

MINUTES OF 5th ACU EASTERN COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE MEETING of 2018 HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER AT GT BLAKENHAM PARISH ROOMS

Mr P Armes; Mr E Wass; Mr A Hay; Mr A Foskew; Mr C Cook; Mr C Ralph; Mr P Nash; Ms L Berwick.

1. Mr Armes opened the meeting. Apologies were accepted from Mr A Penny
2. **PREVIOUS MINUTES:** The minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 12th July were approved as a true record. Proposed C Ralph 2nd A Foskew.
3. **MATTERS ARISING:**

P Armes – track changes at Mildenhall – A Foskew reported that all the changes had now been made and that Geoff Brace had inspected the track and issued a new track certificate. Events have been run since the changes. The track is fractionally longer. C Bastick has been given advice from the track builder on the correct way to maintain the track.

D Dyer – P Armes had contacted Rugby following the accident at Wakes Colne expressing his concerns. He read out the letter to the committee. To date, he has received no response from Sonia Goggins. Mr Hay confirmed that this had been brought to the attention of the MX Committee at Rugby and is being investigated.

First Aid, following the last Board, the idea of training for Trials had been met with a lukewarm response. This will be discussed again at the November Board and the Trials Committee will meet prior to that and report back to the Board. There had been an accident at a recent trial but this had been dealt with successfully without medical cover on site.

Chatteris – Mr Ralph reported that he had made enquiries as to the suitability of the track – he had been advised that it would not be suitable for an Eastern Centre Championship round and that car parking also be difficult. Littleport still considering whether to run a round in 2019 at Mildenhall.

C Cook asked Ms Berwick to send a copy of the July minutes to C Dopson.
4. **PERMITS AND FIXTURES:**

Mr Armes circulated an up to date spreadsheet of permits issued. An extra Trial was run last Saturday at Lowestoft.

NSJMCC running a Trial on 23rd September.

Norwich New Stars date on 14th October will not be running.
5. **STEWARDS REPORTS AND APPOINTMENTS:**

Grasstrack – 12th August Andy Driver. One helmet confiscated. Air ambulance called in but patient taken to hospital by road. Has since been transferred to Addenbrookes Hospital where he remains at present.

Grasstrack 22nd July. Chris Cook. Practice needs to be run in class groups.

Enduro 15th July A Foskew. Two events run on one day. Adult – race duration reduced by one hour for health and safety reasons due to excessive heat. Recommendation for future events: Parc Ferme needs to be bigger to allow free access around the area. Environmental mats must be under all bikes.

Youth – well run event. Environmental mats must be used in future.

16th September Hare and Hounds. Chris Cook. Well run event – no adverse comments.

MX:

8th July WDMCC Blaxhall A Foskew. Last block not run due to dust. The club managed to keep dust down until that point. Water was taken round to marshals and umbrellas were used to protect riders in the waiting zone. Great effort on part of club.

22nd July Chippenham NSJMCC D Mills Two red flags. Two to hospital. One back injury – cleared ok at Hospital, One broken arm. Meeting ran to time. Good event. Thanks to all involved. Very hot day.

12th August Norwich Vikings. Lyng. Paul Grantham. No adverse comments. Event had to stop for a short while as two ambulance were out. One was delayed at Norwich and Norfolk for quite some time. Also, a short delay when the Paramedic had to deal with a horse rider who had been thrown from her horse in the lane. There was also an incident where a rider ended up high in a tree.

19th August. EASSC M Beadle Chippenham. No adverse comments.

9th September. Wakes Colne Halstead A Foskew. Low entry – especially NGR. Plans to modernize the circuit over the winter. Jumps had been changes following the last meeting. All changes been

marked on TCC. Following practice some work was done to take lips off the jump at the request of riders. A sighting lap was undertaken by each class following the lunch break. Waiting area had been moved from behind the start gates and the work area moved over. A child was taken to hospital following a fall from his bicycle. Overall the meeting ran well and club officials did a good job. An enjoyable day.

9th September. EASSC Chippenham. Peter Ingram. The marshal points do not fully correspond with the track plan. The club employed further marshals to aid visibility.

6. **SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Moto Cross:

C Ralph reported that 5 rounds had been run of the Centre Championship and an up to date position of point scorers was circulated.

Sponsorship – Mr Ralph has been trying to contact Paul Bickers but has received no response to date. PP Sports are interested in adding to sponsorship for the final round at Blaxhall on 30th September. PP Sports had also sponsored the last meeting at Lyng (EVO's and NGR classes). Champagne for the presentation will be paid for from the promotional budget.

Four riders have been promoted to expert status so far this year with another three to be upgraded on 1st January.

46 expert riders have scored points and 60 junior graded riders over the five rounds so far. PA suggested that when dates are agreed that expert riders are direct mailed so that they are aware.

Subcommittee has not met as it was agreed that a meeting would take place following the last round. Format for 2019 must be decided. P Armes offered to chair the meeting. He stated that in his opinion the decision should be made and presented to the committee. Mr Armes suggested that riders' opinions could be sought at Blaxhall but Mr Ralph and Mr Hay agreed that this has already been tried and that it would not achieve any more than the previous correspondence to riders had.

Mr Ralph advised the committee that Jake Nicholls had won the MX Nationals and Elliott Banks Browne had won the British Masters. Centre riders had been 1st, 2nd and third in the MX Nationals Youth: Ms Berwick had contacted Mrs Secker for an update but no reply had been received.

Trials:

C Cook sought confirmation of the agreement that Stewards could ride but not compete in Trials events and must show no number and not appear in any results. He was referred to the previous minutes.

Grasstrack:

Mr Foskew reported that the last GT event is due to take place on 29th September run by GW Racing. There is a bumper entry – 99 to date.

It has been a good season. British Championship round was good and the Youth Nationals run on 1st September at Huntingdon had been a brilliant day with 29 races.

Andy Driver seems to be a good addition as a Steward.

C Cook asked if there was going to be a Forum – A Foskew responded that there is not one planned. C Cook says there is an issue with a trophy being awarded to the wrong person and that the current rules are ambiguous. The rules say that the rules state that if there is more than one lineup, it goes on points and then a final. If only one lineup, it is decided on points. Because one rider has a DNF, the win was awarded to another rider and not the final winner. C Cook stated that the way the rules are applied need looking at. The actual awards are not handed out until February. Mr Foskew was asked to look into the matter and report back to the November competitions committee meeting.

Enduro: No report.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Ms Berwick reported that correspondence had been received as follows:

G Thompson – Centre Chairmen and secretaries meeting to be held at Rugby on 6th October. Mr Hearn and Ms Berwick are attending.

G Thompson – a reminder of the protocol dealing with concussion. Some organisers have not been following the correct procedure.

Press Release following a disciplinary hearing following an incident at the GEST Club MX on 8th July. A parent had assaulted the Clerk of the Course. The parent was banned from attending any ACU event in any capacity for 5 years. The youth competitor received a three-year ban, of which two and a half years was suspended. To clarify, on 8th January 2019 the licence will be reinstated on a probationary basis.

A £500 fine was also applied.

Pinhard Trophy – nominees are sought.

Seminars – Rugby are now trying to set dates for MX C of C and Tech seminars. Ms Berwick asked those present to let her know of anyone needing to renew or newcomers. She has circulated all clubs.

Dunmow – Ms Berwick has been informed that the future of the Dunmow Club is uncertain. There is to be a meeting to discuss this in November.

Affiliation Forms – have been circulated to all clubs.

Nominations for Board of Directors and Sporting Committees. These have been circulated to all delegates. J Sayer had been missed off. LB has contacted G Thompson and the error has been corrected.

8. DEVOLUTION OF MX SUB COMMITTEE AND UPDATE ON TRIALS DEVOLUTION

Trials – Mr Cook and Mr Nash stated that they felt that the Trials Devolution was working well and apart from a few differences of opinion between north/south of the Centre, they are happy with the way things have progressed.

One concern was the lack of Trials during the summer months which they will try to address. This will be discussed at the upcoming trials Forum. Need a more even spread of dates. Clash between Woodbridge and Ladies National Trial commented upon. This is due to a change of date and venue on behalf of the Chelmsford Club. G Brace had checked with Woodbridge and agreed that it would not affect them

Mr Ralph stated that the ACU Eastern MX Championship is one of the best in the country and that the committee had worked hard over that last 2/3 years and entries were now high.

Mr Armes pointed out that devolution would mean that it would not be just the championship issues but mx as a whole. It was agreed to try to engage Braintree Club now that Aaron Smith was involved and invite them to join the committee. It was agreed that youth mx needs more work.

Next meeting for mx subcommittee will be arranged for early October.

Following discussion, it was agreed that devolution would be held off for one more year and revisited.

Mr Hay commented that there is a MX Bank Account and wondered who would be responsible for decisions made on spending money. This would be a decision for the Board

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Armes informed those present that the forms for the dates meeting would be issued this week.

Mr and Mrs Hay will be on holiday from 5th to 12th August (to consider when dates are being set).

A Hay, his local Barclays Branch is closing leaving only one bank in Norwich. He would like to introduce electronic payments. This would be a Board decision. Mr Ames suggested that a letter is drafted to all clubs to seek opinion and feedback.

Mr Hay at present attends the bank approximately 60 times per year and thinks it is now time to make a change. Mr Hay will draft a letter giving an option for 2019 with a view to making payment online the preferred method in 2020.

Ms Berwick will place this on the agenda for the November Board.

Mr Hay sought verification for his decision to ban a rider from hiring a transponder at future events. George Gurney had hired a transponder at Lyng and failed to return it. Following several phone calls when he lied to Mrs Hay, Ms Berwick eventually retrieved it at Blaxhall Practice day. Since then, Mr Gurney had hired again from NSJMM and did exactly the same. When contacted by Mrs Hay, his attitude was unpleasant. Mr Hay has written to Mr Gurney informing him of his decision which was fully supported by the competitions committee. Woodbridge & DMCC have been informed as Mr Gurney is entered for 30th September.

Mr Wass read out an excerpt from an article regarding third party insurance which confirmed that at present it is only necessary when farm vehicles etc. are used on the public highway. VNUK not applied as yet.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00pm

Date and time of next meeting:

Wednesday 28th November at Walsham Le Willow FC commencing at 7.45pm