

THE SIDECAR MOTOCROSS ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN

COMMITTEE MEETING

1st NOVEMBER 2008 "THE LAMB," THEALE, BERKS

Start: 1.10pm

Present: Chris Helm Steve and Sue Tye Les and Sue Batten
Sue Kemp Paul Pelling Roy Humphrey
Martin Guilford Pete Batt Mark Millard
Greg Wernham Eric Maguire Steve Geraghty
Gary Moore

Apologies: Eddie Herd, Pam Humphrey

1. **Minutes from Previous Meeting 1 March 2008**

Read and agreed.

2. **Matters arising**

- Training/practice day, it was suggested that perhaps TonyMoto could now be used as the insurance has been changed to take sidecars and quads.
Qualified trainers – Martin informed the committee that he has sent his form back to the ACU to say that he is interested in carrying on being a trainer. Paul also said that he would be interested again. Both will have to do the First Aid course required to be covered by the ACU insurance.

3. **Chairman's Report**

The chairman thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Les said that due to the many topics needed to be discussed today he would defer to the AGM in January.

4. **Secretary's Report**

- Correspondence. Sue read out a letter from the Diss Club which said that they were really pleased with the way the British Championship round was run at their circuit and have invited us back again in 2009. It was agreed that Sue would get a copy of the letter to Pam to put in the Bulletin.
- Sue reported that correspondence from the ACU is now coming through regularly.

5. **Membership Secretary's Report.**

Garry Patey was unable to attend the meeting. Les said he would give him a call to check all OK. (Post meeting note. Garry is fine and ok for 2009).

6. **Treasurer's Report**

Sue Tye reported that she had received £650 in membership which is very low, approximately half of what we normally have.

Savings	£1,505.56
Current	£5,036.08

There is a surplus of £1,240.42 from the British Championship.

Monies spent on British Championship to date.

Trophies:	£195.00
	£594.12

Programmes:	£640.06
	£145.00
	£ 69.29

15 Sec Operator clothing etc	£115.21
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7. **Press Officers Report**

Chris reported that he sent a survey out to all the committee but did not have a very good return. The survey basically asked several questions regarding the bike press and websites etc.

His findings from those who returned the survey were as follows:

75% read TMX regularly
50% took the TMX annual
Majority use/write/read sidecarcross.com
MX247 over 50% used regularly
Euromotosport was hardly used – between Jan-August only 1000-1200 looked at it. It was agreed that there should be a new SMCA address with a direct link to Euromotosport. Chris will speak with Roy Barton.

Chris reported that articles are going into TMX. Ben Johnson has now left TMX and Mannix Devlin is taking it all on – he is sidecar friendly!

8. **Bulletin Editor's Report**

Pam was unable to attend the meeting as her car had broken down en-route.

However, she had contacted the Chairman via phone to say that she had received no copy for the next Bulletin which should have gone out a month ago.

It was mentioned that there had not been a report in the Bulletin regarding the Clubman's Championship.

9. **Dinner and Dance Report**

- Mark Millard reported that 136 people have tickets for the Dinner and Dance and that all the rooms at the reduced rate have been sold for the Saturday night.
- Tracey Thacker has agreed to be the guest speaker.
- Les was asked if he would comper the proceedings to which he agreed.
- It was thought a good idea if the winners of each championship were asked a few comments on the season etc.
- Agreed that the raffle profit this year will go to the SMCA.

10. **Any Other Business**

- 1 British Championship, Les reported that "the sporting committee" had met that morning to discuss various items regarding the 2009 series. We had been invited back to all the same venues as last year but it was generally felt that Ireland was too expensive for the majority and that perhaps the round in Wales was not up to British Championship expectations. We would also like the ACU to officially invite the clubs and to outline what is necessary to run a round ie permits stewards etc. Les said that whilst he and Steve Tye had volunteered to be either steward or clerk of the course where needed, this was a big personal gamble as basically they had no real control over the events but would be cited in any law suits etc as the clerk of the course is always held responsible.
- 2 At this point Mark Millard said that he had a problem with the Sporting Committee and said that he thought the rest of the committee should be made aware of when the Sporting Committee is being held. He also thought there should have been a vote to get on the Sporting Committee.
- 3 The Chairman said that although it had been reported at the January committee meeting that a Sporting Committee had been formed he agreed that perhaps, in hindsight, things should have been done differently. He thanked Mark for raising the point.
- 4 Dates for 2009 – The ACU/Clubs to organise dates for the 2009 season. Mark Millard asked if it could be pointed out to the ACU that if possible could there not be a British Championship between 19 July and 23 August due to World Championship rounds during these dates and it would be easier if the British competitors did not have to come back for a British round and then go back abroad again. Les and Paul have been invited to ACU MX committee on Wednesday 5 November.
- 5 Rule Changes – At the sporting committee earlier it had been suggested that the final round of the British Championship carries double points to try to keep that last round "alive". Les pointed out that the SMCA can only submit suggestions to the ACU motocross committee and that they will make the final decision.

The only other suggestion was that it was written in that the “parc ferme” will close when the first team is called to the start line. Reserve teams can then be put in at this point.

- 6 Chris agreed to stay as BC series recorder. Paul will also stay as co-ordinator for 2009 season but asked for help with things on the day such as pit box organiser.
- 7 Steve Geraghty was asked by the chairman and agreed that he would organise the “Parc ferme” on race day.
- 8 Martin said that he had spoken to Robert and they were willing to carry the “100 Club” on into 2009.
- 9 Martin also suggested introducing a “Fantasy Sidecar League” i.e. whoever’s name is on the sidecar from the 100 club will get the same amount of points as that team etc and at the end of the season the winner will get free tickets to the Dinner and Dance. It was agreed to discuss this further.
- 10 Sponsor’s name stickers – Mark asked if they could be made smaller as he said he felt they were too big for the front number plate. He also asked that perhaps the colour could be changed from white to yellow. It was agreed that the size of the stickers will remain the same and Martin will ask Lucy to look at possibly changing the background colour to yellow.
- 11 Title Sponsorship – Paul Douglas from Hadrian Marine Ltd has donated £2,000 to the SMCA. It was suggested that a full page advert was given to Hadrian Marine Ltd at all British Championship events. There had also been an offer for the main championship from another source but the chairman declined to say who it was until an agreement had been reached.
There was a discussion regarding the Hadrian Marine money, whether it should be split 50% to the British and 50% to the Clubman’s – no decision was made at this time but it was pointed out that the donation was given to the SMCA to do with as it saw fit.
- 12 Ian Durston had been asked whether he wanted to sponsor the British Championship again in 2009. Ian said that due to work he was unable to commit at this moment in time. A letter has been sent by the chairman to thank him for his sponsorship this season.

Clubmans Championship 2009

- 1 Steve Tye informed the committee that he was finding it increasingly difficult to cope with the recorders and co-ordinators job. Lydia Blackman would be approached to see if she would become the recorder for 2009. Greg agreed to contact Lydia to ask if she would take on the role. Steve was willing to remain as co-ordinator for finding venues etc.
- 2 Dunmow Club have applied for a round on 4 May. It was hoped that Frome would run on 25 May and Les would ask Twickenham to run on September 6. It was felt both Nora quads and Winchester would run rounds if asked.

3 Eric proposed the Clubman's score in line with the British Championship. Agreed (Rule change to be submitted to ACU)

4 **Clubman's Points – the following two proposals were put forward.**

4.1. Martin Guilford proposed that the top 15 from the British Championship the previous year cannot score points and that the top 10 from the last 5 years do not score points (which includes that year).

4.2 Greg Wernham proposed top 10 from British Championship top 10 from the last 5 years.

The above went to a vote as follows:-

4.1 Proposer: Martin Guilford

Seconded: Eric Maguire

4.2 Propose: Greg Wernham

Seconded: Steve Geraghty

7 votes for 4.1

6 votes for 4.2

4.1 carried – the rule to be submitted to ACU for change in 2009

The top 6 from the AMCA from the previous year can also enter the Clubman's along with Nos. 1-16 (no number 13) from the British Championship but will not be eligible to score points.

It was also agreed that the winner of the Clubman's cannot score points in the following year's championship.

5 **Entries**

Les proposed that entries for the Clubman's should be open to all competitors. At present the top 15 from British Championship can only get in once entries close if there are places. Les said that perhaps if the entry is open to all crews might enter earlier which will make it easier for organisers etc.

Proposed: Les Batten

Seconded: Mark Millard

For: 9

Against ; 2

Carried

Rules will be altered to reflect the proposed changes. Les offered to rewrite the rules and submit for checking before offering the ACU for 2009.

6 Martin asked whether all SMCA Officers and General Committee were willing to stand again in 2009. He felt that if it was known before the AGM who was willing to stand and who was not it would give the SMCA time to find someone else if required.

Chairman – Les Batten	OK
Vice Chairman – Martin Guilford	OK
Secretary – Sue Batten	Would rather hand over (but would not leave the SMCA without secretarial cover)
Press Officer – Chris Helm	Unsure
Treasurer – Sue Tye	Would rather hand over (but again would not leave the SMCA without cover)
Bulletin Editor – Pam Humphrey	Yes – but really needs commitment from SMCA members re: copy for the Bulletin
D&D Co-ordinator – Mark Millard	OK

Martin proposed the following:

General Committee: that the committee is more structured i.e. everyone has a job.

The following was proposed:

Apart from SMCA officers there should only be three other committee members.

Proposed: Martin Guilford

Seconded: Chris Helm

Passed – unanimous

British Championship working party (sub-committee):

Co-ordinator and recorder plus 2 others

Proposed: Martin Guilford

Seconded: Steve Geraghty

Passed

Clubman's Championship working party:

Co-ordinator and recorder plus 2 others

Proposed: Martin Guilford

Seconded: Sue Kemp

Passed

Sue Tye, as treasurer, asked to be kept in the loop regarding income and expenditure.

7. **2009 Awards (to be given out at Dinner and Dance)**

It was agreed that for future years there should be a short list for all voted awards:

Proposed: Martin Guilford

Seconded: Sue Tye

8. **2009 Team Race**

Martin said that he had sent his report into the ACU. The British team finished a creditable 5th place and there was a great team spirit among crews and supporters. Martin thanked Steve and Eddie for all their help.

Martin said that he would be willing to be manager again for 2009 if the SMCA wanted him to do so.

Steve Geraghty proposed Martin continues and was seconded by Mark Millard. Agreed

9. **British Championship Surplus**

It was agreed that there should be a separate bank account for the British Championship. All money left over will carry over to the 2009 season.

It was agreed that the trophies given out at the Dinner and Dance for the British Championship should come out of the surplus.

10. **Passenger points** Chris Helm asked whether passengers should have their own award process – i.e. currently the champion passenger is the passenger of the champion driver given certain criteria. However it was possible that other passengers could and indeed had scored more championship points. It was agreed to continue as per current rules as this is the way the world championships are scored

11. Mark Millard asked if there is a Rule Change will it be in the ACU minutes. Les replied that all rule changes are either updated via the ACU handbook or in the specific championship conditions.

12. Mark also asked if Wild Card Drivers can score points. Current rules state that they do

13. It was also asked how much of the race would you need to complete to be deemed a finisher. Current rules are 50% of the race (rounded down) and within 5 minutes of the winner crossing the finish line.

14. Eric Maguire asked for an item in the Bulletin about clarifying yellow flag signals as it was noted that some riders have been ignoring the yellow flags.

Meeting closed at 6.00pm

Date of next meeting: 25 January 2009 after AGM