

The new normal - same but different!

No doubt you have noticed over the past few months that life is very different now. For most following the rules for lockdown was a fairly straightforward situation, easing out of it and trying to resume normal life is more challenging. BUT – a return to racing is now getting closer! Yes, we are racing at Cadwell Park (July 11-12th), unless the government changes its mind at the last minute.

Will your racing experience be the same? That's what you want to know – the actual track bit will be almost identical, but other bits and pieces will be different. It has to be, to comply with the ACU guidelines, to safeguard you, and try to mitigate risk.

Firstly – race entries, will be online (a few of you may ring Anji and she will do her best to deal with your entry by telephone). The new entry form, and Supplementary Regulations look slightly different as they include references to Covid 19.

There will no longer be any paperwork posted to you (apart from the select few with a telephone entry), eTickets where possible, along with Final Instructions, will be sent electronically. Also now, the briefing notes will be sent electronically prior to the meeting, along with the programme in pdf format.

Clearly if you feel unwell or have any of the Covid 19 symptoms, do not come to the race meeting. This may be disappointing for you, but appreciated by everybody else

When you arrive at the circuit, you will probably notice extra signs referring to Covid 19, social distancing, hand washing etc. All part of the measures designed to remind you to keep safe. Please park up in the Paddock with social distancing in mind. - at least 2 metres apart, even when the awnings are out. There is a lot of space at Cadwell so spread yourselves out, please.

The sign on procedure will be rather different – bring your race licence (or DVLA licence for some Paraders). Queuing will involve maintaining social distancing, so it may look like a long queue, but it will move pretty quickly. The Race Office will operate a one out, next one in policy, with hand sanitiser at both the entrance and exit. As you approach the Perspex screen (still with Anji smiling at you), show your licence both front and back, for Anji to check, but do not hand it to her. Then she will ask you to read a large copy of the new look sign on form. Once you have read it, she will ask you if you agree. Part of the sign on form relates to COVID-19. This will be witnessed by another member of the office staff. This procedure replaces signing on. You will not receive the usual practice pass, but the Entry Secretary will record on a master sheet, and electronically that you have signed on. If you want to hire a transponder, then move down the counter to where the boxes of transponders are set out. They will have been pre allocated. Look for your name, and take your designated transponder. Do not leave your licence in the box. Someone will record that you have taken your transponder. The transponders will have been pre sanitised, but anti bacterial spray and wipe will be available.

Tech Bay will have social distancing markers, so please queue up observing them. Bring a safe stand for your machine. When instructed to do so, move to the marked position for your bike, and place it on its stand, and then move away. Tech will confirm electronically that you have signed on, and then, from a suitable distance, will proceed to check that your bike conforms to the ACU and CRMC regulations. This will be done with minimal bike contact. Once happy, tech will electronically record your bike has passed, and place a sticker on the bike, then use an anti-bacterial wipe to sanitise the sticker, and any areas on the bike where tech made contact with it.

For clothing check, wear your racing gear, but carry your helmet, already pre sanitised please. When instructed to do so, place your helmet on the table, and step away. The clothing tech, will check the helmet for the ACU Gold sticker, place a CRMC sticker on the helmet, and then sanitise the sticker. Place the helmet on your head, do it up, and then allow the clothing tech to check your clothing whilst socially distancing. Once approved, the tech will record this electronically, and you are free to leave!

Please remember to always wear a helmet (visor down), and gloves whenever you are riding a bike round the paddock. Next job is to have the bike noise tested. The testers will check electronically that you have signed on, and passed tech control with bike and clothing. Keeping your visor down, rev the bike to the required revs, as instructed, while the machine is noise tested. The result will be recorded electronically, and a noise test passed sticker will be placed on your bike, along with a coloured sticker which will let you know which practice you are in. These will be sanitised for you. So, no practice pass, to remember to take to Assembly with you! Easier and simpler I reckon.

When you go to Assembly, for your first practice, the officials will look for: helmet sticker, tech sticker, noise testing sticker, and you have the correctly coloured sticker for that practice. (They will not be checking that transponders work)

Once on track (aaah, at last!), things will become more familiar! There will probably be fewer marshals around the circuit, and they will be instructed to maintain social distancing. So, don't assume that you will get a handy push, or a caring marshal to kneel on the ground to check you are ok, if you have a mishap. If you breakdown, then please try to move your bike to a place of safety. Do Not lift your visor or take your gloves off – please indicate you are ok by a thumbs up sign. If you are unable to move, marshals will come over to you, and then make a decision eg. request a race stop, recovery etc. There will probably have to be more red flags and stoppages, to safeguard fallers and other riders – so be watchful. If you need recovery, there will only be one rider permitted in the back of the van. Allow recovery to put out the ramp, you push your bike into the van, and remain with it. On arrival in the paddock, let recovery put the ramp down, and you wheel your bike out yourself, so only you touch it. Sanitising equipment will be on onboard, to wipe any bike parts if necessary. All the marshals, recovery crews, medical staff will have appropriate PPE.

The race programme will be more conservative to allow plenty of time for extra stoppages, more time for recovery etc. Once we get to running races, the first grid

positions will be allocated based on fastest lap times in timed practice. Your grid position will not be stuck on your bike, so check before you go down to Assembly. They will be available to refer to, in or outside Race Office, or, better still, go onto the timekeepers' website, and see it electronically. We hope to have a dummy grid in Assembly for you, so you can work out where to place yourself once on the startline. Officials on the startline will observe social distancing, so if you experience a problem, put your hand up as usual, but then wheel your bike away to a place of safety off track. If you can solve the problem, feel free to start up, and rejoin, following any instructions, and do so safely! Remember that you can follow track activity on live timing, so you don't have to rely on the tannoy announcements. We also hope to have Mixir available as a means of hearing the announcements.

If you end up inspecting the ground, then as usual, you will have to visit the Medical Centre. No doubt they will be following a different regime, so don't expect all your friends and family to visit, and check you are ok. If you are passed Fit to Race, then you may return directly to the paddock. There will be no need to do the walk of shame, by taking the Fitness to Ride form to Race Control. This information will be passed electronically to both Race Control and Tech Bay, so they know to release your bike.

We have taken the decision not to have podium celebrations or the Saturday evening prize giving, to reduce the opportunity for a large gathering of people. Your trophies will be posted to you after the meeting.

Hopefully you now have a better idea of what to expect – the same but different!

Essentially you still get to enjoy the thrill of action on the track, while we have put in place various procedures which follow the government and ACU guidelines.