

# BRITISH FEDERATION OF PEDAL CAR RACING



## BRITISH PEDAL CAR CHAMPIONSHIP

### Minutes for BFPCR Annual General Meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> November 2005.

**TEAM REPRESENTATIVES:** Rachel Carter (Barlestone), Jeremy Featherstone (Swebbelli), Geoff Brown (G-Force), Bob Budge (PTO), Andy Chant (Crude Engineering), Chris Featherstone (GCR), Matt Tooke (Radioactive Racing).

+ (non voting): Simon Gare (Race Control), Gary Richards (Scrutineer), Neil Carter (Lap counting).

**OFFICERS:** Dave Relton (Chair), Antony Hawkins (Treasurer), Chris Featherstone (Secretary).

**APPOLOGIES:** Bob Robinson (Aardvark), Bill Gratrix (Killay), Roland Jones (Sketty), Paul Andrews (Oaktec), Mark Williams (BSE Racing).

1. The 2005 minutes were read. Proposed as correct by Jeremy Featherstone (JF), seconded by Antony Hawkins (AH) and unanimously accepted.

2. Chairman's Report:

A full copy of this will be posted on the website and published in due course. Dave particularly thanked Gary, Callum and Simon for their help and dedication this year in their non-racing roles, and all the race organisers, support and teams.

3. Treasurer's Report:

The BFPCR is in a relatively healthy state with the end of year balance expected to be around £150 less than last year, due to the purchase of additional lap counting transponders, 20 of which are currently in stock. Turn over has now increased to around £2500 in the year.

Races run from the account have turned a profit of £464.47, much of which goes back into insurance. The cash balance is expected to be around £400 at the start of the year.

The online shop has been successful, taking £482.16 this year primarily in BPCC fees, race fees and licenses.

Insurance for 2006 needs to be paid soon, and is expected to increase by around 5%.

*[since the meeting, the news is that this will not, in fact, increase for 2006, being £577.50.]*

Proposed by Neil Carter (NC) and seconded Geoff Brown (GB). The AGM unanimously accepted and approved the financial report.

4. Changes to the Constitution.

i) Proposal for Constitutional change from Bob Budge:

3.2 Agenda for meeting

**i) bullet 3 to read "Election of executive officers and committee members"**

This was discussed at length, with many arguments put forward on both sides. These mainly involved matters of accountability and involvement of members in decision making.

The Chair then put the vote to the members of the AGM.

There were 3 votes in favour and 3 against the proposal, with 1 abstention.

The Chairman therefore had the casting vote and decided that the best course of action was not to adopt the proposal at this point but to canvass the opinion of more of the membership over the next few months and if there seemed a view that this would be preferred, hold a brief EGM at the first race of the year to vote purely on this proposal.

A question of associate membership was raised which will be looked into by the committee.

ACTION: This proposal was not adopted.

Bob Budge pointed out that the following three proposals were not to make the AGM have the final say in all these matters, but to formalise the inclusion of discussion on all these topics at every AGM. Thus the committee could meet straight after to finalise the plan for the year with a clear knowledge of the AGM on such matters.

**ii) "Proposed calendar for the following year"**

ACTION: This proposal was adopted by the AGM: 3 in favour, 4 abstentions.

**iii) "Proposed rule or championship changes"**

ACTION: This proposal was adopted by the AGM: 4 in favour, 3 abstentions.

**iv) "Proposed race and membership fees for the following year"**

ACTION: This proposal unanimously adopted by the AGM.

Due to the decision on point (i), 5 & 6 on the Agenda were not relevant.

(7) – to make these changes with immediate effect was proposed (NC), seconded (JF)

ACTION: The proposal was unanimously passed by the AGM.

(8) "Written notice of the AGM can be given by Email to individuals who have stated that this is acceptable when paying the membership fee".

ACTION: This proposal was unanimously agreed by the AGM with the additional guideline that the return by email, of the agenda should be requested as proof of receipt.

**5. Nominations and Elections to 2006 Committee.**

The nominations for the 2006 committee were...

Dave Relton (G-Force), Mark Williams (BSE), Roland Jones (Killay), Rachael Carter (BAR), Neil Carter (BAR), Gary Richards (BAR), Jeremy Featherstone (GCR), Simon Gare (unaffil.), Chris Featherstone (GCR), Antony Hawkins (GCR), Bill Gratrix (Killay).

Proposed (NC) and seconded (JF) to vote in "on-block". Unanimously agreed by AGM.

ACTION: The AGM voted unanimously to vote in the new committee for 2006.

The following items were then discussed, as in the committee meeting agenda:

6. Calendar 2006 and beyond.

The map of where teams come from relative to races to help see the differences in travelling distance etc.

Dave Relton (DR) highlighted the issues in travelling.

JF: Explained about the possible new venue for 2007 in Rissington, near Stow on the Wold.

DR: Talked about a possible track in Yarborough (Lincs) but some doubt was expressed as to its suitability by NC, who talked about problems with public and glass etc.

NC: Did mention a circuit in Bradford which may be worth a look.

Simon Gare (SG): Emphasised the difficulty in marshalling at Preston.

Bob Budge (BB): Also voiced concerns about Preston from a racing perspective – in terms of atmosphere and spirit.

DR: Questioned the ease of weekend events for junior teams and stated a preference for one-day events. Also that more events in the midlands may be a better compromise for all in future years.

SG: Therefore proposed that we might look to move the “Preston” event to the midlands from 2007.

On 2006, AH said that he was waiting to hear from Wombwell about May 7<sup>th</sup> and should hear within the week. Also hopeful for a test day in February.

GB: Asked for consideration of holding a pure-oval event at some point. Also whether there could be more joint events with the BHPC.

SG: Talked about speed differentials and the importance of good pit segregation at races. It is likely that the pits will be moved to the car parking area at Castle Combe.

ACTION: The AGM agreed that Simon should have formal right to modify tracks before races if he deems them unsafe.

Dave thanked all for their input and stated that, most importantly, everyone now has a good idea about safe racing circuits in terms of size, surface and segregation.

7. Rules, Scrutineering and Enforcement.

The current new (from July 2005) disciplinary procedures were discussed and agreed to be good. Simon Gare stated that it would be good to have the rules laid out in writing and have a book for the races to ensure that the penalties handed out are fair and consistent. When and if it comes to a matter of expelling a team from a race, it was agreed that this is a situation in which to call on any committee members present.

ON: That in the rules about brakes, the line “braking system components should be securely mounted” is added AND: That “lights must be securely mounted to a stable base” should be included in the lighting rules.

Both these were agreed by the AGM to be a good idea.

Gary (Scrutineer) made some observations and comments on this year’s Scrutineering.

It was pointed out that Scrutineering is the Minimum standard which cars should meet and that it is the Team Manager’s duty to get the cars ready and make sure they are safe.

ACTION: The AGM agreed that it would be good to introduce a list on the team sheet so that team managers can check their own cars before taking them to Scrutineering. This will also ensure Managers are aware of what is required.

There followed a discussion on the question of fully-enclosed cars. Andy Chant pointed out (and showed photographic evidence) that some non-fully enclosed cars already had fairly poor visibility. It was also noted that the one fully enclosed car racing had been involved in no major accidents or problems this year.

Points were also made about the use of walkmans/phones/ipods etc. in cars which prevents people hearing instructions and warnings from other drivers and marshals.

Once again it was emphasised that it is the responsibility of the Team Manager to ensure that all their drivers are proficient and can see and hear properly. However, the Race Officials and Scrutineer have the right to query the safety of any car/driver.

On the matter of stimulants, it was noted that it would be a reasonable step to ban caffeine tablets in a similar way to which alcohol is already banned. However, there was some doubt as to exactly how this should be defined, particularly with regards to sports drinks and others like Red Bull and other non-prescription drugs.

Once again it was stressed that it was the Team Managers duty of care to ensure that drivers were behaving responsibly with respect to their own, and other racer's health and well-being.

In a similar way, it was noted that managers must be responsible for their teams especially in 24-hour races and that junior teams should not be left unattended at any time. In this way the AGM agreed that the committee or Race Control should have the power to step in and stop a junior team racing if they are not being properly looked after by the team manager.

ON: The Performance of the Lap Counting Systems:

ACTION: The AGM agreed that an exclusion zone should be set up around the lap counting loop with no mobile phones, electrical equipment or any transmitting equipment inside it. This is not a ban on telemetry but any team must be able to guarantee 100% that nothing will be transmitting when in the exclusion zone.

## 8. Championship Rules.

On Committee Agenda Points 8 i, ii and iii regarding the "percentage rule". Further clarification from Bob Robinson suggested that actually all parties were in agreement that this should return to being a fixed percentage of the race winners score.

ACTION: The AGM agreed that a team can score points in ALL the classes it competes in if it completes at least 20% of the race winner's score. Where teams are prohibited from racing the entire event, this percentage will be reduced accordingly (i.e. for some teams reduced to 15% at Margam).

On 8 (iv) – that teams should compete in at least 50% of the races to be Champions.

ACTION: The proposal was withdrawn with agreement by all present.

On 8 (v) – The standardisation of sprint races.

Jeremy Featherstone and Antony Hawkins stated that all three sprint events this year would be in a 1 + 2 + 3 hour race format.

Andy Chant stated that he thought the shortest sprint race should be worth more points because it was a hard race to win. Also that for the perception of sprint races, it may be worth scoring "high" points for wins, rather than "low" points. He also pointed out that a careful eye should be kept on sprint finishes, which may become more dangerous as speeds and fields increase.

It was suggested that the points format of 2 + 3 + 4 points for the three races may be an interesting move. It was agreed that this shall be looked at, with regards to previous events and the outcomes which may have occurred in this case.

ACTION: The AGM unanimously agreed that the rules for both points and ties should be standardised. Following investigation, these rules will be finalised at the January committee meeting.

There followed then a brief discussion on the concept (not proposed for this meeting) of allowing teams to drop one result of the year.

Bob Budge stated that it was very hard to do all the races but that the Championship will always be one by the team who does all the races.

The race organisers present (JF, AH, CF) stated that they would be a little worried if they knew their race did not need to be attended by all the best teams.

Geoff Brown said that some teams race for the Championship and others for individual races. He also said, with regards to the race organising point of view, that this might be a more relevant discussion if all races were attended by 40 or more teams.

The Chairman took a straw-pole of all those present (not just the membership) and the vote was 8:4 against such a move.

## **9. Classes and Divisions:**

Bob Robinson (by email) stated that he thought that middle teams will drop out if the divisions were dropped AND the percentage rule was increased. He supported one more year of divisions.

Simon Gare stated that on a practical level, there was very little time to work out all the results at Curborough. Neil Carter said that the statistical arguments put forward by Antony in the agenda were very powerful.

Jeremy Featherstone said that he had done everything asked in terms of publicity, and provided large A2 posters for every race emphasising the divisional standings ahead of the main Championship.

The AGM in general agreed that many racers still did not understand the idea or the results of the divisions. Also that the introduction of the under 14's had been a great success and that the vast majority of middle and lower teams were racing mainly for the honours within their own age classes.

ACTION: The AGM unanimously voted to recommend to the committee that the divisions should not be continued in the 2006 season.

## **10. BFPCR Fee and Race costs.**

ON: The reduction in the cost of entering cars for teams with more than two cars.

The case was well argued for a reduction in race fees for both multi-car teams and cars in the solo class.

ACTION: The AGM agreed to recommend to the committee that there is a 30% reduction in race fees for teams of four cars or more and a 50% reduction for solo cars.

ON: Refunds.

ACTION: The AGM agreed that it should be made clear that entry fees are non-refundable.

ON: Late Entries.

ACTION: The AGM agreed that any discounts are automatically denied to late entries, and that late entries should be accepted at an increased price, with an additional very late entry surcharge (for on the day).

ON: BHPC Entries.

ACTION: The AGM agreed that in response to the BHPC letting us to HPV races at member's rates, any BHPC affiliated teams will not have to pay the BPCC fee.

11. Publicity Report.

This will appear elsewhere.

12. Any Other Business.

The 4<sup>th</sup> European Championships will take place in St Etienne de Chigny (France), on August 20<sup>th</sup> weekend. It is likely to be a 6-hour race on both the Saturday and Sunday, with the combined laps used to decide the winner.

The AGM agreed it would be great to have more than one team attend, and hope this is sufficient notice.

Currently, juniors are not allowed in the French races. Questions are to be asked regarding this.

13. Next Meeting.

The next AGM is scheduled for Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2006. Probably in the same location.

Meeting Closed.