

MINUTES OF 1st ACU EASTERN COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE MEETING of 2022 HELD 27th January 2022
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. G Muff: Mr. A Penny: Mr. M Beadle

1. Mr. Armes opened the meeting. There were no apologies for absence. Mr Armes welcomed Mr Muff and introduced him to the committee. His is the new ACUE MX Chair. Mr Muff had written an informative piece giving his background and contact details which has been published in the Gazette and on the Website.

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair of the Competitions Committee:

Mr A Penny took the Chair for the election. J Hearn proposed P Armes for Chair, 2nd by C Ralph. No other nominations were received and Mr Armes accepted the position for one year (note made that he would accept for one year but would be reviewing this and his other roles prior to the next election.

Secretary – Mrs Ralph was asked if she would continue until the end of the current year when she retires as Centre Secretary. Mrs Ralph accepted.

3. Previous Minutes:

A Penny had been omitted from the list of attendees. It was agreed by all present that the previous minutes were a true record and were accepted with the addition. Proposed A Wright 2nd C Ralph

4. Matters Arising:

Item 5: P Armes has spoken to Rugby (Gary Thompson) and has it confirmed that using a generic risk assessment is acceptable and backing from Rugby in the event of an issue would be forthcoming.

PA asked P Nash to look at the current Trials risk assessment (still under Covid terms) which states there will be no Youth class.

Trials Seminar – this has been handed to the Trials Committee to oversee as it had proven extremely difficult for Mrs Ralph. P Nash had agreement from Rugby that he could hold online seminars but it has since transpired that there will be two face to face seminars held, one in February and one in March.

Enduro Seminars, this week agreement has been reached with Rugby that this will be held on line by Mike Wren. Date tba. Mary Kerr at Rugby will be keeping the Centre advised and she will send out the relevant paperwork.

Dates meeting did not include an Organisers meeting as Mr Armes had proposed due to the upturn of covid cases. He still hopes to arrange a meeting within the next month. Within that meeting the use of the online system will be discussed. PA and AH will discuss the payment of fees by Clubs direct into the bank.

Item 4 – CR would like the discussion on Grass Track trophies in light of the fact that a Promoter hosts the one-day Championship (meaning no income to the Centre funds). This will be placed on the Agenda for the March Board.

Item 9 – Steve Brace has sadly passed away. An obituary and funeral details will be published in the Gazette.

5. 2022 Calendar and Centre Championships:

The provisional calendar had been circulated prior to the meeting.

ECC MX will be 7 rounds. All on calendar along with NGR rounds. PA has now received the championship conditions for all Championships and these will be uploaded to the website and the handbook will be published shortly.

There will be two British Championship meetings, one at Lyng on May 8th and Blaxhall on 19th June.

British Championship Sidecars and Quads on 17th July.

P Nash – change of date for Poles Wood from 24th April to 1st May. (will check with Barbara Douglas that she has no objections as there is a NV Trial).

MX – Graham Muff and P Armes had met with Anthony Skerry and Paul Shorter re sponsorship and are to be joint title sponsors with an input of £1500 each. Title with alternate with the name of the first sponsor for programme purposes. AH would like both Lyng rounds to have Stebbings firstly names as it is 10 years since they have been involved with N Viking.

PFK Lings have also agreed to take the back cover for each round at £150 per meeting.

All art work will be undertaken by Paul Sewter – clubs will still be able to include their sponsors on internal pages. PS will produce the full programmes for those clubs who wish to take advantage.

Trackside banners will be overseen by Graham Muff and a reserved area for PPS and Stebbings will be made available. PA has agreed that each sponsor shall have 4 passes for the season (copy to be sent to clubs to ensure gate staff recognised these). PA will ask if clubs would be willing to allow Lings 2 passes per event.

Sponsors could be asked to present prizes if applicable, but definitely at the final round. The possibility of a promotional marquee for the sponsors at the last round at Lyng is being discussed but will be financially dependent.

PPS would like to have a promotional girl for the 5/15 second board – in branded clothing with the agreement of clubs. Sponsors could provide a 5/15 second board with sponsors names on either side. Previously sponsors have been allowed one free entry for a nominated rider – this will be offered again with AH to look into how this could best be administrated.

CR congratulated GM and PA on what they had achieved. He offered to provide some promotional information for TMX which was accepted. PA would like to see a copy before it is sent as he would like to include a quote from each sponsor.

GM will call a MX Committee meeting to updates all clubs on the above information.

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

Permit numbers and which Gazette events will be in is now included on the calendar.

A Foskew reported that Stewards have been appointed for all MX events for the season.

CR had noticed two events are running within the Centre, 5th June at Wakes Colne and 17th July at Mildenhall. K Beadle has been keeping PA informed of any requests for hiring Wakes Colne. PA reminds all that care must be taken to avoid running events in near proximity because of noise issues which could cause neighbours nuisance.

Financially clubs hiring out may be necessary and leases may be being increased. Discussion regarding VAT being charged – AH suggests that clubs ought to take advice.

7. **Stewards Reports and appointments:**

No reports have been received. J Hearn asked if he could arrange appointments and let PA know as soon as possible.

27th March Littleport – Steward is J Nickerson

31st July Lyng – Steward A Foskew

8. **Sub Committee Reports**

MX: G Muff was informed that he will be asked at each meeting to provide a short report and that he is also responsible for reporting on the Youth MX scene. He will liaise with Donna Secker. Mr Muff thanked everyone for helping him settle in. He confirmed that all conditions, dates and sponsorship is all in place. Still, no-one found to commentate or lapscore following CR and LR retirement.

There are unfortunately two clashes now with MX Nationals after they changed their dates. Contact had been made by Bayliss Uttings' mother expressing her dismay at this. PA had responded with a full explanation of why this had happened and that great care is taken to appease all disciplines.

Youth MX: No report

Trials: P Nash reported that there is a sidecar d class event coming up and that the trials championship are now starting.

PA went to the Lyng Trial on 1st January. Entry almost doubled with entries on the day. This was acceptable as this was not a championship event. There had been a vast age difference from teenagers to 'older' competitors and had been a really good event.

Southend had 50 entries online plus 23 on the day.

Still have a problem with insurance for Poles Wood – there is a problem with insuring motorcycling events across the board.

A Hay reported that the Gt Ellingham Trial had attracted 70 entries.

CR reported that the WDMCC Pre-70 Laurie Bird Trial attracted over 100 entries.

Grasstrack:

Alan Foskew GW Racing dates are:

Saturday 2nd July Gosbeck

Saturday 6th August Gosbeck

Monday 29th August Iken (Maybe the Centre Championship)

Saturday 8th October Gosbeck

Mr Foskew reported that Steve Braces' funeral will be held on 11th February.

Enduro:

Mr J Hearn announced that he will be stepping down as a Steward due to mobility issues but he will still do his best to make the steward's appointments.

All dates are set. Extreme Enduro went well. A very good event.

9. Correspondence:

Just the contact from Mrs Utting which has already been reported on.

10. Any Other Business:

CR – expressed concern regarding safety at the extreme enduro, especially in relation to paying public. Photographs shared on social media indicated that spectators were very close to the action.

Date and time of next meeting to be advised. Mr Penny stated that there was not really a guideline in place for enduro events but any issues should have been covered by the risk assessment in place.

J Hearn – has the top of a trophy which is glass and the winner of this originally would not take responsibility for it. Suggested that the donor of the trophy be contacted to see if they would like to have it back to look after.

G Muff – checking on cut off date for items for the Gazette – PA responded that 15th month would be the date to go by.

A Hay, reserved numbers scheme. Issue with No 66. Lewis Tombs is entitled to ride No 1 and a new expert would like to buy 66. CR agreed to speak to Lewis Tombs to see if he would be willing to give no 66 up. He will let AH know the result.

Update on Centre Function from LR – all prize winners have been invited and to date there are 48 booked in. The event will be advertised in general next week.

Most trophies have been collected. PN will hand what he has to Dave Cordle.

PA – has been negotiation with Eventbrite trying to arrange a package which could be used by all organising clubs and by the Centre for future social events. Monies could go direct to clubs and the more events that use the system, the better the deal could be. Clubs have been contacted and most are interested. Woodbridge have already set their own deal for this year but clubs could be added at anytime in the future. PA is aware that this should be a Board decision and following discussion, it was agreed by those present (Centre President, Centre Chair, Centre Treasurer) that it is within the byelaws to close the current meeting and open an Emergency Committee Meeting).

There being no further business, Mr. Armes thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 20.54pm.