

Minutes of the SE Centre Trials Combine Meeting
Wednesday 20th February 2008
Draft minutes until ratified at our next meeting

Agenda for the meeting

- 1 Apologies for absence:
- 2 Minutes of last meeting held on 7th Nov 2007 – Dates & AGM:
- 3 Matters arising from those minutes:
- 4 Review of Championship Trials run so far in 2008; Ashford, Sittingbourne & Witley; comments from members present and from online rider survey:
- 5 Championship Trials in the next 4 months:
 - Normandy 24/2
 - Gravesend 30/3
 - Sittingbourne 6/4
 - Bexleyheath 20/4
 - Tenterden 27/4
 - Sidcup 25/5
 - Surrey Schoolboys 25/5
 - Thames 26/5
 - Folkestone 15/6
- 6 Trials Clerk of Course/Stewards Seminar 27th March & Seminar Venues:
- 7 Correspondence Received:
- 8 Proposals to be considered from club members present:
- 9 Any other urgent business:
- 10 Date of next meeting:

Present Double Five, Thames, Tongham, Owls, Sittingbourne, Tenterden, Sidcup, Sunbeam, Surrey Schoolboys, Greenwich, Folkestone, Talmag, Bexleyheath, Kent Youth and Witley. 15 clubs with 18 members present.

Chair Jim Connor Secretary Stephen Westley

- 1 Peter Burton and Bob Brown were accepted.
- 2 The minutes of the meeting 7.11.2007 were accepted unchanged.
- 3 There were no matters arising.
- 4 The three championship trials run so far were discussed and the comments from the riders' survey were handed round to those present, these comments are now published on the combine website. As was expected with revised championship classes and standards for 2008 there have been a few glitches which have been sorted out before, during and after the trial as required. **Briefly from the survey;** The Dunlop trial was good especially considering the size of the club; The Walker trial was good and at a new piece of land for most riders; The Weston trial was good but there were some lengthy queues and several sections had problems, it was a very cold day for observers; at both the Dunlop and the Walker the Clerk was assisting observers to reduce some small queues. Stewards' reports will be available at a future management meeting.
- 5 Comments from members present from each club confirmed the rounds were ok with the exception that the Sidcup trial 25/5 is not taking place.
- 6 Trials Clerk of Course Seminar is running at Blindley Heath on 27th March and it was agreed provisionally to run another seminar in East Kent later in 2008.
- 7 No correspondence received.
- 8 Thames Valley Trials Combine now appears to be down to 3 clubs and a proposal to join in with the Star Group was talked through. Yes clubs should help 'weaker' clubs up to a point. Other Centres have clubs coming together to run trials or why not amalgamate clubs. Even clubs with a large riding membership experience problems with volunteers coming forward to help set up events and it can rest on one or two individuals to do it all, all year. Members from TVTC & SG who are present will discuss this.
- 9 No outcome yet for the 2006 expert championship winner.
If winners do not get the original trophy for the year could we not have a decent replica instead?
Donating of a tyre to 2008 Championship class winners by sponsor clubs discussed; Thames, Owls

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and Surrey Schoolboys will and Folkestone and Witley should be able to, verify before next meeting and more sponsors are welcome, contact Jim Connor. Confirmed that the rider will state what tyre they want and the club will obtain it rather than give cash to the value of.

Discussion on quality of observing as the rider survey showed up inconsistencies, some clubs are finding it difficult recruiting observers and whilst consistency from observers is what we need, they must be consistently right and marking to TSR22A. Should we run some sort of observer seminar? Paying trained observers expenses at a trial by a show of hands was a non-starter. Does anyone have any constructive suggestions about this or is it that clubs might have to consider training their own observers for their championship trials.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 22.30pm

Date of next meeting 28th May 2008 at the Forman Institute

An agenda will be published nearer the date and any items for the agenda need to reach the Secretary by the 21st May 2008.