

**Minutes of the 1st Session of the Eastern Centre ACU Board 2014
held on Sunday 19th January 2014 at Stanway Village Hall in the
presence of:**

President	A Penny
Chairman	J Hearn
Vice Chairman	A Foskew; G Brace
Life Member	Mrs M Armes
Life Vice President	D Slaughter
Vice Presidents	Mrs M Mellish Mr R Bannister
	Mr A Brace Mr E Wass
	Mrs V Hearn Mr M Deeks
Treasurer	A Hay
General Secretary	Mrs L Berwick

Name	Club	Name	Club
P Tomlin	TOMCC (Epping Forest)	Mr A Garrod	Woodbridge
T Smith	Essex and Suffolk	Mr A Deeks	Castle Colchester
Mr P Sewter	Norwich Vikings	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
D Smith	Braintree	R Drane	Braintree
Mrs Y Smith	ESSA	A Adams	Halstead
G Hambleton	Dunmow	A Kenny	Harwich
Mrs J Nash	Southend	Mr P Fenn	Essex and Suffolk
		Mrs G Bannister	Southend

1. Mr Hearn, Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed all present. Mr Hearn reported that Mr R Greengrass had been unwell and sent him best wishes on behalf of the Board.

Apologies were received from: R Greengrass; A Crawford; D Clampin; J Douglas; B Douglas; P Nash

2. Previous Minutes:
The Chairman sought approval of the minutes of the 4th session of the 2013 Board held on 10th November 2013
Amendments as follows; Bill Spurrell Trophy – award winner detailed as Charlie Garrod, name is Philip- P Garrod to be engraved on trophy.
Comma needed in figure – should read 28,179.93.
Item date – date of function incorrect. With those amendments the minutes were approved as a true record. Proposed J Read 2nd M Deeks.
Proposed for acceptance by Alan Foskew, 2nd Graham Garrod.
3. Matters Arising.
There were no matters arising.
4. Correspondence:
Ms Berwick reported on dates for seminars that had been arranged.
5. To appoint Rights of Way and Environmental Officers for 2014 :
Mr Drane and Mr Wass both agreed to carry on in these roles.
6. To receive a report on National Management Council Meeting – J Hearn
. Mr Hearn had been unable to attend. Mr M Deeks attended in his place.
Elections had taken place with the following outcomes:
Board of Directors – 2 appointments Mr Beardmore and Mr Puckett
MX Committee: Mr Higgins and Mr Summers
Enduro/Trials Committee: Mr Bates and Mr Martin
Track Racing Committee: Mr Gregg and Mr Sullivan
7. Treasurers Report:
Mr Hay circulated the report on the Centre Finances for 2013 and a draft budget for 2014.
The report was provisional having included estimates for a number of outstanding debtors and creditors. The provisional accounts indicated an estimated surplus of £1657.

The Board had previously agreed to a revision of the 2013 budget by reducing the predicted number of entries attracting the per capita levies to £4260.

In 2013 with only one declaration still to be received, the Centre is going to fall over £400 short of the estimate of £4260.

Overall expenditure is lower than expected, due to careful management of the budgets and a slice of good fortune.

Mr Hay presented a draft budget for 2014. Mr Hay estimates that a small surplus of £600 could be achieved.

Mr A Deeks asked whether there was provision financially for clubs who wished to put on 'a show'. Mr Hay replied that there is not a set budget for that but the predicted surplus of £600 plus £100 in a miscellaneous budget could be available.

After discussion, Mr Hay stated that he would be happy to place a definitive budget of £500 aside for promotion and leave a surplus of £100 or earmark the whole £600 leaving no surplus. Mr Deeks replied that in his opinion at least £2000 would be required to make promotion possible. Mr Deeks has been asked by the competitions committee to prepare a report detailing proposals of how this could be taken forward.

**Mr Hay proposed that the £600 be placed in the budget as 'promotional' and notes that he predicts less from permits as some clubs are running less events in 2014.

Mr D Smith queried the amount of travel expenses claimed in 2013 (893.00) and noted the proposed budget for 2014 for £1000.

Mr Smith asked if it would be possible to know who was claiming the expenses. Mr Hay replied that he would not feel comfortable disclosing this but stated that any official on Centre business is entitled to make a claim for attending meetings (25p per mile) although most do not.

Mr Kenny thought that this was reasonable.

(2013 figures equate to 3,500 miles travelled)

Mr M Deeks suggests that all claims be made on time to enable the treasurer to report the correct position on travel expenses on a quarterly basis. Mr Hay will draft a document for the April Board re travel expenses.

Discussion over the low entry events – M Deeks commented whether this made some clubs deliberately not exceeding the figure to avoid paying levies. Mr Bannister replied that this was originally instigated to cover low numbers. Mr Hay replied that it appeared that the numbers declared was genuine.

Mr Hay will email the figures to Mr A Deeks and Mr Dopson for discussion at the next competitions committee meeting.

Mr Hay's recommendations were as follows:

The Centre Board notes the provisional accounts for the financial year 2013, 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.

That the Centre Board adopts that draft budget for 2014. Mr Hay's recommendations were accepted by the Board.

** with this change

MX Account: the reserved number scheme to date has amounted to £1026.90 (£950 net).

8. Competitions Committee Report.

Mr Smith sought approval of the minutes of the 8th and 9th meetings of 2013.

These were accepted by the Board.

The issue of restricted permits was discussed and whether this was discouraging entries. The result was that clubs would be encouraged to use open permits as much as possible. Prices for all permits are now at the lower rate and the hope is that this will encourage the use of more open permits.

At the last Board, devolution had been discussed and the Trials sub committee have taken this forward. Mr P Fenn is now responsible for the appointments of trials stewards and will receive the reports back. Aiming to use the ACU form via email.

At the competitions committee meeting it was agreed to attempt to appoint stewards for the whole year- Mr Wass to circulate when ready.

Mr Smith acknowledged all the effort Mr P Armes had put in on the fixture lists and permits. Mr Armes was thanked by all present.

Mr Bannister – no stop rule- pointed out that an amendment had been made. Mr Bannister felt that the no stop rule could be difficult for observers – Mr Fenn will report this to the Trials Committee.

Mrs M Armes asked why the first round of the Eastern Centre MX Championship was to be held 'out of centre' at Mepal? Mr Hay explained that the mx committee wanted to extend the championship to 8 rounds and that Mepal had offered the venue. Mr Hay reported that the event is now being hosted by the Littleport Club. Mr Hay had spoken to the

South Midland Centre and the Chair of the Centre Competitions Committee who had both agreed that it would be acceptable to run at Mepal. There have been some issues with noise, but these have been addressed and the venue runs events most weekends.

Mrs Armes commented that changes to riders signing on sheets means that clubs running with over 100 riders now need 6 sheets sent out with the permit paperwork which takes the postage over. Mrs Blyth suggests that email be used wherever possible, Mrs Armes agreed to do this.

9. Access, Environmental and Rights of Way matters

E Wass reported that the Forestry Commission was contemplating selling off some of its land, he will monitor this.

Mr R Drane reported that there had been a challenge by LARA on the Deregulation Bill and the attack on Byeways Open to all Traffic and Unsealed Roads. The Government are trying to clarify Ordnance Survey Maps. There are some discrepancies and if they are not challenged in time, byeways could be lost. Mr Drane will continue to keep an eye on the situation.

10. Eastern Centre Gazette

Mr P Armes reported that the gazette was still running at a good financial surplus and saw no need to increase prices. Two advertisers have been lost but one gained. This means a loss of one and a half pages. Waiting on sponsorship for MX. My Hay reported that no sponsorship has been secured for 2014 as yet.

Mr Armes has Centre Handbooks and fixture lists available.

In the absence of Mr Greengrass, Mr Hearn presented the Gazette Financial report.

Income from Oct 2013 to Dec 2013	£3003.60
Expenditure	£1480.45
Surplus for period	£1523.15

Year End

Sales	£11,112.20
Expenditure	£ 8926.03

Surplus	£2186.17
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Current Account	£29,703.08
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Tracker Account	£26,412.61
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A proposal from Mr Greengrass had been made to donate £250 to the ACU Benevolent Fund from Gazette Funds. Agreed by all,

Mr Greengrass had reported that the number of Gazettes issued was running at 620 per month and anticipated that this would produce a surplus. Mr Armes reported that 123 permits were issued in 2013 and that 119 were expected in 2014 with the possibility of a few additions. Therefore income from those would be almost identical.

Mr Hay commented that a PDF copy of the Gazette could be downloaded. Mr Sewter replied that it has always been that way and that this had previously been agreed by the Board.

Mrs J Nash – Southend had held a trial recently and she had noticed that there was no tick box for sidecar riders and passengers to put their name. P Armes will investigate.

11. ACU Benevolent Fund

No report received. Mrs Mellish had a small number of badges to sell. Ben Fund Collection box was circulated.

12. Centre Function

Ms Berwick reported that this was in hand and that Prizewinners had been formally invited. Catering arrangements all fine. Ms Berwick commented that the collection of trophies in had been very difficult. To discuss a better way of doing this next year- will be discussed at next Board.

Ms Berwick asked for raffle prizes to be donated. Mr Foskew will deal with raffle.

13. Any Other Business.

Mr Kenny – MSA Authorisation. Mr Greengrass had emailed Mr Kenny regarding this. Mr Kenny had written to Gary Thompson and had no reply to date.

Also sending letter to Robin Goodwill MP- new minister for roads.

Mr Greengrass has written a proposal suggesting that trials where a maximum entry of 70 and road use of 20 miles or less be exempt.

D Mills – Grass Track licence renewals – A Foskew has this in hand and will advertise the date of the seminar when arranged.

A Hay would like the first meeting of the year to be held on an evening instead of a Sunday afternoon – other people agreed. Agenda item for April Board.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.20pm.

Next Meeting. Wednesday 16th April 2014 Gt Blakenham Parish Rooms.