

Minutes of the 6th Competitions Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 11th June 2014 at Christchurch Hall Needham Market

Present: D Smith; A Penny; M Deeks; C Ralph; A Foskew; P Armes; J Hearn; Ms L Berwick; C Dopson; A Hay;

1. Mr Smith opened the meeting and welcomed all present and received apologies from: E Wass; G Brace; A Deeks.

2. Mr Smith sought approval of the previous minutes – which were agreed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising:

Banners – due to financial constraint, pop ups and feather flags had been purchased instead of banners. ACU feather flags are of very good quality.

P Armes is working on a proposal for taking the sport forward (expects to take 2-3 months). A Deeks would like some input.

C Dopson asked why the trials discipline only received one pop up where the mx and enduro received two. Explained due to cost and also the amount of public attendance. The flags are non specific so they can be used for all disciplines when available.

D Smith – Mildenhall. The answer he had from ACU Rugby re the track certificate; If TCC is not adhered to, it is then up to C of C to refuse to run, but, if the TCC is met by the organising club erecting chestnut paling on race day, then permits will continue to be issued.

Item 9 – MSA Go Motor Sport – recruitment/promotional event on 19th October 2014. A meeting is to be held at Snetterton on Tuesday 17th June with MSA Committee – D Smith to attend. Mr Smith asked P Armes if he would attend also. Brian Hemming, secretary of the Eastern Association of Motor Sport is the contact. C Dopson will discuss the idea of a Trials display at the next Trials Sub Committee meeting.

D Smith would like to have grass track bikes, pre 65 and sidecars plus 1/2 road bikes on display plus 6 mx bikes including youth.

C Dopson will speak to riders to see if he can organise some kind of display. He will report back at next comps.

4. Permits and Fixtures:

P Armes distributed a spreadsheet showing the current status of permits.

Two extra date requests had been received – EFA training days 14th and 29th June.

Norwich New Stars would like a joint adult/youth permit for 17th August – they have been reminded that day licences must be issued to anyone not holding a current ACU licence.

Sat Evening Trials – Woodbridge would like to run on 26th July and possibly on 6th September (TBC). Lowestoft also wanted 6th September but this has been discussed and resolved.

6th July – Derek Clampin – Ray Clampin Memorial Trial – question as to how long the permit issued would be at no cost. Agreed to leave it for this year but to advise Mr Clampin that next year the permit would need to be paid for. P Armes to deal.

P Armes – apologised for not posting out the permits for Bury and Braintree in time. P Armes to put a note in Gazette asking organisers to ring if they have not received their paperwork.

J Hearn – had been advised by R Greengrass that Lowestoft Invaders had to cancel the two man enduro round on 7th September due to having lost the land.

5. Steward's Report:

As Mr Wass was not present, there was no stewards co-ordinators report.

C Dopson – Trials Committee are carrying out a review of the first six steward's reports. Lyn Berwick to send copies to all comps members.

M Deeks – states a visual inspection only is carried out to machines – the only machines touched are the youth to ensure that a kill button is present and working. C Dopson – may put a piece in the Gazette reminding stewards of the role of a steward. Probationary Stewards – question raised as to whether serving a probationary period is necessary. A Penny – seminars are split into C of C / Stewards or both. D Smith – suggests it is left to the Trials Committee to decide if the licensed official needs to serve a probationary meeting, at their discretion.

C Dopson to take this to Trials Sub Committee and will devise a list to bring to the next comps for approval. A Penny – he feels that even though the official may have been a C of C, a guidance on being a steward may be required for some.

P Fenn and C Dopson are formulating an information leaflet which will be sent out with permits to the secretary of the meeting and passed onto the steward and C of C together with the previous stewards report.

Stewards Appointments: G Garrod unable to do 17th August – J Hearn to do. Sudbury Enduro 10th August – A Foskew.

6. Sub Committee Reports

MX – C Ralph reported that – round 5 of the ECC had been held on 8th June at Blaxhall with almost 200 riders taking part. There are 2 rounds left at Wattisfield and East Hanningfield. Mr Ralph distributed the current standings.

CR pointed out an anomaly in the Eastern Centre Handbook where it states that all point scoring riders must be accommodated – this will be discussed at the next mx sub committee and a proposal for change will be presented.

Mr Ralph thanked P Armes and Andrew Hay for their help with the promotion of the ECC at the event where prospective sponsors had been invited on 8th June.

PA – updated on the sponsorship proposal – J Chambers has agreed to go ahead with his input of £1000 – maybe for the holeshot award. He does not require banners to be erected.

R Coles – Coltech Engineering – considering sponsorship. P Armes would like to try to attract more companies in a wider area. D Smith gave a vote of thanks to Woodbridge & DMCC Ltd for hosting. P Armes had adjusted the sponsorship amount - £9000 per season as he felt that sponsorship could be negotiated down but not up. Sponsorship is available from £500.

Trials – C Dopson – Sub Committee due to meet in July. Forum in October.

3 Championship Rounds held since last meeting (1 A Class and 2 B Class) Calendar is stable.

Entries – numbers are significantly up on last year, novice and twin shock being the largest group.

J Hearn advised that Bury had only 15 entries on the Saturday evening prior to the trial – 59 riders actually took part. Closing dates to be discussed at next trials committee.

Enduro – J Hearn. – Mr Hearn distributed the current championship standings.

Inter Centre Team event – not certain if it is still being held – due to lack of entries. C Ralph advised that the next Woodbridge Enduro would be running at Butley as the land at Bawdsey would not be available.

Grass Track – A Foskew – Dunmow on September 14th now running under 21 national championship.

Fenland on 31st August running British Youth on the Saturday and British Nationals on Sunday.

7. Sponsorship:

A general discussion over how to attract more sponsorship and to decide if there is a recognised routine in place and who is accountable., ie, sub committees or the competitions committee.

It was stated that there ought to be some understanding of the way sponsorship is approached and the meeting of requirements of the agreement, having to adhere to the conditions, branding in programmes etc.

Regular feedback to sponsors by email, sending of results, photographs. A Hay suggests that P Armes attend a mx subcommittee where a more in depth discussion could take place.

D Smith pointed out that sponsorship is not MX specific and he suggests that an overall policy needs to be established.

C Ralph suggested that all subcommittees need to discuss sponsorship, and then bring back their findings to the competitions committee.

D Smith stated that more clarity is needed across all disciplines and a clear and concise purpose laid down.

8. Correspondence:

E Mail from Ben Howlett – having seen the mx proposal, he pointed out that some existing and potential sponsors like to do things in a more relaxed and non formal way, and that the committee needs to be flexible in the way that negotiations take place.

9. Any Other Business:

Youth MX Championship – 5 dates had been sent to the Norfolk and Suffolk Club but Mr Brace has yet to be advised of a championship date. Lyn Berwick will contact the N & S to try to obtain date.

Riders numbers – 411 being ridden by Declan Whittle but has been purchased by Andrew Smith. C R explained that Declan rides that number in the British Champs but changes to 417 when riding in Eastern Centre events. If A Smith is not riding, then some secretaries allow Mr Whittle to ride under 411.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.35pm..

NEXT MEETING: Thursday 10th JULY, STANWAY VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.45PM