

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH EASTERN MOTO CROSS COMBINE MEETING HELD AT BLINDLEY HEATH ON TUESDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2004

PRESENT : 24 Delegates were present representing the following Clubs :- Brighton, Crawley, GEST, Greenwich, Hillenden, Premier, Sidcup, Twickenham, and Andy Wood and John Bramall from the TSM.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE : Apologies were received from Jamie Clarke and Jim Wood.

CHAIR : Eddie Herd took the Chair and welcomed Brad Graham and Paul Salter from the Hillenden Club.

2005 DATES : The 2005 dates were fixed and it was agreed that Clubs would send their choice of dates for Centre Championship Rounds to Les Batten by the AGM. Mr. Burton was worried the finalised Championship dates would be delayed in printing but John Bramell said as long as he had the list by the 15th it would be published in the February TSM. Agreed the AGM would be on Tuesday 11th January at 7.30. Yan Dixon appealed to Clubs if there was any interest in a Quad Championship, there is a new quad magazine that is willing to put some sponsorship into the series and give it publicity. Proposed Colin Bushell and seconded Roger Brown that we have a Quad Championship in 2005. Carried.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING : It was proposed by Oscar Horton and seconded Monty Lane the minutes of the previous meeting having been circulated be adopted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings. Carried.

MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM :

Practice Days: There had been nothing further from Rugby but it was confirmed there should be no mass starts.

Wristbands : Roger Brown said this had worked well once the Clubs had got into the swing of putting them on the correct wrist at the signing on table. He thought the GEST idea of using different colours for different classes worked well. Agreed to repeat it again in 2005, Clubs must have their orders in to the Secretary at the AGM

TTC's : Marge Clarke reminded all clubs their TTC's must now be renewed each year and if they run National events they have to have 2 TTC's.

Premier Club : John Powell was present and re affirmed their wish to remain in the Combine although at the present time they had no land on which to run events. There was some talk about the old Maidstone Aces track being resurrected or Winterpick Farm being used.

Permanent Riding Numbers : Les Batten reported 25 renewals for next year already with most riders reporting favourably on the scheme. He has not allowed the upgraded Juniors to keep their high numbers making sure Expert numbers will always be 1 – 50. He thanked the Secretary of the Meetings for the extra work they have had to put in, Marge Clarke said the Sidcup Secretaries were not in favour of the scheme. Eddie Herd proposed a vote of thanks to Les for getting the scheme off the ground and collating the information.

125 Junior Championships : This had gone better than expected with Sidcup reporting a full line up although Crawley's were slow coming in and did not fill up until the day. It was proposed Colin Bushell and seconded Oscar Horton we carry on with this class for 2005. Les Batten believing some of the upgraded 125 Juniors were not quite ready to go up to the Expert Class had asked for clarification at the National Recorders Conference who re-affirmed each leg should be awarded Expert points.

Number Plate Colours : Eddie Herd confirmed there is to be no change now in the background colours for normal moto cross meetings whilst Maxxis British Championship meetings will mirror the FIM ruling for MX1 and MX2 classes. There was some discussion on the lack of conformity between clubs when it came to scrutineering and it was agreed to try and clamp down in 2005 with clubs stating the background colours in the acceptance of entry slips and the Secretary would put something in the TSM.

Senior Class : Les Batten reported that the Centre Recorders did not support this class, most delegates still did but felt it worked in our Centre as we had large entries and the system was dragged down last time by the other Centres. Roger Brown felt once the heat have seeded the Juniors, the Junior A class was in fact your Senior class.

WEBMASTERS REPORT : In the absence of Jamie Clarke, Marge Clarke reported the website was now averaging 50 visits per day. Reports and photos where possible had been uploaded after each meeting together with the Expert points and the final end of year standings in the various Centre Championships. Marge said Jamie will need to know the location of the new tracks so that he can supply a map and directions. Agreed it would be good to have reciprocal publicity for the Website and the TSM.

125 TWO STROKE DEP CHALLENGE SERIES : Marge Clarke read correspondence from Chris Barker the co-ordinator explaining the series which had now grown so that it had both an Expert and Junior Class. There was some discussion on the merits but it was generally felt our 125 class was proving too popular for another one to be fitted into a meeting but that we should monitor the series for discussion again at the end of the season.

ACU MOTO CROSS COMMITTEE MINUTES : The following points were discussed :-
From 3rd August Meeting

Risk Assessment : Comments were made that the Committee still had not received a standard risk document that could be used by all clubs although several requests have been made to the insurers. Mr. Humphrey reported that SLE was still looking into the production of this document.
Technical : There had been no progress with the new prototype noise equipment. Mr. Herd supplied details of a company that produces this type of equipment with an integrated rev counter included.
Correspondence : The Committee received correspondence from Mr. Chris Barker who was concerned about the demise of the 125cc two stroke class within centre events. The ACU is not involved in making centre championship rules and Mr. Barker will be referred to his local centre.
Any Other Business : A discussion took place on Trackside Safety and Brian Higgins put three proposals to the Committee relating to trackside safety. As some members were not present this would be deferred until the next meeting.

From 23rd September Meeting

Noise : At the MCI meeting on 22nd September it was re-agreed that the sound level for 2005 would be 98dBA and 96dBA from 1.1.2006. Representatives from the MCI asked if the ACU would lobby the FIM about amending the Motocross Sound rules to make use of Mechanical silencers mandatory.
The Technical Panel will be asked to investigate the use of this type of silencer further however, cost may be prohibitive at the present time. The ACU Technical Department have submitted a proposal to the FIM Congress to reduce noise levels and measure machines at the correct revolutions.
If the latest four stroke motocross machines were produced to comply with the FIM noise regulations as they were prior to the change to a fixed RPM for each capacity class intended only for 2 stroke machines all of a similar engine stroke we would not have a four stroke noise problem. Mr herd believed this is not enough – the FIM regulations have not kept up with developments of the modern 4 stroke machine.
TTC's : The ACU Centre Track Inspectors inspect the tracks and forward the inspector's report form to the ACU for annual issue of a regional TCC. The Senior Steward of the meeting would then ensure that the track complies with the TCC issued and if any minor alterations are necessary for the days racing he must document this in his steward's report.
In all instances the Clerk of the Course is responsible for the layout of the course and safety measures adopted at a course as per NSC.
2005 ACU Handbook : Mr. Humphrey has amended the Motocross section of the ACU handbook to reflect changes required for 2005. Each proposed amendment was reported to the Committee and accepted.
All reference to safety conditions and course design will be published in a separate course guidelines publication.
Any Other Business : A meeting of Off Road Committee Chairmen with a member of the National Health & Safety Executive took place where it was made clear by their representative that rope fencing delineating the boundary of motocross courses is unsafe following three known fatalities of children under the age of 12 in the past two years at practice track facilities.
All members of the Motocross committee were asked to consider alternatives to rope fencing. The secretary was asked to obtain some films from AMA events so a study of their track layouts and safety procedures could be studied before the next meeting.

Mrs. Clarke added that she had asked what the changes to the handbook were going to be but had received no reply.

CENTRE CHAMPIONSHIP COVERS and BANNERS : Andy Wood said that some monies had been banked from the advertisers, he had not submitted the bill for the printing yet but said it had been viable. Nothing had been done this year with the banner advertising but he would look into it again next year if the funds were available, Peter Burton said at the Maxxis meetings they had huge banners at the entrance of the circuit which were very impressive.

CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS PRESENTATIONS : Les Batten reported that most had received their trophies at the GEST presentation evening.

ROPES : Eddie Herd reported that after the deaths of 3 children at non ACU events the Health and Safety Executive had got involved and met the ACU as the Governing Body of Motor Cycle Sport stating next time there was a death they would prosecute. An emergency meeting was called and the thought process of no ropes at all had moved on and the MX Committee has decided to stay as we are with the rules governing Adult Meetings but making doubly sure the height of the rope off the ground and distance between posts is correct. The whole issue will be reviewed again in the New Year when it is hoped SLE will provide some information on injuries and deaths, in the meanwhile the MX standards will not now appear in the handbook as other organisations are copying our regulations and publicising them as “ up to ACU standards “ and the ACU is then dragged into litigation when basically it has nothing to do with the incident. Frank Dixon said it was very much a small wheel problem and not an adult one. There was some discussion as to how this would affect GEST adult and Youth combined meetings but there were alternatives such as a run off area or pegs and tape. Marge Clarke said their first aiders insisted on a safe corridor behind ropes for their personnel so it was difficult to prioritise the problem.

LATENESS OF REGULATIONS : Eddie Herd urged clubs to get their regulations into Ken Piles in plenty of time and to try and not leave it to the last minute. Andy Wood said clubs could, if they wanted to, send in the whole year's regulations in advance and submit changes as and when they happened. The last date to send regulations to the Permits Secretary is the 10th of the proceeding month of publication.

OFFICIALS LICENCES : Marge Clarke said the ACU had done away with the £10 fee for Officials which was a very good thing but now the paperwork was out it would seem this would only apply to National ACU Licence Holders. Roger Brown thought anyone without a licence i.e. a Secretary of the Meeting, will be covered by their Club's affiliation. Pete Burrell now informs the ACU of Centre Seminar results and so candidates should be getting an ACI issued licence.

Agreed that we will need to run a Clerk's of the Course seminar probably around March.

THE SPORTING MOTORCYCLIST : John Bramall reported the ACU had new insurers and they had taken the opportunity to tidy up some of the entry form wordings , consequently there is no longer a need to have a parental agreement form printed in the TSM , this has enabled him to enlarge entry forms to a full page which should make for easier reading. Marge Clarke enlarged on the new Under 18 rules which now only leaves those on a day licence and under 18 having to have a single entry parental agreement form signed on the day and only 15 year olds need to have their signing on form countersigned by a responsible adult making life a lot easier for Secretary of the Meetings. It was confirmed the insurance premiums for MX would be pegged at 04 prices. Oscar Horton asked how this affected their youth riders and Roger Brown promised him a copy of the instructions.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS : Abuse of Officials : Les Batten was concerned at the growing number of incidents when an Official has been abused at a meeting and he urged all Clerks of the Course to be strong-minded when dealing with such incidents. **Common Practices** : Les would like all clubs to adopt common practices so that there is more uniformity at meetings. For Example it was agreed all wristbands must be put on the riders left wrist when he sign on and not given out. He would like some discussion at the next meeting on passes, scrutineering and marshal balloting. **Centre Championships** : Les had several suggestions regarding our Centre Championships and it was agreed to discuss them further at the next meeting when the Championship dates would be set. **Entry Fees** : Frank Dixon said the Winterpick Farm entry fees would have to go up considerably. Yan Dixon announced the dates he applied for at the new Gatwick Track would not be run under the Crawley Club but under a new venture that he is setting up. **GEST Limited** : Oscar Horton announced as from 1st January the GEST club would be a limited company. **Datatag** : Roger Brown said all machines had been datatag checked at the recent Coolham meeting and the response from riders was very positive, from 2005 all new KTM's would have datatags fitted from the factory. **Apologies for Absence** : Roger Brown apologised in advance for not being able to attend the AGM in January.

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