

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH EASTERN MOTO CROSS COMBINE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 2006 AT BLINDLEY HEATH.

PRESENT : 18 Delegates were present representing the following clubs :- Brighton , Crawley, GEST. Greenwich, Sidcup, Twickenham and YDP Racing. Also present Ken Piles (Permits Secretary)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE : Apologies were received from Peter Burton and Jamie Clarke.

CHAIR : Eddie Herd took the Chair.

2007 DATES : The meeting went through the provisional dates calendar for 2007 making amendments as necessary. It was agreed Clubs would send in their request for Centre Championship Rounds to les ASAP but no later than 31st December. Marge will send the dates list to the TSM for publication. Les said he thought it would be good PR to put something in T & MX News announcing 2 more tracks would be in use in 2007 in the South East.

BUSINESS MEETING : After the dates meeting a normal business meeting took place.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING : The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated and Les asked for a correction to the report on **Sound** where he would like " chose to go home " instead of " have to go home ". It was then proposed by Dave Parry and seconded Chris Parish the minutes of the previous meeting held on 1st August be accepted as a true and accurate record of the happenings. Carried.

MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM :

High Viz Jacket : Marge apologised and said she could not find the travelling marshal's jacket in Sidcup's stock, Les said he could supply one for each club and Roger said he would overprint them.

Seminars : Marge read out the requirements set out by the MX Committee for Regional seminars and it was agreed to ask Peter Burton if he would assist Eddie Herd to run a Clerk of the Course seminar in January. Marge to organise the date and inform all of those that had asked to be placed on the waiting list. There still had been no reply regarding the whole question of running a Technical seminar. Eddie confirmed we would not need a person with Train the Trainers experience to organise it locally but at the moment no one at the ACU had written a question sheet that was for MX and Enduro with out any Grass Track questions. Marge to write to Dr. King, who was in charge of Technical Training and express our frustration that things had not moved forward, a copy to be sent to Jim Parker the Chairman of the ACU stating the Centre would have to extend Technical Licences beyond their expiry date until such time there was some action from Rugby.

GEST 65/85 Classes : Chris said this matter had now been resolved by the ACU who had admitted the wording about mixing groups had been wrong. It had now been changed, 65's must run on their own but the small wheel and big wheel 85's can be mixed.

Banner : Les admitted to a mapping problem.

Inaccuracies in the handbook : Marge had written to the MX Committee pointing out the rule about no riding in the paddock was not in the handbook, Sonia had agreed this would be changed and Eddie confirmed he had a draft copy of the 2007 handbook and it had now been included.

Land Issues : Yan confirmed there would be 3 meetings this year at Winterpick, 2 to be run by YDP and the 3rd would be a Pre 65 Meeting.

Home Towns in Commentaries : Lofty had now stopped mentioning the home town of the rider but there was some discussion as to whether this was really a source of information for thieves.

Tax relief for Clubs : Jim reported the scheme was called CASC, Sidcup said they had looked into this and their turnover exceeded the rules. Jim also said there were some new regulations regarding grants.

WEBMASTERS REPORT : Marge reported we were still averaging 60 visits a day even though there were no events on. She asked Les to send the permanent number application form to Jamie so that riders can download the form and send it off to Les. Marge had e mailed John Bramall re publicity for our website but nothing had appeared in the TSM as yet.

NUMBER PLATES : Liz had been very thorough with her checking of numbers at scrutineering rejecting some and an improvement was noted. Les has seen a draft copy of the 2007 handbook and it would seem the ACU have dropped the 3rd solo colour in the new scheme announced earlier in the year. There will now only be 2 colours for solos MX1 and above black numbers on white backgrounds and MX2 white numbers on black backgrounds. Sidecars remain the same at black numbers on yellow backgrounds. There was some discussion on whether we should honour someone with the wrong colours but it was agreed it would not affect many bikes as the MX3 class was not popular. However it was thought we should let people with permanent number plates professionally made up with the old colours on compete. New permanent numbers must comply with the new colour scheme. There was some discussion on the merits of advertising on the numbers themselves but nothing was resolved. Agreed to leave the cost at £5.

ACU MATTERS :-

Moto X Committee Minutes :

Extracts were read from the July Meeting :

Committee members were asked to review and comment on proposed changes for the 2007 ACU Handbook and Course Guideline Booklet for consideration at the next meeting. Discussions took place regarding the introduction of a one metre Safety Zone around a circuit. It was suggested that a safety zone may not be necessary in all areas due to course design and layout. The Clerk of the Course / Track Inspector/ Senior Steward would be required to decide and document where a safety zone should be incorporated following the course risk assessment for each event. Wording to be reviewed for 2007.

It was agreed that the budget would include an allocated sum to assess the sport development at grass roots level and set up a direct contact mailing system with clubs that run motocross events.

Marge said she had been circulated with a letter asking for her name and address to put on a MX database but it had not asked what her particular skills were but she assumed this was what the above implied, other members confirmed they had also been contacted.

Marge had been unable to obtain a copy of the September Minutes from the office.

Extracts from the November Meeting :

RISK ASSESMENT :The Committee have been advised that it is necessary to develop a Risk Assessment for disciplines across the board, each committee have been tasked to produce a Risk Assessment which should be completed listing all the decisions made by the committee that may affect the sports safety and hazards. This should be reviewed throughout the year. Clubs are to be actively encouraged to complete a risk assessment for every ACU event they run. This will be emphasised via the officials Training Seminars. The risk assessment template produced by the ACU Motocross Committee has been expanded for 2007.

The Committee are to consider further the advantages of copies of event Risk Assessments being returned with the Stewards Reports for national events.

Marge wondered if Ken had been issued with the updated risk assessment as he issued them with the permit for each event.

COURSE GUIDELINE BOOKLET :The Chairman was tasked at the last meeting to amend the Course Guideline Booklet, this was completed but further discussions were required with regard to the neutral zone. A decision was made to always include the neutral zone as per the Course Guidelines but subject to the risk assessment concluding where the zone was required. Some members cited examples of problems with specific tracks and it was felt that every track should be subject to Risk Assessment by the Clerk of the Course and approved by the Permitting Authority Track Inspector and Stewards.

Colin Bushell said this was not very satisfactory and surely neutral zones should be shown on TTC's.

Liquid Cooled 50cc Machines :Much consideration had been given to the implication and policing of the new rule to allow 50cc Liquid cooled machines for 2007.It was decided that the restriction to only allow machines to the manufacturer's original specification will be removed due to manufacturers of these machines constantly changing the specifications. Modifications to the machines will be allowed provided the machine is not larger than 50cc and meet all the other requirements laid down in the ACU Handbook.

Eddie said this had been amended to keep abreast of developments in machinery.

A proposal to run a secondary Dynamic Sound testing system in parallel to the current ACU Sound Testing Procedure at MMX Championship events was approved by the Motocross Committee. All data collected will be used to produce a paper at the end of the championship series.

Eddie said this is going to be trialed as a ride by test but penalties, if any, would be imposed as per the current testing regulations. Ian asked how we could get the FIM to change the rules and Roger explained that representation had been made on a regular basis by the ACU regarding the method of sound testing being inadequate.

Cancellation of Grass Roots Forum : Marge said this had been cancelled due to lack of interest, Chris said this was disappointing from a Youth point of view as they had agreed to go to the Youth Forum which was then amalgamated into the Adult one and then cancelled.

Voting Results and Query : Eddie and Roy Humphrey had been re-elected at the recent ACU elections as MX Committee delegates. Eddie had queried whether any club in the Centre had voted for just one candidate, Marge confirmed this and it was agreed we should mirror the ACU's voting procedures which meant if only one candidate was to be voted for and abstention must also be recorded or the vote will be nil and void.

Press Release : The ACU had issued a press release determining the various engine and wheel sizes for youth machines and the inclusion of the new 150F from Jan 2007.

SUGGESTION FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REGARDING STEWARD'S REPORTS : It had been suggested the Combine might like to receive copies of the steward's reports so they could discuss any problems but it was felt not to be necessary by the delegates present as we have a good repartee between clubs.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION RAISED BY THE SIDCUP CLUB :

Over 40 Junior Class to replace the 125's : Kurt Pringle felt there was a growing band of older riders who would enjoy competing with their peers rather than lads half their age who did not have to go to work the next day. There was some discussion and it was agreed to let Clubs run a " Vets " class at their meetings but it would not form a Championship in it's first year. Some delegates were also in favour of including Experts in the race but scoring them separately and this would be left to the Clubs to start with. Sidcup and Twickenham would not be running a 125 class next year so it was agreed to drop this as a Championship but if any Club wished to put a class on for them this would be OK.

300 Numbers to qualify for correct MX Class but not to get Championship points or prize monies : Sidcup felt the time had come when some of the quick late entries should be segregated from the slower Junior C group as it was potentially dangerous. Some other Clubs felt Sidcup should not take late entries and then the problem would not arise, Sidcup said there was never a consistent pattern with their events, most were oversubscribed and the late entry was used to fill up withdrawn entries from a pool of oversubscribed entries . There was a further discussion as to whether the late entry should be allowed to score Expert points and finally it was agreed they probably could. Agreed in future late entries would be seeded into the correct class after their heat but would not earn prize money or championship points. The meeting asked Sidcup to go away and think about their late entry policy.

POINT FOR DISCUSSION RAISED BY THE TWICKENHAM CLUB :-

Should membership cards be shown at signing on: Les said he had witnessed a leading light from the Frome Club being harangued because he could not show his club membership card at the signing on table when he knew the Frome Club did not issue Club Cards and he felt if a rider showed an ACU licence it proved he must have had it signed by his Club Secretary. Marge said this would not be the case with Sidcup Members as they renewed their subs in January and ACU licence renewals were issued in the previous October. After some discussion it was felt the matter should be left as it was for the present.

THE SPORTING MOTORCYCLIST : No one was present to give a report, Marge said she had written to John Brammall re publicising our website but nothing had transpired.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS : It was proposed Alan Clarke and seconded Chris Parish we again buy replicas down to 6th place for the annual trophies. Carried. Marge read a memo from the ACU regarding a training seminar for marshals in January. Jim Wood said he had put the view forward at a recent Federation of Sport meeting that DEFRA was curtailing motor sport activities on farmland with their rules. Chris asked for confirmation that a Junior Open Licence would be available to an Under 18 who had held an adult licence. Marge asked for Clubs to give in their wristband order for 2007. It was agreed Marge would fix a date for the AGM sometime in the middle of January.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 11.00.