

My thoughts for the 2007 DesmoDue race season (draft)

I think 2006 was a great season racing wise. Well done to **Dominic Cann** and **Phil Huntley**, the club's 2 new champions. Also well done for the **Racing Committee** to get us out there racing for the second season in a row, and obviously to take us to the unbelievable circuit of Assen. It was my best bike experience ever. And I'm sure a lot of people will share my opinion about that point at least.

That was for the good bit...

Now for the bad bit....

I think 2006 has not been a good season because:

- **A.** the relationship between the DD community and the RC(MT) has never been so bad
- **B.** the relationship between the DD community and the DSC membership has never been so bad too.

The reader will easily notice that the common point to those 2 problems is the DD community. However I do not think that getting rid of the DD community will help us having a good 2007 DD season...

Obviously, "DD community" doesn't refer to the whole DD community, "RC(MT)" doesn't refer to the whole Racing Committee (Management Team) and "DSC membership" doesn't refer to the whole DSC membership. I'm just talking about the overall impression anyone will have after spending a few hours looking through the DSC virtual window on the world (JPM ©) which is our message board.

And that overall impression needs to be tackled, hence why (I suppose...) the MT(RC) is currently setting up a meeting on the 18th of November for which I'm writing down my thoughts.

Why?

A. *Relation between the DD community and the RC(MT)*

I think the problem is linked to the fact that the current Racing Committee is put in place by the club's Management Team without any consultation of the DD community. In the current format, it is quite difficult to find out who is on the RC and who is on the MT. To some extent, one could very easily say that the RC is the MT. Tackling that problem can be achieved by giving more input to the DD community in deciding who's on the Racing Committee.

B. *Relationship between the DD community and the DSC membership*

I'm still trying to figure what's really wrong with this relationship. DD is one of the activity of the club as are trackdays, ride-outs, meetings, etc... The main differences are that only a minority of the membership enjoy this activity, and that this activity requires much more commitment towards it from members taking part to it. That's why I can understand that members not taking part to it can be worried about how the club invests its resources into its racing series. To me, making that activity distinct of the club's other activities makes sense. And it could help making people feel better about that, whether they're racing or not.

Before explaining what I think could help us solve the pending issues, I would like the reader to remember that I don't have any knowledge in regards to how associations and clubs are created, run and managed. So please bear in mind that I am only presenting concepts and that I guess a lot of work would be needed to put my ideas into practice.

Here comes the DSC Racing Section

In my opinion, the club needs to create a section of its own which would deal with all the racing issues. I am going to call it the DSC Racing Section (DSC RS) in order to be able to refer to it further in that document.

Basically, I would see the DSC RS as being “a club within the club”.

At the time of paying for their membership, members would have the choice of being members of the Racing Section (as part of the DSC membership) or standard DSC members. We can imagine that people joining the Racing Section would mainly be those interested in the racing activity of the club, which at the moment is DD.

In term of commitment, I think it would be fair to have different fees whether people want to join or not the Racing Section. For example, we could have:

DSC annual membership fee: £20.

DSC Racing Section annual membership fee: £30.

In that way we would make sure that only people interested in the racing activity of the club are joining it. Also, the creation of this section would permit to create a racing fund. The latter could be used by the club to finance a part of the racing activities when needed. It would no longer be seen as a problem by the member as people would have agreed about that when joining the DSC RS.

The rules regarding the membership of the Racing Section could be as follow:

- *anyone can choose to be a member of the DSC Racing Section,*
- *DD racers / DD bike owners have to be members of the DSC RS,*
- *any member of the DSC RS is by definition a member of the DSC.*

When the section exists, I think it could be made up of between 50 and 100 members in the current format (i.e. with DD aiming to run 2 grids of around 35 racers).

Who would be in charge of the DSC RS?

I think a new position should be created within the MT for the person who's in charge of the RS. Let's call that person “El piloto”.

El piloto would be annually elected by the members of the DSC RS only. El piloto would be the “racing person” of the MT. El piloto would have the same rights and obligations that any MT member. The only difference (I guess) with other MT positions is that El piloto would be elected by the members of the DSC RS. Last but not least, El piloto can't be related to any entity taking part to the racing activities of the club (no racers or bike owners).

How does it affect DD?

I think the DD Race Committee should be made up of 3 people, those persons being:

- El piloto, standing for the club and the DSC RS.
- 1 rider rep for class A, voted by the class A racers. A sub needs to be voted as well.
- 1 rider rep for class B, voted by the class B racers. A sub needs to be voted as well.

El piloto would be New Era's only correspondent.

It would be suggested to El piloto to attend every meeting of the season, to make sure everything is going well.

It would be expected from El piloto to try and solve problems when everything is not going well.