

The Trials Reform Group

Update: 15, November 2013

This is an update for those who have expressed an interest in our groups' report/discussion paper of 13th November. It includes important information.

We have been receiving much feedback from the Scottish Trials community, either wishing more information; applauding the fact that we have issued such a document and of course, criticism. The group would like to record their thanks to all who have made contact thus far.

Let's look at criticisms first of all.

'Negative feedback' is not the best description in our view; it still shows that the person giving it has taken an interest in what we have produced, even although that person does not agree with it.

Trials riders and officials are passionate people, exactly like the members of this group; there is nothing wrong with that. However, the negative element is never welcome when it becomes personal; which we tried to reduce as much as possible, hence the 'anonymity' element of our group.

There has been a degree of feedback which infers that some of our members are mounting a vendetta against certain governing bodies. We feel that this criticism is unjustified.

We would ask that the bigger picture is examined rather than past history. The original document, issued on 13th November, 2013 is all about Scottish Trials, it was not put together to discredit any club, governing body or individuals.

In fact, the request to mount such a project originated from officials of no less than three Scottish Trials clubs, who were seeking out information, but could not assimilate it or knew how to go forward with it.

Our endeavour was to temporarily fill that void, nothing more.

More information: We have been ingathering the requests and summarise as best we can.

Firstly, the membership of this group would prefer to remain anonymous, this resolve has been strengthened somewhat by the negative feedback mentioned above. They do not feel comfortable in doing otherwise.

John Moffat, who has been identified as being a member of the group, because of the media and organisational connections; has agreed to continue with his input in this regard. However, please would individuals continue to contact the group by e-mail and not Mr Moffat in person; he is tasked with interfacing with the governing bodies and any other organisations and media. The e-mail address continues: thetrialsreformgroup@outlook.com

Secondly, we confirm that the group is indeed temporary in nature, being 'ad-hoc' and will disband when we feel the time is ripe.

Thirdly, we would like to point out that we are not engaged in criticising any of the governing bodies, especially the one we described as the majority stakeholder, the SACU. It is encouraging that this particular organisation has almost concurrently issued a fact-finding document to its affiliated clubs on the potential for changing their current trials licensing arrangements, an issue that was actually drawn out in our report.

Fourthly, we confirm that our report had been sent to the following governing bodies concurrently with the report's release to clubs, competitors and anyone with an interest in Trials in Scotland. These were:

- **Scottish Auto Cycle Union**
- **Auto Cycle Union**
- **MC Federation Ltd (via representatives of the SMXF)**
- **Amateur Motorcycle Association**

We did not circulate our report to specific licence holders of any particular organisation, as we did not have contact details of any licence holders issued by any of the governing bodies. We merely circulated by electronic mail to individuals' e-mails that were known to some, but not all, of our number.

The facility to be removed from our e-mailing list has been provided, but to date no-one has requested their removal from that list, if they do, it will be done immediately in accordance with their wishes.

Any further debate arising from our paper issued on 13th November will be undertaken by the Scottish Trials clubs, we hope it will be open and meaningful discussion. However, we would wish the following information to be taken into account.

The MC Federation Ltd has made direct contact with the group and to be even-handed, fair and open, we have agreed to put the following information and details, including a cost/benefit breakdown to the audience as an amendment to our original discussion paper:

MC Federation Ltd - (Information Source direct from the MC Federation)

The MC of the name does not stand for 'Motocross' it was the initials of its founders, the Federation was founded in 1997 and was the product of frustration with another established governing body.

A fundamental part of the product that MCF have to offer the organisers that work with us is an effective insurance policy and for that I went to Liberty International, a well renowned Motor-sport insurer; in fact the underwriter that the ACU switched to at the start of 2013. It covers Public, Employers and Products Liability which fully indemnifies land owners as well as personal accident and rehabilitation cover for all officials. As of the start of 2014 the standard cover will increase from £10 million to £20 million.

As an organisation MCF have the appetite to work with all types of motorcycle sport and cover Motocross, Trials, Enduro, Cross Country, Grass Track, Beach-cross, Moto-Gymkhana and in fact BMX and FMX, although it has to be agreed that at this time Motocross is the main stay of the business.

MCF Costs:

Club association fees	£ FOC	£0.00	
Permit	£25/event	£2,568.00	
Trials Licences	£15	£6,000.00	Day Licences £5
Insurance average entry 50 (107 events)	Adult £2.25	£10,700.00	£20M Cover
	Youth £1.00	£551.00	£20M Cover
Wings for Life donation	0.50p	£2,675.00	
	Total	<u>£22,494.00</u>	

The MCF provides rules and regulations, which are not dissimilar to established rules with some amendments added by their current organisers, their rules are always put together to be achievable and in the best interests of the clubs, bearing in mind that what works for a Nationals events doesn't necessarily work at club level. MCF provide training seminars for officials that hold licences at no cost and train local people to continue the training and development in specific areas. They do not provide stewards at club level events and rely on the training of club officials to be able to successfully run their events removing unnecessary costs.

MCF also certifies and insures rider trainers helping with rider development.

MCF have an interactive website that allows clubs to directly access the news feeds and upload their own information to promote and report on club activities and events, linked directly to their Twitter and facebook pages and issue regular newsletter to our members, they currently have over 5,000 members in our rider database and a potential 20,000 + data contacts for specific marketing.

All licences both new and renewals; events entries etc are available online through the website with credit card payments as well as forms being downloadable, all rules and regulations are available on the MCF website.

Each organiser has their own log-in section to the licence database where they have access to members' information, online permits and the ability to download any forms or paperwork that they may need. All paperwork is provided including risk-management, sign-on forms (riders, officials and press), incident forms, report forms etc.

There is the opportunity to develop both Scottish and Local Championships; club championships would not be affected.

Personal accident insurance at a discounted rate to licence holders will be available as of 2014.

No club affiliation fees

Licence £15*

Adult Insurance £2.25

Youth Insurance £1

Wings for Life contribution £0.50p

Permit Fees £25 – We issue permits under the authority of NORA 92 Ltd and are currently negotiating the cost of trials permits.

*Riders that already hold a full MCF competition licence can compete across all disciplines; a full competition licence is £37.50 for adults and £32.50 for youths.

MC Federation Ltd - end of information.

And lastly but not least, please keep your feedback coming, it is appreciated and welcomed by the group.

Remember at the end of the day, it is paramount that Scottish Trials is for everyone to enjoy, it's a great sport - long may it prosper!

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19:00 - 15 November 2013