

**Minutes of the 1st Session of the Eastern Centre ACU Board 2015 held on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at Stanway Village Hall in the presence of:**

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

Name	Club	Name	Club
P Tomlin	TOMCC (Epping Forest)	D Mills	ECMC
T Smith	Essex and Suffolk	J Blyth	Woodbridge
Mrs G Bannister	Southend	G Garrod	Halstead
J Erskine	ECMC	K Weavers	Halstead
Mrs D Blyth	Woodbridge	C Ralph	Woodbridge
J Read	Woodbridge	R Drane	Braintree
P Armes	Watton and DMCC	Mrs Y Smith	ESSA
Mr R Greengrass	Lowestoft		

1. Mr Hearn, Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed all present. Mr Hearn asked all present to turn off all mobile phones and any recording equipment.

Apologies were received from: Messrs: A Adams; M Deeks; A Deeks; P Sewter; A Kenny; E Wass and Mrs M Armes.

2. Previous Minutes:

The Chairman sought approval of the minutes of the 4th session of the 2014 Board held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2014. Proposed R Chaplin 2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs Y Smith and accepted as a true record.

3. Matters Arising.

K Weavers; asked if there had been any decision made as to the use of the sponsorship money promised for Moto. Response – this is an item to be discussed at the MX Forum due to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> February.

J Hearn – reported to the Board that he and others had been very upset over comments made by A Deeks on his Facebook page. Mr Hearn read out the comments to all present and commented that he was disappointed that the comments had been supported by two Centre delegates (G Brace and Mrs E Collins). J Blyth – said something has to be done and suggested that the Centre send a letter to Rugby enclosing a copy of the comments made by Mr Deeks.

Mrs Mellish says that in her opinion, comments made like this let the Centre down and Mr and Mrs Bannister stated that this has been ongoing for some time.

Mr Brace was asked to comments and stated that he did agree with part of what Mr Deeks had posted in respect of younger people need to come forward and be encouraged. However, the response from the Chair was that agreeing to the post was misguided.

Following more discussion, it was agreed that a letter would be sent to Rugby (copy to Mr Deeks).

Mr D Mills, who felt that he had been targeted by the Facebook post, would like an apology for the distress this has caused him.

4. Correspondence:

Ms Berwick reported that she had received the following:

Letter from Rugby re Fake Licences that were 'on sale on ebay'. Mr Blyth had recently attended a MX meeting at Rugby and updated those present. The facts were that it turned out to be a joke that had backfired and the instigator has been banned from entering ACU events. The matter is now closed.

Enduro Inter Centre Team event date announced – 12<sup>th</sup> July. Further details to be announced.

Affiliation – agreed by Rugby that Centre would not have to pay £5.00 per club in future.

Trials registrations – Clubs asked to issue these rather than day licences – no photo required for the first year – will be done on renewal.

Price of Day Licences to rise to £15.00 (Clubs will pay £10.00) This takes effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January but old licences may be used up until 31<sup>st</sup> March or alternatively returned for exchange for new with a net charge of £3.00.

Event paperwork – trials levy increased by a further 25p – now £2.00. Trials registration to remain at £10.00

Practice day insurance to remain the same for Trials (£1.50 solo 80p passenger)

Practice day insurance for MX, Enduro and Grasstrack has increased to reflect the same premium of an Open/Restricted one-day event. Press signing on sheet has been amended to incorporate the users of Drones.

NB -Mrs Blyth notes that there is no risk assessment form in the pack issued  
Various minutes from the Directors and Sports Committees had been received which all Club Secretaries also have. Ms Berwick reminded those present that if they are interested and wish to see these, contact via their club secretary should be made.

5. To receive a report on National Management Council Meeting – J Hearn

Mr Hearn commented on the following from the NMC minutes:

Licence Department has a new manager – Jackie Blake.

MSA Authorisation – meeting had taken place on 8<sup>th</sup> December – still awaiting the update from that.

Deregulation Bill – ACU working with MSA on this.

Reported on Elections – successful candidates were;

Board of Directors Mr Hanks and Mr Murphy

Moto Cross – Mr Blyth and Mr Warren

Track Racing Mr S Brace and Mr Stace

Trials and Enduro Mr Rew, Mr Wren and Mr Rapley

Insurance Update

Amendments to the Sporting code re Drones

Addition re use of social media for foul, abusive or offensive language, profane activity or fraudulent comments against any rider, official or member of the ACU or deemed to bring ACU into disrepute is not permitted.

L Berwick had spoken to Gary Thompson and asked what the consequence would be if this was not adhered to – it could mean licence revoked and ACU membership withdrawn.

Addition to Rules of the Union – Nominations for membership of a sports committee or the Board of Directors can only be accepted for one Sport Committee or the Board of Directors. Individuals wishing to be considered for election cannot be nominated for two or more Sport Committees or a Sport Committee and the Board of Directors in the same election year.

NB – full copy of the NMC minutes can be obtained from ACU website or Centre Secretary on request.

6. Land Fund amendments:

A copy of proposed amendments to the wording of the Land Fund rules had been circulated. With the demise of the Executive Committee, the suggested wording refers to the Emergency Committee. There was also a change to the amount of the levy to be made. During discussion, it became apparent that the paragraph 2 wording needed to be updated. Mr Hay agreed to update the wording and this will be revisited at the next Board.

7. Treasurers Report:

My Hay presented a report of the provisional financial position as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014, subject to final reconciliation.

The provisional accounts indicated that the Centre has returned an estimated surplus of income over expenditure amounting to £1,971.

My Hay also presented a draft budget for 2015.

My Hay also provided the current position of the MX Account.

Mr Hay made the following recommendations:

The Centre Board notes the provisional accounts for the financial year 2014, 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.

The Centre Board adopts the draft budgets for 2015.

Proposed R Bannister 2<sup>nd</sup> A Foskew and unanimously agreed.

8. Competitions Committee Report:

Mr P Armes had been elected as Competition Committee Chairman and gave the report. He began by acknowledging the work that David Smith had done over the past years and proposed a vote of thanks.

Mr Armes reported that a decision had been made to disband the job of Stewards Co-ordinator for the next six months and allow the various sub committees to appoint their own Stewards. MX Stewards are appointed for Basic permits via Rugby, but the MX Sub Committee liaises with them.

Premier permits – will be issued electronically. Mr Armes is keen that as much as possible is completed via email.

Timing – following a very constructive meeting between Mr Sewter and event secretaries, Mr Sewter will continue as Timekeeper. Mr Armes is delighted with this outcome.

Mr Armes stated that the succession of all the roles in the Centre needed consideration and this is something he is keen to address throughout this year.

Mr Armes reported that he held the printing of the handbook until the election for a new competitions committee chairman had taken place. He advised the Board that Stewards names are to be re-introduced in the handbook. Hopeful to send the handbook to print early next week and distribute with the Gazettes at the end of the month.

Mr Armes sought adoption of the minutes of the 9th Competitions Committee minutes. Mrs Blyth commented that in the minutes it stated that Mr Smith was to write to her – a letter was not received but as the matter has been dealt with, she does not require one.

Proposed R Drane 2nd K Weavers.

Mr Armes sought adoption of the 10<sup>th</sup> Competitions Committee minutes – comment that the Sudbury Extreme Enduro had been a great success. Proposed A Foskew 2<sup>nd</sup> J Hearn.

Mr Armes sought adoption of the 11<sup>th</sup> Competitions Committee minutes. Non attendees – noted that this had been discussed. Mr Armes stated that this is a difficult to admonish people but he will place reminder in the Gazette that if one takes on a role, then members should make every effort to attend.

Proposed D Blyth 2<sup>nd</sup> R Bannister.

#### 9. Access, Environmental and Rights of Way matters

Mr Drane reported that the winter closure period was now half way through and that 5 byeways had been selected which was a much better result than the original blanket ban suggested.

Byeway 13 (included with the other 5) - the 18 month trial period has ended but there has been no update since. The closures will impact on the Phil King and Braintree Long Trial. Mr Drane had telephoned the secretary of the Braintree Club to inform him of the closure.

Mr Drane reported that 4 x 4 Clubs had ignored some of the closures and accessed the byeways by removing posts etc.

Mr Hearn reported that Mr Wass has been unwell and wishes to record our thanks to him and wish him a speedy recovery.

#### 10. Eastern Centre Gazette

Mr Armes reported that all is well and requested some photographs for the front cover as well as any reports, anecdotes etc. Paperwork for new season is just beginning to come in. Mrs D Blyth asked if she could send the applications for gazette entry electronically. Mr Armes said that would be most acceptable.

Mr Greengrass reported on the financial position of the Centre Gazette:

Period 1 <sup>st</sup> October to 31 <sup>st</sup> December	Income	£3419.80
	Expenditure	£2161.62
	Surplus	£1258.18

End of year as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014 shows a surplus of £1223.67

Barclays Current Account	£30,926.75
Barclays Business Rate Tracker Account	£26,426.02.

Mr Greengrass reported that the Tracker account had only accrued interest of £13.42. Mr C Ralph had advised Mr Greengrass that he had discovered that Barclays Base Rate Reward Account shows a much better rate of interest. Mr Greengrass sought approval to transfer the £26,426.03 to this account. Unanimously agreed.

Mr Greengrass also proposed a donation of £250.00 to the ACU Benevolent Fund – also approved unanimously.

Mr Greengrass thanked all clubs for prompt payment and thanked Mr Armes for distributing the Gazette when he was ill. Sales are diminishing due to online downloads, this could be discussed again if it becomes a real problem

#### 11. ACU Benevolent Fund

No report from Mr Cross. Ms Berwick had downloaded the latest information from the ACU website, which showed that in December 2014 total donations had been 3,782.04

Mr Hay stated that a cheque from the Centre for £200 has recently been sent.

Mr Brace said that someone had approached him at an event and was unaware of what the Benevolent Fund did. He requested that another information note be placed in the Gazette. P Armes to deal.

12. Centre Function

Ms Berwick reported that all Prizewinners had been invited to attend and that orders were coming in well.

13. Any Other Business.

J Blyth – brought up the issue of Stewards passes. Mr Armes responded that this had been looked at by the competitions committee who will review the way that these are issued and to whom.

Mrs Hearn – commented that wording on Premier Permit paperwork states that a levy is made towards Inter Team funding but that this is not the case on Basic Permits. Mr Hay responded that the Centre does receive £50 from each basic permit and that these amounts are apportioned to the Centre Budgets.

A Penny – referring back to Item 8 Non attendance at meetings – read out the relevant part of the byelaws which clearly states that it is the Board decision only to decide if any member should be removed due to non attendance.

Mrs Hearn proposed a vote of thanks to the Sudbury Club for hosting the Extreme Enduro on 4<sup>th</sup> January. She said that the event was a credit to the Eastern Centre.

D Blyth raised the issue of the possibility of Clubs being able to put all their events online for the season at once. Mr Armes stated that in principal that it could work but there could be an implication for the Gazette. To be discussed further by the competitions committee together with the possibility of putting all Eastern Centre Championship Rounds online at the beginning of a season.

Ms Berwick proposed that the Webmaster, Benevolent Fund Officer and Rights of Way Officer should be asked to provide a report yearly at the AGM/November Board Meeting – this was agreed for the Webmaster and Benevolent Fund Officer. Rights of Way Officer will report twice yearly at the Stanway meetings. Mr Greengrass was offered the same option but preferred to continue as now. Agreed by all present.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.45pm.

**Next Meeting. Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015 Gt Blakenham Parish Rooms.**