

ACU EASTERN
(AFFILIATED TO THE Auto Cycle Union)
Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Competitions Committee held Monday 8th July 2024
Claydon and Barham Community Centre

Present at the meeting were Mr A Foskew (AF), Mr A Wright (AW), Mr C Cook (CC), Mr C Keeble (CK), Mr J Hearn (JH), Mr P Fenn (PF) and Mrs B Fenn (BF).

Following the numbering of the agenda:-

1. The Chairman, CC, opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

Apologies had been received from Martin Beadle, Paul Nash, Paul Hubbard, Barbara Douglas and Andrew Hay.

2. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting of this Committee, in May 2024, had been circulated to those in attendance following that meeting.

3. Matters arising from those Minutes

No issues had been raised regarding those minutes and these were approved by this Committee.

4. Any correspondence received

This is dealt with at points 8 and 9 below.

5. Sound testing update

AF reported that John Nickerson had asked to be put forward as a volunteer for the sound testing role.

6. Permit Secretary Report

No report had been received from the Permit Secretary.

CK commented that the Trials Secretary has indicated they want to discuss the fixture list for next year.

The procedure is that Barbara Douglas will send out forms to the club secretaries. The requested dates are then collated together by Barbara. If there are any simple clashes then these will be resolved by communicating with the secretaries. If there are then any further issues with clashes then these would come back to this Committee to be dealt with.

Because of some issues with the above process for this year's dates, the fixture list will not be released for next year until this Committee has looked at and approved them.

CK commented he hopes that Head Office will issue the dates in early November. This Committee will then aim to get the dates out before Christmas.

7. Stewards Reports

AF had received one Stewards Report from Norwich Vikings for their trials event. There were no issues arising from this.

8. Mildenhall Stewards Report

CC had received correspondence from John Nickerson regarding the Motocross event at Mildenhall. This event was run by NGR and there had not been a steward present because they had not requested one.

John Nickerson had written to CC to advise him that he thought the event was dangerous. He stated that the gap between the tracks on part of the course was not wide enough and that there should be some kind of fence/barrier between the tracks to help avoid potential collisions.

CC indicated that he was minded to ask who had issued the track certificate for the event.

AP suggested that this Committee was not in a position to comment on the correspondence. The correspondence should be passed on to the person who issued the permit for the event at Head Office. This communication needs to be done formally via email/in writing. This Committee can then tell Mr Nickerson that this is what has been done. The Committee agreed that this seemed to be the most sensible course of action.

Some discussion was then had as to whether stewards should be present at all events. They are useful and do offer a resolution route in the event of disagreements from riders.

All Stewards reports go to AF as the Stewards Co-ordinator. The clubs also used to receive copies. However, the reports no longer get forwarded on to the clubs. CK commented that it would be reasonable for a copy to go to the clubs to help them learn from any issues which may have arisen. It was suggested that AF could send copies of the reports on to the club when he receives them.

9. Stewards doubling up

CC had received an email from Debbie Blyth indicating that a steward at the recent Motocross event had taken on the blue flag role. She was querying whether a steward was able to undertake this duty at an event.

It was agreed that it says in the ACU Handbook that stewards should not carry out an executive role at meetings. They should only be there as the steward for that event.

AF commented that at the grass track event at Iken on 11.05.24 (where he was the steward) he had had to take over as clerk of the course because the appointed clerk of the course had walked away from the role during the event. This should not have happened although this Committee understands that AF did not want to cancel the meeting. The two roles are independent of each other and it is not ideal for someone to take over as clerk of the course part way through the event. The rules state that it is acceptable for this to happen only if there is an emergency which forces the clerk of the course to retire. This should also be approved by the steward for the event. AF was effectively approving himself to take over.

It was agreed that the clerk of the course and his deputy for the event should be reported to ACU Head Office for abandoning their roles, This will be done via email/in writing to them.

Some discussion was had as to why the event had a steward as it was not a Centre event. AF indicated that he had been asked by the promotor to attend as a steward and was not there on behalf of the Centre. CC indicated that AF should tell the promotor to ask ACU Head Office for a steward in future. The permit issuing authority should appoint the steward.

10. Sub Committee Chairman Reports

Motocross

PH was not present at the meeting and so no report was given to the Committee.

Trials

PN was not present at the meeting and so no report was given to the Committee. CK confirmed that Clive Dopson is retiring as secretary of the Trials Committee.

Enduro

JH confirmed that there was not much to report to this Committee. The Enduro Committee had recently met and had decided to keep their current position within the Centre. This is as a devolved committee but within the remit of the Centre. The Committee will continue to operate under the existing rules and regulations.

Grass track

AF had already reported on the Grass track event above – the only event was that which took place on 11.05.24.

11. Any Other Business

CK commented that there had been an Inter Centre Grass track event held in Winchester. This had been attended predominantly by Eastern Centre members but no one seemed to know it had happened.

Similarly, there was a British Championship round for Ladies Trials in the Centre. It appeared on the fixture list for the Centre but there were no results or a report of the event on the Centre website.

AF indicated that he needed a steward for the Hawkendon event and AP volunteered to do this.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting after thanking everyone for their attendance.

Next meeting date TBC – likely to be a Monday