

**Minutes of the 2nd Competitions Committee Meeting held on
Wednesday 18th February 2015 held at Gt Blakenham Parish Rooms**

Present:

P Armes; M Deeks; C Ralph; A Foskew; J Hearn; Ms L Berwick; A Deeks; A Hay; E Wass

Apologies were received from: C Dopson; A Penny; D Smith; G Brace

1. Mr Armes opened the meeting and welcomed all present and received apologies from the above.

2. Previous Minutes:

The minutes were accepted as a true record, proposed M Deeks 2nd A Foskew.

3. Matters Arising:

Item 5 – D Smith not yet been able to update the rules. Will do for next meeting.

Item 8 - App for timekeepers. New app is coming but will not be compatible with the Eastern Centre system

Grasstrack – now moved to 4th May Eastern Centre Championship (Monday meeting)

12th July, Inter Centre Enduro Team event – no decision made as yet regarding Team Manager.

AF – has returned the Grasstrack Trophy to Rugby.

4/5. Permits issued and amendments made to Fixtures:

Mr Armes circulated a spreadsheet up to end of May. Permits are now coming in for events. J Hearn had a telephone call from David Mills regarding steward's appointments at Gt Hockham Mr Mills was replaced by M Secker last evening. Comment made that Steward appointment was for a member of the Club running the event. P Armes will investigate.

Stewards appointments for Trials to be sought from Mr Dopson.

A Foskew – had been appointed to officiate at Trial on March 8th but had not been informed.

Confirm Grasstrack date move to 4th May.

MX – K Doherty appointed 2nd Probationary Stewards position on 10th May. C Ralph will speak to Kieron and G Garrod after the event to evaluate.

6. Sub Committee Reports:

MX – C Ralph

Mr Ralph reported that at the MX Forum in February the committee was selected from the 6 organising clubs. Mr Ralph was elected as Chair with Mr Hay elected as vice chair. A rider's representative was elected – Mr Stuart King. Details of the members of the committee and contact details have been sent to the website and will be in the next edition of the Gazette.

There were only 2 riders present. A sub committee meeting has been organised for 2nd March where it is intended to fix the dates for the rest of the year, including a Forum date. Mr Ralph intends to invite event secretaries to one of the sub committee meetings along with representatives from the Norfolk and Suffolk Club. Mr Ralph also hopes to be able to attend one or two youth meetings.

Youth Prizewinners invited to the presentation evening. All but one attended.

1st MX meeting of the season is at Blaxhall on 29th March.

Trials – Mr Dopson sent his apologies by telephone, he was stuck in traffic. He will email a copy of his report for circulation as soon as possible.

Grass Track – A Foskew

AF will try to send Steward to Norwich new Stars event on 28th February. Mr Armes said he would like to see if there is anyone willing to give the club some assistance.

P Armes has risk assessment and other paperwork for grasstrack events.

Enduro – J Hearn:

1st round of ECC this coming Sunday 22nd February. Large entry with riders coming from all over the country.

A Deeks stated that riders seem to like the Centre venues and thinks there is scope to run bigger meetings. He has spoken to the Forestry Commission who seemed favourable.

C Ralph asked if there was a possibility for clubs to amalgamate to run bigger events, for example, Inter Centre Team event or similar. Mr Hearn will discuss with Enduro Committee.

7. To discuss the extension of official's licences

There are four officials whose Clerk of the Course/Stewards Licences expired on 31st December 2014. Mr Brooks, Mr Huxtable and Mr and Mrs Douglas. Mr Hay asked if they could be allowed to extend the licences. P Armes to contact Rugby.

MX Technical Seminar – now arranged for Saturday March 7th at Blaxhall commencing at 10am.

Mr Wass commented that the list of Stewards published in the Eastern Centre Handbook was incorrect. Mr Armes replied that the names had been obtained from the current list held at Rugby.

Discussion was made regarding the approval of the Centre for licensing official's seminars. Ms Berwick stated that there is a space on the application form to attend seminars for the Centre Secretary to sign on behalf of the Centre. With Rugby now taking the lead role in organising seminars, the paperwork often bypasses the Centre Secretary.

8.To discuss a proposal from R Blyth regarding the Eastern Centre Moto Cross Championship.

Prior to discussion, Mr Armes commented that he was fully supportive of backing for Centre Championship across all disciplines/ and advised those present of the necessity of keeping discussions confidential. He had received an email from Rugby expressing concerns over the proposal as it was seen to be part of Mr Blyth's duties within his role of PR and that this is due to be discussed at Board (Rugby) this week.

With that in mind, it was decided to discuss the proposal as a basis of what could be used by the Centre.

The following comments were made;

1. Facebook Page – Mr Hay agrees that a Facebook page could be beneficial if administered correctly. The page would need to be monitored constantly and this may need to be the remit of more than one person.
2. The option to set up an Eastern Centre Championship page. This was discussed and the consensus was that as we have a centre Website, it would not be necessary but that a link to a separate page concerning the Championship could be used.
3. Produce and circulate a championship fixture list – the decision was that rather than a leaflet for the whole series, leaflets for individual rounds would be more appropriate.
4. During the season – ongoing promotion via posters and leaflets was discussed. The feeling was that Clubs should be pro-active on this but that road signage could play a part. Mr Hay explained that he did get approval from the Board to place a budget aside for promotion. Mr A Deeks suggested that it could be useful to advertise in the Sporting Motorcyclist.
5. Preview each meeting via local press. This was looked upon as very useful with. P Armes has a directory of contacts for local newspapers.
6. Photography services – photos to be made available with copyright free for website.
7. Would need a measuring tool to determine whether the promotion had an effect of attendance figures.
8. Promotion at Suffolk and Norfolk Show – impractical due to cost.

Further comments re promotion:

E Wass recalled a Farm Day involving local landowners – could this be resurrected?

P Armes – had been in contact with Brian Hemmings from MSA. Mr Wass and Mr Armes are to meet with Mr Hemmings to strengthen relationship and see if the Eastern Centre could link up with the three and four wheels spots clubs.

A Deeks – Arena Trials etc need to be funded by the Centre using advertising trailers etc.

Suggestion of a 'bike night' where bikers could be invited and advised of upcoming events.

9. Correspondence – None

10. Any Other Business:

J Hearn thanked everyone for the help received at the Centre Awards evening the previous Saturday. Thanks to Lyn Berwick, Vera Hearn, David Mills and Liz Weavers. Ms Berwick will write to thank Southside MX and Besthorpe for donating raffle prizes.

E Wass – asked if there had been any feedback following the Go Sport day at Snetterton – none as yet.

E Wass – has written out 24 centre passes (cut back from 42 last year). Only Senior Centre Officials, Competition Committee members and Timing Team have been allocated passes.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

THURSDAY 26TH MARCH 2015 AT STANWAY VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.45PM