

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BRITISH MZ RACING CLUB [BMZRC]

1300HRS ON SAT 18 NOV 2017

**ASHFORD INTERNATIONAL HOTEL
WILLESBOROUGH ROOM**

DRAFT MINUTES

WELCOME & APOLOGIES

The Chairman welcomed those attending and noted the encouraging numbers.

Those attending were as follows:

Sue Wood	Henry Wood	Rob Dessoy	Chris Pettet
Brian Rogers	Chris Palmer	Kieth Badger	Chris Kent
Chris Rogers	Julian Slade	Louise Clifford	Max Maud
Joe Baldry	Chris Chad	Gary Chad	Mark Vincent
Brian Skinner	Daniel Barford	Peter Thorne	Chrissy Thorne
Duane Sutch	Greg Wright	Gary Howlett	Russel Turner
Lorraine Turner	Tony Holmshaw	Gill Moffat	Dave Higgins
Andrew Wales	Chris Watson	Kathryn Walton	Simon Finch
Lee Hardy	Mark Taylor		

Apologies were noted from:

Des Davies	Lynda Cook	Dan Burdett	Graham Garriques
Garry Samett			

1. Approval of the 2017 AGM Agenda

The Agenda was agreed as the the basis for the Meeting.

Approval of the 2016 Minutes

The 2016 AGM Minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting

3. Election of Officers

3.1 Executive Committee

Chairman. - Chris Palmer.

Riders Representative. - Andrew Wales. (Chris Rogers in Andrews absence).

Secretary.- Brian Rogers.

Treasurer/Membership Secretary. - Chris Watson, replacing Gill Moffat who has retired and confirmed in this role by unanimous vote.

Support Positions (post holders who wished to continue were voted back)

MZ Experience Coordinator.-Chris Rogers confirmed in this post to replace Deborah Park who has announced her retirement from the position.

ACTION. Chris Rogers will liaise with Deborah Park who has offered to assist her replacement into the role of MZ Experience Coordinator

Club Webmaster - Garry Sammet.

Club Trophy Organiser - Chris Pettet.

Club Championship Points Recorder.- Lee Hardy.

Club Bulletin Editor.- Dave Higgins.

Club Merchandise.- Dan Burdett.

Club Promotion. - Kathryn Walton. has informed us of her intention to retire from this post and it was agreed that new approach to tackling this vital task was required so ably undertaken by Kathryn over the last 3 years. This will be discussed under Item 6. of the Agenda.

BEMSEE Sports & Social Rep. - Sue Wood.

3.3 Technical Sub Committee

Chairman. - Brian Rogers.

3.3.2 Members. - Tony Holmshaw. Joe Baldry. Duane Sutch.

3.4 MZ Experience.

Facilitator and Organiser. - Current holder Chris Palmer.

Chris Palmer indicated that he was willing to continue preparing the Experience bikes and bringing them to meetings for the coming season. Mr Peter Thorne interjected at this point that he wished to take over the task currently performed by Chris Palmer.

When asked why he had been prompted to make this proposal he cited issues he saw as failings of the Experience scheme as currently administered.

- a. Allegedly it was not always possible to contact Chris during the week and as a result the opportunity to book to book the experience bikes may have been lost on two occasions.
- b. He would ensure the standard of preparation of the bikes presented the class better than as present, which were in his opinion a joke.
- c. The reliability of the bikes must be improved to ensure those who had paid for machines, finished.

He further stated that under his stewardship he would sell one bike and use the monies raised to

introduce improvements in the presentation of the bikes and technical measures

In response Chris Palmer informed the meeting that he works away during weekdays and his mobile coverage is poor but he **always** responds to emails. This was confirmed by several members. He was further supported from the floor when (.....?.....) pointed out that it is the Experience Coordinator who should be the first port of call for prospective riders enquiries.

With regard to presentation of the bikes Chris told the meeting that both bikes were in the process of a full overhaul both mechanically and cosmetically with one totally finished and the second in progress and he intends to give a full report later in the meeting.

Mr Jo Baldry then made the point that people will need far more than the criticisms and claims from Mr Thorne to make a judgement. We should demand a written exposition of why he wishes to assume the role, what his full plans are and any supportive evidence

The Secretary reminded the membership that this was precisely the approach we demanded in the Website posting notifying the club of the AGM.. The suggestion from the floor was that we postpone this decision until next years AGM to allow Mr Thorne to present a paper to the AGM in 2018 with sufficient evidence to support his bid. This was unanimously agreed.

ACTION. Peter Thorne to produce a paper in support of his bid to control the maintenance of the MZ experience bike(s) both prior to and at Meetings also the transport of the bikes as necessary The paper will cover:

- a. Reasons for the bid.**
- b. What he will bring to the role**
- c. Plans for machines and any improvement deemed necessary and the need and evidence supporting such plans.**
- d. His experience in producing racing MZs**

4.0 Review of Actions placed at the 2016 AGM

Nine Actions were placed at the last AGM and all the major issues were addressed. However, three minor actions were not completed.

Action. Chairman to publicise details of Club Paddock Tools

The Chairman admitted this had slipped under his radar and will address this ASAP.

ACTION. Chairman to publicise details of Club Paddock Tools

Action: The Secretary will produce proposals for an MZ Rider Profile Facebook competition

The Secretary apologised for his lack of progress on this issue and will investigate if it is still necessary.

Action: The Chairman offered to investigate the possibility of a guest class entry at another club,

but reminded us that we have a long standing invite to race in Germany.

The Chairmen told us that the German invite still stood but our problems in filling grids probably nullifies this action.

5.0 Review of 2017 [Open Forum]

5.1 Things we did well.

The Chairman noted that we remain a supportive friendly paddock. Tony Holmshaw's efforts in keeping competitors out on the circuit at meetings with his tireless paddock assistance were specifically noteworthy.

The Riders Representative highlighted the need for a basic “Haynes Manual” for Race preparation and maintenance this was echoed by Lorraine Turner who reminded members of the struggle it is for a newcomer to learn the even the basics of preparation and maintenance. The Chairman agreed with this comment and thought we should resurrect the the Paddock Buddy” Scheme whereby newcomers are assigned an experienced rider to advise and tutor them throughout the meeting.

ACTION. Andrew Wales to investigate the means of producing a “250 MZ Race Preparation and Maintenance Manual”

ACTION. The Chairman will ensure the “Paddock Buddy” initiative is re-introduced for the 2018 season

Many members stated that the Paddock BBQ s were an incredible success and was a huge factor in the friendly paddock atmosphere and the efforts of all of those who found room to bring the BBQ s along and those who manned them was appreciated. There was unanimous support for it to be carried on next season, though there was less support for the “Garry Dancing” element!!

The Guest Commentator role undertaken by Joe Baldry was seen as successful and it was noted that very few riders complete their information sheets for the Commentators, although Joe did say he saw little evidence of any in the commentary box.

Andy Wales said how good it was to see the standard ETZ out at Cadwell and wondered if there might not be room for an ancillary class on that basis.

5.2 Things we did poorly

Support for promotional activities by the wider membership was seen as poor. In fact it was primarily provided by a small group of stalwarts. With Kathryn Walton, Duane Sutch and Peter Thorne covering all the shows where we had a presence. It was widely agreed that the Promotional activity was pivotal for the class and that it could best be achieved by following a suggestion made by Sarah Vincent that the responsibilities be split along the lines of specific disciplines such as media , shows and race paddock and trackdays. It was agreed this provides a positive way forward and a working party should be established to formulate concrete proposals

ACTION. A working group be established to formulate concrete proposals to split the promotional role along functional lines. Along with plans for next year.

(Secretary's Note) Nobody was identified as responsible for this Action but it might best rest with the Secretary to co-ordinate our response to this action. I therefore volunteer to head this Group though I'll gladly step aside for any other member wishing to carry out this function.

Dave Higgins highlighted the fact that submissions from members for the Bulletin were not forthcoming and race reports were not being delivered on time, or at all in some cases. Dave was asked if non-riders could submit a report and said he had had some good reports from non-riders, it was still best that riders give their perspective of a race. However he positively welcomed any contributions from any member. What he would particularly like to see are more paddock photos. The Secretary promised to resurrect his Paddock Ramblings for next season.

ACTION. Brian Rogers to submit a Paddock Ramblings contribution for the bulletin.

6. Plans for the 2018 Season (Open Forum)

6.1. The 2008 Race Matrix (Report from the Riders Rep.)

Andy Wales appraised the meeting as to how the Race Date Matrix was looking for the class next year. We will not be attending the Brands GP or Snetterton 300 rounds and reminded us that we have more than a generous allocation of Brands GP meetings in the past.

We will be sharing grids with Blue Haze again next season though we will be guaranteed 24 slots. Andy said he is in discussion with Bemsee to ensure that the effect of staggered starts on race laps and our faster riders is reduced as far as possible.

Chris Rogers told the meeting that the last time the MZs were not at Brands GP we volunteered to help with the Marshalling. There was a general support for this suggestion.

ACTION. Chris Rogers to liaise with Bemsee with regard to providing marshalling support at Brands GP

7. MZ Experience Facilitator's Report.

Chris Palmer informed the meeting that both bikes were being fully prepared for the forthcoming season, with new paintwork and full mechanical overhaul. One machine is complete and ready to race and the other very close to completion. Both will be fitted with Mikuni carbs and Phil Roots has very generously donated two sets of Hagon gas rear shocks.

8. Treasurers/Membership Secretary's Report

Gill Moffat told the meeting that we held a £2,300 surplus but trophy costs, estimated at £400, had yet to be deducted. She said the fund raising activity to finance the Mikuni carbs for the Experience bikes meant that it only cost £50.00 from club funds. Joe Baldry offered to meet the shortfall which was well received by the meeting. Gill said the full accounts will be available to be appended to the Minutes if necessary.

Max Maud suggested we should consider us some of the surplus to enhance our presentation at shows in terms of stands, banners etc. Kathryn Walton told us we were fairly well provided in that area it was people manning the stand we desperately in need of.

Chris Palmer also pointed out that as the Experience bikes were club funded we probably needed a fairly healthy contingency fund.

9.0 Technical Committee Chairman's Report.

9.1. Review of the introduction of the Mikuni Carb

Brian Rogers reported that there have been no problems reported and we have built a good set of data for the base settings and they are published on our website. However our experience was that a session on the Dyno (with Mark Dent in our case) was money well spent in achieving the right settings for your engine. Greg Wright reported he has used one all season and after his dyno setup session, has not touched the carb settings in any way since! A question from the floor enquired as to the source of the carbs, Brian Rogers said they used Steve Dorran at MotoCarb who will supply the carb to our base settings with spare main and pilot jets around that base setting. Peter Thorne reminded us that he can get carbs from the States at a greatly reduced price and he carried a large selection of jets and emulsion tubes.

9.2. Funding and supplying of high value engine/bike components in a reducing rider membership.

Brian Rogers informed the membership that straight cut primary gear sets had all been sold as had the 1st/3rd undercut gear and he had only three sets of 5th gear mods left. He could not finance another batch of these items given the very real possibility that he might have to hold them for many years. This is because to get the individual cost down he had to commit to batch sizes of 20 off.

Mr Thorne asked if he could be given the drawings as he uses an engineer who could supply single gears as cheaply as in batch quantities!! Mr Rogers told him no such drawings exist as the gears are recorded as CNC programmes.

ACTION. The meeting tasked Mr Rogers with determining what the total holdings of high value parts are and a plan to ensure the effects of their shortage are minimised.

10.0 Motions/ Change proposals From members.

10.1. Proposer, Lee Hardy

Our current points system does not define what happens in the event of positions being tied at the end of the season. I propose that we follow the MotoGP approach as follows: "In the event of a tie in the number of points, the final positions will be decided on the basis of the number of best results (number of first places, number of second places, etc.). In the event that there is still a tie then, the date in the Championship at which the highest place was achieved will be taken into account-with precedence going to the latest result.

MEETING DECISION: Proposal carried unanimously

10.2. Proposer, Graham Garriques

a.. Remove the qualifying session and revert to a practice session or race.

b. At events where its a one day we lose a race, I've never seen any point in qualifying yet, its one session therefore you cant go out, qualify, tweak your bike and go out again to improve your position. In essence its go out and go as fast as you can if you feel like it for very little if any gain. I still feel the championship points system we had work just as well to sort out starting positions for the first race and provided a more consistent grid starting position reflecting ability as opposed to if the bike is working properly that morning.

There was some sympathy with this proposal, particularly from Garry Howlett. However the majority strongly supported qualifying. It was also noted that we now get the full 15mins which was far from the case under practising.

MEETING DECISION. Proposal rejected.

10.3. Proposer, Graham Garriques

Change the grid position after race 1 from current system.

Currently we set the grid positions from the fastest lap, I feel this is unfair as crashing on a fast lap means you still start in front of someone who finished in front, in racing to finish 1st 1st you must finish, easiest way to settle was use the old system of finish position determines the start position for the next race, you crash you start at the back. so don't crash.

It was pointed at that this was a Bemsee club wide decision that involved votes from the all riding members, including Mzs.

MEETING DECISION. The proposal was not within this meetings power of decision.

10.4. Proposer Graham Garriques

Change to the start positions from the previous race.(Results)

Currently we set start positions based on the fastest lap, I believe this was introduced to encourage fast riding in order to improve grid position for "excitement", in order to provide more excitement I proposed we reverse the first 3 or 4 rows, (id prefer the reverse to be based on where I finished but respect this may not be acceptable to all) this would allow more riders to be on the front row and experience the hole shot and by keeping it limited to the first 3 or 4 rows it would keep it safe enough that there shouldn't be any massive differences in ability.

After some discussion it was agreed that this too is a Bemsee prerogative.

MEETING DECISION. The proposal was not within this meetings power of decision.

10.5. Proposer. Brian Rogers

Proposal. That the criteria for awarding the Terry Law (The Spirit of MZ) trophy be more clearly defined to allow its going to any fully paid up individual who has made an outstanding contribution the the Club.

Supporting Evidence. When a non riding member was nominated this year it provoked a certain amount of discussion online and “rules” regarding its award were freely quoted. No such rules exist but clearly there should be and I believe they should be as simple as those outlined in the proposal above.

Ann Hadley, who approached the club regarding the trophy originally, has never placed pre-conditions on its award, apart from that it must go to a BMZRC member and has written has written to the club reiterating that position

MEETING DECISION: Proposal carried unanimously

10.6. Proposer. Christopher Watson

Proposed change: the banning of carbon wheels of any size for race use.

Supporting evidence: plenty of items got missed like some would argue the dynamag wheels. Nip the cost before people start trying to implement it.

MEETING DECISION: Proposal carried unanimously and the Technical Regulation s to be amended accordingly.

10.7. Proposer. Christopher Watson

Proposed change: review the cost of a racing membership for anyone attending on a one off basis for a season.

Supporting evidence: as the membership organiser I noticed first-hand the debating going on for the people who know they will only be attending one meeting and have to stomach £40 for being a member (as opposed to the cost of a non racing member). Plenty have paid up regardless but it may be worth a middle ground area to help matters.

There was some sympathy with the plight of a prospective entrant being required to full subs for one race, but equally it was felt they should pay something. After some debate a figure of £10 per meeting (up to a maximum of £40) suggested by Peter Thorne was considered as reasonable contribution.

MEETING DECISION: Proposal carried unanimously with short term competitors paying £10 per meeting up to a maximum of £40 in the year.

12. Any Other Business.

12.1 Greg Wright raised the Tool Fund and its source of finance. Gill Moffat explained it was organised by Linda Cook who introduced the Fund for the purchase of paddock tools and its monies were derived from the 100 Club she administered. This has not been in place for at least two seasons and those tools that were purchased are now held by the MZ Experience Co-ordinator who will be detailing these tools as agreed at Item 4.0 of the minutes

Greg suggested we resurrect the 100 Club but earmarked any funds it raised to help fund the purchase of such items as gear sets. Rob Dessoy volunteered to investigate the re-introduction of the 100 Club and its possible role in financing high value spares.

ACTION. Rob Dessoy to investigate the re-introduction of the 100 Club and its possible role in financing high value spares.

12.2 It was suggested by ?????? that we surveyed past members to discover, if possible, why they no longer race with us, if they still had their bikes and if have they any intention of racing again. It was further suggested that a copy (copies) of the bulletin be included with the request to give them an impression of MZing today. This suggestion was strongly supported.

ACTION. A survey will be conducted of past racing members to discover, if possible, why they no longer race with us, if they still had their bikes and if have they any intention of racing again. Secretary's Note: No individual was given this responsibility but it probably lays appropriately with the Treasurer/Membership Secretary.

12.3 Gill Moffat told the meeting that it will be ten years since John Welfare died and his Widow, Debbie had contacted her to say she and her son Jonathan will not be attending for for the John Welfare trophy meeting next. She says she finds it quite distressing to be in a paddock setting, which both she and John used to enjoy so much. She found saddening, but fully understands why, that so few people now racing will know of John.

The Chairman said that as it is the tenth anniversary of John's death next year, it will be appropriate to present the trophy one more time.

12.4 The meeting was told that Mr Keith Taylor intends to offer a trophy for the best prepared machine of the 2018 season.

12.5 It was noted by?..... that the MZ Cup competition was not run this year and several members saw that as pity. However, it was pointed out that it was created and run by Andy Moffat and we would both have to persuade him to resurrect the competition and prise the trophy off of its current holder, Keith Badger. Keith offered to run the MZ Cup competition next season and supply a trophy.

ACTION. Keith Badger to run the MZ Cup competition next season and supply a trophy.

12.6 Chris Chad appealed to the membership to guide him to any video footage he could use in a promotional video he is planning.

13. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and brought the meeting to a close.

Summary of Actions Placed

ACTION. Chris Rogers will liaise with Deborah Park who has offered to assist her replacement into the role of MZ Experience Coordinator.

ACTION. Peter Thorne to produce a paper in support of his bid to control the maintenance of the MZ experience bike(s) both prior to and at Meetings also the transport of the bikes as necessary The paper will cover:

- a. Reasons for the bid.**
- b. What he will bring to the role**
- c. Plans for machines and any improvement deemed necessary and the need and evidence supporting such plans.**
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ACTION. Chairman to publicise details of Club Paddock Tools

ACTION. Andrew Wales to investigate the means of producing a “250 MZ Race Preparation and Maintenance Manual”

ACTION. The Chairman will ensure the “Paddock Buddy” initiative is re-introduced for the 2018 season.

ACTION. A working group be established to formulate concrete proposals to split the promotional role along functional lines. Along with plans for next year.

(Secretary's Note) Nobody was identified as responsible for this Action but it might best rest with the Secretary to co-ordinate our response to this action. I therefore volunteer to head this Group though I'll gladly step aside for any other member wishing to carry out this function.

ACTION. Brian Rogers to submit a Paddock Ramblings contribution for the bulletin.

ACTION. Chris Rogers to liaise with Bemsee with regard to providing marshalling support at Brands GP.

ACTION. The meeting tasked Mr Rogers with determining what the total holdings of high value parts are and a plan to ensure the effects of their shortage are minimised.

ACTION. Rob Dessoy to investigate the re-introduction of the 100 Club and its possible role in financing high value spares.

***ACTION.** A survey will be conducted of past racing members to discover, if possible, why they no longer race with us, if they still had their bikes and if have they any intention of racing again. Secretary's Note: No individual was given this responsibility but it probably lays appropriately with the Treasurer/Membership Secretary.*

***ACTION.** Keith Badger to run the MZ Cup competition next season and supply a trophy.*