

Minutes of the 8th Competitions Committee Meeting held on Thursday 18TH September 2014 at Stanway Village Hall, Stanway.

Present: D Smith; A Penny; M Deeks; C Ralph; A Foskew; J Hearn; Ms L Berwick; E Wass; G Brace; P Armes; C Dopson.

1. Mr Smith opened the meeting and welcomed all present and received apologies from: A Deeks; A Hay

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

3. Matters Arising:

Item 5 – re Mildenhall. D Smith will draft a letter.

Item 10 – issue of who had been appointed as Steward for the Wakes Colne meeting was resolved.

Trials – Corton – comments in last minutes to be discussed at the next Trials Committee.

4. Permits and Fixtures:

P Armes circulated an up to date spreadsheet of events and permits issued.

There had been a problem with Woodbridge Club not actioning the paperwork for their Grasstrack meeting which delayed the Gazette. Mr Armes held the Gazette to make sure the regulations went in, then the club cancelled the meeting. This did cause the Gazette to be late. Mr Armes stated that he will no longer do this and will be stricter with time limits.

C Ralph explained the reason why the meeting had to be cancelled and a suggestion was made that as there are few clubs running Grass Track events, maybe Centres could be encouraged to liaise. Mr Foskew said that a meeting was to be held to discuss the matter and that the new Chair of the Track Racing Committee had some good ideas. It is also hope that Steve Brace will be elected onto the Track Racing Committee from this Centre.

Mr Smith stated that there had been three good meetings lately but the lack of riders was concerning as it seems that youth riders veer towards speedway after time.

P Armes is distributing the paperwork for clubs to present their preferred dates.

As soon as the venue can be confirmed, Mr Armes will announce the date for the dates meeting. Provisionally 19th November.

M Deeks – not available as Steward on 28th September for Braintree Trial – C Dopson will officiate.

Two dates cancelled – 4th October Woodbridge Grasstrack; 12th October Halstead MX.

5. Steward's Report:

Mr Wass presented a report as follows:

29.6.14 N Vikings Maxxis British Sidecars G Brace: Last hill cut for 3rd sidecar race. Track temporarily altered for this meeting. Prize money for 3rd sidecar race not paid out. 2 new helmets with no gold stickers but correct standard marking. 3rd sidecar race yellow flag infringement, 10-place penalty imposed. Meeting abandoned after 3rd race stoppage – both ambulances left circuit. Lunch brought forward as both ambulances left after race 2. Paramedic also left with stroke victim.

6.7.14 Halstead Richard Fitch MX J Blyth: Meeting commenced at 10am. 2 groups amalgamated due to lack of entries. 2stroke class under starters orders first with allcomers leaving the startline 30 seconds later. This worked well. Marshal point 17A put in since the last meeting as there was a blind spot. Well run meeting.

13th July Woodbridge MX J Nickerson with K Docherty as Probationary Stewards.

Well run meeting. No adverse comments

10th August Sudbury 4 man enduro A Foskew – An enjoyable event.

17th August Norwich New Stars GT D Smith – well run event

6th Sept 500 Sidecar European GT A Foskew – Excellent weekend of racing.

14th Sept Dunmow Under 21 Solo GT G Garrod – G Wilby – No comments

E Wass commented that reports were not coming back quickly enough. MX reports are not released until after MX committee has discussed them.

DS – discussions are ongoing at all sports committees at Rugby as to whether Stewards are necessary at all events.

A Foskew suggested that Stewards appointed by the Centre send a copy of the report to the Centre. D Smith says we can request this, P Armes to draft a letter of request to Stewards.

A Penny commented that as the Centre is not the permit issuing authority in most cases these days, the Centre no longer has the control.

E Wass asked why he was unable to obtain a full list of stewards from Rugby – P Armes will provide him with a list as he has access to the ACU system.

Ms Berwick handed a letter from Mrs Blyth on behalf of the Woodbridge Club regarding comments made by M Deeks Steward's report of 13th July.

The comments were discussed and Mr Smith agreed to draft a reply to Mrs Blyth.

6. Eastern Centre Trials Stewards

Mr Dopson had been asked to look into the matter of which Stewards the Trials Committee thought needed to serve a probationary period and those that did not.

Mr Dopson put forward the names of 8 persons who the committee agreed were experienced enough to not serve a probationary period and sought approval from the competitions committee to allow those persons to act as Stewards with immediate effect. There was some discussion over this and the reference was made to a previous Board meeting where it had been agreed that everyone should serve at least one probationary meeting. D Smith pointed out that since then, the Trials Section had been devolved and as such, it was their remit to make the decision.

7. Trials Report:

Mr Dopson reported that :- there were no new trials reports to discuss.

Lowestoft had been offered an alternative date but were not running.

Mr Dopson outlined the key points from the Trials Committee meeting held on Wednesday 16th July:

Request from Mr Hood that one member per club be able to upload items onto website. Mr Hood to contact P Sewter to see if this is possible.

Stewards: Mr Dopson reminded members of the committee to respond to emails and comment on steward's reports when sent out.

List of Stewards discussed – new Stewards needed. C of C to be asked if they would like to be Stewards in order to increase numbers.

Risk Assessments, rider's lists and environmental form to be handed to Stewards.

Steward's form discussed, some changes made.

Stewards to be sent to Centre Championship rounds and any event when requested.

Review of recent trials. P Fenn reported that the number of entries at the recent sidecar round was not enough to allow it as a championship round. Agreed to reduce the requisite numbers for a championship round in future.

Changes to calendar discussed.

MSA Motorsport Day discussed.

Youth – discussion on how to encourage more riders.

Trials Committee – discussion on how devolution was working.

2015 – continue as 2014. Agreed to appoint a vice-chairman who would be chairman elect for 2016.

Trials Forum – Wednesday 5th November 8pm Gt Blakenham Parish Rooms.

MX Report: Mr Brace reported that the last Eastern Centre Championship Round is due to be held on Sunday 21st September at Wattisfield Hall hosted by the Diss Club.

MX Sub Committee due to meet on Monday 22nd September at Christchurch Hall, Needham Market.

Mr Brace reported that there had been two good mx meetings recently.

Sub Committee meeting minutes of 14th July was circulated.

Mr M Deeks asked that a vote of thanks to Paul Sewter be minuted for all his work for the timing team.

Youth MX – Mr Brace reported that he had had difficulty obtaining the dates of the Youth Championship from the Norfolk and Suffolk Club.

The Centre Handbook states that 5 dates should be given with 4 dates chosen on which the championship would run.

Mr Brace circulated the dates that he had been given by N&S Club and explained that if the handbook rules had been met, the results issued this evening would stand.

Mr Dopson pointed out that the handbook also stated that the Youth Championship should be run under an open permit, but it was noticed that all the events had been listed under a restricted permit. Mr Armes suggested that for 2015 maybe other clubs could run the championship rounds.

Discussion over whether the championship should be awarded, as the club had not abided by the rules. Mr Smith agreed to find out from Rugby what the permit and supplementary regulations had stated and that for next year there needs to be better communication from both the club and the competitions committee.

Enduro Report – J Hearn:

Mr Hearn circulated the championship standings. He reported one discrepancy where a rider rode in the wrong class (Supervets). This will be adjusted.

Mr Hearn reported a very successful year. He said that three extra trophies for the Over 40 Expert Vets, Over 40's Clubmans and Super Vets would be required.

Mr and Mrs Hearn will provide one trophy – asked if the Centre could buy the other two.

Mr Hearn reported that Tom Sagar and his two friends from Wales had enjoyed his ride at the Woodbridge event. They may contest the Centre Championship next year but have no wish to take points.

Grass Track Report; A Foskew

Mr Foskew reported that the 500cc Solos and 1000cc Right Hand Sidecars Championship would not be awarded this year.

Woodbridge was to run on 4th October where these classes would be contested but due to another meeting being held on 5th October, Woodbridge had decided that the event would not attract enough riders and the event was subsequently cancelled.

Grass Track subcommittee meeting had been held on 14th September at Ugley where it was agreed that in 2015 the Championship would be held on one day as per 2014.

Results of the event held on 19th July were agreed and declared correct.

Chair to send out letters to ask who would like to run the 2015 championship round.

Centre Presentation evening date confirmed as 14th February 2015 at Gt Blakenham Village Hall. Winners to receive two free tickets. Ticket price to be £7.50.

Ms Berwick reported that the Grass Track Trophy that had been returned in two pieces had been repaired.

Mr Smith stated that the 500 Sidecar Association should be congratulated on their running of the 'true' international meeting. There was so much going on and was an excellent event. Shaun Harvey, Chairman and his team had secured sponsorship for each race plus prize money. Estimate of 2,500 spectators.

8. Update on MSA GoSportLive

Flyers are now available. So far 2200 requests for tickets online have been received. Planning is ongoing. Hopeful that youth mx and grass track will be represented. There will be no demonstrations, as Jonathan Palmer does not want damage to the grass. Static displays only. Electric bikes not available. C Dopson will not be able to attend.

D Cordle co-ordinating with as wide a group as possible – volunteers will be sought to set up.

P Armes disclosed that he may be riding some demonstration laps.

D Smith requested that he has all the feather flags to take.

P Armes has spoken to Rugby re permit – he has been advised that a demonstration permit is required.

Mr Hearn has contacted GH Motorcycles and Dave Barkshire – will follow up.

9. Any Other Business:

G Brace reported that he contacted a lady with regard to taking on the timing, no response as yet.

D Smith asked P Armes to place an advert in the Gazette asking if anyone was interested.

A Foskew reported that he has adapted a steward's form from the ACU for Centre Stewards.

MX Committee – numbers on the committee seem too many – GB to discuss at next subcommittee.

Mr Ralph reported that Ron Greengrass had been in hospital and had been very unwell. Gazette distribution had been a problem but had been dealt with by P Armes.

Ms Berwick had sent a get well card to Mr Greengrass on behalf of the Centre.

Mr Dopson advised that he would stand down as Chair of the Trials Committee at the end of 2015. It is intended that a vice-chairman will be elected and will be Chairman elect for 2016.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.50pm.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 15th October 2015 at Gt Blakenham Parish Rooms commencing at 7.45pm