

“Non- Stop” or “Stop- Allowed”. Your commissioner is “softening” his stance.

I have been fielding a number of opinions regarding what is perceived as my ‘heavy handed’ position on the introduction of a non-stop rule for 2014 at championship Trials. It needs to be made clear that I have left an avenue for consideration to the continuation of the status quo if one: important partners in the world will not be changing [to non-stop] and if two: I have convincing representation from a large majority of riders in NZ to disregard change.

My views may be softening in the first instance as I have received information that Australia will probably be “analysing” non-stop through 2014 but riding ‘stop- allowed’ for that year. If they were to move toward non-stop it may be in 2015. Australia is an important partner.

A majority representation of Trials riders in NZ who were against a change to “non-stop” would have an impact on my decision and some of you have suggested a vote among licenced Trials riders. I have administered various forms of voting and polls over my period as commissioner and I am against allowing this subject to go to a vote as I would feel compelled to honour the views of the **minority** of people who would bother to vote. Some of you will take the task of voting seriously but experience has showed that most do not bother to register their vote. Rather, I leave it in your hands to show me that you have a significant majority of riders who want to stay as we are [or conversely change to “non-stop”]. You will need to do this through petition. You have the ability to administer these petitions at NI and SI rounds and club events. You will have a better chance of getting far more signatures on petition sheets than I will have to get people to return votes.

The view that I hold at present is that Trials riders are fairly evenly split on the subject. I get to hear a lot of opinion in both spoken and written form. The reason that I have been declaring that we will follow the FIM model is that I feel that I may well need to exercise what would effectively be ‘the casting vote’ in order to bring the sport to a decision. If I do not exercise this authority [which is expected of me] argument will linger. The argument of which I talk has proponents that make good ‘points’ for both sides and I can see both the positive and negatives [on each side] but beyond debate there must be decision. One thing we must remember is that whether we adopt ‘non-stop’ or ‘stop-allowed’ the sport will be enjoyable to all so long as we put our effort into ‘MAKING IT WORK’ as opposed to trying to negate any initiatives of development.

It is obvious from feedback that the country would benefit from workshops on section setting at both making provision for ‘non-stop’ and/or improvements and standardization to ‘stop-allowed’. We have Wellington on 10/ 11th Aug set aside for this purpose.

We need to plan as to how the future may evolve and the more people that attend the AGM workshop later this month the more success we will have in “getting it right”.

Jim Henderson for Moto Trials