additional agenda items, or things to cover in the existing agenda:

- Communications to members and hill-climbers following the meeting and following the survey – perhaps we need an item on the survey and the actions proposed coming out of it? Suggest that Steve leads on it
- 4. New title sponsor – can the funding level planned be shared and discussion on where the funds are proposed to be spent (I'm guessing that that also feeds into item 5.)
- Item 7 discussion needs to include the items suggested by hill-climbers in the survey, as you've indicated – all the suggestions made in question 8, and the 6 in answer to question 9.
- 6. FHC events – can this item include what's proposed in terms of social and overnight stays. It would be good to discuss how we can better engage the local area group for each event, how we include them in any social arrangements – and identify any other ideas for connecting the hillclimb series better into the wider club membership.

## Item 7

**Ban on trailers** – the principle of competing in road cars that you've driven to the event is a very very early principle established at the beginning of the series, focused on keeping competitor costs down, and making the series a road-car series and so distinct from circuit racing. I believe strongly in the value of that distinction, and helping competitors compete on a relatively even playing field is a really important principle that we should keep. The advent of hill climb schools and the extensive use of Curborough for practising that is a feature of the last 10 years has dented that principle quite heavily – those with funds and time to devote to practising have definitely benefited from that, and the playing field is not as level as it once was. So adding a further change around trailers seems to potentially add to that unevenness. And given that the regs as currently formed do penalise any driver that modifies the car seems to conflict with the idea that you don't drive the car to the event, enabling drivers to compete in non-road-going machinery. I suggest that it would be useful to discuss and agree these base-level principles for future years, as a context for any regulation changes proposed, either by this committee or by hill-climbers or other FOC members. I think that enabling trailering runs the risk of our road-going series being impacted by additional regs from the Blue Book, too – the creation of a rather split class (more split than with the Classic cup) could well be the result. I'd be interested to hear of the opinions of the event promoters on the logistics as well.



**Modified class** – I think the agreeing of the base principles would help us to decide whether this is a good plan – I would be interested to see where the demand is coming from for a diverse class (I'm guessing to run alongside the classic cup??) – and looking at the range of contests already active, we should perhaps consider giving more publicity to competitors' progress in existing competitions rather than adding a new one. If we decide to add this, I strongly suggest exclusion from scratch wins as well as the competition should be added to the treatment.

**Classic tipos definition** – Any change here depends on change to the 0% baseline car, I suggest. There is logic to moving the baseline to the F430, but I wouldn't be averse to moving it to the 360 either. Certainly bringing it more up to date makes a lot of sense. If moving to F430, then the proposal to add both the 355 and the 348 to the classic cup gets my support. And the change in baseline would give us an opportunity to revise the relative placings of other tipos.

Other competitors' suggestions:

**California PEP** – I have no particular view on this other to ask why it was changed when the more recent Cali T was launched, if that's the case? and did we ever explain the new rationale?

**Champion's PEP and progression** – I have long thought this was a nonsense, and agree with the proposal to remove it. In my opinion, we make ourselves a bit ridiculous, by so obviously targeting an individual's success: we should use the PEP to level the playing field between cars (not drivers). The issue of lack of competition at the top of the series needs a different way of addressing it – perhaps if we made the series more fun and attractive, more able drivers would stay with us!! Perhaps we could elicit views on prior competitors and why they no longer compete??

**Guidance on warming engines** – I agree re making the guidance and application of the guidance stronger with potential penalties (exclusion from points or points deduction?) for those who ignore. At heart, this is about sporting integrity and fair competition and we should all be helping to apply this. Nick makes a good point re ESG too – an easy way of improving our eco credentials. Is this not already in the Blue Book, and if so, we don't need to cover it.

**Champion/winners PEPs** – An event by event system is an interesting proposal and we could test that out on prior years quite easily using the existing spreadsheet I would think to see what, if any, effect it has.

**Event hospitality and training events** – some good ideas here, linking up with the venues would be very handy to schedule times to allow folks to practice and learn. I agree with the point re event hospitality making us separate, not a good look, but it would be very handy at some events to have the gazebo back – when the weather was inclement, it was a good place to gather!

**Event experience** – there are some comments re the loss of camaraderie and collaboration – we need to discuss how best to recover that, and having the results board filled out at the event was something that generated a lot of discussion, and laughter and sharing of tips and tricks. As the committee member responsible for publicity and marketing I am very open to ideas and we can share the workload!!!