

**Minutes of the 3rd Session of the Eastern Centre ACU Board 2015 held on  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015 at Gt Blakenham Parish Rooms in the presence of:**

President	A Penny
Chairman	J Hearn
Vice Chairman	A Foskew; G Brace
Vice Presidents	Mrs M Mellish 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 D Blyth	Woodbridge	G Garrod	Halstead
J Read	Woodbridge	K Weavers	Halstead
P Armes	Watton and DMCC	C Ralph	Woodbridge
Mr R Bannister	Southend	Mr P Ranson	Diss
Mr R Greengrass	Lowestoft Invaders	Mrs G Bannister	Southend
Mr A Kenny	Harwich		

1. Mr Hearn, Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed all present. Mr Hearn made mention of the passing of Tony Howe. A Penny gave a brief resume of Tony Howe's racing career and reported that he had attended the funeral. Mr Kenny reported the death of Wilf Braybrook of which he had heard of this morning. Mr Kenny will gather some information for the next Gazette. A minute's silence was observed.

Apologies were received from: E Hood, B Drane, Mrs Y Smith, Mrs M Armes, C Dopson, D Slaughter, D Clampin, E Wass.

2. Previous Minutes:  
The Chairman sought approval of the minutes of the 2nd session of the 2015 Board held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015. Proposed Mr R Chaplin 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr J Read and accepted as a true record.
3. Matters Arising.  
At this point a chair collapsed under Mr A Brace. As this was the second time that a chair had collapsed, Ms Berwick was asked to write to the village hall committee.  
Mr Kenny commented that he had been very pleased to see Mr Gary Thompson at the last Board, and that he had found this very useful and informative.  
Mr Hearn had thanked Mr Thompson at the NMC meeting and reported that Mr Thompson had enjoyed the meeting very much.
4. Correspondence:  
Ms Berwick had received the paperwork for the upcoming nominations for election to the Board of Directors and Sport Committees. There was no one interested in being nominated for any of the positions apart from the panel of adjudicators where Mr A Penny and Mr Foskew agreed to be nominated by the Centre. Ms Berwick to advise Rugby.  
An update on concussion had also been received stating the length of time competitors of various ages were to be suspended from riding following a diagnosis of concussion.
5. Financial Report:  
Mr Hay had circulated and income and expenditure spreadsheet.  
The Inter Centre Team Enduro event was cancelled at short notice. No Trials Team was entered. There had been a £1000 budget set aside for each event.  
The Enduro team registration fee will be refunded but costs to the sponsors of shirts stands at £573.60. Mr Hay will contact Rugby to see if they will reimburse, but in the event that they do not, Mr Hay sought approval for the Centre to pay the costs. This was agreed. Mr Ranson reported that 8 sponsors were involved and that the cost is for printing.  
Mr Hay reported that the Chelmsford Club was due to run a round of the Eastern Centre Motocross Championship at Chippenham on Sunday 26th July. The expert entry stands at 12. Entries due to close this evening at 9pm. Mr Hay asked that the Board consider making a donation towards the costs if the expert entry failed to reach 20. However, if entries remained open after 9pm, this would invalidate the offer. Mr Hay reported that the MX Committee is trying to convince clubs to stick with the closing date and accept no entries after that, hopefully to ensure that riders enter in good time.  
Mr Ranson was concerned that if the Chelmsford Club were allocated £300 for a low entry that it may set a precedent. Mr Hay responded that this should not be the case and that the Chelmsford

Club had to hire a circuit, which inflated their costs. There are only three rounds left and this problem should not arise from those.

The MX committee is addressing the problem of fewer expert riders with new proposals for the 2016 ECC. There was a general discussion of how to overcome the problem of late entries. Mrs Blyth reported that Woodbridge has already implemented a firm closing date and this has been put on various websites and Facebook. Mrs Blyth stated that if not enough entries were received by the closing date, the meeting would be cancelled.

The proposal will be discussed by the competitions committee and discussed at the November Board.

Mr Hay sought approval to make a donation of £300 to the Benevolent Fund.

#### **MX Account**

Mr Hay wished to thank Paul Sewter for his efforts in administering the Riders Numbers Scheme, which has made a considerable amount of money following the competitions committees' agreement to insist that all riders purchase a race number. The income from the Numbers Scheme as agreed, will now be split three ways between two air ambulances and the Benevolent Fund.

Mr Hay asked the Board to consider making a donation of £2000 to the Essex Air Ambulance and any residue being divided equally between the Essex and East Anglian Air Ambulances.

Mr Hay sought approval to reimburse the timekeeper for the purchase of consumable items.

All the above were agreed by the Board.

#### 6. Land Fund Rule Changes

Mr Hay had circulated a proposed document showing the suggested changes. Item 8 – it was suggested that a minimum term of 24 months for a lease be added.

Item 9A to be created explaining what the term 'lease' means in terms of the land fund.

Mr Hay will amend and propose adoption of the amended Land Fund Rules at the November Board

#### 7. Competition Committee Report – Mr P Armes

3rd meeting – with regard to the item stating that only Stewards whose name appears as officials in the current Gazette are being issued with a free Gazette. Mr P Fenn pointed out that this was not the remit of the competitions committee but should have been a Board decision.

Following discussion, it was proposed that any Steward who had officiated within the last 12 months would receive a free Gazette.

Proposal to accept 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes P Tomlin 2<sup>nd</sup> J Hearn

4<sup>th</sup> meeting – restructuring of the committee and changing the number of meetings and venues. The competitions committee are proposing that the 4 chairmen of the subcommittees and 6 elected members + the ex officio members make up the competitions committee from 2016.

The number of meetings would reduce from 11 to 6 and would be held with two in Norfolk, two in Suffolk and two in Essex.

The competitions committee would like to encourage some younger people and changing the way that the competition committee functions could help. P Armes will issue the proposal to all Board members and seek adoption at the November Board. Mr Kenny stated that the proposal seemed fair and that there is always the option for co-option as and when necessary.

Proposal to accept 4<sup>th</sup> minutes K Weavers 2<sup>nd</sup> D Mills

5<sup>th</sup> minutes – 10<sup>th</sup> may event should read Clubmans Championships.

Mr Chaplin asked if this event would be a Dave Barkshire Two man event – confirmed that it would be taking the place that Lowestoft were no longer running.

Minutes adoption proposed A Brace 2<sup>nd</sup> G Garrod

P Armes reported that he was trying to find a Rights of Way officer for Norfolk and Suffolk and that he had been in contact with Norfolk County Council. If he succeeds with finding a R of W Officer for Norfolk, he will attempt to do the same for Suffolk.

#### 8. National Management Council – Mr Hearn reported from the meeting held in May that:

Insurance issues had been discussed.

There is to be a change from January where the word 'centre' is no longer to be used. Instead we will be known as ACU Eastern.

Discussion over how this would affect the naming of the Gazette etc. Mr Armes commented that this would have a cost implication for stationery etc. This will be discussed at the November Board.

ACU events – update on the finances of ACU events re repayment of loan.

SE Centre had sought confirmation of how long event paperwork needed to be kept – confirmed that it is seven (7) years. R Greengrass stated that youth forms have to be kept until rider attains the age of 18.

South Midlands – had asked if there could be a uniform approach to styles of logos, fonts etc – Richard Blyth is looking into this.

9. National Management Committee Delegate – two nominations had been received – Mrs V Hearn and Mr G Brace. Both parties were invited to speak to the Board and give their reasons for wishing to represent the Centre.  
Following this a paper vote took place with the result that Mr Brace had 7 votes and Mrs Hearn had 16, therefore Mrs Hearn was duly elected. Ms Berwick will advise Rugby.
  
10. To receive a report from environment and rights of way officers.  
Mr Wass was absent therefore there was no environmental report  
Mr Drane had sent a letter, which Ms Berwick read, to those present on behalf of Mr Drane.  
The experimental 'Temporary Seasonal' enforcement on selective Byeways is still in progress and to date any decisions have yet to be put to the L.A.F. Essex and the User Groups before approval can be put in place.
  
11. Permit Officer Report – Mr P Armes reported that permit applications are being received in good time. Mr Armes also requested photographs to be sent to him for the Gazette front cover.  
Mr Greengrass, Gazette Treasurer, reported that there had been a small deficit of £4.14 during the months 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> mainly due to the payment of £725 for the upkeep of the Website. As previously reported, Barclays had 'lost' the paperwork to transfer to the Reward account which should have happened in April, therefore losing some interest. Mr Greengrass has spoken to Barclays who are looking to recalculate the interest and he also asked about compensation The current account stands at £31,455.78 and the Barclays Base Rate Tracker Account stands at £26,432.62.
  
12. To receive a report from The Benevolent Fund Officer:  
Mr D Mills asked why the Board allows Mr Cross to continue as Benevolent Fund Officer. Mr Hearn replied that this will be addressed in November.  
Mrs Mellish suggested that as this is a large area, would it be better to have two officers in place working together.  
Item for discussion to be placed on November Agenda.
  
13. Any Other Business:  
R Bannister – Mr Bannister advised those present that he and his wife would no longer be able to send out Gazettes. They will continue to do so until November.  
Mr Hearn thanked Mr and Mrs Bannister on behalf of the Board for all their hard work in the past.  
There was a discussion over the Centre Function. Ms Berwick and Mrs Hearn stated that this year they would not be preparing the food and that maybe it was time for a change.  
They had acquired quotes and the Cedars Hotel at Stowmarket could provide a hot meal for £10.00 Discussion over funding for the Prizewinners from Centre funds – Mr P Armes stated that in his opinion the Centre should pay. It was agreed that prizewinner + 1 would be invited free of charge. Mr Hay stated that, as the Team Funds budget had not been used, the possibility of using some of that money could be considered. The Centre Function will be held on Saturday January 30<sup>th</sup> 2016. Mrs Mellish asked Ms Berwick and Mrs Hearn to obtain a quote for overnight stay at the hotel.  
K Weavers – suggested that various sponsors could be invited – agreed – a list to be given to Ms Berwick.  
Tickets – suggested that a map could be placed on the reverse of the tickets – Mr Sewter to be contacted to see if this would be possible and at what cost.  
Mr Kenny voiced his concerns that the Land Fund is not being used – Mr Hay replied that the changes to the wording could make a difference and that there may need to be a further review.  
C Ralph commented that in view of dwindling numbers of sales of the Gazette, would the Board consider reducing the price. This will be considered in the future. Mr Armes commented that numbers are likely to reduce further due to the online usage becoming ever more popular

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.50pm.

**Next Meeting. Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at Stanway Village Hall immediately following the Annual General Meeting**