

Eastern Centre Auto Cycle Union

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Centre Board 2012 Session, held in Stanway Village Hall on 11th November 2012 in the presence of:

President
Chairman
Life Vice President
Vice Presidents

Treasurer
General Secretary

A Penny
J Hearn
D Clampin
Mrs M Mellish Mr R Bannister
A Chaplin Mr A Brace
Mrs V Hearn Mr M Deeks
Mr A Hay
Mrs L Berwick

Mr D Smith	Braintree	Mr C Ralph	Woodbridge
Mr T Smith	Essex & Suffolk	Mr D Cordle	Ipswich MCC
Mr G Collins	Red Lodge	Mr G Hambleton	Dunmow
Mr P Sewter	NVMCC	Mr J Douglas	NVMCC
Mrs B Douglas	NVMCC	Mrs G Bannister	Southend
Mr R Greengrass	Lowestoft	Mrs E Collins	Red Lodge
Mr R Drane	Braintree	Mr K Weavers	Halstead & DMCC
Mrs Y Smith	ESSA	Mr D Mills	ECMC
Mr A Deeks	Castle Colchester	Mr G Garrod	Woodbridge
Mr J Read	Woodbridge	Mr E Wass	Braintree
Mr A H Kenny	Harwich	Mr D Cordle	Ipswich
Mrs D Blyth	Woodbridge	Mr G Brace	Chelmsford
Mr J Blyth	Woodbridge	Mr P Tomlin	TOMCC GF
Mr A Crawford	Halstead	Mr A Adams	Halstead
Mr E Hood	Triangle	Mr R Sayer	Triangle
Mrs T Hales	NSJMCC	Mr J Maltby	Castle Colchester
Mr A Foskew	ECMC	Mr P Nash	Southend

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

1. Mr J Hearn opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

Apologies were accepted from: Mr C Keeble; Mr P Fenn; Mr D Furlong; Mr C Armes; Mrs M Armes; Mr M Cross; Mr D Slaughter

2 Minutes of the last meeting:

Approval was sought for the minutes of the 3rd Board Meeting. Proposed A Foskew, 2nd A Hay.

3 Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising

4. Competitions Committee Election:

As Mr Hearn had been elected as Chairman, his nomination was removed. Mr C Ralph, Mr G Brace and Mr A Crawford were the remaining nominees. There was no need for an election so all three are now members of the Competitions Committee. This now leaves two vacancies, one for 1 year and one for 2 years.

5. Dick Williams and Bill Spurrell Awards Election

Following a private vote, the Bill Spurrell Award winner was Mr G (Chick) Garrod. The recipient of the Dick Williams Award is Ms Lyn Berwick.

6. Competitions Committee Report:

Mr D Smith, Chair of the Competitions Committee sought approval for the minutes of the 5th, 6th and 7th Competition Committee Meetings.

No comments on 5th.

Mr M Deeks commented (6th minutes) that the Centre effectively issued only two types of permits, Open or Restricted.

Mr R Chaplin commented (7th minutes) that the Sudbury Enduro date, which was moved to 23rd September, had in fact been moved earlier in the year.

Minuted approved – proposed M Deeks, 2nd A Foskew.

7. Treasurers Report:

Mr A Hay, Centre Treasurer presented the Centre Finances 2012 and Moto Cross accounts for 2011/12.

In come on target to reach the much reduced budget due to events running under basic permits. Centre only receives a flat fee of £50 per permit, which will not be paid after the end of the financial year. Centre Expenditure had been underspent for the last two years but was slightly overspent this year due to the purchase of a laser printer for the Centre Secretary. There was no expenditure for Centre Team Events as none had been run. Mr Hay sought approval for the Honoraria totalling £1760. The Moto Cross Account had now been operative for 12 months. Mr Hay recommended that the financial year-end should be 31st October to coincide with the end of the moto cross season and the commencement of the sale of the following year's reserved numbers. All the Treasurers recommendations were agreed by the Board.

8. Executive Committee Report:

Mr J Hearn, Chair, presented a report to the Board. Mr Clampin was still not happy with item 5 on the Executive Minutes and maintained that the Braintree Club failed it its duty to advise the Steward (Mr Clampin) of an event cancellation. Mr Smith said that he had written to Mr Clampin. Mr Clampin stated that he had not received any letter. Mr Smith will send him a copy.

Mr Nash commented that the problem appeared to be lack of communication and that this had gone on too long.

The Braintree Trial had been picked up by the MSA regarding 'road work'. Mr Clampin commented that the permit should not have been issued at all for this event and wants the issue of the roadwork with trials resolved. There was some detailed discussion around this with Mr Penny advising the members that from 1st January 2013 Clubs must sign up to agree to the MSA otherwise permits would not be issued when road was involved. It is also necessary to advise the MSA six months in advance, which may mean that the Phil King Trial may not run. Mr A Deeks stated that castle Colchester had been advised of this at their last committee meeting. Mr Penny commented that due to this, there would be several national trials not taking place.

Further discussion around the Cheshire Report in the 60's. Mr Smith confirmed that the ACU was taking this very seriously and that a Barrister had been asked to look at the Road Traffic Act.

There was then a lengthy discussion over the role of the Executive Committee.

Item 6 of the executive minutes – re a letter received from Mr Greengrass. Mr Greengrass asked if a letter had been received in answer to his comments regarding the issue of permits direct from Rugby without any communication to the Centre. None as yet, Mrs Berwick will contact Gary Thompson. Mr A Deeks apologised for not communicating in his role as the promoter of the event in question but did then advise the Board of an event due to run on 7th July 2013 at Corton.

Mr Bannister stated that any event running within the Centre should have published regs.

Proposed by R Bannister 2nd A Deeks that any event run with the Centre boundaries should be published in the Eastern Centre Gazette and put on website. This to include TBEC and promoters Mr Penny agreed that this made sense and that notification should come from the competitions committee via the minutes.

Any other business – Mr A Deeks asked why he was deemed unsuitable for the centre to support his application to the Moto Cross Sports Committee and why this was not discussed at the previous Board. Mr Armes had asked for this item to be discussed at the Executive. Mr Hearn replied that it was felt the Mr Deeks did not have the necessary experience in running events.

Mr Hay apologised to Mr Deeks and stated that he had not felt strong enough at the executive to say what he felt. He asked to be disassociated with the paragraph in the minutes expressing the suitability of Mr Deeks.

There was heated discussion with the opinion that this committee was meeting against the description of its role within the Byelaws. There was a suggestion that the name be changed and that the 'new committee' consists of the Chair, Treasurer and selected members from the Board with the Centre Secretary to liaise with such members in the event of an emergency arising.

Mr Kenny proposed that this item be placed as a specific item on the agenda for the January Board Meeting.

A firm proposal from G Garrod 2nd J Sayer. A new name 'Emergency Committee'.

Consisting of Chair, Treasurer and those members deemed fit for the current emergency to be drawn from members as decided by the Centre Chairman and Treasurer. The Centre Secretary to be the contact in the first instance and to be responsible for communication.

Mr Smith will draft an amendment which will be circulated prior to the January Board Meeting where it will then be discussed.

9 National Management Council Report:

Mr J Hearn reported that:

Insurance update- Change from Doodsons to Locktons

East Yorks Centre proposal to abolish the £43 licence fee and replace with a registration fee. This was voted on and a new proposal was made: That the Moto Cross Committee recommend to the Board of

Directors that they be given delegated authority to work with the EYC and agree a licence fee to be included in the Entry Fee to be piloted within the East Yorks Centre effective 1st January 2013. Proposal was carried. Online licensing system is up and running well.

Mr Hearn was advised that the two delegates that the Eastern Centre supports on the Moto Cross Sports Committee should be A Deeks and D Edwards and on the Track Racing Committee, P Hurry and D Staff. Comment made regarding promoters. Two discussed, Mr A Deeks (D K Sports) and G Hockey. It was stated that these are professionals and that is not seen as a bad thing to encourage promoters within the sport. Mr Deeks stated that he went before the South Eastern Centre and wished to sit on the panel for the good of the sport and is concerned at Club level. The question of whether promoters should be part of the competitions committee was raised – this was discussed by Mr Deeks' club and it is assured that he is there for the good of the Centre.

10. Eastern Centre Gazette:

There was no report from the Gazette Editor.

Mr Greengrass reported on the Eastern Centre Gazette's finances, which are very encouraging.

Income up to the end of 2011 and including the first three quarters of 2012:	£7532.40
Expenditure	£2045.73
Surplus for period	£5486.67

Mr Greengrass will prepare a report for the last 2 months prior to the January Board. The last quarter to be invoiced mid December. There are a few outstanding invoices for the 3rd quarter. The interest on the short-term bond is payable end of November and Mr Greengrass proposes to reinvest the £25000 with the interest being transferred to the current account. The Board approved this.

Distribution is working well. Mr Greengrass requested any changed to amounts or to club contacts be made know to him.

11. Eastern Centre Website Report:

Mr P Sewter had prepared an annual report in which he stated that for the first time this year, areas of the website were offered for branding by local companies. This opportunity was taken up by Jim Aim Motorcycles and Gavin Hockey Motorcycles, which resulted in the website becoming self-financing. Banner advertising was also offered to existing gazette advertisers, but the response was disappointing. Mr Sewter sought permission from the Board to expand the revenue opportunity if the site by offering banner advertising and branding to other suitable companies.

This was proposed for acceptance by Mr A Deeks 2nd Mr J Maltby and carried.

Mr Sewter reported that the events calendar was being used but he requested that secretaries ensured that the information he had was kept up to date.

Mr Sewter reported on user interaction, which had been largely unsuccessful following a major system upgrade. He recommended to the Board that the Blog and Club New Sections be removed and that the installation of a new forum and social networking software be considered.

Discussion around charging all non centre clubs and promoters a fee of £15 for advertising events.

Proposed Mrs B Douglas, 2nd K Weavers. Carried.

12. Access Environmental and Rights of Way Matters:

Report by Mr R Drane.

Essex byeways were Ok at present but Byeway 13 Telford had still not been resolved. There was a new team from the Council now involved but there had been no further updates. One byeway had been closed for 6 months for resurfacing.

Byeway 32 Purley – landowner/residents had not realised its status which can be traced back to 1770. Objections against the closure were required and letters have been sent in. This has now gone to the Secretary of State for consideration as to whether it stays as a byeway or is reduced to a bridle way. There had been some confusion when it had become apparent that Essex County Council had another person named as the person responsible for access and environmental matters for the Eastern Centre. Mrs Berwick had written to the legal department of the Council advising them that Mr Drane is the official delegate for the Eastern Centre ACU. She had a reply noting this. Mrs Berwick to send a copy of this letter to Mr Drane.

Mr Drane also reported that in the Peak District, 22 byeways were vulnerable and there are moves to get all traffic rights removed. Organised objection days are being held.

Mr Wass reported that there is going to be a lack of Stewards next year and that he was still not receiving paperwork back.

There is new legislation regarding power washing and dirty water. Clubs need to be aware as there will be visits from the environment agency taking place. There are considerable fixed penalties, which could be charged. Mr Wass emphasised that this will be a big problem for clubs and that they need to be aware of this legislation.

Ash Tree Disease – at present the advice from the Woodland Trust is to carry on as normal but that it could mean that this will have to be treated as for the foot and mouth outbreak a few years ago. Clubs need to be aware of this and have a contingency plan in place with disinfectant etc.

13. ACU Benevolent Fund:

In the absence of Mr Cross, Mrs Berwick gave the report.

Receipts for:	July	£3751
	August	£3526
	October	£1617

Current monthly outgoings are £4300.

Rugby currently has pictures of the Hailwood Six at the TT for £50 delivered free.

Mr Cross has 7 TT Ben Fund Badges left at £ each. Please contact him if you would like one.

Mr Cross hoped that the Board members would support the collection and asked if secretaries of clubs would make a donation this year to the Ben Fund.

Mr G Brace expressed concern that Mr Cross had not been able to attend the last few meetings. Ms Berwick will contact Mr Cross to ask if he wishes to continue in the role of Ben Fund Officer. Mr Brace suggested that a job description be circulated to ask if anyone else would be interested. Ms Berwick said that she would contact Mr Cross first before this was done.

14. Centre Function:

Ms Berwick advised the meeting that the Centre Function would be held on 9th February 2013 at Gt Blakenham Village Hall at 7.30pm. Cost of ticket £5. Prizewinners + 1 FOC as last year. Order form and menu will be on website and in January Gazette.

15. Any Other Business

Mr Clampin sought permission to present the trophies for the Ray Clampin Memorial Trial at the Centre Function. This was agreed.

Mr Clampin also asked that Rule 5.08 of the NSC be looked at in respect of two officials riding in centre restricted trials. These were Centre Stewards.

He also commented on permits and swapping of venues. He had requested in July that Purls Wood was not overused but that an event had been taken from the Snaque Pit and changed to Purls Wood. Mr Clampin stated that the organiser should have sought Centre permission for this.

Mr Drane asked if there was an upper age limit for riders. The response was that this only applied for national events.

Mr Clampin sought the Centre's permission to run a Trial on 30th June.

Mrs Douglas commented that she had only received 5 names for the Clerk of Course MX Seminar on 18th November and said that this would be the only held in the Centre this year.

Seminars for Trials and Enduros are to be split and will be held in January. Dates to be confirmed.

If both are to be taken, the Enduro seminar must be attended first.

Mr D Cordle asked if the dates of the competitions committee meetings and all sub committee dates could be published in the fixture list. Mr Hay agreed to do this.

Mr E hood commented that at present the competitions committee seemed moto cross heavy and suggested that there should be four separate committees running their own disciplines. This to be an agenda item for the competitions committee.

Trials Forum booked for week commencing 10th December.

Proposal for the expenditure for the laser printer for the Centre secretary agreed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5pm

**Date and Time of Next meeting:
20th January 2013 at Stanway Village Hall at 1pm.
Stewards Meeting 10am.**