

Meeting of the AMCA's Modern Motocross Committee on Saturday
8th February 2014 – 10.00am held at AMCA Office in Cannock.

NOTES OF THE MEETING

Present: D.Green (AMCA Chairman & Director), C.Davis (Director), M.Penn (Director)

Group Representatives: S.Webster & D.Noden (N.Mids), M.Humphries (Director, S.West Coordinator) & K.Leach (S.West), G.Frogley (N.Avon/S.Gloucs Coordinator), C & P. Price (Director, Wessex/S.Wales Coordinator) & M & S. Bradbury Gibbs Conway (Wessex/S.Wales), T.Phillips & A.Peever (Sidecars), M.Brettle (Director, Central Group Coordinator) & M.Palmer (Central), B.Kimber (S.Shrops Coordinator), M.Attwood, J.Dobson, N.Clarke, A.Stephens, C.Yarranton (S.Shrops), C.Harrison (N.Wales/N.Shrops Coordinator) & D.Goodier (N.Wales/N.Shrops), S.Cannings (Director, East Trent Coordinator).

Suzanne Potts (AMCA General Manager), Steve Harvey (Competition & Technical Coordinator)

Apologies: R.Pugh (Director), N.Webster (Director), D.Moreton (Director), J.Williams (Wessex), L.Cooper (Central), J & D. Mitchell (South East)

Meeting Chaired by AMCA Chairman, Don Green.

Voting: two votes per Group but only if two persons are present.

Invited to attend: ordinarily Group Coordinators or their Deputy, Observer and a third person from a club if club would like to bring forward a specific issue to the Committee.

For this meeting the Chairman; Mr.Don Green, had requested that a minimum of four representatives from each Group attend along with representatives from host clubs running on AMCA owned tracks and clubs running an IMBA or Championship round.

1. Notes of the previous meeting held 31st August 2013 were approved. M.Brettle proposed and M.Bradbury Gibbs Conway seconded, unanimously agreed.

2. Matters arising from previous notes not included on this agenda.

The Central Group had submitted four matters arising from previous minutes for further discussion / action.

Below are the items they raised.

a) 16th March 3.4 Colours of number plates

M.Brettle proposed with C.Price seconding that the rules in relation to colour of numbers and backgrounds be enforced in 2014. Riders falling foul of the rules will be given a warning and then if a second breach occurs will be excluded from the points at that event. It was suggested that Championship Riders be reminded of the rule.

14 in favour, 2 against – CARRIED.

b) 16th March 3.5 Suggested new format for MX1/MX2 and Superclass Championships

S.Harvey explained that the Championship criteria for both major Championships and the Superclass is as per the 2012 Championships, only slight variation is that 60 riders will be invited to attend the Superclass.

A decision will be made after 19th February as to whether qualifiers will be required as this is the deadline for Groups to submit the names of potential Championship riders.

c) 31st August 3.2 AMCA Championships

Central Group had requested that a list of names be published of which Championship riders have not completed their 6 Group level events in 2013 and therefore are not allowed into Qualification or the Championship.

In response, S.Harvey had requested that Group Coordinators supply him with the names of any riders from their Group who they feel should be investigated, three names had been submitted and all three meet the criteria.

C.Price proposed that the rule remains as is but that medical exemptions be permitted, M.Palmer seconded the proposal and 11 voted in favour - CARRIED.

C.Harrison proposed with K.Leach seconding that any special cases that don't meet the criteria should be emailed to the motocross committee by the office for voting, if the rider is allowed into the Championship he must fulfil his 6 rides AMCA prior to the first round of the Championship.

11 voted in favour – CARRIED.

C.Harrison told the meeting that an exception should be made for Sam Smith who had been living abroad last year,

C.Harrison proposed with M.Humphries seconding that Sam Smith be allowed to contest the Championship and that he must fulfil his 6 rides AMCA prior to the first round of the Championship.

10 voted in favour – CARRIED.

d) A.O.B. Item No 3. Gardening in front and behind the start line

DRAFT RULE – it is proposed to add the following to SR12 (Starting Procedure)

With specific reference to gardening it is already included in the rulebook with the statement 'Riders or their attendants must not use any tools to alter the starting area'. It is proposed that this be altered to:

- Riders are deemed to be under starter's orders when the first rider is called to the start line.
- No persons will be allowed in the start area once riders have come under starters orders,

except riders, passengers and authorised officials.

- No persons will be permitted to alter the starting area on the trackside of the start gate.
- Only riders will be permitted to alter the starting area behind the start gate, they are not permitted to use any tools.

The adoption of the above was proposed by C.Price and seconded by K.Leach – 14 voted in favour - CARRIED.

It was also suggested that a line be added that if a rider is in breach of this rule that he goes to last pick for the gate.

C.Price proposed the addition and S.Webster seconded – 14 voted in favour - CARRIED.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY - Items discussed at the last Motocross Committee Meeting which have had further discussion by AMCA Directors.

Winter MX fees - On 3rd January 2013 AMCA Directors agreed a new fee structure to encourage MX Clubs to run events in winter. The rates charged to clubs are as follows 'A' licence holder £3, 'D' licence holder £8, One Day Licence £13. The club then sets their own entry fee. All entries handled through the office (online only) although One Day Licences can also be taken on the day. Dates when these charges apply have been clarified to the following: Remembrance Sunday up to the end of January is classed as 'winter' (inclusive of Remembrance Sunday). Therefore it follows that from 1st February up to and including the week before Remembrance is classed as the main season.

Events of any discipline can now take place on Remembrance Sunday so long as a two minute silence is observed and activities are suspended for 15 minutes either side of this.

3. NEW BUSINESS

3.1 From Central Group – Riding at non-AMCA events.

The Group requested that the Motocross Committee re-visit the rule that states 'any rider riding at a non-AMCA event without permission will receive a two week marshalling ban'. It is believed this rule is not operated by the majority of Groups.

M.Penn explained the proposal to the meeting.

M.Penn proposed that the rule be removed with C.Harrison seconding – 14 voted in favour, 2 abstained – CARRIED.

S.Webster said that riders will still be expected to honour their home club duties but this will be managed by individual clubs.

3.2 From Central Group – AMCA Inter Group Team Race.

S.Harvey's email dated 23/10/13 states that the existing rules for the Inter Group Team Race need some tweaking and bringing up to date. The meeting discussed the team race.

M.Penn suggested that it should be run mid year, not at the end of the year – the meeting broadly agreed.

S.Harvey suggested that teams could consist of 5 members plus 2 reserves, Steve suggested that he will put together some ideas for rule amendments and possible dates and circulate.

3.3 From South Shropshire Group - To increase the rider numbers for the current AMCA Veteran championship can the 55 year (see Note) old and over class be re-instated within the present format. Run both classes together in the same race but score them separate, reason for this is that there are older riders who would ride the series and be able to compete against riders of similar age and ability instead of giving away 15 years on a 40 year old.

NOTE: if the proposal is approved then discuss the age criteria.

B.Kimber proposed with C.Harrison seconding an amended proposal that a 50 year and over class be included but only if there is a minimum of 3 riders in the 36 at the beginning of the year – all voted in favour - CARRIED

3.4 From South Shropshire Group - At the moment you have to complete 75% race distance of that of the leader in the Vet's championship which means you are getting riders who are racing a full race distance for them and not getting any points as a result which is demoralising and putting riders off racing, as the Vets class is unique in the fact that junior, senior and expert riders can compete in the same race then you do have a much larger ability gap between the fastest and slowest riders. Could a lower percentage be introduced for the senior and junior riders only that will allow them to get some points on a race day, say 65% or 70%, not too low that you could have sand bagging by riders but if you go 3 laps down you will still score. This will not affect the overall championship at the top but does have a positive effect on the riders nearer the back who can have a race with similar ability riders in the championship when you have points to battle for.

The meeting discussed the current situation and a proposal was put forward by B.Kimber that to be classified as a finisher the percentage of the winner's laps completed be reduced to 50% in the Vet's Championship, this was seconded by M.Humhries, all voted in favour – CARRIED.

3.5 From Central Group – Insist AMB immediately return to including riders clubs alongside names with results.

S.Harvey told the meeting that the AMCA have no control over other companies websites. There is a new feature on the myLaps website however which is an 'i' for information which may include the details required.

3.6 From Central Group – Discuss if it is agreeable to pay prize money instead of or as well as trophies.

A discussion took place, it was decided that the situation would remain as it is currently with individual clubs making their own decisions as to whether they give trophies or cash as prizes.

3.7 From Office – Discuss new paperwork for the administering of One Day Licences on the day.

The new form was distributed and modifications were suggested which will be adopted.

3.8 2014 Fixtures – fixture lists have now been completed including championships for both solos and sidecars. Clubs and Groups are reminded that the 1 event per 15 riders rule still remains. The meeting discussed whether any leeway should be given for clubs needing to go over the thresholds of 15, 30, 45. It was proposed by M.Penn that an allowance of 3 be given, therefore 18, 33, 48, and that Groups would administer whether clubs be allowed to go over this, M.Bradbury Gibbs Conway seconded and all voted in favour – CARRIED.

3.9 From Newport Club – request for Group transfer from South Shropshire to North Wales / North Shropshire Group. Both Groups have approved the move. As both Groups had agreed to the move this was accepted by the meeting.

3.10 From Directors Meeting 3rd January 2014 – All Groups to be asked if they can include a Vets class to include modern / evos / twin shock or super evo machines. This item was deferred to the afternoon discussion.

3.11 From Central Group – The holding of entries open until the Friday before the event now seems to have been adopted by the Office. Discuss the impact (if any) of holding entries open rather than continuing with telephone entries. OFFICE REPLY – Entries are only held open beyond the normal shut off date in consultation with the Group / Club. For the forthcoming season NW/NS, SS, ET, NM/NW have all indicated that they want their shut off date as the Monday before their event. A discussion took place and initially all Groups except the Central Group agreed to close off their entries at 9.30am on the Monday prior to their events. J.Dobson then proposed that a uniform cutoff date of 9.30am Monday should be adopted for the whole of the AMCA, M.Humphries seconded the proposal, all voted in favour with the exception of two abstentions – CARRIED.

3.12 From Central Group – Make 'B' licences recognizable (i.e. different colour letter B) to help on the day entries personnel recognize it instantly and charge the correct fee. Office agreed to alter B licence design.

4. Any other business.

D.Green raised the issue about AMCA owned tracks not getting enough uses and the problem of some host clubs not being open to the suggestion of other clubs using the venue. S.Potts suggested that clubs wanting use of an AMCA owned venue should contact the office who would then endeavor to resolve any issues.

From NWNS – can 12 year olds be permitted to ride MX2 machines in exceptional circumstances e.g. size of rider, with parental consent. C.Harrison proposed / M.Humphries seconded, 15 voted in favour – CARRIED.

For information – the £5 transponder hire fee charged by the AMCA must be enforced due to the significant investment by the AMCA to maintain system.

M.Humphries expressed concern about the quality of two stroke / vets venues.

S.Harvey asked if riders are allowed to enter MX1 / MX2 championship AND vets / 2 stroke or vice versa as in 2014 they will be running on separate days. S.Harvey said that with the non AMCA ban rule being overturned Championship riders are now free to compete in non AMCA Championships and therefore would it not be preferable to permit them to compete in two AMCA Championships. The meeting decided to retain the current rule and therefore this is not permitted.

Office requested that the current deadline for medical evidence to be supplied in order to get a refund be reduced from 14 days to 7 days, this should help speed up the return process. S.Webster proposed with M.Bradbury Gibbs Conway seconding – all voted in favour – CARRIED.

M.Palmer raised the issue of agenda items not appearing on the agenda as S.Potts and the Directors had agreed to put the two items from Central and SShropshire forward to a debate planned for the afternoon as they felt this would give the subject a good airing. M.Palmer said that it was a matter of principal and all items should appear on the agenda if they are put forward correctly. S.Potts suggested that the two items be taken now and a vote taken as to whether the Motocross Committee meeting feel there is a need for a sub committee to be formed. S.Potts read the two items below to the meeting. M.Palmer proposed with B.Kimber seconding that a sub committee be formed, 2 voted in favour, the remainder were against the proposal, therefor the proposal fell.

LUNCH followed

P.M. SESSION - MOTOCROSS DEBATE (Anticipated two hour session)

Two Yorkshire representatives joined the meeting – M.Jessop and K.Musselwhite

Two similar proposals from South Shropshire and Central Groups have been received, the requests were discussed at the Director's meeting on 3rd January 2014 and it was agreed that an open forum would take place at today's meeting after lunch. Anyone who feels they have a contribution to make is welcome. There will be no agenda as such for the afternoon session, just an open debate on the future of AMCA motocross. The two proposals from the Groups are detailed below.

(S.Shrops) This proposal is in response to the decline over the last few years in Modern MX: Set up a subcommittee of likeminded people which includes all aspects of Modern MX in the AMCA (Board, Office, Officials, Clubs, Riders and Legal) to come up with a proposal for the future of Modern MX in the AMCA, this proposal can then be submitted to the Board and MMX committee for implementation in 2015. If required may include other AMCA disciplines.

(Central) A sub-committee be formed to attempt to address the decline in entries at Modern Motocross meetings. A greater proportion of attendees should be from organisers from clubs who have expressed an interest along with the Co-Ordinators and Directors with a particular interest in this area. One senior member from the Office should also be in attendance.

An informal debate took place covering a variety of issues including 65cc bikes, promotion of the 'B' Licence, promotion of grass roots events, discount for early entry, annual entry fees, vets class, support for IMBA riders and the possibility of centralized contracts for first aid / toilets, Yorkshire group.
The directors will discuss the 65cc bikes issue at their next meeting on 15th March 2014.

Meeting concluded 4.15pm