

MINUTES OF 7th ACU EASTERN COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE MEETING of 2020 HELD ON WEDNESDAY
17TH FEBRUARY VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: Mr P Armes: Mr J Hearn: Mr A Penny: Mr. C Ralph: Mrs. L Ralph: Mr. A Hay: Mr. P Nash:
Mr C Dopson; Mr A Foskew

1. Mr Armes opened the meeting. Apologies from Mr A Wright were accepted.
Mr Armes acknowledged the recent loss of Eddie Wass. Eddie had been a competitions committee member and environmental officer for many years. Mr Armes requested that it was minuted that Mr Wass had been a valued member of ACU Eastern and the Braintree Club and would be sadly missed.
2. **Previous Minutes:** The minutes taken on 30th November had been circulated. These were agreed as a true record. Proposed J Hearn 2nd C Ralph.
3. **Matters Arising:**
The letter to Rugby would be discussed further down the Agenda.
A Hay – had been waiting to hear the response from Rugby before progressing with his work on the financial implications to the Centre regarding permit issue and additional levies.
J Hearn – good news had been received from the Forestry Commission who have agreed that motor sport may continue of Forestry Land.
4. **Permit Issue and date/calendar current status:**
Awaiting Government announcement of the easing of lockdown, therefore no events taking place.
There were two changes to the calendar – a request from Bury St Edmunds Club to change an Enduro date from 25th April to July 18th with the Trial moving to Saturday 17th July.
Chelmsford Trial at Corton on 17th July in the evening. C Dopson will speak to organisers involved to check that the clash will not have an effect.
C Ralph pointed out that there is a MX event at Wakes Colne on 18th, but as it was not a Centre Championship, it should not be a problem.
A Hay – advised the Committee that the Norwich Vikings British Championship date has changed to 16th May which was meant to be a Diss Mx Championship. He had spoken to the Diss Club who will switch and run on 9th May but that clashes with an Enduro Centre Championship Round. Mr Dopson stated that until the ACU had obtained confirmation that the British Championship would be deemed an ‘Elite’ event, nothing was confirmed to take place. Therefore, it is a wait and see. Should the events happen, MX and Enduro will have to go head-to-head.
P Armes confirmed that he expects the early events to be non-spectator which could have an impact on clubs running.
5. **To discuss the response from Rugby in answer to ACU Eastern’s questions:**
C Dopson: - Insurance increase from £3.50 to £4 is 14% - not 5% as Rugby states. This has not yet been answered by Rugby. P Armes will circulate a reply if and when one is received.
Precis of ACU Board Minutes - regarding the handing back issuing permits for Trials.
Answer: Permits are currently being issued from ACU House, but when restrictions ease, trials permits will again be issued by Centres and at the NC meeting it was agreed Centres can charge levies to their Centre affiliated Clubs that receive support from the Centre and would still receive the normal £50 kickback from basic permit events and the usual 3% for permits issued by a Centre. Mr Armes had queried the wording ‘Regional’ as this Centre only runs under Open Permits. Trials – C Dopson confirmed that all Championship events will be online in 2021 – and that ultimately disciplines may have to provide a small levy/charge across the board. C Ralph was very much against this proposal and pointed out that MX events already had the £50 kickback. Mr Ralph queried why the Centre could not access the money held in the Gazette Account rather than ask Clubs to pay further levies.
A Hay informed the Committee that there is a small amount being paid into the bank tomorrow from Rugby for Affiliations but that did not include any kickbacks.

The question of raising levies is a Board issue and this will be discussed in March. Mr Dopson said that the Trials Committee had agreed that they would be prepared to pay an amount as long as it was equitable across all disciplines but that if MX were not prepared to do so, they would have to review their decision. Steward Appointments: P Armes stated that Kirsty at Rugby deals with permits and advises Centre 48 hours before the permit is issued. At this point, if advised, Kirsty will be able to update the regs if a Steward has been appointed. A Board decision was made last year to say that the ACU will not pay Stewards expenses for basic permit events. However, if a Centre appoints a Steward, they will pay expenses if requires (Following discussion it was clarified that payment would be made by the organising club).

Following discussion, it was agreed that Centre Stewards should be appointed for all MX Championship events. J Hearn agreed that Enduro should do the same. Mr Ralph suggested that Clubs could be approached to see if they required a Steward for non-Championship events and given that choice.

P Nash would like to see Stewards appointed for Trials Championship events and A Foskew would like a Centre Steward at all Grass Track meetings.

Mr Dopson queried where the Stewards reports should be sent? It was agreed that reports should come to the Centre but that copies could be forwarded to Rugby if deemed necessary and as a courtesy.

Mr Armes has raised questions to Rugby regarding the future re-structuring but had not really received an answer apart from when this happened, local level knowledge would be important and would be brought into the study/review.

Mr Penny commented that he thought the make up of ACU Sports Committees would change with smaller numbers and that Centres will report back to just two people who would then report back to each team.

6. Any Other Business:

P Armes – had received a telephone call this morning from Mr Ray Booty who sits on the Rights of Way Committee at Essex County Council. He offered his services as Rights of Way Officer to the Centre. Mr Booty also belongs to TRF and was a colleague on the Council of Bob Drane. This would be a Board decision and will be placed on the Agenda for March. Mr Armes asked Mr Booty to send in a resume and request to be considered. Mr Booty also sits on the Local Access Forum.

A Foskew – Grass Track Championship has been moved to Monday 30th August due to a clash with another meeting.

P Nash – commented on the article in the local press regarding illegal riding and an assault on a landowner at Ramsden Heath. Mrs Ralph advised the committee that the riders concerned had been identified and that Rugby were aware and in contact with Essex Police.

Norfolk and Suffolk JMCC – their first meeting on March 7th has been cancelled.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8pm.

Next meeting – date and time to be confirmed.