

Minutes of a Moto Cross Sub Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 7th July 2015 at Walsham Le willows Football Club

Present: Mr C Ralph Chairman, Ms L Berwick Secretary, Mr A Hay, Mrs V Hay, Mr J Blyth, Mrs D Blyth, Mr P Hubbard, Miss L Taylor, Mr P Sewter, Mr D Mills, Mr P Grantham, Mr P Gammon, K Weavers, P Armes.

1. Apologies received: A Foskew; G Brace; Mrs J Salmon; M Relland; J Hearn; S King
2. Mr Ralph welcomed all present to the meeting and sought approval of the previous minutes proposed P Hubbard 2nd K Weavers. The minutes were accepted as a true record.
3. Matters Arising:
Evening meeting due to run on a Friday had to be cancelled due to lack of entries.
A new entry form is now in use.
4. Eastern Centre Championship to date.
Mr Ralph reported that there had been 4 rounds held so far and produced a report on points standings and holeshot awards.
P Gammon stated that the only hold ups to date had been caused by injuries and out of 176 entries at Mildenhall, 167 had been online.
Mrs Blyth reported that the Blaxhall meeting had a good entry with only a few non-starters.
Mr Blyth reported that there had been a rider who was allowed to go out in a second practice following a puncture. Mr Ralph explained how this had happened and apologised for the mistake.
Mrs Blyth suggested that clubs should bank cheques prior to race meetings – agreed that this is the choice of individual clubs.
K Weavers reported that the first meeting at Wakes Colne had trialled the siting lap, which led to a very long day. No other club has used a siting lap since. P Hubbard stated that the siting lap is a good idea but it was tried on a track that did not change all day.
C Ralph stated that 15 race programmes are too long.
P Sewter reported that transponder hire has increased and there have been times when it is close to not having enough transponders. K Weavers suggested that the Board be asked to purchase another box. A Hay stated that in his opinion that would be too costly and that the Centre could hire extra from HS Sports if necessary.
P Sewter also stated that he spends more time administering the number scheme than anything else. C Ralph stated that there are still a minority of riders who have not purchased a number. Most secretaries handle this well.
P Sewter reported that there are still a few issues with the timing team not being given appropriate information but all in all things have improved.
P Gammon pointed out that in the Club Championship points table, Littleport has points allocated but do not have riding members. It was discussed and decided that these points were accrued by a rider entering on a day licence. Mr Ralph reported that under the new system, only the top expert and junior riders from each club score points.
It was reported that Jason Morland insisted that he had got a holeshot at Mildenhall but he could only go on the information provided by the club official tasked with judging the holeshot.
A Hay asked whether we should continue with all riders needing to purchase a number or just for championship rounds. Mr Armes felt that as the first year was compulsory, a second year would be more efficient and the system deserves a second year.
Mr Sewter has tweaked the numbers system so that once a number is purchased, it is now removed from 'sale' and cannot be bought again.

An email will be sent out to all riders at the end of the year with a reminder to renew their numbers. They will have one month to do this, after which numbers will be released for public sale.

5. Gradings.
Agreed to upgrade James Mills and Andrew Stephenson. Review Jordan Moxey in January.
Downgrading was discussed and will be by request. Mr Ralph to speak to Steve Atkins re his expert status.

6. Eastern Centre Championship 2016.
Mrs Blyth – stated that she thought that eligibility to be declared open, take away the residency issue as now run on open permit.
Length of races for experts should be 18 minutes + 2 laps. To be discussed further at next meeting when championship rules decided.
D Blyth – should not have to pay for timing team but should come from transponder hire. To be discussed further. P Sewter stated that the timing system will need updating within the next two years and that funds would need to be kept for that and any other upgrades in the future.
The loan for the purchase of the equipment should be paid off by the end of this year.
Brief discussion on 2016 championship format – suggestion of fastest 40 irrespective of status - to be called premier class. Mr Ralph asked those present to have a think about format to be discussed in September.
C Ralph proposed that the 'resident' status for the Eastern Centre Champion be removed – Mr Armes will take this back to the competitions committee for discussion.

7. Timing:
Mr Sewter commented that this year had gone better using the same system but that there is still problems with rider information that needs amending prior to the meetings.
Miss Taylor stated that she would prefer on-line entries only. Mr Armes replied that a ruling was made to offer paper entries at present. Mrs Blyth stated that paper entries must be in by the closing date.
Mr Sewter stated that if no one else comes forward, he would guarantee to time the championship rounds.

8. P Armes – proposed tender document:
Mr Armes explained that The Eastern Centre Championship is the flagship Championship of the Centre. It is necessary to ascertain from clubs what they need to assist them in running the event. Feedback is needed from organisers as different clubs have different needs. Some clubs need more support from the Centre, each other and the possibility of a 'championship team' has been discussed. On the secretarial side, is there an opportunity for a central administrator – food for thought.
Attracting decent sponsorship is another issue and one point of contact would be preferable for this to provide a level of consistency.
Banners etc to make a spectacle which would bring a logistical responsibility. PR – Richard Blyth had put forward a great idea, but had been unable to proceed following intervention from the ACU.
P Armes has presented a document to the competitions committee and will tender this PR for the Championship to various companies/individuals. Mr Blyth stated that Richard Blyth would not be able to tender.
Mr Armes stated that each tender would be put before the competitions committee and the MX Chairman as received.
Mr Blyth and Mr Gammon both stated that if Mr Deeks were involved in any way, they would not accept that tender.

Timing – concern was raised regarding the timing if Mr Sewter was unavailable and it was agreed that more operators are needed. Discussion over the keeping and maintaining of the timing equipment, where it should be kept, who has overall responsibility etc.

P Armes is looking over the next 6 to 9 months for support of the MX Championship but nothing can be achieved without the support of all clubs and those present. In the short term, Mr Armes would like to place a piece in the Gazette and the last 4 rounds of the Championship seeking interest with regards to both timing and organisation in general, helpers etc.

9. Any Other Business:

P Sewter – commented that D Group was slow and boring – discussion over how this could be altered – decision was that there will always be a ‘slow’ group who pay their money.

Upgrading – A Hay will contact Rugby and the upgraded riders.

Event Secretaries meeting on 25th July at Rugby – Mr and Mrs Hay, Mrs Blyth and Miss Taylor are to attend.

Rider (403) Jake Robertson had been allowed to compete on an 85cc motor cycle at a recent event at Stisted – should have been on 125cc.

D Mills reported that Kane Fisher had also ridden an 85cc.

J Blyth commented that G Brace was listed as Secretary of the Meeting, Clerk of the Course and Child Protection Officer at the upcoming Championship round at Chippenham. To ascertain if this is allowed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at. 10.10pm

Next Meeting

Monday 21st September 2015 at Walsham Le Willows Football Club at 7.30pm.