

**MINUTES OF 3rd ACU EASTERN COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> MAY 2017 AT BROME SWAN**

PRESENT:

Mr P Armes; Mr E Wass, Mr A Foskew; Mr C Cook; Mr A Penny; Mr R G Hearn; Mr A Hay;  
Mr C Ralph; Ms L Berwick.

1. Mr Armes opened the meeting. There were no apologies for absence.
2. **PREVIOUS MINUTES:** The minutes of the previous meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017 were approved as a true record. Proposed A Foskew, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr R G Hearn.

3. **MATTERS ARISING:**

P Armes – Stewards Meeting – this had been discussed at Board and it was agreed that it would be a good move to reinstate this. Preferred option would be an evening meeting.

Item 7 – Trials licences – R Snowden and N Ogden have now had their licences extended for one year.

A Foskew – reported that all 8 participants of the Grass Track seminar had passed.

A Foskew to let P Armes have the names.

C Cook – stop list. Mr Hearn reported that this had been discussed at Rugby at the NMC meeting. Rugby will send out the stop list with the permit paperwork. P Armes will also put a reminder in with the paperwork he sends out. Ms Berwick reminded those present that the stop list was updated regularly and may be out of date when paperwork was produced. Accepting no entries on the day would alleviate much of the problem

4. **LAND FUND:**

Mr Armes had produced a document stating options on the change of rules. This had been handed out to those present. An item to discuss this will be placed on the July Board agenda and any decisions made then to be formally adopted at the November AGM. Ms Berwick will circulate the document along with the Board papers and give a reminder to clubs that their feedback must be sent to July Board.

5. **PERMITS AND FIXTURES:**

P Armes circulated an up to date spreadsheet re permits issued. C Cook Trial 24<sup>th</sup> June Braintree will now be youth only (E class). Venue is Rotten End.

Two evening trials have been added Woodbridge & DMCC 17<sup>th</sup> June Westleton and 26<sup>th</sup> August at Blaxhall.

21<sup>st</sup> August Wattisfield – no EVO's, NGR Sidecars and all-comers.

P Armes had received a request for permit fees to be waived for a promotional event – agreed. Braintree requesting August 6<sup>th</sup> event could also have fees waived – agreed.

6. **STEWARDS REPORTS & APPOINTMENTS:**

Wakes Colne MX 16<sup>th</sup> April D Mills – good event well run. 2 accidents. New work area. Mr Hay had sent comments back to Rugby . He has been tasked with reviewing all mx stewards' reports as part of his remit on the MX Committee.

Grass Track 16.4.17 500cc Sidecar Assoc G Wilby well run event – no adverse comments.

Grass Track 23.4.17 Norwich New Stars G Wilby No adverse comments

Grass Track 29.4.17 G W Racing Needed straw bales paced near telegraph pole. Water bowser had broken therefore dust was an issue. Races reduced to 3 laps. Future events need slight adjustment to track layout.

Enduro 9.4.17 Sudbury J Hearn. Excellent event held on new ground part owned by S Finch. Mr Hearn reported that the land would be available for 2 years until it was developed. C Cook advised the meeting that since the event, following complaints of noise and dust, it had been agreed that no more events would take place there.

7. **MEDICAL PROVISION:**

A Foskew reported that there had been a problem with a meeting run by 500cc Assoc at Hylands when the booked medical cover failed to attend. Following a delay whilst the club tried to find cover, the did start albeit 2 1/2 hours behind schedule following the arrival of a paramedic. When the 'ambulance' that had been found arrived, it was a car. There was no stretcher available and Mr Foskew in the interests

of rider safety abandoned the meeting. The club had received confirmation of the booking and were in no way at fault. The club have either refunded spectator's entry fees or issued free tickets for the next event.

P Armes invited C Ralph to update the meeting on the present situation on medical cover, particularly ambulances, current legislation and to report on the information received from East of England Ambulance managers.

It had been confirmed that ambulance used to transport patients to hospital must hold a CQC registration. Ambulances hired in by organisers not holding this registration are not allowed by law to transport to hospital. There is no mention of this in the current ACU handbook and this has been flagged to the medical panel at Rugby. The handbook states the amount of ambulances required. Ms Berwick pointed out that ACU rules state that ambulances must be registered as such by the DVLA but that any vehicle can be registered as an ambulance. Therefore, following discussion, it was agreed that the ACU Eastern competitions committee would make all Eastern Clubs aware of the current legislation and advise of the need to take care when booking medical cover. The East of England Ambulance manager had made it clear that they would expect clubs to have the correct calibre of ambulances present therefore reducing the necessity of calling County ambulances out. They are monitoring the situation closely. He also made it clear that 999 calls would be responded to but unless a serious life threatening injury was reported, lower priority calls could result in a long wait.

#### 8. **SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**MX** -C Ralph. There had been two rounds of the ACU Eastern Championship to date. Both meetings had been successful and really enjoyable events. Both had run well and both meetings had attracted sufficient expert riders to allow them to run as a separate group. Mr Ralph circulated the current championship standings. Two riders have been upgraded to expert status, R Morter and A Holloway and both have opted to complete the championship in the junior class.

Meetings have been full within 24 hours of opening entries. This has caused some concern. Mr Hay reports that the championship seems to attract a good number of out of Centre riders. This will be monitored and discussed at mx subcommittee.

Grading – this was discussed. The mx subcommittee had tried a different approach to the awarding of expert points. Mr Ralph provided a comparison to the original and new system which has shown a large discrepancy. Following discussion, the competitions committee made the decision to revert to the original system. A set of rules regarding grading will be included in future ACU Eastern handbooks.

**Youth MX** – Championship dates have been confirmed as printed in the fixture list.

EASCC continue to apply for permits direct from Rugby which sometimes clash with local meetings and this can cause a problem.

Mr Hearn had attended Rugby for NMC meeting and had been advised by Mr D smith that he had concerns that MCF were targeting the Eastern Centre – noted.

**Trials** – C Cook. All progressing well. One issue that there are concerns that some riders are riding below their capabilities – to be discussed at Trials Forum.

Mr Ralph commented that at the recent Good Friday Trial at Blaxhall only 18 competitors contested the C Class group. Mr Cook responded that this was a good entry.

Mr Cook asked Mr Hay if he had any answer to his previous question regarding trials levies v basic permit fees as the trials subcommittee members were concerned that most of the Centre funding came from Trials entries. Mr Hay responded that he had not yet received the figures for 2016. Following discussion, Mr Armes and Mr Hay agreed to provide an answer to Mr Cook to take back to the trials committee. The possibility of looking at ways of increasing income from speed events were discussed. Note was taken that the supplement for over 90 riders has been scrapped.

Mr Penny asked the Secretary if she would send a reminder to clubs that youth riders competing in Trials were restricted to riding 125cc machines.

**Grass Track** – A Foskew: The Centre Championship round scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> July at Iken has been cancelled. Mr Foskew sought agreement to run on 30<sup>th</sup> September at Gosbeck (Saturday) by G W Racing. Mr Armes sought confirmation that subject to the improvements suggested following the first meeting at Gosbeck were met and that GW Racing were confident of a good entry, he would have no objection – agreed.

**Enduro:** Mr R G Hearn- all good. 2 Championship events held to date. J Morland currently the leader. Unfortunately, Jamie Roper was injured at Hawkedon and will be out for the rest of the season.

Sudbury ran a Hare and Hounds event which included a Youth race of 1 hour duration. Well received and may run a youth championship in 2018. One rider excluded for changing a wheel.

9. **Correspondence:** An email had been received from Mr C Smith, father of Dean Smith following an mx event at Mildenhall, expressing concern at the suitability of the venue and provision of medical services. Mr Armes read out the letter which had been copied to Mr Hearn and Ms Berwick also. Mr Hearn had responded to Mr Smith and advised him to contact Rugby as they had issued the permit and appointed the Steward. The TCC was in place and had been issued recently. Sonia Goggin (ACU Rugby) had written to A Hay and P Gammon asking for confirmation of the medical cover present. Mr Hay had advised Mrs. Goggins that Mrs. Grantham was secretary of the meeting on the day. As far as Mr Hay is aware, Ms Goggins has not yet received a response from Mrs. Grantham. It is not known if Mr G Garrod, Steward on the day, has been contacted. Mr Hearn agreed to update Mr Smith on the fact that the competitions committee are aware of the situation and have discussed as far as they are able the current situation.

An email has been received from Mr A Waters advising that police had issued a section 50 warning and seized two mx bikes at the weekend. This has been shared on social media.

10. E Wass – had heard a report on BBC Essex regarding mx bikes on private land. Although the landowner had given permission, the local council stopped it.

Mr Wass had also heard that a quad rider had been injured off roading. No further information at present. Mr Wass will try to find out more.

C Cook – requested assistance from the promotional budget towards advertising for the Stisted MX event. A Penny proposed that 50% of the cost be made 2<sup>nd</sup> C Ralph – agreed £115.00 be allocated from the budget.

A Hay – Mrs. D Blyth had spoken to him regarding entry refund suggesting that a percentage could be retained as an admin fee – to be discussed at ne mx subcommittee.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.15pm

**Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July at 7.45pm at Stanway Village Hall.**