

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH EASTERN MOTO CROSS COMBINE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 11TH JANUARY 2005 AT BLINDLEY HEATH.

PRESENT : 21 Delegates were present representing the following Clubs :- Brighton, Crawley, GEST, Greenwich, Horsham, Oxshott, Sidcup, Twickenham, YDP, Ken Piles (Permits Secretary) and Andy Wood and John Bramall (TSM).

APOLOGIES OFR ABSENCE : Apologies were received from John Powell, Peter Burton, Jamie Clarke and Roger Brown.

CHAIR : Eddie Herd took the Chair.

2005 DATES AND CHAMPIONSHIP ROUNDS : Alan Clarke asked Yan Dixon and Brad Graham how they were getting on with their paperwork regarding affiliating their new clubs as they would not be able to apply for permits unless they had come before the next Centre Board. Yan Dixon confirmed the name of his club as YDP Racing Club and Brad Graham as the Oxshott Moto Cross Club. With one amendment the prepared list was accepted for rounds of the Championships with 14 Experts Rounds, 15 Open Junior, 11 125 Junior, 3 Sidecars and 7 Quads. Dave Parry questioned whether there were too many rounds but it was felt the clubs wanted these rounds.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING : It was proposed Dave Parry and seconded Oscar Horton that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th December 2004 which had been circulated be accepted as a true and accurate record. Carried. John Bramall said the minutes should be able to go into the TSM in full if the MX Committee bits were cut.

MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM :

Wristbands : Marge Clarke appealed to the delegates to let her have their orders by the end of the evening.

Number Plate Colours : Marge Clarke had sent a piece to the TSM reminding riders of their correct backgrounds and appealing for clear numbers, delegates were also reminded a note was to be included in the acceptance of entry letters the riders would be receiving.

Officials Licences : Marge Clarke said she had managed to get some sort of clarification from Gary Thompson at the ACU regarding Regional Licensed Officials or those with no licence. He said there was no need to pay their £10 unless they wished to receive the benefits of the Associate Member scheme but they would be affiliated via their own Club's affiliation. Marge Clarke pointed out the ACU would have no way of knowing who these people were as there was no mechanism in place to inform Rugby, but this did not seem to worry him. Les Batten sent off his re newal following our last meeting where it was confirmed he would be issued with an ACU licence following his regional seminar but he showed the meeting a compliment slip from the ACU stating the would not be issuing Regional Licences. There was some discussion and Alan Clarke offered to try and get the matter resolved with Neil Hellings taking note of just how many of the delegates in the room were affected. It was agreed the turnaround was excellent at the moment and an added bonus was the acknowledgment by e mail of receipt of the re newal which could be shown at the signing on desk if required.

Clerks of the Course Seminar : It was known that John Powell , Bryn Nicholas, Brad Graham and Jamie Clarke all wish to attend. The date was fixed for Wednesday 23rd March and it was agreed to extend the invitation to anyone from other centres.

WEBMASTER'S REPORT : In the absence of Jamie Clarke, Marge reported the hits had decreased over the Winter months which she though was a direct relation to no events being held. October had 15,000, November 11600 and December 11600. The visits (which are longer stays) average out to between 50 and 60 a day. Marge said he will need to know where the new tracks were so that he could get the aerial photos and maps put on the website. John Bramall queried whether the latest minutes had been posted and encouraged delegates to visit a South Midland Enduro website which had some good technical gizmos.

COMMON PRACTICES : Les Batten had asked for this matter to be discussed further from the last meeting. **Passes :** Most Clubs except Twickenham issued 2 passes to a rider and an additional one if they supplied a marshal or it was a sidecar outfit – it was agreed this would

now be the common practice amongst Combine Clubs. Oscar Horton asked if the Combine had any objections to their policy of letting everyone coming in with a rider free admission- no one objected. **Scrutineering** : There was some discussion of the various methods of marking machines and the cable tie method was generally favoured, Mrs. Clarke would circulate the name of Sidcup's supplier. **Marshal Balloting** : There was a lot of discussion on this subject the worrying trend appears to be balloted riders turning up on the day and saying their marshal could not make it which puts the organisers in a very difficult position. It was felt the Clerk of the Course should make a stand and say no marshal no ride, it was agreed to pass on known offenders to other Clubs so that a list could be kept. Andy Wood stressed that Clubs must make sure their regulations contained these set conditions or they could not be enforced.

ACU MOTO CROSS COMMITTEE MINUTES : The following points were discussed from the 26th November meeting :-

Risk Assessment : The Committee were copied with a risk assessment form being used by the Track Racing Committee, drafted by Mr. Gregory in 2005. It was agreed that this form would be adopted for Motocross following minor alterations. It is hoped this can be developed with user participation in future years.

Mrs. Clarke explained that this seemed to be the buzz thing now expected by Executives like the Health & Safety, Police and First Aiders. She had asked for the form to be sent to her electronically and when this arrives she will forward it on to clubs for their use. Mr. Bushell confirmed that if a major incident occurred the first thing we would be asked to produce would be our risk assessment. Mrs. Clarke said we were in fact all carrying out risk assessments when we ran meetings as a normal practice but we just had never had to put pen to paper before. This would be a good guideline to use which could be altered to suit a Club's particular fancy pointing out that a risk was always open to different interpretations and would not necessarily be the same at another club's track.

Sound : The ACU made a proposal to the FIM Congress. The decision in Paris made it very clear that the "Noise" of Motocross has become a very big issue in many countries. The FIM have taken this concern very seriously, as all parties want the sport to continue. Mr. Bulto, CTI President, also made it clear in the intermediate report of the CTI as well as in his personal statement to the General Assembly : " The CTI wishes to stress the necessity of lowering the sound level produced by motocross machines in the future. To this effect, the CTI recommends to the CMS to accept the proposal of the ACU and submit it for discussions with interested parties (manufacturers, promoters etc) at the earliest convenience ".

Clerk of the Course & Stewards Seminar : Discussion took place on who would issue the Regional licences for officials at centre level. Licences for regional C of C motocross will be issued from Rugby upon receipt of an official notice from the centres. Only ACU approved persons can organise seminars at regional level. The badge issued will be a blue and white regional clerk of the course type and will now include name and expiry date. All officials will also receive their ACU members badge recognising them as approved officials. The Chairman reminded Mr. Hellings that the Motocross Department had been issuing these badges from the ACU office for the past year. The total number of licences could be up to 500 and many of the officials would already be on the membership system as affiliate members. Mr. Hellings agreed that although this was an administrative problem he was assured that the system worked well in 2004.

There was a general feeling that perhaps the right hand does not know what the left is doing at Rugby and we will await the outcome of Alan Clarke's enquiries.

Challenge Championship : This would not be run in 2005

Rope Fences : There was considerable time spent debating rope fences delineating the track at motocross events. Mr. Humphrey reported on further discussions with the HSE regarding this subject and what HSE are intending to do next. It would appear that the HSE will now apply for internal funding to carry out investigative tests on the use of rope fencing. The ACU have received a document from SLE, underwriters advising us of a course of action to take to either substantiate the HSE claim or prove that rope fences are adequate and safer than alternatives or other suitable methods. A request for some independent funding will be made to the board for the ACU to carry out suitable scientific tests on rope fencing. In the meantime clubs are advised to ensure that rope fences if used at motocross events are erected to the handbook measurements and remain in good repair during the entire event. Mr. Humphrey reported on some new HSE investigations around the country.

Oscar Horton was asked how GEST were dealing with this at their meetings and Oscar said he had written to Mike Askins, the BYMX Chairman, who had told him to continue as before.

CENTRE CHAMPIONSHIP COVERS AND BANNER. : Andy Wood said he had contacted all of the 2004 advertisers but only 2 have accepted to date. If he cannot get enough funds in the banner would not be made.

ROPES : It was felt this matter had been dealt with under the Moto Cross Committee minutes.

THE SPORTING MOTORCYCLIST : John Bramall asked for the following 1. The list of Experts as at 2005 to be printed. 2. He would like something in the TSM about the 2 news Clubs who were proposing to run in 2005. 3. He would like to print a full 3 centres MX fixture list – agreed that Peter Burrell most likely has all the details. 4. He wondered who Maxxis were explaining he knew they sponsored the British MX Championships but he had no idea what they did and thought most readers of the TSM would enjoy being enlightened, Mrs. Clarke promised to get some PR stuff to him. Oscar Horton asked why GEST never got a mention in the monthly fixtures calendar when clubs in other centres had their closed to club dates printed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS : Andy Wood offered to **print the passes** to meetings in exchange for an advert for the TSM printed on the back. Clubs will have to liaise with Andy on numbers for the year for the 1st March. Colours could be requested including something different for marshal's tickets.

Eddie Herd said that at National Events there would no longer be a **separate Environmental Officer** the report would now be filled in by the Steward saving on costs to the clubs. He was also concerned that the **BYMX Committee** no longer have elections and asked GEST if as a large club in this Centre it worried them. Oscar said he would take it back to his Committee for their views.

Twickenham asked for clarification on the **Non Starter** regulations printed at the bottom of entry forms in the TSM. This had arisen as following their last meeting where the weather was bad, they had 8 cheques stopped which causes a loss in revenue and additional costs put on by the banks. The Club had written to the Management Committee for clarification but they had passed the matter back to this meeting for discussion. Marge Clarke said the real problem seemed to stem from our rule that we would only bank entry fees after the event. It was agreed individual club's policies should be shown in their regulations and if anyone wished to change the banking rule they must put something in writing to the Secretary for discussion at the next meeting.

Ken Piles (**Permits Secretary**) reminded clubs their TTC's were all up for renewal and he appealed for the regulations to be sent in a little earlier on not just on the deadline of the 10th of the month.

Jim Wood asked what happened now the **parental agreements** were signed annually if you changed your mind half way through the year, this it was felt could be rescinded. He also congratulated Jim Bacon for getting his Sports Award at the Chairman's lunch.

Chris Parish asked what was happening now to the **Child Protection** issue, Marge Clarke said the new thinking was based on the number of incidents expected and Secretary of the Meetings would be issued with a form that would then be sent direct to Gary Thompson at Rugby who was the ACU's Child protection Officer if any case of Child Abuse was suspected.

Oscar Horton said he was retiring and that Chris would be taking over as the GEST representative, Eddie Herd said we would all miss his sense of humour and he was very welcome to attend any meeting in the future.

Andy Wood said he was about to print the **Riders Handouts** and needed the details of the new circuits and the club contacts by 28th February.

Myra Hayden said that the Horsham Club had been approached by 3 Combine members to run an additional meeting at **Winterpick Farm** . She had OK'ed it with the farmer so long as it was before the end of July, he would expect £500 and Horsham would charge £200 for the use of their equipment. There was some discussion and it was agreed firstly to ask Premier if they would like to run the meeting as they did not have any land but with a proviso that it would be mainly an adult meeting with the possibility of a sidecar round. Les Batten thanked Horsham for making the land available once again to ACU Clubs.

Kevin McDavitt said we must get the details of the quad rounds to Andy Foulkes so that it can be publicised in his Quad column in T & MX News.
Les Batten appealed to the delegates to give Oxshott a hand at their meeting in June.
Date of Next Meeting : Fixed at Tuesday 19th April

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed.