

Hello all SCCNZ members and followers,

Some sad news unfortunately, Graeme Banks, one of our past Presidents and founder members (membership #1) has passed away. In honor of Graeme our Sprint on April 14th will now be the Graeme Banks Memorial Sprint.

Al Martin, our past secretary has written about how the Club remembers Graeme:

'I knew Graeme from the time I joined SCCNZ in the early 1990s, but he had been part of the Club since its foundation in the early 1980s. He and I were elected to the Executive Committee in about 1995, from memory. He was always known as "the Major" – I'm not quite certain why...

Graeme was elected President and came in with a mandate to, among other things, update the Club's Constitution and Bylaws in line with the then-current motorsport rules and regulations. I was co-opted to assist, as I had been involved with writing regulations for a number of entities in the aviation field. Ultimately, after a number of roadblocks and retracing of steps, we produced a Constitution for the Club which has been in effect largely unchanged up to the present day a testament to Graeme's tenacity and determination and his skill as a writer and drafter of legal documentation (Accountants do have their uses)

Graeme was great to work with and his knowledge of motorsport and motorsport people was encyclopedic. As Competition Secretary or later as the Club Secretary, if I had a problem, or didn't know who somebody was, or didn't know who to contact, I could always ring him and invariably the answer would be forthcoming.

Graeme had considerable mana not only within our Club, but also within the wider motorsport community. I recall on a number of occasions at MotorSport NZ Conferences, where Graeme attended as our delegate, when he rose to speak on a Remit or other matter, other delegates sat up and took notice. My impression at these events was that if Mr. Graeme Banks wished to raise a matter or make a point, you sat up and listened, as this delegate from the Sports Car Club was worth listening to.

Graeme always tried to attend our Club AGM and other Club functions, even after he stood down as President and even as ill health took its toll. He was always one at the AGM to elicit more information on the Annual Financial Reports and to point out possible errors and omissions. If he didn't, people asked why.

It was with considerable sadness that I heard of his passing. A pillar of the sport and a true gentleman.'

Thanks for the kind words Al.
Graeme, you will be missed!

