

**MINUTES OF 5th ACU EASTERN COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE MEETING of 2020 HELD ON THURSDAY
WEDNESDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER 2020 VIRTUALLY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT: Mr P Armes: Mr J Hearn: Mr A Penny: Mr C Ralph: Mrs L Ralph: Mr A Hay: Mr P Nash:

1. Mr Armes opened the meeting. There were apologies for absence from Mr A Wright, Mr G Brace and Mr A Foskew
2. **Previous Minutes:** The minutes taken on 13th August had been circulated. These were agreed as a true record. Proposed P Nash, 2nd A Penny

3. Matters Arising:

Mr Armes reported that Mr Dopson had updated him on the Rials situation as agreed. Mr Armes is yet to draft a letter regarding the issuing of permits from Rugby but this will be done within the next seven days. Mr penny reported that the National Rally had gone well with around 550 entries. All comments had been positive and the awards will be sent out next week. All results have been uploaded to ACU website.

4/5 Permit Issues/ dates/calendar status 6. and Local Authority Approval:

Mr Armes had circulated an up to date spreadsheet prior to the meeting detailing the current events happening and those that had been cancelled.

Norfolk and Suffolk MX has been cancelled due to Forestry England withdrawing the permit. This is likely to also mean that the event planned for October 18th will also not run.

Mr Hay reported that the Board of Directors have met in view of the latest Government statement and they have made the decision that for the time being, permits will continued to be issued. Neil Doctor has circulated an email this afternoon giving the latest updates, which includes the message that all events must seek Local Authority approval. Mr Armes had been liaising with Neil Doctor regarding a covering letter which has been made available to all clubs to send to their Local Authority with supporting paperwork when seeking approval to run. Mrs Ralph has sent a copy of this letter to all Clubs. Mr Armes had been concerned the many Clubs would not know who and where to contact and will put together a list of contacts to be circulated for Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex.

Mr Armes had investigated the Safety Advisory Groups (SAG) online and they state that they would need at least one months notice. Mr Hay suggests that 6 weeks prior to any event would be preferable.

Mr Armes had today received an email from Rugby stating that a permit is to be issued to Sudbury Club for an Enduro Practice event to run at Chappell on October 4th. Mr Armes had been most concerned as this clashes with a MX Event (Richard Fitch Memorial) at Halstead on the same day with the sites being only three miles apart. Mr Armes had been unaware that this addition to the calendar had been applied for and had been in contact with Paul Belton who is the organiser for this event to discuss the problem. Mr Armes had distributed the email trail to some members of the committee. Following discussion, it was agreed that Mr Belton would be encouraged to try to change a date although he had explained this would be difficult. However, during this meeting, it emerged that Gavin Hockey had agreed to move his planned date of 11th October for a fun day to the 18th. Mr Ralph stated that should Mr Belton wish to run on 11th, it would have no impact on the Woodbridge MX at Blaxhall. It was left with Mr Armes to continue the conversation with Mr Belton. Should the 4th remain to be the date chosen for the Enduro event, Mr Armes will assist Mr Belton with an approach to the Local Authority and therefore the committee felt that it would then be a decision made by the L.A. themselves. Concern was raised regarding the closeness of the venues and Mr Ralph expressed concern that it could impact on both events.

Mr Hearn commented that he has previously spoken to the Sudbury Club about that way that they do not adhere to the rules and gain permission from the Centre when applying to put in extra dates. Mr Hearn asked that Mr Armes copies Roger Chaplin into any emails regarding such matters.

Mr Ralph advised the committee that Mr Harvey is considering trying to run an Enduro event at Blaxhall in November.

Rugby are issuing all permits up until the end of the year and it seem probable that this will continue. Mr Armes stated that this could see the demise of the Gazette as early as within the next 18 months. With Trials Clubs now having to use the ACU online system it is all but redundant and a lot of thought needs to be given to the Gazettes future. There will still need to be a mechanism to distribute information to Centre members. Mr Hay advised that live timing was streamed for the first time from Wattisfield MX last Sunday. Mr Armes stated that there is an opportunity for technology to be embraced in the future and that this would be a Sustainability Meeting issue, had we been able to hold a meeting. For future discussion.

6. 21/22 Calendar:

Mr Armes suggested that a calendar for 2021/22 should be set as normal and following discussion, it was agreed that the date application forms will be sent out within the next few weeks with the normal proviso around British Championship dates.

7. Any Other Business:

Mr Hay reported that he had spoken with Mr and Mrs Douglas, Norwich Viking Trials organisers, and that they were still reluctant to run events due to concerns regarding the vulnerability and the age of many of the observers and helpers.

Mr Nash stated that his club felt the same.

Mr Hearn reported that although his club had held a Trial and an Enduro, he and Mrs Hearn had not felt willing and comfortable enough to be part of the organising team and that they would not be until such time as the pandemic subsided.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm

Date and time of next meeting:

Virtually via Microsoft Teams: Date and Time to be confirmed.