

# Minutes

# BFPCR AGM

**Date**

31st October 2010; meeting started 12:30

**Venue**

Coffee Revolution, Sheffield University Union of Students branch.

<b>1.</b>	<b>Attendees and Apologies</b> Graham Barton (GB), Darren Carter (DC), Neil Carter (NC), Chris Featherstone (CTF), Jeremy Featherstone (JPF), Simon Gare (SG), Alan Goodman (AG), Antony Hawkins (AH), Gary Hollingsworth (GH), Steven Popple (SP), Andrew Proudfoot (AP), John Relton (JR), Andrew Rodgers (AR), Mark Williams (MSW), plus others not noted.  Apologies received from Roland Jones (RJ, Swansea), Bill Gratrix (BG, Killay), Jim Robinson (JR, Killay), Paul Turner (Matrix ESU), Debbie Billingham (Colonel Mustard)	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of 2009 AGM</b> Minutes of last meeting proposed OK by AG, seconded by ADH <b>Matters arising:</b> None.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Chairman's Report</b> SG presented his report on the 2010 season. The AGM gave a general round of thanks to Simon for all of his work.	<b>SG</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Treasurer's Report</b> MSW reported an on-year profit for 2010, as opposed to a loss over 2009. BFPCR fees have approximately paid for our insurance, which is what it's for. Therefore no change to the fee is recommended. 2010 saw an increase in income from race fees and licences due to increased attendance. The likely insurance bill for 2011, plus the ClickIT Training sponsorship roughly equates to the 2010 profit, so the sport in itself broke even in terms of running costs. It was noted that this did not include the Shrewsbury hire cost as this was not paid by the BFPCR.  <u>Treasurer's report proposed OK by JPF, seconded by GH</u>	<b>MSW</b>
<b>5</b> <b>5.1</b>	<b>Proposals for 2011</b> <b>Proposal for a 2-driver class:</b> <i>"This is to accommodate those that have trouble getting 4 drivers to commit to a season of racing but prefer not to race solo.</i> <i>"I think entries in this class would be likely from at least ourselves (Goodmaniacs) and Revolution next year if approved."</i> AG proposed a 2-driver class, for teams who can't find four drivers NC said this had been raised before but there were never enough entries to justify another class. However, he said many teams had left the sport who may not have done if there had been a pairs class. He continued that the class would probably be better supported than PC0, PC4 and PCF and would be cheaper for entrants.	<b>Proposer:</b> <b>AG</b>

AH disputed whether any former team left for the lack of a pairs class as opposed to various other reasons.  
 CTF asked if there was a danger of dilution; NC said a pairs class was not going to make attendance less likely.  
 AP questioned what happens if a team has 2/3/4 drivers currently?  
 AH questioned what is stopping teams racing with 2 drivers currently, given that pairs have previously done very well and even won races in the past when they have raced?  
 AH & JPF questioned the 24-hour aspect.  
 SG thought it would be a possible means of bringing in BHPC teams. Much discussion ensued, mostly in circles, for a long time.  
 MSW said a pairs class "moves us on" from PC0 and is a move towards the teams side of the sport.  
 GH suggested we "give it a go" for a season and see what happens.  
 SG suggested:

- Trial for 3 seasons
- Age independent
- Full 24 hour participation
- "PC Pairs"

SG summary suggestions carried by vote.

**5.2 Proposal to change rule 4.1.a**

*From:*

*"4.1. Race Protocol*

*a) All cars must conform to the pedal car specifications defined in the BPCS."*

*To:*

*"4.1. Race Protocol*

*a) All cars must conform to the pedal car specifications defined in the BPCS and have submitted to the Race Official(s) a correctly filled in Team Sheet."*

Carried unanimously

**5.3 Proposal to change the PC2 class age limit**

*In summary, suggested changing PC2 upper age limit from 16 to 18 to be in line with Explorer scouts age range*

GH explained he has entered the sport since the current age ranges were decided so is unsure of their origins. Currently the 16-year-old boundary splits Explorer groups as scout age groups differ from those in the BPCS. However, having recently spoken to JPF is happy with the current age splits personally.

NC explained the history of the U14 age class and said he was not convinced about moving the U16 boundary to U18.

CTF concerned that 14-18 would be too wide an age range as drivers at the upper end of the age range can be fast enough to win races outright (as per Radioactive Racing in 2007). Thinks U16 is about right. NC agreed.

GH thought that the pairs class would help instead and withdrew the proposal.

Proposal withdrawn

**Phil  
Griffiths-  
Owens**

**GH**

5.4

**Proposal to create a scout/guide event/class within the 24 hour race event**

SP

*“As the information is sent out to scouts and we are actively encouraged to join in would it be possible to create a Scouting/Guide event within the structure of this event?”*

*“... I think that the scout, and probably guide, teams would benefit from being incorporated in the main event and also being able to compete against each other within that event, so that they can compare their performance against their peers rather than the very fast and dedicated regular racers.”*

SP said this had been their first year and they had only come to one race (Shenington) as had many other (predominantly scouting) teams. They faced difficulties as they were racing against “the big boys” and would like a structure where scouting teams could see how they did against their peers.

NC expressed concern that this would involve age range changes.

JPF and others commented that the old PCS category did this in years previous, but the likes of Killay and Swebbelli (scouting teams who race regularly) still won everything.

SP pondered “Just a flag on the team sheet”

JPF suggested we could highlight scout teams on the entry list.

DC said the regular racing teams like Killay & Swebbelli would still take all the trophies; MSW said this was not the issue.

NC suggested another sticker on the back of each car; JPF continued that we could also put something on the lap counting screen.

SP said he was not after a new class as such, just to be able to know on the day. SP & AP pointed out that many scouting teams only want to do their one “local” or selected event, not the full season.

SG summarised that the question was to add identification to cars, and on the lap counting, for “Baden Powell” teams.

SG summary suggestion carried unanimously.

5.5

**Proposal to change rule 13c**

AH

*“Technology (and possibly just as much, marketing) has out-evolved our wording, rendering it obsolete and meaningless. LED torches and LED bike lights use identical technology and often design also; frequently the only difference between a “torch” and a “bike light” is a cheap plastic or rubber clip that allows you to mount the light to bicycle handlebars. This can be (a) made by a third party company, (b) not integral to the light unit itself, and (c) entirely useless for mounting lights to pedal cars.”*

AH explained reasons and pointed out that being a “purpose built cycle light” does not guarantee the light is any good.

NC said Gary decides on suitability of lights.

AR said the rule should be rewritten rather than just deleted.

MSW said some teams at Curborough had home-made lights but had passed scrutineering; however he had concerns about removing the “purpose built” wording.

AP suggested a change to “advise” (the use of purpose built cycle lights).

CTF questioned the what “purpose built” actually meant.

AR suggested using the British Standard; various people pointed out that had been considered before but no-one actually knew what the

standard was and even then that is no guarantee that a light is suitable for pedal car racing. Plus it removes the option of home-built innovation.

SP suggested instead the wording "fit for purpose".

SG suggested we break this into two parts:

1. Do we need a change?
2. What change would that be?

On a vote, no-one voted for a change.

**5.6 Proposal to exclude the 24 hour race from the PC0 championship (i.e: PC0 to be decided over rounds 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7). JPF**

*"A. Shenington was fully subscribed last year so it would have been a shame if a single driver denied a place to a team of drivers.*

*"B. If teams are struggling for drivers, it would seem a shame if available drivers were racing solo with no opposition.*

*"C. Given the imposed 6 hour break, calling it a 24 hour race is meaningless for adults in this class when 24 hour cycle races and running races are just that.*

*But conversely, you cannot have a situation where a younger driver was expected to race solo for 24 hours obtain, say, 2nd in PC0 class.*

*"D. If people still want to race solo, of course, there is nothing stopping them. There will just be no championship points on offer."*

JPF explained reasons as above; RJ & Nigel Kirk (of Swansea) had previously sent their opinion that this might encourage more full-season PC0 entries.

NC reiterated that it is only PC0 points that are excluded, not solo entries.

Carried unanimously.

**6 Nominations for and election to the 2011 Committee**

SG announced he was not standing for re-election to committee or as Chairman.

NC reported Gary Richards was happy to stand for committee and continue as scrutineer.

JPF proposed RJ.

NC proposed Gary Richards.

Potential race organiser representatives are AH, JPF, DC, BG and JR, CTF.

Also to stand are NC, AG, MSW, RJ, Gary Richards, GB.

SG proposed all of the above, JPF seconded.

All nominations accepted.

**7 Presentation of 2011 calendar**

### **BPCC events**

Round 1: Sprints, tbc

Round 2: 10 hour, Margam

Round 3: 24 hour, Shenington

Round 4: Sprints, Solihull

Round 5: Sprints, Blackbushe

Round 6: 100 miles (max 5.5 hours), Blackbushe

Round 7: 150 miles (max 7 hours, 8pm curfew), Curborough

### **Other domestic events**

Proposed multi-discipline human powered event on Brighton seafront (date tbc, in the summer)

New Milton (2 hour independent pedal car race, 11<sup>th</sup> July)

Ellon (Scotland) ran a short town centre race in 2010 and were aiming to repeat this in 2011. Date tbc.

Invite to a multi-discipline even in Norwich. Date tbc. AR said lots of people and groups had been invited and there were many events planned.

Scoutcar Nationals, Blackpool, probably 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in July.

Cyclemagic planning an even in Coventry to which we also have an invite. Date tbc.

### **European Championships**

Theoretically in Italy. Team Serena said "Milan" before leaving Blackbushe; immediately prior to Blackbushe Team Aolos had emailed to also invite us to Italy in 2011, but with no specifics of date of venue.

### **BPCC events in more detail**

JPF ran through the proposed race calendar.

#### **Round 1**

There is a possibility of Bruntingthorpe replacing Shrewsbury. Could be free if we got it. 15 miles further from Swansea than Shrewsbury but same driving time. Suggested 30 car limit based on lap times at a test session in May 2010. Perfect track for sprints.

Shrewsbury is booked but not yet paid for. SG suggested we ask for a discount at Shrewsbury; AH pointed out that Shrewsbury will not vanish nor become unavailable in future if we don't go for a year (or more).

#### **Round 2**

Margam is booked. There will be building work after this year's race so this may be the last visit, or the surface may be much improved in future. JR said he'd be happy if he could stop travelling to Margam; JPF pointed out this is not so good if you're a team from Swansea.

#### **Round 3**

Shenington is booked.

#### **Round 4**

Solihull is booked.

**Race  
organiser:  
CTF**

**BG & JR**

**JPF**

**DC**

	<p><b>Rounds 5 &amp; 6</b>  Blackbushe &amp; Runways End booked  Runways End site is being rebuilt currently; to have more, new, indoor accommodation. AH will check this out when completed (summer 2011) and should be able offer catering for up to 45 racers, with profits going into the sport.</p> <p><b>Round 7</b>  Curborough booked.  Will be a new format for 2011, as a fixed-distance race rather than sprints. The 8pm curfew will remain to permit the usual post-season socialising, hopefully with a laid-on café this year.</p>	<p><b>AH</b></p> <p><b>JPF</b></p>
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b>  SP asked if the Shenington date could be moved one week earlier, to give more time between it and the Scoutcar Nationals - for some scouting teams these are their only 2 races of the year.  JPF and others pointed out that an earlier date would infringe on exams so was not a realistic proposition.  SP will also ask Scoutcar organisers about moving their date further into the summer.  JPF explained the current date splits in the BPCC around exams and holidays.</p> <p>GB asked about a pre-season test.  JPF said Apollo and Swebbelli did a spring test at Shenington; assuming that's OK all will be welcome. There will be a cost.</p> <p>There will be no Click IT Training sponsorship for 2011.  GB said his company, 3DDC, will match the sponsorship Click IT provided in 2010. All thanked GB for this generous offer!</p>	
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b>  Provisionally, 2011 AGM will be Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2011  Venue TBC</p> <p>Simon thanked everyone for coming.</p> <p>Meeting concluded 14:30</p>	