

## **MINUTES OF THE SOUTH EASTERN MOTO CROSS COMBINE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2008 AT BLINDLEY HEATH**

**PRESENT** : 20 Delegates were present representing the following Clubs :- Brighton, Crawley, GEST, Greenwich, Sidcup, Twickenham and YDP Racing. Also present Alan Clarke ( Chairman SE Centre ) Ken Piles ( Permits Secretary ) and Andy Wood ( TSM ).

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** : Apologies were received from John Bramall.

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

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** : It was proposed by Colin Bushell and seconded by Peter Burton the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> May having been circulated be approved as a true and accurate record. Carried.

### **MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM :**

**High Viz Jackets** : There was some discussion as to whether the system was working or not as it was understood that riders had been deliberately hanging back from the marshal so that they could go as quickly as they liked. It was finally proposed by Jamie Clarke and seconded Colin as we had previously made this a rule it needed amending as it was not working to " optional " instead of compulsory. Carried.

**ACU Sound Booklet** : Marge had now obtained copies and they were distributed to any delegate that wanted one.

**Transponders** : Marge had written to every club secretary after our last meeting asking for replies but GEST, Crawley and YDP had not replied, the others were all affirmative. GEST had spoken about it in principle and had agreed if it was only to be for their Open meeting they had no objections. Ian , speaking on behalf of Crawley members said they felt it was another excuse to be ripped off. Roger Brown circulated a paper with further details assuming the Combine would pay for all the software/hardware ,AMB the suppliers would give us a discount on the whole package which he would like to be used to bring the transponder price down for the rider who buys one early. Prices from AMB are in Euros so will fluctuate with exchange rates but at the moment he had worked out a 20% discount if a transponder was purchased in the 1<sup>st</sup> month of the launch giving a discount of 20%, he envisaged the next month having a 10% discount then 5% and finally the full price. It would be compulsory for riders to have one at a meeting and some would be available to hire on the day if an out of Centre rider did not have one. Mark and Carol Reeves had agreed to look after the equipment and make sure it went to each meeting. Eddie asked everyone in the room if anyone was against the scheme as it was a very big step which would cost us a lot of money. No one objected but Alan said this would also have to be sanctioned by the Centre Board as it would be Centre Funds that would be floating the transponder side of the scheme although eventually it would all be repaid. It was not sure if VAT was involved at either the English or Dutch rate. There would be a 6-8 week delivery and Alan had managed to negotiate half of the fee to be paid up front rather than all of it as originally requested. Les said he was intending to use transponders for the sidecars and Experts at their September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting as most of the riders in those classes had transponders already and he had engaged Euro Moto Sport to let him have their spare timing set as a dummy run. It was agreed the scheme would need a lot of publicity to make sure everyone had a transponder ready for the 2009 season. Agreed we would try and publicise the scheme from now on at every opportunity

like forthcoming programmes, the TSM and if possible T & MX News or the monthly mags, another possibility discussed was a mail merge letter from a data base of event entries.

**UMX Style Series :** Marge explained that Sidcup had discussed the format that was used by the UMX Series and was not happy to drop prize monies and was also worried about refusing entries if there were not any vacancies after all the contracted riders had entered. There was some discussion as to whether the idea was to enhance the SE Centre Championship and if so should a levy be placed on each entry to provide a pot at the end of the year to pay out to the class winners. There was some talk as to whether this could also be tied into the permanent number system but Yan said each rider pays £15 to register and then each club pays £350 a round and they also have some sponsors, Marge thought that worked out to about £5000 which would be quite difficult to generate on top of the normal entry fee. Agreed we needed to sort out just what we are trying to achieve with the Championship first getting a clear idea. Andy said to make it more worthwhile to the Championship winner perhaps they could be offered a free entry the next season and Sten suggested the red plate idea. Agreed to take the free entry idea back to Club's committee and report next meeting.

**Technical Sound Licences :** Marge said that Eddie had instructed her not to contact the ACU about the licences that had not been renewed as previously discussed at our last meeting because he had been assured they would be sent, sadly this has not happened and Eddie will chase it up again but in the meantime we will honour anyone whose sound licence has expired as there has been no change in the system of measuring.

**WEBMASTER'S REPORT :** Jamie apologised and said there had been a problem obtaining the statistics today from our server so he could not give a report, but added that he had been posting the permanent umbers and championship positions regularly as Les had given him.

#### **ACU MATTERS :**

#### **Moto Cross Committee Minutes :**

**CENTRE LEVEL ASSISTANCE FOR EVENTS** As per the previous Committee meeting, Mrs Goggin had arranged for the following members to attend some ACU Centre level event. e) Mr Warren – Gest Hastings MC 8<sup>th</sup> June. Mrs Goggin was asked to inform the organiser's of the member's attendance.

Mrs Goggin circulated charts including figures for centre level motocross permits issued from 2003 – 2007 and the motocross licence holders from 2001 – 2007. Mr Higgins expressed his concerns with the numbers going down in recent years. The Committee agreed this matter needed to be addressed in a separate meeting. The Secretary was asked to arrange a date for some of the members to hold a 'centre level assistance' meeting at ACU House. Following the meeting Mrs Goggin confirmed the meeting will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

Chris Parish reported that Chris Warren had visited their Open meeting and have given a good report adding that they could probably teach other clubs how to do things, he had asked if they had any problems to pass on to the MX Committee It was noted the MX Committee were at last going to assist clubs at grass roots level but Marge said she had not seen any minutes from the meeting so did not know what was discussed.

Mr Barton expressed his concern that the test paper for the National seminar included too many questions on the Maxxis ACU British Motocross Championship and proposed that more information be included on the MMX and BYMX Championships and a separate seminar could be run for those that may be officiating at the Maxxis Championship. Mr Herd enquired whether the Maxxis Championship Officials seminar would be run alongside the other National Seminar and Mr Higgins showed his eagerness to ensure that officials appointed to the Maxxis Championship are fully aware of the Championship Conditions although we would not ask officials to travel to Rugby twice. The Committee will discuss this matter further before a decision is made. Mr Barton explained that officials taking out a National licence must hold a regional licence prior to taking the seminar, but a problem occurs when they then renew their National licence in three years and do not have to renew the regional licence. This causes problems where the regional seminars pay attention to the course guidelines booklet as opposed to the National seminar not including the course guidelines at all. Mr Barton expressed his eagerness to make more time available at the National seminar to ensure that all points are covered, including the course guidelines. This was agreed by the Committee.

There was much discussion as to the way the contents of various seminars seemed to be going. It was felt by most delegates that it was good practice to obtain a National Clerk of the Course Licence even if a Club did not wish to run a Maxxis or a MMX British Championship Round, the extra commitment enhanced their Club's meetings. The worrying thing here seemed to be a suggestion that Clerks of the Course would have to undertake Regional Seminars as well as National Seminars, similar to what has happened recently following the Whitby saga and FIM licences.

a) **Lack of Volunteers**

Mrs Goggin reported that the basic / basic plus permit applications are not always received 6 weeks prior to the events which had caused problems with the office appointing stewards. The Secretary had found that a lot of officials were not willing to travel to be a steward. Mr Herd enquired about the insurance cover for officials at basic / basic plus permitted events. Mr Thompson confirmed that the cover for officials is the same as premium insurance permitted events. The committee noted that any centre that wishes to recommend the steward for a basic / basic plus event should notify the Motocross Department

a) **National Motocross Official Licence Holders**

Mrs Goggin and Mr Higgins will be looking into the licence holders that are not currently using their National licenses and will review this matter further over the next year.

The same points applied as previously discussed and Marge quoted the fact that Colin was their Chief Marshal at their Maxxis meeting and he brought to that job his experience gained from having a National Clerk of the Course Licence, she also added Sidcup used their experienced officials in other disciplines. Eddie said it was not aimed at people like Colin but Marge said he could well be penalised if they decided to withdraw his licence.

b) **Track Inspectors**

The Committee previously discussed the criteria for officials to carry out track inspections and agreed that only National Licensed Officials would be permitted to issue them from 2009. Although they also felt that some training would be a benefit to these licence holders. It was agreed that track inspection training could not be held in an office and would have to be done at a track for example. Mr Humphrey noted that this would only be available for chosen officials and could possibly be incorporated into a National Seminar, at a local circuit preferably on the Saturday afternoon prior to the seminar. For anyone that wishes to carry out TTC's in 2009 that do not hold a valid National licence, they would need to attend the two-day training including National seminar at the end of 2009. Mrs Goggin and Mr Higgins will look at the budgets to see if this will be feasible.

**MX 08 - 53**      **TECHNICAL MATTERS**

**Quiet Pipes Register**

A proposal had been received from Mr Luscombe regarding the manufacturers' quiet pipes being produced at present. The proposal was to create a register of quiet pipes endorsed by the ACU available to all riders purchasing machines.

**The Committee discussed the proposal and agree it is a good idea in principle and the Committee will discuss further the possibility of the list along with the Technical Panel.**

**Sound : The Committee noted that as of 2009 the RPM for testing machines over 145cc up to 155cc would be 6000rpm.**

#### **MEDICAL MATTERS :**

**An email received from Mr McCauley was briefly discussed at the previous Committee meeting with regards to the medical requirements at centre level events. Mr McCauley was proposing that for events where 110 – 120 riders were in attendance, only one ambulance is required rather than for 99 or less riders. The Committee were in agreement that if only one ambulance was in use, the event would have to be stopped immediately. For safety reasons the Committee felt the proposal would have to be declined at the present time although they felt the issue should be discussed further in more depth at the Centre Assistance meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Mrs Goggin will respond to Mr McCauley to explain the outcome. Action: Mrs Goggin . Mr Humphrey enquired about the possibility of including a medical centre into the ACU rules, whereby the minimum requirement be one ambulance and one medical centre for up to 150 riders at an event. The Committee will discuss this further.**

**MX Committee Nominations :** Marge said she had not received notification yet from the ACU but expected them during the holidays and asked Clubs to think about any nominations they would like to make and she would Round Robin them later. Sue said she thought the Sidecar Association had been contacted by the ACU, Eddie said he would check with the Office. Jamie asked what will be happening to all the BYMC members who had only been co opted onto the Committee and not voted on, Eddie replied they had been appointed.

**PERMANENT NUMBER SCHEME :** Les reported it was still going well. Marge said she had just been a Secretary of the Meeting for a Centre event , something she had not done since the scheme was introduced and said she had found it inconvenient to administer but had set up a computerised list with the permanent numbers on it and managed to acknowledge them as they came in but was glad when the 14<sup>th</sup> had come so that she could reply to the rest of the entries, she was surprised how many had numbers but had also requested different ones for her meeting.

**SAFETY OF MARSHALS :** Les had been asked to bring this matter up saying some marshal posts had no protection at tracks and were just behind tape making the marshal feel venerable. There was much discussion and worry that putting things in writing might prejudice future court cases, Sue appealed to clubs to look after all marshal's interests. Colin said each track was different and he would not like us to be prescriptive and urged all Clubs to go back and review the situation at their own tracks.

**THE SPORTING MOTORCYCLIST :** Andy said he had been getting good reports recently from Shaun Fowler and welcomed any other information from Clubs.

**FINANCE :** Marge said subs were due from GEST, YDP and Crawley.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS :** Dave asked why someone, who was not even in this country, had appeared several times this year as an official in a programme. Les held his hand up and apologised and said it was most likely information that had been copied from an old programme. Jim Wood had attended a Federation Meeting and was concerned to hear that Motor Sport had again not been listed as a recognised sport. Roger would take it up with Rugby. There was some discussion as

to whether all sports funding was being directed towards the Olympics. Andy said the next round of the SE MX Championships to be run by Yan had missed the TSM deadline for regulations to be printed although he would be able to put an advert in. There was some discussions as to whether an advert would suffice as it was a championship round and the Centre Trials Championship was in disarray at the moment because of an appeal similar to this where regs were not printed. However it was thought the date had been well publicised in the TSM and all Championship programmes so riders will have noted it in their diaries. A vote was taken and passed with 2 abstentions. Agreed to publicise the regs on the website. Ian said he would like to thank Les, Alan and Jamie for the work they had done previously which allowed a very successful meeting to be run at Ringmer. Les asked what the position was regarding photographers at meetings, Marge said they were not covered on the ACU's insurance even if they signed the disclaimer and that they should produce their own Public Liability Insurance if they wanted to go trackside. He said Twickenham would not allow them to go trackside at Rusper and Marge said our sport seemed to be attracting quite a lot of keen amateur photographers at the moment.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING :** Agreed this would be as soon as we know the dates from the ACU and would not be a Tuesday.