

Your Newsletter

Welcome to the first issue of this newsletter, another milestone in the history of motor sport in the UAE and definitely an exciting development for those closely involved with the sport!

Given the limited activity during the summer, the periodicity of this newsletter will be confined to being a monthly with the ultimate goal of increasing the frequency as the new motorsport season takes off in September. In essence, we are looking at a fortnightly issue.

For obvious reasons, the newsletter will be distributed electronically and only to registered marshals, members and affiliated clubs. We encourage each and every one of you to update your mailing list to ensure you regularly receive your copy.

The idea behind this newsletter is not merely to be informative. We encourage you to write. You do not have to be an accomplished writer to share your thoughts and experiences, just write and we'll take care of the rest without distorting the original ideas.

Constructive criticism and practical suggestions are more than welcome. That said, we are looking forward to a huge response to this newsletter from the very first issue, and if that happens we'll introduce a letters section just for you. If you are interested in being profiled, just mail us your details along with a passport size photograph to marshals@atcuae.ae and we'll put you in the queue with a realistic chance of making it into the next issue. Please ensure that all editorial material is sent to us latest by the 10th of the month.

We start off small, with just four pages, but with your active involvement we are confident that this fledgling newsletter will eventually blossom into a full-fledged magazine.

This first issue introduces you to the recently formed UAE Motorsport Marshals Club (UAEMC) and a sprinkling of news events that took place in late May and June while subsequent issues will introduce you to key personnel of the ATCUAE and the UAE Motorsport Marshals Club.

Before we sign off for the month, if any of you have a creative flair, please feel free to send suggestions on the logo for the Marshals Club; if selected, we'll recognize your contribution in print.

Happy Reading!

NEWS FLASH: www.atcuae.ae launches JULY 31



ATCUAE Sports Project Director Ronan Morgan addresses volunteers during introduction day at Dubai Autodrome on May 29.

UAE Marshals Club launched

Hundreds line up to marshal Abu Dhabi Grand Prix

FOLLOWING a successful programme to recruit and train marshals for the inaugural Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix at Dubai Autodrome on May 29 where over 250 volunteers registered to be part

of what is expected to be the grand finale to the Formula One season in the UAE this November, the ATCUAE in June set in motion plans to formalize the UAE Motorsport Marshals Club (UAEMC).

The overwhelming response to the volunteer drive prompted ATCUAE to seriously consider the setting up a club for marshals, essentially meant to create and nurture this group of people with a passion for motorsport.

Apart from providing a sense of belonging, the club will ensure that all registered marshals will henceforth have one point of contact.

ATCUAE Sports Project Director Ronan Morgan says it is important to ensure that those enrolled for the November Grand Prix are not forgotten after the event. According to Morgan, creating and maintaining a pool of marshals will further inject professionalism in the sport.

Members will be encouraged to network

TRAINING DAYS

DATE	VENUE (Tentative)
Oct. 3 (Saturday)	Abu Dhabi- Yas Marina Circuit
Oct. 10 (Saturday)	Abu Dhabi -Yas Marina Circuit
Oct. 16 (Friday)	Dubai- Dubai Autodrome
Oct. 23-24 (Fri-Sat)	Abu Dhabi- Yas Marina Circuit
THE RACE DAYS	
Oct. 29 – Nov. 1	Formula 1™ Etihad Airways GP

and receive the latest information on upcoming events part from being encouraged to sign up for regular duty.

Morgan pointed out that unlike a few years ago when there were but a handful of events, the ATCUAE currently oversees close to 150 motorsport events annually with the numbers growing with each passing. Given this it is but natural that the scope of work and the numbers of marshals required will witness an exponential increase, he added, promising to release more details in the coming weeks.

During the first introduction day Dubai Autodrome, Morgan had explained the extensive role of the ATCUAE in the country's first-ever Formula 1 race.

"As the national sporting authority and official representative of the FIA we are delighted to have you here today," Morgan

See Page 2 »

UAE Marshals Club

↳ From Page 1

had said, pointing out that approximately 600 personnel including marshals, medics, extrication crew, runners, scrutineers, communicators, etc would be required on-track.

Aspiring marshals were also briefed by Gary Dearn, Senior Track Manager, Abu Dhabi Motorsport Management, the promoters of the event, on the track specifications and other technical aspects of Formula 1 racing.

ATCUAE President Mohammed Ben Sulayem had in the month of May appealed to young Emiratis to join him in making the inaugural Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix a success on unprecedented scales during separate presentations to the Abu Dhabi Men's College and the Abu Dhabi Women's College of the Higher Colleges of Technology.

"You, as the future of this country, must be part of this historic event. Five years down the line I want to see 90 percent, if not more, of the manpower to comprise of Emiratis," Sulayem had told students.

Following this appeal, a sizeable number of Emiratis have now signed up.



Gary Dearn, Senior Track Manager, Abu Dhabi Motorsport Management, in conversation with an Emirati volunteer and, (below) a section of the audience during the introduction day.



ATCUAE, ADMM team on F1 hands-on familiarization trip

PRESIDENT of the Automobile & Touring Club of the UAE (ATCUAE) Mohammed Ben Sulayem led a 21-member strong delegation to Bahrain to attend round four of the Formula 1 season.

Sulayem, who is also FIA Vice President for Sport, led a team comprising of officials from the ATCUAE and Abu Dhabi Motorsport Management (ADMM LLC) – the capital-based company tasked with overseeing the UAE's Formula 1 debut later this year.

The delegation, made up of officials with vast motorsport experience, particularly in relation to Formula 1, spent a better part of the race week visiting the circuit in Bahrain and, apart from the circuit visit, the delegation held discussions at various levels with their Bahraini opposite numbers on issues ranging from marshalling to safety and emergency response preparedness.

The ATCUAE chief sought inputs and insights from his Bahraini counterparts with an emphasis on coordinated ground operations during the Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix which will be staged on the soon to-be commissioned Yas Marina Circuit on Yas Island this November.



ATCUAE UAE President Mohammed Ben Sulayem seen with Commander of the National Guards of the Kingdom of Bahrain HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Isa Al Khalifa at Bahrain International Circuit on Thursday, April 23. Also seen are, ATCUAE Director for Motorsports John Spiller (second from left) and ATCUAE Motorsports Project Director Ronan Morgan.



King Abdullah raises WRC concerns with Sulayem

FIA Vice President gives assurance on protecting regional interests

HIS Majesty King Abdullah of Jordan and FIA Vice President for Sport Mohammed Ben Sulayem held extensive discussions on cooperation between the region's automobile clubs with an emphasis on protecting the regional interests of the World Rally Championship (WRC).

Jordan had in recent months voiced its concerns over the FIA's two-year rotation system which offers the Kingdom an opportunity to host a round of the championship only once in two years.

The 2009 calendar contains fewer rallies than any season since 1996, when a previous rotation system meant there were just nine WRC events.

The matter came up during his meeting with King Abdullah where Sulayem has assured that steps are being taken to protect the regional interests of the WRC, apart from discussing other motorsport-related issues including closer cooperation between the region's automobile clubs to win additional FIA recognition for the Middle East.

"The Jordan Rally has been one of the top events in the FIA Middle East Championship over the years and deserves a permanent place in the World Rally Championship calendar," said Sulayem, who, in 1984, scored



FIA Vice President Mohammed Ben Sulayem with His Majesty King Abdullah of Jordan

his first of more than 60 international rally wins in the Kingdom. Welshman Phil Mills was in the cockpit alongside Sulayem when he won in Jordan in 1984.

"His Majesty King Hussein had a great

passion for motor sport, which is shared by His Majesty King Abdullah. And it was their drive and enthusiasm which ultimately led to Jordan having a World Championship Rally," Sulayem noted.

First Arab Steward officiates at Turkey F1

FIA Vice President for Sport Mohammed Ben Sulayem became the first Arab Formula 1 Steward when he joined a panel of adjudicators for the Turkish Grand Prix at Istanbul Park.

Sulayem, who is also President of the Automobile & Touring Club of the UAE (ATCUAE), has been appointed on the three-member panel of Stewards for races seven and ten of the current Formula 1 season in Turkey and Hungary, respectively.

The role of a steward is to be the referee of an F1 event where there are three at each race and are expected to examine reports submitted to them by the various officials, and listen to the explanations of all parties involved in the event of a dispute.

They then decide on sanctions if they conclude that punitive action is necessary, or may propose any other such action or recommendations they deem fit depending on their findings.



"There have been huge changes in the rules over the years – certain actions on track acceptable some two years ago may not be acceptable today," Sulayem said.

"Obviously, this is a new responsibility and something that cannot be taken lightly – it's not always easy to sit in judgement, especially me as I am a competitive driver myself.

"But sometimes if harsh decisions have to

be taken in the larger interest of the sport, so be it," he said ahead of his departure for Istanbul.

Further commenting on his new role, Sulayem noted that the entire action on track is relayed live into the Steward's room making it possible for the team of adjudicators to follow proceedings very closely. "Even after more than 20 years in the sport, I continue to learn, a process I believe will never stop."

Ypres invites Vice President Ben Sulayem to flag-off rally

FIA Vice President Mohammed Ben Sulayem on June 19 flagged off the first car in front of the magnificent court house in the main square at Ypres in Belgium to start the 45th edition of the Ypres Rally in the presence of Belgian Minister for Development Vincent Van Quickenborne.

Having exchanged pleasantries with all teams Sulayem, at the invitation of the Royal Automobile Club of Belgium, flagged off the first car, Juho Hanninen's Skoda Fabia, amid a record crowd basking under perfect weather conditions in Lille-Metropole, Ypres region, at 5.30pm local time (7.30pm UAE).

Round 5 of the 11-round Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC), the Belgium Ypres Rally was founded in 1965 by Frans Thevelin, growing in stature over the years to now attract an estimated 120,000 spectators over three days broadcast live by Eurosport.

Sulayem, a 14-time Middle East rally champion, a record that is unlikely to be equalled or surpassed anytime in the near future, during talks with Belgian Minister for Development Vincent Van Quickenborne said he was impressed with the arrangements and delighted at the huge turnout in terms of teams and spectators.



FIA Vice President Mohammed Ben Sulayem on Friday flags off the first car, Juho Hanninen's Skoda Fabia, to signal the start of the 45th edition of the Belgium Ypres Rally in the presence of Belgian Minister for Development Vincent Van Quickenborne.

UAE triumph at Cairo enduro



Culture, Youth and Community Development Minister HE Abdul Rahman Mohammed Al Owais and ATCUAE President Mohammed Ben Sulayem with the victorious UAE Team riders Mubarak Al Ali (extreme left), Mohammed Al Balooshi (second right) and Ali Al Qubaisi (extreme right) pose with the team championship trophy at the minister's office on June 10.



CULTURE, Youth and Community Development Minister HE Abdul Rahman Mohammed Al Owais received a three-member UAE team who bagged the top-three spots in the First Arab Enduro Championship and the overall team honours, in the presence of President of the Automobile & Touring Club of the UAE Mr. Mohammed Ben Sulayem.

The Minister, who is also Chairman of the General Authority for Youth and Sports, commended the team for their excellent performance in Cairo which brought them individual and team honours.

Noting that the three riders had competed under the sponsorship of the ATCUAE, the minister lauded the significant role being played by the Club in encouraging local motorsport talent test their skill against overseas competition.

Sulayem, who is also FIA Vice President for Sport, while extending his congratulations said he was overjoyed at the team's unprecedented success in Cairo.

"You have done yourself proud and, above all, also brought glory to your country. You

surpassed as individuals and triumphed as a team," Sulayem told the trio.

Balooshi and his teammates thanked the minister for his encouraging words and the ATCUAE president for extending his support, noting that Sulayem has always been in the forefront of promoting local sportspersons in every way possible.

Mubarak Al Ali and Ali Al Qubaisi were the other two members of the team.

The championship, organized under the auspices of the Egyptian Motorcycle Federation, tested the off-road skills of seasoned riders from the Arab World with participants hailing from Egypt, Bahrain, Tunisia, Kuwait, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Algeria, Morocco and the UAE.