

Marking Proposals received for the SE Centre Trials Combine meeting 24th October 2012
The Comments of the contributors to the debate follow the 4th proposal.

The following paragraphs were read out.

Our SE Centre constitution and rules allow clubs to decide on which marking rules (TSR22A or TSR22B) to use at club level and our Groups make a similar decision on how their Group Championships are marked. The purpose of this meeting is to make an informed decision on how the SE Centre Championship series is marked for 2013.

The clubs in the TVTC have recently met and have stated in writing that they wish to continue with TSR22B Non-Stop in 2013. No other Group has made any representation to the SE Combine but many clubs and individuals have and there is no general consensus about which method is to be used.

For 2012 the South Midland Centre adopted our ruling that clubs are free to choose which method they wish to use in their Championship and it has worked very well.

The ACU have just announced that they propose to run the British National Trials using both sets of rules with two Championship series.

To ensure harmony in the SE Centre Championship series it would be better to have one Championship and to allow clubs to use either method of marking, provided that it is specified in the supplementary regulations (this was our rules prior to 2012). An alternative would be for two Championship series accommodating each set of rules as per the ACU for 2013 with each club declaring which series they will be in according to their marking rules. The other two options are for us to remain with all SE Championship trials run on Non-Stop 22B or change over to Stop-Permitted 22A

The earlier proposal to vary the non-stop rules and mark a stop as a 1 is withdrawn.

There are 4 proposals listed below from which one of them is to be voted through for 2013 and the preferred option for your Chairman and Secretary of the Combine is the first one and if not accepted the second one.

- 1 For 2013 there will be one SE Championship series with each club that runs an event choosing which method of marking they wish to use, A or B which must be published in their supplementary Regulations and on the Dates Schedule.
- 2 For 2013 there will be two SE Championship series with each club that runs an event choosing which series to be in according to the method of marking to be used, A or B which must be published in their Supplementary Regulations and on the Dates Schedule.
- 3 For 2013 there will be one SE Championship series with each club marking as 22B Non-Stop
- 4 For 2013 there will be one SE Championship series with each club marking as 22A Stop-Permitted

Comments were invited from those present to make a short statement supporting their wishes prior to the clubs voting at some point.

Comments were as follows.

If we are only deciding on Championship then it would not be good for clubs to do anything different.

One club did not run an event for 4 years as under 22A they could not get enough observers, then for 2011 under 22B easily had enough observers and a large entry so we favour 22B.

But your club will always get a good entry another club that runs a long established trial does not get the entries which have been going down over the years.

Has anything from the ACU been finalised – recent press release about National series says nearly.

The riders who were surveyed on the National series only 50% returned a response.

Why did we change over to 22B for 2012 – Experts taking too long in sections.

Whilst I was progressing through ranks all my trials had stopwatches for each section for all riders, the combine could use funds to purchase stopwatches for clubs so each section can be timed and go back to 22A as this would stop queuing.

Under 22B we no longer have the 5 minute balancing and we do not want to go back to 22A.

We have lost the queues but also lost the riders.

Queues could be down to the clubs and the severity of sections that are set out.

We do have some Experts here tonight so would they say why they've not been entering trials.

I have not enjoyed them this year as not sure about if getting 5 for a stop – some sections impossible to do without stopping and riding to the 22B rules losing too many marks – riding with 22B but allowing a slight pause is not that easy to get your head round it – other riders doing same as me in section but getting a different mark - inconsistency.

You can end up guessing what an observer will give you if you have a brief pause.

Observers are not always the same with allowing the pause.

I agree over the Elite riders comments but need to remember that we do this for fun but at the moment we are not encouraging the youngsters to come through as they start on the electric bikes hopping and bouncing and when get to petrol engines have to forget all that and ride 22B. My son is no longer a youth and is not riding much this year as he says it is boring and getting 5's for going over logs that need 22A and says what is the point in riding. I have had more injuries this year as route often needs the stop to prepare for the line up on the next obstacle, but go for it as 22B and crash.

'Gives a brief overview of what recently ridden as Expert in Centre' and agrees with Elites but a lot is about how it is laid out and clubs are in 1st year of doing this and need to give it a chance – some have done ok in the dry conditions but in the mud, sections need to be wide open and also same in streams – we have to consider all classes and all riders and observers – organisers need to give it more thought – we will always see bad observing decisions, some you win some not, more consistency is needed with observers.

I have seen some bad crashes in the National series.

At our club meeting last night it was near unanimous to go back to 22A – particularly the onus on observer re the stop it's much better for 22A as no worry about it.

On the sections that will cause queues use a stopwatch on them.

Discretionary for observers to call riders into section to ride, pick on lowest number.

Send all Experts off together to same section so they do not need to wait until they are all together again to discuss who goes first.

This year I have noticed a drastic loss of Experts there were none at a recent long standing prestigious event so where are we going with bringing on our Experts.

Novice and Inter course was usually 22B type anyway it's the Expert & Elite that have the issues.

You need the momentary stop to do the log in the section.

Over the year this is the main issue (22A v 22B) if you look at and talk to the riders.

Over the years I have seen all different types of marking at all levels now it is the same unknown about if it was a stop or if rocking backwards on log – the Scottish entry rocketed when it went to 22B - tonight we need to agree on something that will please all riders and clubs.

The importers are with the FIM and going to try for 22B – we should go with proposal 2 as it will allow clubs their choice.

I Propose that we let clubs run what they want.

Seconded

But we need to know how each club wants to run their events 22A or 22B.

We then had brief Q & A to clarify what we were now doing and stated that we need to sort out clubs that are present and eligible to vote and which marking they favour to at least give us a starting point. There are 22 clubs present eligible to vote split 11 for 22A and 11 for 22B so we proceed to vote on proposal 2 which is similar to the ACU National series next year in that we have two series one running on 22A the other on 22B

The vote on proposal 2 failed with 15 against and 7 for it

There was then a motion to vote on proposal 4 which was to run all championship under 22A

The vote on proposal 4 was carried with 14 for it and 7 against and 1 abstention

It was then declared that the SE Centre will run on TSR22A for all championship events in 2013

Brief discussion on time controls to prevent queuing outlined it is already in TSR's – overall time limit specify start times and finish by times in programme – observers call in the low numbers waiting around in section – send Expert and Elite all off together to a specific section – if we experience delays we are not set up to allow time extensions that they have in Nationals – time limit is advisory for all championship events.