

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH EASTERN MOTO CROSS COMBINE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2011 AT BLINDLEY HEATH

PRESENT : There were 14 delegates present representing the following clubs : Crawley, GEST, Sidcup, and Twickenham. Also present Eddie Herd (Chairman), Alan Clarke (Centre Chairman) and Roger Brown (Centre Treasurer).

CHAIR : Eddie took the Chair.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE : Apologies were received from Peter Burton and Jim Wood.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING : It was proposed by Colin Bushell and seconded by Dave Parry that the minutes that had been previously circulated of the meeting held on 16th February be accepted as a true and accurate record. Carried.

AGENDA : Marge circulated an updated agenda which included some items that have been received after the agenda had been circulated. It was also agreed to move item 10 (resignations) further up the agenda.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES :

South Midland Discussions : Colin reported on the meeting with the South Midland Centre which took place in July which was also attended by Les Batten and Marge Clarke.. He said we had previously been given to believe they wished to amalgamate both of the Centre Championships to enhance entries and give more variety with new tracks, but it transpires they would like to set up a new mini series. Colin felt although the meeting was positive it had thrown up more problems that would need to be resolved before it could be embraced. Twickenham are worried in particular about the lack of entries and would be keen to have an extra class at their meetings but Sidcup did not want to turn SE riders away from their meetings to be replaced with outsiders and both Twickenham and Sidcup said they would not be able to put on an additional meeting to accommodate the new series. Marge to reply saying not everyone was convinced but would like communications to keep going with the main cause for concern being date clashes. Twickenham had already had their 2012 dates fixed with their acrimonious neighbours and Les would liaise with Roy Humphrey before the S. Midland dates meeting on Remembrance Sunday.

Combine Logo : No forward movement on this subject. Jamie Clarke to follow it up.

Marshal's Training : No one had heard anything further but Marge said the matter would come up when we go through the ACU MX Committee minutes.

Expert Grading : Les was asked how the new system was going, he said several out of centre riders had been referred to him by the ACU to advise them , which he could not as he did not have access to the Nationwide points aggregates !! As far as he was concerned he was still working on the old points scoring system within our Centre saying it is a good measure of a rider's ability and if a rider asked to be upgraded he would look favourably on their case . Dave Parry said at Sidcup's last meeting they were short on Experts and he wondered if this new grading system was delaying riders being upgraded, Alan Clarke said he was surprised at that meeting at the difference in ability of those Experts , there followed some discussion about the possibility in the future of running open meetings and grading all riders together. Marge was asked to write to the ACU MX Committee for the subject of " how the new grading system was going to be discussed at their next meeting.

Timing Team's Licences : These still had not been received.

New PA Insurance : Marge wondered how this was going, delegates reported a flyer had been sent out in licence renewals but it was not clear if the policy was still in force with the change of ACU insurers.

ACU's contribution to the GEST Court Case: Eddie said he was disappointed with the size of their contribution as it was less than that of the Centre.

RESIGNATIONS : Marge read out a letter from the Greenwich Club who regretfully felt as they are no longer a sporting club they will not be renewing their subscription to the Combine. Also another letter from the Brighton Club who have not promoted an event for a number of years and have now sold their start gate to the Twickenham Club so have relinquished their involvement with other Combine Clubs, however they wish to donate £500 to the Combine as a thank you for the association. Eddie expressed the Combine's thanks and said members would be welcome to attend our meetings at anytime. There was some discussion as to whether the money should be set aside to commemorate the Brighton Club but Roger did not wish this saying it should be used for present day needs.

WEBMASTER'S REPORT : Jamie reported that everything was ticking along nicely, Twickenham had now got a website which he had linked to but ultimately he would like to update the site but that was possibly a bit too technical for him to tackle alone.

TRANSPONDERS :

Entry List Template : No template had been devised and Liz had managed to understand most of the Secretaries entry lists.

Randoming of Junior Entries : This seemed to have worked this year and there had been no complaints.

Hire Fee : Alan asked if there was anything being put aside for replenishing the stock. Les objected and said this should not be discussed at Combine because the transponders were owned by the Centre and this was a matter for the Centre Management Committee.

Holders : Marge said she had just run out of the plastic holders at the last meeting - agreed to buy another 50. There was some discussion as to whether we should charge extra if a holder was used as well.

Eastern Centre : Marge had heard that the Eastern Centre had decided in the week to go live next year with the AMB/ My Laps system which was good news as they had been looking at an alternative system.

New Lease Scheme : Marge said HS Sports with the ACU had produced a flyer which she had given out at the last 2 meetings explaining the new system of leasing transponders to riders that had been launched. This would cost £65 for the first year and then £38 each subsequent year, it was still possible to purchase one outright.

Proposal from the Centre Treasurer : (attached) Roger proposed in these tight economic times to do away with the £250 charge to the organising club which funds the timing team's expenses and make the monies up from the hire fees. There was a general discussion with most delegates being in favour of the suggestion which would have to be put to the Centre Management Committee for approval.

ACU MATTERS :

Moto X Committee Minutes : The following minutes of the ACU MX Committee Meetings were read and the salient points discussed :

From the March Meeting

Mr Edwards raised the subject of the Rule Infractions Form which is not explained in detail at seminars. Mr Herd asked Miss Morley to include this and the Risk Assessment form into the presentation used in both the National and Regional seminars.

Action: Miss Morley

The Committee then discussed the use of the Rule Infractions Form and all felt that for any issues regarding noise penalties there would be no need to complete the form as the riders are aware of the penalty immediately but for any other issues the form must be completed. This would be discussed at any Seminars to ensure officials are aware of the procedure.

Secretary's after note: The Chairman emphasises that the written penalty must be transmitted to the penalised rider – even if it is only a copy of the results sheet.

Eddie explained the Rule Infractions form was in fact the paperwork that relates to protests which is included in the permit pack.

a) Marshals Training

Mr Reeves noted the need for training for marshals and enquired if there was a budget allocated for this. The Committee agreed the best format for training would be to hold regional seminars for Chief Marshals who would then be expected to teach their marshals. The Secretary will liaise with all active motocross clubs later in the year with a view to hold the seminar between October and November.

Action: Mrs Goggin

The licenses for marshals that had received training approximately 3 years ago were due to expire and Mr Reeves requested they be extended; Mrs Goggin would investigate the possibility further.

No one had heard anything on this matter from Rugby.

a) Signing On Form – Date of Birth

Mr Humphrey enquired about the inclusion of Date of Birth's on the 2011 signing on forms. Mrs Goggin was asked to find out more information about this.

It was thought this was a move to find out if anyone was past retirement age and therefore would not be able to claim for loss of earnings.

b) Online Entries

The Committee discussed the possibility and process of online entries. Mr Humphrey informed the Committee of a Company already offering this service to Organiser's of all types of sporting events. The Committee asked the Secretary to make a proposal on their behalf to the ACU Board of Directors to look into other companies that offer these services and possibly liaise with the SACU and their clubs as they already use a system.

Action: Mrs Goggin

Mr Humphrey was concerned that any system used is established and works, problems associated with other online ACU services should be taken into account.

The idea was welcomed with Sidcup saying they have trialed Timing IT and Twickenham had set up a pay pal system themselves.

From the June Meeting

Online Entries

The ACU aim to offer online membership renewals to members from October 2011 and following the success of this ACU clubs will be offered an Online Entry Package free of charge which they will control themselves. Mr Higgins expressed his determination to offer this service to clubs for 2012. Mr Humphrey will liaise with Mrs D McLuckie regarding this type of service offered to clubs in Scotland.

The first line relates to the new Competition licence system which clubs have been notified about.

Other Events

It was agreed that the Committee should make contact with the Gest Hastings MX Club and Crawley & DMCC to discuss motocross and any support that could be offered. Mrs Goggin was asked to converse with Mr Horton and Mr Lawrence.

Nic Shaw said he had not been contacted but Ian Osborne confirmed Crawley had.

INSURANCE, PREMIUMS, SAFETY AND EXCESSES :

The Chairman informed the Committee that the ACU Board of Directors had been working hard to reduce our insurance premiums for 2012 and beyond. The Board are looking into various options in great depth to ensure it will be the best to offer to ACU clubs while keeping the premiums at realistic levels. The Motocross Committee would like to develop a system to improve safety standards with the possibility of offering financial incentives to clubs if there are no incidents over a period of time. Mr Higgins to discuss this with the Board of Directors.

MARSHALS TRAINING :Lengthy discussions took place regarding this important issue as the Committee were aware of insurance claims, previous and current that could give rise to concern. All members agreed that it was vital for marshals to be trained and possibly licensed.Mr Reeves was asked to draw up a Marshals training book while Mrs Goggin was asked to acquire quotes on lanyards and information sheets .*Action : Mrs Goggin & Mr Reeves* Marshals training will be offered to all Chief Marshals by inviting every motocross club to send their Chief Marshal(s) to a centralised training seminar. The Chief Marshals would then be expected to train their marshals to an acceptable standard.

Roger was not happy with marshals being licensed as recent defections from the Centre had been mainly due to the extra red tape the ACU insists on.

c) Entry Form Declaration

The Committee discussed the issue with medical personnel at events not providing information of injured riders on the medical report forms. Therefore the Committee would like to make a proposal that the ACU entry form declaration include a statement to confirm the rider has no objection to their medical information being released to the organising club should an injury occur.

Mrs Goggin was asked to correspond with the General Secretary regarding the matter. *Action: Mrs Goggin*

All delegates confirmed they did not experience any problems with their first aiders.

d) Proposed Rule Change

Mr L Batten had proposed that the following rules be changed for Motocross events with the possibility of Enduro and/or Grass Track.

NSC 5.07 Plural Appointments

2. Other Officials may undertake several different duties for which they are qualified. The Clerk of the Course shall not undertake any other duty except Secretary of the Meeting. Start and Finish Marshal and Environmental Officer.

NSC 5.08 Incompatibilities

1. No Official acting in any executive capacity at any meeting other than a Club Restricted Trial ***or Open Motocross*** shall be an Entrant, Rider or Passenger in that meeting. Stewards may not participate in the competition.

Les wanted it noted this was not a personal proposal but one from the Twickenham Club who wished to allow their scrutineers to ride at their meetings as they did not have a non riding licenced technical officer..

From the September Meeting

- a) On Line Licencing. The Chairman reported how this will be rolled out in time for the 2012 season as per the circular recently distributed by the

General Secretary. He also reported that an On Line Entry System would be available for individual clubs at the start of the 2012 season, which would not involve entries coming into ACU House.

- a) A discussion took place on the amount of riders who are normally allowed to start a race under the ACU TTC System. The Committee agreed to review this and possibly allow some minor flexibility at Centre level events. Mr Higgins to discuss this with our new Insurers.

Eddie confirmed this would not affect the Canada Heights TTC.

INSURANCE & PREMIUMS

Mr Higgins confirmed that the Board of Directors have negotiated terms with a new Broker for 2012 for an initial period of three years. Mr Higgins was hoping this would mean that premiums to organisers would remain stable for 2012. However, the new Broker is keen that the ACU tightens up on its member clubs adhering to the rules and the Chairman and Mr Herd agreed that this would need to be reflected in the way the forthcoming round of Seminars be presented. After lengthy discussion, it was agreed that newly licenced Clerk of the Course should have a short probationary period with an experienced Clerk of Course before taking control of their first event. The method of seminars was discussed and it was suggested that a pre-seminar question paper be sent out to candidates which would allow more time for the actual presentation with a shorter, more specific test paper to be held under exam conditions at the end. Mr Higgins and Mr Herd will be putting a new Regional and National power point together shortly. Mr Higgins also reported that he will be talking to our new insurers with a view that the ACU may employ a full time "Educational Officer" type person to visit events and assist clubs with safety issues.

- a) Mr Reeves produced two documents to aid Chief Marshals and Marshals which was accepted by the Committee. Some minor amendments would be carried out by Mr Reeves ahead of the final copy. This would then be circulated and also brought into part of the Clerk of the Course Seminars. The Chairman thanked Mr Reeves for his input on this.

- b) Upgrade to Expert, Fraser Viner. As there is no championship for the rider to compete in, Mr Viner is finding it difficult to attain expert status. It was agreed that Mr Percival would evaluate him at Milton Park on 10th and 11th September.

Marge said Fraser had won all 3 of the Junior races at the recent Sidcup meeting, Les said this was a fault in the new system where Centres no longer get together to add points gained on their territory.

ACU Moto X Committee Elections : Only Twickenham and Sidcup had replied to the round robin regarding the nominations, Crawley and GEST added their choices and John Percival and Andrew Hay were successful. Marge to inform Colin Boniface , our delegate on our requirements with a copy going to Peter Burrell , the Centre Secretary.

Centre Levy : Marge said the Centre Management Committee had charged the Combine to make a ruling on the matter. Roger Brown (Centre Treasurer) explained the original background when the Basic Insurance was first introduced for Entrepreneurs who did not want any involvement with the Centres and how this had now encompassed Clubs who did

participate in Centre activities. Alan Clarke (Centre Chairman) stated the Management Committee's position where they thought it unfair that some clubs were not contributing whilst others were. Some discussion took place and a rule was drafted for delegates to take back to their clubs for discussion and voting at the next meeting .

"Member clubs of the SE MX Combine will be expected to contribute a per capita figure at their events to the running of Centre expenses."

Basic Insurance Permits and Stewards : Not every event is being sent a steward, if this is the case the clerk of the course must send a report in to Rugby.

CENTRE CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS : It was proposed by Colin and seconded by Dave that the Combine purchases awards for those that came 2nd - 6th in all of the Championships (The Centre paying for the premiers)

Sidecar Championship Query : Les had received an enquiry as to whether the recent British Sidecar Championship meeting at Canada Heights counted towards the Centre Championships as he felt the website confirmed this. Agreed the website was a bit ambiguous but that a British Championship can not be included in our Centre Championships as it was a restricted entry and not open to everyone.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT : Marge reported a balance of £2816.15, Championship covers costs were not included but this year the permanent number scheme had generated £585. Les said he had noted a trend of riders not paying but asking Secretaries for certain numbers. It was thought the TSM form encouraged that and Jamie said Sidcup change the wording for their own website entry form.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS : Les said could clubs bear in mind the Twickenham dates for 2012 when doing their planning as they will not be able to change them . 13th May : 15th July and 9th September. Ian said that Crawley are hoping to run at least one meeting at Winterpick Farm next year which, if the farmer cuts for hay will be after August. Jamie said he had previously made enquiries about insurance for our timing equipment and had been quoted £236, there was some discussion as to whether it was worth insuring the items and Jamie was asked to bring an updated quote to the next meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING : It was agreed we could most likely sort the dates out via round robins and the AGM would be our next meeting in January.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 10.45 pm.