

**MINUTES OF 5th ACU EASTERN COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE MEETING OF 2019 HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18th September 2019 AT
GT BLAKENHAM PARISH ROOMS**

PRESENT: Mr A Penny: Mr J Hearn: Mr P Armes: Mr A Hay: Mr A Foskew: Mr C Cook: Mr C Ralph: Mrs L Ralph:
Mr A Wright: Mr P Nash:

1. Mr Armes opened the meeting. There were apologies for absence from Mr E Wass.
2. **PREVIOUS MINUTES:** The minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday July 24th 2019 held at Gt Blakenham Parish Rooms were approved as a true record. Proposed A Foskew 2nd J Hearn
3. **MATTERS ARISING:**
G/T Banners: Mr Armes had sourced a good quality product from Blizzard Pop-ups at a cost of £149 each. It was agreed to purchase 2 with a view to buying replacements for the other disciplines if the pop ups proved satisfactory.
Trial on 20th October may go ahead. D Cordle will keep the committee advised.
C Ralph – reported that no tutoring had been carried out at Blaxhall as yet.
4. **PERMITS AND FIXTURES:**
20th October Trial – Steward will be A Penny. Venue tba.
6th October, Halstead. No paperwork had been received from the Club therefore the regs. had not appeared in the Gazette. It transpired that the Sec of the Meeting had been on holiday and a miscommunication within the Club meant that no-one had actioned the regs. However, the event is open online. Discussion over whether the meeting complies with the Champion Conditions in the ACU Eastern Handbook. It clearly states that the regulations must be posted in the Gazette. The Club will be asked to provide the details and Mr Armes will place these in the October Gazette. Acknowledgement will be made of the error and the committee gave approval that the meeting will be held as a Centre Championship Round.
Mr Ralph advised the committee that Mr A Taylor will not be available to act as a Probationary Steward at Wakes Colne but will serve this early next year.
Mr Ralph also reported that The Woodbridge Trial on 27th October will now be held at Blaxhall due to difficulties with using Forestry Commission land.
J Hearn pointed out that the Diss Enduro on 24th November was not showing as cancelled on the spreadsheet and advised that 4 riders had been caught riding illegally within the last month. Section 59's were issued.
5. **STEWARDS REPORTS AND APPOINTMENTS:**
27th July – Diss Trial – J Hearn. Good event in very wet conditions.
14th July – Halstead MX – Richard Fitch Trophy Meeting – J Nickerson – Two C of C named. Secretary was on the course, should have been available in the office – had been told assistant sec was not very helpful.
1st September – Blaxhall ACU Eastern Centre Championship MX – P Grantham – an incident had occurred where racial and verbal abuse had been aimed at a 16-year-old rider following a race incident involving a lady rider. Mr Ralph reported that he had been called upon as a Club Steward together with the Clerk of the Course, ACU Steward and Race Secretary to deal with the matter following a disturbance in the pits. Having spoken to all parties concerned, Mr Ralph announced that if the perpetrator was identified, they would be sent home immediately and banned from attending any Woodbridge Club event in the future and the appropriate apologies made on behalf of the Club to the sponsors, whose family had been involved. That evening, the person concerned was identified as a Woodbridge Club member. ACU Rugby were informed the next day but as both families involved did not want the rider concerned to be banned, Rugby felt that all they could do was to write a stern letter to the person concerned. Mr Ralph reported that the Woodbridge Club, following the meeting this evening and the decision of the competitions committee on whether the Centre should take action, would be sending a letter to their club member removing his membership with immediate effect and banning him from any future Woodbridge Club events. Following a discussion, it was deemed that as Rugby, the permit issuing authority, were not taking action, that the Centre were unable to do so.
Mrs Ralph reported that a serious injury to Connor Hughes had been dealt with extremely well by the medical team. The rider insisted that he was fine and did not want to go to hospital. He was persuaded to go to Ipswich Hospital where he remained in intensive care for 4 days. He has since been discharged and is recovering from internal injuries and a collapsed lung.
8th September – 2 Man Enduro Stowmarket DMCC – Neil Sargent - Excellent event. Provisional results had been available on the day. Entries had been slow coming in but ultimately well supported event run by an experienced organising team supported well by other local clubs. Clear riders briefing had been held at 9.30am. Final Instructions were displayed on a notice board.
1st September – 2 Man Enduro and Youth Championship – Sudbury MCC – J Hearn. New venue, excellent event. Well marshalled by the Club. 120 adults, 10 Youth.
4th August, MX Norwich Vikings – Alan Foskew – very good meeting. Congratulations to the small band who put the event on. 15 races and finished in good time.
3rd July – Wednesday Eve MX Diss MCC – D Mills – good event completed by 8.30pm.
24th August – Grass Track G W Racing – A Foskew – Good meeting at a new venue, possibly will use again. George Wilby has had the offer of another venue in Norfolk.

6. **SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Moto Cross:

Mr Ralph reported that the Woodbridge Club ACU Eastern Championship round on 27th July had been called off due to extreme wet weather and had been re-run on 1st September and that the EASCC event that had caused a clash (see Item 7) had been moved to Chatteris but that had also been cancelled.

The August meeting at Lyng had been a great success (15 races)

August 11th – Sidecar Championship meeting at Wakes Colne where James Barker (solo rider) had sustained a serious back injury. A just giving page has been set up raising money (over £4000) for James and his family as he remains in hospital – currently at Stoke Mandeville. Woodbridge DMCC had held collections at their recent enduro and mx events. Mr Hearn reports that he has been told that James now has slight feeling in his legs and feet and that things are looking a lot more positive.

Diss MCC – Wattisfield Hall Sunday 22nd September – Junior Championship only – has attracted 172 riders. Mr Hay expressed concern that transponder hire might be close to the limit.

Mr Ralph said that one or two experts had grumbled but that he had spoken to several and explained the reason why the Diss Club, in liaison with the Competitions Committee, made the decision. Sponsors have been informed and are happy.

There will be a MX Sub-committee meeting on Wednesday 25th September to review the season to date and share ideas for 2020.

There has been an influx of new riders this year and it is looking possible that three more riders will be promoted to expert statuses from 1st January.

Two more meetings with Wakes Colne on 6th October and Lyng on 13th October. Mr Hay stated that to date only 6 experts had entered for 13th but the juniors were full.

A Wright stated that only 90 entries have been received so far for 6th October and expressed concern at the lack of entries. Mr Ralph stated that he knew that some riders deemed Wakes Colne dangerous. Mr Armes wondered if the Halstead Club had thought of hosting an open practice day which would gauge interest and would give a good indication of how many riders would be interested in riding there. Mr Wright will feed this back to the Halstead Committee.

Youth MX:

Ms Secker had provided Mr Ralph with the top three riders in each class for the Youth Championship which he has sent to ACU Eastern website and TMX.

N&JMCC seem to be doing well. Their last meeting attracted 71 adults and 54 Youth.

Trials:

Braintree Trial 1st September was a low scoring Trial, Mr Cook reported. 70 entries.

Wyomondham Trial only attracted 20 entries and the Castle Colchester Trial 29 entries.

Mr Armes asked if this was general issue with low numbers. Mr Nash responded that it could be down to certain venues or that Trials have become 'seasonal'. A Trials Forum is due to be held in November

Grasstrack:

Mr Foskew reported that GW Racing will be running one more meeting on 28th September at Gosbeck and that Mr Wilby has been given permission to use more of the land there meaning the track can be moved around. Mr Foskew also reported that there were possible plans for the 500cc Club to run a meeting in November. Mr Foskew reported on the winners and will provide Mrs Ralph with a full list.

Enduro:

Mr Hearn circulated a full list of the final positions and championship points. The new Rookie Cup will need a replica purchased and the Expert vets is a tie which cannot be separated. Lee Monger who as an out of Centre rider will receive a replica and Phil Roper will be awarded the Centre Trophy. Mr Hearn will upload all these details to the website following tonight's meeting.

Jake Roper, Clubman winner, won every round. He has competed at a couple events riding as an Expert and won those also. One to watch for the future. Jake will be contesting the British Championship next year.

7. **Report on a meeting with EASCC – A Hay**

Mr Armes gave a brief history of the lead up to this meeting being called and commented that in his opinion either he or Mr Hearn should have also been invited to attend. In fact, Mr Hearn, Chair, had no knowledge that a meeting had been called. The meeting that caused the clash was a Woodbridge Event on 27th July, as previously reported, the event was cancelled due to the weather. EASCC had also applied for a permit on 13th October which also clashes with a Centre Championship meeting at Lyng.

A meeting was held at Rugby on 2nd September attended by: Chris Warren, Andrew Hay, Tim Lightfoot, Jean Ingram, Peter Ingram, Karin Beadle and Sonia Goggin. Apologies had been received from Martin Beadle.

EASCC had wished to discuss the issue behind a permit being approved and then rejected following objections from ACU Eastern. The EASCC representatives found it difficult to understand the reasons given as they primarily run youth classes. It was stated that when EASCC came back to the ACU, they had been assured that they would not have to be embroiled in Centre politics and they registered as a Non-Territorial club. EASCC did mention that one club included a strong youth line-up in an event running on the same day as them, but they did not complain. Mr Hay emphasised that all the Centre require is a working relationship and avoidance of Centre Championship dates. EASCC stated that the Centre dates meeting was

too late in the year as they had to hire circuits and pay deposits. The EASCC stated that unless they have new people come forward, they will only be running one or two events in 2020 and they will be at Wakes Colne. Mrs Ingram agreed to liaise with My Hay over the next few months and Mr Beadle, Halstead Club Chairman, will be invited to attend the Centre dates meeting in November.

Mr Penny enquired as to whether the Centre supplied a Steward – the response was no, as the EASCC are Non-Territorial. Mr Armes commented on the reference to 'Centre politics' and stated that it was not that but that EASCC did not follow ACU procedure and had showed no respect to clubs operating within the Centre.

Mr Ralph also commented that there could be an issue over Marshals as EASCC offer £70 + fuel and that this had been seen to be advertised of Facebook.

Mr Hay stated that the meeting was meant to find a compromise for the future, but it had been made clear prior to the meeting that there would be no repeat of permits being refused to EASCC. Mr Hay also stated that Oct 13th will go ahead but that he did not think his entry would be compromised as it was already full in the junior class.

Mr Armes then outlined what could be the way forward but that the best option would probably be to set Centre dates and not be too concerned too much with EASCC dates. Mr Armes did state that he believed that the ACU had been disrespectful to the Centre by not inviting a representative other than Mr Hay and intimated that he would tender his resignation.

Mr Ralph commented that EASCC do not run primarily Youth meetings, as three groups of adults normally compete as well.

8. Devolvement of MX Sub Committee:

Mr Armes circulated a copy of a document that he had been sent by Mr Clive Dopson (co-written by A Hay) dated 2013, which was compiled when sub-committees were set up. The committee were tasked with updating this by mid – October to enable Mr Armes to draft a proposal for the November Board on the progression of devolvement.

Mr Hay flagged up that there ought to be a clause included for MX, as there is a financial implication due to MX generating income from transponder hire and that the MX committee ought to have a figure up to which they could spend without prior agreement from the Board.

9. CORRESPONDENCE:

Mrs Ralph had received a Press Release stating that permit fees were reducing from 2020 and that licence fees were being held at the same figure as per 2019.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

P Armes – date forms for 2020 will be sent out by the end of this week.

C Ralph – reported that the NGR was in danger of folding due to lack of numbers, some of which is due to riders not wishing to ride 'out of Centre'.

P Hubbard will ask at the mx subcommittee if a 'Vets' Class could be included in Centre Championship. C Ralph will report back at next meeting.

Mr Hay – raised the issue of the Numbers Scheme which has been charging £5 since its inception (+39p with PayPal costs). PayPal have now increased their charges which will mean that the three charities supported by the scheme, would receive less revenue. Mr Hay suggested that there could be an increase to £5.50, meaning we would lose 47p. A rise to £6 would give the charities £5.49. The competitions committee favour the rise to £6 and will await the outcome of a discussion at next week's MX subcommittee meeting.

C Cook – would like to hold Trials seminars, one in December and one in January. One for new officials on a Saturday afternoon from 2 to 5pm and one on a Wednesday evening for renewals. Mrs Ralph will find venues and liaise with Mr Cook over dates. She will circulate information to all clubs.

Mr Cook reports that Steve Brace would be willing to host a Technical seminar. Mrs Ralph will advise Rugby.

A Wright – reported that at a recent NSJMCC event a person was sent home for smoking 'weed'. A Foskew stated that in his opinion, the Centre should put in a Steward for Youth Championship events. C Ralph will speak to Mrs Secker and ask how she feels about this as historically, Rugby have always dealt with the Steward side of things. Mr Ralph will advise Mrs Secker of the proposed devolvement and ask if NSJMCC would engage with the new committee. Braintree would also be approached as they should be included in future discussions.

A Foskew – David Mills would like to take a Grass Track seminar for Clerk of the Course and Steward. Mr Armes stated that Norwich New Stars have people to put through as well.

Mr Foskew has only three trophies left to collect. Mrs Ralph reminded everyone to try to get their discipline trophies in.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55pm

Date and time of next meeting:

November 27th 2019 at Gt Blakenham Parish Rooms commencing at 7.45pm