

Revised Root and Branch Review Committee –

Summary Minutes of Meeting 12

The Twelfth meeting of the Revised Root and Branch Review Committee took place on Tuesday 31st January 2012 in the Louis FitzGerald Hotel, Naas Road, Dublin at 7:00pm

Attendance:

Original Review Committee Members:	Region C:	Kathryn Keogh Ed FitzGerald
Joe Corcoran	Region D:	Ray Heney Ger Healy
Dermott Quigley	Region E:	Nial Murphy
Angela Henehan	ICRA	Kevin Barrett
James Coleman		
Ann Stevens		
Region A:	Convenor:	Michael Irvine.
Paul Lyons		
Sean McHugh		
Region B:	Apologies:	Frank O'Mahony
Noel Devlin		
Roy Stewart		

Matters Discussed:

1. Minutes

Minutes of last meeting, having already been circulated, were approved as a record of the proceedings of that meeting. Noted also that Summary Minutes (also circulated) could be published on MI website.

2. Documents Circulated since last Meeting:

Noted as draft of the presentation for the Club Meeting and some comments on same.

3. Sundry Issues:

Some Items of Clarification or omission in the draft presentation as circulated were discussed as follows:

4. Sundry 1 - "Newco" Issues – Directors/Ownership/Status:

It was agreed that "Newco" would be a Company Limited by Guarantee, the shareholders being the Motor Clubs, but with Articles of Association making it eligible for Charitable Status for taxation purposes. (Some members pointed out that this was the case in many of the existing Clubs). It was noted that while there had to be minimum criteria for a Club to "qualify" as an owner, it was important that there should be no perception of interfering with Clubs internal operations.

5. Sundry 2 - "Newco" Issues – Financial/CEO Role:

Agreed that the Board/Exec Council would have same powers/responsibilities of any normal board of directors in regard to ultimate financial control, financial policy and direction, but that routine financial issues would be delegated to the CEO. Agreed that CEOs financial role be clarified accordingly.

6. Sundry 3 – PR:

Most agreed PR position much improved in recent past, particularly citing appointment of OHerlihy Communications & liaison with RSA, next steps need to come from Clubs

7. Sundry 4 – Communication with Clubs/Competitors

All agreed that there was scope for improvement in "internal" communication with clubs/competitors, but again most agreed much of this difficulty lay with Clubs and Competitors, with the inefficiency of the CAC and unsatisfactory input to same by many, but not all, Clubs & Club delegates being again referred to. Agreed that point that more required from Clubs/Competitors in this regard be made strongly at forthcoming Clubs meeting. It was noted that many Club websites were updated only very irregularly.

A suggestion that there should be a facility on the MI website for all licence holders to "sign up" for inclusion on an emailing list for all MSB's & similar announcements was supported by all.

8. CAC & Sub'C'tee Structure

It was agreed that the Clubs should be asked for feedback on these items at the forthcoming meeting.

9. Specialist Committee Membership

Some queried advisability of membership as proposed in that they felt that, as the C'tees were now to be almost exclusively comprised of nominated members representing various clubs, s/c'tees, etc, there was no facility to retain valuable members, with examples being given of various individuals whose work was invaluable, but who would have no place on the new structure. It was also noted that for a member to be really valuable, it was not enough that they were good & willing workers, they must also be in a position to devote the necessary time to the work, and this limited the field significantly. While there was significant sympathy for this position, others pointed out that the perceived "democratic deficit" was the one of the main reason for the existence of this Group. At least one member stated that he, and some of those he represented, had been wondering from the start about the need for sweeping changes, and that this issue now showed that there may be some point to that line of thinking.

It was then agreed that it must be emphasised to the Clubs that a failure to nominate "good people" would result in the MSC and or the Executive Council having to step in, and also that there should be a minimum criteria for qualification for membership of a SC, such as a Senior Officials Licence. Most felt that this suggestion was a good one, and a possible assistance to the question of the calibre of nominated members. All agreed that the membership issue would be an obvious one to be included in the "two-year review" as agreed at last meeting.

10. TAG – Membership

It was agreed that TAG would have a representative from each discipline or discipline group in a manner similar to the SAG, and that all members of the TAG be licenced Scrutineers, **save that the Convener need not necessarily be licenced.** See below re reciprocal Right/Duty of Attendance at Specialist C'tee meetings

11. TAG/SAG – Representation on Specialist Committees

There was a robust debate on this issue, focusing primarily on the fact that SAG were to have a representative on the Rallies Committee, while TAG would not. All accepted that Safety Issues, of necessity, given the lack of approved standing courses (which Racing does have), would arise constantly and regularly, while technical issues would be rarer, but some nonetheless felt that the balance between excessive/inefficient numbers and un-necessary attendance on the one hand and Technical representation on the other hand would still justify a TAG presence on the Rallies Committee. However, most felt that the historic experience was that it was un-necessary, and many pointed to the already agreed reciprocal right/obligation whereby all AGs had the "new" right to ask to attend at any Specialist C'tee meeting if there was a specific issue that they wished to raise, and that equally, a Specialist C'tee could request attendance by an AG representative should they feel that same was warranted in relation to any issue.

12. Final Preparation for Meeting with Clubs

It was agreed that there would be a further meeting in advance of Club Meeting.

13. Next Meeting:

Louis Fitzgerald Hotel, Naas Road Dublin, 7:00 pm, Wednesday 22nd February 2012