



# **MOTORSPORT SOUTH AFRICA NPC**

Reg. No 1995/005605/08

<http://www.motorsport.co.za>  
e-mail noncircuit@motorsport.co.za  
672)

First Floor, No. 9 Monza Close (Formerly 108), Kyalami Park, Midrand. P.O. Box 11499 Vorna Valley, 1686  
Telephone (011) 466-2440. Fax: (011) 466-2262 National Number: 0861 MSA MSA (0861 672

## **MSA COURT OF ENQUIRY 1107:**

Formal enquiry against Mr. Frank De Greef pertaining to certain matters as set out below:

1. Alleged undermining of the regional championship for Off Road Motorcycles by allowing regional events to take place in the Platinum area only. This negatively affected the status of certain classes within the regional championship due to a significant lack of entries. The Northern Regions Committee intervened and requested a meeting with the Regional Representative (Frank De Greef) and GOC (Adolf Botes), resulting in regional dates being allocated to GOC for 2013.
2. Allocation of a date for a club Off Road Motorcycle event over the same period and area as a Regional Cross Country Car event and, furthermore, allowing the event to take place after instruction from the Northern Regions Committee to postpone the event to a later date. A further meeting was set up which Mr. De Greef attended but seemingly chose to ignore the chairperson and any additional instructions.
3. Alleged undermining of the authority of the Cross Country (Off Road Car) Regional Representative (Greg Higgins) and the Northern Regions Regional Committee by approaching clubs within the Platinum area and attempting to canvas a "vote of no confidence" against Mr. Higgins and appointing himself as the NR Cross Country Car representative.

### **HEARING HELD IN THE MSA BOARDROOM, 9 MONZA CLOSE, KYALAMI PARK AT 17H00 ON WEDNESDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2013.**

Present:	Dick Shuttle	-	Court President
	Christo Reeders	-	Court Member
	Graeme Nathan	-	Court Member
	Frank De Greef	-	NR Offroad MC & QD Rep
	Greg Higgins	-	NR Cross Country Rep
	Elgar Rademeyer	-	Inexess Chairman
	Dalene De Greef	-	RORMC Secretary
	Glenn Rowden	-	NR Committee Chairman
	Karin Britton	-	Non circuit Sport Co-ordinator
	Carmen Hill	-	MSA Scribe

The court president introduced himself and his fellow court members. There were no objections to the court members.

The allegations against Mr. De Greef, as set out in the COE advice documents and acknowledged as being received by all parties, were read out to the court members and all parties present.

The charges against Mr. De Greef were set out into 3 paragraphs but it was accepted by all parties present that the actual charges were all connected in respect of the specific accusations against Mr. De Greef.



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Directors: S. E. Miller (Chairman), A. Scholtz (CEO – Operations), A. Taylor (Financial), K. Doig, J. du Toit, M. du Toit, P. du Toit, D. Lobb, N. McCann, C. Pienaar, B. Sipuka, D. Somerset, L. Steyn – Hon. Presidents : T. Kilburn, Mrs. B. Schoeman

Mr. De Greef was requested to give his version of the events which were specifically listed as:

1. Undermining the Off Road Motorcycle Regional Championship by allowing events to take place in the "Platinum" area only.
2. Allocating a date for a club Off Road Motorcycle event over the same period and in the same vicinity as a Regional cross country car event
3. Undermining the Cross Country (Offroad Car) Regional Representative by allegedly attempting to call for a vote of "no confidence" against the representative, Mr. Greg Higgins

(Shortened versions of the paragraphs as set out in the court documents)

Mr. De Greef asked for the court's indulgence when stating that, to achieve a true picture, it would be necessary to go back to 2011 and the issues that arose at that time. These related to the first charge as per paragraph 1.

Mr. De Greef stated that in 2011, the GOC (Gauteng Offroad Club) run by Mr. Adolf Botes was awarded an event for the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2011. This was a Regional event but GOC declined to run the event due to the fact that the Regional regulations stated that the start procedure allowed for National category riders to start ahead of regional riders.

(Documents were submitted which supported this)

Mr. De Greef further stated that, for 2012, GOC were offered four Regional Off Road Motorcycle events but again declined due to "gossip". An email dated 19<sup>th</sup> October 2011 was presented in support of this claim.

This year, 2013, Mr. De Greef admitted that he had deliberately flooded the calendar in an effort to get buy in from GOC, with 9 Regional Off Road Motorcycle and Quad dates and 6 Enduro dates.

It appears that a meeting in January 2013 involving Glenn Rowden, Wally Pappas, Adrian Scholtz, Adolf Botes, Frank De Greef and Elza Thiar was called to discuss date allocations and Adolf Botes agreed to take the first two Regional Off Road Motorcycle events plus 1 option (This meeting was confirmed in the NR Committee minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> January 2013). Mr. De Greef acknowledged that this was in fact the case.

Further to the pre-stated January meeting, Mr. De Greef organised a club event within the Platinum area at Lichtenburg and catered for bikes, quads and cars. Mr. De Greef confirmed that the entries consisted of 40 bikes and quads and 28 cars. This event was on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2013. This relates to the allegations of Paragraph 2.

It was stated by Mr. Rowden that on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2013, a meeting was called with Mr. De Greef, Mr. van Aardt (the chairman of the Platinum Series) and Mr. Richard Schilling (Commission President), where Mr. De Greef was specifically told not to run the cars as this would impact on a Regional car event being run by Mr. Higgins on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February 2013. There was also an issue of a Mr. Flip Welman intending to run a Womza class in conjunction with this event on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2013.

Subsequently, Mr. Higgins had to move the Regional car event of the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2013 to the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2013 in an effort to make it viable.

Mr. Rowden confirmed that no minutes were ever taken from either of the aforementioned meetings in early January or the meeting of the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2013.

Moving onto the allegations contained in paragraph 3 concerning the 'vote of no confidence' in Mr. Greg Higgins.

Mr. De Greef admitted that a discussion did take place within the Platinum Series Committee on or around the 24<sup>th</sup> February. He denied any direct involvement stating that he had been requested to forward a letter but the exact delivery and content of that letter appears to be a mystery.

Mr. Higgins, in his defence, stated that he believed an altercation at an Off Road Motorcycle event last year between himself and Mr. van Aardt (Platinum Series Chairman) could have been behind the attempt to call for a vote of no confidence in him. Evidently at this event Mr. Higgins had proposed to conduct the prize giving, which had resulted in a verbal attack from Mr. van Aardt and this had since been a source of some ill feeling.

Mr. Rowden stated that the 'letter' of no confidence had been submitted but that the main protagonist was in fact now in Australia. He declined to elaborate further.

Also in attendance was Mr. Elgar Rademeyer who is a highly respected member of the Offroad Car Community in Rustenburg. His input to the overall situation currently existing within the Offroad Car and Bike fraternity was insightful and informative with no bias or malice suggested. His comments were limited to what he perceived to be the main issues with the competitors at large.

One of the factors given as a reason for clubs such as GOC not wishing to run regional events was resentment at the Commission insisting that Regional events be run in conjunction with National events.

Conclusions as follows:

1. The court felt that it had uncovered in the course of the proceedings a distinct undercurrent between the Off Road Car fraternity and the Off Road Motorcycle fraternity.
2. The dominance of the Platinum Series is a cause for concern in so much as it is accepted that the clubs run a very successful series at club level but the Regional Championship is being marginalized as a result.
3. The support of sponsors for club-level motorsport is very commendable but has the unintended consequence of weakening the Regional Championship status over time.

Findings as follows:

1. The court finds that Mr. De Greef did act against the wishes of the NR Regional Committee Chairman by arranging a club event to include Off Road cars which was in direct conflict with the impending Regional Off Road Car event the following week. By doing so, the court believes this showed contempt for the NR Committee and the Off Road Car Commission President, Mr. Richard Schilling.
2. Mr. De Greef is hereby suspended from participation in and/or organization of any Off Road Motorcycle and Quad events held under an MSA permit for a period of 6 months. Such suspension is however suspended for a period of 12 months.
3. If Mr. De Greef is found to be in contravention of a direct instruction from either the NR Committee or the Off Road Car Commission during this 12 month period, the 6 month suspension will be immediately imposed.

Findings distributed via email on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2013

*Ref: 158581/98*