

**MINUTES OF 3rd ACU EASTERN COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE MEETING of 2022 HELD 26th May HELD AT
GT BLAKENHAM PARISH ROOMS**

PRESENT: Mr. P Armes: Mr. J Hearn: Mr. C Ralph: Mrs. L Ralph: Mr P Nash: Mr. A Foskew;
Mr. A Wright: Mr. G Muff: Mr. A Penny: Mr. M Beadle; Mr C Keeble; Mr C Cook

1. Mr. Armes opened the meeting. Apologies were accepted from Mr A Hay.
Mr Armes advised the meeting that as he had previously stated at the last Board that he felt that it was not correct for one person to hold multiple posts and that he intended to step down as Competitions Committee Chair with immediate effect. Mr Armes also announced that at the November Board, he will be standing down from all his current posts. He will continue with those posts until the 2022 AGM.
2. **To approve the previous minutes:**
The minutes of the 2nd meeting held on 31st March were confirmed as a true record. Proposed A Foskew.
2nd A Penny
3. **Matters Arising:**
Permit end times – P Armes did follow this up and the matter was discussed at the recent National Management Council. The outcome will be published in due course.
Mr Armes did point out that permits may be applied for a good time in advance which would cover work up to and clearing up from events during the season. Concern was raised regarding working on tracks through the winter when events were not running. The difficulty in obtaining liability cover for clubs had proved very difficult but had been resolved via Sports Insure. The premiums reflect the difficulty to find cover.
Trials – the issue of Experts dropping the first lap had been minuted – this was brought in 5 years ago but was left to Clubs to decide if they implemented the rule. Ipswich MCC are the only club who do it – Paul Nash will bring this up again at the next Trials Committee. P Armes reminded those present that the Trials Committee are devolved and as such should resolve this issue themselves. However, he did offer to assist in any way he could to bring about a satisfactory outcome.
4. **Permits issues and any amendments to fixtures.:**
Mr Armes had circulated an up-to-date fixture list prior to the meeting and commented that all changes were now made in real time directly to the website.
Castle Colchester is running an ‘electric machine only’ Trial on 26th June at Pebmarsh.
C Cook commented that there is a clash on 29th May between Ipswich MCC and Lowestoft. Mr Armes explained that there had been a discussion and agreement reached between Mr Cordle and Mr Greengrass. The Lowestoft Trial was being held for novices and beginners only at a new venue and Ipswich are running an A Class Championship event.
Mr Armes advised that the June Gazette is going to print over the coming weekend.
5. **Stewards Reports:**
14 & 15th May 2022 The Bracey Weekender Grass Track incorporating Gary Jackson Youth Trophy 500 Sidecar Assoc Kings Farm Writtle Steward Alan Foskew: Saturday a delay as both ambulances had to leave the circuit. Spectators were kept informed. A good event. Congratulations to the organisers. No adverse comments.
Mr Foskew reported that there had been a meeting prior to the event with all officials.
The 500cc Sidecar Club have plans in place to run more events and have approached the Centre Facilities Fund for financial assistance to further their vision. A meeting of the ACUE Facilities Fund is to be held in the very near future.
8th May Solo Enduro Championship Round Foxborough Steward Neil Sargent. No adverse comments. A well-run excellent event.
Mr Nash reported that at a recent Southern Club Trial, one sidecar had taken part.
Mr Muff reported that there had been a MX event 15th May at Diss and that he had seen the Stewards report and that there were no adverse comments. Mr Muff was asked to remind clubs to send a copy of Stewards reports to the Competitions Committee Secretary.
6. **Sub Committee Reports**
MX:
Mr Muff reported that the Wattisfield event on 15th May had run well and that the commentator, Stefan Hicks had coped well but at present he has only committed to ECC rounds.

Mr A Waters had sent a race report via C Ralph to TMX. The website also has the report. The new commentator had been present and had done a good job and had used live timing to keep spectators advised on times during qualifying.

Mr Armes reported that Paul Shorter from PP Sports, one of the championship sponsors, had been much happier following Round 2.

Mr Beadle reported that the Richard Fitch event on 1st May had gone well and that Mr and Mrs Fitch had been happy with the heats and grand final schedule.

Norwich Viking MCC hosted the Revo MXGB on Sunday 8th May and Woodbridge host the championship on 19th June at Blaxhall.

Mr Armes reported that all sponsors had been very pleased with the passes that they have received. Stebbings have provided more banners.

Youth MX:

Nothing to report.

Trials:

Mr Nash reported that there had been a Trial held by Southern which attracted one sidecar team.

Grasstrack:

Mr Foskew reported that one meeting had been held. A Grass Track Marshals seminar had been held on the 14th May and that all present were now licenced for a further three years.

Mr Armes commented that he was not receiving any paperwork for gras track meetings at all.

Enduro:

Mr Hearn reported that all was going well with good entries. Luke Parker is currently leading the Solo Championship. Mrs Hearn has retired as Enduro Secretary after 30 years and Miss Deb Harvey has now been appointed. There has been a collection ongoing for Vera over the last few months and a good amount has been achieved. She will be given vouchers for her photography hobby.

Mr Hearn advised that he had been unable to appoint a Steward for Hadham on 12th June. The Sudbury Club will be advised.

P Armes commented that Sudbury had much improved with the paperwork issue.

Mr Armes also commented that it appears that Castle Colchester now has some new officials in place.

7. Correspondence:

Mrs Ralph had circulated all that she had received prior to the meeting.

8. Any Other Business:

Mr Armes reported on the Sport 80 proposal which had been circulated prior to the meeting. It is a Club Management System which the ACU are offering at no cost to all clubs in the Country whereby club websites would be linked to the ACU site. There are webinars being held for anyone interested. Clubs need to register an interest and a link will be sent. Mr C Keeble had attended a webinar last evening (only attended by around 15 people) but was not convinced that what Sport 80 is proposing is suitable for motorcycle clubs and that they had grasped the basics. How it would work in practice is not obvious. Mr Armes will put the link on the Centre website and ask Mr Sewter to send out an alert to all signed up Centre members.

Membership codes were brought up and Mr Keeble suggested that Mr Doctor could not answer how this would be administered. Mr Keeble was also concerned about Sports 80's knowledge of the online entry system. It is also evident that many Centres no longer have members to administrate their business and it is possible that ACUE could be pushed into the proposed system.

Mr Muff commented that most ACUE clubs advertise their event on their own Facebook page and that FB is privately owned which brings up issues of privacy. He believes that there is still a need for club websites. The need for local knowledge and liaison for date setting etc. would still need to be dealt with locally as a central body would not have that information in Mr Armes' opinion.

Mr Armes commented that Paul Sewter had attempted to set a similar system up for ACUE several years ago but only one club took it up.

Mrs Ralph – the date of the next meeting may have to be changed. It is her son's wedding day. Tba

Mr Ralph – expressed thanks to Alex Wright for taking the grass track trophies off his hands. Mr Wright will attempt to present them at an upcoming G/T meeting.

Mr Ralph reported that one of the Centre's mx riders, Ryan Gardiner, has sustained life changing injuries at a mx meeting at Landrake. There is a donation site available via RidetoRecovery.

Mr Ralph asked if there was any information on the date for the Centenary celebration. Mr Penny responded that a meeting was yet to be convened.

Mr C Keeble – asked if there would be seminars for licence renewals for C of C and Stewards. Mr Armes advised that these are triggered by Rugby. Mr Keeble had waited 132 days to attend a seminar and then

64 days to receive a licence, Mrs Ralph explained that due to Covid, things had been very difficult with seminars being organised and then cancelled multiple times. Hopefully now all covid restrictions have been removed, and online seminars are available, things should be much improved.

Mileage for officials – it has been agreed that the 45p per mile will be implemented with immediate effect. Mrs Ralph had liaised with Mr Hay, Centre Treasurer, and this has been disseminated to all clubs.

Mr Keeble asked why secretary of the meetings addresses were not published in Supplementary Regs. Mr Armes responded that GDPR prevented this for online entries and only events with paper entries had that information. Online entries have email and telephone numbers. In the event of a protest, address could be requested.

P Nash – demo permit has been issued by ACU Rugby – Mr Nash asked if there is a budget to pay for this. Advised to speak to Mr Hay.

G Muff – the MX Committee have agreed to carry on holding their committee meetings via Zoom. Mr Muff would like to purchase a Zoom account – advised to speak to Mr Hay regarding funds from MX account. To also request fund to purchase a tablet for the mx commentator.

Concern that Mr and Mrs Hay have announced that they will be retiring from the timing at the end of 2023. Mr Muff will seek to publicise the need for someone to take over.

It was pointed out that G Brace had received a Centre Pass with the incorrect name on. Mr Armes was aware and this has been resolved.

Mr Armes advised the committee that Officials contact on the website have been updated – names and email addresses.

There being no further business, Mr. Armes thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 21.30pm.

Date and venue of the next meeting: To be advised.