

# **Moto Cross Sub Committee Meeting held at Walsham Le Willows F C**

**on**  
**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

Present: Mr C Ralph: Ms M Berwick: Mr P Grantham: Mr P Hubbard: Mr D Mills: Mr K Weavers:

Mr J Blyth: Mr A Hay: Mr P Aldridge: Mr J Hearn: Mr P Armes.

By invitation: Mrs D Blyth: Mrs V Hay: Mr K Doherty

1. Mr C Ralph opened the meeting and welcomed all present.
2. Apologies: were received from Mr G Brace: Mr A Hopkins: Mr A Foskew: Mr J Morland
3. The Minutes of the previous meeting of Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018 were approved as a true record. Proposed P Grantham: 2<sup>nd</sup> K Weavers.
4. Matters arising not specific to the agenda:  
Noise meters have been returned. P Armes has them and will organise the calibration.  
P Armes needs operators, we do have licenced operators in the Centre, Mr Armes will endeavour to find someone. D Smith may be interested when recovered from his illness.  
A letter had been delivered by J Blyth from Mark Hunt requesting being downgraded from expert status. Will be discussed in item 6) Guidelines for downgrading to be discussed at the next meeting.
5. 2018 Season Review  
Mr Ralph circulated the final positions of the Junior, Expert and Club Championship:  
S Southgate Expert Champion; Ryan Watts Junior Champion; MX2 Champion Ben Clark: MX 2 Junior Champion Connor Baldry: Over 40 Champion Matt French: Woodbridge Champion Club.  
Holeshot Awards Expert Jake Nicholls (8) Junior Ben Alexander (5). Riders upgraded to Expert Status: Sam Nunn: Ryan Allison: Ryan Watts: Jordan Pasquale: Connor Baldry: Ben Alexander: Bill Moynes.  
Acknowledgement were made to Bickers Lifting: HRM Boilers: The Organising Clubs: Diss: Halstead: Littleport: Norwich Vikings: Woodbridge; The Timing team, ACU Eastern Officials and Marshals.  
Mr Ralph commented that the series had been a great success in 2018. He referred to a video on the EADT website from Jake Nicholls which praised the tracks and organisation of the sport in our Centre.
6. Grading Issues  
C Ralph provided a current list showing points acquired this season. M Hunt's letter was discussed and agreement reached that his request to downgrade be granted. CR to write to Mr Hunt.  
Clint Wright had spoken to Mr Weavers regarding a comeback to racing in 2019. He is still on the expert list. Mr Weavers was asked to advise Mr Wright to write to CR re downgrade – agreement made that this would be granted.
7. 2019 Centre Championship  
Mr Ralph had drafted 4 options for consideration, together with pros and cons for each option.  
He commented that he and other members had been talking with riders during the season to gather their feelings. There had been a variety of ideas put forward leading to the following:
  - a) To stay the same as 2018 with a maximum of 160 riders.
  - b) To discuss reverting back to the original idea of the fastest 40 from timed qualification regardless of status.
  - c) A 12-race programme with an entry of up to 200 riders. 3 Premier Class races, 3 Intermediate races, 3 groups of supports having 2 x 15-minute races.

- d) To revert to previous format (2016 and prior) entitling clubs who are able to accommodate this, up to 200 riders and running a 15-race programme.

Mr Ralph went through the pros and cons of all of the options and stated that when the preferred option was chosen, then would be the time to fine tune before the championship conditions were set.

Mr Ralph offered the option of a private vote. Those present decided that a show of hands would be satisfactory:

Option (d) was the chosen option voting being 7 for with 1 against.

Mr Ralph reported that he had received two emails, from A Hopkins and G Brace, who had also indicated that their vote would have also been for this option.

Mr Weavers indicated that his club committee had been against this option and that they may not wish to run a championship round on these conditions. Mr Ralph agreed to send the Halstead Club the reasons behind this choice and that he hoped that Halstead would run one round.

It was suggested, as all clubs simply cannot host for 200 riders that clubs who could should take the early rounds.

There had been discussion regarding other tracks and Mr Ralph had spoken to several people regarding Chatteris and had been told that this would not be suitable due to logistics with parking. Mr Ralph also reported that in Mr Brace's email, he had commented that he did not think Mildenhall was suitable to hold a championship round. Mr Ralph asked Mr Grantham to visit Mildenhall to see what he thought as Littleport would be the club running there. Mr Ralph also stated that he would not been keen to take the series out of Centre.

Clubs indicated that they would be able to run the following: Diss 1 round: Littleport 1 Round (V Hay offered to act as secretary of the meeting). Norwich Viking 2 rounds: Halstead – undecided: Woodbridge 2 rounds.

Race secretaries were asked to comment and did so as follows:

Mrs D Blyth – opening dates could be shorter, as money is taken on entry now: Mr Armes stated that the opening date must be 4<sup>th</sup> of the month to align with the gazette but that clubs could choose to open on a different date as long as they did not precede the gazette opening date. Mrs Blyth suggested 4 weeks in advance of the event would be preferable.

Closing date the same. Discussion on refunds. PA suggested that the championship conditions could state that an admin fee of £5 MAY be administered.

Discussion over closing dates for experts – agreed to do this on the Sunday before the event therefore giving secretaries chance to advise those who have been waiting on the reserve list. This would give the experts 3 weeks to enter. Mr Armes suggested that experts could be contacted via email when dates are set so that they are aware of when the rounds are. Ms Berwick agreed to do this and also remind experts prior to events once a data base has been set up.

It was agreed that space must be reserved for the top 10-point scorers in the current standings in the junior championship (providing that they enter prior to the closing date) and that this would be added to the championship conditions.

Sponsorship – C Ralph has spoken to Paul Bickers who intimated that he and Anthony Skerry would be interested in a joint sponsorship for 2019. Mr Hay reported that he was yet to receive payment from Mr Bickers for this year – CR to follow up.

Interest has also been shown by PP Sports. CR will arrange meetings with prospective sponsors in due course.

D Blyth asked if clubs had been offered sponsorship for their round, could the money be used to give extra to riders. It was agreed that the money could be used in whatever the club decided, but not to add to prize money which should stay uniform across all rounds.

Mr Armes reminded all present that if attaining extra sponsorship, clubs should be mindful of conflicts of interest.

Mr Ralph reported that he had yet to speak to HRM Boilers re the hole shot award.

Those present were reminded that if they run a 15-race programme, they should be aware of the impact on Marshals and medical Teams – due to the length of the day. Comment was made that Marshals at Lyng, when running 15 races, had intimated that they wanted extra payment.

D Mills – commented that showed concern regarding medical cover at some meetings was not adequate. Mr Ralph reminded those present that it is down to individual clubs to ensure

they have the correct level of cover and that ambulances that transport is CQC registered. Mr Ralph stated that in his opinion, 2 paramedics and two ambulances should be the minimum present at all mx events.

Spectators admission – a discussion took place re concessions. Some clubs give them, some do not. It was agreed that this ought to be left to each club to decide.

#### 8. Any Other Business:

Mr Ralph reported that at a recent competitions committee discussion over Devolution, it was agreed that when devolution takes place, that other clubs running events would need to be considered for representation on the mx committee. Mr Armes explained the reason being that the devolved committee would be tasked with the overseeing of all related mx matters, not just ACU Eastern Championships. To this end, the Braintree and Norfolk and Suffolk Juniors input and attendance would need to be considered.

Ms Berwick reported that devolution of the mx committee is on the agenda for the November Board.

Discussions at the competitions had indicated that devolution would be worked towards in 2019 with a view to full devolvement in 2020.

Discussion of riders becoming demoralised when making expert. Thoughts of a rookie award for riders in first 2 years of being upgraded – to be discussed further.

D Blyth asked if there would be a Forum. Ms Berwick advised that a Forum should be held as it is in the Centre Byelaws and should be where elections take place. A date in January will be advised.

Mr Ralph would like another meeting in November to finalise the championship conditions and set dates – prior to 21<sup>st</sup> November for the dates meeting.

Mr Hay reported that the numbers scheme had accrued £3400 in 2018 and that he had three cheques, split equally, to send to EAAA. Essex Air Ambulance and ACU Benevolent Fund.

Mr Ralph proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Hay for his administration of the Numbers Scheme. Mr Hay received a well-deserved round of applause.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.10pm.