

**MINUTES OF THE SOUTH EASTERN MOTO CROSS COMBINE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2008 AT BLINDLEY HEATH.**

**PRESENT** : 14 Delegates were present representing the following Clubs :- Brighton, Crawley, GEST, Greenwich, Sidcup, Twickenham and YDP Racing. Ken Piles ( Permits Secretary ), Alan Clarke ( Centre Chairman ) and Andy Wood ( TSM ) were also present. Eddie Herd

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** : Apologies were received from Ian Osborne, and Jim Wood with Eddie Heard forewarning the meeting that he would be late.

**CHAIR** : Chris Parish took the Chair.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** : It was proposed Colin Bushell and seconded Monty Lane the minutes of the previous meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January be approved as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES :**

**High Viz Jackets for Crawley and YDP** : Roger apologised and said he would make sure there were done straight away.

**ACU Sound Booklet** : Peter Burton, Roger and Les all owned up to having been sent a copy but none of the other delegates had received anything, it was agreed they must have been sent out to the current holders of a sound technical licence. Agreed that Marge would ask for about half a dozen copies to give out to anyone who wanted one.

**New Grading Scheme** : Les reported he was handling all of the Centre's results and sending them in to Rugby after each meeting he was also still keeping his own records.

**Transponders** : Les and Sue had paid a visit to the Remedies Bar's first meeting where they were using transponders from AMB the Dutch Timing Company. He had penned a report which had been circulated and was totally won over by the system. Marge said that Liz Argent and Carol Reeves had spent time in the timing wagon at the Sidcup Maxxis Round learning about running the system and had been allowed to oversee some of the support races. Alan said he hoped if we did want to go ahead he could ask the centre to pay for it and the Club's then hire it off the Centre. There was a wide ranging discussion from how to supply the power to run the system and whether the Enduro Combine would be able to share it. Roger suggested the Combine buy the software and hardware and Marge said there would be enough funds in the bank for this. He favoured a proposal that the Centre could buy the transponders up front in bulk at a discounted price and then sell them on to the riders. Thought was given to who would look after the equipment between meetings and this may prove difficult, funds would have to be provided to cover their expenses. Marge was instructed to formally write to all Club secretaries asking them to place the matter on the agenda of their next Committee meeting for discussion with a definite agreement to come on board or not, costs at this stage were unknown but it was thought it would not be too pricey but at least £100 per meeting. This was important to get an agreement so that we could go ahead at the next meeting and put the wheels in motion for a start in 2009.

**UMX Style Series** : Not all clubs had discussed this with their Committees so a decision was deferred until the next meeting. Jamie suggested the permanent number scheme can be turned into a registration scheme with an increase to £10 , the extra £5 going into an end of year prize fund. Yan said the UMX is £15 to register and the promoter pay £150 to the series and gets programme covers paid for and no prize money is paid on the day but an end of year prize fund is paid out to aggregate places.

**British Sidecar Cross Championships** : Marge said that Sidcup had experienced problems after agreeing to run a round of this Championship when the ACU would not let clubs run the meeting on an Open Permit insisting they apply for a National from Rugby, this will mean the solos will also run under a National permit and that Clubs must have National C of C's and TTC's. This will also apply to the YDP meeting at Winterpick.

**ISA Scheme** : Marge said she understood this new vetting scheme's implementation had been delayed by the Government until 2009, Roger had attended a seminar and confirmed it would be free of charge to voluntary organisations and at the present time it was not clear whether the C of C will have to apply or it might apply to all licensed officials. He will keep us informed.

**WEBMASTER'S REPORT :** Jamie reported he had put the permanent numbers up online at the beginning of the year and people could see what numbers had gone. During the Winter the hits are at a low 70 per day rising to 120 in June and July but he was pleased this month the average was at 120.

**ACU MATTERS :**

**Moto Cross Committee Minutes :** The following points were discussed from the January and March Meeting minutes :-

**SEMINARS** **National** Mr Barton circulated a detailed summary of the results from the two recent National Seminars held at ACU Head Office. The pass rate from the second seminar appeared to be higher although attendees had been informed that the paper would be more difficult than in previous years, this may have encouraged officials to revise the ACU Handbook further in depth.

**Regional** Mr Barton asked for the Committees comments on getting more trainers on board for running Regional Seminars. Mr Higgins commented that he felt Mr Barton should not be travelling the country to run all the Regional Seminars and he felt it important to run approximately six Seminars in a 'Train the Trainers' type format for the benefit of Regional Officials within Centres. The Chairman also emphasised that those Officials conducting Regional Seminars would have to use the new presentation recently produced and hold a current National Clerk of the Course licence.

Mr Williams commented that the questions at the recent National Seminar had been irrelevant to issues that Officials come across when officiating at Motocross events and that none of the questions had been related to the general running of events. Mr Williams also noted that Mr Beardmore had written the National Sporting Code question paper although Mr Beardmore has nothing to do with Motocross sporting issues.

Mr Barton replied that the National Sporting Code covers all disciplines and that as a National Motocross Official you are expected to know all of the National Sporting Code.

Mr Williams enquired about the time given to answer the National Sporting Code question paper, Mr Barton answered that Mr Nelson had set the time limit and they did feel this was a little tight.

Mr Higgins informed the Committee that the test paper time allowance will be reviewed before the next National Seminars at the end of 2008. Mr Higgins, Mr Barton and Mr Herd will set the test paper with a time limit and inform the Committee Members of the changes prior to November.

**MARSHALS TRAINING** Mr Higgins noted the need to get the Motocross Marshals trained to improve the standards at all levels of Motocross events. The Chairman was anxious this is also incorporated into Centre events. Chris Reeves, Chief Marshal will run a training session at the Hawkstone International event coming up for all Marshals in attendance and this will continue throughout the season. Mr Barton asked the Committee to review the Marshals training guide previously circulated and report back with any comments and amendments.

**CENTRE LEVEL ASSISTANCE FOR EVENTS** How to assist clubs. The Committee are keen to assist clubs in the general running of Motocross events at Centre level. The Chairman requested each Committee member to attend at least two Centre events during the year on a pre-arranged structured basis. Mrs Goggin will coordinate this.

**a) Approved TTC sign offs**

Mr Higgins raised the issue of Track Plans issued and signed off by Officials. The standards of some Track Plans were very poor and this needed to be improved.

Mrs Goggin reported that only National Official licence holders were eligible to inspect tracks although some lower level Officials may have issued some due to the limited number of licensed Officials in some Centres. Mr Higgins was anxious this system be amended immediately; he also wished to make it clear ACU Committee Members will not turn up at an event unannounced.

**TECHNICAL MATTERS : Sound Booklet**

Mr Summers reported back to the Committee the progress of the Sound Level booklet and expressed his thanks to Mr Barton for his assistance.

Mr Higgins requested that the following statement be amended:

Adapted from a paper originally produced from Colin Moram. (First issued 1990) Updated by Andv Summers. FIM Technical official and approved by Dr Paul Kina 2008.

Each Motocross Club will receive one of the books as well as each licensed Technical Official. Mr Summers will run the Technical Seminars as has been the case in the past at ACU Head Office.

After some discussions on the process of acquiring a Technical Officials licence, Mrs Goggin was asked to look into the process of the issuing of such licences solely for Motocross.

**c) Technical Seminars**

Mr Herd noted that results for the Technical Officials Seminar held in early December have still not been published. Mrs Goggin was asked to raise the matter with Miss Haynes the Technical Secretary.

Mr Humphrey noted that as previously decided at Committee meetings the Technical Seminar for Motocross was going to be incorporated into the Motocross Clerk of the Course / Steward Seminars. Mrs Goggin was asked to correspond with the Technical Committee and discuss the possibility of this, although the Chairman expressed his view that this must not detract from the main business of the Seminar.

**a) FIM Class Changes for 2010**

Mr Summers informed the Committee of the following proposed rule changes of the FIM for 2010:

MX1 class will consist of 250cc 2 stroke and 250cc 4 stroke machines.

MX2 class will consist of 125cc 2 stroke machines with a maximum age of 23 years and one defence in your title.

MX3 class will consist of 290cc 2 stroke and 450cc – 650cc 4 stroke machines.

Mr Waterer will take this back to the MCIA and the Committee will receive an update at the next meeting. No decision on ACU events will be made until after the FIM congress in October and then only after full consultation with the MCIA.

**a) Noise Levels at Motocross Events**

Mr Brown enquired about the Sound Level restrictions at Club and Centre level events. Would Clubs benefit from restricting the Sound levels at their events? This will be discussed further at the next Committee meeting.

**TRACK INSPECTIONS**

Centre level track inspections were discussed and the criteria for who can carry out centre track inspections. General consensus from the Committee was that only National official licence holders could issue TTCs although they were aware of the limited numbers of National licensed officials.

Mr Barton noted that some track inspections issued by officials not holding National licenses were of exceptionally good standard and some of very poor standard.

Mr Herd proposed that only National licence holders issue TTCs and if no National licence holders were available the Committee would review the possibility of another official issuing the TTC providing they feel he is adequate.

For 2009 the Committee would like to see this come into place fully and will begin to enforce this through 2008.

The ACU centres will be informed of the criteria for issuing TTCs immediately.

**Sound Control Regulations**

The Committee expressed their concern with machines not complying with the sound regulations and felt the centres need to ensure that post race testing takes place and that the riders are penalised.

It was noted that the Committee would guide the centres on how to control this matter.

Mr Barton was asked to provide a report for the Committee and Mr Waterer on moving centre level sound testing forward.

Mr King had recently emailed Mr Higgins with some points to be discussed by the Committee. One of Mr King's points raised was regarding the use and allowance of mechanical silencers.

Following lengthy discussions with Mr Waterer the Committee were in agreement that if the FIM allowed these then the ACU would be in agreement with this decision.

#### **Technical Test Paper**

As per previous minutes, the Committee would like to see a separate technical test paper for Motocross only. The Committee discussed the matter at length and accepted there would be difficulties in just holding Motocross Technical seminars. Mr Higgins will write to Mr King and circulate copies of any correspondence to the Committee.

#### **a) Role of a Steward / Referee**

Mr Barton informed the Committee of a question raised at the Centre Secretaries and Chairman's meeting about whether a Steward could withdraw a permit if he felt necessary. Mr Barton asked the Committee how they saw the roles of a Steward at an event.

*The Committee noted this question and their concerns. Mr Higgins will converse with Mr Parker regarding this matter and report back to the Committee*

It had always been thought a Steward could pull the plug on a meeting to protect the Insurance Company's interests but Roger said today's insurance has changed and it might not now apply as the Clerk of the Course is deemed the Chief Executive Officer and the responsibility stops with him.

**Centre Stewards at Basic and Basic Plus Meetings :** Roger said their expenses should be claimed off the club unless the club was paying the Centre levy and then the Centre will pay it as per normal.

**PERMANENT NUMBERS :** Les said the scheme had been a little slow of the mark this year but was now up to strength.

**TRAINING :** There was some discussion about the non renewal of the Technical Sound Licences that expired at the end of 2007, it had been thought as there had not been a change in the procedure the licences would be extended. Alan said the centre would agree to extend those licences as there had been no training provided by Rugby to allow new licences to be issued. Marge was instructed to write to Dr. Paul King with a copy to Jim Parker asking permission in light of the above if the Centre can run a seminar.

**THE SPORTING MOTORCYCLIST :** Andy reported major changes had taken place this year to the regulations mostly relating to insurance. There was some discussion about the wording of Basic and Basic Plus Insurance events as opposed to Premium ones as being confusing, Andy felt his latest styling was clearer. He praised Shaun Fowler for submitting MX reports and he reiterated he was always willing to print pre event publicity for clubs. He informed the meeting that John Bramall was thinking of moving but that it would not affect the TSM.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS :** Ken agreed that when he got a copy of an ACU Basic Insurance event for Yan he would forward a price list of the Centre Levy to him so that he could pay it if he so wished. He also was not happy with the ACU's computerised billing system which charged the Emergency Insurance Fund levy on passengers and Social Gatherings – something the Centre has never done. Marge reported on the Combine's Finances and said subs were now due. She also read a short report from Jim Wood on his Committee work with the Sports federation. It was known a new MX Risk Assessment had been prepared but it was unclear whether Ken had been sent a copy to send out with our Centre Permits.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING :** Tuesday July 22<sup>nd</sup>