

EASTERN CENTRE OF THE AUTO-CYCLE UNION

MINUTES for the first Trials Committee meeting of the **EASTERN CENTRE 2014**,
held at

**The Parish Room, Gt Blakenham, Ipswich, Suffolk on
Wednesday 26th February 2014 commencing at 8pm**

Present

C Dopson, K Hood, D Cordle, M Neale, P Fenn, E Hood, P Nash, N Ogden & J Hearn
as centre chairman,

Apologies from J Douglas, B Douglas, A Penny and A Foskew

1. Chairman opened meeting and received apologies for absences as above.
2. Minutes of the previous meetings on August 21st and October 30th 2013 read out and discussed.
3. Matters arising from the minutes not specifically listed on this agenda.
 - a. Interest still exists to make it possible for clubs to put entry lists on the Eastern Centre website, Nick Ogden to investigate with Paul Sewter.
 - b. Minutes of August 21st, vote taken amongst those present, not just riders as noted.
4. Committee devolution document agreed at board meeting on 10th November 2013, the chairman explained the process that was followed and read the devolution document that was read out at the board meeting and was accepted in its entirety, document is shown as appendix 1 to these minutes, Jack Hearn acknowledged that this was how the matter was agreed.
5. Feedback from Competition Committee since last meeting, including “ North/ South Divide” and letters to MSA reference trials using public roads.
 - a. North/South divide was discussed at the January Comps Committee, the meeting was not aware of specific evidence to support this, and decided that it was not necessary for the Trials Committee to have a vice-chairman. As part of the discussion it was agreed that organisers of Norfolk and Suffolk Group Trials should be encouraged to use Open permits unless specific reasons, such as limited car parking, existed. Note Jack Hearn is also chairman of N&S Group.
 - b. There has been much publicity of the need for motorcycle events using public roads to have MSA approval, clubs have been encouraged to write letters to local MPs etc, information in attachments to these minutes
 - c. January Comps Committee requested that stewards reported should be presented to the Comps Committee for information, this was agreed after they have been approved by the Trials Committee
6. Stewards,
 - a. Method of appointment, Paul Fenn has contacted names of stewards on several lists with poor response. There is an issue with which list of stewards is correct, either the centre list or the ACU list. Clive Dopson to take question to Comps Committee for clarification.
 - b. Future appointments, Paul Fenn has circulated names until end of May and will continue to update list to support Gazette requirements.

- c. Reporting to Competition Committee, it was agreed that in future trials steward's reports will be reviewed by this committee prior to sending to Comps Committee. In special cases this review can be done by e-mail if there is an issue requiring urgent input.
 - d. Reviewing Stewards report form, in conclusion based on Paul Fenn's recommendation it was agreed to develop an electronic version of a modified current centre form and make this form available on the website.
- 7. Rider Grading, after discussion no change.
- 8. Request calendar change from Southend and Chelmsford clubs, after discussion agreed that Southend would not run on 26/10 and that Chelmsford would move A class championship round (including Eastern Experts) from 2/11 to 26/10. Dates changes to be put on website.
- 9. Sidecar Trials Championship, two additional dates agreed after the calendar for Southend on 6/4 and 26/10, point 8 above means that the 26/10 date will change to Southend Trial on 16/11. Dates changes to be put on website.
- 10. Lowestoft first round of A class championship, number of Expert counting sections. Chairman presented information that Lowestoft club were aware of the 2014 rule that a minimum 30 Expert sections must count. The trial ran with only 24 counting Expert sections, after a long discussion to find mitigation or intent by the club to run more sections it was agreed by a majority vote that the trial could not stand as an Expert Championship round. Note Jack Hearn could not vote and Matthew Neale abstained as an interested party. Chairman requested to confirm precedent for similar decisions taken by Comps Committee and then send letter to trial secretary forming of decision and asking if there was any interest in a rearranged date. The committee was very aware of the efforts made by the club members and riders, who in some cases had travelled a long way to support the event.
- 11. Proposal for trials targeted for wobbler/dabber type competitors, after publicising this idea in the gazette there has been no interest in running specific trials with only white and orange routes. After discussion it was agreed to republicise this idea and also suggest that clubs may want to include in non-championship trials a 50/50 route which is based on yellow and red/blue routes which may be suitable for Expert B or Intermediate riders who want more of a challenge than that provided by the red/blue route.
- 12. How to increase numbers of youth riders? discussed but no actions agreed, leave on agenda and take to trials forum.
- 13. Support for Trials Committee, the chairman appreciated the turn out for the meeting but requested more feedback in response to e-mails, the chairman repeated his plan to stand down at the end of 2015.
- 14. Any Other Business
 - a. Southend could not run the first C (Pre 70) championship round and it was suggested that Woodbridge club be approached to see if the trial planned for 28/12 could be a replacement round. Clive Dopson to

check if there are any logistical issues with trophies and then contact Woodbridge club.

- b. There is still interest to receive entries pdf form and pay for entries by bank transfer, clubs to continue investigating how this could work even if simply e-mail pdf entry form and pay on the day.
- c. The ACU have informed Ipswich club that it's trial on 18/5 will be audited for licences etc.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.30pm

Appendix 1, document agreed in its entirety at November 2014 Board Meeting

Status on MX and Trials Sub Committees 18/7/13

1. Both MX and Trials Sub Committees still intend to go forward with some devolution from Comps Committee.
2. MX have had a meeting to reaffirm intent, Trials still have to arrange, proved to be difficult due to holiday season.
3. Initially MX may require more than 10 members but this would naturally reduce in the future (currently 12 and members do not want to drop existing elected members who have volunteered to serve).
4. Probably four meetings per year would be required, including setting calendar and one open forum, in between telephone conference calls and e-mails would be used.
5. It is assumed that issuing permits and managing the gazette and web-site would not be controlled by Sub Committees.
6. Both MX and Trials would like the terms of reference to be the same for both Sub Committees
7. Sub-Committee Chairs to be elected from Competition Committee members (to avoid the need to change existing byelaws, also the Chair will be part of the strategic body as of right)
8. Sub-Committee members to be elected at the Annual Open Forum for that discipline (provision for either secret ballot or open vote)
9. Sub-Committees can invite non-members for specific items (in MX case, Eastern Timing Team Leader or similar)
10. Competition Committee Chairman has right to attend Sub-Committee meetings, but without voting rights.
11. If devolution is agreed: drop the Sub-Committee title i.e. Trials Committee, Motocross Committee (gives a little more weight when negotiating sponsorship)
12. Specific Sub Committee roles for terms of reference
 - a. Rider grading (elect Centre Recorder from members)
 - b. Championship rules and tables
 - c. Event calendar
 - d. Negotiation of sponsorship deals
 - e. Allocation of Stewards, elect Stewards Co-ordinator from members (recognising most MX run under Basic permit and are therefore allocated by Rugby)
 - f. Reviewing of Stewards reports
 - g. Management of Inter Centre Teams

Andrew Hay/Clive Dopson