

UEM MAG 03/2012

Overview of 3 Key Events for UEM: Senior Activity Meeting / UEM Congress / Road Safety Conference



Many motorcycle enthusiasts over 60 years old, despite their age, still practice their passion successfully. Many times, however, they forget their age and take several risks that may be avoided. In Salsomaggiore Terme a meeting was held in May on senior motorcycling activity, where were discussed the main problems that may arise and how to address them.

Another important event for European motorcycling is going to be the UEM Congress that will be held this year in Belgrade from June the 28th to the 1st of July.

As every year, the Congress will end with a conference on road safety titled this year "The motorcycle in traffic: problems and opportunities", with presentations by experts and representatives of the Serbian authorities, The current situation will be analysed under the perspective of different countries and some solutions will be proposed.

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THE 1ST EUROPEAN MEETING SENIOR MOTORCYCLING ACTIVITY

The first edition of the European Motorcycling Senior Activity Meeting took place on the 19th and the 20th of May, in the wonderful settings of Salsomaggiore Terme, a famous Italian spa town.

The event main objective was to bring together motorcyclists aged around 60 years and more from all over Europe and to give them useful tips on how to continue in the best possible way their motorcycle activity. The Over 60 segment is most of the times overlooked, but it is continually growing in importance as shown by recent demographic surveys.

During the two days of meetings, various activities have been organized to involve all the participants. It started with a tour along the beautiful hills of Salsomaggiore Terme, with a background of castles, medieval villages, valleys in full bloom. Such scenery gave incredible emotions to all the motorcyclists who came to Salsomaggiore Terme. After the run followed a conference held on Sunday in the Hall of the Moorish Palace of Congresses.

The night before, an impressive gala dinner in the Hall of the Caryatids of the Congress Palace put together top management of UEM, the municipal administration of the town and the



Some participants at the Gala Dinner

military corps of the Italian Red Cross, represented at highest level by Gen. Gabriele Lupini. The Gala Dinner hosted also two famous former riders like the World Motocross Champion, Michele Rinaldi, and Czechoslovak Road Racing Champion Peter Balaz, a veteran of many Grand Prix played all over the world.

A welcome guest was the Mayor of the Slovak town of Hlohovec, Peter Dvoran, who praised the initiative and expressed satisfaction for having had the opportunity to participate. He was so enthusiastic about the program that he advanced the candidature of his city to host the



Motorcycling tour of the Salsomaggiore hills



Peter Balaz riding a 1936 Jawa 175 Special

second edition next year. Also attending the event was Chris Ceyskens member of the bureau of CTL / FIM.

During the event all participants had the possibility to use the vehicles and personnel assistance of the military corps of the Italian Red Cross, who also attended the conference with a keynote speaker doctor.

The event also allowed to set up an interesting display of historic models, with the mayor of Salsomaggiore Giovanni Carancini being an passionate collector. It was also exhibited a prototype of Moto3, which would participate in the upcoming European Championship in Albacete, developed by Franco Moro, former designer of Aprilia.

A strong earthquake put at risk the success of the event, but it ended without problems with the conference titled "Extending the Riding Age", coordinated by the UEM Vice-president, Martin de Graaff. The Conference was the highlight of the event and allowed distinguished speakers to present topics of great interest to this particular age group.

The same **Martin de Graaff** presented the theme "The UEM Touring Activity", remembering that UEM offers several opportunities for tourism to people over 60, plus it provides maps, recommended hotels, private bookings, routes of various European routes, exchange programs between clubs and activities organized at the European Capital of Culture.

The Portuguese **Jose Campos Costa**, Chairman of the Vintage Commission, focused on "UEM Vintage Activity". Over 60 wishing to participate in competitive events dedicated to vintage motorcycles have the opportunity to participate to Vintage Road Racing races, Regularity Racing, Enduro Cup and Endurance. Other opportunities are available for Vintage Motorcycling Touring with events organized in occasion of classic rallies in the most beautiful parts of Europe.

The UEM Secretary General **Alessandro Sambuco** focused on the theme "The senior motorcycling activity in Europe: how to extend the riding age". In Europe, there has been a continual increase of over 60 population, who

have a life expectancy of about 82 years for men and 85 for women, of whom about 73% are free from any form of disability. Unfortunately, over 60 riders are more likely to be involved in road accidents and the severity of injury and mortality increases over 40 years, especially due to the lower capacity to withstand harmful events, in particular for those suffering osteoporosis. Among the causes of accidents are considered impaired vision, increase in reaction time and alteration of the imbalance management. The effects of aging are less sensible with a continuous and balanced exercise and proper nutrition. Going on a motorcycle keeps a brain young and improves cognitive skills and memory. Age is not an obstacle for the practice of motorcycling, but it provides a motivation to undergo regular medical checks, and to participate to physical and social activities.

The prof. **Oreste Moreschini** is a well-known orthopedist, who is also a practicing motorcyclist, and his speech was titled "The role



Martin de Graaff



Jose Campos Acosta



Alessandro Sambuco



Oreste Moreschini

of the orthopedic surgery".

A good physical condition can allow to continue the motorcycling passion without too much effort and to reduce the occurrence of risks associated by the use of the motorbike. It is therefore crucial to choose the right type of motorcycle in order not to create dangerous overloads to the column or joints such as shoulder, hip and knee. In case of chronic degenerative diseases that can affect the over 60 rider, there are still medical therapies, natural and appropriate surgical treatment.

Giovanni Di Donato is a cardiologist specialized in Sports Medicine. Given the undoubted danger of this sport, both competitive and recreational, with the report "Cardiac disorders and Senior Activity Motorcycling: Recommendations for proper management" he tried to advise senior riders to place great emphasis on diet and lifestyle. They should also have regular checks to determine the degree of cardiac risk and to diagnose cardiovascular diseases, which are correlated with an increase in adverse events when treated properly and are not known.

The psychologist, expert in traffic psychology, **Cees Wildervanck**, focused on "Senior Motorcyclists - Risks and reassurance".

Peculiarity of over 60 motorcyclists is to have slower processing of information and, at the same time, reduced short-term memory which requires them to control repeatedly the needed information. However, they are more experienced and, therefore, a better perception of risk and are more careful because they have an acceptance of lower risk. It is important that they have a constant motorcycle practice, so that, for example, it is not lost in winter the experience done in summer. It is important to keep in shape physically and mentally and keep constantly informed on new traffic rules.

"Healthy nutrition, prevention and safety" was the presentation by **Roberto Curcuruto**, a specialist in Sports Medicine

Aging characteristics are essentially the reduction of muscle mass, energy requirements, bone mass, and decreased digestive and absorptive capacity, and reduced sense of thirst.



Giovanni Di Donato



Cees Wildervanck



Roberto Curcuruto



Sofia Juana Lambert

A modern diet, which can be described as poor, refined, artificial, toxic and high-calorie, has led to an increase in obese, diabetic, hypertensive, deaths from heart disease and cancer. A basic rule is to reduce the glycemic load, drink plenty of water (even in the absence of thirst), distribute the calories, reduce stress, abound in fruits and vegetables, make constant motor activity.

The French Psychologist **Sofia Juana Lambert** gave a report on "Psycho-social factors and psychological and emotional aspect of the motorcyclist".

The experience of those who live their passion for the motorcycle is to transcend the everyday human experience. Everyone should feel like a warrior ready to experience the intensity of life, because this is the very essence of life. Knowledge leads to wisdom, more experience. Strong emotions are those that give us balance and the bike is an intense way of approaching life.

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Another doctor, **Giorgio Rutolo**, anesthesiologist and Psychiatrist-Resuscitator, dealt with a theme that is very important for those who have reached a certain age "Osteoporosis and its prevention".

After reaching the peak bone mass early thirties a healthy person loses every year about 0.5-1% of bone mass. The main risk factors for low bone mass are a low dietary calcium intake, reduced physical activity and a state of hypovitaminosis D. The need for calcium in men over age 65 is about 1.5 grams. per day. Foods with a higher content of calcium include certain types of cheese like Emmenthal and Parmesan. The intake of these foods, along with at least 30 minutes of moderate exercise a day and a good exposure to sunlight, it is recommended to slow the process of osteoporosis.

Stefano Ricevuti, CEO of R3 + S.r.l., has concluded its work with the "Presentation of the ICE-Key".

Ice-Key is a shock resistant cuff, waterproof up to 150 meters, with an internal USB flash drive. The flash drive contains a software program designed specifically for insertion and storage of personal and medical information. This device can be used by riders who want to be sure that in case of emergency, helpers can acquire essential health information in real time and enable a rapid medical intervention, and warn the family. The information entered can be displayed in six different languages and data entry is protected by a security password.

The overall result of the event was definitely positive and this initiative deserves to be

continued in coming years,. The topics attracted high interest and were certainly appreciated by all those who still want to use their bike for short or long trips or even to continue to feel young again.

UEM CONGRESS IN BELGRADE

The annual meeting of the European motorcycle Federations is scheduled this year from 28th of June to the 1st of July in Belgrade, the attractive Serbian capital.

The Congress will begin on Thursday, the 28th of June, with the regular meetings of the Sporting and Non Sporting Councils, composed by the commissions chairmen and coordinated by the two UEM Vice-Presidents, Ted Bartlett and Martin de Graaff. They will assess the activity in the first half of the season and develop future strategies.

On Friday, the 29th of June, are scheduled meeting of the Management Council and also of all the Commissions and Panels that will discuss various matters within their competence.

The agenda of the Management Council seems particularly dense, as it will be required to decide on all issues that will be taken for approval by the General Assembly, which will take place on the afternoon of Saturday, the 30th of June.

There are several issues on the agenda. Among them, it must be approved the 2011 balance-sheet, which recorded a fairly active result, despite the general financial crisis thanks to a prudent management by the Treasurer and all offices, and the 2012 budget, once again characterized by a rigid correspondence between costs and revenues with the utmost attention paid to reducing all non-productive and bureaucratic expenditures.

The Assembly will also be required to elect a Vice-President, as Luigi Favarato, who went to the ballot in Porto, was elected for only two years. In the absence of other nominations, the Italian, who has worked well so far, is likely to be re-elected for the two remaining years.

The Management Council will present two



Giorgio Rutolo



Stefano Ricevuti

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proposals to the General Assembly to confer the title of UEM honorary member to Francesco Zerbi, who founded UEM in 1995 with Jean-Pierre Mougin and that has long supported it as FIM President, and Giuliano Gemo, president for 30 years of Alpe Adria Union, an important regional association that has contributed to the development of motor sports in Europe and to the growth of the UEM itself.

The Hungarian György Kökenyesi will, moreover, be proposed for the title of honorary member of the Supermoto Commission, for the long and valuable work he performed in UEM since its foundation, first as a member of the Motocross Commission and then as a member and chairman of the Supermoto Commission.

Jorgen Bitsch, chairman of the Special Working Group delegated to the study of a strategic plan to indicate the future UEM mission, will have the opportunity to present the results of the Working Group and to illustrate the achieved progresses.

The Assembly will also have the opportunity to address the issue raised by the Norwegian Federation regarding the name change of UEM



Last year UEM General Assembly in Treviso (Italy)



Michal Sikora, the UEM Treasurer

into FIM Europe, as mentioned in the new FIM statutes.

This issue is purely formal and not difficult to solve, even if it does not consist simply to remove a recognised brand name like UEM, now widely renown in Europe thanks to 17 years of patient and steady work.

If the name change is going to be approved, it will take a large amount of time, as it will be required to review all contracts with various partners, to renew the uniforms of officials, make substantial changes to the website, re-invest time and money to spread the image of the new brand (FIM Europe) today completely unknown in Europe. All these activities require time and reflection.

The FMNs, which are the true UEM essence, will be able to vote on this matter and, if they will approve the change, the Assembly may proceed in planning an extraordinary Assembly as soon as possible for the necessary change of Statutes.

Another complex question is the membership request of a new federation representing motorcycle sport in the Czech Republic.

The Czech Association of Motorcycle Sport (CAMS), this is its name, asked to replace ACCR, thanks to a strong statement by the Czech Minister for Sport that recognizes CAMS as the only organisation officially appointed to represent the sport and any other motorcycling

initiative in the country.

The FIM, initially, choose to take time to understand the situation and preferred to postpone any decision for a year. However in front of threats of withdrawal of some important World Championship races already in the calendar this year in the Czech Republic, FMI was forced to recover the situation and assigned to CAMS full authority for the organization of these events.

UEM was also involved in this dispute, considering that the World Superbike Championship program includes two races of the European Championship, and adhered to FIM decision. Furthermore, UEM acknowledged the decisions of the Czech Minister of Sport to authorize CAMS to release sporting licenses and to organize national motorcycle competitions, after that the FIM President informed that FIM and UEM have no authority to interfere on decisions taken by national sporting authority.

This situation is a bit complicated and it could be resolved with a final decision that establishes definitely which of the two FMNs is allowed to affiliate to the FIM and the UEM and the subsequent assignment of the full authority, like is written in the Statutes, to organize world and continental events. It is not possible to continue into this ambiguity with a FMN member of FIM and UEM, while the other organizing official world championship events in Europe and throughout the country.

Clarified this issue, the Portuguese Federation will have the opportunity to present the program of the "Rally Moto Culture in Guimaraes", declared in 2012 European capital of culture. This is a very important initiative with the aim to facilitate the matching between sport and culture/tourism. A philosophy that follows the principles of the International Olympic Committee.

The Congress will end Sunday, July 1st, by a Conference on Road Safety, whose contents are shown separately in this UEM Mag, and the meeting of General Secretaries, during which the Swedish representatives will have the opportunity to present to "Race administration



Vito Ippolito



Nasser Khalifa Al Atya

system - SVEMO RA". The system contains membership database, licensing and payment systems, live reporting among other features., by CEO R3 s.r.l. will then present the innovative Ice-Key, a useful tool for motorcyclists

The FIM President, Vito Ippolito, confirmed that also this year he will attend to this important event. The Conference will also be honoured by the presence of the FIM Vice-President, Nasser Khalifa Al Atya, with whom negotiations are underway for a close cooperation between the QMMF and UEM on the sports field, Youthstream President, Giuseppe Luongo, and Chairman of the CMS / FIM, Wolfgang Srb.

ROAD SAFETY CONFERENCE IN BELGRADE

As usual, even this year program of the UEM Congress in Belgrade includes on the first of July a conference on mobility and road safety, this time dealing with the theme "The motorcycle in traffic: problems and opportunities".

In Europe, there are more than 30,000,000 of PTW on road with all the advantages, but also with some problems that this impressive number creates. UEM is closely monitoring the development of this phenomenon in order to intervene and try to resolve at least part of these problems.

This year the UEM has agreed to focus its attention on two studies that were recently made in France and Belgium and that can be taken as examples by national associations for

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use in lobbying activities they play or should play in their country for motorcycle users. It should be noted that greater attention to the problems of the two wheels can bring great benefits to the activity of the federations themselves in favour of the development of sport. In a country that recognizes the strategic importance of the use of two-wheeler (PTW) is in fact easier to accept the practice of this sport in its various forms.

The conference, organized with special attention by Silvio Manicardi, will be opened from UEM President, Vincenzo Mazzi, and the chairman of the Road Safety Commission, Jean-Pierre Moreau.

He will precede the Director of agency for road safety for Republic of Serbia, Stojadin Jovanović, who, after having turned the greetings of welcome speech, will make a presentation of the Serbian accident and traffic situation. The Conference purpose, as every year, is in fact to examine the problems of the host country in terms of safety on the roads, which we have found are more or less similar to those of other European countries and for this helpful to all.

An overview of laws and proposals being discussed in Brussels will therefore be illustrated by John Chatterton Ross to allow the various national federations to take suggestions for a more effective action at national level. The laws are born in Brussels, in fact, after long discussions with member states and to adequately inform the national representatives is essential to be able to think of the launch of laws favourable to the use of the bike.

After the report by Chatterton John Ross will follow the presentation of two particularly interesting studies.

The first "2-Wheeler Behaviour and Safety. Study about spontaneous riders driving behaviour in urban and peri-urban traffic " will be presented by French Stéphane Espie. It refers to the study of the behaviour of motorists in real urban and extra urban traffic conditions. Particular attention will be paid to the behaviour of them in traffic, a reality that occurs daily on



Silvio Manicardi



Jean-Pierre Moreau

European roads. In fact the riders will respond differently and with behaviours that are not always welcomed in the same way by the authorities of various European states with bans and tolerances or legally admitted.

"Commuting by motorcycles: an impact analysis" is the topic that will be dealt with by the Belgian Stijn Vancuyck. The University of Leuven, a historical town not far from Brussels, has carried out a study that simulates the changes in traffic on the highway Leuven-Brussels varying the percentage of drivers who could change to PTW. With only 10% fewer cars and more on PTW, the classic traffic jam in the morning would be dramatically reduced, improving the quality of life, reducing pollution, etc.

At the end of the reports will be opened a debate that will better explore the themes treated.

There will also be speeches by prominent ministerial representatives of Serbia..