

**Minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the Eastern Centre ACU Board 2014 held on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at Stanway Villager Hall in the presence of:**

		<b>PRESENT</b>	
<b>President</b>		<b>A Penny</b>	
<b>Chairman</b>		<b>J Hearn</b>	
<b>Vice Chairman</b>		<b>A Foskew</b>	
<b>Life Vice President</b>		<b>D Slaughter MBE</b>	
<b>Vice Presidents</b>		<b>Mrs M Mellish Mr R Bannister</b>	
		<b>A Chaplin Mr A Brace</b>	
		<b>Mrs V Hearn Mr M Deeks</b>	
<b>Treasurer</b>		<b>Mr A Hay</b>	
<b>General Secretary</b>		<b>Mrs L Berwick</b>	
Mr E Hood	Triangle	Mr C Ralph	Woodbridge
Mr T Smith	Essex & Suffolk	Mr C Cook	Braintree
Mr G Collins	Red Lodge	Mr P Sewter	Norwich Vikings
Mr C Dopson	Wymondham	Mrs G Bannister	Southend
Mr R Drane	Braintree	Mrs E Collins	Red Lodge
Mrs Y Smith	ESSA	Mr K Weavers	Halstead & DMCC
Mr A Deeks	Castle Colchester	Mr D Mills	ECMC
Mr J Read	Woodbridge	Mr G Garrod	Halstead
Mr A H Kenny	Harwich	Mr E Wass	Braintree
Mrs D Blyth	Woodbridge	Mr G Brace	Chelmsford
Mr J Blyth	Woodbridge	Mr P Tomlin	TOMCC GF
Mr J Erskine		Mr A Adams	Halstead
Mr P Armes	Watton	Mr R Sayer	Triangle
		Mr P Nash	Southend

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

**2. Previous Minutes:**

One omission – add David Mills to attendees list. The minutes were accepted as a true record, Proposed R Chaplin 2<sup>nd</sup> A Foskew.

**3. Matters Arising.**

With regards to the letter sent to clubs asking if they would advise the Centre if they required any help, 2 replies had been received quite quickly after receipt of the letter and one more recently. None of which actually had a request for help.

Mr Hearn reported that the Enduro section were quite happy and had obtained sponsorship of new trophies, for the extraveterans classes.

Trials – the subject of assistance was discussed at the recent trials committee meeting where the result was that clubs would like the permit to be paid for by the Centre. This will be discussed at the next competitions committee meeting.

D Blyth – stated that the transportation of more promotional equipment would be difficult for clubs to manage.

A Hay – MX – reported that when the mx section obtained sponsorship, the increase in prize money did not attract more or higher profile riders. The sponsor was not happy that the bulk of the prizemoney went to the same riders.

G Brace – sponsorship has been obtained for 2015 – a small amount. Discussion ongoing on how that money shall be used.

A Deeks – stated that if clubs did not respond to a letter then the Centre is unaware of what clubs want.

C Ralph – said that in his opinion it should be the clubs themselves to take the responsibility of promoting their own events to which Mr Deeks responded that not all clubs own their own land.

Mr Brace questioned why the Eastern Centre feather flag was not at the Chelmsford Trial and was reminded by Mr Hearn that the clubs must request them in good time.

C Cook – wanted to know if more flags could be purchased. Mrs Hearn proposed that more be bought, 2<sup>nd</sup> E Hood.

Mr Deeks asked about the 70yr rule for officials. Mr Hearn replied that the rule only applied to officials at Rugby and did not impact on Centre Officials.

**4. Centre Competitions Committee Election**

As there were not enough nominations to warrant an election, Mr Charles Ralph will serve another term. Mr G Brace and Mr A Foskew having been elected as Vice Chairmen will automatically be ex officio members.

Bill Spurrell Award – after a private vote Mr R Greengrass was declared the winner.  
Dick Williams award – after a private vote Mrs M Armes was declared the winner

Rights of Way Officer – Mr Drane was asked if he wished to continue but felt that he can not carry on with the role as he has done. There are many meetings to attend and he is not happy with the way that the County Councils are operating. Mr Kenny stated that he would rather Mr Drane carried on to be best of his ability and this was endorsed by all present. Mr Drane agreed that he would carry on as long as he feels able.

Environmental Officer – Mr Wass will carry on but is keen to engage Rugby personnel and would like to see one of the staff attend on of our Board meetings.

R Drane pointed out that ACU Rugby has statutory rights and should advise Centres as a matter of course if any information is gathered and relevant.

Mr M Deeks – passed on thanks to Mr Drane on behalf of the Essex Bridleways Association.

## **5. Competitions Committee Report**

Mr Penny, vice chair of the competitions committee sought adoption of the minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> competitions committee.

6<sup>th</sup> – 11.6.14 – proposed C Dopson 2<sup>nd</sup> M Deeks

7<sup>th</sup> – 11.7.14 proposed A Foskew 2<sup>nd</sup> M Deeks

8<sup>th</sup> – 18.9.14 proposed C Ralph 2<sup>nd</sup> M Deeks

Mr Kenny commented on Mr D Smith's comment re the youth grasstrack riders veering towards speedway. Mr A Deeks stated that is correct – as soon as riders reach the age of 15, they can be paid to ride speedway.

Mr Hood asked if the competitions meetings were all held at Stanway – Ms Berwick replied that the venue alternates between Stanway and Gt Blakenham.

## **6. To discuss the nominations for the Board of Directors and Sporting Committees**

Board of Directors – two nominees R Hanks C Tyrrell and I Murphy – only two vacancies. By a show of hands, the Centre will endorse R Hanks and I Murphy.

MX Sporting Committee – Nominees J Blyth, C Warren and A Deeks – the Centre chose to endorse J Blyth and A Deeks.

Track Racing – two candidates for two vacancies. (S Brace from this Centre is one of the nominees)

Trials and Enduro – 3 vacancies, 6 candidates. (Clarification that as A Deeks is a nominee for both MX and T&E, he can only be on one sporting committee, so if successful on one, would withdraw from the other).

After discussion, the Centre agreed to endorse A Deeks, A Mack and M Wren.

## **7. Devolution update**

As Mr D Smith was not present, Mr Dopson spoke as Trials Chairman. Trials had been devolved for one year as a pilot. The Trials section had found that this has worked really well. At the recent Trials Forum, the chair and officers were elected for 2015. 3 members of the competitions committees had attended and there were approximately 25 others in attendance.

The Trials calendar had been set – prior to the dates meeting. Mr Dopson reported that all was running well. The Trials committee had also been working on increasing the number of Stewards.

## **8. Treasurers Report**

Mr Hay presented the Centre Finance Report for 2014 and the Moto Cross Account for 2013/14.

Centre Income – on target to meet or very slightly exceed the reduced budget estimate approved for the current year. Numbers of participants has remained fairly static.

The ACU changed the deadline for affiliations and this has resulted in £340 of 2015 income showing in the current year's accounts until the end of the year before being carried forward.

Centre expenses – the trophies budget has been exceeded by £90 this year and some trophies needed repairs and re-plating. It will be necessary for next year's budget to include an amount for re-plating one or two more trophies.

Honoraria – It is now policy to pay the Honoraria at the end of the year. The amount of Honoraria had been agreed in 2008 and Mr Kenny queried if the amounts were adequate. Mr Hay said that most officers do their role as they enjoy it, and that he felt that the amount should stay the same. This was agreed.

MX Account – Mr Deeks asked why the remaining £100 was not donated to the Air Ambulance – Mr Hay explained that this was left to cover the small administration costs.

Mr A Deeks asked why the promotional budget was overspent by £47. Ms Berwick explained that with vat the cost of the pop-ups and flags went over by that amount. She had contacted Mr Hay who gave

the go ahead to purchase the amount required. Mr Hay stated that for 2015, it would be the Boards decision to set the budget for promotional items.

Mr A Deeks asked if the Board would agree to a £1000 budget for 2015 – Mr Hay will present a budget to the January Board for discussion and approval.

Mrs Blyth commented that if more promotional equipment were to be purchased, someone would have to take responsibility for looking after the items and ensuring that they were transported from meeting to meeting.

Mr Hay made the following recommendations:

The Centre Board notes the current levels of income and expenditure for 2014.

The Centre Board approves the Moto cross Accounts for the financial year end October 31<sup>st</sup> 2014.

The Centre Board considers, and if thought fit, approves payment of Honoraria to the 2014 Centre Officers.

Proposed for approval by A Kenny, 2<sup>nd</sup> R Chaplin and agreed.

## **9. Eastern Centre Gazette**

Mr P Armes reported that he now receives more input for the Gazette from Clubs and thanked Mr Kenny for his continued 'Recollection Section'

Distribution: Mr Greengrass had been ill but Mr Armes distributed the Gazettes. Mr Hearn stated that the gazettes were received in good time this month. Mr Kenny remarked that things seemed to going well.

Gazette Treasurers report: Ms Berwick had received a report electronically from Mr Greengrass, which showed that for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014:

Income	£1003.00
Expenditure	£1160.04
Deficit	£157.04

Mr Ralph had drawn Mr Greengrass' attention to a Barclays Business Rate Tracker Reward account, which pays monthly interest at the current Bank of England Rate. Mr Greengrass will investigate further.

Barclays Current Account	£29,668.57
Barclays Tracker Account	£26,422.74

## **10. Eastern Centre Website Annual report**

Mr P Sewter presented a report, which stated that 2014 saw a major change in the way in which the Eastern Centre Website was delivered to visitors. The site is accessible to mobile devices such as tablets and smart phones and statistics show that approximately 25% of our traffic is now from such devices.

Compared to 2013, there has been an increase of 71% in the number of pages viewed indication that visitors are more engaged with the content on the site.

Mr Hearn thanked Mr Sewter on behalf of the Centre for all his hard work and dedication.

## **11. Access, Environment and Rights of way matters**

Mr Drane reported that there were currently three issues ongoing.

Byeway 13 Shalford – surface and visibility was no longer a problem but no one would sign the job off. It needed a cabinet member, Derek Lewis to do this.

Mr Drane had sent him a package on this issue (16 years) and he duly revoked the previous decision but a month later Mr Lewis was replaced by Rodney Bass who then put a seasonal TRO on which affected 68 Byeways. After a meeting to discuss this on 19<sup>th</sup> March, the affected Byeways were reduced to 5 (from 1<sup>st</sup> November to March).

Byeway 13 was to be a core experiment for TRO. 8 months in and restrictions to the system have been put in place. The latest news is that the 18 months is up on 10.11.14 and nothing has been resolved. Mr Drane has been told that Mr Bass will make the decision. Mr Drane reported that over the 18 months, 316 persons have used the byeway (midweek) with no reported incidents.

Mr Drane fears that if the decision is not made, that it will revert back to a permanent TRO. Mr Drane will report back to the Board with any further updates.

Environmental Issues – E Wass – nothing to report.

## **12. ACU Benevolent Fund**

Mr Armes stated that Mr Cross had recently put an item in the Gazette regarding the Benevolent Fund. It is also apparent that donations are now being overtaken by requests for help.

Ms Berwick reported that the total donated in September 2014 had been £2093.42 and that to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Honda, the ACU had commissioned a limited edition of a work of art showing Mike Hailwood riding in the 1967 Junior TT. These are available at a cost of £50.00 via the ACU.

The collection box was sent round.

Mr Hay proposed that the Centre made a donation of £200 to the ACU Benevolent Fund, 2<sup>nd</sup> A Kenny and agreed.

### **13. Centre Function**

To be held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at Gt Blakenham Village Hall, tickets will be £7.50. Prizewinners will be invited free of charge and sent a second free ticket. There will be a hot meal with two choices plus a vegetarian option and assorted desserts. The order form will be placed in the next two gazettes and on the web site.

### **14. Any Other Business**

Mrs Y Smith has found some Eastern Centre items if anyone would like them.

Go Motor Sport event on 19<sup>th</sup> October at Snetterton – from two-wheel perspective it was not very useful this time. The owner did not want the grass used but there was some two-wheel action on tarmac.

P Armes reported that one of the good things that did come out of the event was working with the MSA and with regard to green laning, that is a positive.

As Mr Smith has indicated that he will not be standing as Chair of the competitions committee, it was decided to wait until a new Chair is in place and then invite Mr Hemmings to attend a meeting.

Mr Hearn – reported that Phil Armes had ridden round the 100 Circuit successfully.

Kingston University had brought along an electric bike – Mr Hearn said that it was quite a spectacle.

Mr Kenny agreed with Mr Armes' comments re MSA and said that in the past other organisations had trouble with the MSA. Mr Cook queried what jurisdiction the MSA have over our Trials – and why do we have to pay both the ACU and MSA. MSA have the authority from the RAC with a directive from government to control motorsport (since 1969). Some Clubs in other parts of the country are ignoring the MSA as they feel Trials riders do not compete on the road, simply travel from section to section. There could be a test case in court to settle the issue.

B Drane stated that there is another law that if more than 6 riders ride together, the Police can stop and question and could cause delays.

D Mills raised the question of non-attendance by committee members could result in them being struck off from the committee.

The rules were read out to clarify the position. Mr Armes asked Mr Mills if a complaint had been received about a member – Mr Mills replied there had not.

Mr Dopson commented that in his opinion meetings were taking too long and said that too much time is taken up with talking about the past. He said that this puts people off attending meetings.

Mr A Deeks congratulated Mr Dopson on the way he has taken on the Trials devolution and involving the riders.

A Penny gave out two dates for the Trials and Enduro seminars – 20<sup>th</sup> December 2014 and 17<sup>th</sup> January 2015 for Clerk of the Course and Stewards. Venues to be arranged. P Fenn and C Dopson to get information out to people who are to take the seminars.

Ms Berwick reported that a recent MX Seminar has seen 13 people take part. She also had been in touch with Rugby re a MX Technical Seminar being arranged.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.26pm.

**Next Meeting Sunday January 18<sup>th</sup> at Stanway Village Hall  
commencing at 1.00pm**