

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH EASTERN MOTO CROSS COMBINE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2009 AT BLINDLEY HEATH

PRESENT : 19 Delegates were present representing the following Clubs : Brighton : GEST : Sidcup : Greenwich : Twickenham , Eddie Bellars (ACU Insurance Director) : Andy Wood (TSM) and Eddie Herd.

CHAIR : Eddie Herd took the Chair.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE : Apologies were received from Alan Clarke, Yan Dixon, Ian Osbourne and Ken Piles.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING : It was proposed by Monty Lane and seconded Jamie Clarke that the minutes that had been previously circulated of the last meeting held on 6th May be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings. Carried.

MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM :

Official's Giving Assistance : Eddie had been given assurances from the MX Committee that the rules about giving assistance to fallen riders would remain unchanged despite the FIM changing theirs.

Track Inspections : All delegates confirmed their tracks had been inspected and issued with new TTC's except for the GEST track at Westfield which was not being used at the moment but it was hoped this would be needed in the Spring.

Centre Levy Invoicing Form : Roger had designed this and had been sending them out and Les confirmed Twickenham had used it. Roger intimated that he thought the income derived from all Centre levies needing reviewing. The new Basic Insurance would now have some sort of fee (thought to be £50) incorporated in the £650 cost that would be returned to the Centres to replace lost revenues from permits no longer issued by Centres.

Championship Rule Changes : It was agreed (to be ratified at the AGM) that the points system for Centre Championship rounds from next year would go down to 20th place as follows :- 25 : 22 : 20 : 18 : 16 : 15 : 14 : 13 : 12 : etc etc down to 1. Agreed also that the rules in general would need to be updated at the AGM and delegates were urged to go away and have a think about any changes needed and submit them to the Secretary before the AGM in January. Agreed to previously put the points change up on the website and then when approved publish it officially in the TSM as well. There was some talk about how the Maxxis and above rules about finishers were interpreted. At the moment it is possible in their events to have crashed on the last lap and be taken away in the ambulance but, if their lead had been enough, be placed as a finisher in front of someone who actually passed the finish flag. In our rules we have a statement that states to be declared a finisher, a rider must finish his race within 5 minutes of the race leader i.e. he takes the chequered flag within 5 minutes of the leader doing it. Agreed to have a think about this for discussion at the AGM.

DATES : Marge apologised to the meeting to say that ACU Events had still to announce the Maxxis venues for 2010 and until such time as Sidcup knew when they would be running it would not be possible for them to complete their annual MX dates save a round in October. It was agreed to go ahead with the other dates that had been applied for from the other clubs and Sidcup would, via e mail let everyone know their dates as soon as they had some definite news from ACU Events. Les said that YDP would like 2 and Crawley 3 , although 1 of those from each Club would be allocated as UMX rounds. Sidcup anticipated they would also run a British Sidecarcross round at one of their meetings. Eddie asked delegates to come back to the AGM with their Club's wishes for Centre Championship rounds. It was hoped there would be 11 rounds in all.

WEBMASTER'S REPORT : Jamie had put links to My Laps for each round of the Championship and Les had kept him up to date with the Championship Standings which he had posted up. During the season the website tends to have a lot of hits which tails off this time of year. Jamie confirmed the permanent number scheme details were on the website and also a form to fill in to buy a new transponder. Les asked if we could jazz the website up a bit with perhaps a forum as everyone talks about the MX Trax one, Jamie felt this possibly would not take off as that is where the majority of MX'ers go to chat on line. He could try and

create some interest by posting up the list of riders before each meeting as Liz had the names and numbers from the Secretary of the Meeting electronically for input into the transponder system and she could send a file to Jamie for the Website. Jamie said this was very popular with the enduro people. Roger asked what had happened to the Clare McDavitt logo, Jamie agreed it had been good and needed taking up, he will contact Clare again.

TRANSPONDERS :

How did it go ? : Marge and Liz gave a brief resume of the problems they had encountered and got over and said on the whole it had gone really well with very little help from the professionals. Jamie asked for a vote of thanks to be recorded for the efforts of the team of Liz, Carol and Marge.

Finances : Roger said that £6950 had been taken in hire fees against a cost of the 2 boxes of £14,000, so roughly half the monies had been recovered in the first year, and in total from the £56k that had been advanced to buy the system from Centre Funds only just under £18k was outstanding with a stock in hand of some 20 odd transponders. Agreed to try and have another push to sell the stock that was left for the new 2010 season. Oscar said that GEST had found the £20 a head to hire the transponder too much for their local riders to bear and as a result their open to centre meeting lost money because of a lack of entries. There was some discussion about reducing the fee to £10 for bonafide GEST members and including it in their entry fee rather like Sidcup did this year for the NGR series riders. There was also some discussion as to whether we should or should not reduce the fee in general to £10 and Roger proposed we discuss this again at the next meeting before we make a definitive ruling. Les asked if the missing details could be included on the header sheets which are also seen on My Laps like the course distance etc. Marge asked if we could upload the Championship results on the day, as this year Les has checked for late entries etc before putting it on our website but there was a provision on the My Laps site and it might generate a bit more interest. Agreed as we can always edit the results if an error is found. Agreed that we should be putting the published result time and signing it on the results displayed on the day in line with the NSC in case of protests.

ACU MATTERS :

3 sets of Committee Minutes were available for discussion :

From 13th May 2009

MX09 - 007-5 MMA (Motorcycle Marshals Association). Mr Higgins gave an update on the MMA and the planned training days. Mr Barton will be conducting a small training session on the Saturday afternoon prior to an event at Torrington, which Centre Chief marshals will be encouraged to attend. Mr Williams felt that Motocross should conduct its own training and accept any helpful input from the MMA. Mr Williams also asked if the proposed training at Maxxis events was going to take place as it hadn't at Brampton. Mr Higgins replied that the training needs to be expanded outside of the Maxxis events. Mr Williams felt it would be difficult to get Centre level people to attend a training event at the Hawkstone round of the Championship. Mr Percival felt that Rachel Nickerson may be used more as she had shown that she can do a good job at recent BYMX events. Mr Higgins confirmed that Miss Nickerson had conducted a good, professional briefing, at the last BYMX round at Leuchars. Mr Barton felt that this training needs to be taken to centre level where volunteer marshals are used on a day to day basis and not just at Championship level. Mr Higgins would discuss further with Mr Luscombe to ensure the training reaches down to regional and centre level.

Action: Mr Higgins

Colin Bushell – Sidcup's Chief Marshal said he had not been contacted by anyone and the rest of the delegates agreed. The Secretary was instructed to write to the MX Committee and ask what had been done.

a) Technical Inspection and Declaration
Mr Barton explained the correspondence from Mr D Brown regarding the technical inspection at events. With regard to riders signing on to state that their machine complies with the regulations, it was evident that the Technical department had not sent out the new directive regarding the check for compliance with regulations rather than a full safety check. The Committee agreed that the check for compliance with the regulations needs to be carried out at all events and it would be good for the Chief Technical Officer to carry out cursory checks at the entrance to the circuit. Mr Barton would press the Technical Department to circulate a directive to licence holders.

The delegates in the room who had Technical Licences said that knew nothing of this and the Secretary was instructed to write to the MX Committee pointing out they had not been informed of any changes.

The role of the Emergency Services – First Aid

Mr Barton explained about two recent incidents where the need for the use of an air ambulance resulted in the attendance of the Police who proceeded to carry out full inspections and investigations. It was felt that each club should have access to a written statement explaining the issue of a permit and the exemption from Articles 1, 2 and 3 of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

Eddie Bellars said there had been some confusion regarding over zealous police officers at a meeting and that the ACU was a licensed body to issue official permits for events. Marge said following their recent incident at Canada Heights she had been contacted by a police officer who needed details for the Coroner's Court and he has asked to be included on the serious accident checklist in future.

TRAINING

Clerk of the Course Seminar – Practical Test -Mr Percival feels that National seminars should involve some kind of practical training rather than just the ability to pass a test in a classroom environment. It was felt that new National Clerks of the Course would need to work with and be assessed by an existing Official. Mr Barton will draft a proposal for July. Mr Higgins felt that a scenario for a Protest and Appeal should be incorporated in the seminar Action: Mr Barton

b) Mr Humphrey suggested that as we work through a National seminar it may be a good idea to give everybody interim test papers

c) Mr Roy Collins had proposed that for the future the generic part of a seminar be conducted for all disciplines at one time followed by separate discipline seminars. The committee felt that the Motocross training was now better than it has ever been and is working well without any changes being needed. The Committee stated that the Steward needs at least the same amount of knowledge as the Clerk of the Course especially should a Protest be followed up by an Appeal to the Stewards. Action: Mr Barton & Mr Higgins

From the meeting on 15th July 2009

TECHNICAL : Discussions were held regarding the system for scrutineering that had changed about two years ago but not all of the Technical Officials were aware of the new system due to Officials licences being valid for a period of three years. Mr Barton has requested on numerous occasions for the Technical Panel to issue a directive to all licence holders. It became apparent at the recent Maxxis event at Hawkstone Park that the International Technical Officials do not attend National Seminars and therefore are also not aware of the new system. Mr Barton will try again to get a directive issued by Dr King, Chairman of the Technical Panel.

Temporary Track Certificate Practice allowance:

A letter had been received from Mr Les Batten of the South Eastern Centre with regard to the number of riders allowed to practice, considering that they were using electronic timing to determine Junior groups. It was felt that 150% was acceptable if a cap of 60 was enforced. If clubs felt that this was too many they can still choose to run with sessions of 40.

Les wanted it noted that it was not himself personally but the Twickenham Club which had asked for this matter to be brought up. There was some discussion to make it a Centre Rule but Sidcup did not agree saying they had always had 150% of the track certificate out on the track for practise but now practise was being timed some riders felt threatened. They had discussed this at Committee following a trial at their last meeting but it would necessitate trimming times of the actual racing to fit everything in the programme.

Day Licences:

The Secretariat had carried out some checks on day licence returns and notified clubs of some deficiencies. The importance of checking and issuing licences was expressed.

Mr Higgins will liaise with the Licensing Department over returns procedure.

Marge reminded everyone the yellow copies of the licence had to be sent in to the ACU after an event.

Temporary Course Inspections:

Following discussions with the Board of Directors it was agreed that alterations can be made to a circuit if signed off by the ACU or Centre Steward. If no Steward was in attendance this may be carried out by the Clerk of the Course. The amendment must be signed and dated. An amendment to the current TCC sheet will be designed and circulated. The TCC sheets will be amended to include the number of assistants to the Clerk of the Course that will be required as well as where red flag cover will be around the circuit. It was also noted that the TTC should be countersigned and dated at each event by the appointed Steward confirming that the TTC is being complied with.

No one had heard about the changes and the present style TTC does not have anywhere for a steward to sign. The Secretary was instructed to write to the MX Committee pointing out we had not been informed of any changes.

From the minutes of the 30th September Meeting :-

TECHNICAL :New Sound Test Method.It was noted, on an e-mail from Andy Summers, the method for sound testing which will be adopted at FIM GP level for 2010 and general FIM events from 2011.It was felt that it would be an advantage to recommend to ACUE to adopt the new method for sound testing at Maxxis Championship events in 2010 however; a report from the MCI via Mr Tom Waterer would be taken into account before any further decision would be made.

Action: Mr T Waterer

Eddie said the new method would be brought in alongside the old one at the Maxxis this year as the new system could only be used on new bikes, so older bikes would be tested the traditional way.

ACU HANDBOOK / COURSE GUIDELINE BOOKLET

The following will be included in the 2010 ACU Handbook:

Whilst dogs are not discouraged from attending Off Road Motorcycle Sport events, they are to be kept on a lead and under control at all times. Owners are responsible for ensuring their dog is kept under control and are responsible for clearing up any fouling that may occur, except at venues where dogs are banned from attending

Section 6 No 8 to be amended to read: "All Quad machines must be fitted with a rear number plate of a minimum size of 150mm x 150mm mounted behind the rider on the rear grab bar, and be in line with the machine reading left to right on both sides. The mounting bracket must not be higher than 150mm. Heights of the number 100mm. Width of the number 80mm, width of stroke 25mm and space between two numbers 15mm".

SR 9.13 Title amendment to Outside Assistance and Signalling.

The following will be included in the 2010 Course Guideline Booklet

No 16 Other methods of protection – Amend last sentence to "If used barriers must be connected by the use of either scaffold clamps or cable ties".

There will be an additional paragraph included under No 15 opposing traffic to allow for method D roping at 6 metres

.Under no 17 Signal / Working Area a rule will be added to accommodate when no area is available.

Marge stressed these were new guidelines for the blue safety book.

Insurance Rates : Eddie Bellars distributed the new matrix of insurance fees due for 2010 and stressed that either events in or riders from the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man will not receive reciprocal NHS arrangements that had been enjoyed so far. Eddie gave an in depth analysis of the differences between the basic insurance and the premier cover provided by the ACU policy. Les queried the basic's cover of £10million per claim having been advised earlier that every claim would be covered up to a limit of £10m. Eddie said it would be £10m per incident, so for example if a rider goes into the crowd and 8 people get injured the claim of £10m would cover the whole incident not each individual claim. If there was another accident at the same meeting but was not connected that would be covered by it's own £10m

limit. Eddie said he would check and confirm his interpretation of the rules. Oscar said there would be no personal accident cover for the rider on the basic cover, so if he died or was maimed there would be no pay out. The official's cover remained the same as the premier cover. Marge asked if Lockton's would be able to sell a top up policy to Sidcup on their Canada Heights/Club policy that would cover the difference rather than keeping taking out the premier insurance, Eddie thought this could be done and advised Sidcup to ask Lockton's.

Training : Several Club's needed both a technical and clerk of the course seminar in the very near future as licences were due to run out at the end of the year. The Secretary was instructed to write to the ACU and see what was happening now that RB had left the office. Eddie was willing to run the clerk of the course one on an evening at Blindley Heath and he thought if Andy Summers did the technical it would have to be on a Saturday. Agreed to see if we could combine the technical with the enduro side of things. Peter Burton asked if we could have the choice to renew a National Licence at the technical seminar as the paper was the same. Eddie felt that at some time Sound licences would have to be reviewed because of the new method of testing.

Handbook Changes : Marge apologised for not bringing the changes that had been approved at the recent national council meeting but from memory they were minor changes except for proper clarification of the duties of a Race Director.

Noise : Eddie explained that the FIM changes to sound measuring were for information only. A new 2 m test will be introduced for 2010 bikes whilst older machines will have the existing measurement performed on them. In 2011 it is hoped these will be cascaded down to the other National Championships and by 2012 for all events.

SOUTH MIDLAND CENTRE : Marge explained that she had been approached by Roy Humphrey to see if we would talk to the adult clubs in his Centre to help promote both of our Championships. She had written to Northampton and Luton clubs and had a reply from Fraser Law of the Northampton Club saying they had sorted their championship out already for this year but they were not adverse to discussing something in the future.

THE SPORTING MOTORCYCLIST : Andy welcomed all regulations that were coming in by e mail now, he thanked Les for keeping us informed about the Centre Championships but was tearing his hair out at the delays in the ACU Office in delivering a permit number to him for printing in the TSM before print deadlines.

FINANCE REPORT : Marge said we had £1382.74 in the bank having paid out our share of the transponder purchase amounting to £5945.91. She felt we had enough money to survive on at present unless some equipment needed replacing by the transponder team. Roger warned the Centre would not be funding the Combines the normal £250 annual grant.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS : Marge said that herself, the Sidcup Club and the ACU were the subject of a claim made by a first aider who was struck by a rider during their Maxxis meeting in 2006. She said how impressed she was by the ACU's solicitor but stressed the need to take photos and keep good records of any incidents that may well come back to bite you several years later.

It was agreed to keep the fee for permanent number the same at £5.

It was also agreed to fund down to 6th place the annual awards in each class which will be presented at the various Club's annual dinners.

Les said he was very saddened by the lack of reporting in T & MX News of our centre events and wondered what we could do about it. Sidcup pay the petrol expenses of Dick Law as T & MX News cannot afford them but this last year since Graham Milne left the paper Dick has been on Supermoto reporting duties a lot of the time. It was felt Shawn Fowler most likely would cover the events if asked.

Agreed to have the Championship covers printed in colour again so long as the advertising revenue covered the costs.

Jim Wood reported a car club had been given permission to run a sprint at Crystal Palace and he had reminded the Sports federation that motorcycles could also use it. It was agreed to pay his London federation subs again.

Jamie asked what the minimum race length in the Centre Championship was, it was thought to be 15 mins.

Marge reported that A Cowshall of Salisbury and M McEvoy of Romsey had both been suspended by the ACU for 12 months and entries must not be accepted from them. Marge said most people probably were aware but that she had been told officially that RB had resigned from his post of MX Manager at the ACU. It was provisionally agreed that the AGM be held on 20th January. Marge will confirm this once the room has been booked.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 11.05 pm.