

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH EASTERN MOTO CROSS COMBINE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15TH AUGUST 2007 AT BLINDLEY HEATH.

PRESENT : 12 delegates were present representing the following Clubs :- Brighton, GEST, Greenwich, Sidcup and Twickenham. Ken Piles (permits Secretary, Jim Wood (London federation of Sport Rep. And Roy Barton (ACU MX Manager) were also present.

CHAIR : Chris Parish took the Chair until Eddie Herd arrived from an ACU MX Committee Meeting in Rugby.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE : Apologies were received from Roger Brown (Brighton) , Jamie Clarke (Webmaster) and John Bramall.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING : The minutes of the previous meeting having been circulated it was proposed Jim Wood and seconded Colin Bushell they be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings. Carried. Jim said he did not get the notification that the previous meeting had been cancelled and had attended. Marge apologised and said she had e mailed everyone and also sent notifications in the post to those that were not electronically connected.

MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM :

High Viz Jackets : Roger was not present to report although Twickenham had there's but Chris thought GEST had not been sent one.

Banner : Les apologised for not moving the matter on and promised to get his act together before next season on this front.

ACU Sound Booklet : Marge had put this on the agenda as it had been noted from the ACU MX Committee meeting minutes that one was being produced and he wondered if anyone had seen one yet, no one had and Eddie promised to take the matter up with Rugby.

New Grading Scheme : Les had heard nothing from Rugby and Marge confirmed as a Club she had not been informed of the new system, however Less was sending our Centre's results on.

Sidcup Impostor : Marge said that Peter Burrell (Centre Secretary) had made enquiries and the rider who had hurt himself was not registered with the ACU and as such could not be disciplined. The rider whose number had been used had not replied and might be an innocent party to the disguise and so it could not be proved he was in collusion with the impostor and the matter would not be taken any further. The Sidcup Committee were not happy with this outcome and had agreed not to accept any entries from Trevor Hadlow of Sittingbourne until he made some effort to reply to the enquiries.

WEBMASTERS REPORT : In the absence of Jamie Clarke Marge passed around the analysis of the statistics which showed May June and July being the busiest months with over 100 visits per day. Peter Burton said he though we had asked for some website publicity in the TSM previously and Marge confirmed she had written and requested this but nothing had transpired. He suggested we ask Any Wood to print the address at the bottom of each page in the programmes for the events.

ACU MATTERS :

Moto Cross Committee Minutes : The only sets of minutes in the public domain at present were from the April and May Meetings and the following points were discussed :-

e) **Race Director**

The Motocross Committee feel that if the ACU are to officially include the position 'Race Director' in the Sporting Code of ACU Handbook the position should be described as per the FIM rules. The Committee are unlikely to require this position for Adult British championships in the near future although some National or Club series may be interested.

Eddie said it was not the intention of the MX Committee to bring this position in for grass roots meetings but that it was intended for events that were part of a Series.

'OPEN DOOR' MOTOCROSS COMMITTEE MEETINGS :Discussion took place about inviting Observers to future Motocross Committee meetings. It was agreed that meetings would not be 'open', however an ACU member would be invited following a formal written request to discuss a relevant subject matter.

It was felt this could only be a good move.

FIM :The minutes of the FIM Congress Meeting had previously been distributed to the Committee. The FIM had decided not to allow the use of 144cc 2 stroke machines, the ACU remain committed to follow the rules of the FIM and would act with immediate effect if a decision were made. No comment or request to allow 144cc machines had been made by the MCIA.

TECHNICAL MATTERS :

Drive by Testing Results – Matchams Park 01.04.07Mr Brown informed the Committee of the results at Matchams Park for the drive by testing. It was noted that at this early stage the results cannot be used to penalise riders, but as per the rules of the MMX competition is proving successful at identifying loud machines. However further testing and progress will be made for more information to be gathered. It was agreed that this method of testing would be suitable at Club level events once the parameters are agreed.

Sound Testing : After discussing 'protests' against sound test results it was agreed that a protest could be made against the sound test method if the protest was to prove the test was being conducted incorrectly. A protest or appeal cannot be made against the result of a test.

CENTRE LEVEL MOTOCROSS :The Committee discussed the centralisation of motocross grading and officials training and how in the future centralised permitting could be conducted. It is felt that centralised permitting will evolve very quickly although Centres and traditional Clubs could continue using the current system at present. The use of Permitting Authority appointed stewards at Motocross Regional and Club level events was also discussed. Many centres are now unable to appoint a steward for every Regional or Club event in their area. The Chairman Mr Humphrey said that this was a turning point in the organisation of ACU Motocross at Club and Regional level and that the executive officials of the event, the Clerk of Course and Secretary of the meeting need confidence to take complete control of their event as opposed to looking for the traditional appointed Stewards guidance. Mr Humphrey was concerned that these measures could be seen as a snub for traditional Centre values but this should not be the case, young Organisers are required to take the sport forward, however while younger people are prepared to organise events it's noticeable they are not prepared to involve themselves with Centre management. Current Centre Officials should look ahead and decide how their sport should evolve. Mr Humphrey suggested that Centres should organise Centre or Regional Championships and appoint local Stewards to Centre Championships for judicial purposes. They should inform the ACU Motocross Department of suitable candidates for a centralised Stewards list, in effect the eyes and ears of a successful Sports organising body. The possibility of Stewards being appointed or events being visited by ACU Officials could depend on the quality of the organising Clubs Officials or the circuit being used.

The committee supported Mr Humphrey on his comments.

TECHNICAL MATTERS :

National Seminars :A National Clerk of the Course & Steward seminar will be held on 25th November 2007.

Drive By Testing

Mr Brown reported back to the Committee of the progress being made with regard to drive by testing, the testing will continue through 2007 to evaluate upper sound limits.

A paper will be produced at the end of the year with all necessary information to explain the costs of the equipment, how to use it, how to read results and how to impose penalties or give advice to offenders. When this paper is produced it will be circulated to all Motocross clubs, Technical Officers and the Environmental Panel.

MEDICAL MATTERS :

Officials Accident / Witness Statement: Following some serious claims against the ACU insurance the Chairman felt that an Officials - accident / witness statement would be a beneficial document to record any serious incidents that may occur at Motocross events and to ensure the correct people are informed within days of the incident taking place. The document will be for Officials that may witness an accident and would be returned to the ACU Head Office as soon as possible following the event. The Secretary was asked to produce a document to submit to the Committee. This will then be circulated to all clubs for Officials to complete if witness to an accident. Many clubs use a similar document and these could be used to help produce the ACU version.

Chief Medical Officer :As discussed previously the Committee would like to investigate the possibility and costing of introducing an appointed CMO at professional Motocross level. It was noted that Dr Anthony Weston the CMO at last years MXDN has suggested that he would be happy to give medical advice and assistance where needed. Mr Weston had recently attended a Medical Panel meeting.

Marge wondered if the first matter was aimed at the Sidcup First Aider injury at their 2006 Maxxis Meeting, the guy had a badly cut leg but the Club would not have defined it as "serious" and although reported straight away to the Insurers they had not contacted the ACU. She felt that it was very difficult to quantify just what "serious" was as riders regularly break bones at MX meetings and often go home in pain and only resort to visiting a hospital after a couple of days when the pain has not subsided. Roy Barton said the thinking was now anyone going to hospital in an ambulance should be considered serious. The document mentioned has yet to be circulated to Clubs.

Marge said she felt there could be conflict with local medics if someone was brought in over their heads and was sure this would turn out to be more expensive than employing local staff.

ROY BARTON – ACU MX MANAGER : At this point Eddie introduced Roy Barton to the delegates, explaining to Roy how the SE Centre operates and stating he would let him speak after the agenda was finished.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE NEW ACU INSURANCE SCHEME : Les explained the next Twickenham meeting, the regs of which had been published in the TSM would be run under the Basic Plus Insurance Scheme and as such mention should have been made in the regs. He was going to advise all riders when their entries were acknowledged, telling them about the top up scheme and allowing anyone to withdraw if they want to. After a general discussion it was agreed as the first meeting run in our Centre it had highlighted a need to have better systems in place and issues like who is paying for or sending a Steward to the meeting and the cost of the regs in the TSM need to be referred to the Centre Management Committee for a decision. Les said Twickenham had assumed the only difference would be in applying for the permit direct and paying a lump sum for the insurance cover he was expecting to have to pay the Centre levy as normal.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE ACU MX COMMITTEE : Eddie said that Andy Summers and Brian Higgins were both due for re election as their time in office had expired and asked Marge if she had had the nomination forms. Marge had not and said she would chase Peter Burrell up in case he was hanging on to them as she knew they usually had to be in by the end of August.

THE SPORTING MOTORCYCLIST : John or Andy were not present to give a report but it was known the scheduled meeting with the S. Midland Centre had been deferred.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS :

Wet Weather Bibs : These had all sold out during our wet Summer and Marge had re ordered, the Twickenham Club were in possession of them at the moment.

Day Licences : The ACU had dropped the price to £10 and re printed them – all old licences to be returned for a refund.

Letter from Maggie Dyne : Les said Maggie , who was a Secretary of the Meeting at one of the Sidcup events had written to him saying she found the permanent number scheme difficult to operate and suggested a cut off date. Les explained the cut off date for retaining last year's number was 31st January but that numbers were bought all through the year however on their acknowledgment letter it clearly states if they do not enter early their number will be given away. Dave Parry suggested a change to the rules, the Secretary of the Meeting will hold permanent numbers open for 14 days after the entries open and entries received after that date will be given any unused numbers be they permanent or not. Agreed to give it a try.

Admission Tickets : Sheila Lillywhite had asked Les to confirm how many tickets should be given out to a rider when he enters a meeting. Normally it was 2 for a solo and 3 for a sidecar with an additional ticket for a marshal if the rider has been balloted.

Riders Pulling Out of Meetings : Les said there was an increasing number of riders pulling out of meetings before the event and he wondered what other clubs did regarding refunding of monies. Marge said Sidcup take reserves that had entered on time and if anyone withdraws they replace them and do not give them a 300 number as they were not late entering. Les said it would help if those names were printed in the programme. Sidcup tend to refund if the rider has bothered to write in with a good reason. But during the recent bad weather they had some ask for their money back on the day as they did not want to ride even though the meeting went ahead, they were refused.

Marshalling : Marge said Sidcup were proposing to collect the licences of all riders who had been balloted to marshal when they sign on and only return them when their marshal has returned his flag after doing his spell.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING : This will be dependant on the National dates being issued by the ACU.

ROY BARTON : Les started by asking Roy to give a detailed explanation of the timing system used by Euro Motorsport as the meetings in the Centre had been plagued with bad weather this Summer and lap scoring had been difficult. The system used is supplied by A & B a company from Holland and they supply the software as well as the transponders. It could be run from one lap top but 2 would be ideal as one can then be downloading the last race results whilst the other one can time the next race with no delay. A printer would also be needed to print off results as would power to run the whole system. A wire is laid in the ground at the finish line which is just a co axial cable, a decoder is required which receives the signal from the transponder as it goes over the finish line and then it passes the message on to the software in the lap top. A decoder costs around £1500 and the software licence £3000 and that can cover 3 licences. At the moment riders in Scotland, Ireland and Holland have to buy a transponder when they take their licences out and it was thought the AMCA may well be following suit in the very near future. There was much discussion on whether this was the way to go forward and the major problem would be someone to work the system at each meeting and to transport it to the next. Also would every rider buy a transponder at £150 or decide to ride elsewhere. Spare transponders would have to be bought for those one off visitors or for someone whose transponder had failed. Spares can only be bought by the case of 36 @ £150 each but Roy said they had hired them out at £10 a meeting and recovered their costs. Agreed that Marge would place an article in the TSM appealing for anyone who would like to be in charge of the system in the SE, also agreed that we must ask all clubs in the Combine if they wished to join the system as Horsham, Oxshott, YDP and Crawley were not present their views needed to be sought.

Roy then went on to enlarge on his new job at the ACU. It was a new position of MX Manager and based in Rugby but there had been no real job description written as it was a new post but he would be dealing with the Clubs side of things whilst Dave Luscombe would be more on the commercial side like practise tracks. The job came about really to take some of the workload off Roy Humphrey who as Chairman of the MX Committee is a volunteer and had found himself spending 50% of his time attending meetings on behalf of the ACU. He will be sitting on the Environmental Panel and has also been tasked with redeveloping Risk Assessments. Another job will be to represent the ACU on SOUK a group of 25 National Sport Governing Bodies formed to standardize training methods, there are apparently National Standards which, at the present time, the ACU does not adhere to and this will all cascade down into our training seminars like those for Clerks of the Courses.

Eddie thanked Roy for coming to the meeting and asked delegates if they had any questions, Marge said one of our biggest criticisms was the lack of communication from the Office, we read about a change in the MX Committee minutes but it then fails to materialise like the new grading system. Roy felt communications had gone out as he knew some results were coming in but he would take this up with the office.

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