



SMS Academy 2018/19 Squad Announcement

We are delighted to announce the successful applicants to the 2018/19 SMS Academy – who have attended Knockhill Racing Circuit this morning, for the first session of the Academy programme.

The SMS Academy was set up in 2017 to support young riders and drivers (aged 14-20) who are showing potential to excel in the sport. Having successfully supported 23 young drivers and riders in the 2017/18 programme, applications launched in August for a new fresh squad to come in and benefit from the Academy's support. Since launching the application, we have received a huge amount of interest in the programme. This has made the job of the selection panel – which included representatives from Scottish Motor Sports, the Scottish Auto Cycle Union (SACU) and the Motor Sports Association (MSA) - extremely difficult but after some deliberation, the following competitors have been selected:

Adon Davie (Prestonpans, SACU, Road Race)
Amy McCubbin (Muirkirk, MSA, Junior Rally)
Angus Bruce (Kelso, SACU, Enduros)
Calum Pert (Edzell, SACU, Road Race)
Cameron Davidson (Lesmahagow, MSA, Junior Rally)
Declan Connell (Dunfermline, SACU, Road Race)
Finlay Sword (Kilsyth, MSA, Karting)
Fraser Anderson (Helensburgh, MSA, Junior Rally)
Jack Hart (Renfrew, SACU, Road Race)
Kyle Nisbet (Port Seton, MSA, Race)
Lewis Nicol (Cupar, SACU, Road Race)
Logan Hannah (East Kilbride, MSA, Race)
Marc Gibson (Balfour, SACU, Race)
Matthew Collings (Dunfermline, MSA, Karting)
Oliver Hunter (Ayr, MSA, Junior Rally)
Robbie Wood (Melrose, SACU, Quad)
Ross Maguire (Wishaw, SACU, Road Race)
Sophie Simpson (Stewarton, SACU, Trials)
Thomas Johnstone (Kettlebridge, SACU, Junior Rally)
William Walker (Bothwell, MSA, Karting)

The athletes profiles can be viewed on the Academy section of the SMS website [HERE](#)

The SMS Academy members will each be allocated a coach to offer remote support and advice when needed across the year. Between now and August 2019, the members will take part in four development workshops, which will support them in all aspects of their development, equipping them with the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to maximise their performance.





The first SMS Academy workshop is taking place today - Wednesday 17th October - at Knockhill, where the Academy members are getting an introduction to the programme, creating their own development plan for the upcoming year and learning about sponsorship, amongst other subjects. The programme will again be delivered by fully qualified MSA Level 2 coaches; Blair Brown and Malcolm McNab will be continuing as Academy coaches but they will also be joined by SACU Enduro competitor, Kevin Murray, who – having went through his level 2 coaching qualification last year, will be tasked with leading some of the more technical discussions with the riders on the programme.

New for the 2018/19 programme will be a specific session for the parents in January; parents of the Academy athletes will be invited to attend a special Introduction to Coaching session that will be aimed at developing their own understanding of talent development and coaching to help them best support their son/daughters development. This is being introduced following feedback from last year's programme, where parents expressed that they would like to have more involvement in their son/daughters development on the SMS Academy.

There will also be additional support for the SACU riders on the programme this year, thanks to sponsorship from **Ride Scotland**; the online magazine, covering all the latest news for bikers in Scotland. This new sponsorship will support the riders through additional coaching at events / training days, to help facilitate the riders to put what they have learned in the SMS Academy sessions, into practice. In addition, the programme will again benefit from the support of Knockhill Racing Circuit, who will be supporting the programme through the provision of their Media Centre Facility for the sessions.

Follow the SMS Social media channels to hear about the upcoming SMS Academy sessions and to keep up to date with the new squad's progress.

#PoweringTalentForwards

Notes to Editors:

Scottish Auto Cycle Union (SACU) is the recognised controlling body for motorcycle sport in Scotland, as recognised by the British governing body, the Auto Cycle Union (ACU). The SACU is a not-for-profit organisation (limited by guarantee) comprising of 36 affiliated member clubs. The SACU represents approximately 1250 licence holders and around 300 volunteer marshals and officials, and issues permits for around 300 motorcycle sport events every year. The SACU has approximately 2000 club members in total.





Motor Sports Association (MSA) is the sole national governing body for four-wheel motor sport in the UK, as recognised by the world governing body, the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA). The MSA have 62 member clubs in Scotland, which are represented by one of the MSA's 13 Regional Associations throughout the UK, the Scottish Association of Motor Sports Clubs. In Scotland, the MSA represents approximately 2000 competition licence holders and 600 volunteer marshals and officials, and issues permits for around 450 motor sport events every year. In Scotland, the MSA has approximately 6000 club members in total.

Scottish Motor Sports (SMS) is the development body – funded by sportscotland - for two and four wheel motor sports in Scotland. SMS comprises of a committee that works on behalf of the SACU and MSA to assist with the overall development of the sport through a collective approach to strategy and communications. The SMS committee is chaired by Tom Purves, former Chairman of the Royal Automobile Club and Rolls Royce. The rest of the group consist of representatives from various positions within 2 and 4 wheel motor sport, Sportscotland and also EventScotland.

SMS Social Media Channels:

Twitter: @SMS_Scotland

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ScottishMotorSports/>

Academy hashtag: #PoweringTalentForwards

Ride Scotland is an online motorcycle magazine for all bikers in Scotland. The magazine covers all things bike related, including reviews of new bikes, information on upcoming events and motorsport news.

<http://www.ride-scotland.com/>

