

Minutes of the 6th Competitions Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 17th June 2015 held at Gt Blakenham Parish Rooms

Present:

P Armes; C Ralph; A Foskew; Ms L Berwick; E Wass; A Penny; J Hearn; D Smith; A Hay; C Dopson

Apologies: M Deeks; A Deeks; G Brace

1. Mr Armes opened the meeting and welcomed all present and received apologies from the above.

2. Previous Minutes:

The previous minutes of 14th May 2015 were accepted as a true record, proposed J Hearn 2nd Alan Foskew

3. Matters Arising:

Rights of Way Officer for Norfolk and Suffolk – Mr P Armes has contacted Norfolk County Council, as there is a particular interests within the department and is encouraging a conversation with the Eastern Centre. P Gammon is listed in the handbook as Rights of Way officer at present.

Concussion – Mr Armes had a conversation with Gary Thompson suggesting a disclaimer on signing on sheets. Mr Thompson seems supportive of this idea and will pursue at Head Office – to be discussed further.

Ms Berwick reported that a rider's mother had contacted her regarding the procedure as her son had suffered concussion. She followed the advice but had struggled to get the clearance necessary – having to phone Rugby the day before the meeting her son wished to ride in.

There appears to be teething problems with the new procedure – will monitor.

Update of Centre Rules – Mr Smith reported that he had this in hand.

Timing – an agenda item.

P Armes had emailed Rugby re clashes of events with not much success. Mr Ralph commented that the change of the event concerned was a last minute change between two promoters.

Trials Stewards – to be discussed within Trials report.

4/5. Permits issued and amendments made to Fixtures:

Spreadsheet circulated. Lowestoft had requested a date of 22nd August - Woodbridge running on that date – Lowestoft agreed to have 29th August.

C Ralph reported that the evening MX scheduled for Friday evening has been cancelled due to lack of entries.

Steward's Reports:

Only one received for 2-man enduro at Windolphs Farm run by the Bury St Edmunds Club. Good event – no adverse comments

At a recent event, there had been a problem with the winners using outside assistance – they were docked a lap and relegated to third place.

Trials – reports from 15th March to 19th June will be circulated shortly.

6. Sub Committee Reports:

Moto Cross C Ralph – Four rounds of ECC held to date – entries are now starting to dwindle especially in the expert class. Still running a 15-race programme, which make time constraints very tight. Only 23 experts at Mildenhall and several of those were out of centre riders. Discussion over if the step from Junior to Expert is too much. D Smith commented that some tracks are too hard when aimed at Expert riders, the Junior riders struggle. Mr Dopson made the suggestion that a championship within the championship was a possibility – a rookie champion only allowed to be competed for once per rider. Will discuss at MX Sub Committee. Mr Ralph circulated the current standings of expert and junior championships, club standings and hole shot awards. John Chambers who sponsors the hole shot is very happy with the promotion he is receiving at events. Littleport – next Championship round will only take three junior line-ups due to time constraints.

Youth – concerns over next meeting advertising running two adult groups. Discussion over whether it is time for the Norfolk and Suffolk Club to change to an adult club rather than Youth only. Also concern over the Norfolk and Suffolk Club having a club member acting as ACU Steward. P Armes has spoken to Rugby about this who does not seem concerned. Mr Armes wishes to encourage the Norfolk and Suffolk club to engage with the Centre. Mr Smith stated that he does not want to see them pushed in the direction of joining MCF.

P Armes – if they club runs adult groups, then at the next dates meeting we will need to be more strict regarding allowing clashes.

Mr Ralph to invite a representative of the Norfolk and Suffolk club to the next sub committee meeting on 7th July – all event secretaries will be invited as will the riders representative. The meeting will discuss the year at half way, timing issues etc.

Mr Armes would like to attend also to gather opinions on the tender document. Mr Ralph pointed out that there is a full agenda but that Mr Armes will be welcome.

Trials

Mr Dopson reported that since the last committee meeting there had been 3 Championship events held – one A class (Ipswich) and 2 B Class Norfolk and Suffolk Juniors and Bury St Edmunds.

There will be a Trials Committee meeting on 9th July, which will be the groundwork for the next Forum. Proposing to discuss the following: That all championship events have a closing date and no entries on the day.

Minimum of 10 sections per lap and Championship rounds may be limited for 2016.

Inter Centre Team Trial – only one Eastern Centre riders has shown an interest so it looks like no team will be sent.

S Eastern Centre had approached the Eastern Centre to see if they could run a sidecar team under our banner, which we agreed to. Since then, however, the rules have been changed and Centres can enter more than one team. Discussion over who would pay if one Eastern Centre rode under another Centres banner – decided that payment would be pro rata.

Stewards – a lot of thought has gone into how to approach this subject and the many options are up for discussion at the trials committee meeting on 9th July.

Trial at Corton on Sunday – looking for Observers.

Grass Track

A Foskew – nothing to report.

Mr Ralph reported that the venue for the Grass Track being run by G W Racing has changed venue. Mr Armes had not been informed.

Mr Armes had been made aware of a problem with a MX Class at the meeting (cut outs). Mr Smith said that there will be no MX Class and the problem has been resolved.

Enduro

J Hearn reported that the following teams would be representing the Eastern Centre in the Team Event;

Championship : C Hockey; Sam Toy and A Bird.

Vase Team – Lewis Bond; Alex Rampton and William Hughes

Ms Deb Harvey is Team Manager.

Paul Ranson has organised team shirts and t-shirts for the helpers. Sponsors of the event are Bowers Motorcycles, Courtney Laing; Dave Barkshire Motorcycles, Dr Shox, G H Motorcycles; Indigo Ross, Jim Aim Motorcycles, Ranson racing and TRM.

7. Timing team:

Mr Armes is keen to address the situation on a long-term basis. Mr Sewter has indicated that he will not be carrying on in 2016. Mr Hay had spoken to Roy Humphries who said that other Centres have more than one timekeeper. Finance was discussed. Mr Hay commented that he thought that the timing team should not be paid as it is a Centre led service. Ms Berwick, who is part of the team, explained that 25/26 weekends are covered by timing and that she for one would not expect to commit to that amount of time unpaid. Taking into account that some days are 12 hours out, travelling costs etc. The idea of a split role was discussed, that is one administrator for the input of information, and a team/s to run the equipment on race days.

Item to be placed on next agenda.

8. Tender Document.

Mr Armes asked for comments on the tender document previously circulated which in broad terms would mean appointing/employing a person or company to undertake pre and post event PR and Marketing activities.

The general consensus was that when looking for offers to take this role on, maybe it would better in the first instance to simplify the document. Mr Smith questioned how this would be funded. There is a promotional budget but that would not be sufficient for the suggested way forward. Previously Richard Blyth had send a proposal which would have been a cost of £150 per championship round part funded by Clubs. It was pointed out that if this were done on a commercial basis, it would cost a lot more.

Mr Dopson commented that if Clubs would be expected to contribute, then they must have some input and agreement.

It was agreed by those present that the document is simplified and Mr Armes would seek a ballpark figure and report back.

9. Correspondence:

Ms Berwick read out a letter received from Paul Fenn regarding his displeasure at the discontinuation of the Gazettes for Stewards. P Armes will contact him.

Mr Ralph felt that on reflection that this should have been a Board decision.

Discussed why this was stopped and whether it should be revisited. A question of what is an 'active' stewards was discussed Mr smith pointed out that officials licensed as clerk of the course had been encouraged to take the Stewards part as well and that a lot of licence holders did not want to officiate as a Steward for various reasons.

After discussion it was agreed that the proposal should be put to the Board as follows:

That active stewards should be sent a complimentary gazette and that active is deemed to mean those stewards Who have officiated as such during the previous year.

Ms Berwick had received an email inviting teams to take part in the Inter Centre Team event in October. After due discussion it was agreed that the Centre would not be entering a team this time.

10. Any Other Business:

A Hay, Mrs Barbara Douglas had asked if the Centre would consider funding the permit fees for the promotional events held at Norfolk Game and Country Fair (£70) and one due to be held at Long Stratton (£35). Agreed by all present to pay this from promotional budget.

Essex and Suffolk – held a Trial in April, not yet paid levies. Mr Penny will contact the Club to resolve this.

E Wass had received a flyer from Ipswich Borough Council promoting 'Ipswich Wheels' event on 19th July. Mr Wass will telephone the council to find out more information and let the Ipswich Clubs know the result.

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

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 16th July 2015 at STANWAY VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.45PM