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Junior Road Racing Forum Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Junior Road Racing Forum of Motorcycling Australia held at Motorcycling Australia's South Melbourne Office on 5 June 2009 at 9:30am.

PRESENT:

Braxton Laine	MA Junior Development Commissioner
David Bancell	MA Road Race Commissioner
Leo Cash	MQ
Paul Edwards	Chairman, MRRDA
Jennifer Diles	Metakit Australia
Glyn Griffiths	Honda
Brendan Ferrari	Hartwell MCC & MV Road Race committee
John Redding	Yamaha
Vic O'Driscoll	Race Official

APOLOGIES: none

IN ATTENDANCE:

David White	MA Chief Executive Officer
Andrew Weiss	MA Operations Manager

ITEM 1 INTRODUCTION:

Forum opened at 10.00am

- David White welcomed all to the meeting, apologised for delay in getting the meeting up and running.
- DW Explained that as a result of the delay, normal process for pushing through items for 2010 cannot be met.
- As a result, DW will be pushing to get any items from today of importance through via his request to the Board.

ITEM 2 PREVIOUS MINUTES:

- The minutes from the previous forum held at Sydney Airport on 04 December 2008 were distributed.
- Attention was given to the item in the previous minutes which stated that:
- *'David White to gather information from the FIM and overseas on Junior training, injury stats, ages, classes etc'*
- David asked for discussion on what happens in other countries, and he noted that the following occurs:
 - Portugal has a 70cc class for ages between 6 and 14 and an 85cc class from 12-18 years
 - Spain have 125gp class from 14yo to 22 years of age, they also have competition for ages less than that. At the World Metrakit Festival: 8 – 12 on 75cc, 10 years can get on 80cc, 12 years can get on – pre gp 125.
 - Germany start off at 6 years on pocket bikes, then move onto mini bikes at 8 years old. Also have the ADAC Junior Cup which is 12 years of age with consideration given to 11 year olds (in their 12th year).
 - Great Britain has the most complicated system – has 4 different stages of licensing. A novice licence, Intermediate Novice, Clubman and National. Racing for younger riders are organised by importers, not the ACU. The ACU has a 125 production scooter class for 11 year olds, then an up to 125 production based machines for 12 year olds. Then there are 250 machines restricted which 12 year olds can ride up to 15, when they can ride 125gp class.
- Noted that there is significant variation through all of these countries.

ITEM 3 MAJOR CONCERNS:

- Paul Edwards noted that it is irrelevant what we try to do, unless we have decent infrastructure around training in place, this will fail.
- Jennifer Diles noted that you need the tracks and you need someone like MNSW to allow you to do it. You also need the coaches. Asked who is going to be responsible for finding venues for this? Will it be someone at MA appointed to do this?

- David noted that unless there is a decent training program to get people into Junior Road Racing, it will never go anywhere. Also said there are severe limitations as you need to be able to get a venue and be able to afford a venue.
- Jennifer - Lismore and Grafton have now become available in NSW for training, has checked into other go kart tracks, for training access. These have been sourced by parents. Has checked out other tracks, and they are predominantly go kart tracks.
- HART track has issues with trees, and riders going out of site due to them (St Ives).
- Braxton – have you got enough juniors to race or train, to justify the costs of having to hire a track? This is one of the main issues.
- Only one rider in the Australian Championship has applied to ride at Eastern Creek to get an exemption.
- Paul Edwards – Need to get the facilities up and running for the kids to get trained. Once this is done, you can then worry about age groups, reducing ages etc. Right now we don't have the environment or culture to support it..
- Braxton Laine – Need to get circuits that are cost efficient, get trainers who are happy to do them, advertise that it is available.

ITEM 4 AGE CLASSES:

- Paul Edwards – hasn't been overly effected by the drop to 14yo. Wouldn't drop below 11 years old in 2009. Need to look at the behaviour in the environment. Believes it is the same view of the Committees and Officials, having discussed it with parents as well. This will be reviewed at the end of the year, and a decision will be made then.
- Jennifer Diles believes that you can't judge kids and put them in an age category as they are all different. Doesn't think you can classify kids into age categories given the differing maturity levels. Contends that if you haven't seen them, how would you know?
- David White – Different people have different interests for which they can argue different age groups. If we are talking about racing at the age under 11, can say it pretty much won't happen in NSW. Stated that there are a whole range of issues and we need to find some common ground - not everyone is going to come away and be happy with the classes we put forward for eligibility. We need to come up with a compromise that keeps everyone relatively happy. Can't have the introduction of classes based on a skills level – has to be an age level.
- Agreed by all that it has to be determined by age levels.
- Item was thrown up for round table opinion - what should the minimum age be?
 - John – Linked to MX, should be able to at same age
 - Braxton – with John...if there is available places
 - Glyn – 11 years

- Paul – 11 on circuits available now. Support younger, if on go kart tracks, and with x amount of years experience before hand.
 - Brendan – 9-12, uncomfortable under 9
 - Leo – Similar to Brendan
 - Jennifer – 8 years to start with training, 9 years for racing
 - Vic – 9 – 12, could go earlier dependant on location etc
 - David Bancell – 9-12, racing after that (12-14) on limited capacity bikes.
- 6-8 year olds could train in the skid pans at racetracks – don't need to actually be on tracks themselves.
 - Point raised that perhaps we could use dirt bikes with road tyres? – Opens door to introduce motocross riders to road racing.
 - Was decided to set out possible future classes for age groups and capacities, incorporating road race machines and Motocross machines with modifications made for Road Racing:

Age	Track	Class	Bikes	
9 – U12	Approved Tracks up to 2.5km	Junior 1	Up to 70cc 2-stroke (Road Racing Bike) <u>Up to 125cc 4-stroke (Road Race)</u>	Road tyre, lockwire, water, non-aggressive riders, leathers
		Junior 2	Up to 65cc 2-stroke (Motocross) Up to 100cc 4-stroke (Motocross)	
12 – U16	All	Junior 3	Up to 85cc 2-stroke (Road Race) <u>Up to 150cc 4-stroke (Road Race)</u>	
		Junior 4	Up to 85cc 2-stroke (Motocross) Up to 150cc 4-stroke (Motocross)	
14 – U16	All	Junior 5	Up to 125cc 2-stroke (Road Race) <u>Up to 250cc 4-stroke (Road Race)</u>	
		Junior 6	Up to 125cc 2-stroke (Motocross) Up to 250cc 4-stroke (Motocross)	

- These classes have been agreed on by this group.
- **** Under 9 years of age is skilled based training – not on racetracks, skill based training. Can be done anywhere. 9 and over training are at events – circuits etc.
- MA has a responsibility to put the principles in place.... DW will be looking for all states to put their hands in their pockets to sponsor a meeting (junior only), and see how it goes. One in each state – combined, a training day on a Saturday, and have racing all day on the Sunday.....come and try it weekend.

ITEM 5 MAJOR ACCIDENTS:

- DW asked if there have been any serious accidents (hospitalisation) that anyone knows of?
- Paul – Jack Van Straalen (sic?) ruptured his spleen and was taken away by helicopter in October 2008, was fine – got knocked off by his team-mate, Motorcycle Sportsmen starting incident with a female, was at a club round when Sarah Fairbrother stalled her bike on start line and ruptured pelvis (at Morgan Park).
- Jennifer – 2 years ago, a broken collarbone, 13-16 year olds at Broadford.

ITEM 6 WHERE TO FROM HERE?:

- David White expressed that he wants to see the states collectively put \$\$\$ in for a Road Race junior program, which would hopefully cover the cost of the Track Hire. This would be a significant step in getting something happening.
- Awareness will also help – to show what we are intending to do.
- How will we source locations?? Someone will need to organise locations, training, coaches etc... this is a big exercise.
- Venue standards are currently out for people to comment on. Perhaps there will be scope for a specific standard for bikes / venues for Junior Road Racing?
- DW will put a brief report to the Board next week on the above group decision on classes / age categories.
- DW Will send out a discussion paper to all the States to comment on, and for general viewing.
- In the process of arranging industry meeting in July to discuss range of racing issues, this will be put on the agenda.
- Overseas information will be summarised into the report that will be created.

Meeting closed at 2:33pm.