

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH EASTERN MOTO CROSS COMBINE HELD AT BLINDLEY HEATH ON WEDNESDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2003

PRESENT : 20 Delegates were present representing the following Clubs :- Brighton, Crawley, GEST, Horsham, Premier, Sidcup , Twickenham and the Permits Secretary Ken Piles with the TSM representative Andy Wood.

CHAIR : Mr. Eddie Herd took the Chair

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE : Apologies were received from Colin Bushell from Sidcup and Monty Lane from Greenwich.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING : It was proposed Mr. Horton and seconded Mr. Burton that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th April be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings. Carried.

MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM :-

NFU Adverts re land : Mrs. Clarke said she had received a telephone call from Mr. Lane who said representatives from the Greenwich Club had visited the piece of land at Lamberhurst which was a bit larger than Canada Heights. They had made arrangements with Frank Dixon to help construct a track and the owner Mr. Banks had plans for a water tank, toilets and a tarmac road to be installed. He was now annoyed to find that Craig Elwell had also been in touch with the owner and had offered , with the help of 2 Americans, to design a track there. It was felt perhaps Greenwich had been a little slow of the mark and the land owner obviously wanted to move things along, Mr. Parry confirmed the track was up and running.

Practise Days / affiliations and licences : Mrs. Clarke said she had not received a reply from the ACU, Mr. Herd promised to take the matter up.

Lottery Funding : It was reported at the last Centre Board meeting we had been unsuccessful in our bid for lottery funds although Mrs. Clarke said she had not seen anything formally in writing. Apparently the reasons for the rejection were the application was too similar to last year's one. It was also thought we had lost some influence when Andy Such had been moved on.

NOISE : Mrs. Clarke read a reply from Roy Humphrey stating since they had employed 3 noise meter operators the noise at the Maxxis meetings was now under control, he suggested we invite them to a meeting of our own so they could cascade their knowledge down to our level, he also suggested we may be able to tap the T & D panel up for funding for the meeting.. A possible date was suggested in November, Mrs. Clarke to liaise with Craig Elwell of DEP . There was some discussion as to how many noise meter operators there were in the Centre and it was thought there were 4, agreed we should try and recruit some more and perhaps invite Rugby down to Canada Heights to conduct a seminar. There is also talk about a new noise meter on the market but there were worries that some bikes would not have the necessary connection point.

WEBMASTER'S REPORT : Jamie Clarke reported there had been 1500 visits in August averaging 50 a day. He had sourced some aerial photographs of tracks and added maps to help people find each Club's circuit.

WINTERPICK MEETINGS : Mr. Brown handed out copies of his summary of the events and the financial conclusion. He explained the series of meetings had been planned to survive together and with the non allocation of lottery funds for the final showcase meeting there was now a shortfall. The first meeting had shown an excess of £2900. the second £1550 and the third £100 but Mr. Brown had settled the contractors bill out of his personal finances. There was a general discussion over finances, work contracted for and the repair to the bowser. Mr. Alan Clarke proposed we re imburse Mr. Brown immediately, seconded Mr. Batten carried. The land still had to be cleared for the Winter because the farmer wished to plough the field, it was agreed to save money and do the work ourselves and a working party was arranged for the following weekend. It was proposed Mr. Brown and seconded Mr. Parry that the delegates go back to their clubs and ask for a donation of £100 per club to put some money back into

the Combine's bank account so that it could continue to function. Agreed. A vote of thanks was passed for the work put into the project by Mr. Brown and Mrs. Hayden. Mr. Herd said that lessons had been learnt in hindsight but that the important outcome was the sport benefited from 3 meetings well run and enjoyed by all of the competitors. It was agreed that Mrs. Clarke would write to the clubs supplying balance sheets for perusal.

ACU MOTO CROSS COMMITTEE MINUTES :

Extract from 25th March Meeting:

Noise Seminar 22nd February : Mr Crawford reported that there had been a Technical Seminar held at the ACU offices. Unfortunately it was not possible to have a Motocross machine available to carry out noise tests. It was felt that this part of the seminar is very important and Mr. Higgins advised that he could make machines available for these types of seminars in the future.

Track Inspections : To begin and in most instances inspectors approved by the Motocross Committee will carry out track inspections for local centre events, centres will be invited to nominate their senior track inspectors. National/International events or those run on Permanent Circuits will be inspected by one of the senior track inspectors. It was felt by all present that it was important to keep local centres involved in the continued inspection and advised of all new requirements.

Extract from 29th April Meeting :

Officials Seminar : Discussions took place about the progression of the Practical assessment part of the National Clerk of the Course and Stewards seminar. For delegates that have progressed from Centre level to National Licence holders, they will be required to attend the practical assessments to be arranged by Mr. Dixon. Delegates that are renewing National licences will not be expected to participate in the Practical assessment.

Extract from 10th June Meeting :

ACU Medical Requirements for Motocross : The Chairman reported that clubs in England and Scotland are complaining about the minimum Medical requirements for Motocross recently introduced. The complaints have been referred to Eddie Bellars, but the new medical regulations will appear in the 2004 Handbook and will be fully implemented in 2004.

Technical Panel : Discussion took place about the type of helmet fastenings that should be used for offroad sport. The Technical Panel viewed with doubt the seatbelt type fitting in off road disciplines because of grit and dirt getting into the mechanism. They recommend that the DD or sliding bar fittings be used.

Training : It is envisaged that all officials will be issued from the offices at Rugby. The Motocross Committee feels that national criteria should be set for all Centres to use for training purposes. The Secretary should circulate to each centre Secretary that all Clerks of the Course and Stewards within their Centre must have attended a licensing training seminar every three years, run by an active, experienced National/International Clerk of the Course or Steward.

CENTRE CHAMPIONSHIPS :

Covers : The new advertisers had appeared and much improved the look of the programmes but the revenue barely covered the cost and a better budget was required for next year.

Awards : Mr. Batten volunteered to take on the job of arranging for the trophies to be presented to the new winners .

SCRUTINEERS SEMINAR : This had been well attended . mainly from the motocross fraternity. Mr. Batten asked if all scrutineers had to be licensed , it was agreed that as long as the team leader was and oversaw inspections that would suffice. It was thought we should arrange another in the new year asking Don Godden again with Peter Burton assisting.

2004 DATES MEETING : It was agreed to await the publication of the British Championship dates from the ACU before we arranged a meeting. The Secretary will contact delegates when that happens.

EXPANSION OF THE 4 CENTRES EXPERIMENT : Mrs. Clarke felt the time had come to let anyone who belonged to an ACU Club anywhere in the Country enter our meetings siting extra costs which were not necessary. After some discussion it was agreed to submit a proposal to the Centre for onward transmission to the NSC to revise rule 308D to read " any Centre " instead of the " 4 Centres plus one non territorial club " Mr. Herd felt we should wait until the new directors had been elected before we rocked the boat.

ACU MOTO CROSS COMMITTEE VACANCIES : It was proposed Mr. Batten and seconded Mr. Burton that we instruct our NMC delegate to vote for Eddie Herd and Roy Humphrey.

T.S.M. : Mr. Herd said he had been thinking about the request to abridge our minutes in the TSM and was not happy feeling the context would be changed when précised, this was endorsed by the Secretary and Mr. Brown said, wearing his Treasurer's hat, that if more pages needed printing the Centre would fund it.

There followed a discussion as to which clubs were using the direct mailing service, Crawley, Brighton, Twickenham, and Horsham all claiming to, whilst GEST posted there's but only to those who requested a copy whilst Sidcup made all of their members have a TSM and posted it themselves together with their club magazine. Apparently some trials clubs do not want to receive the TSM.

RIDERS HANDOUTS : Mr. Wood said he had given out about 500 so far, Mr. Herd asked who was paying and Mr Wood said he would be sponsoring this venture..

ADVERTISER'S BANNER : This had not been done this year mainly due to the late arrivals of some of the advertisers. Agreed to thanks this years advertisers and ask if they would like to continue. Mr. Brown thought we might like to give some consideration to changes the structure of the classes next year in the Championships, Mr. Horton agreed and it was decided to place the matter on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

SUBSCRIPTIONS : Mrs. Clarke reminded some clubs still had not paid their subscriptions..

LATE ENTRIES : There was much discussion on this subject with the Sidcup and Crawley Clubs taking them whilst the others did not. The rules were re iterated that late entries do not get points or awards in Centre Championships and Mr. Batten said they also did not earn Expert points, it was pointed out that Crawley paid prize monies to late entries and this caused confusion at other meetings.

UNDER 17 ENGINE SIZE RESTRICTIONS : Mrs. Clarke highlighted the plight of Brett Fisher who has qualified quite quickly after coming up from the schoolboys to an Expert and now finds he will have to wait until he is 17 before he can ride a larger machine [unless it is a four stroke] and felt at a disadvantage. She felt he had proved his ability by qualifying and should be allowed to ride at least a 250. Agreed to write to the Moto Cross Committee asking for a dispensation to apply just to Experts.

RIDING NUMBERS : Mrs. Clarke brought samples of the new size of numbers that the ACU had approved for the Maxxis British Championships. She was worried that this would infiltrate through to grass routes level and was not fair to lap scorers. Agreed to write to the Moto Cross Committee.

HELMET STRAPS : Nothing had appeared in writing about the seat belt type straps and their non use.

T.T.C'S : Mrs. Clarke asked if anyone other than a British Championship track had been supplied with the new track certificate form, no one had and the Secretary was instructed to write to the ACU.

INTER CENTRE SUPERCROSS : Mr. Herd said there was a chance of an Inter Centre Super cross event going ahead on 7th February. Teams of 3 would be required, it was agreed we might be interested and if so we should ask Craig Elwell to be the Team Manager.

NEW MEDICAL COVER : Mrs. Clarke agreed to circulate the e mail received regarding a new ambulance service.

DAY LICENCES : Mr. Horton said he had heard the BYMX were hoping to put to the NMC that day licences should be scrapped because they cannot administer them, GEST had sold £4700 this year and felt they should not.

CONTROL OF ILLEGAL RIDERS : Mr. Batten was worried about the difficulties of trying to stop a rogue rider creeping into a meeting. There was some discussion as to the use of

wristbands and it was agreed we should come back with some sort of wording to draft a new rule at the next meeting.

T.S.M. : Mr. Wood asked Clubs to be a bit more imaginative with the titles of their meetings. He also asked for all permit applications forms to be filled in fully with no tba 's appearing. It was agreed that regulations are not very rider friendly.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 11.40 pm.