

MINUTES OF 4th ACU EASTERN COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE MEETING of 2021 HELD 2nd November
2021 via Zoom

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

1. Mr. Armes opened the meeting. There were no apologies for absence.

2. Previous Minutes:

It was agreed by all present that the previous minutes were a true record.

3. Matters Arising:

C Dopson – Item 7 Stewards Reports: Factual point that needs to be clarified. The way that the entry had been set up on the online system had not allowed for Twinshock A B or C class riders to enter via the system as it had been set up as 'All Classes'. Mr. Dopson suggested that the classes should all be specified in future. PA commented that the way the Clubs set up their online entries is controlled by them. The Stewards Report form does now ask if the event ran to Championship Rules.

4. Levies:

Mr. Armes stated that when all permits had been issued by Centres, all levies had been applied equally. Now Centres only issued permits for Trials and a few Enduros therefore the Trials Discipline pays the majority of the fees to the Centre. It equates to £1.40 per rider as opposed to approx. 40p per rider for MX. (Actual figure from CD spreadsheet £1.29 and 43p)

Levies had been discussed and minuted in March and May with a proposal to go before the November Board. Mr. Dopson questioned why this was being re-visited as a decision had been made. Mr. Armes responded that what was decided was still applicable but that no firm proposal had been decided. The minutes of the May meeting has said that a meeting would be arranged with PA, AH and the disciplines Chairs, but as all were in attendance at competition committee meetings, he had felt it unnecessary. Mr. Hay suggested that this was looked at in a different way and explained that the £50 kickback was brought in by Rugby when events were not attracting the kind of numbers as of now, and had been based on 100 riders at 50p.

AH suggested an event fee, of approximately £25.00 per event, similar to an event kickback from the ACU for Basic permit events. PA suggested that it may be more equitable if it was a sliding scale for Trials, (Under 20 riders – none: 21 – 40 £15: 41 to 60 £30: 61 > £40:

Second option – reduce Trials levies to 50p per rider and do away with the under 30 rider's rules.

C Dopson felt that an agreement had been reached in May and therefore there was no need to be discussing the levies again. He also pointed out that Trials Insurance had risen by 14% whereas other disciplines had been 5%. C Dopson proposed that the equalization on a per rider basis across all disciplines should go before the Board in November.

A Hay made it known that his biggest concern is that Basic Permits state the ACU are the permit issuing authority and there shall be no requirement for an Organiser to pay any other levies or fees over and above the Basic Permit fee and that Clubs could refuse to pay any other levies.

A Penny, had no real opinion either way.

C Ralph said he was keen for the sustainability of the Centre, but that the new MX Committee would be looking for a cost to enable them to set entry fees.

P Armes – asked for confirmation that the idea was to reduce the Trials levy but then place a levy on all other disciplines.

A Foskew felt that things should stay the same as they are now.

Grasstrack – discussion that this discipline is mostly run by a Promoter and therefore this discipline does not pay anything to the Centre (Southend had run one G/T this year which would generate a £50 kickback under the Basic Permit). LR pointed out that the Promoter had been running the one-day Championship for several years now and that the Centre had paid for the trophies at the Awards evening, plus the replicas and meals for the winners and their plus ones.

Discussion took place over costs to organisers where there is a large gap between disciplines regarding income from spectators, medical costs, hire of toilets, leases etc.

C Dopson said it was more that the Trials Committee felt there was a principle here and that they were treated unfairly. He suggested that included in the proposal was a proviso that no levy would rise above 50p per rider. A vote was taken with the majority agreeing to this. P Armes and C Ralph abstained.

C Dopson and A Hay will work on the figures and the proposal will be formalised when they have completed their review.

5. **Permits and amendments to Fixtures:**

P Armes reported that the dates for the next season are in process of being set. Trials dates will be sent by next Thursday 11th Nov. P Armes has an outline calendar for all disciplines and this will be made available to the Chairs of the 4 disciplines.

Mr. Armes had discovered (from an email from the IT Manager) that permits can now be applied for through the online system by any affiliated club. An email is generated to PA when this occurs. PA has to approve the supplementary regs and the Risk Assessment which he is not comfortable with doing. PA to contact Rugby to confirm the procedure as Braintree had applied for the Turkey Trot Trial under Basic Permit which should not be possible and had used an old RA from last year so several things need tweaking. Now all resolved and the event is up online. Discussion regarding culpability if approving Risk Assessments. CD stated that Risk Assessments do not need to be provided prior to the event as they relate to the event day only.

A Hay suggested that the race secretaries simply need to send a generic RA to Rugby when applying. PA will contact Rugby for guidance.

6. **Stewards Reports:**

Enduro Woodbridge Butley 15th August – J Hearn. Hot dusty day – very good event. Well run.

Grasstrack – 9th October GW Racing. A Foskew. Good well-run event.

No problems with GT 140 class. A Wright reported that next year, more heats for this class will be held reducing numbers racing together.

ECC MX at Lyn 10th October. A Foskew – a very good meeting. Harold Nickerson acted as Clerk of the Course, his first event, and handled it well and did a good job. A Hay was the timekeeper as Paul Sewter was unavailable to assist.

ECC MX Wattisfield Diss Club – J Nickerson – 151 riders but only 10 Experts. Good event. Day started dry but heavy rain in the afternoon changed things considerably.

A Penny – has been appointed as Steward for the Muntjac in November.

7. **Sub Committee Reports**

MX:

C Ralph reported that Round 7 had to be cancelled at Wakes Colne. A low entry with other events planned at Canada Heights, Toddington and Weston Beach Race coupled with the petrol shortage was the cause. All three meetings were cancelled due to bad weather.

Final Round at Lyng had seen a brilliant event run with a near full entry.

All Championship tables have been posted on the website.

As a point of interest, Mr. Ralph reported that over the 7 rounds, 37 experts and 68 juniors had scored championship points in the Premier Class races.

9 riders have been upgraded to Expert status and they will form the Experts Rookie Class for 2022.

A MX Forum was held on 28th October and despite being advertised on the website, in the Gazette and on various Club's Facebook sites, had attracted very few riders.

The new MX Committee will form on 10th November. C Ralph will open the meeting and hand over to A Foskew for the election. CR and LR will leave the meeting at this point.

New members for Woodbridge are S Leek and D Blyth; Halstead C Garrod replacing K Weavers and Norwich Vikings, G Muff replacing A Hay.

Mr. Ralph has reminded the new members that when setting the Championship Conditions, that they will need to involve Mr. Hay in his role as Timekeeper.

Marshals' payment had been discussed as it appears an increase is being sought.

C Ralph congratulated Mr. Hay and thanked him for administering the Numbers Scheme. £3750 has been raised in 2021 and £21,000 has been donated over the last six years to the three charities.

Youth MX:

Donna and Chelsea Secker had indicated that they wished to stand down from running the NSJMCC but it seems that they will continue. Both are the delegates for the new MX Committee. They are currently working on setting their dates and will forward these to P Armes when completed.

Trials

- a. As the year progresses overall trials are returning to normal subjectively entries appear slightly down, organisers and riders are getting more used to the online entry system.
- b. A Class has completed four 2021 Championship rounds and so will count as ACUE championship
- c. B Class has completed three 2021 Championship rounds, with the fourth on 7/11/21, so will count as ACUE championship
- d. C Class has completed three 2021 Championship rounds, with the fourth and fifth on 28/11/21 and 28/12/21 so will count as ACUE Championship
- e. D Class (sidecar) has completed its one and only Championship round but as previously agreed will count as ACUE championship run by the Southend Club.
- f. The 2022/23 trials calendar process is ongoing with only two issues to fix, should be by 9/11/21
- g. It would help the calendar process if it could be confirmed if the 2022 N&S Group trials championship is going ahead.
- h. Most clubs appear to have replied to Lyn about attendees for the Licence Seminar on December 18th, but I still get asked many times why this cannot be done online or virtually.
- i. After many attempts it has been decided the 2021 Trials Forum will be virtual, details to be agreed, earliest possible date 25/11/21

Trials seminar has been arranged for 18th December at Gt Blakenham Parish Rooms.

P Nash is unable to attend. PA will look at extending his licence if no other seminars are available.

Grasstrack:

A Foskew reported that GW Racing will again run the one-day ACUE Championship.

A Seminar was held at Iken and agreement was confirmed that a Centre Steward would be appointed for all events.

New rule for the one-day Championship; If three riders go the start line and 2 drop out, the championship will be awarded.

Dusty Miller Award went to Vinny Smith.

Club Shield has been awarded to the Southern Club.

The Committee remains the same as 2021.

Enduro:

J Hearn reported that the 2-man championship has been completed – all prizewinners are on the website.

Final solo round is on 21st November at the Muntjac Diss event.

Dates for 2021 to be confirmed and a Forum to be arranged. LR is arranging a Clerk of the Course Seminar with Tristan Robinson at Rugby. Waiting on dates from him.

8. Correspondence:

None

9. Any Other Business:

A Penny commented on the future of the Gazette and wondered if a reduction in the cost of publishing the regs. might help and utilise the Gazette as more of an advertising tool. Keen to keep it going. Funds currently in place could be dipped into.

P Nash asked A Foskew if he had been in contact with Steve Brace who it is understood is now receiving palliative care.

P Armes – intends to make the dates meeting on 17th November at Gt Blakenham a platform for an organiser's meeting as there have been a great deal of changes over the last 18 months and would like to encourage secretaries of the meetings for all disciplines to attend. Sustainability, Stewards, Steward passes, sponsors, passes for sponsors all need discussion and this information needs to be shared. LR will contact the Board Circulation when the invitation has been formulated.

Centre Function; The Awards evening will be held on 19th February at Needham market Community Centre. LR is now needing trophies returned.

PA thanked C Ralph for all his work over many years and that it had really been appreciated. CR has stepped down from Chair of the MX Committee but will continue on the Competitions Committee for one more year as an elected member.

There being no further business, Mr. Armes thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 8.50pm. Date and time of next meeting to be advised.