

Moto Cross Sub Committee Meeting held at Gt Blakenham Parish Rooms on
Wednesday 30th October 2019

Present: Mr C Ralph: Mrs M Ralph: Mr A Hay: Mr P Grantham: Mr P Hubbard: Mr D Mills: Mr K Weavers: Mr J Blyth:
Mr M Beadle: Mr A Foskew:

By Invitation: Mrs D Blyth: Mrs K Beadle

1. Mr C Ralph opened the meeting and welcomed all present.
2. Apologies: Mrs V Hay: Mr K Doherty: Mr J Hearn: Mr P Aldridge (received retrospectively)
3. The Minutes of the previous meeting of Wednesday 25th September 2019 were approved as a true record.
Proposed K Weavers 2nd D Mills
4. Matters arising not specific to the agenda:
Mr Blyth – having attended the Bike Show and Weston, it had been clear that riders were happy to hear that licence fees are holding. With the news that permit costs have been reduced, he proposed that the decision to increase the entry fee for the ACU Eastern Championship should be overturned and remain at £50. Following due discussion, a vote was taken with the following result: For 4 Against 2 1 abstention. The decision to remain at £50 was agreed.
K Weavers asked if anyone had contacted A Smith regarding becoming riders rep. After discussion it was agreed to hold this until after the Forum on 4th December.
Grading – C Ralph reported that T Murphy will be upgraded by Rugby in line with his results in the BYN.
A Hay – the decoder will now need replacing as it is no longer supported and there are no spares available for it. After a conversation with Paul Sewter, he feels that this should be done as soon as possible and will be raising this with the Board on November 10th.
C Ralph – it seems some clubs have already paid Marshals a bonus at the end of this season but feels that the payments to Marshals will have to be revisited for 2021.
Numbers Scheme - £1250 has been sent to East Anglian Air Ambulance, Essex Air Ambulance to the ACU Benevolent Fund. Both Air Ambulance Charities have sent letters of thanks.
The cost for numbers has been agreed at £5.50 for 2020 to compensate for Paypal increasing their commission costs.
5. Race Secretaries comments on 2019:
Mrs Blyth reported that on the whole the season went well with good entries for the ACU Eastern Championship. Both Halstead and Woodbridge had to cancel a meeting due to wet weather with Blaxhall running their following meeting as a replacement round.
Mrs Blyth also reported that two persons had been banned from attending future Woodbridge events following incidents.
Mrs Hay had asked Mr Hay to mention that expert entries were still a problem with lateness and the lack of.
C Ralph commented that although Lewis Tombs had missed a round, he won all races in the rest of the events and is now ACU Eastern Expert Champion. 2nd place went to Luke Benstead with Declan Whittle in 3rd place after the 4 rounds run.
Junior Championship won by Max Bickers, 2nd Jack Youngs, 3rd William Farrow.
Over 40s championship has been retained by Matt French. Mrs Blyth commented that in future that defending champions should have an entry earmarked.
MX2 Expert Champion was Calum Mitchell and MX2 Junior Champion is Max Bickers. Rookie Expert Champion was Ryan Watts. The rookie's class had been a trial and started well with 9 riders contesting this series, however by the end of the season, only 3 were consistently entering and these three had the cash awards. The current sponsor has been approached regarding 2020 but at this time is not sure he can commit again to help next year. There will be more 'rookies' next year following upgrading. Mr Ralph will keep the committee informed should sponsorship be found.
P Grantham commented that the racing had been really competitive this year.
6. 2020 Championship conditions:

Mrs Ralph had circulated a working document with suggested changes. The committee discussed the proposed changes which were agreed as follows:

Para 9: Entries: remove 'There will be no late entries accepted and there will be no exceptions'. Replace with "entries accepted after 5pm on the Monday prior to the event will incur a £10 surcharge".

The addition of "Following the completion of the first round of the ACU Eastern Championship, the leading top ten junior grade riders will be guaranteed an entry for the next round, providing that entry is received by the closing date, after which that space will be released."

Para 10 – Non participation in a meeting: add in "Riders who do not inform the organisers by 12 Noon on the Thursday prior to the event of their inability to attend will not be considered for a refund of their entry fee.

The word May changed to Will in regard of an admin fee for riders withdrawing from a meeting.

Para 21: Change of status: wording changed as follows:

"For the purpose of these rules, a Junior Grade rider who is upgraded to Expert during the year may carry the status held at the first Championship round contested if he/she so wishes, unless he/she is a former expert grade rider downgraded at the beginning of the current season. In this circumstance, should the rider attain 15 grading points, they will be upgraded immediately and their right to contest the Junior Championship shall cease.

The Junior Champion will automatically be upgraded to Expert status the following year.

All grading issues are the remit of the ACU Eastern Moto Cross Committee."

Para 25: Changed to Moto Cross Committee from Competitions Committee.

Para 26: Practice and Race Format:

Additional wording "Any rider found stopping on the circuit during free practice or timed qualification for any reason may be liable for a penalty from the Clerk of the Course."

Intermediate Class to have (A) added to the description.

Notes: Change from Competitions Committee to ACU Eastern Moto Cross Committee.

7. 2020 Dates

The attending race secretaries related their chosen dates, where there were several clashes. Mrs Blyth stated that she would have difficulty in deciding on Woodbridge dates until the British Championship dates were resolved and Mr Ralph asked if Mrs Blyth and Mrs Beadle would liaise regarding dates. Diss had applied for their dates which are 17th May, 1st July and 20th September. Norwich Vikings dates are 12th April, 10th May ECC (long track) 28th June ECC (short track and 2nd August. Mr Grantham reported that Littleport would like to run and he will do some calculations on costs of venues and keep the committee informed. Mr Hay had visited Mildenhall recently and had concerns. Mr Mills informed the committee that the owner, Mr Bastick, had bull dozers going in this week to make changes and will keep an eye on what is happening.

Mr Ralph had been informed that Braintree would be running an event on 7th June but the venue is to be advised. A discussion took place over the cost of hiring various circuits including Canada Heights but with no outcome. This will be revisited at a future meeting.

Woodbridge will run two Centre Championship rounds, as will Halstead and Norwich Vikings with Diss hosting one round. Should Littleport feel able to run it would make an eight-round series.

Mr Ralph confirmed that both Bickers Lifting and Stebbings Car Superstore will support the Championship in 2020 with a £3000 input. Mr Grantham reports that both sponsors were really happy with the way the Championship was run in 2019.

8. Grading: Mr Ralph circulated the current grading points and sought approval to upgrade the following riders from 1st January 2020: Ollie Brader: William Farrow: Daniel Sultana: Max Bickers: Toby Avis: Thomas Hardcastle. Jack Young had already been notified of his upgrading as had Perry Galloway.

Harvey Thomas had telephoned Mr Ralph requesting to be downgraded. Following a robust discussion, this will be denied and Mr Ralph will inform Mr Thomas.

9. Devolvement: A document was distributed with proposed guidelines for the make-up and responsibilities of a devolved committee that Mr Ralph and Mr Hay had sent to Mr Armes and it was agreed that following devolvement a set of guidelines for grading etc will be necessary and will be drawn up by the new committee. Mr Armes is preparing a proposal document to be put before the Board on November 10th where a vote will take place for the Devolvement of the Moto Cross Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.17pm.

Next meeting is the MX Open Forum 4th December 2019 at Gt Blakenham Parish Rooms at 7.30pm