

Notes of Meeting of AMCRC Ltd. Members held at Suites Hotel, Knowsley on Thursday 12th December 2019.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman, Dave Edwards (DE) at 19:25

DE read a statement regarding the withdrawal of the Track Licence by the ACU in March 2019 following a track inspection. The AMCRC had no option but to cancel the 2019 race programme. Nothing of significance has since been heard from the ACU.

DE has explored the costs of repairing the track surface to a satisfactory condition. A "patch up" would cost c£18k but would not be satisfactory. A partial resurfacing £52k and a full resurface £356k. The partial resurface at £52k seems the preferred option.

DE had met with the Circuit Owners in November 2019 and received an offer of £22k towards the cost requiring £30k to be funded by others. The Car Club has offered £17k leaving a shortfall of £13k.

Following that meeting DE received a call from the solicitors representing the ACU informing him that under no circumstances could the subject of the current legal claim or track safety be discussed at this meeting.

John Abel (JA) then read a statement to ensure that all present understood that no comment could be made in respect of the litigation or are we to discuss any changes or alterations that have been requested by the ACU regards to Aintree race circuit. .

JA confirmed that the AMCRC had continued to ensure that all matters regarding the continuation of racing at Aintree were being kept in place, such as contracts with St John Ambulance, straw bales have already been purchased for 2020.

Peter Eaton (PE) asked if racing could be arranged at another circuit or even reverse direction at Aintree. DE responded that Aintree would then require a new track certificate which would be unlikely but racing at another circuit was being considered. Cost and availability being the major issues. JA added that the ACU would be unlikely to comment on a different Aintree layout at the present time.

Mike Grundy (MG) suggested an independent safety assessment and queried the track condition. JA stated that the track certificate would still be required from the ACU. No track maintenance had been done for two years and it was no longer fit for purpose.

Jim Hodson(JH) asked if we could race at other circuits as Paul King had suggested this. MG supported this idea to keep the club going.

Lindsey Hirst (LH) asked if the club had legal representation challenging the ACU. JA replied that he could not comment on legal matters.

PE queried the "gagging order" and why racing could not continue at Aintree. Could more information be obtained through the Freedom of Information route? JA responded with "no comment".

MG asked what the club's money would be used for and could the circuit be used to run track days. JA doubted the viability of running track days at Aintree due to insurance. The club currently had reserves of £34k after paying for 2020 straw bales etc.

PE asked what would happen to the cash if the club closed. If was to go to the ACU Ben Fund could it be better spent on repairing the track now.

John Foy(JF) suggested racing at 3 Sisters and Anglesey. DE replied that their dates would probably already be fully committed.

JH suggested that Eddie Nelson would give AMCRC low cost circuit hire to Darley Moor. DE agreed to do costings for this option if Darley had dates available.

JF believed this would send a message to the ACU that the club was determined to continue and that we should publicise these matters through the MCN.

John McEntee(JMc) suggested the track repairs should be done as there was no point just leaving the money in the bank.

John Cronshaw(JC) asked when the repairs could be done as they would seem to be pointless if the legal matters were not settled. DE replied that the track repairs were not embargoed by the legal matters and could be considered.

Peter Shepherd(PS) asked if the ACU had stated that there would be no licence until the case was finished. JA replied that this was not something that could be discussed.

PE stated that it would be cheaper to do the track repairs now with the help of the circuit owners and the car club to reduce further deterioration as the money was sat there doing nothing. Guarantees of dates should be obtained from the circuit owners. JA stated that if we spent the required money now there would be insufficient funds to resume racing. PE strongly believed we should invest for the future. A comment was made that it would only require £100 from each of the 200 racing members to meet this cost.

JMc suggested "Crowd Funding" but JA feared this could be very difficult for the club as it is a limited company.

JA summed things up as follows:-

1. The Committee would explore the possibility of racing at other venues in 2020.
2. All options would be considered in respect of carrying out the track repairs to an acceptable standard.

These matters will be presented to the members at the AGM and a vote taken on the best way forward.

Martin Gillbody thanked the Committee for this evening's meeting and for all they are doing for the club.

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