

8.10.2016

Minutes from Nordic Enduro meeting 2016

Date: 8.10.2016

Venue: Rantasipi Airport Hotel, Vantaa

Present at the meeting:

Hannu Häkkälä (chairman) SML
Johan Vornanen SML
Jarkko Valtonen SML
Jari Mattila SML
Mette Nyberg NMF
Anita Silkjaer DMU
Sulev Tönnisson EMF
Robert Svensson SVEMO
Gudbjartur Stefansson MSI
Marko Kestilä (secretary) SML

Chairman Hannu Häkkälä welcomed everybody to the NMC meeting. Marko Kestilä involved as secretary of the meeting.

Agenda of the meeting:

Short status report from all countries
Going through and harmonizing of the Nordic Rules
Minutes from the NMC meeting in Copenhagen in 2015
Time schedule Nordic Championship
Proposals from the countries

Finland

New enduro commission chairman Mr. Johan Vornanen explained how commission works and what kind of competitions has done. 19 national enduro races and 10 crosscountry.

Enduro and CC uses same license so exact amount of licenses can't tell. Totally 841 riders involved enduro competition, aprox 1000 riders in crosscountry.

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Sweden

There is more than 8300 license for now, and they expect that amount will be almost 9000 in the end of the year. Reason for this is that in Sweden everyone have to get license, and there is several stages to get. Hobby drivers license is cheap and they can upgrade it if they want to join competition in other countries. They have plenty of competitions, nationals totally 172. FIM events 2. Swedish championship series includes 6 races / 8 race days.

Norway

In Norway they have also several stages in licenses. Cheapest license is good enough for national races, but if you get the higher grade license you also get better insurance. That's why they suggest that riders rather take full license. Total amount on licences was 1132, which is increased. Official enduro competitions are very hard to arrange, motorcycle have to be always registrated so it's complicated and expensive. Local unofficial races are much more popular but there is no official statistics. Official races arranged 10, some of those was cross country.

Iceland

New race bikes have sold more than in many years, economical collapse few years ago has obviously gone. Also new areas for race and training have opened, so all these increase enduro riding. Totally 4 official races arranged, riders approx. 250. Biggest event TransAtlantic offroad challenge took place in May. It's 6 hours race, single or pair drivers. There is no specific license for enduro, but they are really working with it and looking forward to get same kind on system than in other Nordic countries. One issue for getting license system is riders insurance.

Denmark

License amount nearly flat. They have 6 races but not so much riders, max 77. Unofficial races are more popular. There is also a lack of places where to train enduro and arrange races. Much more easier to arrange cross country event. Big issue is that you have to be 18 years old and have driving license, before joining races. Also bike have to be registered.

Estonia

Licenses decreased, today 70, one day license also available. 4 races which 3 of those was championship. There is a lot of drivers coming from Latvia and Lithuania, especially when it's Baltic Cup race. Same license can be used in all three countries. One day enduro races can be joined also with MX bikes, which reduces costs. 5 cross country races arranged, lot of same drivers as in enduro.

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Proposals

Only one proposal found, Nordic Championship.

At first all thought that NC is not found very interesting for drivers. Travelling abroad is very expensive and NC don't have that valuable comparing national championship and European championship. Still if there would be good prices (money?) and easy entry to race area, it could get interesting especially for younger drivers.

When reviewing Nordic competition calendar, suggested two events which could be also part of NC: Enduro EC's in Estonia 8.-9.7.2017 and Germany 5.-6.8.2017. These two races are geographically pretty easy to arrive for every country. All participants found this good way to launch and test new NC. If this suggestion goes on live, have to plan rules, classes and calculation of results. Finnish Motorcycling Federation will examine this point later on.

Chairman suggested that Baltic countries will be added as part of NMC. Estonian representative will propose this to local federation.

Other topics

Participants was interested of two races which will take place in Finland during next year.

VGN Cross Country 26.-27.5.2017

Pretty much same kind of race as Gotland GNCC, format and promotor is the same as in GNCC. There is lot of open question about this race, but it's supposed to be annual event as GNCC is now. SML will inform about this event as soon as they get.

Päijänteen Ympäriaajo, Päitsi 25.-26.3.2017

Legendary Finnish adventure will be part of Enduro GP. Format is totally different comparing present EGP. Mr. Jarkko Valtonen is a part of competition organization, and he told main points of the race. Because event will take place in the middle of winter, FIM rules have to modify for this race; for example tyre changes during race and driving time/length of the raceday. There will be also a challenges with bike and driver services, due to cold weather. This obviously increases costs.

Open discussion related to winter competitions also. In many countries drivers like to race at wintertime, but common opinion is that those should not belong to any championship. Sweden for example have separate winter challenge cup.

Another thing which discussed was differences of law in motorcycle registration and driving license. Also tightened emission standards might need attention in the future.