

# Eastern Centre Auto Cycle Union

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the Centre Board 2012 Session, held in Stanway Village Hall on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2012 in the presence of:

<b>President</b>	<b>A Penny</b>
<b>Chairman</b>	<b>J Hearn</b>
<b>Life Vice Presidents</b>	<b>D Clampin: D Slaughter</b>
<b>Vice Presidents</b>	<b>C Armes, A Crawford</b>
	<b>R Bannister, Mrs M Mellish</b>
	<b>A Chaplin Mr A Brace</b>
	<b>Mrs V Hearn Mr M Deeks</b>
	<b>Mrs L Berwick</b>
<b>General Secretary</b>	

Mr T Smith	Essex & Suffolk	Mr E Wass	Braintree
Mr R Greengrass	Lowestoft	Mr D Cordle	Ipswich MCC
Mr E Hood	Triangle MCC	Mr A C Adams	Halstead & DMCC
Mrs G Bannister	Southend	Mr K Weavers	Halstead & DMCC
Mr A H Kenny	Harwich	Mr J Maltby	Castle Colchester
Mrs B Douglas	Norwich Vikings	Mr J Douglas	Norwich Vikings
Mrs D Blyth	Woodbridge	Mr K Nichols	Sudbury & DMCC
Mr J Blyth	Woodbridge	Mr P Sewter	Norwich Vikings
Mr R Drane	Braintree	Mrs M Armes	Watton and District
Mr A Foskew	ECMC	Mr G Brace	Chelmsford
Mr G Garrod	Woodbridge	Mrs Y Smith	ESSA
Mr A Deeks	Castle Colchester	Mr D Smith	Braintree
Mr G Hambleton	Dunmow	Mr P Tomlin	TOMCC GF

**Note: - Only those officials & delegates who signed in have been accredited as attendees.**

- 1. Mr J Hearn opened the meeting and welcomed all present.** Mr Hearn asked those present to acknowledge D Slaughter MBE by way of a round of applause. Mr Hearn also announced that Jack Sheppard was the winner of the Pinhard Trophy for 2011. There was a minute's silence in respect of Mr Tony Parkin.

Apologies were accepted from: Mr A Hay: Mr D Furlong: Mr M Cross; Mr J Read: Mr R Sayer: Mr D Mills; Mr J Nickerson.

## **2 Minutes of the last meeting:**

Mr Hearn sought approval of the minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the Centre Board 13<sup>th</sup> November 2011. Proposed R Chaplin 2<sup>nd</sup> A Foskew and accepted by the Board.

## **3 Matters Arising:**

A Kenny – item 4 re Youth Representative on the Competitions Committee. Two persons had been co-opted but had stopped attending the meetings. It was noted that there were no representatives attending from the Youth Clubs this meeting.

Mrs D Blyth asked whether the new entry forms were being prepared. C Armes to liaise with P Sewter – this is ongoing.

Mr J Hearn proposed that a donation be made to Jack Sheppard, 2<sup>nd</sup> D Smith to help with his costs. Mr A Deeks suggested paying for his licence and insurance. It was agreed by those present that Mr D Cordle would liaise with Jack Sheppard on behalf of the Centre. A maximum of £500 was agreed upon.

## **4. Executive Committee Report:**

Mr Hearn sought approval of the minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Committee, proposed C Armes 2<sup>nd</sup> D Smith.

One amendment – should read three cases of transponders.

Mr Hearn pointed out to the Board the fact that the Executive meetings were quite lengthy and were in place to present items to the Board that had been discussed which inevitably saved time at Board Meetings.

Mrs Blyth asked whether an agreement paper had been prepared for clubs to sign when using the new timing system. D Smith agreed to prepare the agreement.

## **5. Centre Officers: To elect Centre Secretary**

Only one nomination had been received. Mrs Lyn Berwick duly elected to serve for 2012.

**5a) Centre Archivist – to be a permanent post – A Kenny.**

Environmental Officer	Mr E Wass
Rights of Way Officer	Mr R Drane
Gazette Editor	Mr C Armes
Gazette Treasurer	Mr R Greengrass
Benevolent Fund Officer	Mr M Cross

Mr Wass, Mr Drane, Mr Armes and Mr Greengrass all agreed to carry on their current roles.

Proposed M Deeks, 2<sup>nd</sup> D Smith and agreed by Board to re-elect en bloc.

Mrs M Mellish commented that the Centre has provision to create Life members of the Eastern Centre ACU and presented the case for Mrs M Armes. This was proposed by R Chaplin 2<sup>nd</sup> D Smith and carried unanimously. Mrs Marie Armes was delighted to accept.

Mr R Bannister pointed out that Mr Cross had not attended the last three Board Meetings and that no information was being presented to the Board with regard to the Benevolent Fund. Mr K Weavers asked whether any one else wished to be considered for the post. It was agreed that Mr Cross would be contacted to ask whether he wished to continue as Benevolent Fund Officer.

**6. Correspondence:**

Mrs L Berwick reported that a video projector was required for technical seminar on 4<sup>th</sup> February.

A letter had been received from the Southend Club regarding a Trial that they had held the previous month. The A class championship results were scrapped by the Competitions Committee after the event and this had caused some ill feeling. A detailed discussion was held with Mr E Hood stating that the Centre Rules had been followed. Mr D Mills suggested that an apology to the Southend Club should be made. This final outcome was that this matter would be referred back to the Competitions Committee for further discussion.

Mr R Bannister stated the following:

1. It is wrong to run two events (championships) under one permit as championships may run under separate rules.

2. All Centre Championships used to be run under open to Centre Permits and now run under Open permits. This needs discussion by the Competitions Committee. Mr Foskew commented that the reason Open Permits are used is to enable organisers to run events with numbers adequate to be financially viable.

**7. National Management Council Report: - Mr J Hearn**

Two major projects running – Insurance changes and on line licensing. It had been a tough year financially and Rugby have been working hard to reduce running and staff costs with an overall reduction of 14.4% being achieved going into 2012.

Elections had been held as follows:

Board of Directors:

2 members for 3 years Mr R Hanks and Mr I Murphy being duly elected.

Moto Cross Committee: Mr J Percival and Mr C Warren duly elected to serve for 3 years.

Track Racing Committee: Mrs A Boyle and Mr C Tyrrell duly elected to serve for 3 years.

Trials and Enduro Committee: Mr Fairbrother, Mr Rew and Mr Wren duly elected to serve for 3 years.

A proposal had been received from the East Yorks Centre that the £43 licence fee be abolished and replaced by a £10 Affiliation Fee and an appropriate riders levy. As licences had been issued for 2012 this could not be brought in until next year if in fact this was decided to be the course to take. This item is to be placed on the agenda for the May National Council Meeting.

A proposal from the South Midlands Centre had been received that ACU Handbooks be sent to all Club Secretaries who were currently not entitled as Licenced Officials. This was agreed.

A proposed amendment had been made to the Rules of the Union regarding members missing three consecutive meetings forfeiting such membership. New wording to be 'Any member who is absent from three programmed meetings of the Board of Directors, Sport Committee meetings, Sub-Committee or Advisory Panel meetings in any one year of which he is an appointed member without reasonable cause accepted by the Board, may forfeit his membership of the board of Directors, Sports Committee, Sub-Committee of Advisory Panel as the case may be.

This proposal was unanimously accepted and Rules duly amended.

Medals of Honour had been presented to Vic Ashford and Eric Adcock.

Update by D Smith ACU Director:

- a) Jayne Blackwell has resigned.
- b) New Licences can now be obtained on line
- c) ACU Handbooks being printed and sent out for next week.

## **8. Financial Report**

In the absence of the Treasurer Mr Hay, Mrs Berwick gave the financial report and invited comments from the Board.

Mr D Cordle pointed out that there are no centre levies on basic permits, which has a huge impact on Centre funds.

A discussion arose as to whether the Centre could impose levies. David Smith stated that Clubs could be asked, but that the Centre could not enforce such a rule. With Basic Insurance, the Centre is NOT the permit issuing authority.

It was agreed that this would be placed on the next Board agenda for further discussion.

The point was made that levies supporting team events would only appear to be used for Trials and that Moto Cross and Enduro Clubs may not be willing to contribute.

Mr Penny pointed out that Clubs running under the Basic Insurance were now financially better off but that only one Club had actually reduced its entry fees

Mr Kenny asked if it would be possible for the Treasurer to formulate a 'levy figure' which he feels would be fair and that this information be distributed well in advance of the April Board meeting to enable clubs time for discussion. Mrs Berwick to discuss this with Mr Hay and to ask if he can also provide a retrospective figure of how much the levies used to produce pre Basic Insurance. .

## **9. Competitions Committee Report:**

The outgoing Chairman, Mr D Cordle made comment that the 2011 season had been a good one and congratulated all Clubs for running their events in such a professional manner. There had not been such a decline in entries as had been expected in the current financial climate. The biggest steps forward had been made in the forthcoming introduction of electronic timing and thanked the Centre for its commitment to this.

It had been a successful year with Jack Sheppard and Jake Nicholls performing brilliantly in their events and raising the profile of the Eastern Centre in the process.

Mr Cordle thanked the Board and members past and present for the support he received in his post as Chairman of the Competitions Committee and wished David Smith, the new Chairman, a successful 2012.

Mr K Weavers commented that the date for the Halstead Club meeting had been published incorrectly in the Gazette, this will be amended in the next issue.

The minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> minutes of the competitions committee, proposed G Garrod, 2<sup>nd</sup> G Hambleton, were approved with no matters arising.

Mr C Armes thanked Mr Cordle for his chairmanship of the competitions committee.

## **10. Access, Environmental and Rights of Way Matters:**

Mr E Wass reported that the Forestry Commission intention to sell off Forestry land had so far had 42,000 hits on the website against the sale. This will be an ongoing issue for quite some time. Mr Wass also reported that the National Trust had invited various agencies who are in agreement with motor sports, including, RSPB and Landowners to meet with LARA.

Environmental mats- Mr Wass asked that organisers make every effort to encourage the use of environmental mats in the coming season.

Mr R Drane:

Mr Drane reported that Essex County Council were attempting to question the use of seasonable byeway 13 Shalford – this issue has been longstanding and is not yet resolved. The meeting re bye ways had been held and there was good news on other temporary seasonable byeways. Mr Drane will continue to attend meetings and update the Board.

## **11 Eastern Centre Website.**

Mr Armes reported that numbers were holding steady.

Mr A Adams, Halstead Club, questioned why there had been 16 errors in the Halstead Club notes published in the last gazette. Mr Armes apologised to Mr Adams. As Mr Adams does not have access to a computer, Mrs Berwick agreed to receive the Halstead notes in type form and will then edit and forward to Mr Armes for publication.

Eastern Centre Gazette Finances:

Mr R Greengrass presented his report to the Board.

Current figures are as follows: Period Nov to Dec 2011

Income; £3666.70

Expenditure: £1827.90

Surplus £1838.80

Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011:

Total income                   £12,703.28

Total Expenditure:           £9060.24

Surplus                           £3643.04

Current Account	£23,286.28
Tracker Account	£18,751.54.

Mr Greengrass noted that with the increased use of the internet by riders downloading entry forms, it is anticipated that the numbers of gazettes being issued will decrease and therefore income will reduce. However advertising interest by local businesses in the gazette together with the hard work of Paul Sewter to gain advertising for the website should show an increase in revenue.

Gazette finances were discussed with a view to investing £25,000 in a high earning account.

A discussion arose regarding the poor rate of interest in the Tracker Account. Several options were put forward and Mr Greengrass, Mr Hearn and Mrs Berwick were tasked with investigating ways to gain a better rate of interest and will report back to the April Board.

Mr Penny asked whether all clubs had now paid their invoices from 2010. Mr Greengrass reported that there are still 5 clubs outstanding. A discussion arose over how to deal with this. Mr D Smith stated that the simplest way is to not send them any more gazettes until they pay up. The clubs will be contacted and if they fail to pay, will be listed in a future gazette.

Mr G Brace asked whether there had been any reasons submitted by the clubs for non- payment. Mr Greengrass stated that some had their figures adjusted but had still not paid up.

The invoicing for 2011 is still to be processed, as figures have not yet been made available to Mr Greengrass.

At this point a proposal was made by Mr G Brace that Mr Greengrass assumes responsibility for the distribution side thus making it easier for him to keep control of numbers of gazettes issued.

Mr D Smith in support, stated that if clubs sent their orders via Mr Greengrass whom in turn advised Mr Armes, the problem would be solved.

The outcome was that this would be discussed at the next Executive meeting to which Mr Greengrass will be invited.

Mr D Cordle suggested that contact details for club treasurers be obtained. Mrs Berwick to action

## **12. Eastern Centre Website**

Mr P Sewter reported that the new website had gone live on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012 and user activity had increased.. Mr Hearn congratulated Mr Sewter on the new site which now includes an events calendar and a page where clubs can upload their own club news. Any problems, Mr Sewter said he is more than happy to help Clubs with this.

Mr Sewter reported that more than 90% of reserved riding numbers had been taken up online and that Gazette advertisers were now online also. Smaller banner advertisements will be offered to Gazette advertisers. To date £500 has been raised by advertising.

Transponders all purchased and testing taking place at Lyng on 29<sup>th</sup> January with a group of invited riders.

To date orders for over 100 transponders had been received from riders and 226 riding numbers had been reserved.

## **13.ACU Benevolent Fund**

In the absence of Mr Cross, Mrs Berwick gave a brief report;

September donations £2658.59. October donations: £2136.27, December donations £9327.92.

Monthly payouts as at 30th November 2011 were £4625.00

There are currently no Eastern Centre claimants.

Eastern Centre donations £52 from November Board, Norfolk and Suffolk Group £75.00

## **15. Centre Function**

Mrs Berwick gave an update of ticket sales, which were going well. Mr and Mrs Crawford offered to run a raffle and donations of prizes were requested.

## **16.Any Other Business**

Mr J Blyth still does not appear on the Eastern Centre Stewards list. Mr Wass responded that he was awaiting confirmation from Rugby.

Seminars for Clerk of the Course and Stewards for Trials and Enduro due to be held.

Mr J Hearn advised that due to an error, Mr M Wheaton's name still appeared. Rugby had apologised for any distress it may have caused.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.30pm**