

MINUTES OF 2nd ACU EASTERN COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE MEETING of 2022 HELD 31st March 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; C Keeble

1. Mr. Armes opened the meeting. There were no apologies for absence. Mr Armes commented that he would like some future meetings to be face to face.

2. To approve the previous minutes:

The minutes of the 1st meeting held on 27th January were confirmed as a true record. Proposed A Foskew.
2nd C Ralph

3. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

4. Permits issues and any amendments to fixtures.:

Sudbury had not been sending in their regs and events for the Gazette. Following contact from Mr Armes, it was confirmed that this has been resolved and regs. Have been received for their next event.

500cc event for 14/15 May – PA has received no information. Mr Foskew reported that they are running the British P75 Championship; GT 140 British Qualifier: and possibly the Under 21's British Championship. PA asks that Mr Foskew requests that the 500cc Club passes on this information so that it could be promoted in the next Gazette.

All other permit issues are up to date and all disciplines have events listed in the next edition of the Gazette.

The Southend and Norwich Viking Trials have switched dated as agreed by the Trials Committee.

5. Stewards Reports:

The Trials Committee had forwarded nine Stewards reports which they had reviewed. There was only one comment (from C Cook) regarding the sections at one event which had proved difficult.

Littleport MCC MX at Chatteris on 27th March. NGR and Open. Steward J Nickerson. No adverse comments. 79 competitors.

Ah commented that the start straight turns really tightly into the first right hand bend. There was 23 in the race and he stated that had there been 40, there could have been an issue. Track had been inspected recently and passed. M Beadle stated that there is not normally a problem. PA – this should be kept an eye on.

6. Sub Committee Reports

MX: G Muff reported that he had attended the Practice Day at Blaxhall and that the new layout seemed OK. Following feedback from riders, the WDMCC were making changes to some of the jumps and two table tops needed attention. The track now runs clockwise.

Mr Muff had a conversation with P Grantham of the Littleport Club re the low numbers at his event. The club had sustained a £1000 loss but intend to run again next year. There had been an issue with one rider who requested a refund, but following investigations, the refund was refused. The rider has been informed and accepted this.

Mr Stefan Hicks has come forward to offer his services as a commentator. He will be mentored at Blaxhall on 24th April by Chris Chorza and also at Lyng on 8th May. Mr Hicks will commentate at the ECC Rounds but is unavailable for the first round. Clubs have been advised.

This is a developing situation and G Muff will be on hand to act as a liaison point. AH: sought committee approval for a payment for C Chorza for mentoring (£50) from the MX Account. P Armes pointed out that the MX Committee should make that decision. They have a meeting planned for 19th April.

AH: Clubs have agreed to pay Mr Hicks £50 per meeting and allocate him 2 passes.

M Beadle – There is no PA system available for the 10th April at Wakes Colne.

A Hay reported that he had issues with the lap tops and printing system at Chatteris (due to software upgrade). P Sewter spent 5 hours resolving it and suggested that Mr Sewter should be offered payment. Again, a MX Committee decision. G Muff to request an invoice from Mr Sewter.

Mr Hay reported that the same rider as previously mentioned (refund) had been allocated no 41, which was a mistake as only expert riders (according to current rules_ should be given numbers 1-50. P Armes feels this should be rescinded. My Hay to deal.

Mr Hay had been contacted regarding a 15-year-old who wants to Marshal, which is not possible until he is 16 years old as per ACU rules but he has sought advice from Steve Macauley who says that he could be involved on the start line preparation as long he was off the track when bikes went to the line.

Youth MX:

Mr Muff had received a report from N&SJMCC Donna Secker who stated that the first meeting at Hockham had gone well and was full to capacity. It had been wet up to the event but that had not caused any problems.

Trials:

P Nash reported that there had been a meeting last week. They had advised riders to check the ACUE Website for updates and information. There had been a poor entry for the Expert A Class. Mr Nash believes it is because a lot of Expert riders choose to do National events outside the Centre.

A Penny commented that riders do not like the 'drop the first lap' rule either. Mr Nash has tried to overturn this rule but always gets outvoted.

Youth A and Youth B Championships were also discussed. This also needs discussion as the Youth A seems to be too difficult and most ride the novice route at events. Mr Nash reported that Southend had put on a Twinshock Novice Championship which attracted 93 riders (35 entries on the day) with 12 youth, most of whom chose the novice route.

P Armes reminded Mr Nash that results should be posted on the Centre website and also requested some photographs.

P Nash asked PA not to cash the cheques he has for the Gazette as Southern have changed banks.

Grasstrack:

Mr Nash is trying to find a commentator for the Donut G/T. Mr Foskew will see if he can find someone.

P Armes will also put this in the next Gazette.

Enduro:

Mr J Hearn reported that 2 rounds of the Championship have taken place and ran through the current positions. The first two rounds have both been very good events.

The annual Enduro Forum had been held on the previous evening (30th March). Jake Roper had been presented with his British Championship awards.

Over 40 attended. At the open forum, there had been no complaints at the way the Championships/events were being run.

Mr Armes requested the Enduro stewards' appointments. JH will deal.

7. Correspondence:

Mrs Ralph reported that there has been an ongoing issue with a question posed to the ACU on the exact date that a permit closes (for insurance purposes) No-one at Rugby had been able to give a definitive answer. P Armes agreed to pursue this. It was suggested that the contact re insurance at Rugby, Tony Steele, may be the person to speak to.

8. Any Other Business:

Mr Armes had circulated potential passes for sponsors for the ACUE MX Championship Rounds and for Stewards and Officials. He asked that these were shared as they would be sent to all clubs for their gate staff to be able to recognise. Laminated and with lanyards for the recipients. Mr Armes sought approval that PP Sports and Stebbings receive 4 passes for each round and Lings have two.

Stewards/ senior officials passes were discussed – agreed to continue for selected personnel (pass for two). Mr Keeble commented that this is a good way to reward and recognise those who put so much into the sport – although he is unsure if anyone ever uses them.

CR – asked if there will be a printed fixture list and Centre Handbook – PA – yes this should be out very soon.

Mr Keeble would like to see a definitive contact list of riders and supporters and people with an interest in motorcycling sport. PA responded that the only way a database could be built is to invite people to join a Centre membership (GDPR). Mrs Ralph suggested that this should be an item on the agenda for the Sustainability Meeting due 21st July. Mr Keeble will forward the wording.

G Muff reported that he had been contacted by Deb Blyth who asked if the opening time for online entries could be put in the regs and maybe on a separate page on the website. Mr Armes asked Mr Muff to request organisers to state the opening time on their regs.

Discussion regarding live streaming to the commentator now that there is no-one to relay results from the time keepers. Steve Alderton from Hendersons PA could provide a tablet. This will be pursued by MX committee to see if it is feasible.

There being no further business, Mr. Armes thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 20.57pm.

Date of the next meeting: 26th May at Gt Blakenham Parish Rooms at 7.30pm