

Minutes of the 1st Session of the Eastern Centre ACU Board 2013 held on
Sunday 17th February 2013 at Stanway in the presence of:

President	A Penny
Chairman	J Hearn
Vice Chairman	A Foskew
Life Vice President	D Slaughter
Vice Presidents	Mrs M Mellish Mr R Bannister
	A Chaplin Mr A Brace
	Mrs V Hearn
Treasurer	Mr A Hay
General Secretary	Mrs L Berwick

Name	Club	Name	Club
P Tomlin	TOMCC (Epping Forest)	R Greengrass	Lowestoft Invaders
T Smith	Essex and Suffolk	D Cordle	Ipswich MCC
P Sewter	NVMCC	C Ralph	Woodbridge
D Smith	Braintree	J Nash	Southend
P Cordle	Ipswich MCC	D Mills	ECMC
C Dopson	Wymondham	J Blyth	Woodbridge
P Nash	Southend	G Garrod	Woodbridge
C Grange	Southend	B Drane	Braintree
D Blyth	Woodbridge	M Armes	Life Member/Watton
A Crawford	Halstead	Y Smith	ESSA
J Read	Woodbridge	K Weavers	Halstead
P Armes	Watton and DMCC	B Douglas	NVMCC
G Brace	Chelmsford	E Wass	Braintree
A H Kenny	Harwich MCC	J Douglas	NVMCC
T Adams	Halstead	G Bannister	Southend

1. Mr Hearn, Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed all present. He then gave a tribute to Colin Armes and a period of silence was held. MR Hearn then thanked everyone and invited Mrs Marie Armes to say a few words.

Apologies were received from Mr D Clampin; M Cross; A Deeks; M Deeks.

Apologies were made to the Armes family as the Agenda contained reference to Colin Armes. It was explained that the agenda had been produced prior to Mr Armes' passing,

My Hay sought agreement from those present as to the amount to be donated in Mr Armes' memory to Spinal Research. The figure of £200 was agreed.

2. Previous Minutes:

Mr Hearn sought approval for the previous minutes. Proposed for acceptance by R Chaplin, 2nd A Kenny. And approved

3. Matters Arising.

Item 13 should read £25,000 – duly amended.

4. Election of Centre Secretary. Before this took place, Ms Berwick explained that the bylaws state that the election of the Centre Secretary should have taken place in November. Historically this has changed over the years.

Ms Berwick assured the meeting that from 2013, this would be dealt with in November. There had been only one nomination and that was for the present incumbent. Proposed by R Chaplin 2nd A Foskew. Ms Berwick duly elected for 2013.

5. Appointment of Centre Officers:

Environmental Officer – Mr Wass agreed to continue, there being no further nominees, this was carried.

Rights of Way Officer – Mr Drane agreed to continue, there being no other nominees, this was agreed.

Gazette Editor. P Armes proposed A H Kenny 2nd A Crawford – there being no further nominees, this was accepted.

Gazette Treasurer: R Greengrass agreed to carry on this role.

Benevolent Fund Officer. Mr Cross, present incumbent, had advised the Secretary that he would be willing to continue.

Mr D Smith pointed out that Mr Cross had not attended a Board Meeting for the past twelve months and due to his work, was unlikely to do so this year. Mrs Mellish stated that in her opinion, if the job was being done well, there was no actual need to attend the meetings. Mr Cross always provides a report to the Secretary.

Mr D Cordle advised the meeting that Mr Cross had dealt swiftly and professionally with a claim for one of his club members. Therefore Mrs Mellish proposed that Mr Cross continues as Ben Fund Officer, this was 2nd by Mr Adams and carried.

6. Secretary's Report:

Ms Berwick reported that she had attended a Chairman's and Secretaries meeting at Rugby on 16th February with Mr Hearn.

Items discussed had been a proposed increase to licence fees for 2014 – this will definitely happen but the figures are yet to be decided.

The Wessex Centre and Mid Wales had tabled a question regarding the lack of communication between Rugby and the Centres regarding the issue of permits. It was clearly evident that Rugby had not been liaising with Centres when a permit request was received. a robust discussion, a plan for Rugby to contact Centre Secretaries and advise them when a permit comes in. Centre Secretaries will be given 48 hours to respond.

Foxhills Moto Park will be under the control of ACU for next 5 years. Contract had been available to delegates to peruse. Affiliation - this to be the responsibility of the Centres in future.

Regionalisation was discussed. Mr Higgins did say that he felt that this would be put out to consultation in the future.

The idea of restricting under 16 year olds to 125 machines had been discussed. To be left of the individual sports committees to discuss.

On line entry system up and running – being rolled out slowly. 14 clubs currently using the system with 4 more signing up last week.

MSA Authorisation:

Mr Higgins reported that he had a meeting with MSA, which he felt was not as positive as he had hoped. He felt that this would be an ongoing problem for quite some time. Another meeting to be arranged as soon as possible.

Ms Berwick also reported that she had minutes available from the Trials and Enduro Meeting at Rugby for those interested.

7. Amendment to Centre Byelaws

Mr Hearn read out the proposal regarding 'The Emergency Committee', which had been previously circulated to all Clubs.

Mr G Brace asked about the make up of the panel. After a long discussion, Mrs Hearn suggested that the delegates go back to their Clubs and ask for nominations to be sent to the Centre Secretary. Nominations to be circulated to Clubs by the Centre Secretary at least two week prior to the April Board meeting.

Mr P Nash proposed that the amendment to the byelaws as circulated be adopted, 2nd D Blyth. Vote was 21 for with 5 against. Therefore the amendment was duly adopted.

8. National Management Council Report.

Mr Hearn reported that he had attended a NMC meeting on Saturday 12th November 2012. Mr Murphy had reported that the Isle of Man Government had reconsidered the proposals to re-structure the Manx GP. As a result, the festival will revert back to the two-week format, which in turn means that the Manx two-day Trial will take its original place in the calendar for 2013.

Elections: Mr C Moram and Mrs M Mellish were elected as Vice Presidents of the ACU for a period of two years.

Boards of Directors – Successful candidates were Mr David Smith re-elected and Mr R Humprey elected for a period of three years.

Moto Cross Committee- Mr Edwards re-elected. Mr McCauley elected for a period of three years.

Trials and Enduro Committee –Mr Collins and Mr Willoughby re-elected for a period of three years.

Track Racing Committee- Mr Staff re-elected. Mr Hurry elected for a period of three years.

Panel of Adjudicators: Both Mr Foskew and Mr M Deeks accepted for three years.

Insurance update –Locktons will continue to be the Insurers. Ongoing discussions re pricing.

Officials riding in events – a proposal had been received that' Motor Cycle helmets, correctly fitted, must be worn by all riders and sidecar passengers riding a motor cycle or quad. Officials must also

wear a helmet whilst riding a motor cycle, and it is further recommended that they wear a helmet whilst riding a quad. This proposal was unanimously accepted.

Mr J Parker was made an Honorary Member of the Road Racing Committee.

ACU Finances- the Chairman reported that it is expected that the ACU Ltd will make a loss for 2012 and would be looking at budget cuts

9 Financial Report:

Mr A Hay Honorary Treasurer presented a report on the Centre's finances for 2012

Budget for 2012 had been set at £9180 but the actual figure has been £7665 with the surplus income being £7444. This was due to there being no Inter Centre Team events in 2012.

Investment Account stands at £13600.65

Land Fund Account £108,431.10.

Draft Budget for 2013 was also presented.

Which include revised permit fees taking effect from 1st March 2013 as follows:

	Restricted	Open
Moto cross Premier Cover	£45	£50
Hare and Hounds Premier Cover	£45	£50
Enduro Premier Cover	£35	£35
Grass Track Premier Cover	£45	£50
Trials Premier Cover	£30	£35
Youth Trials	£10	

Mr Hay's recommendations were that:

The Board notes the provisional accounts for the financial year 2012, which are subject to final reconciliation.

That the Board extends the exemption of levies for low entry events, which attract less than 30 entries for a further 12 months.

The Centre Board adopts the revised permit fees

The Centre Board adopts that draft budget for 2013.

This was proposed by A Kenny, 2nd R Chaplin and carried.

Mr Hay reported that the Centre Function had made a surplus of £41 and thanked Mr and Mrs Crawford for running the raffle.

Mr Hay reported that to date the reserved number scheme had raised £1464.

Mr Hay reported on the secured sponsorship for the Eastern Centre MX Championship which gives each organiser £800 per round. Bickers Lifting, the title sponsor have paid in full. Partner sponsor, M C Comps has paid 40% deposit.

General discussion around the drop in entries which appear to be countrywide.

10 Competitions Committee Report:

Report from Mr David Smith, Competitions Committee Chair.

Mr Smith reported that at the last competitions committee meeting, Mr P Armes and Mr C Dopson were co-opted onto the committee. Mr Armes was then duly appointed as the Permit Officer for the Centre.

Mr Kenny asked if there had been any other nominations for the permit officer vacancy – it was reported that there had been, but this nomination failed to attract a seconder.

Mr P Nash stated that the post should have been advertised into the open arena. Ms Berwick explained that the Byelaws state that this is a role that is appointed by the competitions committee.

Mr Kenny requested that it be minuted that he had asked the question and that he had been satisfied with the response.

Mr Smith sought approval of the 8th and 9th Minutes of 2012, which was unanimously agreed.

11. To discuss the possibility of purchasing timing system monitor screen.

Mr Hay reported that at the December meetings of the competitions committee, this was brought up for discussion. Mr Hay had not been present but had since had discussions with Roy Humphrey regarding the possibility. Mr Sewter had been investigation costs. It was agreed that Mr Hay would take this item to the forthcoming MX Forum for discussion. Mr Hay and Mr Sewter will meet with Roy Humphrey at GT Hockham on March 3rd.

Mrs Mellish advised the Board that Mr Ray Smith, who has been involved with timekeeping for over 30 years had shown interest in assisting the timing team. She will pass on his details to the Centre Secretary.

12. Access Environmental and Rights of Way matters.

Mr Bob Drane reported that he had attended 5 meetings during 2012 and that there are now new structures within County Hall with one person in charge of each new designated area.

Byway 32 Purleigh – Secretary of State had sent an officer out to look at this byway and an enquiry has been called for 18th June 2013.

Mr Drane has written personally to the cabinet minister and is awaiting a reply.

Mr Drane also reported on land being used illegally by 4x4 drivers but there is also now a member of 4x4 clubs on the access group.

The Rural Community County Council of Essex now run the meetings and the meetings are held at their venue. There is a lady who works two days a week from there and reports to the Council. Mr Drane concerned that more control may be rolled out to Parish Councils and the like and is concerned that should this happen, byways may not be maintained.

Mr Kenny also expressed concern that 4x4 drivers are damaging byways and this impacts on our sport.

Mr J Blyth reported that illegal riding was taking place at Thetford. Discussion around this.

Mr Drane stated that 12 months ago he had correspondence stating that the ACU were taking on Rights of Way issues and that he sent completed forms back to Rugby. It now appears that the committee set up was no longer running. All access matters are dealt with by Mr Clench. David Smith agreed to find out the current position.

Mr Wass reported that 4 x 4 drivers were also a problem on a piece of land at Bures. Mr Wass was concerned that the Motor Liaison Group was no longer running and in his opinion it should be set up again. Mr Kenny agreed that the group used to be useful but when Dave Kersey retired, the link to the ACU ceased. Mr Wass would like to get a group together and invite outside groups to attend.

Stewards Meeting: Mr Wass reported that the stewards meeting held on the morning of this Board meeting had been poorly attended, with only 7 of the registered 30 stewards present. Mr Wass asked whether those present thought it might be better to hold the stewards meetings on an evening in a local pub. Mr Nash agreed that this would be a better idea and Mr Wass agreed to organise this for the next meeting.

Environmental Issues:

Forestry Commission had changed their minds about selling off their stock at present.

Ash tree disease still a problem.

Mr Greengrass commented that the advice given by DEFRA and the Woodland Trust on how to deal with this matter had been conflicting. Mrs Armes asked whether Mr Wass was aware that plans were being made to appoint an organisation that would oversee the Forestry Commission. Mr Wass is to attend a meeting next week with the MSA.

13. Eastern Centre Gazette:

Gazette Editor

Mr P Armes requested that clubs advise him of the numbers of gazettes required.

Gazette Treasurer Report:

Mr Greengrass reported that:

Income in 2012	£19058
Expenditure in 2012	£7827.97
Surplus for 2012	£11230.63

Period 1.11.12 to 31.12.12

Income	£2867.20
Expenditure	£1156.10

Surplus	£1711.10
---------	----------

Barclays Current Account	£27516.91
Barclays Tracker Account	£1165.79

In Feb 2012, £25,000 was invested which gave a £411.37 interest return. Reinvested £25,000 following approval by November Board – interest rates dropped so only 243.08 interest when this matures in September 2013.

All clubs invoiced up to 3rd quarter of last year with just one clubs payment outstanding. Some clubs have significantly reduced the numbers of gazettes but Mr Greengrass predicts that there

should still be approximately a profit of £2000 per year. Printers have been asked to reduce the number printed to 1000. Mr Greengrass will continue to monitor the situation.

Mr Greengrass sought approval for donations of £250 to the ACU Benevolent Fund and £200 to Colin Armes fund

This was 2nd by A Kenny and unanimously carried.

Mr Kenny proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Greengrass for all his hard work.

Ms Berwick reported that there were still 10 clubs yet to affiliate to the Centre (these were read out and their delegates asked to chase up) Mr Weavers commented that Halstead did not receive an affiliation form last year. Ms Berwick reported that from 2013, Centres would take responsibility for this. Mrs Blyth asked where this left riders of these clubs regarding the validity of their licences. Ms Berwick to check with Rugby.

14. Benevolent Fund Report:

Payments out £4850.

Receipts for Nov 2012 £444

Receipts for Dec 2012 7,715

2012 badges available at £3 each (6 Left)

2013 badges not yet received. (Mrs Mellish has some)

There are no current claimants from this Centre.

15. Centre Function.

Ms Berwick reported that the Centre Function had been a great success. She thanked Mrs Vera Hearn and Mrs Elaine Collins for all their help in the preparation and serving of the food, Mr Charlie Ralph for acting as MC for the evening and Mr Jack Hearn for all his assistance. Once again, a bit more help clearing up would have been appreciated. All in all, a great night and it was pleasing that most of the trophy winners had attended. Next years Function will be held at Gt Blakenham Village Hall on Saturday 22nd February 2014.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.05pm.

Next Meeting Wednesday 17th April at the Parish Rooms Gt Blakenham commencing at 7.45pm