

Minutes of a MX Forum held on Monday 25th February 2013 at Gt Blakenham Parish Rooms

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Andrew Hay	Chairman	Geoff Brace	Vice Chairman
Lyn Berwick	Secretary	Elaine Collins	Red Lodge
George Collins	Red Lodge	Paul Grantham	Littleport/Diss
Charlie Ralph	Woodbridge	Philip Gammon	Littleport
Graham Garrod	Woodbridge	Tim Smith	Essex and Suffolk
Roger Chaplin	Sudbury	David Mills	ECMC
Paul Hubbard	Diss	Dave Watson	Southend/NGR
Keith Weavers	Halstead	Wayne Fulcher	Diss
Paul Sewter	NVMCC	Mark Hunt	Woodbridge
Mark Relland	Halstead	Adam Garrod	Woodbridge
Ben Howlett	Halstead	Albert Brace	Chelmsford
Debbie Blyth	Woodbridge	John Blyth	Woodbridge
Jack Hearn	E C Chairman	Lee Keyton	Woodbridge
Clive Smith	Woodbridge		

- The meeting was opened by Mr A Hay, Chair of MX Sub-committee. Mr Hay welcomed those present and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to express the way in which the sport was progressing in the Centre. My Hay also explained that the sub-committee does not have any executive powers but would take back any relevant comments and recommendations to the Competitions Committee.
- The minutes of the previous Forum held on 14th January 2012 were presented and proposed for approval by Mr P Gammon 2nd Mr R Chaplin.

3. Matters Arising:

Mr B Howlett pointed out that the minutes indicated that the Forum should have been held at the end of the season. My Hay stated that with time constraints due to the Centre AGM and Board Meeting followed by bad weather, unfortunately this did not happen. Mrs Blyth suggested that at date be set for the end of this season. This was accepted and a provisional date of Monday 28th October was chosen. Lyn Berwick to check on availability of the venue.

4. Elections to the MX Sub-Committee:

The competitions committee had appointed Mr Hay

Mr G Brace was re-elected as Vice Chairman.

Lyn Berwick was re-elected as Secretary.

The current committee all wished to stand for re-election with Mark Relland and Adam Garrod as additions. Mr Hay stated that at present there are no written rules regarding the make up or terms of reference of the subcommittee but that this is being addressed by David Smith. Therefore the MX Sub-committee will consist of: Mr P Gammon, Mr P Grantham, Mr J Blyth, Mr B Howlett, Mr T Smith, Mr P Hubbard, Mr M Relland and Mr A Garrod.

5. Sponsorship of the Centre Championship:

Mr Hay reported that unfortunately the sponsorship for last year failed at the last moment due to the company concerned being sold.

This year, sponsorship as been secured from Bickers Lifting, who will be the title sponsor and a partner, M C Comps. The total secured will give each organising club £800 per round with a prize fund totalling £1,425.

The sponsors will require banner space and Mr Hay will take the banners to each round and will put them up. Organising clubs will be asked to leave prominent banner space. The programme cover is being prepared by Richard Blyth with the title sponsor having the back page, the partner sponsor the inside of the back page and the inside of the front cover containing the timetable. Artwork will be provided to each organising club to enable them to deal with their own printers.

6. Review of the Centre Championship rule changes for 2013

The main change is the way in which qualifying for junior riders will take place. For 2013 it will be on the times of the fastest 40 riders across all qualifying groups. This was discussed at length. Mr Sewter assured the meeting that comparisons taken at a meeting at Lyng had proved that lap times over the qualifying groups showed that there was very little difference in the lap times for each group. Mr Hay put to the floor that due to concerns over the possibility of changing weather conditions, that a clause could be introduced to allow a change to be made if deemed necessary by the clerk of the course. After a full discussion, the feeling of the meeting was that this would not be practical and it was decided against. It was explained that the Championship would run with the recommendations of the fastest 40, as approved by the competitions committee for 2013, and that the method of qualification would be revisited at the end of the season.

Mr Hay ran through the timetable of races.

A comment was made that there should have been a presentation at the end of each Championship meeting last year. This was in the rules but as there was no sponsor, it did not happen. This season, a presentation of the top three juniors and the top three experts will take place at the end of the meeting.

Over 40 Championship: P Hubbard asked the Chairman what had happened regarding the possibility of an Over 40 Championship as he had understood that the sub-committee had put forward a recommendation to the competitions committee. It was explained that the competitions committee had felt that the idea had not been fully thought through and asked that the sub committee discussed this further with a view to consider this for the 2014. Season. Mr D Watson, NGR co-ordinator, was concerned that if the Centre ran an over 40 class, it would have an impact on the NGR which has been running for 25years. He was assured that the Centre would in no way wish to do this and the feeling was that both could run alongside each other as long as dates did not clash. Mr Watson felt that his series had been rather pushed out of Centre with not all clubs allowing the NGR at their venues.

Mr Ralph suggested that maybe Mr Hubbard could gather a list of riders that would be interested in joining an Over 40 championship and take that back to the sub committee.

7. Reserved Number Scheme:

327 numbers have been sold to date.

It was disclosed that last year 50 riders had reserved, and ridden under, their preferred number but had failed to pay. This has been addressed this year with no rider being allowed to reserve a number. Number sales have now been suspended until after the first meeting at Blaxhall on March 10th.

Top ten expert's numbers 1-10 – a couple of riders have chosen not to take up their allocated number. This has been allowed.

8. Any Other Business:

Mr P Gammon stated that he was available for commentating. Contact details will be in the Handbook.

Mrs Berwick spoke about illegal riding that had been reported in Thetford Forest. All Clubs have been alerted. The Police have informed the Centre that they will apply Section 59 of the RTA and that bikes will be seized and crushed.

Mrs Berwick also reported that riders whose clubs have yet to affiliate to the Centre should be allowed to enter meetings as normal.

Mr Hay reported that at the last competitions committee meeting one of the members asked about the possibility of providing a timing screen. After a full discussion, it was decided that logistically it would require another generator and a housing canopy. Mr Hay and Mr Sewter are to meet with Roy Humphreys on Sunday and will have a discussion with him. It was intimated that riders would in fact prefer a timing clock sited at the finish line.

Mr A Garrod asked whether there had been any feedback re the noise testing carried out last season. Mr Hay replied that the noise testing had been carried out professionally and he had received no adverse comments. Mr Hay stated that he would like noise testing at each Championship round.

Mr G Brace reported that there is to be a three round sidecar championship in the Centre this year. Sponsored by Tafmeister. Rounds at East Hanningfield, Wattisfield and Lyng.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm.