

2022
February



ACU EASTERN GAZETTE



Volume 62
No. 2



REGULATIONS IN THIS ISSUE

Date	Club/Promoter	Type	Status	Venue	Pages
March 6th	Norwich Viking MCC	Trial	OPEN	North Walsham	5
March 13th	Southend & DMCC	Trial	OPEN	Poles Wood	13
March 20th	Wymondham & DMCC	Trial	OPEN	Blackborough End	14
March 27th	Littleport MC & LCC	MX	OPEN	Chatteris	18

www.easternacu.org

2022 OFFICIALS OF ACU EASTERN



President:

Alan Penny 'Culross', Hadleigh Road, Elmsett, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP7 6ND
Tel: 01473 658768 e-mail: alanpenny@btinternet.com

Life Vice President: Albert Brace Jack Hearn

Honorary Life Vice President: Roy Bannister

Vice Presidents:

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Geoff Brace	Sidge Kenny	Vera Hearn	Margaret Mellish

Chairman:

Phil Armes 10 Tremaine Close, Hellesdon, Norwich, Norfolk, NR6 5EL
Tel: 01603 487061 e-mail: chairman@easternacu.org

Vice Chairman:

Alan Foskew 9 Ebenezer Close, Witham, Essex, CM8 2HX
Tel: 01376 517169 e-mail: alanfoskew29@btinternet.com

Treasurer:

Andrew Hay 27, Tizzick Close, Three Score, Norwich, NR5 9HB.
Tel: 01603 734700 e-mail: andrew.hay10@btinternet.com

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Tel: 01603 487061 e-mail: permits@easternacu.org

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Tel: 01449 721042. e-mail: jackhverah7@gmail.com

ACU Eastern Competitions Committee

(The President, Chairman, Vice Chairmen, Secretary & Treasurer are ex-officio members)

Chairman: P. Armes

10 Tremaine Close, Hellesdon, Norwich, Norfolk, NR6 5EL Tel: 01603 487061
e-mail: permits@easternacu.org

Other Elected Members:- Charlie Ralph, Alex Wright, Chris Cook, Martin Beadle

Sport Committee Chairmen

Motocross – Graham Muff *Enduro* – Jack Hearn
Trials – Paul Nash *Grass Track* – Alan Foskew

ACU Eastern Gazette

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Tel:- 01502 563566
e-mail: rjg@rongg58.plus.com

ACU Eastern Web Site

www.easternacu.org

Results, Events Calendar, News, and more



100 years old – who would have believed it?!! That's the Centre not me, although the goings on over the last 18 months or so have certainly made me feel like a Centenarian. As you will see from the cover, and Sidje Kenny's excellent Rec-Sec the Eastern Centre (ACU

Eastern as we are now) has been in existence since 1922 and I think that is something to shout out about – and perhaps enjoy a little, or maybe large, celebration. At the next Centre board meeting on March 24th we will be discussing how best to mark this fantastic milestone so please make every effort to come along and put in your two penneth; or failing that get in touch with me via the email chairman@easternacu.org with any ideas you have.

And while on the subject of celebrations, just a quick reminder that the Centre awards function has been moved back a month to March 19th, but will still be held at Needham Market Community Centre, commencing at 7.30pm. Tickets are available for the remarkably modest price of £10, although if you have been clever enough to win an award you are entitled to a free ticket... please contact the Centre secretary Lyn Ralph to book your tickets; secretary@easternacu.org

From the above two paragraphs you will notice there a couple of new email addresses for Centre officials. It is the intention to roll out a few more as we go forward so that we have consistency in our communications over the coming years, and that succession of people in certain positions doesn't require changing all the contact details. Further to this initiative, a new agreement has been established with online ticketing company Eventbrite so that Centre clubs can offer advance ticket (admission) sales for any of their events. Initially this will cover four of the seven Centre motocross championship rounds, the MXGB round at Lyng, and the British Sidecarcross/Quad championship round at Wakes Colne.

As you will see in this issue the Centre motocross championship has gained some valuable sponsorship for the 2022 season, and I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to Anthony Skerry of Stebbings Car Superstore for continuing his support of motocross within the Centre, and say a huge welcome to Paul Shorter of PP Sports Insurance who have agreed to joint title sponsorship of the seven round series. Next month, prior to the opening round I should be able to bring you news of another sponsor, which goes to show how well respected our centre events are, and how proud the organisers should be of the standard of events that they put on.

And finally, but very importantly please can all riders and 'team' personnel make a special effort to take a deep breath before berating the officials at any given event when things don't quite run to plan. They are all volunteers and they give of their time so that we can ALL enjoy our motorcycle sport – and without them we wouldn't be riding at all. Let's see if we can get through 2022 with a big smile and a lot of friendly banter – just like in 1922, but without the shirt and tie!!!!!!!!!!!!

Foreword

Phil Armes



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Norwich Viking MCC

Open Permit Trial

Sunday March 6th 2022

Open Trial

Hazelwood Meadows, NR28 9NA

National Grid Reference: TG291284

Permit No.: ACU 62622

Sign On: 09.00am

Start: 10.30am

OFFICIALS

ACU Eastern Steward:	tbc
Club Steward(s):	Jamie Douglas & Graeme Huxtable
Clerk of the Course:	Barbara Douglas (<i>Licence 70441</i>)
Child Protection P.o.C.:	Barbara Douglas
Secretary of the Meeting:	Barbara Douglas <i>Tel: 01603 871811 email: barbara.douglas@hotmail.co.uk</i>
Start / Finish:	Hazelwood Meadows, Yarmouth Rd, North Walsham NR28 9NA
Course:	5 laps of 8 sections
Routes:	Red/Blue, 50/50; White; Beginners
Classes:	Inter A, Inter B, Twinshock, Pre-70, Novice, Beginners, Youth A, B, C, D, E
Awards:	None

JURISDICTION

Held under the NSC and the Standing Trials Regulations of the ACU and ACU EASTERN, these Supplementary Regulations and any Final Instructions which will have the force of these Regulations. Open to Adult & Youth members of the ACU riding solo, or sidecar, machines.

ENTRIES

Entry for this event is via the ACU online entry system - Go To <https://members.acu.org.uk> LOGIN or REGISTER then go to 'Search for an Event'; find the event and follow process to enter. Entry fee £18.00 Adult solo, Youth solo £15.00, Sidecar £25.00

Entries Open: February 14th 2022

Entries Close: March 4th 2022

Online Entry Only No Entries On the Day

All Entrants, Riders or Passengers must be prepared to produce their current Licence/
Trials Registration when signing on, N.S.C.7.11

ENVIRONMENTAL MATS - USE THEM or you may lose your ride

Recollection Section

Sidge Kenny

This year marks the centenary of the Eastern Centre – or region as it is now.

As archivist I have to admit that I have nothing in my wealth of records and paperwork to certify this - the documentation up to the late 1930's is very sketchy indeed - but the ACU handbook for 1924 – which I do have - contains a report from the Eastern Centre which speaks of a successful “second year in existence” (1923) and the maths are fairly elementary to draw the conclusion that this year does indeed see our, “ton-up.”

Compared to today's ACU Handbook with 500 pages packed with regulations, rules, codes of conduct and procedures, the 1924 version was a slim booklet, costing 3/6d (17.5p) and was of just 111 pages with hardly any reference to the sport. This is because the ACU's function was seen quite differently in those days. Its main purpose was to serve all motorcyclists and at that time, the vast majority were road riders. Accordingly, much space is devoted to roads, maps, and touring. This included hotels, and camping sites. Some of these retreats would exhibit: “ACU” signs to indicate they were pleased to receive motorcycle riders – possibly at a discount. “Lighting up” times, which were much more important then, were given for the various parts of the country. There was also a legal section, dealing with road classifications, the then new road warning signs and advice on what to do in the case of an accident. “Rules of the Road” were laid out to be read and absorbed.

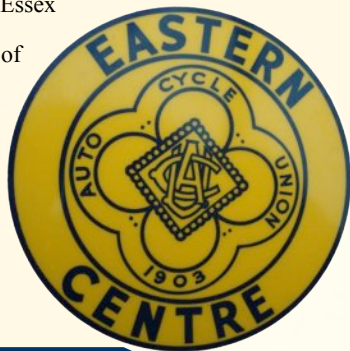


George Dance, East Harling speed trials 1923

The ACU of 1924 was controlled by a “General Committee” - rather than our present-day Board of Directors. It contained no less than three Lieutenant-Generals, a Brigadier-General, a General, a Vicar, a Professor, and two Knights one of whom was the President. Its offices were in Pall Mall, London, at the same address as the RAC and the ACU was then - as it is now - the smaller associate. I would love to know how much the rent was for those offices and what proportion the ACU had to pay.

Seventeen Centres (We have 20 nowadays, including Scotland) sent delegates to meetings and with the last Centre (the Southern) to affiliate, the entire country was covered. The first two representatives from the Eastern Centre were: Mr E.J. Bass and Mr J.L. Brooks – unfortunately I have no knowledge of which clubs they came from. In 1924, there were 270 motorcycle clubs in the whole country.

The specific report on the Eastern Centre in 1924 shows its second year of operations (1923) was a busy one and the numbers of clubs duly affiliated, rose from 13 to 14. Three clubs actually joined that year but two others disbanded, as happens from time to time. The largest club in membership numbers was Ipswich & District MCC and at the time the Centre Board meetings were also held there. Notable clubs operating and affiliated in that period were:- Southend Auto Club, Dalston MCC, Ilford and District MCC, Bury St Edmunds and District MCC, Wymondham Motor Club and Diss and District MCC. Several motorcycle clubs were also “Light Car” clubs. Essex had two – one, the “Essex County Auto Club” and the other, simply: “The Essex Motor Club”. Oddly, the Cambridge and County Motor Club was included in this Centre, rather than the South Midland. At the end of 1923, the Centre contained over five hundred members and was growing fast. The wackiest club name of all, must surely be the “Pelly Wheelers C and M.C.” and my suspicion is that it was originally a bicycle club. I have no idea where it was based but I think that title alone is a rare historical indication that before the “motor” in “motorcycle”, there had to be the “cycle” and that it all developed from the pedal pushers. Truly, we are indeed an: “Auto-Cycle Union”
– most of the time.



From the family

"With sadness, to let you all know, that Steve Brace passed away peacefully after a short battle with cancer. He will be greatly missed."

Steve rode Grasstrack for a while in the eighties and was also an accomplished Trials rider. He was on the Dunmow Motorcycle Committee and was Vice Chairman.

The technical aspects of the sport of motorcycling became his main interest and he rose from a Restricted to a National Technical Official.

He was elected to the Track Racing Committee and specialised in the technical area, rewriting and updating the technical rules.



More recently he was asked to join the FIM as a technical director, the Speedway Control Board also recruited him to take on technical duties in the sport of Speedway and he became part of the technical team at the Cardiff GP.

He was a larger than life character and always approached his duties with a smile and attempted to help riders solve any technical problems found during technical inspection, he will be sadly missed by the many that knew him.

He leaves a wife and a son, and in the last few days before his death he became a proud grandfather for the first time.

RIP Steve

mpm

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New Title Sponsors Confirmed

Building on the success of their highly competitive and popular Centre motocross championship, ACU Eastern are pleased to be able to confirm Stebbings Car Superstore and PP Sports Insurance as joint title sponsors for the 2022 season.

Graham Muff, chairman of the Centre Motocross Committee said, "As an active rider in the ACU Eastern Centre Motocross Championship and now incoming Motocross Committee Chairman for 2022, I have seen first-hand over the years how much the support of our Championship sponsors helps the organising clubs in the successful running of the series, while gaining valuable exposure to the hundreds of riders throughout the Eastern Centre and beyond.

We are indebted to Stebbings Car Superstore for their continuing support of motocross in the Eastern Centre and delighted to welcome PP Sports Insurance as a Centre Championship sponsor. With hopefully a full season of racing ahead in 2022 it will be fantastic to work with our sponsors over the coming months in delivering a championship everyone can be proud of."

The Stebbings Car Superstore and PP Sports Insurance ACU Eastern Centre Motocross Championships for 2022 will feature seven rounds as follows:

- Round 1 10th April, Wakes Colne
- Round 2 15th May, Wattisfield
- Round 3 26th June, Lyng
- Round 4 24th July, Blaxhall
- Round 5 21st August, Blaxhall
- Round 6 4th September, Wakes Colne
- Round 7 9th October, Lyng

For any further information please contact Graham Muff (email: motocross@easternacu.org)

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Circuits in the Eastern Centre

Charlie Ralph

I have recently thought back to all of the motocross/scramble venues in the Eastern region that I can recall during my lifetime, and have listed an amazing 49 !

It is possible that I have forgotten one or two, (old age is my excuse), so maybe readers of the gazette may well add to the list. I know that Dave Orbell and others did an exercise on the subject a year or two ago, and it made interesting reading, so I hope that my notes on these circuits brings back memories for older followers of the sport, and indeed, enlighten younger people of the many clubs that hosted these events over the past 70 odd years.

Starting at the northern end of the Eastern Centre, Cadders Hill at Lyng is the first port of call. Fortunately, the Norwich Viking club is still putting on meetings each year at one of the UK's premier circuits, and Val and Andrew Hay have taken over the mantle of the legend that was Dennis Slaughter. Apart from Centre meetings, the busy club hosts National Championships, and in the past have run Inter Centre meetings, and Dennis fulfilled his dream in running a World 125cc Grand Prix back in the day.

Sculthorpe was another Norfolk venue, as well as Grimes Farm out on the Norfolk coast, where, I believe, the host club was the Stalham Saints. Dave Cordle tells me that he won his first junior final there, but I must admit that I never visited either of these circuits. I remember going to the one off meeting at Snetterton, which was hosted by the Norfolk and Suffolk Combine. I recall that the late Colin Armes arranged this, along with help from Dennis. Colin, of course, was very much involved with the road race scene, and they sorted out the track which included what was called a bombhole.

Not far from Snetterton of course, is Hockham, the home of the Norfolk and Suffolk junior club. Originally started by fathers who had retired from the sport, the club has seen many a young rider progressing to National status, and the legend , Dave Bickers, and many others were involved in running meetings in the early days.

Although technically, the Littleport club is situated in Cambridgeshire, which comes under the South Midland Centre, The club affiliated to the Eastern Centre back in the early 1980,s I believe. Despite

only a handful of people involved, the club still soldiers on, and have plans to stage events at Buttercup farm, Chatteris this year. They have used many venues over the years, including Old Bank Littleport, Stoke Ferry, Beck Row, Mepal, West Dereham, Chippenham and Mildenhall. Beck Row on the outskirts of Mildenhall was used for quite a few years, and I recall my good friend, Kiwi Ivan Miller and Stuart Nunn battling it out on several occasions. My memory takes me back to when I was around 14 years old, and I travelled to Old Bank Littleport with Peter Mitchell, who had just purchased a new Greeves. (Peter's son, Mark, went on to twice win the Eastern title). The final race of the day was an 8 lap handicap race, and Peter led every lap, but was passed by the late great Brian Stonebridge on the final corner. Peter had great delight in telling everyone that he had nearly beaten one of the all time greats, but I had not the heart to remind him that Stonebridge had given him a lap start!

Younger readers will be amazed to learn that there were at least 27 circuits that I can recall in the county of Suffolk over a 70 year span. Hopefully, with the editors permission, I will continue in the next edition. *(Permission granted! Ed)*



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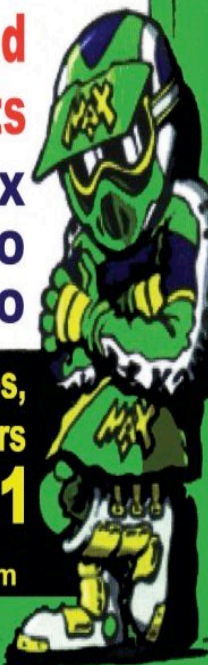


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Southend & DMCC

Open Permit Trial

Sunday March 13th 2022

Open Trial inc B Class Championship

Poles Wood, CM14 0LA

National Grid Reference: TQ 561995

Permit No.: ACU 62624

Sign On: 9.00am

Start: 10.30am

OFFICIALS

ACU Eastern Steward:	A Foskew
Club Steward(s):	Martin Cross
Clerk of the Course:	P Nash (<i>Licence 39376</i>)
Child Protection P.o.C.:	P Nash
Secretary of the Meeting:	Julia Nash 33 Cherry Orchard, Southminster, Essex CM0 7HE <i>Tel: 07947 215648 or 07498 850838 email: nap148@aol.com</i>
Start / Finish:	Poles Wood, Kelvedon Hatch, Essex CM14 5TL
Course:	Wood & Sand Pit
Routes:	Yellow; Red/Blue; White; Beginners
Classes:	B Class Championship; Also - Expert, expert B, Inter, Inter B, Beginners & Wobblers, Youth A - E
Awards:	None

JURISDICTION

Held under the NSC and the Standing Trials Regulations of the ACU and ACU EASTERN, these Supplementary Regulations and any Final Instructions which will have the force of these Regulations. Open to Adult & Youth members of the ACU riding solo and sidecar machines.

ENTRIES

Entry for this event is via the ACU online entry system - Go To <https://members.acu.org.uk> LOGIN or REGISTER then go to 'Search for an Event'; find the event and follow process to enter. As an option, entries may be made on the OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM and sent to the Secretary of the Meeting with a fee of £20.00 adult solo, £25.00 sidecar, £15.00 youth. Cheques to be made payable to Southend & DMCC Ltd

Entries Open: February 14th 2022

Entries Close: March 11th 2022

Entries Accepted on the Day - non championship classes

All Entrants, Riders or Passengers must be prepared to produce their current Licence/ Trials Registration when signing on, N.S.C.7.11

ENVIRONMENTAL MATS - USE THEM or you may lose your ride

Event to be run in line with current Covid-19 guidelines



**Wymondham &
DMCC**

Open Permit Trial

Sunday 20th March 2022

Roger Sivyer Trial inc Class B Championship

Blackborough End, PE32 1NG

National Grid Reference: TF 682159

Permit No.: ACU 62626

Sign On: 9.30am

Start: 10.30am

OFFICIALS

ACU Eastern Steward:	tbc
Club Steward(s):	R Ayres
Clerk of the Course:	P Yarham (<i>Licence 10873</i>)
Child Protection P.o.C.:	P Yarham
Secretary of the Meeting:	P Yarham 44 Sandy Lane, Fakenham, Norfolk NR21 9EZ <i>Tel: 01328 862413 email: yarham44@hotmail.com</i>
Start / Finish:	Middleton Aggregates, Blackborough End, King's Lynn Norfolk PE32 1NG
Course:	Sand & Stone Pit
Routes:	Red/Blue, 50/50; White
Classes:	Expert, Inter, Inter B, Pre-70, Novice, Twinshock A, B, C, Youth A,B,C
Awards:	None

JURISDICTION

Held under the NSC and the Standing Trials Regulations of the ACU and ACU EASTERN, these Supplementary Regulations and any Final Instructions which will have the force of these Regulations. Open to Adult & Youth members of the ACU riding solo machines.

ENTRIES

Entry for this event is via the ACU online entry system - Go To <https://members.acu.org.uk> LOGIN or REGISTER then go to 'Search for an Event'; find the event and follow process to enter. Entry fee £18.00 Adult, Youth £18.00

Entries Open: February 15th 2022

Entries Close: 17th March 2022

No Entries on the Day

All Entrants, Riders or Passengers must be prepared to produce their current Licence/
Trials Registration when signing on, N.S.C.7.11

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Motocross Reserved Number Scheme

Non-reserved numbers available from 4th February

Any numbers not renewed by 31st January have now been made available on a first come, first served basis. To ride in an ACU Eastern electronically timed meeting you MUST have a reserved number. There were about 700 numbers sold in each of the last 4 years so if you want a specific number, reserve it as soon as possible.

You can reserve a new number from 4th February at www.easternacu.org

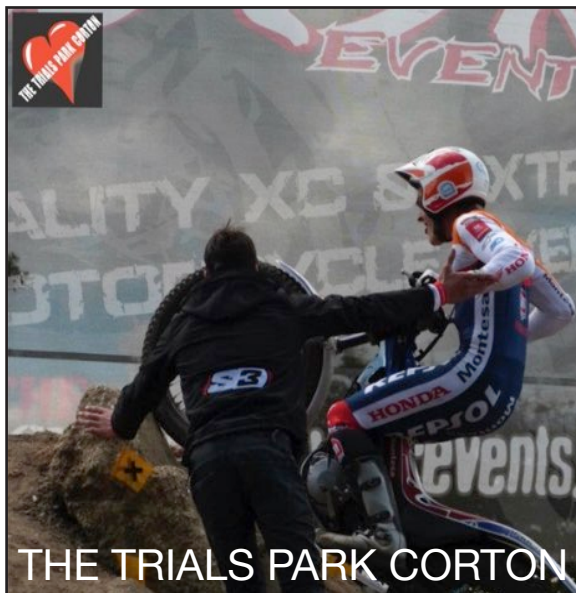
The cost of reserving your number for 2022 remains unchanged at £5.50 per season. This ensures that the chosen charities (East Anglian Air Ambulance, Essex Air Ambulance & ACU Benevolent Fund) receive just over £5 per transaction.

Numbers 1 – 50 are kept for experts only. Number 1 is reserved for the Centre Champion.

Since its introduction this scheme has enabled the ACU Eastern, on behalf of riders, to make donations of more than £30,000 to the chosen charities.

EXPERT NATIONAL / BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP RIDERS ONLY

Any expert graded rider who is registered for an ACU National Motocross Championship may, where able to do so, purchase their registered number - even if it has already been purchased by a junior graded rider. If you wish to take up this option, please contact the reserved number co-ordinator direct: 07766 904655 – DO NOT attempt to do it online. The timing system will correctly calculate championship points and positions where riders compete in separate classes (expert / junior)



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Littleport MC & LCC

Open Permit Motocross

Sunday March 27th 2022

Open Motocross including NGR Championship

Chatteris, PE16 6TA

National Grid Reference: TL381856

Permit No.: ACU 62372

Sign On: 8.00am

Practice: 9.30am

Start: 11.00am

OFFICIALS

ACU Eastern Steward: John Nickerson
Club Steward(s): Tom Molloy & Phil Gammon
Clerk of the Course: Paul Grantham (*Licence 9938*)
Child Protection P.O.C.: Jane Grantham
Secretary of the Meeting: Val Hay
27 Tizzizk Close, Norwich NR5 9HB
Tel: 07900 691827 email: valerie.hay@btinternet.com
Start / Finish: Buttercup Farm, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire, PE16 6TA
Classes: Allcomers, NGR

JURISDICTION

Held under the NSC and the Standing Motocross Regulations of the ACU and ACU EASTERN, these Supplementary Regulations and any Final Instructions which will have the force of these Regulations. Open to Adult members of the ACU riding solo machines.

ENTRIES

Entry for this event is via the ACU online entry system -
Go To <https://members.acu.org.uk> LOGIN or REGISTER then go to 'Search for an Event'; find the event and follow process to enter. Entry fee £57.00

Entries Open: 21st February 2022

Entries Close: 21st March 2022

Late Entries + £10.00. No Entries on the day

All Entrants, Riders or Passengers must be prepared to produce their current Licence/
Trials Registration when signing on, N.S.C.7.11

ENVIRONMENTAL MATS - USE THEM or you may lose your ride

The insurance cover for this event will be BASIC (limit of liability £10m) and Medical Malpractice insurance (limit of liability £5m) is included. There is NO Personal Accident Insurance for Competitors. Competitors are therefore strongly recommended to purchase such Cover - which is available through the Locktons website (www.locktomotorsport.com) or the ACU website (www.acu.org.uk)

What's on



Date	Club	Discipline	Status	Venue	Championship
6 Feb 22	Castle (Colchester) MCC	Trial	National	Pebmarsh	
13 Feb 22	Southend & DMCC	Trial	OPEN	Poles Wood	ACU Eastern 'D' Class R1
20 Feb 22	Essex & Suffolk Border	Trial	OPEN	Tattingstone	Norfolk & Suffolk Group
27 Feb 22	Eastern Fourstroke Assoc.	Trial	Restr.- club	Raydon Pit	
27 Feb 22	Diss MCC	Enduro	OPEN	Santon	ACU Eastern Enduro Champs R1
6 Mar 22	Norwich Viking MCC	Trial	OPEN	North Walsham	Norfolk & Suffolk Group
6 Mar 22	N&S Junior MC	Motocross	OPEN	Gt Hockham	ACU Eastern Youth MX Champs
13 Mar 22	Sudbury MCC	Enduro	OPEN	Foxborough	ACU Eastern Enduro Champs R2
13 Mar 22	Southend & DMCC	Trial	OPEN	Poles Wood	ACU Eastern 'B' Class R1
20 Mar 22	Wymondham & DMCC	Trial	OPEN	Middleton	ACU Eastern 'B' Class R2
24 Mar 22	ACU Eastern	Committee	n/a	Zoom 7.30pm	Board Meeting
26 Mar 22	Woodbridge & DMCC	Motocross	Practice	Blaxhall	
27 Mar 22	Eastern Four Stroke Assoc.	Trial	Restr.- club	Chattisham	
27 Mar 22	Littleport MC	Motocross	Open	Chatteris	NGR
31 Mar 22	ACU Eastern	Committee	n/a	Zoom 7.30pm	Competitions Committee

NOTE: All dates are provisional, and subject to change, in consideration of government guidelines and subsequent ACU advice re Covid 19 restrictions. Always check events are still on before travelling at www.easternacu.org.

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