

## **Minutes MX Committee Meeting 1/16**

Jan 26, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise, 8pm.

**Present:** **Dundalk-** Enda Kelly, **North Dublin** -Jim Jones, **Wexford Off Road** Colin Stafford

**East Cork-** Ingrid Mc Donough, **Munster-** John Dunne, Martin Cox, **Fastlane-**Alan Stynes

**Derryarkin-** Karl Brady, Irish **Quad Club-** Eamonn Murphy, John Cullen, **Convenor-** Mick Mc Ginn

**Apologies;** Southeast, Dublin City, Limerick

Mick Mc Ginn opened meeting and introduced Eamonn Murphy and John Cullen from the new club formed to represent Quads in the Southern Centre- suggested name: Irish Quad Club. This club name will go forward for affiliation in the mid-term meeting of the Southern Centre. It was recognised by the committee that a specialised voice for quads is necessary and all clubs welcomed the new delegates.

The minutes of the MCI/MRA Motocross commission were read out for information. New faces are on the commission from the MRA this year with Alan Hall, Philip Mc Collough and Sylvia Lockhart replacing Neil Loughery, Eddie Johnston and Laurence Spence. The committee were informed that Roy Neil is the 2016 convenor, Maurice Auld the new secretary and Mick Mc Ginn remains as the treasurer.

Discussion was had and all clubs were reminded on the new one day licence rules that were passed at the AGM in November last. It is now possible for MRA and MCI riders to apply for one day licences in the opposite centre. (I.e. an MCI rider can take out a one day in the North and vice versa). A restriction of 3 "one days" per rider was highlighted.

News of 2016 international teams was passed on: Philip Mc Collough is the manager for the Des Nations team in Italy and the commission agreed to send a team picked from both centres to this year's Coupe de l'Avenir in Belgium. Mick Mc Ginn was voted as manager with u21s, 85s and 65s proposed to take part this year. Gordon Gilchrist is the 2016 quad manager with Kenny Gardner as the manager of the sidecars.

The new format for the Adult Irish championship was discussed; it is very similar to the 2015 Southern Centre with daily the same qualifying procedure deciding in which group a rider will compete. The points are different to the SC with the old 25, 22 etc system in force with an example given of a possible 25 points each for the first MX1 and MX2 rider in the same race. This was finally agreed at commission level after much discussion.

Prize money for the Irish was relayed to the committee: Overall on day- MX1A first-£150, second-£100, Third £75, MX2A the same. MX1 B £70, £60and £50 for first second and third with MX2B the same. MX1C first is £40, second is £30 and third £20 with the MX2C class the same. Total prize fund is now £1190 per round. Quad prize money is the same pro rata for both adult classes as above. Only one set of prize money in a concurrent event will be paid out to the top three quads. Gavin Craigie from CCM racing announced that they will sponsor all the group trophies for the Irish for 2016. Many thanks to them.

As the MRA are short of tracks suitable for the Irish it was agreed that Desertmartin will be used twice in the adult Irish in 2016.

The major change in the youth Irish is that the final round will earn double points for the riders. This should help reduce the falling off of entries late in the season. Some race/practice times were also changed, these will be apparent in the regulations.

The Quad dates for 2016 were agreed with the committee and the updated calendar is attached below. There will be 6 rounds of the Irish and 6 rounds of the SC quad championships. The Quad club have generously committed to €500 toward the permit for each club running the 6 rounds of the SC championship. The Quad club will sponsor the prize money also. This should help the clubs have a viable quad event in financial terms. 3 of the Irish quad rounds will be ran concurrently with the SC and the same in the North with their 3 Irish rounds running concurrently with the Ulster. It is hoped that a better turnout for the quads will be evident in 2016. With the help of the new Quad club, it has been easier to formulate a calendar which should suit riders from all over the country. John Dunne made a point that there are not enough quads turning up for practice and that if there were, the Munster Club would run more events for the quads. The rest of the committee echoed this and there is much goodwill for the quads especially after performing so well at the European Quad des Nations in Germany in 2015 where except for bad luck, they were on the pace to at least gain a podium in this event.

The Fastlane event of Moatocircus has been changed to the 27/28 of August.

Enda Kelly, the treasurer, reported that some monies are still outstanding to the committee from last year's programme; only Wexford, Munster and Fastlane are fully paid up. The other clubs present agreed to pay in full by the next meeting. Enda pointed out that the trophy bill needs to be paid and he is still waiting for the bank to provide check books and lodgement books. The potential income for the 2016 committee was discussed and it was agreed to fund the trophies, meeting rooms, etc. again by continuing with the preregistration for the SC. This had proved both convenient for the riders and good for the clubs as a fund for the end of year event was automatically saved from monies incoming from preregistrations. Rider found it easier to organise. Although there is an extra round (9) for the SC this year it was ultimately agreed to keep the registration and entry fees the same as 2015. (€40 pre entry, & €40 on day, non registered €45 in advance of each separate event and €10 late entry fee if entered on day €55) (Youths €30 pre register and €30 on day, autos €20 and €20 on the day. €35 a week in advance and €10 late entry, youth siblings get €10 off for each additional rider)

The SC championship was discussed with all agreeing to 9 rounds and dropping the worst round. Due to poor entries it was agreed that u25s would not be a class this year with all other classes remaining. MX1&2 in A,B and C, Over 35s A, B and C, veterans Open, Under 21s A,B and C and Youth Autos, 65s Small wheels 85cc, Big wheel 85cc, 125 2 stroke and 150/250 4 stroke classes. Prize money for adults is the same as last year €150, €100 € 75 for the overall top three in the fastest group on the day, trophies for adults going down to 3<sup>rd</sup> place on the day and at the end of year.

Mick Mc Ginn informed the committee that it has been noted by Motorcycling Ireland that the standard of paperwork needs to be improved. He pointed out that his own club is a case in point as they are fighting a case at the moment and there is an onus on each club to keep and return the required paperwork. Mick said that it was very important to keep copies of everything. He also reminded the clubs on the necessity for up to date children's officer training to be in place and this is ultimately the club's responsibility. It was raised by the committee that clarification from the Centre on photography by spectators was needed and how could we address this issue- would an announcement at the riders briefing or a note on the entry form suffice- or is it needed at all?

A suggestion from the floor was made for the appointed stewards to be paid €50 for expenses in attending a race meeting and acting as steward. This was to be paid by the hosting club. Arguments for was that it was expensive for a person to travel the length of the country at their own expense and arguments against were that stewards should do it for the love of the sport. It was noted that there are not enough stewards available for all the meetings and the same people seem to do it again and again. This issue was debated and not really settled.

Reference was made to a proposal to the convenor in the form of a letter from Graeme Vigors and seconded by Karl Brady that the proposed inter Centre Training days should not as take place as suggested by Mick Mc Ginn.

Karl wrote:

“Spending the €2k+ on weekend training is a waste when it can be spread over a number of weeks and riders can get a value for money that was supposed to be spent on a UK team event”

As Graeme was not at the meeting, Karl elaborated on their point. The committee felt that at the start of 2015 the potential SC winners were promised a “reward” by the committee for performing well in the championship. It was nobody’s fault that the Inter Centre event in the UK was cancelled and that the promise should be kept. It was also felt that a two days training for the 24 riders eligible only worked out as €42 per rider per day and that this was good value. The committee decided to go ahead with the original plan.

Stewards for oncoming events appointed:

SC Clonroche round 1, 5/6 March, Saturday -Graeme Vigors (if available), Sunday- Jim Jones

Irish Youth Round 1, 19 March, Vernon Mount - Mick Mc Ginn

Karl Brady pointed out to the committee that there were various grants coming up and that any clubs eligible should apply, Mick Mc Ginn has a number of a company doing two way radios at a good price.

Meeting finished at approx 10.45 and agreement was made to meet again in same location on March 1 at 8pm.