

SIDECAR MOTOCROSS ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

25 JANUARY 2009

HELD AT THE LAMB, THEALE, BERKSHIRE

Present:	Sue Batten	Les Batten	Sue Tye
	Martin Guilford	Pam Humphrey	Roy Humphrey
	Mark Millard	Eddie Herd	Steve Tye
	Chris Helm	Roger Blackman	Lydia Blackman
	Ann Reynolds	Ian Cooper	Eric Maguire
	Greg Wernham	Ian Durston	Paul Pelling
	Sue Kemp		

1. Apologies: Steve Geraghty
2. Minutes of previous meeting: Read and agreed.
3. Matters Arising: None
4. Chairman's Report

2008 was a fairly hectic year for me as Chairman although we did not have as many committee meetings as I would have liked. I did attend all of the British Championship meetings apart from Ireland plus I think all the Clubman's. In my opinion both series went really well after a lot of hard work from a few people within the SMCA.

There was a point where in the year that I considered resigning from the position but after some good discussion at the last committee and a chat with our vice chairman I am willing to stand again if wanted.

One of the biggest issues that face any club or association is communication. Several instances have occurred this year where rumours/whispers etc have caused ill feeling within the sidecar fraternity and I urge anyone who feels that they have a problem or a question to go through the correct channels and hopefully the matter can be resolved amicably. If elected I will endeavour to keep the communication process going.

5. Secretary's Report

It was a fairly quiet year secretarial wise – a small amount of correspondence came in towards the end of 2008 regarding clubs wanting to run either British Championships or rounds of the Clubman's. – All correspondence was either brought to the last committee meeting or relayed to the committee via email. I am still getting ACU reports on a regular basis i.e. meeting notes etc.

I have signed a few riders/passengers licences and these have been sent off to the ACU.

I mentioned at the last committee meeting that I would like to step down from the secretarial role this year – but I also said that I would not leave the SMCA without secretarial cover.

Proposer: Sue Kemp

Seconded: Steve Tye

6. Membership Secretary's Report

Garry Patey reported that membership was slow coming in – worse than 2008. The SMCA has approximately 47 members to date.

Steve Tye to print club cards and send to Garry.

Proposer: Martin Guilford

Seconded: Pam Humphrey

7. Treasurers Report

The SMCA is in a very good position financially with sponsorship of £2,000 for the British Championship (MAXXIS) and sponsorship of £2,000 given to the SMCA (Hadrian Marine)

Accounts up to 31 December 2008:

All monies for the trophies for the Dinner and Dance have now been paid.

The invoice for the Bulletin came in December.

Two bills have been received for Sporting Motorcyclist so far: £54 and £140 (paid). Ten competitors paid for the Sporting Motorcyclist.

Payments: British Championships: Trophies	£195
Programmes:	£854.29
15sec operator equip:	£115.21

There is £7,000 in the accumulated fund – MAXXIS sponsorship not received to date (25 January 2009).

Proposer: Eddie Herd

Seconded: Chris Helm

8. Press Officers Report

Throughout last year Jan & I sent in articles to TMX fairly frequently, all of which were used eventually. We covered all the GPs with help from Mark Pierpoint and Vita plus I covered all British rounds on the mx247 and Euromotosport websites.

The combined efforts of all the sidecar contributors resulted in at least 65 articles being printed in TMX – pretty good for such a minority branch of the sport.

I tried to keep the fixture list up to date during the year and also acted as recorder for the Ian Durston Plant Services British championships. In both cases lack of information, i.e. changes, was by far the biggest problem. In 2009 I will continue with both of these tasks so I will repeat for the umpteenth time please let me know of any changes. (Since writing this on 17/01 I have learned that a change has been made which other members knew about but I wasn't told).

During the summer I sent out a questionnaire to all the committee asking about where information was most read. The answers seemed to show TMX plus sidecarcross.com being

the most popular with mx247 and Euromotosport websites falling well behind in popularity. Because of this I have stopped putting anything on mx247 and concentrated on Roy Barton's website. Contributions to TMX and Scott Whitney's site will continue as before. On the Euromotosport website there is now a lot of information about sidecars including championship conditions, fixture list, membership form, championship registration form etc etc. Please look at it.

With a lot of help from Gerald Connolly I have been working on updating the JD pages on the web. A lot of the updated (up to 2006) stats are now on the web but there is still a load more to do and I have to admit that I am now holding Gerald up as my half (I don't think he's very good at maths) of the work is taking a very long time. Just to give you an example before Christmas I was faced with trying to attach nationalities to 935 riders.

Since the New Year I have scanned every SMCA bulletin bar two and copied them to disc. If anyone wants copies of the first 20 years of bulletins, including the two missing ones, just ask – there's some very interesting stuff in there.

One thing is certain going forward 2009 will be harder work than before so any help, however small, will be much appreciated.

Proposer: Sue Kemp

Seconded: Steve Tye

Ann Reynolds said she was happy to carry on reporting on the UMX rounds and would cover the Clubmans if Tracey was not there.

Thanks were given to Chris, Ann, Tracey Thacker and Shaun Fowler for all their efforts in getting reports in the motorcycle papers and the Sporting Motorcyclist etc.

9. Bulletin Editors Report

This year has been tougher than most for getting articles in for the bulletin. Apart from a couple of one-offs like the Des Nations report the only contributors have been Les and Chris which, no offence to them, must make very unvaried reading. The 'Van Driver' came out to say his piece last spring and tried to prompt some discussion but absolutely nothing came back so you must all be ecstatically happy with your lot (– or just too lazy to write about it). At the deadline for copy for the Autumn edition I had received absolutely zilch so it would have consisted of 3 sets of results – wow!

I have had continued problems with trying to get responses from the printers, although they generally do a good job at the end of the day the only way I can usually get a response to an email is to do a completely separate email specifically asking if they received the previous one. Even when I ask a direct question I don't always get a reply.

This time last year there was a general agreement around this room that people would have a go at making a contribution but they have been few and far between and with the best will in the world I can't write a bulletin without any information.

Can I please have a little more from people this year. The Autumn/Winter edition quoted a copy date of March 15th.for the next edition. I am hoping that the fixture list will be complete enough and the printers will be able to accommodate a first edition by the beginning of

February so the next edition will be March/April time, please look out for the next copy date in the 2009 first edition.

Pam Humphrey - 07973 738815 - pam.smca@btinternet.com

P.S. I've just looked back at last year's report (I'd forgotten I even did one) and read almost exactly the same stuff that is written above. If I am getting stale, someone will have to bite the bullet & tell me!

Greg Wernham said he was interested in helping/contributing to the Bulletin and he agreed to become the SMCA Reporter.

Proposed: Sue Kemp

Seconded: Steve Tye

10. Election of Officers:

At this point the Chairman (Les Batten) stood down and the Vice Chairman (Martin Guilford) took control of the meeting.

With no other nominations Les was voted back in as Chairman.

Chairman	Les Batten	Prop. Martin Guilford	Sec. Mark Millard
Vice Chairman	Martin Guilford	Prop. Eddie Herd	Sec. Garry Patey
Secretary	Steve Tye	Prop. Garry Patey	Sec. Paul Pelling
Treasurer	Sue Tye	Prop. Martin Guilford	Sec. Pam Humphrey
Membership	Garry Patey	Prop. Sue Kemp	Sec. Chris Helm
Press Officers	Chris Helm	Prop. Martin Guilford	Sec. Eric Maguire
Bulletin Editor	Pam Humphrey	Prop. Steve Tye	Sec: Sue Tye

Mark Millard informed the meeting that he was standing down from the general committee but was still willing to organise the Dinner and Dance.

As agreed at the previous committee meeting in November the general committee was reduced by a voting procedure to three persons who are: Eric Maguire; Ian Cooper and Sue Kemp. The co-ordinators for the British (Paul Pelling) and Clubmans Championships (Steve Tye) are also committee members as of right.

The British Championship sub-committee will also have on it the recorder (Chris Helm) and a further two members.

The Clubmans Championship sub-committee will consist of the co-ordinator (Steve Tye) and the recorder (Lydia Blackman).

It was agreed that the position of President is no longer needed.

11. There being no other business the meeting closed at 1.45.

The next Annual General Meeting will be on the third Sunday in January 2010.