

Minutes of the 4th Session of the Eastern Centre ACU Board 2013 held on Sunday 10th November 2013 at Stanway Village Hall in the presence of:

President	A Penny
Chairman	J Hearn
Vice Chairman	A Foskew
Vice Presidents	Mrs M Mellish Mr R Bannister A Chaplin Mr A Brace
	Mrs V Hearn Mr M Deeks
Treasurer	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	Mr A Deeks	Castle Colchester
E Collins	Red Lodge	D Mills	ECMC
J Erskine	ECMC	J Blyth	Woodbridge
Mrs D Blyth	Woodbridge	G Garrod	Woodbridge
J Read	Woodbridge	K Weavers	Halstead
P Armes	Watton and DMCC	C Ralph	Woodbridge
G Brace	Chelmsford	E Wass	Braintree
D Smith	Braintree	R Drane	Braintree
Mrs Y Smith	ESSA	A Adams	Halstead
G Hambleton	Dunmow	Mrs M Armes	Watton
D Cordle	Ipswich	A Kenny	Harwich
Mrs B Douglas	Norwich Vikings	Mr J Douglas	Norwich Vikings
R Sayer	Triangle MCC	J Mason	Triangle MCC
C Dopson	Wymondham	P Nash	Southend
Mrs J Nash	Southend	G Collins	Red Lodge
Mrs G Bannister	Southend		

1. Mr Hearn, Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

Apologies were received from : E Hood; P Fenn: A Crawford: D Clampin: D Slaughter: P Sewter

2. Previous Minutes:

The Chairman sought approval of the minutes of the 3rd session of the Board held on 24th July 2013.

Proposed for acceptance by Alan Foskew, 2nd Graham Garrod.

3. Matters Arising.

K Weavers: comment that Gazettes were still not arriving on time. Mr P Armes replied that his computer had to be replaced and also the printers had a computer failure. He apologised for the lateness.

NGR – this will continue. P Hubbard and K Hegarty will be the organisers; Ms Berwick will assist in the setting up.

4. Centre Competitions Committee Election:

R Chaplin – pointed out that as Mr Foskew is a vice-chairman, he is not eligible to stand for election. Removed from nominee list, therefore only 6 to stand.

Ms Berwick explained that Mr Dopson and Mr P Armes had to stand for election as they had been co-opted for the previous year, which is why seven nominations had been taken, rather the usual 5.

Mr Bannister asked why it was not possible to vote on the two co-optees for one year only to get back in sync.

Mrs V Hearn proposed that the 6 be taken and that hopefully by natural wastage, the numbers may be correct in time.

After due discussion this was agreed and the nominated members were elected for 2 years.

D Smith: A Deeks: M Deeks: C Dopson: P Armes: E Wass.

Dick Williams Award -after a private vote; Mr G Brace was declared the recipient.

Bill Spurrell Award – after a private vote, **Charlie Garrod** was declared the recipient.

5. Competitions Committee Minutes: Report by Mr D Smith:

Mr Smith sought approval and acceptance of the minutes of the 6th competitions committee meeting – 2nd M Deeks.

No matters arising

Mr Smith sought approval and acceptance of the minutes of the 7th competitions committee meeting. Mr Dopson queried the wording on page three [After discussion, Mr Smith suggested that it is proposed to the Board on 10th November that The Trials Committee be devolved for one year in 2014 as a starting point for the other disciplines- all present agreed]

This was deemed correct by Mr D Smith and Mr A Deeks.

It was confirmed that the competition committee at the 8th meeting had approved these minutes.

6. Devolution.

Mr Smith updated those present on the discussions that had been made to date.

Mr Smith explained that the competitions committee had looked at other models from other Centres. It had been mooted that the competitions committee would no longer need to meet 12 times per year and that it would take a more strategic role, encourage new riders and look to securing sponsorship. The running of each discipline would be devolved down to each sub committee – but that it appeared that in the foreseeable future, this would be moto cross and trials. Mr C Dopson reported that he had become more involved with trials riders and that the trials forum meeting had put a sub committee in place together with planning their meeting dates and championship rounds. This will be monitored over the next year. If successful it would be necessary to amend the centre byelaws next year. Mr Smith said that he was encouraged by the way this had been taken on and was pleased that progress had been made

Mr G Brace asked if the trials dates had been agreed – Mr Dopson replied that at the Forum on 30th October, the dates were discussed and he had circulated the dates as agreed to all organisers. Mr Dopson read out the basic guidelines as they stand – see appendix 1.

Mr P Fenn has agreed to be trials stewards co-ordinator.

Mr A Deeks commented that he does not agree that sub committees should appoint their own stewards. Mr Dopson pointed out that the competitions committee agreed this

7. Treasurers Report:

Mr A Hay presented his report to the Board. He pointed out an omission where he had not made an allowance in the income budget. He pointed out that transponder hire did not decrease as expected but had actually increased. Predicted that £3000 income would be accrued but in fact the figure was £5290. Inter Centre team budget was slightly exceeded – predicted £1000, actual £1260 as both solo and sidecar teams were sent to the I C Trial event.

Honoraria was discussed and agreed that the figures remain constant this year.

Mr Hay's recommendation to the Board was as follows:

The Centre Board notes the current level of income and expenditure for 2013.

The Centre Board approves the Moto cross accounts for the financial year end 31st October 2013.

The Centre Board considers and if thought fit, approves payment of the honoraria to the 2013 Centre Officers.

These recommendation were approved.

8. Eastern Centre Gazette.

Mr P Armes apologised for the lateness of the gazettes on occasion.

He stated that deadlines would be tighter in order to facilitate earlier delivery.

Mr Armes has set up a reciprocal agreement with the Sporting Motor Cyclist publication.

South Eastern events advertised in the gazette are charged for.

Mr Greengrass gave the report for the distribution of the gazettes.

Income from 1st July to 30th September 2013:

Income £2654.20

Expenditure £2322.26

Surplus £331.94

Current Account stands at £28179.93

Mr Greengrass as instructed by the July Board intended to place £25,000 in a short term bond but on 18th September he received a letter from Barclays Bank stating that they were no longer offering short term bonds and that the investment plus interest earned up to September 20th would be placed in the Business Rate Tracker Account.

Mr Greengrass will issue the report for the 2013 season at the January 2014 Board.

He stated that sales are falling. Mr A Deeks asked if there were any plans to raise income by inviting other Centres to advertise their events. Mr Greengrass replied that two copies are sent to the South Eastern Centre.

Mr Hearn asked if it would be viable to ask for donations from online entries.

Mr Greengrass stated that 10 years ago the idea was put forward that the clubs paid a premium for online entries. Mr Greengrass asked if the Board would consider upping the price of the gazette.

P Armes said that it had been accepted that gazette numbers would decline as the online entries increased and that in his opinion there was no rush to increase the price as the bank balance was healthy. Two new advertisers had been acquired recently also and Mr Armes now offers either 6 or 12 month adverts. Mr Armes suggested that the competitions committee look at the income of the Centre as a whole.

Mr Hearn proposed that the appointment of the Gazette Editor and Distributor could be dealt with at this meeting – this was agreed and Mr Armes and Mr Greengrass were duly appointed. Rights of Way and Environmental Officers to be appointed at the January Board.

9. Eastern Centre Website

Mr Sewter was unwell and had sent his apologies. He had, however, sent a written report. See appendix 2.

It was noted that Jim Aim Motorcycles had not renewed his sponsorship of the site.

A suggestion was made that the Board gave permission for ways of increasing the revenue by advertising to be explored. This was agreed.

Mr Kenny asked the Board to pass on good wishes to Mr Sewter and thanks for all his hard work.

Mr Sewter had asked approval for the site to be made easier to access information – Mr K Weavers proposed and A Foskew 2nd – all agreed.

10. Access, Environmental and Right of Way Report

Mr R Drane reported that there had been a big change of staff at Essex County Council and meetings had been reduced from 12 to 6 per year. All day meetings with User group in the morning and Access Group in the afternoon.

Managers are now negotiating their own contractors. The Byeway that had been damaged by 4 x 4 vehicles has now been resurfaced.

Byeway no 32 Purleigh where planning permission had been sought to downgrade was unsuccessful and therefore remains as a byeway.

Highway 13 at Shalford – Mr Drane had written to the MP, Derek Lewis with the outcome that he would revoke the TRO for a period of 18 months with a 6-month review. Mr Drane is keeping a tally of use and is very heartened that it was a successful outcome, although he is not certain how long it will remain open to all vehicles.

Environmental – Mr Wass reported that he had recently attended a meeting with MSA and asked those present if they would be willing to sign up to LARA. He stated that LARA was instrumental in gaining a good result on byeway 32.

Mr Kenny suggested that the Centre subscribe for one year at a cost of £150 to £200 per year.

Mr D Smith stated that the Centre should be cautious as the ACU works closely with a LARA connection (Alan Kind) and thinks the ACU should be asked for advice in the first instance. Mr Smith to do at next ACU Board meeting.

Mr Drane pointed out that it needs someone very well versed in the law and with the ability and know-how of the correct procedure and behaviour at meetings. Mr Drane also stated that every county has an access forum and that the ACU is one of the few organisations in the country that has a statutory right to be kept informed by the Councils.

11. ACU Benevolent Fund

Mr Cross had been contacted by Ms Berwick and he had agreed to continue as ACU Benevolent Officer. The collection box was sent round. No report had been received from Rugby as yet.

12. Centre Function

Ms Berwick reported that the Centre Function has been booked for February 22nd 2104 at Gt Blakenham Village Hall. Cost will be the same as last year (£5) with Prizewinners + 1 invited free of charge.

Advert will be put in the gazette in December with order form in January. Raffle prizes would be welcome. Sub committee chairmen to advise the Prizewinners to Ms Berwick asap.

13. Any Other Business.

Dates for 2014 Board Meetings as follows:

January 19th at Stanway.

16th April at Gt Blakenham

23rd July at Gt Blakenham

9th November at Stanway.

Reminder of dates meeting on 20th November at Gt Blakenham Parish Rooms.

Mr Wass reminded stewards that the paperwork was required to be returned by 1st December.

(For events Jan – March 2014)

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.20pm.

Next Meeting. Sunday 19th January at Stanway Village Hall at 1pm.