

**MINUTES OF 1st ACU EASTERN COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE MEETING of 2021 HELD MONDAY**  
**29TH MARCH 2021 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 A Foskew; Mr M Beadle  
By Invitation: Mr C Dopson: Mr A Waters

1. Mr Armes opened the meeting. No apologies for absence had been received. Mr Beadle was welcomed to his first meeting as an elected member. Thanks were extended to C Dopson and A Waters for joining as guests for this session.

**2. Previous Minutes:**

It was agreed that the previous minutes were a true record. Proposed A Foskew; 2<sup>nd</sup> J Hearn.

**3. Matters Arising:**

Corton Trial – date had been confirmed and is on the calendar.

MX on 18<sup>th</sup> July at Wakes Colne and a Bury St Edmunds Enduro clash – not seen as a problem by both clubs.

Lyng British Championship – now changed to 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Over events have moved – to be discussed further on in the Agenda.

Ray Booty was duly elected at the recent Board and is now Rights of Way Officer.

Still no reply from Rugby re Mr Dopson's query re the 5% increase. CD thinks this should be pursued – PA to deal.

**4. Election of Competitions Committee Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary:**

P Armes was elected as Centre Chairman and would continue as Chair of the Competitions Committee but was concerned that as he held other posts, members might feel that someone else should be considered.

Mr Penny stated that a precedent had been set when Albert Carter had held both positions.

Mr Penny sought nominations – J Hearn proposed P Armes 2<sup>nd</sup> by C Ralph. P Armes accepted the nomination and there was a unanimous vote in favour.

P Armes retook the meeting: Mrs L Ralph accepted the nomination as Secretary – all in favour.

Vice Chair – Mr Penny accepted the nomination – all in favour.

**5. Permits issued and any amendments to fixtures:**

All permits are still being issued from Rugby until 1<sup>st</sup> May when Centres can begin issuing Premier Permits for events from June onwards. Braintree have already put in for their permit for June 13<sup>th</sup> – B Class Championship

The calendar on the website has been updated as of today.

PA stated that the Centre is reliant on information from Kirsty at Rugby keeping us informed of applications. There is an alert sent which gives 48 hours for a Centre response.

PA commented that it is Clubs who fail to keep the Centre permit officer updated: Sudbury have yet to inform of the change of venue. PA will be sending the Sudbury Club an email.

PA is aware that new personnel may be in place and they need reminding of procedures.

Good Friday sees the first event being held, the Trial at Blaxhall hosted by WDMCC Ltd (Steward E Hood) and a MX Practice day on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, also at Blaxhall hosted by WDMCC Ltd.

PA confirmed that as soon as the permit and regs are up online, clubs can open their entry up. The three week in advance rule appears to have been dropped.

Mr Penny has the permit for National Rally which is in July.

A Waters is thinking of running a two-man enduro on October 17<sup>th</sup> but is concerned that the illegal riding which has been happening, may impinge on landowner's agreement.

**6. 2021 Calendar and Centre Championships:**

MX: CR reported that to date only one round of the ECC MX has had to change dates from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> May. The MX Committee has been advised as have the sponsors. It will clash with MX Nationals at Fat Cat but there is no other suitable date although with the new format, it is not so critical to have experts as it will be the fastest 40 riders contesting the championship races. There have been one or two grumbings by a few riders. CR is concerned that after listening to Gareth Hockey of RHL that there may be yet more changes to come later in the year.

Trials:

Mr Dopson reported that they are short of rounds for some of the classes. Experts and Pre 70s are OK. It is hoped that as organisers become more confident when restrictions ease, that they may agree to host more rounds.

Enduro: JH reported that Enduros should all be OK to run but is mindful that things could still change.

Grasstrack: AF reported that GW Racing is hosting a one-day championship on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> August at Iken.

**7. Initial 2021 Events – organiser/club support from Centre and the way forward:**

PA sought feedback from clubs running the initial events and if there was anything the Centre could do to support them

Those that are to run all seem happy and have not expressed concerns.

N&SJMCC Trials section are a bit worried, but as yet have not sought any help.

NSJMM MX section are all good. LR checked with Donna Secker that all is well. Donna has confirmed that Forestry England are happy for them to proceed as they NSJMCC are lease holders.

**8. Stewards: To agree a Centre Policy for the requirement of Stewards.**

PA, is aware of the fact that ACU Rugby will no longer appoint Stewards on events under National level. PA would like the appointment of Stewards to be a Centre Ruling but is mindful that MX and Trials are devolved.

Mr Armes had sought feedback and it was apparent that there was not a general consensus.

PA asked all present for their opinions, preferences and at the end of this, it was clear that a general rule would not be possible. Those that took part in the discussion held mixed views but all agreed that Safety Officers and Clerks of the Course were, or should be, experienced and that the role of Stewards may no longer be so relevant.

PA will put together a proposal (per discipline) which will be circulated prior to the next meeting. AW will clarify the position on the training of Centre Safety Officers.

As a point of interest, it was disclosed that RHL for the British Championship will have an Incident Officer and organisers will be asked to appoint a Safety Officer.

**9. Levies – to open a debate re Centre Policy regarding levies with a view to presenting a report to the Board:**

The scenario has become much changed since the introduction of Basic permits, and insurance kickbacks etc.

All basic permits do not generate levies to the Centre.

Diss now only use Premier Permits for events on Forestry land but run Club events on basic permits.

Trials are the only discipline who generate Centre levies. The levy for Trials was reduced to 75p per rider after the Trials Committee had raised the question of their percentage of contribution as opposed to the other disciplines.

Mr Dopson had produced a comprehensive spread sheet which showed the comparisons between the disciplines.

CD precis as follows:

It was explained to the Trials committee, there is currently a Comps Committee discussion about centre funding, with less permits being issued by centre, to ensure equal contribution for each discipline and sufficient centre budget. The secretary explained, based on his calculations, that using the 2019 data supplied by the Treasurer, the contribution per rider/event to ACUE was:

1. Grass Track £1.70 (total £120.49),
2. Enduro £ 1.33 (total £1462.54),
3. Trials £1.29 (total £3889.94),
4. MX £0.43 (total £1281.92).

It is expected that most Enduro events will move to Basic permits so for Enduros the future contribution per ride/event for Enduros will approximate to MX, with the reduction of income to ACUE. Note spreadsheet shared with Comps Committee Chairman and ACUE Treasurer before Trials Committee call to check financial logic for ACU HQ and ACUE issued permits.

**The Trials Committee, via the Comps Committee, requests that a method of funding ACUE is proposed that equalises contribution per rider/event across disciplines for introduction for 2022 budget. If the MX level of contribution per rider/event is decided to be acceptable then this can be approximately achieved for Premier permits by either reducing the Centre Levy to zero or by all permits being issued by ACU HQ.**

**10. Gazette – to open a debate re future of the Gazette with a view to presenting a report to the Centre Board:**

A discussion was instigated by PA to gauge the feeling of those present regarding the future of the Gazette. Mr Armes had managed to change a rule during lockdown which meant he was able to publish regs; without a permit number being issued due to the situation at that time where Rugby would not issue permits until three weeks before an event. The Gazette had been filled with more articles and photographs during the lockdown when there were no events running.

It was debated whether we still need a paper Gazette or if it should be online only. Whether it could be bi-monthly or quarterly; what the cost would be;

PA will be seeking feedback on this over the next two months. Again, there were varying opinions by those present.

Whatever the outcome, a timeline would be needed in order for Clubs to consider the cost of their memberships as some charge different levels for with or without a Gazette.

JH will email a document to PA with some questions and suggestions.

CR reported that bucking the trend of less Gazettes being purchased, Woodbridge's figures have increased.

#### **11. Sub Committee Reports:**

MX: CR reported that the first two MX events at Wakes Colne and Blaxhall will be non-spectator events. Halstead meeting filled up in six minutes and credit is due to Halstead for running the first event.

Youth MX: CR reported that Donna Secker had confirmed that all is on track to run their first event (NSJMCC)

Trials: PN reported that the Trials Committee were trying to find some more Clubs to host B Class events.

Southend Club are not running any Trials at present (PA asked to be informed which events are not going to run).

Mr Nash stated that he may have to run his events under AMCA rules as the landowner where he holds his events is very insistent on riders being able to enter on the day and that with ACU Championship events, he must use the ACU online system.

Grasstrack: AF reported that GW Racing intends to now run three events with the Championship on 30<sup>th</sup> August.

No news yet if the 500cc will be running any events.

Southend intend to run the Donut on 15<sup>th</sup> August.

Classic GT are also intending to run three events.

Enduro: JH reported that there has been a venue change for the first two-man event to accommodate the large entry – moving to Foxborough.

#### **12. Correspondence:**

LR briefly reported on the Organised Motor Sport Events letter which had been circulated to all Local Authorities in the UK and was a joint statement by ACU and Motorsport UK. Within that document there was a paragraph advising organisers to contact HSE and Police. It was pointed out that these agencies were part of Safety Advisory Groups and similar and therefore would not need to be contacted individually. Mr Armes reminded those present that he had prepared a definitive list of Local Authorities and contacts last year and that this is available on the Centre website.

It is also apparent that some Clubs have never informed their Local Authorities in the past and did now need to build a relationship. Mr Armes is more than happy to assist clubs if needed.

#### **13. Any Other Business:**

MX – AH advised the committee that for Clubs hosting a MX event with no spectators, the MX committee have agreed to fund the timing costs from the sale of transponders while the situation continues. He had carried out a financial exercise and it will be self-funding

Mr Armes commented that in his opinion, the ACU had performed well under trying circumstances and Mr Dopson agreed that the information sent to Centres had been useful.

AW reported on the information that he had received that 11 bikes and one quad had been seized at Kings Meadow, Bury by Police and several fines issued. He also reported that there had been more illegal riding at Rushford at the weekend.

Mr Hearn advised that this story (Kings Meadow) had been reported on three consecutive news bulletins on Radio Suffolk this afternoon.

There being no further business, Mr Armes thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 20.50pm.

Next meeting – date and time to be confirmed.

#### **Neil Doctors reply to P Armes: re the 5% and Safety Officers:**

**Apologies, I thought I responded to your previous email and the insurance costs?**

**We try and keep the insurance matrix as simple as possible, keeping the figures at a round number. Although many insurance rates went up by a minimum of 5%, unfortunately in some cases, the figure represent a higher increase, as we have rounded numbers up for ease. It is noted that the Trials rate went up from £3.50 to £4.00 and this would be taken into consideration if there was any further increase to the matrix.**

**As you correctly say, the Safety Officer is a requirement for our Forestry Commission Events, but there is no current plan to make this happen in our other disciplines. The role of a Steward was discussed last year and is something that all race committees discuss/review regularly, but there are no immediate threat of the Steward role being made redundant any time soon.**