

MINUTES OF THE SMCA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT ARBORFIELD
BARRACKS

17.10. 2009

1. THOSE PRESENT Les Batten, *Chairman*, Steve Tye, *Secretary*, Sue Tye, *Treasurer*, Martin Guilford, *Vice Chairman*, Chris Helm, *Press Officer*, Pam Humphrey, *Bulletin Editor*, Paul Pelling, *British Championship Co-ordinator*, Sue Kemp, Ian Cooper, Eric Maguire, Lydia Blackman, Ann Reynolds, Lucy Butcher.

2. APOLOGIES Garry Patey, *Membership Secretary*

3(a) MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING were approved.

3(b) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

(i). "Popeye" had been contacted and was willing to leave his donation in the GP Fund.

(ii) Ann Reynolds reported that there would be a 2 page report on sidecar-cross in the winter edition of "Sportmoto" ACU magazine.

(iii) Following on from the discussions about insurance when riding abroad it was reported that the ACU would be looking into the wording of the handbook. Sonia Goggin had admitted that the ACU office have no information as to who is riding where unless the rider has applied for start permission and insurance.

(iv) Standard Rules for Motocross. Ian Cooper had read through all the various regulations and had aggregated a common set of rules. This would be raised at the November ACU meeting and a detailed set compiled following that meeting.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Les said he had been unable to get to as many events as he would have liked but otherwise he had nothing to report.

5. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Steve still had received no correspondence from ACU Office or minutes from ACU meetings. Steve had sent an e mail to Gary Thompson asking to be included on the e mail list but had received no acknowledgement. Ian Cooper advised that he had discovered that the e mail address in the Handbook is wrong and that he would supply Steve with the correct address.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

Community Account £6586.77

Business Premium Account £1509.75

The bills for trophies are awaited and there will be the bills for the Awards Evening also. Martin Guilford will be reimbursed for the hole shot payments.

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7. PRESS OFFICER'S REPORT

Chris helm reported that despite Stuart Brown/ Luke Peters winning a Grand prix race in Rudesberg and finishing 3rd in the other the coverage in TMX was poor. Chris had contacted Mannix Devlin and things had been a bit better since. Ann Reynolds stated that her report on the final UMX Round had not been used. (*It did appear the week after this meeting. Sec.*) Roy Barton was putting material onto the SMCA pages of the Euro Motorsport web site. As always Chris said that any and all information from teams or individuals would be gratefully received. He had not been asked to contribute to the TMX Annual Review of motocross. However there had been an excellent article in the FIM newsletter.

8. BULLETIN EDITOR'S REPORT

Pam Humphrey reported that there had been a Bulletin issue recently and there would be another before the end of the year. When the new membership forms are issued the system will change and hard copies will be produced only for those who have requested them. The others will be dispatched by e mail. The deadline for copy for this issue is 28th November.

9. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Gary was unable to attend the meeting and he had sent a report and membership list to Ian Cooper. There was a discussion about membership numbers and it was noted that very few drivers or passengers are members. Ian observed that we need to make ourselves "more appealing" to the sidecar fraternity. Membership forms were copied ready to be taken to Binstead.

10. BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP

Paul Pelling said that all clubs that had run rounds this year were happy to do so in 2010, including Norwich Vikings who had organised the last round at Lyng at short notice. The secretary would write to Maxxis to thank them for their sponsorship.

The subcommittee are aiming to have 7 rounds in 2010 but are waiting for the FIM to confirm the GP dates before deciding on the British ones.

Martin Guilford requested greater communication between the subcommittee and others. Paul and Chris both said they sent e mails as soon as definite arrangements were confirmed. This was in reference to the change of venue and date of the last round.

Paul and Les would be attending the November ACU MX Committee meeting to discuss the 2010 championships.

As Paul is hoping to be riding again next year he asked for help on the day of the events. Steve Geraghty had offered assistance in the past and would be approached. The committee recorded a vote of thanks to Paul, Sue, Chris and Ian Jenkins for their work during the year.

11. CLUBMAN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

This had gone well and the committee gave a vote of thanks to Lydia, Eric and Steve for their work during the year.

12. DINNER DANCE

Lucy Butcher reported that tickets were going well and only 6 of the 40 rooms block booked were left. There would be no guest speaker but negotiations for entertainment were underway. The championship awards would be presented by those sponsors attending and the others by the Chairman. The raffle would be in aid of Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital as Andy and Nicola Breacher's daughter had received treatment there. Prizes for the raffle were in hand and a donation of a year's subscription had been donated by TMX News.

13. CHAMPIONSHIP RULES, DOUBLE POINTS AT THE LAST ROUND

Martin Guilford proposed that this be dropped. He had discussions with some riders who were not in favour. Following a discussion the voting on the proposal was tied. There was a concern raised as to whether the Chairman could vote on the original proposal and then have a casting vote in the event of a tie. It was established that this is what happened at National Motocross Committee level and therefore there was a precedent. The Chairman used his casting vote and the proposal was not adopted and the rule will remain for 2010.

14. 2010 CLUBMAN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

Martin Guilford had received a request that the eligibility rules be changed to exclude only the top 10 riders from the previous year's British Championship, not the top 15 as at present. A lengthy discussion followed but as this did not result in any formal proposal to change the rules they will remain as for 2009.

15. 100 CLUB

Martin Guilford expressed concern that it might not be possible to attract sufficient members to keep the 100 Club viable. He needed another 20 contributions of £100 in order to maintain the level of donations to the organising clubs. It was decided that he would continue to run it and would issue a newsletter to "drum up support". If there was a shortfall he requested that it be underwritten from the championship sponsorship or registration fees. This was proposed by Ian Cooper, seconded by Chris Helm and carried unanimously.

16. AIMS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Chris Helm had only received 1 reply to his questions regarding the original Aims and Objectives of the SMCA. He suggested that perhaps they should be left as they are if there is no really strong drive to change them.

Chris asked whether we are continuing to contact local Centres and encourage them to run sidecar classes especially as at the moment solo entries seem to be falling. Steve Tye offered to contact Eastern Centre Clubs and Ian Cooper offered to draft a letter to send to organisers.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) There was a discussion on a £15 registration fee for the Clubman's Championship. Association members would be registered automatically. Eric and Lydia offered to run the system if it was agreed. This was proposed by Martin Guilford and seconded by Sue Kemp and carried unanimously.

(ii) Martin Guilford asked if the sidecar riding number registration scheme was still running. Steve stated he was willing to continue to run the number registration system.

(iii) "Taffy's Ramblings" There was a discussion on the points sent to Paul Pelling by Taffy. Some of his ideas were good; others were unworkable because of the differences between ACU/FIM and AMCA/IMBA. Some ideas might work for a one off, sidecar only meeting. The secretary would write to Taffy explaining our position.

(iv) Sidecar GP List. Chris Helm stated that rider opinion was that 12/13 rounds was plenty in terms of GP numbers. The ACU delegate to the FIM conference will be asked to pass this on.

(v) Sue Kemp asked that as now registration exists for the Clubman's Championship what will be the position of a non-registered rider entering an event? After discussion it was decided that an un-registered rider would not be allowed to score points but would be entitled to any prize money won.

(vi) Sue Kemp stated that some of the trophies had not been returned. These were being tracked down and it was hoped that they would be ready for the awards evening. Still on the subject of trophies Paul stated that the Centriplant Fourstroke Trophies would no longer be presented as the majority of riders were now using fourstrokes.

(vii) SMCA membership. A number of suggestions were made as to how to make membership of the Association more attractive. (a) Re-instate the Frome Easter egg hunt for children. (b) A one stop shop where memberships ACU licences etc. could all be done at the same time. (c) A Festival of Sidecars possibly run by the SMCA over a weekend to include all classes. As Nicky Maguire has finished her professional exams and now has more time she and Eric would be happy to take on membership secretary if Gary is unable to continue.

(vii) Subscription Rates for 2011

Pam Humphrey stated that this had to be decided at an AGM. If we wished to make a change for 2011 it must be agreed at the 2010 AGM. The following proposals were agreed by the Committee to be put forward at the AGM.

1. Discontinue family membership, proposed Ian Cooper seconded martin Guilford
2. Competitor membership £20 Non competitor £10 Under 14s free, proposed Eric Maguire seconded Ian Cooper

(ix) Trophies awarded by the SMCA were discussed and the winners chosen. These were Driver of the Year, Passenger of the Year, Best Newcomer Driver, Best Newcomer Passenger and Services to Sidecar cross. Eric asked if the voting for these trophies should be done only by the committee. Ian also felt that this could be open to the membership as a whole. It was decided to discuss the matter at the AGM.

The AGM will be the next meeting. This will be held at the Sultan in Waltham Abbey, Essex on January 17th 2010 starting at 1pm. It will be followed immediately after by the First Meeting of the 2010 Committee.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.30pm.

