

Eastern Centre of the Auto-Cycle Union

MINUTES of the 1st Meeting of the **CENTRE BOARD 2008 SESSION**, held at **Stanway Village Hall, Stanway Essex** on **Sunday 27th January 2008** in the presence of the following:

President	D.Clamplin
Vice Presidents	R.Bannister, A.Brace, M. Mellish, T.Parkin, D. Slaughter A. Crawford
Vice Chairman	A. Penny
Treasurer	A. Hay
E.Wass, B.Drane	Braintree & D.M.C.C.
M.Deek,	Castle Colchester M.C.C
G.Brace, Mrs S. Thorpe, J. Thorpe	Chelmsford & D.A.C.
A.Foskew, M.Wheaton	Eastern Centre Marshals Club
Y.Smith	Eastern Sporting Sidecar Association
P.Fenn, T.Smith	Essex & Suffolk Border M.C.C
T.Adams, A.Crawford	Halstead & D.M.C.C
A. Kenny	Harwich M.C.C.
D. Cordle	Ipswich M.C & L.C.C.
R.Greengrass	Lowestoft Invaders M.C.C
C. Keeble	Norfolk & Suffolk Group
J. Nickerson	Norwich & District S.A.MX.C.
T. Hewitt	Norwich New Stars Youth Grass Track Club
D. Slaughter, A. Hay	Norwich Vikings M.C.C Ltd
Mrs G.Bannister	Southend & D.M.C.C
P. Tomlin, Mrs M. Mellish	Triumph Owners Club E.F.
J.Read, G.Garrod	Woodbridge & D.M.C.C.

Note: - Only those officials & delegates who signed in have been accredited as attendees.

1 Vice Chairman Mr Penny took the Chair and opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Eastern Centre Board 2008 session.

Apologies: were received from David Smith (Chairman), Colin Armes (Vice Chairman), Barbara Douglas (Secretary), Marie Armes (Vice President), Roger Chaplin (Vice President), Dave Furlong (Vice President), Rob Maiden, John Maltby, Adam Garrod, Lyn Berwick, Derek Hewitt, & Jim Woodmason.

2 Minutes of the 4th meeting 2007 session held on 11th November 2007 were accepted as a true record of the meeting with the following amendments:

Sunday 11th November not Thursday.

Item 6: Mr Kenny put an amendment, not a proposal, the amendment was lost and the original proposal was agreed.

3 Matters Arising: there were no matters arising from the above meeting.

4 Correspondence & Secretary's Report: Memo received from ACU re. Child Protection. Copies of Child Protection Report Forms were available for clubs to collect at this meeting.

5 Finance: Mr Hay presented a preliminary report of the 2007 finances – copies circulated at the meeting. In response to a question from Mr Kenny, Mr Hay confirmed that copies of Centre accounts were submitted to ACU HQ.

6 Competitions Committee: Mr Penny sought approval of the minutes for the 8th meeting 2007 session, Mr Foskew seconded. Mr Garrod asked about Clerk of the Course seminars. Mr Penny confirmed that he had organised a Trials & Enduro seminar but the Centre was awaiting information from ACU HQ about motocross and Track Racing seminars as these now had to be taken by ACU main committee members.

Mr Penny sought approval of the minutes for the 9th meeting 2007 session, Mr Wheaton seconded. Mr M. Deek questioned why there was a discrepancy between the ACU HQ list of licenced officials and that held by the Eastern Centre. Mr Wass has raised this with HQ but no response yet. Mr Penny confirmed that the licence held by individuals was proof of a stewards' status. Mr Deek also questioned the appointment of Centre stewards at national events from the Competitions Committee.

Mr Penny sought approval of the minutes for the 10th meeting 2007 session. Mr Wheaton seconded. Mr Keeble asked whether the production of fixture lists could be accelerated from October submission to January publication. Mr Penny explained that the fixture list runs March to March and Centre dates cannot be confirmed until international and national dates have been fixed. Mr Bannister recommended that Competitions Committee consider the early 2009 trials championship dates now. Mr Cordle confirmed that the Trials Sub-Committee would meet to consider this. Mr Kenny asked about the 2007 Quad Championship, Mr Crawford confirmed this had been very successful and there are now 6 rounds for 2008.

7 Access, Environmental & Rights of Way: Mr Wass gave a report about current environmental issues referring to DEFRA and the 14/28 day rule.

Mr Drane gave a report about local Rights of Way issues also referring to a press release re.ACU Rights of Way Conference, and Land Users Advisory Service.

8 Eastern Centre Gazette: A balance sheet showing the current financial position of the Gazette prepared by Mr Maiden was circulated. Mr Kenny thanked Mr Maiden for an excellent report giving clarity on the financial position and thanked both Mr Maiden & Mr Armes for their work.

The report recommended that the cost of publication of regulations in the Eastern Centre Gazette be reduced from £25 to £10. Mr Bannister moved an amendment, that the cost be reduced to £15, this was seconded by Mr Deek. This was approved unanimously. The implementation date to be for regulations published in the April issue of the Gazette. Mr Kenny proposed a small annual increase in line with "Centre" inflation rather than large periodic changes; seconded by Mr Bannister. This was approved.

Mr Hay stated that there would be a short delay in publication of the February Gazette due to Mr Armes illness.

9 Centre Function: No report was available. Members were reminded of the date & venue. The President, Mr Clampin spoke about the 60/30 Dinner that he was organising at the Colne Valley Golf Club. All proceeds from this event will be donated to the Essex & East Anglian Air Ambulances. Mr Bannister proposed a donation of £200 from the Eastern Centre, this was seconded by Mr Deek. Mr Keeble proposed a donation of £200 from the Eastern Centre Gazette, this was seconded by Mr Bannister. Both donations were approved by the Board.

10 Eastern Centre Web-site: The motion put by Essex & Suffolk Border MCC was withdrawn. Mr Fenn & Mr Keeble explained their concerns that led to the submission of the original motion and that, in their opinion, the web-site was failing to provide and inform visitors to the site. Recorders should submit all championship results and positions as soon as they become available, if necessary saying that they are subject to confirmation. The web-site should contain all championship rules and conditions. Everything that was published in the

E.C. Handbook is in the public domain and should be available on the web-site. When this has been achieved the web-site should be reviewed again later in the year.

Mr Hay suggested that regulations should be published on the web-site as well as the Gazette, as, in his opinion, the Gazette would become redundant by 2010.

Gazette advertisers should automatically have their adverts published f.o.c. on the web-site for a period of 6 months and that this should be reviewed later in the year.

A revised motion was put to the Board requiring Centre officers, Centre committees and Centre recorders to pass information to the web-site co-ordinator as soon as possible, within 7 days. The revised motion was carried.

The web-site will be monitored by Mr Foskew who will report at the next Board meeting.

11 Centre Working Party: No report was available. Mr Foskew said that he was Secretary of the Working Party and that the last meeting was held in June 2007. Since that time Working Party members had not seen a final draft of the report.

12 Youth Clubs Representation on the Competitions Committee: Mr Penny advised the Board that Mrs Areatha Wigger had been nominated as the representative with voting rights and Mrs Tracey Hales nominated as the observer. Having sought Mr Trevor Hewitt's opinion, the Board accepted these nominations to represent youth issues on the Competitions Committee for the 2008 session.

13 Any Other Business: Mr G. Brace asked that the email address given in the E.C. Handbook be deleted from any future publication and that individuals and clubs be advised through the Gazette and Centre Intelligence that this is not a valid email address for Geoff Brace.

Mr Deek said that his address published on the web-site was incorrect.

Mr Bannister advised the Board that Mrs Spurgeon had not been the Southend & DMCC Secretary for the past 2 years. This should be updated through the Gazette and Centre Intelligence.

Mr Nickerson spoke on behalf of Norwich & District SAMXC questioning whether youth competitors should be exempt from the Land Fund Levy. Mr Hay explained the reasons for the introduction of the levy and its availability to both youth and adult clubs. This was accepted. All Centre levies will be payable by both youth and adult competitors.

Mr Kenny spoke about a Rally for approximately 5000 Road Bikes to be held on 7th September in aid of Essex Air Ambulance. He said that they would value help in parking bikes at this event.

The question of a Scrutineers Seminar was raised; the Competitions Committee had suggested dates 29th March or 5th April. Mr Armes is making arrangements with Dick Sullivan. Technical Seminar for all disciplines subject to agreement.

The President, Mr Clampin, thanked Mrs Mellish and Mrs Bannister for providing the tea, biscuits and cakes.

Mr Clampin also thanked the Board for the donations to the two air ambulances from both the Eastern Centre and Eastern Centre Gazette.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 16.45 pm.