

Minutes of the 9th Competitions Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 15th October 2014 at Gt Blakenham Parish Rooms

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

1. Mr Smith opened the meeting and welcomed all present and received apologies from A Deeks; G Brace. Mr Ralph asked if there is a ruling re the number of missed meetings – Mr Smith replied that the rules stated in the byelaws are for Board only not sporting committees.

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

3. Matters Arising:

Re Mildenhall. D Smith is yet to draft the letter.

P Armes – still to draft a letter. He has now put together a full list of registered centre officials.

Mr Smith has spoken to Mrs Blyth re Stewards letter and will write to confirm the conversation.

There is an issue with the decision made regarding the youth championship. The Norfolk and Suffolk club was very upset by this and Tracey Hales has admitted that she was at fault. The N&S Club are asking for the decision to be reversed, as it was not the fault of the competitors. Mr Armes reminded the committee that the events were run under to wrong permit. Ms Berwick pointed out that maybe the comps committee should have noticed this. Mr Armes stated that the club must engage with the Centre better in future. Mr Brace and Mr Ralph are to attend a Norfolk and Suffolk Committee meeting to talk through the way forward from now on. Those present agreed to reinstate the youth championship for 2014.

Ms Berwick will write to Tracey Hales formally confirming this. The letter to include the proviso that the club must adhere to the championship conditions in the Centre Handbook. Ms Berwick also to request confirmation of which rounds are to count for 2014 and obtain a list of Prizewinners.

Timing – to be discussed in MX report.

R Greengrass- much better now and home.

Mr Smith reported that Albert Brace has been very unwell and is currently in hospital. The committee wishes him well.

4. Permits and Fixtures:

Mr Armes circulated the current position on permit applications. Applications have slowed down now due to the time of the year. Mr Armes reported that there is no steward available for the Norwich New Stars event on 19th October. Mr Smith has approached Peter Gregory re a permanent TCC but has had no response as yet. Mr Smith stated that he is comfortable with the fact that no steward is available.

Mr Armes reported that he has had about 75% of clubs send in their preferred dates.

Mr Dopson asked when the National dates would be confirmed – Mr Smith said that those dates are dictated by the international dates. There is a Board Meeting at Rugby next Wednesday – he will endeavour to chase up the finalisation of the dates.

5. Steward's Report:

E Wass – three meeting reports had been received:

6th July – Ray Clampin Memorial Trial E Wass – sections too long – white route. Difficult sections due to rain. Dried out later.

17th August – 2 man enduro Wattisfield J Hearn – Very good event

21st September 6th Round ECC MX Diss – A Foskew – wet track to start, well run meeting, enjoyable event.

6. Eastern Centre Trials Stewards

Nothing to report – C Dopson. Mr Dopson has sent personal emails to those approved to carry out steward's duties.

Mr Armes circulated the list of officials he has collated.

Mr Smith reported that a proposal had been made to Rugby for technical officials to be by discipline. This is due to being discussed next week.

7. Sub Committee Reports:

Moto Cross Report:

Mr Ralph gave the report in G Brace's absence: Timing Team – no response yet and no one showing a genuine interest. Mr Ralph requested that a half page advert be placed in the next edition of the Gazette.

Mr Dopson asked what those present thought that the committee could do to encourage either Mr Sewter to reconsider or to attract a new timing team. Discussion over the reasons why Mr Sewter resigned. Mr Dopson suggested that it be made compulsory for riders to purchase a race number. Mr Smith proposed that a cut off date be set after which race numbers would be allocated free of charge. After a consensus, it was agreed that it would be compulsory for all riders to purchase a number from 2015.

After this agreement, it was stated that the reason for this (to aid the timekeeper) must be made clear to all riders and emphasis made that all monies are donated to the air ambulances of East Anglian and Essex alternatively.

Mr Smith asked Mr Armes to contact Mr Sewter to find out how many riders he has on his database that could be contacted electronically. Any that could not, Ms Berwick will contact by letter.

A letter to organisers would also be sent stating that all input must be sent to the timekeeper on time and in the correct format.

A section will also be added on this subject in the Eastern Centre Handbook.

Mr Ralph reported that the ECC had been discussed at a recent sub committee meeting and it had been agreed to increase the entry fee from Centre Championship Round to £50. This was done to assist clubs who have to hire/lease their circuits.

The amount of rounds currently stands at 7, with the possibility of an 8th.

Mr Ralph reported that J Cutting, J Hinz, C Hughes, W Hempstead and A Day will be recommended to upgrade to Expert status although Mr Hay had been asked by J Hinz not to upgrade him. This to be discussed at next MX meeting.

Mr Hay advised that Paul Grantham of the Littleport Club has booked Chippenham for a Centre Championship Round. He has asked if the Centre could help financially as the cost is £3000.

Mr Smith commented that the Land Fund could be used. M Deeks stated that this needs looking at carefully as previously it has always been said that at least three disciplines of the club applying should be able to use the venue concerned.

Mr Hay stated that if agreed, the MX account could fund this initially and if and when the Land Fund Rules were looked at and amended, then reimbursement could be sought.

Mr Dopson stated that he agrees that a change of rules for the Land Fund needs updating, but that he is not comfortable with any agreement of funds being allowed until such time this has been done.

MX committee to make the decision on assisting Littleport from MX fund. A figure of £800 was suggested – that being the difference of the hire of Mildenhall and Chippenham.

Land Fund rules will be placed for discussion on the agenda for the January Board Meeting. Mr Dopson asked if it could be added to the November Board, Mr Hearn replied that there would not be time to discuss this fully then due to time constraints on the hall plus two meetings have to be held on that afternoon (AGM and Board).

Trials Report:

C Dopson – a busy month when 3 A class and 1 B Class championship Trials had been held. 5th November is the date for the Trials Forum and AGM. Numbers of riders up this year. Seminar for Trials and Enduro Technical needs to be organised. Ms Berwick will liaise with Rugby.

Enduro Report – J Hearn:

Trophies for the three new classes have been obtained:

Ranson Racing – Expert Vets: Clubmans – Brian Bowers Trophy: Super Vets – Jack and Vera Hearn trophy.

Mr Hearn will organise the engraving for these new awards.

Grass Track Report; A Foskew

No report. Mr Ralph wished to make it known that although there are rumours to the contrary, Woodbridge have not made a decision of the future of grass track racing within their club.

8. Update on MSA GoSportLive

The event takes place on 19th October. Mr Smith reported that Norfolk and Suffolk juniors will be there with 6 bikes and will demo moto cross. They will also have a grass track bike on site.

Mr Dopson reported that due to so many events on that weekend, Dave Cordle had struggled to find any kind of support for a display. Mr Dopson will now be able to attend and will try to find some trials bikes. Mr Armes agreed to contact M Pope. Pop-ups are needed – Mr Hearn will take his two, Ms Berwick will ask her son if his is available. M Deeks to speak to D Every Jnr to see if he would attend with his new trials bike. Mr Smith will organise the passes for those who could not get online to book free tickets.

9. Correspondence:

Letter of thanks from EAAA.

Letter re technical seminars from Michelle Haynes.

10. Any Other Business:

A Penny – rule changes for championship etc – asked to be placed on next agenda.

Mr Dopson – Trials rules will be discussed at the Forum – will bring revisions (if any) to next meeting.

L Berwick – dates for next years meetings need to be set – she will liaise with D Smith and J Hearn and book the venues.

D Smith – will not be standing for Chairman of Competitions Committee next year.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday 27th November 2014 at Stanway Village Hall commencing at 7.45pm