

MINUTES OF THE SMCA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE LAMB, THEALE
25.01 2009

THOSE PRESENT Les Batten, *Chairman*, Steve Tye, *Secretary*, Sue Tye, *Treasurer*, Martin Guilford, *Vice Chairman*, Chris Helm, *Press Officer*, Pam Humphrey, *Bulletin Editor*, Gary Patey, *Membership Secretary*, Paul Pelling, *British Championship Co-ordinator*, Sue Kemp, Ian Cooper, Eric Maguire, *Committee Members*, also in attendance Sue Batten, Roy Humphrey, Eddie Herd, Roger & Lydia Blackman, Ian Durston, Mark Millard, Greg Wernham.

APOLOGIES None received

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Ian Cooper opened by stating that he felt that all minutes should be published as soon as possible after the meeting on the SMCA pages of the Euro-motorsport web site. After some discussion regarding the status of the minutes as they would not have been approved by committee at that stage it was decided that the secretary would liaise with the chairman and publish the minutes as soon as possible making clear that they were only provisional at that stage.

Action Secretary and Chairman

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Chris Helm asked if the letter from Elaine Collins (Diss Club) had been passed on to the Bulletin Editor. The Chairman apologised that it had not and passed on the letter.

The Press Officer was asked why his survey had only been circulated amongst committee members. Chris explained that had only been intended for committee members.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This was as per the AGM which had taken place immediately before this meeting

SECRETARY'S REPORT

As Steve had only just taken over as secretary and the AGM minutes before, there was nothing to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

There had been some transactions between the closing of the previous financial year as per the statement of account presented at the AGM and the meeting. The current balance in the Community Account (current account) was £5655.87. Some of this balance would be transferred into the Business Premium Account where it would gain some interest. The committee were reminded that the apparently high balance is due to the sponsorship received for the championship.

PRESS OFFICER'S REPORT

As per AGM

DINNER/ AWARDS EVENING

Mark Millard reported on another very successful evening. There had been some slight problems as some tables has not been served coffee and Village Hotels had received a letter of complaint from a guest. However all agreed that it had been a great evening despite this and we would be happy to return to the venue next time. Mark has agreed the he and his wife, Tracey, will continue as organisers for the event and would liaise with Village Hotels for a suitable date in November 2009.. He pointed out that most of the work had been done by Tracey and Lucy Butcher and asked for a vote of thanks for them both. This was heartily endorsed by the committee and those present.

This year the evening had made a profit much of which was due to no donation being made to charity this year. The breakdown of expenses is an appendix to these minutes.

Martin Guildford stated that Lucy would not be able to help with the next event but Mark was aware of that and said Tracey and Lucy had “worked something out!”

Action Mark and Tracey Millard

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. MAXXIS Championship. Paul has received the cheque for £2000. There was much discussion about how this money could be best used. Mark Millard felt that it would be good if some was given to teams in the form of extra prize money. Ann Reynolds suggested the possibility of offering each organiser £100 to be spent on local advertising. There was concern expressed by Mark Millard and supported by others in the room that the condition of having to display a MAXXIS sticker on the front of the bike could lead to difficulty with relationships with other sponsors and the possibility of loss of their support. To clarify the possibility of flexibility over the condition Paul Pelling contacted Doug Woods who confirmed that this was a condition but a certain amount of flexibility could be afforded. It was decided that the championship sub-committee would be in the best position to decide how to use the money most effectively.

Action Championship sub committee

2. 100 CLUB Martin Guilford cleared up any misunderstanding about the 100 Club funds by stating that the club had its own bank account and this was entirely separate from the SMCA. So far this year he had raised £500 with the promise of more to come. With the surplus from last season it would enable the same level of financial support to be given to organisers as in 2008 - £400 per meeting.

Action Martin Guilford

- 3 Martin Guilford proposed the SMCA should supply 500 programme covers and 50 posters to each British Championship organiser, paid out of the Maxxis Sponsorship money. This was seconded by Eric Maguire and carried.

Action championship sub-committee and treasurer

- 4 PODIUM AND PRESENTATION BACKDROP. This was discussed and many options were considered. Finally it was decided that the photographic display created and maintained by Ann Reynolds and Ian Cooper should be continued this season and used in conjunction with the MAXXIS banners. The championship sub-committee would organise the making of a podium which could be easily disassembled for

transportation. Gary Patey agreed to take it to meetings if it could be made a convenient size.

Action championship sub-committee and Gary Patey

- 5 CLUBMAN'S SERIES. The dates are all agreed for 2009. It was suggested that some of the money donated by Hadrian Marine should be spent on the Clubman's championship. The original proposal by Mark Millard that the money be spent on an overall prize fund was defeated in favour of a proposal by Eric Maguire that high quality trophies should be arranged to be awarded to the first 3 overall at each round. This was seconded by Steve Tye and carried.

Action Steve to liaise with Roger Brown

- 6 CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES. A discussion took place about naming the 2 championship series. Eventually it was proposed by Ian Cooper that the series should be called "The MAXXIS British Sidecar Cross Championship" and the "Hadrian Marine British Sidecar Cross Clubman's Championship". This was seconded by Paul Pelling and carried unanimously.

- 7 FROME 2 DAY CLUBMAN'S MEETING. Lydia explained that Jim Webb was eager for there to be 2 sidecar races on each day and if the final race did not score points there would be very few riders on the line. Many options were discussed but it was pointed out by Roy Humphrey that as it was a two day meeting and the rules had been written for a one day meeting it would be reasonable to adjust the number of races to reflect the extra day. It was agreed that all 4 races could count for the championship.

Action Steve to inform Roy Barton at ACU H.Q.

8. CURRENT POSITION OF THE SMCA. Ann Reynolds expressed concern that the SMCA had not been represented at Sidecar Sunday to promote its activities there. It was agreed that it was a good idea but there was a need to identify those willing to help with a stand at an early stage. Roy Humphrey also felt that the Ken Hall event would be a good opportunity for promoting the Association and Lydia Blackman felt the Frome 2 day event would be another opportunity. Mark Millard said he did not feel the SMCA promoted itself well and few knew how much work was done by the committee. It was agreed that this was indeed the case and plans should be made for a promotional stand to be at these events.

Mark Millard said that the name of the SMCA led to confusion with some riders not aware that we are an affiliated club. There was a belief that the SMCA is just a group of people getting together to talk about sidecars. It was agreed to have an Extraordinary General Meeting on March 22nd at the Lamb at Theale immediately before the next committee meeting. The agenda for this meeting would be a discussion about the name of the SMCA and whether a more suitable name to reflect the work could be found and a discussion about the level of subscription fees for the future.

Action Secretary and Chairman prepare information and to notify the membership.

Mark Millard asked if it would be possible to hold an open meeting at one of the race meetings to promote the SMCA to riders and supporters.

9. CHAMPIONSHIP SUB-COMMITTEES. It was agreed that the sub-committees would include the Championship co-ordinator and recorder plus others as required to be decided by the co-ordinator. These members need not be members of the main committee.

10. RIDING NUMBERS. Mark Millard asked if the committee felt it was right that riders should be allowed to ride in the British Championship under a riding number which had not been earned during the previous year. It was pointed out that championship numbers were allocated by the ACU and that the SMCA had no control over this. After some discussion it was proposed by Eric Maguire that the SMCA should send a request to the ACU that all riders in the British Championship should use the number corresponding to their previous year's finishing position. Any number left free by retirement in the top 30 should remain unused. This was seconded by Sue Kemp and the motion was carried.

11. A letter had been received from Rob Wilkinson regarding his son, Brett who wished to register for the British Championship; although he did not fulfil the qualification criteria. A discussion followed and the final decision will be made by the motocross committee with guidance from Roy Humphrey and Eddie Herd.

12. BULLETIN Pam Humphrey stated that the next Bulletin needed to be at the printers by the end of January. Contributions were needed urgently. This issue would be sent to all 2008 members plus any new members for 2009.

13. Paul Pelling asked if the Championship dates fitted well with the needs of the riders competing in the GPs. Mark Millard agreed they did and thanked Paul for his efforts.

14. Sue Kemp asked how the decision to accept registration was made in the event of too many riders trying to register for the championship. It was explained that there are rules in place to manage such an eventuality and these would be applied.

15. FUTURE VENUE FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS. The chairman said that the current landlord of the Lamb would be leaving in September due to the collapse in trade. It was agreed to pay for the use of the room for our meetings although he had offered the free use of the room in the past. It may be necessary to find another venue after September if the Lamb ceases to be available.

The next meeting will be the Extraordinary General Meeting followed immediately by the next committee meeting on March 22nd. At the Lamb in Theale.

