

**Minutes of the 3rd Session of the Eastern Centre ACU Board 2014 held on
Wednesday 23rd July 2014 at Gt Blakenham Parish Rooms in the presence of:**

President	A Penny
Chairman	J Hearn
Vice Chairman	A Foskew
Vice Presidents	Mrs M Mellish Mr R Bannister Mr R Chaplin Mrs V Hearn Mr M Deeks
General Secretary	Mrs L Berwick

Mr D Furlong	Dunmow	Mr C Ralph	Red Lodge
Mr T Smith	Essex & Suffolk	Mr D Cordle	Ipswich MCC
Mr G Collins	Red Lodge	Mr S Brace	Dunmow
Mr C Keeble	Norfolk and Suffolk	Mrs G Bannister	Southend
Mr R Greengrass	Lowestoft	Mrs E Collins	Red Lodge
Mr E Hood	Triangle Ipswich	Mr K Weavers	Halstead & DMCC
Mr P Armes	Watton	Mr G Garrod	Woodbridge
Mr J Read	Woodbridge	Mr E Wass	Braintree
Mr A H Kenny	Harwich	Mr P Sewter	Norwich Vikings
Mrs D Blyth	Woodbridge	Mr P Tomlin	TOMCC GF
Mr J Blyth	Woodbridge	Mr D Mills	ECMC

1. Mr Hearn, Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed all present.
Apologies were received from: Mrs Y Smith; D Clampin; A Hay; G Brace, A Brace, B Howlett, D Mills, D Smith, Mr C Dopson, A Deeks; R Sayer;
A minute's silence was held in honour of the late Mr Dave Bickers and Mr Lenny Long.
Mr Hearn thanked Mr Brace for stepping in to Chair the previous meeting, as he had been unwell.

2. Previous Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true record, proposed R Chaplin, 2nd P Tomlin.

3. Matters Arising.

The resignation of Mr Sewter, Timing team, was commented upon and a vote of thanks given. It was agreed that a gift of flowers would be given to Mrs Sewter at the last mx meeting of the year. It was agreed that if someone came forward to take up the position of Timekeeper, the Centre would fund the cost of any necessary training course.

Item regarding changing of the time of the January meeting. Proposed by D Furlong, 2nd M Deeks that the meeting should stay as a daytime meeting – show of hands – agreed. D Cordle stated that he would look at changing the date of the trial that usually clashes with the January Meeting. Also suggested by P Armes that clubs should be encouraged not to run an event on a Board Meeting date.

4. Correspondence:

Ms Berwick had received no correspondence.

5. Treasurers Report:

As Mr Hay was not present – there was no financial report.

6. Competitions Committee Report

Mr Penny sought adoption of the minutes of 3rd Comps meeting – 2nd M Deeks. A Kenny asked for clarification of the mention of a permit charge for the Clampin Trial. P Armes explained the reasoning behind the decision to the Board.

Mr Penny sought adoption of the minutes of the 4th Meeting, 2nd A Foskew

Mr Penny sought adoption of the 5th Minutes – 2nd A Foskew.

D Furlong requested that the centre feather flags be made available for the International Grass Track event 6/7th September.

J Read – asked why D Smith did not attend as Stewards at the recent 2-day Grass Track event run by the Woodbridge Club. To be discussed at the next competitions meeting.

It was reported that the Eastern Centre Enduro Team won silver in the Trophy and Bronze in the Vase. Team manager J Hearn asked to pass on congratulations from the Centre on this achievement.

Mr Dopson, Chair of Trials Committee had sent a report and stated that there had been no nominations or the ACU Trials and Enduro Committee.

He also reported that there was no-one available to help with the Go Motor Sport event at Snetterton on 19th November due to the date clashing with an A Class Championship Trial.

The Trials committee made suggestions that:

Ossett could be contacted to see if they would supply electric bikes.

To contact Chris Edwards of Trials Park to see if they could provide a static display – if not contact Cambridge trials Centre.

Mr Dopson comments that it is a disappointing response but that people who could have supported the event had already made other commitments.

P Armes reported that the 19th October event was being hosted by MSA who had invited ACU (then ECACU) to put on a display of 2 wheel motor cycle sport. D Smith and P Armes had attended a meeting and were looking to put on a trials display, having some static road racing bikes, enduro bikes and some mx bikes. They are looking to have live trials and are to contact Norwich New Stars regarding a grass track display.

This is a strong opportunity to promote our offroad sport. The event will also have classic motor cars and they are anticipation 2000 spectators.

Anyone showing an interest online gets free entry. The event will hopefully also encourages club roles, marshals and will show how people can get involved in organisation.

7. Nominations for National Management Council Delegate:

Two nominations had been received. Mr R G Hearn and Mr M Deeks. Following a private vote, Mr Hearn was duly elected.

8 To discuss nominations for ACU Board of Directors and ACU Sporting Committees;

After discussion it was decided to endorse all candidates; S Brace for Track racing and John Blyth and Andi Deeks for MX (A Deeks also Trials and Enduro). The full list of candidates will be discussed at the November Board.

9. Access, Environmental and Rights of Way:

Mr Drane was not present – no report

Mr Wass was not present – no report

10. Eastern Centre Gazette

P Armes – still having problems in getting items in on time but generally speaking all is well. Mrs Blyth proposed that the cut off date for items to be published should be adhered to – all agreed. P Armes will remind all disciplines at the dates meeting.

Mr Greengrass reported that income from April to June 2014 was £2428.00 and expenditure was £2583.10 showing a deficit of £155.10 due to payment for online gazette and maintenance and upkeep of the website

Barclays Current Account stood at £29,825.61 and the tracker account has a balance of £26,419.19.

Mr Greengrass thanked clubs for their prompt payment as all invoices are now paid. Mr Greengrass expects that the next period to September 30th to be in surplus.

Distribution figures had increased for July as Norwich New stars had taken 20 copies.

11. ACU Benevolent Fund

There was no report from Mr Cross therefore Ms Berwick reported on the income and expenditure from the previous months.

Mr Hood suggests that the collection box be taken to events. Mrs V Hearn suggested that the ACU could issue a statement to be included in the gazette and programmes to encourage riders to donate. Ms Berwick to contact ACU with a view to sending out an email reminding clubs what the benevolent Fund is there for. Mr C Keeble suggested that as a way of raising funds, a late entry fee could be charged and sent on. To be discussed by the Competitions Committee. Mrs Mellish stated that the trustees of the Benevolent Fund are dedicated people. She also stated that claims are much fewer now.

Mr Bannister stated that riders should have their own personal insurance and that insurance cover seems more for officials.

M Deeks pointed out that any payments would be deducted if the claimant were on benefits.

12. Any Other Business.

Mr Kenny paid tribute to the late Dave Bickers and commented that he was a true icon. He thanked R Chaplin for his tribute on Radio Suffolk. BBC East had also shown a tribute. Ms Berwick reported that Paul (Dave's Son) had been very touched by all the tributes to his father.

Mr Greengrass said that Lowestoft Invaders owed a lot to Dave Bickers as he helped plan Herringfleet.

Mr Sewter – suggested a 'Hall of Fame' on the website – discussion took place and the idea was met favourably. Could include the likes of Bill Spurrell and Dick Williams those who have given awards and also officials. Mr Sewter asked that anyone who has memories of such people to let him have them. Mr Kenny – will look to provide information on Bill Swan who kick-started the Centre after the war.

P Armes – asked how to raise the profile of the sport in general. The Competitions Committee had tasked A Deeks to produce a document. Further to this a letter had been placed in the April and

May Gazette and circulated to all club secretaries. Not much response to date with only two replies. This is not good enough.

Trials have been devolved and other disciplines are taking on more responsibility for their own disciplines. Mr Armes talked about sponsorship and that with that comes responsibility. The question of should the Centre purchase more banners etc – would need someone to be responsible for getting them from venue to venue, erecting them, taking down etc.

Mr Armes is putting together a strategic plan across all disciplines, which he hopes will lead to improvements. Mr Dopson is listing what is and is not happening in events.

A Deeks will be included in the process. Mr Armes asked people to get involved.

Mr Weavers commented on the promotion event held at Blaxhall, where two sponsors were gained. Mr Armes said it had been a positive experience and that other leads were being followed up.

Mr Hearn wished Mr Armes well for the lap of the Isle of Man that he is to do.

D Cordle- is enquiring about a piece of land for Trials – Woodbridge side of Ipswich – may need a permit – agreed as no competitions committee meeting until September.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.45pm

**Next Meeting. Sunday 9th November at Stanway Village Hall
commencing at 1pm.**