

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

PRESENT : 15 Delegates were present representing the following Clubs :- Brighton , Crawley, GEST, Greenwich, Sidcup, Twickenham and YDP. Also present Ken Piles (permits Sec) and Andy Wood (TSM)

CHAIR : Eddie Herd took the Chair.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE : Apologies were received from Roger and Roslyn brown, Kevin and Gill McDavitt and Alan Clarke.

2008 DATES :

The meeting fixed the dates for next season and it was agreed the delegates would go back to their Clubs to discuss which rounds of the centre Championship they would like to host and then submit the dates to Les not later than January 10th.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING :

It was proposed Colin Bushell and seconded Chris Parish the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th August be approved as a true and accurate record of the proceedings. Carried.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES :

High Viz Jacket : These had been circulated but YDP and Crawley were still without. Marge to contact Roger to rectify this.

New ACU Sound Booklet : Still nothing had been produced by Rugby, Peter Burton will ask when he attends his National Technical Officer's seminar.

New Grading Scheme : Les had heard on the grapevine that something was afoot but nothing has been sent to either him as the Centre's Recorder or his club. What seems to be happening again is matters are discussed within the MX Committee but no system is actually put in place. Sidcup & Twickenham both received a letter from the ACU saying response had been poor and requesting results for their meetings in 2007. As they had never been officially told about the system they were a little miffed to be criticised for not complying, what needs to happen is a form should be designed to collect the information the office needs to run the system. Eddie said he would suggest this to RB.

Withholding of Licences : Sidcup had trailed an idea to collect the licences at the signing on desk of all the riders that had been balloted to provide a marshal, the licence was returned when the marshal brought the flag back at the end of their session of duty. They reported it had worked quite well despite it being virtually the last meeting of the season, only one was left at the end of the day and that was because the rider went to hospital. There was some discussion about marshalling and the problems they arise from balloting including an ever increasing number of non starters from the balloted riders. Sidcup put a star against the riders name in the programme as that adds a bit of weight when trying to convince a rider it was his turn.

Transponders : Jamie said talks were going on with the Enduro Combine but Les wanted to know why they were being involved and Jamie explained the system would be cheaper if used across both disciplines with costs being brought down by number of units bought etc. Les was convinced we must get someone interested first in running the system at meetings , it would be no good buying all the equipment and then having no one to look after it on the day. Marge to put an appeal in the TSM for an operator .

WEBMASTER'S REPORT :

Jamie reported there had only been 2 meetings since the end of July so visits to the site had been down. Les asked if it was possible for anyone to upload info to the site or to have a forum for people to chat. Jamie said that was probably beyond his skills but he could get the entry list posted before an event which the enduro riders do a lot and was not too difficult if the Secretary of the Meeting used a PC to compile their programme. He was working on an idea for the lap scorers to have a programme where they could tap in the riders number and pre posted information would then print out their names and sort it in numerical order so the start line could check riders more easily.

ACU MATTERS :

Moto Cross Committee Minutes : 2 sets of minutes were in the public domain from the August and October meetings and the following points were discussed :-

From the August Meeting :-

a) Motocross Officials

It has been brought to the attention of the Committee that some casualness has arisen by Motocross Officials when their children are competing in the event. The Committee decided it to be logical for the Clerk of the Course to switch responsibility with the Assistant when they have relatives riding in a specific race. However should an incident arise and the Clerk of the Course is required, their first priority must be their duties as Clerk of the Course.

TECHNICAL MATTERS

a) ASV Levers

It had recently been brought to the attention of the Committee that an adjustable lever is now available in the UK, which in the case of an accident is designed to fold away to avoid injury to riders. The Committee will request that the Technical Panel review this product for approval ASAP.

b) 145cc 2 Stroke Machines

Following many discussions over the past year, the Committee have decided to allow 144cc 2 stroke machines to compete in adult MX2 Motocross events as well as the recently permitted Youth Open events. This will only come into place from 8th October 2007 following the completion of all 2007 Outdoor British Championships.

c) Automatic Machines

Mr Humphrey had recently proposed to the Committee that the age for Schoolboy Automatic license holders be amended from 6 - 7 years to 6 - 8 years of age. The Committee all agreed to the proposal.

The reason for this change is to allow youth riders the extra year on an automatic machine if they do not feel ready to ride a geared machine. Clubs will be given the opportunity to run an automatic group A class (riders aged 6-7years) or an automatic group B class (6-8years). There will be no changes to engine or wheel size.

d) 105cc Machines

A letter had been received regarding 105cc two stroke machines. The Committee noted that more information will be collated from the industry, International federations and clubs before this matter is discussed further.

CHILD PROTECTION

Mr Barton informed the Committee that there is possibility that for 2008 all sporting Officials will need to be CRB (Criminal Record Bureau) checked. The Committee briefly discussed the problems that may arise from this, as this would be across all disciplines.

RISK ASSESSMENTS

Mr Barton reported that a new risk assessment document will be produced in readiness for 2008 to improve the standards of the assessments. There will be an alternative document produced for National level events.

a) **Day Licenses**

Mrs Lawson enquired as to whether it is compulsory for Clubs to purchase day licenses from their Centre. This is not compulsory and Clubs are advised to purchase these from the ACU Offices. The cost to purchase a book of day licenses (10) is £70.00. The re-sale price to the rider is £10.00 each, which leaves the organising Club with £3.00 to retain from each day license sold.

From the October Meeting :-

b) National Seminars

Under the new Officials training procedure all FIM International Licence holders must also attend and successfully pass a National seminar in order to be able to officiate at future National Motocross events. Mr Barton assured the Committee that the decision had been made prior to the Maxxis British Championship round at Skelder Bank but some Committee members were not convinced. Mr Barton informed the Committee that Mr Nelson and himself would conduct the Seminars and thereafter this would be a responsibility of the Motocross department.

The Chairman stated it was at the discretion of each FIM licence holder whether they wished to attend and obtain a National ACU Motocross Clerk of the Course and Stewards licence. Two seminars will be held, one in November and one in January.

c) ACU Officials

Some of the Committee members commented that they do not agree with fines being imposed on Officials following the decisions made at recent Courts of Enquiry held in August. The general consensus was that fines should not be imposed on Officials who volunteer their services.

Mr Humphrey indicated that Mr Parker will be issuing a statement to Centres with recommendations that penalties following a Centre court of enquiry should not be financial. He had already made this statement to the South Midland Centre.

e) CRB Check

Mr Barton previously noted that in the near future it may be a stipulation that all key Officials will need to have a Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) check with regard to child protection. Mr Barton gave a brief update that more information was still being gathered with regard to many other sports who have already done so, the Committee were in agreement to put forward a recommendation to the Board of Directors to review the official procedure and cost if key officials have a CRB check.

Action: Mr Barton

d) Risk Assessments

Following the last meeting, Mr Barton reported that more discussions have taken place to improve the ACU Motocross risk assessment document. It is likely to be split into two documents, one for national events and one for regional events.

ACU MAXXIS BRITISH MOTOCROSS CHAMPIONSHIP 2008 / ACU EVENTS LTD

Mr Humphrey opened the meeting with the following statement:

The ACU Maxxis British Motocross Championship will now be organised through ACU Events Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary company of ACU Ltd and the commercial and all other rights relating to the Series be transferred to ACU Events Ltd on 1st January 2008.

For the future of the Championship all dealings and decisions will no longer be the responsibility of the Motocross Committee.

ACU Events Ltd has appointed a Board of Directors who will now take control, manage and coordinate the Championship, working with the Championship Sub-Committee which will be extended from three to four members in 2008. The fourth member of the Sub-Committee will be an existing member of the Motocross Committee.

The feeling in general from all members other than Mr Higgins and Mr Humphrey was of criticism that ACU Events Ltd had taken control of the Championship and the majority of the Committee Members asked "what was the point of being on the Committee if they were to have no further input in the Championship". Astonished by the remarks made, the Secretary reminded them that they had been elected on to the Committee to develop and progress the sport of Motocross at all levels and not just to concentrate on the British Championship and other such high level events.

The following comments were made: Mr Warren and Mr Herd commented that earlier in the year the Committee disagreed with the decision to introduce a Race Director to the series, although the decision had been made by ACU Events Ltd in recent weeks to appoint one for 2008. Mr

Humphrey emphasised that the Race Director will be working in conjunction with the Clerk of the Course at all meetings and would therefore not be in full control of the event as for example Dave Nichols at FIM events. Mr Alan Clarke had already been named as series Race Director whom all members then agreed was the best person for the job.

- Mr Williams commented that he felt the Board members of ACU Events Ltd were inexperienced in the Motocross industry and this would be detrimental to the Championship. Mr Humphrey reminded them that the Directors of ACU Events Ltd were appointed because of their commercial acumen. The Maxxis Series was the first of many events that may be organised through the new Company. Other interested parties from industry and organisers would in future be involved in all major decisions regarding the Series.
- Members of the Committee felt that many decisions were being made by individuals, which was not a true reflection of the Committee's wishes. They were disgruntled that members were not informed of many aspects that had happened recently. Mr Warren felt that this could be resolved by more Committee meetings being held through the year. Mr Humphrey stated that this was not the case and he had made every effort to keep the Committee updated on any major Motocross decisions made regarding ACU Events Ltd, mainly through email as and when the major decisions had been made. The Maxxis sub committee currently being the Chairman, Mr Higgins and Mrs Goggin had been doing the same for the past two years without any problems.
- Mr Williams enquired whether his services as Steward / Clerk of the Course will be required from ACU Events Ltd, if he were to successfully pass a National seminar. Series Manager, Mr Higgins confirmed that Mr William's name would be added to the list of Stewards for 2008. *Action: Mr Higgins*
- Mr Humphrey assured the Committee that they would be informed of any major decisions made by ACU Events Ltd regarding the organisation of Maxxis Motocross racing at the Championship series. The Committee agreed that ACU Events Ltd was the way forward for the series although made their feelings clear about the way in which this had come about. The Motocross Committee are to be included in the circulation of the agenda for any Sub-Committee meetings and encouraged to make proposals or forward ideas for the growth of the championship.

TECHNICAL MATTERS

e) ASV Levers

Following a proposal to Mr P King regarding adjustable brake levers like ASV levers the Technical Panel had reviewed the lever and the Committee were in a position to allow the levers for Motocross only

Due to the size of the ball end on the levers, the motocross standing regulations will be amended to allow 12.5mm / 1/2" minimum ball ends. To be introduced immediately.

f) 144cc 2 Stroke Machines

A decision was recently made to allow the use of 144cc 2 stroke bikes in Motocross. The Committee feel this was the right decision to make for the sport, the bikes if made or converted correctly will be more competitive than 125cc machines at a lower cost than 4 stroke machines. Mr Humphrey commented that following the recent MCIA Off Road meeting, attended by Dave Luscombe, the MCIA were not in agreement with the decision made by the ACU to allow the use of 144cc machines. However the use of the machines at UEM – MX2 class events makes this decision the correct decision to allow British riders to compete in Europe with no disadvantage.

g) Engine Measuring

Mr Brown has spent some time producing a new engine measuring device. Mr Humphrey reported that the ACU has approached manufacturers to enquire about mass producing the device, the AMCA are very keen to help establish their use.

Mr Humphrey also noted that the press release relating to these devices had not been published in the papers and would try to push this forward to make people aware that the devices will soon be available.

Mr Tombs noted that the Committee need to move forward with a decision on which officials will be issued with a set of the engine measuring devices in 2008. This matter will be added to the next Committee meeting agenda to be discussed further. Mr Tombs requested that a newsletter is sent out to Motocross clubs to inform them that the devices will be available and seals will be issued to each club. The newsletter will be issued when the measuring devices are available and will include the new sound levels for 2008.

ACU Handbook Standing Regulations 2008

The Committee reviewed the amended Motocross regulations for the 2008 ACU Handbook with the following amendments:

Motocross grading for Sidecar riders will be taken out. For Sidecar riders there will be no more grading system, although for the British Championship Mr Paul Pelling has been appointed to draw up a list of eligible riders. If riders then wish to be added to the list and considered for the British Sidecar Championship, they would need to be reviewed on ability by a responsible official. Motocross recorders will be removed from the handbook excluding Mrs V Webb as Central Motocross Recorder as very few recorders or clubs are returning any information with regard to results.

Having investigated any possible problems associated with small lever ball ends and concluded that no reportable injuries associated with ball end levers have occurred. The brake and clutch lever ball end size will be amended to a minimum of 12.5mm for Motocross only.

BRITISH MMX CHAMPIONSHIP 2008

It had been agreed that the British 4 Stroke class will now be named the British Open class, for all machines 125cc – 650cc 2 stroke or 4 stroke. The Sidecar Series appears to be under great pressure to succeed as only one application had been received before this meeting took place. Mr Warren made several proposals and together with Mr Humphrey will work on these together with some organisers and a representative of the SMCA.

PROTESTS AND APPEALS

The Committee felt it necessary to discuss the current procedure of protests and appeals at an event. After lengthy discussions the Committee were in agreement to make a proposal to the Board of Directors for the procedure for Protests and Appeals for events above National level to be the same as the FIM/UEM International Protests and Appeals procedure. This would mean all Protests and Appeals would go to the Permitting Authorities appointed Stewards for the event. Mr Herd will draft a proposal for the Board.

For Regional Motocross events all protests would go to the Clerk of the Course and appeals to the Permitting Authorities appointed Steward and Club appointed Stewards. If an appointed Steward is not available the appeal will go to the permitting authority.

Marge had picked up on the CRB issue and written to the ACU pointing out several salient points against having the need for general officials to be CRB checked but had not had a reply.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE NEW INSURANCE SCHEME :

It was known that insurance premiums would be going up by at least 25% but until it was agreed an increase of 10% should be added.

It had been agreed if anyone in the Centre takes out a basic or basic plus permit with Rugby the Centre would not be sending a Steward because of the implications of the Public Liability Cover, Les questioned whether we really did need the 10 million cover.

MX COMMITTEE ELECTIONS : Brian Higgins and Andy Summers had been successful in being re elected to the Committee.

RESIGNATION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MX COMMITTEE : It was understood that Roy Humphrey has had to resign as a Director of the ACU and as Chairman of the MX Committee as the two posts are connected.

SEMINARS : Several delegates knew of officials who needed their licences re-newing, Marge said she had heard there was to be a seminar near Guildford to be run by RB and would investigate.

PERMANENT NUMBERS : Agreed to run the scheme again next year and to implement the new colour backgrounds that came in for 2007 of either black or white and the rider's numbers would only be saved by the Secretary of the Meetings for 14 days after the entry opened.

THE SPORTING MOTOR CYCLIST : Andy said there had been general discussion with the S. Midland centre. The single TSM's go out by 2nd class post but he was prepared to post them 1st class if there was a demand. He does not envisage the price going up in 2008. He urged delegates to promote their events more with pre event details, Les agreed to send Andy a list of the dates and Jamie would put them on the Combine's Website. It was agreed the new basic and basic plus insurance meetings needed to have a different entry form and that it would be a good idea if someone could write an informative article for the riders.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS :

Letter of resignation accepted from the Horsham Club.

Marge urged clubs to let her have their wristband orders as soon as possible.

Ken reminded clubs to apply early for permits as they have to go to Rugby. He would also like to see a big improvement in the paperwork submitted by clubs in particular regarding returning paperwork for cancelled meetings.

Jamie asked for the postcodes of our MX tracks so that he could put it on the website to accommodate the ever increasing use of SAT NAVs

Yan reported on the death of Malcolm Dearn and it was agreed to send flowers on behalf of the Combine and he would forward the funeral details to Marge.

Ian thanked Alan and Jamie Clarke for the help in securing Ringmer back again with a guarantee use of 10 times a year.

Andy agreed to print the Championship covers again and it was suggested he contact John Powell to see if he had any current photos of last year's championship winners.

Les said that he was saddened to see the loss of so many meetings this last year and would like to see a club coming to the Combine for financial support if it meant the meeting would go ahead and give the lads a ride. The successful formula for the UMX series was discussed and whether we should adopt a similar series. Agreed to discuss this at our next meeting.

It was proposed Jamie and seconded Les that the Combine will fund trophies for the Centre Championships down to 6th place again. Carried.

Andy had a contact who could print signs on plastic corrugated.

Appeal for 2 stroke rounds discussed but not agreed upon.

Eddie said the FIM were going to introduce more drive by sound testing and there had also been talk about a noise trigger by transponders. Mechanical silencers would also be introduced in the future and there would be further sound level reductions in 2010 and 2012.

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