

**MINUTES OF THE SOUTH EASTERN MOTO CROSS COMBINE MEETING HELD AT
BLINDLEY HEATH ON WEDNESDAY 21ST JULY 2004 AT 7.30**

PRESENT : 12 Delegates were present representing the following Clubs :- Brighton, Crawley, Greenwich, Sidcup, Twickenham and Andy Wood from the TSM.

APOLOGUES FOR ABSENCE : Apologies were received from Peter Burton, Colin Bushell, Dave Parry, Roger Brown, Jamie Clarke, Oscar Horton and Chris Parish.

CHAIR : Eddie Herd took the Chair.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING : Mr. Batten pointed out the reference in the last minutes under Any Other Business incorrectly stated he had been balloted for marshalling duties when it was one of his members and it was her who had raised the question of the length of the meetings. This was noted and Monty Lane proposed and Les Batten seconded we adopt the minutes of the previous meeting on 21st April as an accurate recording of the proceedings. Carried.

MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM :

Practice Days : Mrs. Clarke had e mailed Roy Humphrey and Eddie Bellars again about this subject and RH had replied giving his personal opinion that mass starts should not be allowed although practice starts via a loop could be. He would place the matter for discussion on the agenda of the next ACU MX Committee meeting. Alan Clarke felt we should let this matter drop as restrictions in the handbook might lead to constraints being placed on clubs. Yan Dixon asked about licences as the Crawley Club were about to run a practice day the following Sunday. Mrs. Clarke stressed that riders must belong to the ACU to participate in their insurance – so it was important to make sure riders had either a licence or an affiliation card, if not, the easiest way would be to sell a day licence. Yan also asked about the value of scrutineering and it was agreed items like numbers were not an important feature but anything to do with safety was, e.g. self closing throttles and brakes.

Wristbands : Things had settled down well with most riders accepting it as part of life, Les Batten said he had heard a couple of comments as to why it was put on the left arm when that was the one that pumped up more due to clutch use, Alan Clarke said when checking the bands riders have their right hand on the throttle and usually have the left free to check. Agreed it did not really matter but that we should always be uniform in the application. Crawley officials were not putting the band on the rider to start with but this had now been sorted. Kevin McDavitt asked if there were any written instruction to say that riders must wear the band all day as he had come across a couple of cases where the rider thought it was for practice only. Agreed this could be put in the programme or the final instructions. Robert Batten said he liked the system and it made him feel valued as a rider.

TTC's : Marge Clarke said there still had been nothing official cascading down from the ACU although she knew matters had been discussed from extracts of the MX Committee meeting minutes. The Centre Management Committee had decided not to wait any longer and were instigating it's own system which clubs should be notified about soon.

Winterpick Farm Meetings : The outstanding bill had now been paid.

Permanent Riding Numbers : Les Batten said the scheme had taken off better than anticipated with 110 registered riding numbers having been issued. Marge Clarke asked what was going to happen next year i.e. would the riders be given the same numbers. Les thought this would be a good idea to save the rider getting new stuff printed but that they should be given a deadline in which they must re apply to reserve this year's number. Marge thought that some of the Experts might want to change numbers if they were competing in any of the British Championships as they would be given new numbers next year relating to the position they finished in this year's championships. It was thought a good idea to have an application form to download from the website.

125 Junior Championships : This new series had proved very popular being regularly oversubscribed. There was a general discussion as to whether Expert points were being earned too easily but Les confirmed only 4 riders had been promoted from that class this year to date. It was agreed to review the situation again at the end of the year but in the meantime appeal for comments from the riders in the TSM and the website. Les had spoken to a couple

of riders complaining they would have to leave the series half way through with no chance of further points when they are made up to Expert status. Les explained the problem of leaving riders down meant most likely that no new riders would score any expert points and so the expert list would get smaller. Again agreed to review the matter at the end of the year. Eddie Herd read an e mail from Chris Barker of the Eastern Centre who was trying to get a 125 two stroke only series going.

NOISE : Nothing had moved forward centre wise although there had been a noise seminar with the MCIA where no changes had been agreed. Marge said there were a couple of references in the ACU Committee minutes that she was about to read out. Eddie said the new meters had not appeared as promised from the manufacturers. Les said the Centre had sent a noise meter operator to their recent meeting but when he arrived he needed another person to help him work the system which meant getting someone from a stretched team already and asked why the Centre did not send a 2 man team, Eddie said it had been hoped these new meters would be one man operational. Alan said the measuring was only as good as the Clerk of the Course on the day and if the noise meter operator gave him details of a noisy machine it must be acted on. Les also said he had not had a copy of the noise figures on the day and Marge said it would also be a good idea to have some sort of system in place where the lists of previous meetings could be passed onto the next meeting to see who were consistent offenders. She was instructed to write to the Centre suggesting this.

WEBMASTER'S REPORT : In Jamie Clarke's absence Marge gave his report as follows :-
Average number of daily visits April 63 : May 54 : June 54. Information about meetings :-

SEM X Championship Round 1 Horsham – links to photos and results.
SEM X Championship Round 2 Sidcup – report, results and photos.
SEM X Championship Round 3 Twickenham – cancellation note posted..
SEM X Championship Round 4 Crawley – link to photo site
SEM X Championship Round 5 GEST – link to photo site.
SEM X Championship Round 6 Sidcup – photos, report and results.
SEM X Championship Round 7 Crawley - Nothing
SEM X Championship Round 8 Horsham – results and photos.
SEM X Championship Round 9 Sidcup – results and photos.
SEM X Championship Round 10 Twickenham – results and photos [being done]

Also posted the minutes of the April meeting, junior to expert standings and Championships standings for all classes.

LETTER FOR DISCUSSION :

Incident at scrutineering at Sidcup Meeting on 23/5/04 : The letter having been circulated was discussed the main point asking why the rider had not been sent home from the meeting because of his behaviour which he felt was not a good example to anyone else if not dealt with, Marge Clarke said the matter was dealt with at the following Sidcup Committee meeting because both the Clerk of the Course and the Scrutineer involved in the incident felt the best way to handle the situation was to try and calm Steve Penfold down on the day rather than exclude him from the meeting and refer the matter back to the Committee to be dealt with. The matter had now been dealt with and the rider in question had been given a written warning. There was some discussion and it came to light this particular rider had also been involved in incidents at a GEST and Horsham meeting.

Junior Championships : Robert wondered as every meeting was a championship round whether this was too many. If someone was keen to continue in the Championship if the number of rounds were reduced the rider could have the choice of just entering those rounds that had championship status and not gaining expert points elsewhere. After some discussion it was agreed to ask the Eastern Centre what they did for their Junior Championships. Clubs could also think about reducing the rounds to either 6 or one per circuit, the item to be discussed further at the next meeting.

Length of Meetings : Robert took a dim view of having his scheduled races cut because the race programme was too long and falling behind especially as he did not get offered a refund of some of his money. He felt that some clubs were being motivated by money in taking 5

groups. Marge said Sidcup had always run 5 groups from time in memorial and they as a club, although keen to balance the books were more motivated by a genuine need to see bums on bikes and so would not contemplate reducing entries. Yan said at Crawley they have had a fairly heavy refurbishment of equipment policy and need the extra cash to fund this sort of programme. Agreed that it was up to individual clubs to set their race programmes as each club had different demands.

ACU MOTO CROSS COMMITTEE MINUTES : The following points were discussed :-

From the 8th April meeting

Facility and Track Inspection Report Form : The new National Track Inspectors report form is being used and is beneficial to the inspector and the club.

Maxxis Championship 2005 : The MX1 class will be for machines to a maximum capacity of 450cc.

Technical Panel : The modern fourstroke motocross machine is too loud and it will get louder as poor maintenance and after market exhausts are fitted. The ACU is putting together a package to help clubs combat noise issues at motocross and enduro events and is looking at selling a sound package to off road clubs that want to preserve their venue for future events. It is recognised that the traditional centre sound meter operator cannot cope with the number of events requiring this service so it's about stopping over limit machines at every venue that demands it. The ACU is hoping to provide the meter and the training to enable any club to be proficient at trying to ensure the survival of their venue. Further discussion will take place at the Board of Directors Meeting.

National Seminars : The next mx steward and clerk of the course seminar will be on November 27th .

Any Other Business :

e) The Committee received an e-mail from Mrs. Marge Clarke reference the procedure of issuing TTC's. The Committee confirmed that the standard required for a Maxxis or OF3 Championship is higher than that required for a Centre Moto Cross event. The Centre Steward appointed for the event will walk the entire course and make the final inspection and any changes to the temporary course certificate. Minor alterations should be approved and documented as they would at any track by the senior steward and then forwarded to the ACU. As they would for any Centre event. Major changes will require an inspection by the Centre Track Inspector.

g) The ACU has had several presentations from Anti Theft companies and it has been agreed that the ACU will take on board the Data Tag System. In efforts to drive theft from our sport the ACU will train club scrutineers or other officials to use data tag scanners and the procedure to follow should a stolen machine be found. We are aware that one manufacturer will be fitting the system to all new off road machines from 2005.

h) The Motocross Committee are carrying out an audit of Temporary Track Certificates nationwide.

There was some discussion as to which Championship an over 300 2 stroke & an over 450 4 stroke bike would be able to compete in next year.

The news that noise meters could be used by club officials was welcomed.

Marge Clarke showed a Data Tag kit but Les Batten said it was not any good until clubs had the necessary equipment to check machines. Alan Clarke said the police had the equipment.

From 8th June Meeting

Risk Assessment : Mr. Dixon asked Mr. Hellings if the ACU could issue a standardized form, which can be used by all clubs for Risk Assessment. It is becoming necessary for some clubs to produce a risk assessment for the local authority for every event. Mr. Hellings confirmed that Alexander Forbes has been asked to produce a form and Mr. Bromilow has been tasked with this job.

ACU Standing Regulations : The Motocross Committee propose the following alteration to SR14-Number Plates :-

Adults : Over 100cc to 250cc Fourstroke Black Plate white numbers
250cc 2 stroke and up to 450cc White Plate black numbers
Over 450cc Yellow Plate black numbers.

Marge Clarke said she was asked by the police to produce a risk assessment for their Maxxis meeting and did not know where to start and welcomed any sort of help, she also said their St. Johns had to produce their own for the meetings at Canada Heights.

The change to coloured number plates produced some discussion with Eddie saying the Motocross Committee were having second thoughts on bringing this in. Alan Clarke said the Maxxis runners would have these plates next year and he could foresee some trying to ride in Centre meetings with the same plate and would welcome the change. Marge Clarke said she still favoured the one coloured plate as at normal Centre Meetings the MX1 and MX2 classes were not always separated. Some thought was given to awarding a red plate to last year's championship winners.

CENTRE CHAMPIONSHIP COVERS AND BANNER : There was a complaint that there had been some printing errors on the covers this year, Mr. Wood said he was worried that cutting rounds out might affect the viability of the budget. It was agreed there was not enough surplus

cash this year to produce the Advertisers Banner, Les Batten said they had a contact who printed on silk like material very cheaply.

PROPOSAL FROM GEST TO RE INTRODUCE THE SENIOR CLASS : Most delegates were still in favour of a Senior Class but it had failed previously through lack of support from the other Centres. Les Batten will write to them and ask what their views are now Jacky also requested results be published down to 40th place and some of the lesser lights liked to know where they came in races, this was discussed and agreed that it would be too time consuming to do that but that anyone was welcome to look at the lap scoring sheets and to work their places out for themselves.

CLERK OF THE COURSE SEMINAR : As the last one was only in April another was not planned in the imminent future.

THE SPORTING MOTORCYCLIST : Andy Wood appealed for more reports from moto cross meetings so that he could publish them.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS :

Twickenham extra date : Twickenham intend to replace their cancelled meeting with another on October 3rd.

Scrutineer's Security Tags : Marge said the grass track world were keen to use a security tag to mark a bike when it had been scrutineered and they had made enquiries from a supplier and found the price goes down dramatically with larger volumes ordered and wanted to know if the Combine would be interested in joining forces with them. This was discussed and delegates felt they would like to see an example before making a decision. Les Batten said this is where the Combine could help each other out as they had trouble sourcing cable ties to mark bikes where Marge said Sidcup had a good contact in Maidstone.

Quads : Yan Dixon said he had run a class for Quads at one of Crawley's meetings and wondered if anyone else would be interested in catering for them. Agreed to put an appeal on the website.

Youth Team Event : Oscar was to be the team manager.

Subscriptions : All clubs had renewed except for Premier, Marge was instructed to write to John Powell and ask what the position was.

Date of Next Meeting : Marge said she fully anticipated the dates would be delayed by the FIM and perhaps we should not fix a definite date but bear in mind it might be sometime in November.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 11 pm.