

Minutes of a MX Forum held on Friday 20th October 2017 at The Priory Rooms Walsham Le Willows

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Andrew Hay	Norwich Vikings	Charlie Ralph	Chairman/Woodbridge
Lyn Berwick	Secretary	Val Hay	Norwich Vikings
Kieron Doherty	Halstead	Geoff Brace	Halstead +V Pres.
Mark Nickerson	Norwich Vikings	John Nickerson	Norwich
Paul Hubbard	Diss	John Blyth	Woodbridge
Keith Weavers	Halstead	Paul Aldridge	Norwich Vikings
Debbie Blyth	Woodbridge	Paul Grantham	Diss/Littleport
Jack Hearn	E C Chairman		

Only those who signed it have been accredited with attendance.

1. Mr Ralph welcomed all present. Mr Ralph introduced Mr Jack Hearn, ACU Eastern Chairman to those present.
2. Apologies for absence: Apologies received from Mr M Relland; Mr A Hopkins; Mr A Foskew; Mr G Garrod.
3. Mr Ralph sought approval of the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th September 2016. – proposed K Weavers 2nd D Blyth.
4. Matters Arising from the minutes not specifically listed on the agenda:
 - C Ralph – Blue Flags had been used on occasion. Mr Ralph thanked those clubs that made this possible.
 - Date clashes – every effort had been made to avoid date clashes with solo enduro championship dates. However, there had been one clash with a 2man round.
 - Gradings: the awarding of expert points had to revert back to the original system as less than half way through the season it had become apparent that riders in 7th/8th places were being awarded points. Following a discussion at a competitions committee meeting, the old system had been reinstated. One of the reasons being that riders upgraded to expert status gained the right to ride in national events and the worry of a rider not being of the required standard could cause a problem.
 - D Blyth – entries were better although the number of expert entries were lower as the season went on. C Ralph – commented that the break in the middle of the year may not have helped. In the first four rounds the experts ran alone and in the last two rounds, the top ten junior riders had contested the Premier Class. This had worked well and the racing was very good. Mr Hay commented that he had a complaint at the last round at Lyng from a rider, but the rider he was complaining about was in fact an expert.
5. Review of 2017 Season:
 - Mr Ralph publicly thanked Paul Bickers of Bickers Lifting who sponsored the 2017 ACU Eastern MX Championship.
 - Cheques were distributed to the organising clubs, including Diss who had to cancel their meeting at the last minute due to waterlogging.
 - Mr Ralph reported that the first 4 rounds had shown an average expert entry of 32, with the last two rounds, an average of 29 had been attained over the 6 rounds
 - Where the top ten juniors had been included, the racing had been very good and there appears to be no reason to change from that format.
 - Luke Benstead won the Expert Championship, Rheis Morter was the Junior Champion and Junior MX2 Champion, Dylan Woodcock the Expert MX2 Champion. Mr Ralph extended his congratulations to Paul Hubbard, who is the Over 40 Champion.
 - Mr Ralph also congratulated Declan Whittle for winning the Expert Cup in the MX Nationals and Luke Parker who was runner up. Mention was also made to Shaun Southgate, who also had a

out very good season. Declan Whittle also did really well at Weston where he finished 14th of over 700 riders.

K Weavers commented that the expert riders seem to have relapsed into entering late again.

the G Brace – pointed out that Connor Hughes shows twice under two different numbers in championship standings. Mr Ralph will rectify.

Mr Ralph thanked the sponsors, Bickers Lifting and HRM Boilers, both of whom have intimated that they will continue to support the championship for 2018.

6. To discuss the 2018 ACU Eastern Championship:

a) Admin fee: A discussion took place regarding an admin fee to be charged for riders who withdraw without a valid reason. C Ralph suggested 25% of the entry fee would be a good starting point. K Weavers – need to define a ‘valid’ reason’. A time limit also needs to be set. The wording in the handbook needs to be clear and LB suggests that all clubs should be uniform in their charges.

b) Closing date: At present this is the Tuesday at 5pm prior to the event and reserves can be used until the Friday evening. The suggested change is to the Friday before the current Tuesday and at that point, if there are insufficient expert entries, the ten-junior rule shall apply. Following that, reserves could then be used. Again – wording in handbook needs to be clear.

c) Race Programme: CR – experts to practice and ride last. J Blyth agrees as it would be better for safety reasons with better equipped riders using the roughest conditions. Agreed.

d) Duration of Practice/Qualifying: the consensus is that the practice/qualifying is too long. JB pointed out that riders do not have to use all that time. One suggestion is two full laps then 10 mins qualifying. A discussion arose over the problem when some tracks would need nearly three laps before timing. It was agreed to revert to 5 mins free practice and 10 mins qualifying – handbook will need amending. Agreed to extend the break following qualification to 45 minutes.

KW commented that riders waiting on track for timing to start or for a rest was to be discouraged. Paddock announcement to be made asking riders to stay off the track if they can. DB suggested B group could have shorter races – following discussion it was agreed to leave as it is. GB asked CR if commentary could be made during qualifying.

e) MX1/MX2 separate championship.

CR had been approached by some rider’s fathers who thought it may encourage the younger riders if MX2 could be scored as a separate championship. Following discussion, agreed to leave prize money alone and trial this for the experts in 2018 with a review at the end of the season to see if it would be practical to extend into the juniors. DB suggested a pilot for one year and AH agreed he would sort the points out after events.

7. Any Other Business;

DB – is there a case for riders who do not ride to be discouraged from buying a number? Following discussion and Mr Ralph having explained the competitions committee view on this, it was agreed to make no changes to the numbers scheme at the present time. However, there is an opportunity to declare wording in the rules which gives either the numbers co-ordinator or the comps committee, the right to make a decision in the event of an issue arising.

Back number plates – riders are being allowed to ride with incorrect colour plates. D Blyth always reminds riders in the supplementary regs of the rules, but scrutineers are letting wrong colour plates through. Mr Hearn commented that at enduro events, this is policed strictly as is the use of lights, failure to comply means a penalty is applied.

DB – Craig Marsden has been riding with a red plate all year – CR agreed to write to him and inform him that this will not be allowed in 2018. There is a technical seminar in January, J Blyth will ensure that this is brought to the attention of the attendees by Steve Macauley.

K Weavers – no noise testing had been carried out in 2017 and some machines are getting loud. CR reported that he has been trying to locate the Centre sound equipment. LB will contact David Smith as it appears he was issued a set. G Garrod signed for two machines – CR will contact him. JB stated that there is also a need to have the tripods etc. J Blyth, will check with Rugby who had the machines calibrated by serial numbers. A Hay has provided a receipt which shows who had which machine.

CR – just one further change to 2017 rules – agreed to up the number of riders practicing/qualifying at any one time to 45. This is necessary where 130 junior riders take part.

J Hearn – Enduro Forum and Presentation of awards at the Cedars Hotel Stowmarket on 27th November.

CR – MX Sub Committee on Thursday 9th November at Walsham le Willows FC.

Mr Hearn offered apologies – he will be unable to attend.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

There being no further business, Mr Ralph thanked all present for attending and closed the meeting at 9.15pm.