



## BIKE SECTION CONFERENCE – MINUTES 2019

**VENUE** Kings Head Hotel,  
24 Market Place, Cirencester GL7 2NW

**DATE & TIME** 17.08.19 @ 5.00pm

<b>ATTENDEES</b>	Alan Leighton (06)	AL
	Julie Furnival (163553)	JSF
	Martin Woodcock (17256)	MW
	Roy Davies (983)	RD
	Alex Wynn (10307)	AW
	John Williams (151117)	JW
	Lawrence Taylor (160742)	LT
	Mark Williamson (181974)	MWI
	Neal Vater (17208)	NV
	Peter Vater (17209)	PV
	John Veal (1791)	JV
	Ken Gospel (5763)	KG
	Karl Boak (161979)	KB
	Ross Bartlett (170465)	RB

### WELCOME

Alan Leighton, as Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting which commenced at approx 17.10pm. AL explained that the meeting was being recorded to help ensure the Minutes were an accurate reflection of the issues discussed. Attendees were asked to remain polite throughout and to allow everyone to have their say and express their opinions.

### HOUSE KEEPING

Julie Furnival provided basic housekeeping information for the venue.

### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Dave Hall, Dave Richards, Julie Rolfe, Matt Book & Gary Sims



## Bike Section



## MINUTES FROM SECTION CONFERENCE 2018

Proposed by Alan Leighton

Seconded by John Veal

### OFFICERS REPORTS

Chairman – Alan Leighton

AL started by stating that the Section had been praised for the work done and the goals achieved in areas such as getting through the ratification process by the deadline and adoption of the booking in process. Race numbers are consistent across the different tracks. AL explained that to be a section you need a full committee – at the 2018 meeting we managed to secure a full Committee thereby seeing off a merger with another Section. Previously we had successfully shared 2 meetings with the Large Scale On Road section, not necessarily liked by everyone but certainly a way of making it more viable for the host Club. The process may have improved further if the shared meetings continued however this option was not followed up and LSOR went into Club Sport.

AL reiterated that changes to processes can not be made without following due process as established in our Rules.

AL gave his personal thanks as Chairman to all of the Officers

- Julie for keeping things in order, for updating the rules & typing up the Minutes. Admin wise had been fantastic & AL stated that he couldn't get done the things he needed without her.
- Roy as PRO, in role for first time this year. His write ups and getting information out to the public has been brilliant. A stunning first-class job.
- Alex for running race control, has had issues with logins but AL explained that he would continue to raise the issue with the Exec.
- Martin for looking over and keeping the books straight – thank you very much.
- Julie for stepping in and scrutineering, for helping out and keeping all on the straight and narrow with a smiley face – brilliant.
- Neal, our H&S Officer, a top job. Thank you very much for everything. AL referred to a problem experienced at the start of the year & how this all got sorted out.
- Thanks to the committee for their efforts this season and keeping us going and moving forward.

AL stated that the initial idea for a Clubman's series, discussed at last year's Section Conference, did not come to fruition however congratulated RD on his own version which has been well received by the racers.

From AL's joint perspective of Section Chairman and BRCA PRO, AL explained how – when exhibiting at shows – visitors never fail to love bikes, but the issue remains – where to go to buy one? Whilst this issue remains, the problem of recruiting new racers also remains. Despite having sold 4 bikes himself, AL explained that he is 'empty of ideas.



## Bike Section



MW asked if the meetings we could have shared with LSOR were Halifax and Mendip - this was confirmed. It was also acknowledged that whilst these venues had both worked well merged meetings could not always be replicated successfully at other circuits.

#### Secretary – Julie Furnival

JSF explained that she had agreed to take on this role in 2017 when the Section found itself in need and without anyone willing to step into the space. She did this despite not having any involvement in the racing community but was happy to help out with the organisational side of things. The first year involved the re-writing of the Handbook, work which continued over into year 2 due to the number of amendments required – this being reflected in last year's Section Conference lasting for 5 hours. This was further reflected in the ratification process which took place at the main AGM.

JSF further stated that when she volunteered to help out - she didn't sign up for the constant antagonism and negative comments received via Facebook. JSF acknowledged that this was only from a small minority of people but felt it to be enough to force her decision to step down from her role as Bike Section Secretary.

Since the last Section Conference JSF had completed the following tasks:

1. Completion of the Minutes from the Section Conference 2018
2. Obtain ratification for the Bike Section Rules for 2018/19
3. Arranged the dates and venues for the 2019 Bike National Series and the Dez Chand GP
4. Book and completed the paperwork for the 2019 Section Conference
5. Handled the administration for the BRCA Bikes Facebook page
6. Attended 2 of the 3 Exec meetings helping to ensure the Section was represented at all times

JSF received thanks from the floor for the work undertaken.

#### Treasurer – Martin Woodcock

*MW had prepared a handout in advance showing a breakdown of figures which can be found on the final page of these Minutes*

MW referred to the handout stating that finances had been pretty flat throughout the year. There are 2 meetings yet to take place, these being the GP and the last meeting of the season at Mendip, so MW delivered an interim report showing figures to date. Reference was made to the 2 meetings cancelled during the 2018 season where a cost was still incurred towards the cost of the track.

LT asked for clarification as to whether payment was still required for Brooklands when the meeting was cancelled when the track was deemed unsafe by the track owner?

MW clarified that the decision to cancel came from the Section and the payment made to the track owner was made for his role as race director.

MW stated that a new printer had been purchased, payment for which comes out of the BRCA central fund not from the Bike Section

A question was asked (by person unknown) asking where payment comes from for the Section Conference? It was confirmed by JSF / AL / MW as being the BRCA main account. It appears



## **Bike Section**



in our accounts as a memo entry only. Any spend that does not relate directly to race activity is paid for from the central fund.

MW raised the issue of payment for the Moto 5 website which the table agreed to discuss under AOB.

MW offered to discuss any queries on accounts on a 1-2-1 basis.

AL – thanked MW for doing a top job.

PRO – Roy Davies

*The following is the written report delivered by Roy Davies amended slightly to reflect his spoken words:*

RD opened his report by saying that the 2019 Season was nearing its conclusion, some racers have been very successful with one race meeting left to go. The 2019 Moto2 Class Champion elect - Peter Vater - has performed at a consistently excellent standard throughout the year and deserved praise. The MotoGPn (nitro) class is a small group but would be missed if not part of the race meeting. RD felt that the class needed a couple more bikes to race against. John Veal is currently leading this class and felt likely to win again this year. Both classes have done well this year and deserved a round of applause. RD felt it was unfortunate – that due to the rules – the MotoGPe open class had failed to attract any more numbers.

RD felt that the first thing the Section should focus on is to attract more numbers to race.

RD referred to the process he underwent to follow the performances of NV and PV whilst recently competing in the Worlds and offered his congratulations to them both for how they had represented the Section.

RD stated that he had enjoyed his role over the past year and had not found it difficult to do. RD continued by saying that the role of Section PRO is theoretically the voice of the Committee to the rest of the members and it need constant input from others to function well. RD felt he could make up reports and put a few words up but unless he got the information back from the racers then it is worthless. That is from the Committee as well as the members – he needs that constant flow of information. RD felt he had been lucky, and with all of the photos and posts received, had been able to generate and publish reports for each event during the year, even though he had not been able to attend many events.

JSF commented that the speed of publication was impressive.

RD continued by saying that he felt that, as a Section, the PRO role failed – because at the end of the day we are all trying to get more people involved. RD felt that the Committee failed in getting the right message across. He did not consider it easy to get more involved but felt that it is not viable to race with only 8 or 9 people in a class. This reflected comment passed to RD when racing at Aldershot.

RD continued by saying that the loudest voice isn't always right. The Section has a problem with how people are using public forums. RD felt that some of the arguments have been wrong and he felt that the Committee should have handled it better and resist getting involved in public arguments. RD felt it important to be open to the opinions of others with the view of not losing anyone to other forms of racing.

AL interjected to state that it is important to remember that we were referring to a National Series British Championship and that the BRCA had standards for the Section to adhere too.



**Bike Section**



RD believed that it is not viable for the Section to continue as is. RD stressed that the Committee should never start, nor continue, an argument on Facebook.

AL – thanked RD for all he had done stating that the Bike Section had benefited from having RD on board.

#### Competition Officer – Alex Wynn

AW explained that his core responsibilities involved ensuring everyone is booked in and set up on the computer plus ensuring he remembers to take the laptop to each meeting – which he has succeeded to do so far.

A new printer was requested for race control as the old laserjet was struggling.

AW stated that he had no problem in standing for re-election.

AL - thanked AW for his work.

RD raised the issue of the problems he and AW continued to suffer in loading items directly onto the BRCA website. This issue was deferred for discussion under AOB

#### H&S Officer – Neal Vater

NV had nothing to report as all was ‘tickity boo’ – as always!

AL – asked if anything could be done to make the process better however NV confirmed all to be fine.

AL – thanked NV for doing the role and staying on committee when he had originally intended to take a year out.

AL gave thanks to Julie Rolfe who, whilst not technically an Official, by taking on the role of Scrutineer had helped bring credibility to the National Series. She has helped to keep the ‘wolves from the doors’ especially those who say that we do not comply with the rest of the world.

MW – asked if there were any issues re scrutineering this year?

AL explained that only:

- 1 Where it proved difficult to see if the speedo was Blinky because we did not have a speedo list
- 2 Where AL had to remove his motor as used on a different bike with a different transponder that hadn’t used before. It had to be removed so JR could see it as buried and JR confirmed she was happy with that.

No other Officer Roles were filled during the 2018-19 year.

### **PROPOSALS**

AL informed the meeting that there were no proposals for discussion. This means that if the Section proceed to run a BRCA National Championship next year then it is run in accordance with the existing rules. No proposals were received for either the Construction Rules or the Procedural Rules .

We did receive some proposals, but these were rejected as they were not worded in an unacceptable format.



## **Bike Section**



This process was confirmed as accurate following referral to the Exec who also suggested that time be taken at the Section Conference to explain why the proposals had been rejected. It was explained that we could not discuss the individual issues due to the rejected status but could focus on the different stages of the process in response to the complaint made.

Permission was sought, & obtained, from JW (who submitted 3 of the proposals) to explain the details of each one.

JSF informed the meeting that a total of 4 proposals were received & all 4 were rejected after the cut-off date for receipt. JW lodged a complaint with the Exec & understood that there were no errors and that JSF & AL has been asked to include them. Both JSF & AL denied any knowledge of this. JSF outlined the process followed as:

- Issue invite for proposals with link to form on website & notice of deadline to submit
- upon receipt of proposal - allocate ref # and log onto spreadsheet
- acknowledge receipt
- after deadline review submissions topics to enable option to bulk where appropriate
- review forms for accurate completion & reject if not properly submitted
- proposals scanned and sent to secretary for posting onto website

JSF stressed that no proposals were checked before the cut-off date. This is the current process but will be changing over the next year. JSF further stated that it is not her responsibility to judge whether someone else had properly filled out a form but referred to the wording above the box detailing the proposal which states clearly 'the exact wording of the rule will be'. The 3 proposals received did not do this and could not go into the rule book in their current form .

The meeting was asked if the wording could have generated a discussion evolving into an appropriate wording for the rule book. JSF felt that the original wording submitted was insufficient to allow this and reiterated that the forms were not completed in accordance with the instructions.

RD stated that the meeting should have been given the opportunity to critique and amend the proposal which could conclude with inclusion in the rulebook. RD felt it wrong not to be given this opportunity.

RD continued by saying that if the Section had more members and received more proposals, then it would not be feasible to discuss them however he felt that as there were only 4, they could have been discussed but not to be given this opportunity was wrong.

AL continued by explaining that the process was established due to inconsistencies identified during the ratification process. Every member has a voice, but these proposals were not worded as proposals so had to be rejected.

AL continued by reading out the wording from the proposal re 8<sup>th</sup> bikes and explained that to race 8<sup>th</sup> bikes at National level would require rules to be proposed, discussed and voted on.

AL suggested running 8<sup>th</sup> as an open class for a first year.

Another proposal referred to the selection of more tracks. AL explained that the process of booking dates would be impossible to put into any rulebook. The whole process takes approx. 3 mths and needs completing before the Section Handbook goes to print.

The third proposal related to the booking in system for National Championships. It was explained that this is going to be a mandatory process for National Championships moving



## **Bike Section**



forward. AL explained the reasons why and the need to protect members and officers when handling money. The booking in system also provides racers personal details to the race meeting icon. The room were told to raise a ticket if they had problems with the process.

**As a result of no proposals being successfully submitted or subsequently voted upon, the meeting agreed that all current rules and regulations will continue, unchanged, for the remaining National of the 2019 series and for the whole of the 2020 National Series.**

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2020 SEASON**

The following table provides details of the individuals voted to represent the Bike Section as Officers for the coming year:

<i>Section Officers</i>	<i>Person</i>	<i>Nominee</i>	<i>Seconder</i>	<i>Votes For</i>	<i>Votes Against</i>	<i>Abstained</i>
Chairman	Roy Davies	Martin Woodcock	John Veal	11	0	2
Secretary	Martin Woodcock	Roy Davies	John Veal	12	0	1
Treasurer	Neal Vater	Alan Leighton	Alex Wynn	12	0	1
PRO	Ross Bartlett	Martin Woodcock	Karl Boak	12	0	1
Competition Officer	Alex Wynn	Neal Vater	John Veal	12	0	1
H&S Officer	Position unfilled	n/a	n/a	0	0	0

A discussion took place before, during and after the election of officers, summarised as follows:

AL took the time to explain about a new format of racing under the heading of ClubSport, covering every class of model vehicle raced at a model car club – on surface or circuit.

ClubSport includes everything that hasn't got a Section or is on the cusp of being a Section. Examples were given of LSOR who dropped into ClubSport as they were no longer able to exist as a Section and Short Course Trucks Electric who have been in ClubSport and are evolving into a full Section because of their numbers, structure & committee already being in place.

AL asked the meeting to consider ClubSport as an alternative to being a Section due to their ongoing low numbers and the potential ability to race without rules.

AL confirmed that he was willing to remain as Chairman until the end of the Season.

JSF confirmed that she was prepared to type up minutes for submission to the main AGM, to send the Rules off for ratification, to supply contact details for new committee and guide the new secretary as to what they need to do.

Candidates were requested from the floor as no proposals had been made ahead of the meeting.



## **Bike Section**





The meeting was provided with role descriptions for each Officer role and reminded of the need to represent the Section at all meetings.

Following election as Chairman RD stated that he wished to take on the role immediately, he was confirmed awareness of the requirements of the role and the need to attend all meetings. AL explained the need for the Section to have a Committee in place if it wished to continue with a National Series.

The meeting discussed what the alternatives would be if they could not form a committee and took a vote to decide between being a Section or going into ClubSport.

The result being:

Section	- 8 votes
ClubSport	- 4 voted

## **AOB**

### Moto 5 Forum

An open discussion took place regarding the Moto 5 Forum website which is currently costing over £300.00 pa but is not well used despite being popular in the past. Facebook has replaced the Forum which many find difficult to use.

Surprise was expressed over the cost of maintaining the site and MW offered to review the bills received to establish exactly what was being paid for. It was acknowledged that should the decision be taken to close the site then there would be a need to effectively archive the historical content.

It was decided to investigate the possibility of finding a link between Facebook and the website. To look into more economical ways to host and was noted that the Moto 5 Forum is viewed as a resource by racers from all over Europe, especially as so many other sites have ceased. MW and AW were asked to find the most logical way to keep the Forum alive, at a more affordable price and with improved access to use the site.

### Bike World Championships

The possibility of hosting the Bike World Championships was raised however it was agreed that this would not be a small task and it was felt that there are not enough people within the Section to host it. It would need the backing of the BRCA but, even then, it would put too much work on the 4 or 5 people likely to get involved in organising. NV explained that overseas racers are very keen to come to UK and it was suggested that they could be invited to compete in the GP. It was suggested that the GP could be made into a 3-day event in 2020 and be seen as a pre-season warm up for the 2020 Bike Worlds.

### Tracks choice for 2020

LT asked when the choice is made as to which tracks are chosen for the following year. JSF stated that the decision is made by the Secretary however RD commented that the Committee would be asked for their choice of tracks in an open forum. Anyone who wishes to propose a track can do so but the final decision will then pass to the Section Secretary.

RD clarified that a poll would take place to help establish the most popular tracks.



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LT asked about a vote on tracks taken at the 2018 Section Conference which JSF explained actually took place at the 2017 AGM and was helped to determine the least popular venue.

#### Starting Blocks

AL asked for views on the use of starting blocks and whether it was worth undertaking trials on their use. It was felt that the acceleration of the bike currently throws it backwards. It is currently only in regular use in Japan. RD agreed that it should be investigated further.

#### Cut Off Times for Booking In

It was confirmed that the current cut-off time is 'set in stone' at 23.59hrs on the preceding Thursday evening to the race meeting. Cancellation can happen via the website up to 23.59 on the Friday. It was acknowledged that problems are being experienced with bikes (on the BRCA website) due to their different race structures.

AL thanked everyone for attending and their contribution to the meeting and formally closed the meeting.

Julie Furnival  
Bike Section Secretary



**Bike Section**



## 2019 Section Conference Treasurer's Report 17 August 2019

### 2018 Brought Forward

BRCA Account Opening Balance		£2,791.10
Cash		£25.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>£2,816.10</b>
<b>Income (race fees)</b>	<b>£1,432.04</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Circuit Costs	£800.00	
Race Directors Fees	£150.00	
Scrutineer Fees	£220.00	
Other event costs	£0.00	
Moto-5 .COM Forum	£249.91	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,419.91</b>	
<b>Income less Expenditure</b>	<b>£12.13</b>	
Cash		£50.00
<b>CURRENT BALANCE</b>		<b>£2,828.23</b>

<b>Expences</b>	
Printer	69.7
Section conference	£350.00
National Season Trophies	£0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£419.70</b> (Paid from central BRCA funds)

### National Meetings Breakdown

	Rnd 1 Wombwell	Rnd 2 Adur	Rnd 3 Cotswold	Rnd 4 Halifax	Des Chand GP (C)	Rnd 5 Mendip
Number of entries	14	15	16	15	0	0
Race fees received	£316.55	£364.42	£387.70	£363.37	£0.00	£0.00
Circuit cost	£200.00	£200.00	£200.00	£200.00	£0.00	£0.00
Race Directors Fees	£50.00	£0.00	£50.00	£50.00	£0.00	£0.00
Scrutineer Fees	£50.00	£70.00	£50.00	£50.00	£0.00	£0.00
Other Event costs	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Profit for meeting	£16.55	£94.42	£87.70	£163.37	£0.00	£0.00

Bike section Treasurer 2018-2019 Season  
Martin Woodcock