

UEM MAG 06/2011

European Season 2011: A not easy year



The 2011 was a year with many positive results for UEM, which arrived despite the difficult of the current situation. The success can be ascribed to the many valid professionals that operate inside this complex structure and to whom we should be thankful for their commitment.

Their engagement allowed to put in place many initiatives that can constitute a valid platform from which UEM can start a 2012 full of results and success.

The main objective is to reach the many ambitious goals for the next year, in close collaboration with FIM and its new CEO, who will contribute to give a new impulse with renewed enthusiasm.

We take the opportunity to wish all the readers a 2012 full of joy and satisfaction.

1

UEM MAG 06/2011

EUROPEAN SEASON 2012: A NOT EASY YEAR

2011 was not an easy year for UEM due to a series of relevant problems, mainly caused by the difficult financial situation that made hard to rely on the needed resources to carry on the projects that were planned in every detail and ready to be executed.

Despite all these problems, UEM overall performance was positive, with the successful start of many important initiatives.

The change of Secretary General gave further impulse and efficiency to an already highly active office, even if still under dimensioned. The almost total renewal of the Management Council brought also in this case positive results, with the formulation of new ideas and a greater push towards the sporting and non-sporting activities with a deep restructuring of the touring activity.

The 2011 major event was, as usual, the UEM Congress which was held at the beginning of July in Treviso in occasion of the 100 years celebrations of the Italian Motorcycling Federation (FMI).

It was an important occasion for the representatives of the national Federations to meet again, to discuss different options, to evaluate the work done by the different UEM bodies and to elect the French Jean-Marc Desnues as UEM Vice-President and the Portuguese Manuel Marinheiro as fifth member of the Judicial Panel.

The importance of the event was confirmed by the presence in Treviso of the FIM President,



FIM President introduces the UEM General Assembly in Treviso



FMNs delegates during the UEM General Assembly in Treviso

Vito Ippolito, by Vice-Presidents Jorge Viegas and Nasser Khalifa Al Atya, by the new Operating Director Steve Aschlimann, and the Sporting Director Ignacio Verneda and the FIM commissions chairmen: Reczo Bulcsu, Wolfgang Srb, David Willoughby, Kathia Hernandez. Particularly appreciated was the presence of two historical UEM partners: Vito Consoloni (UFO Plast) and Giuseppe Luongo (Youthstream), who wanted to take the occasion to confirm their support to UEM and its action for the growth of European motorcycling.

The Congress was not only an occasion to meet, but also to discuss and face problems related to motorcycling in general and to the sporting and non-sporting expectations of many people.

Also this year the Congress program was enriched with an interesting Road Safety Conference on the topic "Road Safety - UE legislative info, human factors consequences of accidents", with important contributions by the Dutch Dries Hop, lecturer of road safety at the Dutch Police National Academy, by the Spanish Andrés Rubio Perez, who presented the Rosa project promoted by Dorna and RFME and introduced during some Moto GP events, by the Prof. Oreste Moreschini of the Rome University and by Dr. Federico Trentani of the Clinica Mobile, who focused on the different kinds of injuries affecting motorcyclists during accidents on the road and on the race track. Also John Chatterton Ross made a presentation on the



Road Safety Conference in Treviso

progresses of his activities in Brussels in name of FIM and UEM.

The Conference was preceded by a practical demonstration of the most common accidents that may occur on the road and how to avoid them, or at least how to reduce the damages relying on appropriate equipment. The demonstration was made by an extremely professional team that FMI, together with the local authorities, use to educate youngsters in schools.

The sporting season had overall positive results. The road racing recorded a good success of the European Championship, which is conceived on more qualification rounds (national and regional championships) and a final in the Spanish track of Albacete under the patronage of Dorna.

Under the Infront flag it was held, on the other hand, the Stocksport 600 cc. Championship and an extremely interesting Junior Cup, dedicated to young riders from 14 to 18 years all riding Kawasaki 250 cc. Ninja bikes.

Together with Honda was repeated the successful initiative of the Honda NSF 100 Trophy linked to the Mini Road Racing European Championship in Juvaincourt, which saw the victory of the 11 years old German rider Lukas Tulovic.

Some perplexities were raised for the reduction to one only round of the Mini Road Racing European Championship to reduce transfer costs

to riders without sponsors or enough financial resources. According to some, it would have been better to continue with the old formula of three rounds in different countries in order to guarantee a wider participation of young riders and a more effective promotion of this discipline



3

UEM MAG 06/2011

EUROPEAN SEASON 2012: A NOT EASY YEAR

in Europe.

The experiment of one event of the Road Racing Hill Climbing close to Bergamo (Italy) could not be evaluated, because a sudden fog on the race day did not allow to carry out the event.

Good success was as usual for the Dragbike European Championship, with attendance peaks in particular in some track of northern Europe.

No problems were found in Motocross. The different championships were all held regularly under the experienced direction of Youthstream, with whom UEM prolonged the collaboration contract till 2040. Youthstream, moreover, participated in full forces to the Motocross of European Nations in Sevlievo with its Hospitality car, its TV, the press office, etc.

The Youthstream president, Luigi Luongo, confirmed to be extremely satisfied with the collaboration with UEM and how the European Championships are progressing, in particular the new promotional class 125 cc 2/stroke. These championships are doing very well their function to help the sporting growth of many young riders and to prepare them to bigger world competitions.

Quadcross is constantly growing and had its peak with the Quadcross of European Nations, held together the Sidecarcross of European Nations on the German track of Jauer.

The Snowcross European Championship was held regularly with three rounds in Lakseiv (Norway), and also the Freestyle European Championship, thanks to the collaboration with the SportPlus, offered high quality events in the covered track of Linz and Hamburg.

Financial matters affected the Minibike MX experiment and prevented the carrying out of the Beachcross, Pitbike Motard and Hill Climbing championships, which were postponed to the next year.

Supermoto deserves a more careful analysis: the discipline is affected by several relevant problems. If the Open class, combined to the World Championship and managed directly by Youthstream, had a regular season with a good participation of riders, the experiment to introduce the new classes 85 cc, 250 cc. and 450 cc. did not get the hoped results. The

Supermoto commission is taking some actions and there will be important news for the next year.

Financial problems caused difficulties in the Enduro European Championship, with a forced reduction of rounds. The participation of riders was, however, numerous and the organizers quality was further improved and there are good



4

UEM MAG 06/2011

EUROPEAN SEASON 2012: A NOT EASY YEAR

hopes for the future.

The Bajas and Cross Country Championships were held regularly and particular interest was shown towards the European and Mediterranean Challenge promoted by the De Petri Adventure. The hope is to further strengthen the links between the sporting activity in Southern Europe and the one in Northern Africa.

Trial showed signs of growth, even if there is still a lot of work to do, in particular in the promotion towards young riders.

The many Track Racing Championships and Cups did not find particular problems and were all held regularly attracting large number of spectators and riders, to such an extent that an important Polish promoter proposed itself as a new potential UEM partner.

Valuable was the activity of vintage bikes, with continental Cups of Road Racing, Endurance and Regularity. Their number is going to grow next year with the new Motocross Vintage and Enduro Vintage Cup.

Finally, the Moto Ball European Championship was held also this year with the final phase held in Voznesensk in Ukraine.

The non-sporting activity attracted also relevant attention thanks to some interesting initiatives. A three years project dedicated to the development of the touring activity started this year and it found also the full support by FIM, which decided to contribute financially to its realisation.

The purpose of this project is to create a touring platform on the UEM website for all kind of touring activities, available also for the less active Federations in this field. In order to inform and activate European motorcyclists or those who should like to visit Europe, it will be necessary to modernize the website with the latest developments for users.

In order to make the Touring Commission more active and professional, it was decided to rely also on external experts. Two consultants were appointed: the Italian Giancarlo Pasini and the Croatian Andrej Matacin. Both submitted already interesting proposals for touring activities that can potentially attract the attention of many



5

UEM MAG 06/2011

EUROPEAN SEASON 2012: A NOT EASY YEAR



fans of this motorcycling activity.

In 2012 it is planned the "1st European Moto-Culture Rally – A cultura sobre rodas" in the historical Portuguese city of Guimaraes proclaimed by UE "European Capital of Culture". A good amount of work was prepared for environmental activities. The Marketing & Industry commission launched some initiatives aimed at increasing UEM visibility and attractiveness for potential sponsors. In particular, the communication was significantly increased with a many press releases, the relaunch of the UEM Mag and the start of the monthly issue of a newsletter listing the many initiatives of UEM.

Extremely important was the meeting in Salsomaggiore Terme with the Assomotoracing



Doctor David McDonagh at the Emergency Course for Event Phisician

and with the city mayor, Giovanni Carancini, a motorcycle enthusiasts and collector of vintage bikes, with whom it was examined the possibility to host next year the first edition of an event "Senior Activity", dedicated to over 60 riders that still want to practice motorcycling activity.

Strong interest was found for the first "Emergency Sports Medicine course for event physicians", which was organized in close collaboration with the International Federation of Sport Doctors (FIMS) and with Infront, which also invited the course participants to visit the Imola track during the world round of Superbike and the Mobile Clinic of Dr. Claudio Costa.

The project of "Dual Careers in Motorcycling" should also be considered extremely important, as it aims to offer young emerging riders the possibility to get a first level academic title with some European universities during their sporting activity, allowing them once finished their sporting career to have the possibility to continue to work in the motorcycling field.

These and other initiatives contributed to raise consideration of UEM, as much as that UEM President was received in two different occasion by the Slovakian President, Ivan Gasparovic, and by the Bulgarian Prime Minister, Boyco Borisov, who showed interest in the motorcycling activity held by UEM in their countries.

UEM was also officially invited to represent motorcycling sport in Europe in the "Sport Forum" in Budapest and in the event "From volunteer to leadership in sports" in Warsaw, invited by the corresponding national Ministers, during initiative promoted by UE in favor of the development of sport in the European continent.

Many projects are in the pipeline to be launched in 2012. It is soon to be presented a Road Racing Tech Cup for prototypes 50 cc., 125 cc., 250 cc., with the aim to allow the survival of these classes that were cut out by the World Championship, but also to offer a valid experimental ground for new models technically advanced and interested in the use of new types

of fuels.

Great curiosity was created by the entry in the motorcycling world of the American company Bridgepoint, which after the acquisition of Dorna became the sole shareholder of Infront. At the moment, this should not change anything to the two World Championships GP and Superbike, but it is evident that future new evolutions will have a significant impact on the European Championship.

Relevant successes were agreements like: with Youthstream for the promotion of also the Snowcross championship; with KTM interested in becoming UEM partner in different sporting activities; with Mylaps in order to uniform the timing systems in the European events and to offer emerging FMNs some promotional rates and technical assistance.

In Estoril the FIM General Assembly approved the change of the FIM Statutes, defining CONUS as "bodies of the FIM separately incorporated, financially and administratively independent". This clarification will allow UEM to understand better its role in Europe and to review, in occasion of the next Congress in Belgrade, its own Statutes in order to adjust them to the FIM one.

It is not a mere formality, but it represents the possibility for a better co-ordination of the two organizations activities not only in the sporting field, but also in many other initiatives and in the relationship with UE in Brussels, which have been characterized until now by many useless and harmful overlaps.

The season was concluded with merry award ceremonies and with the celebration of important anniversaries of several FMNs, inducing the UEM President to declare a moderate satisfaction for the results reached in 2011 and to express hopes for the next year: "I wish that 2012 could represent a year of consolidation for the UEM structure and for its activities, which are already considerable, if the limited financial resources available are taken into account. It will be important to continue to



Future Champions

operate in close collaboration and maximum synergy together with FIM and to address particular attention to emerging FMNs that need particular support.

I wish therefore a 2012 full of satisfaction to all riders, teams, organizers, FMNs, our great partners and the many enthusiasts that operate inside UEM".

