

**MINUTES OF THE SOUTH EASTERN MOTO CROSS COMBINE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2008 AT BLINDLEY HEATH**

**PRESENT** : 12 Delegates were present representing the following clubs :- Brighton, GEST, Greenwich, Sidcup & Twickenham. Alan Clarke ( Centre Chairman ), Ken Piles ( Permits Secretary ) and Andy Wood ( TSM ).

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** : Apologies were received from Roger & Roslyn Brown and Kevin McDavitt ( Brighton ), Peter Burton ( Sidcup ) , Yan Dixon ( YDP & Crawley ) and Jim Wood (Sport Federation London rep. )

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

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** : It was proposed Colin Bushell & seconded Chris Parish that the minutes that had been circulated be accepted as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2008. Carried.

**DATES** : Eddie said that as there were no date clashes from those that had applied we would take the list as read. Marge said she was not sure what Yan intended to do next season and had been unable to make contact with him as he was in America. It was agreed that clubs must reply to Les by 31<sup>st</sup> December with their choices for Centre Championship rounds.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES :**

**Transponders** : Eddie informed the meeting the Centre Board had given the go ahead for Centre funds to be used to purchase the riders transponders up front with repayment coming from sold transponders. Marge said that Les had done some costings for the whole system and it works out a bit more expensive than first thought and she was worried the Combine would not have enough funds to cover their part of the order. There was some discussion that some minor savings could be made depending on where the items were purchased and perhaps on the pick up loops. Alan said the Centre would not see the idea stopped for the lack of a small shortfall and he felt sure the Centre's Treasurer would be able to make it up. It was proposed Alan and seconded Monty that we order 200 individual transponders with 2 extra cases for hiring out on the day. Agreed to push the PR side of things in the TSM and a Press Release for T & MX News. There was some discussion on fixing the price for the day hiring in the end £20 was agreed as it was important to not make it too attractive or else riders would not buy their own relying on hiring all the time. We would ask RB how Euro Motorsport runs their system and whether they keep hold of licences as a deposit, care would have to be taken if a rider also purchased a day licence as he had no need to come back and pick it up. There was some discussion as to having something in the Centre Rules to say transponders would be compulsory at Centre meetings, Marge said she thought it should also be in the supplementary regs as riders do not see the Centre rules and could be unaware of the new idea, a box would also be needed to go on the entry form in which the rider would put his transponder number, although he might well have purchased one from us there will be a number of riders already pre owning a transponder and the Secretary of the meeting will need the information so that it can be input into our database.

**UMX Style Series** : The idea seems to have died a death now.

**Technical Sound Licences** : It was understood the Sound Inspectors who's licence expired last year had received new 2009 licences with it reinstated.

**Safety of Marshals** : Correspondence was read regarding an incident that happened at a Ringmer event earlier in the year. After some discussion it was agreed the Secretary would write to all clubs reminding them that safety was important and risk assessments must be re visited at each meeting with a fresh pair of eyes taking into account the whole site be it the actual track or adjacent areas to see if anything poses a risk to anyone whether they are officials, riders or spectators alike. Copy to be sent to Jim Connor. Eddie said all tracks will be subject to an annual track inspection on site before a new TTC is issued.

**WEBMASTER'S REPORT** : Jamie reported things were a bit quiet at the moment with no meetings going on. He had posted the end of season tables up.

**A.C.U. MATTERS :-**  
**ACU Moto Cross Committee Minutes:-**

**Extracts from the Fourth Meeting ( August ) :-**

**Protest / Appeal Procedure**

Mr Humphrey expressed his concerns with the wording for the procedure for protests and appeals in the National Sporting Code and felt that this item could be clarified to ensure it is fully understood. The Committee were in agreement that the current ruling does not make it clear that all issues need to be dealt with as a protest to the Clerk of the Course with the relevant monies before any decision of the Clerk of the Course can be heard as an Appeal by the Stewards of the Meeting.

The Committee noted that any change would need to be agreed by the ACU National Council but Mr Barton would ensure that all officials are well educated on this matter at any training seminars.

**CENTRE LEVEL ASSISTANCE FOR EVENTS**

Mr Higgins welcomed Mr & Mrs Edwards, Mr Ashford and Mr Griffith to the meeting and gave a brief report about the assistance the Committee are trying to provide for centre level motocross events. The Committee discussed a proposal to be made to the Board of Directors to encourage riders to affiliate with the ACU. The proposal is to have a reduced licence fee of £25.00 for all first time ACU motocross licence applicants. Mr Higgins will circulate the proposal to the Committee for approval before submitting to the Board of Directors.

Mrs Edwards enquired about the licence fee being reduced by £10.00 in August as this has not been in place for 2007 / 2008. The Committee were in agreement that this is an advantage for Centre level events and would propose that this is reintroduced for 2009. The Committee will add this to the above proposal to be submitted to the ACU Board of Directors.

The Committee discussed marshal training at centre level to assist the clubs in getting marshals at events and the possibility of Mr Barton training marshals while instructing official's seminars. Mr Higgins will investigate the matter further and look at budgets etc.

Mr Higgins asked what other matters the Committee could help the Organiser's with for the Remedies Bar series in 2009 and Mrs Edwards explained their biggest problem at the moment is getting sponsors on board. Mr Higgins explained that assistance could be provided by producing a sponsorship guide for all centre level motocross events.

**Track Inspections**

Mr Barton noted the previous acknowledgement that track inspectors should be trained to issue TTC's and explained that a track inspector's seminar will be held on the Saturday afternoon prior to the National Motocross Officials seminar later in the year.

**MXRGS (MOTOCROSS RIDER GRADING SCHEME)**

Mr Brown gave a presentation on the website produced to record motocross grading points. This can only be viewed by the ACU Head Office at present although it is envisaged that once the system is fully up and running, centre secretaries and club secretaries will be able to add results from their events and check a rider's licence status.

The following changes to the handbook were approved by the Committee to accommodate the new rider grading scheme:

*Current rule:*

*8. iii) Upgrading will be enacted on 1 July and 1 January of each year unless riders have already applied to the ACU.*

*For 2009:*

*8. iii) Upgrading will be enacted on the 1st January of each year unless riders have already applied to the ACU.*

*Current rule:*

*9. An expert rider who has not gained 1 point on his licence card in the previous two calendar years may be downgraded (subject to Centre Recorder confirmation). Future upgrading will be in accordance with Rule No.4 above.*

*For 2009:*

*9. An expert rider who has not gained 1 point on his licence card in the previous two years since scoring his previous point may be downgraded (subject to Centre Recorder confirmation). Future upgrading will be in accordance with Rule No.4 above.*

*For 2009:*

**13. The secretary of the meeting must forward results of the top four riders in any junior finals or expert races to the ACU office for any open or higher status events. These must include the rider's names, licence number and home town**

Mr Higgins expressed his concern with event secretaries not sending in results. To alleviate this problem the ACU office staff would need to chase these on a regular basis.

The Committee discussed the recording of points scored from restricted events for expert status, as the current ACU ruling does not allow riders to score expert points at restricted events. Members were in agreement to leave the rule unchanged at present and discuss the matter further in the future.

A list of current expert motocross licence holders is to be added to the ACU website and updated weekly.

#### TECHNICAL MATTERS

a) Quiet Pipes Register

Following the last meeting Mr Barton had liaised with Mr Luscombe and the ACU Technical Panel on the matter although the panel did not agree with the proposal. Dr King felt that the ACU could not create a register without checking each of the silencers on a machine. Mr Barton explained that the proposal is to create a list of silencers that claim they can reduce the sound levels and that this would be stipulated on the list. If it were then brought to the attention of the ACU that a silencer on the list was not up to the expected standards then it would be taken off of the register.

Mr Barton was asked to speak to Mr Luscombe further to rewrite the proposal.

#### **Proposed Silencer Rule**

The following proposal had previously been circulated to members for approval:

*Should a machine's silencer be lost or damaged in such a way that the entire baffling has been lost during a race, a board displaying the word 'NOISE' along with their riding number, shall be shown to the rider in question at the finish line. Once passing the board, the rider has two laps in which to enter the work area and effect repairs. I.e. the rider may only pass the board on two occasions. If the rider fails to enter the work area during that time they will be shown the Black Flag and disqualified from the race in question. Under these circumstances no Sound Test shall be undertaken.*

The Chairman commented that it was important to remove extremely noisy machines from race tracks when silencers fell off or become defective during a race.

All members in attendance accepted this proposal which will be incorporated into the ACU Handbook and Championship regulations.

#### **Extracts from the Fifth Meeting ( October ) :-**

#### ACU HANDBOOK STANDING REGULATIONS

Mrs Goggin received the following suggestions from the Committee for amendments to the 2009 Handbook.

a) Section 3 Classes

Mr Humphrey requested the inclusion of the sidecar and adult Quad classes into this section.

a) Parent Responsibility at Events

The Committee agreed to include the following additional items under Section 10 General

It is a parent's responsibility to ensure children stay within confines of event site.

The following sentence will also be included:

It is the responsibility of parent's to ensure children obey all instructions issued by the Organiser.

b) Circuit Access

The Committee agreed to include the following additional items under Section 10 General

Circuit Access - Strictly no personnel, other than signed on official's are permitted on track while machinery is in operation.

c) Riding in the Paddock

Mr Herd proposed to remove the rule that determines riding in the paddock is prohibited, due to the rule not being policed.

Following discussions the Committee felt they could not remove this rule but would endeavour to ensure all Clerk of the Course's are well educated to severely penalise rider's caught defying this rule.

e) Starters Orders

*1. Riders are deemed to be under starters order when the first rider is called to the start line. Signified by the raising of a green flag.*

The Committee agreed to include the last line to the above ruling.

All members agreed to amend the following rule:

*Any rider failing to be ready to start within two minutes of the first rider reaching the start line or who causes a start to be unnecessarily delayed in the opinion of the starter and/or the Clerk of the Course may be disqualified.*

f) Protest / Appeal Procedure

The Committee discussed the revised proposal from Mr Parker regarding this item.

The Committee noted that any procedure goes to the Clerk of the Course first. They also noted they felt the word 'disciplinary' should be removed from the revised proposal, as ALL protests should be directed to the Clerk of the Course.

COURSE SAFETY GUIDELINES BOOKLET

a) Crowd Control Barriers

Mr Humphrey proposed that all barriers are fixed with metal clamps / zip ties (minimum size of 6mm) to prevent people opening or passing through. This will be included in the booklet for 2009.

Mr Humphrey also expressed his concerns where crowd control barriers are used as safety fencing. Riders and spectators could be seriously injured if a machine were to crash into such barriers.

Steel crowd control barriers should to be used strictly for crowd control and Risk Assessed if used as a course / spectator divide.

BRITISH YOUTH MOTOCROSS CHAMPIONSHIP

An adult championship class will be included for junior motocross licence holders and suitable support classes will be included where possible.

a) 150cc 4 Stroke Machines

Mr Herd noted the FIM's decision to exclude 150cc 4 stroke machines in the 85cc class from 2010. The secretary was asked to correspond with Mr Waterer regarding the matter before further discussions take place at the next meeting.

b) Temporary Track Certificates

Mr Higgins and Mr Barton had been discussing the issuing of TTC's for motocross tracks and said they felt the need to have a small group of selected personnel to inspect all tracks for TTC's. The Committee agreed and decided that Mr Barton would conduct a seminar to these personnel and all Committee members to ensure all TTC's are consistent and of the required quality.

Mr Barton was asked to report back to the Committee with a list of experienced officials he envisaged being part of this group.

*Action: Mr Barton*

This item will be discussed further at the next meeting after reviewing the budgets for 2009 to ensure the costs incurred for track inspections can be covered.

Centre Secretaries will then be written to and requested to forward any applications for inspections to the ACU Motocross Department. It was noted that a fee for expenses would definitely be charged for late inspections.

**ACU MX Committee visits :** There had been none since the GEST one in our Centre.  
**MX Committee Elections :** Chris Warren and Dave Williams have been re elected.

**PERMANENT NUMBER SCHEME :** Les proposed an increase to £10 but after some discussion it was felt with the additional costs of having to buy a transponder this year perhaps it would be more prudent to delay the increase for a year.

**Proposal from Twickenham** *“that the rules of the Centre Championships to be updated to reflect the modern era. I.e. dates list as published in TSM to be sufficient notice of meetings. Also that we allow some reserve dates ( providing they are in that original list ) in case of cancellation beyond the club’s control i.e. weather “* seconded by Chris Parish. Carried.

**THE SPORTING MOTORCYCLIST :** Andy said the TSM ‘s price would be increased in the new year.

**FINANCE REPORT :** Marge gave a report on our finances , Crawley & YDP have yet to pay their subs but Brighton and Crawley have paid their 2009 subs already.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS :** Marge asked Clubs that required wristbands for next year to put their orders in ASAP. Monty said unfortunately Riverside had lost their appeal and it now looked as if they would definitely have to close. Les asked if we would be funding the Centre Swords down to 6<sup>th</sup> place and Marge said finances would be tight but it was agreed to go ahead. Andy asked if we wanted a championship cover again and Alan said Watling Tyres would like to advertise next year. Ken said that YDP & Crawley have been running under a permit from Rugby to take advantage of the Basic Insurance and as such have not contributed any funds to the Centre. It was agreed a form should be devised and sent to those clubs so that Ken could send them an invoice to contribute to Centre costs. Colin asked if anyone was going to the National Clerk of the Course seminar at Rugby so he could share the ride but no one was due to go. It was thought insurance premiums would only rise 5% next year.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed with the date of the next meeting being fixed as Thursday January 8<sup>th</sup> ( AGM ).