

Draft Minutes of the SE Centre Trials Combine meeting 18th Feb 2009

**Present:** - Double Five, Witley, Sidcup, Sunbeam, Surrey Schoolboys, Folkestone, Bexleyheath, Greenwich, Twickenham and Dorking. 10 clubs with 10 members present.

**Chair** - Jim Connor      **Secretary** - Stephen Westley

**1 Apologies for absence:** - Ray Denyer, Barry Wilmot, Chris Mawer and Eric Moss

**2 Minutes of last meeting 28.10.2008:** - Approved without change.

**3 Matters arising from those minutes:** - The Forestry liaison officer is perfectly willing to assist trials clubs on the use of forestry land and there is no problem in giving him a call if needed. Remember that the paperwork for the use of this type of land may need to be with the authority giving the permission, 3 months in advance. Talk to other clubs who have already undertaken the new type of risk assessment required on MOD land.

**4 Update on SE Centre Expert Championship 2006:** - This has finally been delegated back to the Trials Combine to make the decision. The two riders were unable to reach common agreement prior to this meeting; however, both will accept our decision. Following an outline of the events leading to the dispute, and time allowed for a fair discussion by the delegates, the clubs present being quorate voted. The outcome was a majority for the decision made at the trials meeting on 26th October 2006 to stand. Secretary to write to riders and clubs involved, award to be sent to James Fry.

**5 Review of 2009 Championship trials run so far:** - Ashford, Sittingbourne & Witley. For 2009 the combine is to begin discussing in depth each of our championship trials with a view to providing constructive analysis. This will come from rider feedback surveys, results published and those who were present and at our meeting. It will provide us with the riders' perspective of the event and, for those clubs who may have a particular problem on certain aspects of their event; we should be able to offer advice and/or assistance. The aim is to provide riders with a championship that encompasses varying types of terrain with good and consistent standards in setting out the sections, the classes and the event administration.

Ashford trial 25.1.09 – the rain and cold caused problems in the sections, a very high number of novices retired, several people succumbed to the cold, including one observer with hypothermia, extensive help provided by a local club in setting out in the preceding weeks. Offers made to assist next year. Secretary will write to the club.

Sittingbourne 1.2.09 – reported that it was an excellent event.

Witley 15.2.09 – the weather caused problems for the novices and it was felt it was too tough for them; the delegate present will discuss recommendations with his club.

It was expressed that it is good that the combine is looking closely at the championship trials with a view to providing feedback to the clubs and this will continue at our next meeting.

It was noted that if a novice finds the trial to be too difficult they do not have the facility to drop down a route unlike the expert and inter riders. The Clerk of the Course needs to bear in mind that a trial might be won on a zero score and the route needs to be set out with the combine recommendations in mind.

Whilst the novice winner should lose between 10 and 15 marks consideration needs to be for the bulk of the novices not just the top rider.

**6 Thames Trial 25th May & Witley Trial 7th Nov 2009:** - The Thames club have advised us that they are not running an event on the 25th May, discussion, and as no offer to step in it was decided that the combine would run the event rather than lose a championship round. Secretary to obtain the permit, combine to provide the officials, it could also raise funds.

The Witley club have requested that they be able to include the Elite Adult and Youth classes as championship rounds at their trial on 7th Nov 2009. This was agreed to and a note to go in TSM and on the website.

**7 Championship trials remaining in 2009, any issues known about:** - Kent Youth round will take place on 15th March.

Possibly sort out a bullet point sheet that can be included in the permit pack that is sent out for championship trials as a quick reminder of what the Clerks need to aim at.

**8 Correspondence received:** - Confirmation now received that the Barham trial at Coombe Valley on 22nd March 2009 has been cancelled as there is no permission to use the land due to the imminent sale.

**9 Clerk of the Course seminar for 2009:** - there is a requirement for a trials seminar at Blindley Heath later in 2009. More detail at next meeting.

**10 Any other urgent business:** - discussion on certain items in ACU Directors minutes 22.1.09 and ACU T&E minutes 9.1.09

A rider feedback form will be put onto SE Trials website to download and use by riders to inform us what they think of the trials they enter.

**11 Date of next meeting:** - Confirmed as Wed 13th May start at 7.30pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 22:31