

MINUTES OF 5th ACU EASTERN COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE MEETING of 2022 HELD 24th November
HELD AT GT BLAKENHAM PARISH ROOMS

PRESENT: Mr A Penny: Mr A Hay: Mr. C Ralph: Mrs. L Ralph: Mr. A Foskew; Mr. A Wright: Mr C Keeble

1. Mr. Penny opened the meeting. Apologies were accepted from Mr J Hearn and Mr P Nash.

2. To approve the previous minutes:

The minutes of the 4th meeting held on 29th September were confirmed as a true record.

Proposed: C Ralph 2nd A Foskew.

3. Matters Arising:

Centre Support Charge – still no response from the Norfolk and Suffolk Junior MCC but all other outstanding levies have been paid.

Permit end time – this was discussed at the NMC but with no satisfactory conclusion. This will be kept under review. At the recent Board, a representative from the 500cc Association stated that the insurance section of the ACU Handbook explained the cover. He also stated that providing workers sign on using an official ACU form each time they are on site, the permit cover would be in place, irrespective of the length of time after an event.

Mr Hay reported that Mr P Hubbard did not take on the MX Chairman's role. Mr Hay has taken the position.

Mr Keeble asked if the Grass Track Championship results were available- Mr Foskew is still working on them and is preparing a report of the whole years events. No dates for 2023 set as yet. 500cc Assoc. have their AGM in December which Mr Foskew will attend.

Item 7 – Mr Keeble does not have a spreadsheet detailing all the officials and safety officers. Mrs Ralph will see if she can obtain a copy.

Seminars – MX will be online only but Trials have a local seminar arranged by Paul Nash.

4. Permits issues and any amendments to fixtures.:

No changes as far as the committee is aware.

C Keeble – fixture list for next year is almost complete – just 2 clashes to try to resolve. This will be published as soon as possible.

Mr Hay reported that RHL have placed an embargo on the release of British Championship dates.

With the changes in all permits being issued from Rugby, there will need to be a change to the MX Championship conditions with regard to the necessity to publish regs. in the gazette. It was suggested that events and opening dates are still published in the Gazette for information purposes. Mr Hay will discuss the word changes at the next MX Committee which is to be held on Monday 28th November.

Mr Hay reported that some clubs are becoming lax with sending in their Centre levies and declarations: Castle Colchester from 26th June. Braintree Trial from 17th September: Castle Colchester Trial 9th October: Ipswich Trial 10th October and Southend Trial 28th October. These are meant to be paid within 14 days. Mrs Ralph will contact the clubs in question.

5. Stewards Reports:

Report from Woodbridge Enduro 2nd October at Butley. Steward J Hearn. Good event. No adverse comments.

Castle Colchester Trial 2nd October C Cook. No adverse comments.

Braintree MX on 23rd October. Harold Nickerson. Heavy rain did not put off riders. Thanks to Marshals and Officials for braving the weather conditions.

G W Racing Grass track at Gosbeck on 3rd October. J Sayer – commented that attention must be paid to the track manual re the set up of the track dimensions.

Southern Donut event – 29th October – Latchingdon. Andy Driver. Signs need to be more clearly visible. Good meeting. Weather conditions had been poor leading up to the event but on the day 52 races completed in 3 and a half hours.

6. Sub Committee Reports

MX:

Mr Hay reported that the last round of the ECC had been held on 9th October at Lyng. Luke Parker was the winning Expert and Joseph Leeks the Junior Champion.

For 2023 agreement has been reached with the two title sponsors and it is hoped to get this all signed off by the end of the year. Still to approach Lings. Paul Sewter has agreed to prepare the programme covers for all the rounds. Mr Hay stated that he thought that the MX Account should fund that.

Race Numbers will open for 2023 on 2nd December for renewals until 31st January. Unsold numbers will be released on 3rd February.

MX Committee on Monday 28th to discuss rules and fixtures.

Youth MX: Trophies have been engraved and were handed out at the recent N&SJMCC awards evening.

Winners ; Auto Blake Booth: 65cc: J Hall SW85: B Arthurton BW 85cc B Payne 125cc C Nudds.

Mr Hay reported that N&SJMCC have published their dates for 2023. A discussion arose over whether the MX Committee could arrange for an observer to attend one of their meetings as concerns had been raised over the running of some events, especially as no ACU Eastern Steward attends. Mr Hay will deal.

There was nothing to report from any of the other disciplines apart from that Luke Parker had won the Enduro Expert Championship having tied with Ben Cole but came out on top on the number of rounds won.

7. To discuss the 2023 dates and frequency of the Competitions Committee meetings:

Mr Keeble feels that changes do need to be made but would propose that things should remain the same until the new Sport 80 changes have settled. Needs to be reviewed in the New Year – all agreed.

Mr Hay suggested that meetings only need to be quarterly and Zoom should be used more effectively.

Dates for Competitions Committee were set provisionally as 12th January and 16th March. Board meeting Sunday 22nd January. Venues to be arranged.

8. Correspondence – none received.

9. Any Other Business:

C Ralph: Having spoken to Paul Sewter, it seems that he and Mr Keeble are keen for the Gazette to continue although it had seemed as reported at the November Board, that it would cease. Mr Sewter has made it clear that he would not run the Gazette as an online only magazine.

At a recent Woodbridge Committee meeting, a discussion had taken place with the decision being to not purchase Gazettes next year. This had to be resolved in order to set membership fees. Mr Ralph, following this, had sent an official notice to Mr Armes cancelling the gazettes after the December issue.

Mr Ralph will now go back to the Woodbridge Committee in light of Mr Sewter willing to continue a paper edition, to gauge their reaction. He will advise the competitions committee members as soon as possible on their decision. (Woodbridge currently purchase 70 copies per month).

C Keeble – as a matter of procedure, the appointment of the permit secretary should be the remit of the competitions committee. The appointment of Mrs Douglas had been made at the November Board and Mr Keeble proposed that she be co-opted officially to the competitions committee – all agreed.

Presentation of Awards: As Mrs Ralph and Mrs Hearn had decided that they would not organise the Centre Awards, Youth MX awards have been presented and the adult awards are being presented on December 4th at Walsham le Willows in conjunction with the NGR awards. Paul Shorter has been invited to present the awards as one of the title sponsors.

Enduro – may be tied in with their Forum usually held in February. To be confirmed. It is understood that Trials have something planned also.

Grass Track – Mr Foskew is working on an idea.

It was agreed to present the Dick Williams and Bill Spurrell at the 1st Board in January 2023.

Alex Wright – questioned what is to happen regarding noise testing as he is concerned that this has been allowed to lapse. Wakes Colne did have a visit from a council official with a noise testing machine.

Mrs Ralph will contact Mr Armes to ascertain where the Centre noise testing equipment is currently and will also find out who in the Centre has a current licence.

There being no further business, Mr. Penny thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 21.45pm. Mr Penny thanked Mrs Ralph for her past service.

Date of the next meeting: Provisionally 12th January.

Venue to be confirmed.