

## Minutes of a MX Forum held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021 via Zoom

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Charlie Ralph	Chairman/Woodbridge	Lyn Ralph	Secretary
Paul Aldridge	Norwich Vikings	Martin Beadle	Halstead
Steven Leek	Woodbridge	Graham Muff	Norwich Vikings
Paul Hubbard	Diss	Kieron Dougherty	ECMC
Keith Weavers	Halstead	Robbie Green	Rider/Halstead
Debbie Blyth	Woodbridge	Paul Grantham	Diss/Littleport
Andrew Hay	Norwich Vikings	Donna Secker	Norfolk and Suffolk
Charlie Garrod	Halstead	Alan Foskew	Vice Chairman EC
Harold Nickerson	Marshal Rep	Aaron Smith	Braintree
Danny Mayhew	Diss		

1. Mr Ralph welcomed all present. Graham Muff was welcomed to the meeting as a new addition to the organising committee via Norwich Vikings.
2. Apologies for absence: None. No previous minutes were distributed as the last meeting had been in 2019.
3. Review of 2021 Season:
 

Mr Ralph provided a recap of the 2021 season which saw 7 rounds run, sadly, Halstead having to cancel their last round.

Junior entries had been healthy all year but on average, over the 7 rounds, only 19 Expert graded riders had taken part per round

37 experts had scored points and 68 Juniors in the Premier Class over the series.

9 riders have been upgraded to Expert status for 2022 and these will make up the Expert Rookies Championship riders for 2022 for the HRM Boilers Rookie Trophy, won this year by Will Farrow.
6. 2022:
 

Mr Ralph stated that the new committee would need to form and hold a meeting, elect the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary fairly soon as the Championship Conditions would need to be formulated for inclusion in the Centre Handbook and on the Website as soon as possible. LR will circulate a copy of the current conditions to the committee as a working document.

The delegates for the Committee are as follows:

Norwich Vikings: Paul Aldridge and Graham Muff

Woodbridge: Debbie Blyth and Steven Leek

Halstead Martin Beadle and Charlie Garrod

Diss: Paul Hubbard and Danny Mayhew

Braintree: Aaron Smith:

Littleport: Paul Grantham

Norfolk and Suffolk Juniors: Donna Secker and Chelsea Secker.

The makeup of the new committee will be posted on the website.

Mr Ralph pointed out that the new committee should be aware of when making changes (if any) to the running order, format of races etc, that they would need to include Andrew Hay, Chief Timekeeper, in their proposals to ensure that their proposals would be compatible with the timing system.

C Ralph said that he would be willing to continue as Recorder and collator of the points for various championships if the new committee agreed and that he would not attend meetings but would forward on up to date 'league tables' via email.

LR agreed to send a copy of the Byelaws regarding the MX Committee to new members for their information on the makeup and responsibilities of the MX Committee.

Mr Ralph advised those present that the next committee would also need to confirm any sponsorship. PP Sports had, via Phil Armes, offered £1500 and the next committee would need to liaise with Mr Shorter on terms.

Hopefully Antony Skerry on Stebbings will continue – it looks promising.

Unlikely that Instanda will continue and Mr Hardcastle has now moved away from the area.

CR will contact Mr Paul Bickers re trophies and will ask if he is in a position to resume some sponsorship for 2022.

Mr Ralph then opened up the meeting and asked for any comments on the 2021 season. Comment had been made previously, and had also been mentioned by L Keyton in a telephone call to LR, about the fairness of the way qualifying was carried out. Paul Sewter had seen this in previous minutes and had sent an email to CR. He had carried out a survey which proved that unless bad weather came into play, there was minimal, if any, differences in setting times.

Discussion about reverting to qualifying heats and taking the top 10 through to the premier class. G Muff stated that in his opinion, the timing of qualifying worked well and was as fair as it could possibly be. The racing is closer as all riders have been graded into groups by similar times.

R Green was asked for his opinion as a rider and he would still like to keep to three rides.

Mr Keyton had commented that he did not like the way that the C and D groups had their race times reduced and that if that needed to happen, that all groups should be treated the same. LR confirmed that the current championship conditions make reference to the Clerk of the Course having the power to reduce all races if required.

Mr Ralph stated that when discussing the way in which the championship is run in 2022, that finance must be taken into account as clubs cannot survive with half empty line-ups. He also gave the figures of 10 experts entering at Diss and 9 at Halstead as a guidance. Costs of medical staff, land leases, toilet hire, payment for Marshals etc must also be considered. CR advised the new committee that there were ongoing discussions regarding a rider's levy fee which could also raise the running costs of each meeting.

H Nickerson – was invited to speak about the current position of Marshals. HN stated that a lot of the Marshals were getting on in age and it was getting increasingly difficult to recruit and that increasing the payment may attract more. Some will travel further afield where clubs pay £50. Discussion over paying a two-tier system where clubs who run 15 races paid more than those running 12. This could cause a problem if marshals would only go where they got paid more. CR also pointed out what you pay and how it is described as Clubs could be deemed as 'employers' and the tax man could become involved. A discussion over the payment of 'Officials': Difference is Marshals are not Club members – Officials normally officiate for their own Club. Clubs would need to decide if they pay them or not.

S Leek felt that this needs much more and in-depth discussion as raising any costs have a knock-on effect. Competency of Marshals was also discussed.

Costs: PG – it could make a big difference to Clubs and add to that First Aid costs, which look to increase again for 2022. Riders' entries have not been raised for 8 years and the new committee may need to look at an increase when all facts and figures are to hand. During 2020, for instance, Clubs still had to pay their lease costs although no events were run.

CR stated that whatever the decisions made, he hopes that all clubs, in the instance of payment to Marshals, would agree the same amount.

Discussion re relegation and promotion to different groups to deter 'sandbagging'. AH says could promote and demote but the problem would be advising the riders in time and could cause other issues.

AS suggested had previously suggested a 'registration' for Centre Championships – this would need administering. The possibility of an extra tick box on the riders' number scheme was touched upon.

LR reminded all present of the way that the next meeting would be handled: LR to send invitation link. CR to open meeting and deal with items up until the election. LR and CR would then step out from the meeting and Alan Foskew, Vice Chair of the Centre would manage the election for the new Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. The date agreed upon was Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm

Mr Ralph thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 9.15pm.