

**Minutes of the 4th Competitions Committee Meeting held on
Wednesday 22nd April 2015 held at Gt Blakenham Parish Rooms**

Present:

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

Apologies: None

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 A Foskew 2nd J Hearn.

3. Matters Arising:

Mr Armes had contacted Roy Bannister and asked him to send Gazettes only to Stewards whose name appeared in the current Gazette.

Eastern Centre Championships: re Mr Penny's suggestion that an advertisement to encourage help be placed in race programmes – All but one club has the race programme produced by the same printer – Mr Armes will speak to clubs to see if he can come to an arrangement for a Centre advertisement to be included.

Rights of Way Officer in Norfolk/Suffolk – not yet contacted Mr Waters – will do so.

Concussion: - re the handling of concussion cases and an indemnity to be included on signing on forms – this was discussed at the recent Board meeting – awaiting final instructions following a meeting of the medical panel.

Updating of Centre Rules – Mr Armes will take on this task.

JH – amend the word take to talk under item 8.

Braintree Club re date setting – Mr Armes will discuss with Mr Dopson.

Mr Dopson – re whether stewards could be allowed to ride in non-championship class if appointed steward – clearly set down in the handbook that this is not allowed.

Mr Dopson gave a counter proposal that the Centre could appoint someone who is not a 'steward' but under a different title. In this case, someone there as an 'auditor' could provide a report. There is no definite need for stewards to be present at all meetings – M Deeks stated that in that case the clerk of the course should prepare a report for the Centre.

Mr Penny asked the question as to why it seems difficult to find someone to commit to being a steward. Mr Dopson stated that people are simply not volunteering.

C Ralph asked if it was deemed more important for championship rounds to have an appointed steward – reply was that it would be more likely for issues to occur at a championship round.

C Dopson will consider what could be done to alleviate this problem and will report back.

Mr Foskew offered his services as a steward if he is available.

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

Mr Armes circulated an up to date spreadsheet of permits issued.

He has received two requests, one for additions and one for alteration:

Woodbridge would like to put on two Saturday evening trials on 25th July and 22nd August and Braintree would like to move their trial from 20th June to 27th June.

Agreed by all present.

Steward's Reports:

Trial 14.2.15	Lowestoft Invaders	P Fenn	No adverse comments
Trial 28.12.14	Woodbridge	A Foskew	No adverse comments
Trial 7.12.14	Lowestoft Invaders	J Read	Good trial under adverse weather conditions
Trial 24.11.14	EFA	D Smith	Good trial under adverse weather conditions
Trial 16.11.14	Southend	A Foskew	No adverse comments
Trial 2.11.14	Woodbridge	J Hearn	No adverse comments
Enduro 22.3.15	Woodbridge	J Hearn	Excellent well run event.
Enduro 22.2.15	Diss	J Hearn	Excellent well run event
MX 29.3.15	Woodbridge	P Grantham	No adverse comments
MX 12.3.15	Halstead	J Blyth	Large bales had been put in place along part the track 3 metre x 1 metre. Mr Blyth was told this was to prevent course cutting. Had riders fallen they would be have been unsighted by Marshals. Mr Blyth asked for them to be dragged away and advised the club that chestnut fencing was more appropriate. Agreed by competitions committee to advise the stewards of the next meeting at Halstead of this report to ensure that bales were not used in this way. Will be discussed at next mx sub-committee.

6. Sub Committee Reports:

Moto Cross C Ralph.

Mr Ralph reported that Halstead had run the first round of the ECC MX Championships where there had been a large entry. It had been a good meeting. A siting lap had been requested via the rider's rep and this was tried. As there were 15 races. This had taken 50 minutes (one siting lap per group only). Meeting of the members of the sub committee present at the event had concluded that as the track had not changed to any degree all day, a siting lap was not really necessary. There are 200 riders booked in for Blaxhall next week, and there will not be time for a siting lap there. Mr Armes suggested that the trial of this and how it affects the meeting be fed back to the riders.

Current standings are available on the Eastern Centre website.

Mr Ralph had thanked John Chambers for his sponsorship of the holeshot award. A holeshot sign has been made and will be taken to each round.

Mr Chambers asked for Chambers Roofing (not John) to be included in the programmes.

Mr Ralph thanked Mr Hay for putting on a good British Championship meeting at Lyng – superb event.

Next MX sub committee meeting due on 2nd July at Walsham le Willows FC. Event secretaries and riders rep will be invited.

Nothing to report on youth mx apart from it is the first round of the EC Youth Championship this coming Sunday.

Mr Hay asked if the order of practice at the Lyng Meeting on 17th May for safety reasons. My Hay stated that the expert riders would create better lines. My Hay also explained that if he did this, he would need to change to whole race order for the day. After discussion, it was decided to withdraw his request and run the event as per the handbook. Race order etc will be placed on the agenda for the next subcommittee meeting.

Trials

Mr Dopson reported that since the last competitions committee meeting there had been 2 A class, 2 C class and 1 B class meetings and that overall entries are up.

No intermediate B at Raydon.

Norwich moved their Trial to Corton and accepted entries on the day. 60-70 riders turned up therefore there were not enough sections.

The Trials Committee will discuss closing dates.

Norwich Vikings are at the Game and Country Fare and the Norfolk Showground with a stand.

Mr Armes enquired why the Centre has so many Trials, often two on the same day? Mr Dopson stated that in 2015, all requests for dates were accepted but the Trials Committee will discuss how many and how they are selected for 2016 (based on feedback)

Grass Track

Mr Foskew reported that the 500cc Club had decided not to run the 350cc class on 4th May. There is a committee meeting (500 Club) tomorrow evening where this will be discussed. Mr Foskew will advise Mr Armes of the outcome.

GT sub committee meeting is to be held also on 4th May.

Enduro

Mr Hearn provided a list of current point standings in the various championships.

Mr Hearn has heard no further information regarding the illegal riding in Thetford Forest.

Mr Hearn reported that all stewards' appointments have been made for the year with the exception of one date.

No Inter Centre Team Manager confirmed as yet but he also reported that no paperwork concerning the event has been received from Rugby.

7. To discuss vacancies on the competitions committee.

At present there are three vacancies for 'elected members'. Mr Armes questioned whether it was now necessary to have ten elected members especially as devolution was ongoing. Mr Armes also questioned whether it would be beneficial for sub committee Chairpersons to be part of the competitions committee by virtue of their sub committee roles.

Mr Armes proposed that the 4 sub committee chairs be part of the competitions committee (elected or not) and that there should be six elected members (3 alternate years). This was agreed by all. To be placed on the agenda for July Board. Place on agenda for next competitions meeting.

8. To discuss the frequency of competitions committee meeting:

C Ralph proposed that the competitions meetings be reduced to bi-monthly face to face meetings.

Mr Dopson stated that in these days of technology it would be acceptable for members to stay in contact via email and conference calls.

Mr Dopson also suggested that in terms of fairness and in order to encourage more people to apply to come into organisation, that the meetings be split to two each in Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex and that the current format of alternate Wednesdays and Thursdays was kept.

After due discussion Mr Armes proposed that:

For 2016 competition committee meetings be held bi-monthly

For 2016 the meetings take place in Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex (two each).

This was agreed unanimously.

Mr Dopson suggested that provision be made to set guidelines for the way the meetings are organised.

Mr Dopson also discussed what would make it more attractive to encourage more people to want to serve on committees in relation to Board and Committee meetings and improve the image of the sport and the organisational side.

Mr Armes questioned whether the competitions committee should take the lead in encouraging attendance. It was agreed that a PR exercise should start now in order to encourage a better attendance for the AGM in November. Mr Wass questioned whether a training officer would be of use.

9. To discuss a proposed document re promotion of the ECC Championships.

Mr Armes had started to look at this but had discovered the need to discuss this further before proceeding.

The question was raised as to whether all four disciplines would benefit from promotion – and it was agreed that it would be better to start with one discipline – Moto Cross as two disciplines are speed events and two are not. Also the fact that some have paying public and some do not. Once some work has been done, a similar framework could be adapted for other disciplines in the future. Item to be placed on next agenda for review.

10. Any Other Business

Mr Armes read out some of the statements from the Medical Panel minutes that had been received and will follow up the concussion issue with Rugby. ACU now provide a Doctor and Paramedic at each Maxxis round in an advisory role.

Mention was also made that the medical panel had found that the level of medical cover stated in the ACU Handbook was considered adequate.

Mr Deeks stated that the rules only dictate what we supply for racing but cover should also apply for the paying public (as per purple book).

It was pointed out that organisers are only required to comply with the ACU Handbook.

Mr Foskew had been steward at the recent Trail Cross event run by the Sudbury Club which had been run under a moto cross permit. Mr Foskew was concerned, as there had been several breaches of rules such as lack of marshal points and the track being narrowed to accommodate the lap scorers. However, the event ran well.

There had been a discussion among the Sudbury Club members that would like to see a set of rules to comply with for such future events.

Mr Armes had been concerned as well and had issued to permit as last year and had searched the ACU handbook for guidance. It appears that the event could have been issued with an enduro/cross country permit, which may have been more suitable. Mr Armes asked Mr Hearn if he would liaise with Sudbury Club to see if their event could be formulated to fit the enduro/cross country permit.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.15pm

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY May 14th at STANWAY VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.45PM