

Moto Cross Sub Committee Meeting held at Walsham Le Willows F C on
Monday 1st February 2016

Present: C Ralph; M Relland; Keith Weavers; P Hubbard; J Blyth; P Grantham; D Mills; Also in attendance J Morland; J Hearn; A Foskew

1. Mr Ralph opened the meeting and welcomed all those present.

Apologies; P Aldridge; Mrs L Berwick; A Taylor;

2. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd November 2015 were approved.

3. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

4. Discussion of items relating to the forthcoming season:

a) Mr Hay reported that he and Val had attended a timing meeting at Rugby. The first issue raised was that clubs must show both classes in the programme to distinguish the grade of riders.

b) ACU timing system shows all finishers in the races. The general opinion was that we will operate that to be classed as a finisher, the chequered flag must be taken.

J Morland enquired about the tear off situation. CR explained the current situation to him and after several comments from some of those attending, stated that whatever people's opinions were, it was a democratic vote at Board level, and the mx subcommittee could not alter that decision.

J Blyth stated he was not happy with the situation and that Mr Gary Thompson should not have been involved with email references. It was pointed out by CR and J Hearn that the mail regarding the word 'Centre' was from Gary Thompson and obviously the reply was sent to the sender.

JB stated that he was not allowed to give proper reasons regarding the ban at the ACU Eastern Board meeting and the vote was swayed by people not involved in moto cross. Mr Relland stated that on a wet muddy day, tear offs were much safer for the rider's vision.

J Hearn replied that Enduro riders had not reported any problems with the safety aspect.

CR concluded that if the ban had been enforced from January 1st by the ACU, there would have been no protests from anyone. No-one disputed this statement. However, it was agreed to try to appease everyone as per Phil Armes' email, and to give riders a chance to get used to the ruling at the early meetings. Paul Grantham was asked to talk to riders at the Blaxhall Practice Day and at the April Wakes Colne meeting, with a view to warn riders initially, before taking any further action.

D Mills indicated that the Norfolk and Suffolk Junior Motor Cycle Club would not ban tearoffs at Gt Hockham. CR stated that P Armes was probably aware of this, and because the Circuit is on Forestry Land, a further discussion with the Club should take place.

5. CR mentioned that at the previous MX Forum, some of the Expert graded riders requested the use of blue flags. This was agreed by the Committee. The only problem was to find competent people who are experienced for the task, as most of the Centre's officials are normally busy doing other jobs on the day.

It was suggested that CR advertises on the ACU Eastern website for 2 people to do this role, preferably the same people to cover all 7 rounds of the Championship, and it was only necessary to blue flag the 3 Premier Class races on the day.

6. Sponsorship: CR informed the Committee that P Armes had been speaking to a prospective sponsor, and Although, initially, the deal would be slight, it could develop further. CR to keep the Committee informed of the situation.

CR announced that John Chambers is continuing his support of £1000. After discussions, it was agreed to pay the first 3 Premier Class holeshot winners (1st £250; 2nd 3150; 3rd 3100) over the 7 rounds, but it was pointed out that it will be difficult to monitor the non-expert class if some of them were competing in the Premier Class.

It was agreed with Mr Hay's suggestion to pay the top 3 in the Non-Expert Championship at the conclusion of the series (1st £250; 2nd 50; 3rd £100).

7. CR distributed the Stewards appointments to the Committee and explained that he had tried to be fair with selections, as some officials had other tasks on race days. He mentioned that he had contacted Charlie Garrod to explain this.

8. Future meeting dates:

It was agreed the next Committee meeting would be held on 31st May, and will include race secretaries. Norfolk and Suffolk JMCC will also be invited.

15th August – normal committee meeting to discuss the season to date.

Friday 16th September for the MX Forum. All meetings at Walsham le Willows Football Club.

9. Grading:

No adverse comments, all in agreement that once a rider has reached 15 points over 3 meetings, points will be capped.

A Hay has sent the ACU a revised list of Expert Graded riders as the list they have is hopelessly out of date.

It was observed that the main reason for out of date lists, is because recorders do not keep the ACU up to date with their records.

There being no further business closed, the meeting closed at 9.30pm