

MINUTES OF THE SMCA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE SULTAN,  
WALTHAM ABBEY

22.08 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, .

2. APOLOGIES                      Garry Patey, *Membership Secretary*

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

3(b) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Aims of the SMCA had been a matter raised at the extraordinary general meeting and any comments were requested to have been sent to Chris Helm. As he had only received one contact the time for reply was extended to 30<sup>th</sup> September with a request to e mail Chris with comments.

Sportmoto. The editor of Sportmoto had informed the secretary that sidecar motocross would be included in forthcoming issues

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman had nothing to report.

5. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Steve had received no correspondence or minutes from ACU meetings. Steve would e mail Gary Thompson asking to be included on the e mail list.

Halstead Club members had made an approach to Steve at the Diss sidecar championship round regarding the return of sidecars to Wakes Colne. To follow this up he would send a letter to the Halstead and District Club offering the option of either a British or Clubman's championship round.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

Community Account £8400.77

Business Premium Account £1509.75

A discussion followed regarding the fund raising account which contained the money raised by Cyril Palmer running a grand prix. This money was placed in a separate account and although it was held by the SMCA on Cyril's behalf, at his request, it has never formed part of the funds of the SMCA. Martin Guilford offered to contact "Popeye" to verify his position on the £100 donation.

## 7. PRESS OFFICER'S REPORT

Chris reported that each of his and Jan's efforts had been included in TMX although some parts had been cut. As Chris had not been able to attend all grand prix it was becoming increasingly difficult to get information back to complete reports. It was noted that Chris and Jan had managed to get something put together about each GP and that they should be congratulated on their efforts. Thanks were also given to Ann Reynolds for her reports on the UMX and Clubmans' rounds and to Shaun Fowler for his reports in the Sporting Motorcyclist.

## 8. BULLETIN EDITOR'S REPORT

Pam had little to report except the usual problem of lack of copy for inclusion. She appealed to all members to try to get some information for her to include in the next bulletin. This prompted a discussion about the need for articles about teams, individuals and other items of interest as by the time the bulletin is published results were old news. Ian Cooper questioned the economics of publishing a hard copy of the bulletin for such low membership numbers. Sue Kemp suggested asking on the membership form if a hard copy or electronic copy was needed and therefore only posting a hard copy for those who needed it. This was generally thought to be a good idea and Les Batten suggested taking the production of hard copies back "in house" thus saving printing costs. Ian Cooper agreed to put an article in the bulletin setting out the situation.

## 9. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Gary was unable to attend the meeting and there was no new membership list available.

## 10. BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP

Paul Pelling reported that with 1 round to go all seemed to have gone well thus far. All organising clubs seem to have been happy and are willing to have us back next year. Paul, Sue, Ian Jenkins and Chris Helm as the sub-committee were in touch and considering the possibility of new tracks for next year. Martin Guilford felt there was a need for the championship to be backed up by good quality support races. Les and Paul have been invited to an ACU meeting at the end of September where the 2010 championships will be discussed. Martin reiterated the need for the British Championship meetings to be different from the Clubmans' and UMX events. It was agreed that generally it would be advantageous to recombine with the MMX but some reservations were expressed and need to be discussed.

## 11. CLUBMAN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

Steve reported that Lydia Blackman with back up from Eric Maguire had done a great job and the championships were going very well. There had been a few problems with Ringmer also running a South Eastern Centre Championship alongside the Clubman's. Eric said he had been able to smooth things out on the day and all had been OK. Steve would notify the ACU that Lydia would take over as Championship co-ordinator for 2010, however he would continue to help with liaising with the organisers to run the rounds.

## 12. DINNER DANCE

Martin Guilford reported that the ticket prices had been kept at the same level as last year and that the venue would be the same. There would be a traditional menu. As this is the 20<sup>th</sup> year of the SMCA they were looking for someone to act as a guest speaker to mark the occasion. This year the raffle would be donated to a charity as yet to be decided although there was a discussion about a specialist cancer charity.

The question of 14 year olds being allowed to attend was discussed. This had happened in the past and had caused no problems.

There was a discussion regarding complimentary tickets. Les asked if we should give tickets to the winners of the British and Clubman's championships. Ian, Ann and Pam suggested that it might be better to include championship sponsors. Chris said the question of complimentary tickets for winners had been discussed before. At that time the feeling was that it would be an unwise precedent to set and it had been rejected. Following a vote it was decided that complimentary tickets would not be given to riders but a ticket would be offered to Championship sponsors, Doug Woods and Paul Douglas. It was agreed to provide Martin with 2 tickets for the winner of his 100 club fantasy league.

## 13. CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

Ian Cooper reported on a situation which had occurred when a Clubman's round had been run at a MMX round and the ACU official had tried to impose MMX rules on the Clubman's riders. There followed a discussion about the various sets of rules; British, Clubman's, UMX, MMX etc. It was felt that to have a common set of rules just as a starting point would be more helpful. Ian agreed to examine the various sets of rules and devise a proposal. This would be passed to Paul Pelling for review and then e mailed to the committee for comment.

## 14. PUBLICATION OF MINUTES

Ian Cooper stated that minutes of meetings should be published as soon as possible after meetings. Steve agreed to send a copy of the minutes to the Chairman after the meeting. Les would check them and then forward to Roy Barton for publication on the SMCA pages on Euro motorsport site

## 15. START PERMISSION AND INSURANCE WHEN RIDING ABROAD

This was discussed at length. It was suggested that a requirement to obtain permission and insurance is published on the web site. We are unable to enforce riders to inform the ACU when competing abroad but they should at least carry a European Health Insurance Card which is obtainable free of charge on completion of a form from the post office. Chris suggested that we approach the Motocross Committee saying we understand there was a problem regarding the practice of riders entering without permission or insurance and perhaps the Committee could look into it and raise the issue with the FIM. Les said he would talk to Eddie Bellars (ACU Insurance Man) to clarify the situation. Ann Reynolds asked whether foreign clubs could be required to send entry lists to riders home federations so that entries

can be checked. Martin Guilford concluded that the SMCA should ask the ACU to issue clear guidance to all riders stating what they need to do in order to race in continental Europe

## 16. COMMUNICATION

Chris Helm raised concerns that there is very little communication between ourselves within the SMCA and virtually none between the SMCA and the ACU. It was accepted that this was true and we do need to take steps to remedy the position.

## 17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### (i) Riding Numbers on Shirts

It was pointed out that there are increasing numbers of riders competing in the British Championships with either no number or worse the wrong number on the back of their race shirts. Les stated that it was down to the individual clubs who organise the meetings to check the shirts and the duty of the Clerk of the Course to enforce the rule.

### (ii) Numbers of Competitors

There was a discussion about the dwindling numbers of competitors within the SMCA. It was suggested that it would be beneficial to amalgamate all sidecar riders from all the organisations together. It was pointed out that this was unlikely to be acceptable to the AMCA as it would jeopardise their IMBA participation. The idea of a combined championship has already been tried and with the British, AMCA, Clubman's and UMX series it would be difficult to accommodate another championship. There was a suggestion to invite Neil Warrington, AMCA sidecar co-ordinator, to a SMCA meeting and this was agreed.

### (iii) UEM Team Race

Martin Guilford stated that Stuart Brown/Luke Peters, Daniel and Joe Millard, and John Lyne/ Steve Kirwin had been selected. Unfortunately John Lyne was unable to take part so Martin would make his selection following the Ken Hall meeting. The choice would be from Scott Wilkinson/Dave Keane, Mark Kinge/Kevin Foyle, Richard Jenkins/Josh Chamberlain and Andy and Tim Breacher although his selection would not be based solely on the results of this meeting.

(iv) Chris Helm reported that he no longer was able to receive fax communications.

### (v) Commentator Needed

It was noted that the organisers of the Ken Hall were looking for help from a sidecar expert with commentary for the event.

### (vi) Riding Numbers

Eric Maguire asked for the matter of riding numbers to be raised with the ACU to see if it was possible to enforce the 1-30 being used by the rides finishing in those positions in the previous year's championship. This was thought to be unlikely because of the precedent set by the MAXXIS Solo Championship where this was not enforced. It was suggested that if

this is the case no rider finishing outside the top 30 should be able to use a number between 1-30 even if it was not being used in the current year.

(vii) Future Chairman

Les stated that he is standing down as Chairman of the SMCA at the next AGM. He said he felt he had given the job a good go and that it is time for someone else to take the Association forward. Volunteers would be asked for !!

**The next meeting will be on October 17<sup>th</sup> 2009**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.45pm