

MINUTES OF 6th ACU EASTERN COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE MEETING of 2020 HELD ON MONDAY 30th
NOVEMBER 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:
Mr C Dopson; Mr A Foskew

1. Mr Armes opened the meeting. There were no apologies for absence.
2. **Previous Minutes:** The minutes taken on 23rd September had been circulated. These were agreed as a true record. Proposed J Hearn 2nd C Ralph.

3. Matters Arising:

Mr Armes reported that the letter he had intended to compose regarding the issuing of permits had been somewhat overtaken by events at Rugby but that he would pursue this.

Item 4/5 – P Armes has produced a comprehensive list of contacts for Local Authorities/SAG. This has been circulated to all clubs and event secretaries. Mr Armes emphasised that when contacting authorities, state that the event is being held and do not ask for permission.

Item 6. 2021/2 calendar – P Armes had sent out invitations to clubs to submit their dates.

4. Discipline reports:

MX: C Ralph reported that it is proving very difficult to set any mx dates as British Championship dates have not yet been confirmed. Woodbridge and Norwich Vikings have both been invited to host a round of the British Championship but are still in negotiations with RHL. Mr Hay commented that he had received a response to his list of questions from RHL today.

Provisional Centre dates had been submitted but all are subject to confirmation and may change.

Enduro: Mr Hearn reported that there was not much news apart from the fact that Forestry England were still not allowing events. It is hoped that the Extreme Enduro at the end of the year will run.

Grass Track : A Foskew reported that 29th August date that GW had advised would have to be changed as it clashes with the Lincolnshire Poacher event. The 30th May date also clashes with another event and will also change.

Trials: Mr C Dopson reported that there had been an online meeting of the Trials Committee on 19th November and discussions had taken place over the latest instructions from Rugby and that riders should be encouraged to read their final instructions prior to attending an event. It has been agreed that no Centre Championships will be award in 2020 as none of the events met the criteria set by the Committee. This announcement will be made in the December Gazette.

Dates have been agreed between clubs and Chelmsford have offered to run a ladies Championship on 18th July.

Mr Greengrass had informed the Committee that Lowestoft Invaders would not be running and Trials in 2021 as sadly he has no help to do so.

It was agreed that Centre Championship Trials will remain online entries only for 2021.

Clerk of the Course/Stewards Licences: Mrs. Ralph confirmed that she had received information that Licences for Trials and Enduro were to be extended until the end of 2021. (MX plan to hold online seminars, therefore, mx licenses will not be extended. Mr. Hay reported that he is involved in this and is waiting for Mrs Goggins to update the Stewards element of the seminar before any dates can be set. It seems that Norfolk and Suffolk JMCC may be the first club to take the online seminars). Mr Dopson asked if Mrs. Ralph would contact Rugby with the list of officials printed in the Centre handbook and request that all those listed have their licenses extended.

Mr Dopson also requested that Rugby is contacted for clarification on who keeps the money from day licences for Trials. It seems that it may be different from speed events.

Mr Dopson also commented on the 5% increase on insurance as he has discovered that the increase for Trials works out at 14%. A letter will be formalized to Rugby seeking answers to the last two points.

Mr Dopson advised the meeting that it has been agreed that all Trials Committee meetings for 2021 will continue to be held online with the only face to face meeting planned to be the Trials Forum.

5. Calendar - events to go ahead

Braintree Trial 20th December

Woodbridge Trial 27th December – venue may change to Blaxhall

N V Trial 1st January

Wyomndham Trial 10th January - venue is Gt Ellingham,

6. Latest Government announcement:

All venues in the ACU Eastern area will fall into Tier 2, therefore all events planned should go ahead. ACU will not issue permits until three weeks prior to the event, to avoid the possibility of cancellations. Mr Armes has sought permission to be able to publish events in the Gazette without the need for a permit number.

Rugby have issued information that they will be charging £3 per rider should an event be cancelled. This is for any reason – not just Covid. C Ralph has spoken to Rugby to obtain clarification following a comment made by G Thompson which encouraged Clubs to increase the entry fee to cover this. The Finance Department confirm that the charge will be made to the rider and that there is no way that ACU can take monies from a Club without permission. Therefore, it will be suggested to Clubs that the £3 surcharge is mentioned in the instructions to riders so that they are aware that it will be taken by the ACU and not by the Club.

It was agreed that ACU Eastern should write to Rugby stating the view that this Centre does not agree with the surcharge.

(This will be put in the letter to Rugby with all points previously mentioned).

7. ACU Permit Issue from head office and implications for distribution of regulations and publication of gazette; longer term revenue return for Centre

This is a Board Issue but as most Centre Officials were present, it was discussed. Mr Hay outlined the financial implications to the Centre and stated that prior to Lockdown 1, payments were received including the permit rebates and the 3% insurance fee.

Nothing has been received since.

Three Clubs have paid levies to the Centre but not others. Normally Premier Permit fees plus insurance and levies would have been received.

Basic permits have a £50 kickback but nothing has been received from the two MX events that have been held.

In future, when a Premier Permit is issued from Rugby, P Armes will issue a normal insurance and a Centre Insurance Form to encourage Clubs to return levies to the Centre.

Mr Hay was asked if he would look at creating a new form and Mr Hay also asked if the Competitions Committee could take a decision to charge a levy to the Centre now that a change has been agreed following the last NMC meeting where a motion was passed to allow Centres to do so. Mr Hay will take this on.

3.09 11. Event Levies/Charges. Centres may incur levies on Clubs within their locality provided the Club are reliant on the Centre for support and the use of any existing Centre facilities.

Clubs/Promoters that apply direct to ACU Head Office for permits and do not rely on the Centres for any support or use of Centre facilities are not obliged to pay any levy or dues other than to the Permit Issuing Authority.

8. Stewards Reports:

11th July Gosbeck Grass Track – Steve Brace – Good event held under Covid Rules. There was an issue with wet track conditions which reduced races from 4 per class to 3. No spectators.

3rd October – Grass Track – Gosbeck – A Foskew. Heavy overnight rain caused many non-starters but the event ran well and all races were completed.

30th August – GW Grass Track – Iken – S Brace – masks were worn at the request of the organiser.

26th July – Hare and Hounds – C Cook – run under Covid Rules.

16th August – Two Man Dave Barkshire Enduro – A Penny – run as Morning and Afternoon events – morning warm and sunny – afternoon heavy rain. Run under Covid rules and generally OK.

11th October – MX – Blaxhall – A Foskew – Club ensured parking 2 metres apart. Weather had been very wet and the track had to be modified in places. Wonderful meeting. The only issue that Club Officials had was one group of youngsters who had to be told several times to split apart.

9. 2021/22:

There are 5 weekends with clashes between Enduro and MX. Mr Ralph had contacted Halstead who cannot move their 11th April date. Mr Hearn will contact Enduro organisers. Mr Armes will endeavor to contact clubs to change dates. Mr Hay will not be using the 18th April date.

12th September Norwich Viking MX and Stowmarket Enduro – agreed that this would affect each other.

10. Correspondence:

All correspondence received with updates had been circulated to all clubs by Mrs Ralph
Affiliations – Mrs Ralph will contact the remaining clubs who have not affiliated to the Centre as yet.

11. Any Other Business: C Dopson reported on the Copdock Bike Show. It has been intimated that the organisers would like some Clubs to attend to raise the profile of motor cycling sport. Mrs Ralph to be the point of contact.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.42pm

Date and time of next meeting:

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