

**MINUTES OF THE SOUTH EASTERN MOTO CROSS COMBINE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2008 AT BLINDLEY HEATH.**

**PRESENT** : 15 Delegates were present representing the following Clubs :- Brighton, Crawley, GEST, Greenwich, Sidcup, Twickenham and YDP Racing. Jim Wood our London Federation of Sport rep was also present.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** : Apologies were received from Peter Burton, Alan Clarke, John Bramall and Ken Piles who had been unwell recently.

**CHAIR** : Eddie Herd took the Chair.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING :**

It was proposed Colin Bushell and seconded Dave Parry the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November be approved as a true and accurate record of the proceedings. Carried.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES :**

**High Viz Jacket** : Roger Brown will supply YDP and Crawley with their travelling marshal's bibs.

**Sound Booklet** : This still had not appeared and it was rumoured it was on Dr. King's desk being checked. This prompted the Sidcup Club to say that 2 of their officials attended a National Technical Seminar run by Dr. King at the beginning of December and had still not heard the results. This had meant the supplementary regulations for their Maxxis Br. Championship round being submitted without knowing if their officials were licensed or not. Eddie felt this was not good enough and would consult with the Centre Chairman to see if the Centre should follow this complaint up at Rugby.

**New Grading Scheme** : Just after our last meeting the ACU send a letter and the returns form to the Centre Secretary informing him of the new grading system. There was much discussion as to whether this would work or not especially as they had asked for results of closed to club meetings as well. In the end it was agreed the clubs would ignore this system and continue to make our returns to Les, who in turn would inform the ACU. Les said he had been sent a new list of Experts for 2008 and he had found at least 20 errors.

**Transponders** : Les had spoken to Liz Argent and she was willing to give the system a try and she also thought Carol Reeves may be interested. Jamie said the South West are definitely going for transponders in their Remedies Bar Series and he had heard of a North West Group in the AMCA as well. Roger, Jamie and John Collins had been looking into a system for enduros as well as it was hoped a bigger order would reduce costs but the AMB System could not cope with time card enduros at the moment. It was agreed it was no good embarking on this scheme unless we had the manpower to work it. Marge had sent in an appeal for interested parties to the TSM and was awaiting it's publication. Nick Hooper of the Greenwich Club who runs the scheme in road racing had also offered to help train people and it was wondered if Euromotor Sport would allow some observers at the Sidcup Maxxis even if it was only the support races. Marge to follow this up. Roger said the Operators may have to have a timekeeper's ticket. Agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

**UMX Style Series** : This had been placed on the agenda for discussion following the last meeting were we had talked about meetings being cancelled because of lack of entries. Apparently a lump sum of £350 is paid by each organising club into the main fund which is also boosted by registration fees and then at the end of the season prize monies are paid from that fund, no prize monies are given at meetings. Agreed that each club must take the idea back to their Committee before any decisions were made and it would again be placed on the next agenda for further discussion.

**WEBMASTER'S REPORT :**

Jamie said he did not really have much to add to his last report as there had been no meetings. Visits were averaging between 60 and 70 a day. He had put the 2008 calendar up and Les asked if it was possible for a tab for the permanent number scheme to be added as he had some enquiries from riders who could not access any information from the website about the scheme. Jamie agreed this would be done.

## **ACU MATTERS :**

**Moto Cross Committee Minutes :** The December meeting minutes had been circulated to clubs but the following points were discussed :-

### **ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**

Mr Williams opened the meeting and recorded the thanks of the Committee to Mr Humphrey for all the hard work and effort he had given during his tenure as Chairman for the good and benefit of the Committee and Motocross in general. Mr Beardmore declared Mr Higgins as the new Motocross Committee Chairman as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008 and Mr Williams will continue as Vice Chairman.

### **QUESTIONS TO THE ACU CHAIRMAN**

Mr Parker invited members of the Committee to express any concerns or questions they felt needed addressing. Mr Herd brought up some concerns regarding ACU Events Ltd and the Motocross Committee's position with the other British Motocross Championships. After lengthy discussions Mr Parker made it clear that ACU Events Ltd was a Commercial Company and that the Committee was still the Regulatory Body responsible for the provision of the rules and regulations pertaining to the sport of Motocross.

Mr Parker informed the Committee that Mr Williams would be invited to attend future ACU Events Ltd meetings, in order to be able to report back to the Committee as to the progress being made with the ACU MAXXIS British Motocross Championships.

Marge said she was still unsure of the agenda of this new company and was concerned that at the recent British Championship organisers Meeting the Moto Cross Committee was not in attendance.

### **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES**

Mr Barton noted that the number of attendees that passed the National seminar was very low. After the next National seminar in January, a workshop will be run in February to go through all the questions people were struggling with. This will give everyone a second chance to sit the National seminar.

The repercussions of this had reverberated around the Sidcup Committee and many now felt intimidated by these testing seminars it was felt the correct message had not been given out to encourage new people into officialdom. Roger said that this had been a National seminar and these meetings required higher standards, Eddie confirmed some questions had been reworded to avoid misinterpretation.

### **BRITISH SIDECARCROSS CHAMPIONSHIP**

Mr Warren reported to the Committee about a meeting held recently with a representative from the Sidecar Motocross Association of Great Britain to discuss the future of the British Sidecar Championship of which 8 rounds had been confirmed. This Championship will run alone and not be part of the MMX Championship.

It was noted both YDP and Sidcup would be running rounds.

### **TECHNICAL MATTERS**

Mrs Goggin informed the Committee that all ACU Motocross Clubs had been sent engine seals each to use if an engine was believed to be oversized, this would just be until the engines can be measured by a licensed engine measurer.

Clubs had been sent tags so that they could seal engines if required.

### **PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO THE FIM**

- Silencers – The silencers of solo and sidecar machines must be of a mechanical or "baffle" type, depending only on the permanently fixed internal pipes and plates to achieve the required maximum sound level. A straight tube directly connecting inlet and outlet of the silencer, without deflection of the exhaust gases is not permitted. There must be fibrous material in contact with the exhaust gases or any design feature on the silencers of four stroke machines requiring routine maintenance or replacement.

**STANDING REGULATIONS 2008 :**

Mr Williams had previously requested some minor word changes in the Standing Regulations, therefore the Committee were circulated a final copy of the handbook regulations to approve. Mr Barton noted the main change to the Motocross Standing Regulations will have the inclusion of the operation of a 15 / 5 second board. Mr Higgins and Mr Herd felt the wording of this change was slightly misleading. The Committee were in agreement to amend this to be written as per the British Championship regulations: A "15 second" sign will be displayed from the moment the riders are in line. The "15 seconds" sign will be displayed for 15 full seconds. At the end of 15 seconds, a "5 seconds" sign will be displayed and the gate will drop between 5 and 10 seconds after the "5 second" sign is shown.

Mr Barton commented that the use of fire extinguishers was just 'advised' in the current handbook, although this will be amended to 'must' for 2008.

**Risk Assessment**

Mr Barton had spent some time reproducing a Risk Assessment form used for Motocross events to propose to the Committee.

Mr Percival commented that Machine Operators should be licensed for them to officiate on a Circuit where minors and vulnerable people were at risk of getting injured. Following lengthy discussions the Committee decided to advise clubs of the HSE requirement for Machine Operators.

The Committee made some comments and amendments they would like to see included on the revised form, other than these the proposal was accepted. Mr Barton will continue to work on the assessment form, which will be included in the Course Guidelines booklet.

Marge said she could not see why minors were mentioned, she had been to a risk assessment seminar at the ACU where Health and Safety at Work Regulations were discussed and had been told only sub contractors needed to come under the regulations and wondered where clubs would stand under the above views with regards to driving tractors etc.

**CHILD PROTECTION :**

Mr Barton gave a report to the Committee regarding a seminar he had attended with Mr Luscombe in Newcastle. The meeting was held with the ISA (Independent Safeguarding Authority). The ISA have put into place, to run alongside the CRB (Criminal Record Bureau) a registration system for checking official's criminal records. The ACU fit into the category of regulated activity due to supervising minors aged 18 years and under. These registrations / checks will be free of charge to any volunteer officials, although for any paid members of staff there will be a fee. Once an individual is registered with the ISA, a registration number will be issued which will remain either until their passing, request of cancellation or they commit a crime that affects their criminal record. These registration numbers may then be used by any future employers. The ACU envisage starting officials with the checks at their next licensing seminar's as each licence is renewed. Due to the Secretary of the meeting holding personal information on minors, they also fall into the same category and would need to be registered with the ISA. Mr Luscombe will be putting a proposal document to the ACU Board of Directors. The Committee enquired about the procedure that will commence if an official fails the check, Mr Barton explained two possible courses of action. The official either has no involvement in the Company all together, or they are employed where they are in no contact with vulnerable people, minors and personal information, providing they are supervised.

Marge said this was a bit of a hobby horse with her because of her business so would not draw things out only to say why was only the Clerk of the Course being singled out. Roger was about to go to a seminar to find out more on the ISA scheme and would report back.

**MARSHALS TRAINING :**

Mr Reeves (National Championship Chief Marshal) had produced a document to be used to train marshals for motocross events. Mr Summers, having read through the document felt that a lot of points were repeated and the paper could be made simpler. The Committee Secretary will circulate the paper to all members via email and will ask all members to make any comments and amendments on the paper so the document can be amended as requested before distribution.

Eddie said he understood the draft was being altered.

**Medical Panel:**

Mr Barton had received some comments about the use of ID tags, having spoken about the matter with the Medical Panel it was confirmed that all riders are expected to wear them while competing. Mr Higgins recommended that all Clubs, Centres and Motocross licence holders receive a newsletter informing them that these must be worn.

Eddie said this had been an unfortunate backfire on the Committee who had referred it to the medical panel hoping they would say ID tags were no longer required.

**SEMINARS :** Eddie and Pete Burton will be running the Clerk of the Course Seminar on January 30<sup>th</sup> and about 15 had intimated they would be attending.

**PERMANENT NUMBER SCHEME** Les passed over the first batch of cheques to be banked.

**THE SPORTING MOTORCYCLIST :** No one was present to give a report.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS :**

Monty asked as Horsham had pulled out as they no longer run events if anyone has any objections to Greenwich still belonging to the Combine. Agreed they were welcome and their contributions were appreciated.

Jim Wood said there somehow had been a mix up with our subs last year, the cheque had not been presented to the bank and despite several times when he queried it no one chased him for any more money.

Ian asked if he would have a steward sent to his events if he applied for a "cheaper insurance" permit direct from Rugby. Eddie said at this time the Centre would not be sending a steward as they would not be covered by the same amount of insurance liabilities.

Yan said that Perry Leask would like to advertise in the Championship programmes and he was asked to contact Andy Wood direct.

Les said there would be 8 expert, 7 junior and 3 sidecar rounds to this year's Centre Championships.

The 2007 awards were being presented at various dinners at the moment.

Marge said she had been reminded by Gary Thompson that we must have the Child Protection point of contact in the supplementary regulations. It was thought this might mean the TSM templates need changing.

Marge asked if anyone wanted any wristbands to contact her ASAP as the order was going off within the week.

**DATE, TIME & PLACE OF NEXT MEETING :** Blindly Heath Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 10.30 pm.