

**MINUTES OF 2nd ACU EASTERN COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE MEETING of 2019 HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20th MARCH 2019 AT
GT BLAKENHAM PARISH ROOMS**

PRESENT: Mr A Penny; Mr P Armes; Mr J Hearn; Mr E Wass; Mr A Hay; Mr A Foskew; Mr C Cook; Mr C Ralph;
Mr P Nash; Mrs L Ralph; Mr A Wright

1. Mr Armes opened the meeting. There were no apologies for absence.
2. **PREVIOUS MINUTES:** The minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 23rd January 2019 held at Gt Blakenham Parish Rooms were approved as a true record. Proposed A Hay 2nd A Foskew.

3. **MATTERS ARISING:**

P Armes: Item 3. Sound inspectors. Mr Armes had ascertained that a stand and meter frame would be required but that there is no standard item available to purchase. Following discussion, it was agreed that Mr Armes would speak to Terry Brown at the Maxxis at Lyng. Mr Armes will report back to the Board as there will be a need for funds to finance the purchase of necessary equipment.

Item 6 – Stewards reports – Mr Armes has spoken to Gavin Hockey over the issue of designated public and prohibited areas. C Cook reports that at the recent Sudbury event, note had been taken and prohibited areas and signage had been implemented.

Item 7 – Trials – Sidecar round had attracted 13 chairs. Mr Armes congratulated Mr Nash on his efforts to make this happen.

Husqvarna hubs – Mr Armes had spoken to Mr Dopson on this matter. Following discussion, the competitions committee recommended that the Trials Committee be tasked with appointing ‘an eligibility scrutineer for the series’ in order that there is continuity across all rounds. Mr Penny commented that competitors should be made aware of the decision to follow the rules in the handbook which state ‘of British manufacture’.

Non championship events – it would be down to each club’s discretion on whether to accept ‘non-British hubs’.

Grass Track – it was ascertained that Mr Tyrrell does hold a Clerk of the Course/Steward licence. Mr Foskew will mentor Mr Tyrrell on the first meeting and Mr Cook will mentor on the second meeting.

C Ralph – Item 3. Woodbridge have been informed of the fact that Mr Barfield cannot act as Clerk of the Course and Chief Technical Officer. At the last event, Malcolm Stevens acted as Chief Technical Officer.

C Cook – Item 5 – 500cc Sidecar Assoc. Will run on 7th July instead of 3rd August. This will be a British Championship plus support class.

8th September – Norwich New Stars wish to run a youth Grasstrack. 500cc Assoc. may also wish to run on the same date. Mr Foskew will update on this matter.

Mrs Ralph – Stewards expenses have been placed on the agenda of the April Board for discussion.

4. **PERMITS AND FIXTURES:**

500cc Assoc. moved from 5th May to 7th July.

Dates clashes identified on both local Maxxis dates – 14th April Lyng – EASCC running at Mildenhall

2nd June Blaxhall – Nora also at Mildenhall.

Mr Armes had made his feelings known to Rugby but both permits will be issued.

Norfolk and Suffolk Juniors – 2-day event this weekend now running at Gt Hockham instead of Mildenhall.

5. **STEWARDS REPORTS AND APPOINTMENTS:**

14th April C Cook unable to Steward – P Nash will officiate instead.

21st April – D Cordle unable to Steward – A Foskew will officiate instead.

Stewards Reports:

24th February – Enduro at Santon Downham Diss Club J Hearn Centre Steward A Penny ACU Steward

Very good event. No adverse comments.

3rd March Two-man enduro at Iken Woodbridge DMCC N Sargent.

Well organised event. No accidents or incidents.

Mrs Ralph commented on the race numbers of some competitors. Ms Harvey had spoken to some riders during the lunch break and asked them to rectify. Mr Hearn will take these comments to the next committee meeting and emphasise that this should be rectified by the scrutineers before the event starts.

17th March Enduro Sudbury Club Good event. Not informed of any accidents or injuries. Very cold and very wet. Many marshals used. Youth event ran following the main event for one hour with 6-7 travelling marshals.

(the time for protests not yet reached but discussion on the report took place with this knowledge).

Mr Hearn has had a request from Mr A Taylor indicating that he would like to act as a Steward. Mr Hearn will advise Mr Taylor that he will ask him to assist on 12th May with Mr Hearn as mentor.

Mr Hay advised the committee that Mrs Barbara Douglas has obtained a National Stewards licence for Trials.

Mrs Ralph has an up to date list of MX Stewards following the recent seminar.

6. **SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Moto Cross

C Ralph – Wakes Colne, Halstead Club – first meeting on 31st March is full with reserves. Also includes a round of the NGR Over 30 series.

First round of the ECC is on 7th April at Blaxhall hosted by the Woodbridge Club - juniors full in 5 minutes of going live online.

Mr Ralph read out an email from Mrs Blyth who was asking for online entries only. She pointed out that although, due to an error, there had been 6 days when paper entries could have been sent and that did not receive any. Mr Armes confirmed that for this year the decision has been made to accept any paper entries but he would like to monitor how many are received over the whole season. This issue will be revisited at the end of the season.

Woodbridge held a Practice Day on 16th March which was attended by 208 riders. It had been a very good day with riders having 4 sessions each. Only one stoppage for an injury to a rider's shoulder.

Rookies – Simon Eastwell from HRM Boilers has agreed to fund a 'rookies' class for first and second year expert riders with a view to encourage them to continue in the sport with a cash award. National grade riders who contest the British Championship will not be eligible. There will be 12 riders who would qualify for this. C Ralph will advertise this on the website, in programmes and has already spoken to half of the riders involved.

Round 3 ECC at Mildenhall. Mr Ralph reported that Paul Grantham of the Littleport Club had expressed concerns regarding the suitability of the Mildenhall venue for a Centre Championship. Mr Ralph had spoken to six of the most experience experts who all spoke of their concerns over the safety of the track and felt that it was a good practice track, and suitable for schoolboys, but not for the speed of the Centre Championship riders. Mr Ralph had also spoken to Mr Beadle, EASCC, who use the venue, and he was of the same opinion as the riders.

It appears that the owners also require a disclaimer to be signed.

The track has been given a TCC but it appears that the track certificate is not strictly observed during events. ACU Rugby did ask P Rowton to report back to them after he had been a Steward at an event there. Among issues highlighted were not enough marshal points and the club concerned had to use 'roving' marshals as a safety precaution. Following the report, Sonia Goggins stated she will write to hiring clubs advising them that they must ensure that they run to the track certificate. The committee agreed that this is not acceptable and that the decision on whether to run or not had to be made by the Littleport Club. However, the competitions committee would give their full support to Mr Grantham if his decision was not to run the event.

Mr Wright commented that he would, following Mr Grantham's decision, find out if Halstead would be prepared to run on the designated date so that a round of the championship was not lost.

Lyng Maxxis event – Mr Armes thanked Mr Hay for agreeing to run a Ladies race, the first time a lady's race will have taken place at Lyng. BBC Look East have shown an interest and there is a press day on 9th April. Mr Armes will contact some of the lady riders to see if they will attend. Mr Hay stated that to date he has 23 ladies entered, including five of the top 8 recognised riders.

Youth MX:

First race meeting had been held at Hockham with a full entry. This weekend two-day event is full with a reserve list. Mr Wright reports that at the last meeting, new measures had been put in place with 'pickers up' being on specified points for autos and 65cc's which worked much better.

Trials:

Mr Nash reported that at the sidecar round, riders attended from all over the country and he received very good feedback. There were two routes, one for the ECC riders and another for the British Championship riders and that this had been well received by the competitors. There had also been a Twinshock round last Sunday which also went well. Mr Nash has been speaking with the owners of Royal Oak Pits, an old venue, with a view to being able to use the venue again in the future.

Mr Hearn – there had been an issue regarding a 'new' trophy which had been brought to the Centre Awards Evening. This had been sent by Kevin Plummer and arrived at 7pm. Mrs Ralph and Mrs Hearn had no idea what it was for. At the Bike Show, Mr Plummer had been quite indignant and challenged Mrs Hearn as to why it was not presented. Mrs Hearn had contacted Mrs Ralph who had found out that it was not among the awards listed for 2018 but that it does appear in the list for 2019. Mr Armes will contact Mr Plummer to explain this is why it was not presented. No-one attending the competitions committee were aware of a 'new' championship. This will be discussed at the next Trials Committee.

Grasstrack:

A Foskew – GW Racing are running a Grass Track on 6th April and to day over 70 entries have been received.

Enduro:

Mr Hearn – not much to report. Next event is at the end of April following which, Mr Hearn will furnish the current championship standings.

Full entry had been received at the two-man event at Iken and all looks well on the Enduro scene.

7. CORRESPONDENCE:

Mrs Ralph had received a request from Rugby for items for the agenda of the next NMC Meeting in May. Mr Armes will liaise with Mrs Hearn regarding issuing of permits.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Hay – NSJMCC have not yet sent in the declarations from Trials from December and February. Mr Armes will follow this up with Patrick Kibble.

E Wass – showed concern over the number of Stewards listed and commented that Rugby do not send out paperwork. Following discussion, it was clear that there are a number who do not officiate and take the licence as a convenience for their club only. It was mentioned that each discipline now deals with their own Stewards and that it is difficult as some licensed officials have other duties on race days, hence not a wide choice of Stewards. Mr Armes pointed out that compared to most Centres, ACU Eastern is well off for Stewards. There are 130 events listed in this year's calendar. It was reminded that only those that officiate (worked out from over the last two years) have the privilege of a Stewards pass and some have a free Gazette.

It was noted that the South Eastern Centre do not use Stewards at all. Mr Nash advised the committee that he had been informed that the South East Centre had disbanded due to having no Centre Secretary and no Permit Officer and that all business is dealt with direct from Rugby.

J Hearn – did not receive the ACU News electronically last week – Mrs Ralph advised that Richard Blyth had been on holiday. C Ralph had noticed that there was a message on R Blyth's email to this effect.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm

Date and time of next meeting:

May 22nd 2019 at Gt Blakenham Parish Rooms commencing at 7.45pm