

Moto Cross Sub Committee Meeting held at Walsham Le Willows F C on
Monday 17th October 2016

Present: C Ralph; L Berwick; A Hay; Keith Weavers; P Hubbard; J Blyth; P Grantham; M Relland.
Also in attendance; A Foskew

1. Mr Ralph opened the meeting and welcomed all those present.
2. Apologies were accepted from: P Aldridge; D Mills
3. The minutes of the previous meeting held 15th August 2016 were approved. Proposed P Grantham:
2nd A Foskew

4. Matters Arising:

K Weavers had spoken again to the new owners of Lt Loveney Hall. There is no formal agreement as yet but things are looking positive.

John Chambers, C Ralph had thanked Mr Chambers for the last two years' sponsorship of the Holeshot Award. Mr Chambers will not be involved next season as his son, Jacob, is competing in sidecar racing. Ms Berwick will write a letter of thanks to Mr Chambers.

Transponder has still not been returned. Replacement received today. The cost of this will be pursued through the small claims court.

5. 2017 Eastern Championship Rule Changes:

CR reported that the Forum had been reasonable. One of the proposed changes was that the number of junior riders taking part in the Premier Class should be capped to 10 for safety reasons. It would be necessary to attain 25 Experts for this to be viable although that would mean 5 empty spaces on the line. CR reported that apart from the first two meetings in 2016, 160 riders had not been achieved and that the average had been 150. L Berwick would be prepared to write to all Experts explain the changes which would hopefully mean that they would all be aware of the committee's efforts to encourage safety by reducing the amount of less experienced riders taking part in the Premier Class.

Discussion over whether Funds be made available for clubs to promote their events, maybe from Gazette monies.

All organising clubs agreed to support the change to 10 juniors only on the grounds of safety and would absorb the financial loss of 5 spaces.

It was agreed that the expert is 31 or over, there would be an expert only race. Should 30 experts enter, the fastest 10 Juniors would make up the Premier Class

No cap on the number of Experts. Should more than 40 be attained, the number above 40 would compete in the Intermediate Class.

Blue Flags: Discussion over the request for Blue Flags. This would be for the 3 Premier Class races only. Keith Weavers, P Grantham, Kieran Doherty and Adam Leeks would share the role. JB pointed out that this may cause Marshals to be reduced. Clubs to be made aware that they would need to cover these people if they usually marshal. Riders to be briefed after qualifying to endure they understand the way to abide by blue flags.

A Waters had suggested that Junior riders be identified by having a 'J' on their number plate. Another suggestion had been that expert Riders could use a red number plate for identification purposes. Following due discussion, it was agreed that this would not work.

There had been a proposal by Mrs Blyth at the Forum that timed qualification should take place after one lap of practice. This was fully discussed with option of things remaining as 5 minutes of free practice and 10 minutes timed remains as 2016 rules. After a vote, it was decided to change to timed practice after one lap. This will be placed in the championship rules.

There had been a request that larger teams could be given a prominent position in the paddock (as in British Championships). Although this was thought to be a good way to up the profile, it was agreed that clubs would struggle to find enough staff to achieve this.

Riders numbers: a discussion over whether Expert riders should only use low numbers or be allowed to keep their preferred numbers. It was acknowledged that riders competing in other championships would be reluctant to change their numbers. It was agreed that riders be allowed their own choice. It was also agreed that number 1 – 50 should still be held for Experts only. Number 1 would be the only number to be held for the current champion to sue if he so desired.

Riders passes – a request had been made by Mrs D Blyth to increase the number of passes to rider + 2. Following due discussion, it was decided that clubs present agreed that this could cause huge financial problems. It was agreed to remain as Rider + 1.

Prize Money – a request had been made at the Forum asking if Clubs who gained sponsorship could increase the amount of prizemoney for championship rounds. It was agreed that this could cause an unfair advantage and that those present preferred for all clubs to pay the same amount. However, the consensus was that clubs could use any sponsorship monies in other ways.

Mr Ralph has two companies who have expressed interest in some form of sponsorship for 2017. He will follow this up and report back.

Other suggestions had been running MX1 and MX2 separately. The problem with this is the numbers are never equal and riders do change machines on a regular basis.

Luke Benstead had requested straw bales being used to create lines at some tracks. This was discussed and agreed that it could be beneficial but that this would be the responsibility of clubs.

Mr Foskew had sent an email with some suggestions which were discussed.

Youth MX – seems that Norfolk and Suffolk Juniors will not be outing in any dates as yet.

Mr Hay had been approached by some riders asking if it would be possible to enter all rounds at the beginning of the season. He would be willing to act as the administrator. It was agreed to trial this for experts only in 2017.

Discussion of a change of rules regarding the use of the chequered flag being taken to construe as a finisher or changing the rules as per the British Championship where a percentage of the race must be attained to be seen as a 'finisher' and not a DNF. After an in-depth discussion, it was agreed that the requirement to take the chequered flag shall remain in the rules.

Timing costs to clubs – a suggestion at the Forum had been made for clubs to be charged less and that part payment be taken from transponder hire. Mr Hay will put this before the November Board.

There will be an alteration to the rules from 2016 regarding the break. Following timed qualification, a break of 40 minutes will be taken following which facing will go straight through.

Dates and venues: unable to be decided as the Maxxis dates have not yet been agreed. There are 20 FIM World Rounds in 2017 plus the MXDN. There in an ACU events meeting tomorrow. Clubs present intimated the following: Littleport will run one round, prefer March/April dependant on other dates. Halstead will run one round, prefer April. Woodbridge willing to run 2 rounds. Diss will run one round. Lyng will run one round.

This makes a total of a 6-round championship.

Discussion over the way that the number of grassroots events are declining

Mr Ralph asked if Clubs had decided upon their two delegates for 2017 to serve for one year on the mx subcommittee:

Halstead: K Weavers and M Relland

Woodbridge: C Ralph and J Blyth

Littleport: P Grantham

Norwich Vikings: Possibly A Hay and P Aldridge

Diss: P Hubbard and one other (tba).

6. Gradings:

Mr Hay had reworked the current point to tally with the attainment of the agreed 15 points and had found that James Cobby had reached that total. C Ralph will speak to James to gauge how he feels about being upgraded and will report back to Mr Hay.

Mr Hay announced that he did not wish to continue as Moto cross Recorder after the end of this year. C Ralph offered to take this position on. All present agreed.

7. Any Other Business:

M Relland reported that he had advertised the last Wakes Colne event via Facebook and had a superb response. He suggested that the Centre set up a Facebook Page. This will be taken to the competitions committee for discussion.

There being no further business closed, the meeting closed at 10.35pm