

Eastern Centre ACU

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Board held on Sunday 8th November 2015 at Stanway Village Hall in the presence of

President	Mr A Penny
Chairman	Mr R G (Jack) Hearn
Vice Chairman	Mr A Foskew
Vice Chairman	Mr G Brace
Hon Auditor	Mr D Slaughter
Treasurer	Mr A Hay
Centre Secretary	Ms L Berwick

Mr R Greengrass	Lowestoft Invaders	Mr J Erskine	ECMC
Mr T Smith	Essex and Suffolk	Mr R Bannister	Southend
Mrs G Bannister	Southend	Mr E Wass	Braintree
Mr P Tomlin	TOMCC Epping	Mrs Y Smith	ESSA
Mr G Garrod	Halstead	Mr K Weavers	Halstead
Mr J Read	Woodbridge	Mr E Hood	Ipswich Triangle
Mr R Chaplin	Sudbury	Mrs M Armes	Watton
Mrs D Blyth	Woodbridge	Mr P Nash	Southend
Mrs J Nash	Southend	Mr P Armes	Watton
Mr D Clampin	Castle Colchester	Mrs V Hearn	Stowmarket
Mr C Cook	Braintree	Mr A Kenny	Harwich
Mr R Drane	Braintree	Mr A Brace	Chelmsford
Mr R Sayer	Ipswich Triangle	Mrs M Mellish	TOMCC

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

Apologies were accepted from Mr A Adams; Mr J Blyth; Mr P Ranson; Mr P Fenn; Mr D Mills; Mr M Deeks and delegates from the Norfolk and Suffolk Junior MCC.

2. The previous minutes of the 3rd Board Meeting held on 22nd July 2015. Proposed for approval by R Chaplin, 2nd A Foskew – carried.
3. Matters Arising:

Item 13 – Mrs V Hearn stated that she did not think that the Team Fund should be used to fund the Centre Function as previously suggested. She felt that the surplus should be carried over to fund Team events. After discussion, it was agreed that the monies would be carried over and Mr Hay would ensure that funding would be in place for the Centre Function.

4. Report from Chair of Competitions Committee:

P Armes confirmed that all event dates had been received and a provisional list was being prepared.

Trials committee has set their dates which have been agreed. Dates meeting will be held on 18th November at Gt Blakenham Parish Rooms. A concerted effort is being made to avoid dates clashes between Enduro and MX. Mr Armes mentioned the tragedy at Blaxhall. He congratulated the Woodbridge Club and other Officials who had dealt with a very difficult situation with both professionalism and sensitivity. Mr Armes stated that all the paperwork had been actioned correctly. Mr Armes is concerned that not all Clubs are up to speed on the correct procedures for such a serious incident and will discuss this with attendees at the dates meeting.

4a) Mr Armes had brought a proposal to the Board, previously circulated, to change the frequency and venues of the competitions committee. The proposal is that six meetings be held, bi-monthly, two each in Norfolk Suffolk and Essex. It was pointed out that this should have been discussed during the AGM but the Board felt that this should be dealt with at this part of the proceedings. Mr Armes asked for a vote on the proposals. Following a proposal that the changes be accepted by special resolution by Mr A Kenny, 2nd by Mrs Y Smith, a vote was taken which was unanimous.

4b) Mr Armes sought approval of the minutes of the 6th Competitions Committee meeting – proposed C Ralph, 2nd A Hay.

Mr Armes sought approval of the minutes of the 7th Competitions Committee meeting. Mr Weavers pointed out that the caterer did have a hygiene certificate, it had not been displayed. P Nash – re MX Steward – Mr Armes has been waiting for a sight of the letter concerned. Proposed P Nash 2nd R Chaplin.

Mr Armes sought approval of the minutes of the 8th Competitions Committee meeting. Mr Drane is Rights of Way Officer in Essex and Mr Armes is working to find 2 more, in Suffolk and Norfolk. He has been in touch with Norfolk County Council – ongoing. When another officer is found, Mr Armes will liaise with Mr Drane to seek advice.

Proposed Mrs Y Smith 2nd Mrs D Blyth

Stewards reports have been provided electronically in 2015 and reports are then discussed at competition committee meetings. The Trials Section take care of their own stewards reports. Mr T Smith asked why most Trials regulations in the Gazette were ‘tba’? Mr Armes responded that he will try to get this addressed. Trials have struggled to find Stewards. Mr Bannister also commented that sometimes Club Stewards are not listed.

Mr Armes stated that at Championship Trials it is imperative to have an appointed Stewards and will liaise with the Trials Committee.

5. Centre Competitions Committee Election:

Nominations had been received from Mr E Wass, Mr P Armes and Mr A Foskew. Mr Foskew having been elected as a Vice Chairman became an ex-officio member and the other nominees were accepted. No election necessary.

P Nash and C Cook had been proposed as joint chairman of the Trials Committee at the recent Trials Forum. This will be discussed at the next competitions committee meeting.

6. To select the recipients of the Bill Spurrell and Dick Williams Awards:

Nominations as follows: Dick Williams - Colin and Elizabeth Smith
Bill Spurrell - Alan Foskew

An email had been received in support of Mr and Mrs Smith from Paul Fenn. It was proposed to purchase a bouquet for Mrs Smith and a special replica for them both in recognition of their dedicated support to the Centre over many years. Mr Kenny proposed that both nominations be accepted 2nd R Bannister.

A discussion took place regarding the lack of nominations and a question was raised as to whether nominations should be accepted from previous winners. It was pointed out that nominations were sought as far back as the July Board and when the closing date was reached, the two nominations were all that had been received.

6a) To confirm the appointment of the Rights of Way and Environmental Officers.:

Mr R Drane agreed to carry on as agreed last year and Mr Wass confirmed that he is willing to carry on as Environmental Officer.

7. To discuss the nominations for the Board of Directors and the Sporting Committees – as previously circulated.

Mr Hearn will retire at the end of 2015 and Mrs V Hearn will take his place as National Management Delegate.

Following due discussion, the NMC Delegate was instructed to vote as follows:

Vice Presidents: Mrs M Mellish and Mr C Moram

Board of Directors: Mr C Tyrrell and Mr R Humphrey (following a vote)

All other roles did not require a vote as the number up for election fitted the vacancies.

8. Treasurers Report:

Mr A Hay produced a report for the financial year 2015 to the 31st October.

Centre Income is on target to meet or slightly exceed the budget approved for the current year. The estimated number of participants may turn out to be slightly optimistic.

Centre Expenditure; despite the Centre not competing in any inter Centre events this year, there is an expenditure of £574 for the Enduro team clothing that was purchased prior to the event being cancelled. The

Centre made a claim against the ACU for this but to date no official reply has been received. However, from the minutes of the Trials and Enduro committee, it would seem that there is no budget to cover this expenditure. At the last Board meeting there was a discussion about whether savings from the Inter Centre Team Fund could fund the 2016 Awards evening – following discussion this will be changed and an appropriate allowance will be made.

Honoraria – Mr Hay specified the honoraria to the Centre Secretary as £440, Comps Secretary £220, Centre Treasurer £440 and Permit Secretary £440. Total of £1540.

Moto Cross Account; has now been operative for 48 months. During 2015 transponder hire has increased since 2014 and is higher than the budget estimate. The reserved numbers scheme has brought in an income of almost £3,500 which has enabled a donation of £2750 to be made to the Essex Air Ambulance and £750 to EAAA for the reasons explained at the July Board.

Following the tragic accident at Blaxhall motocross event on 13th September 2015, the competitions committee agreed to make a donation to Tom Pattison's trust fund of £500, funded from transponder hire on the day. Not one rider requested a refund.

Insurance for the timing system is still to be agreed – awaiting a reply from Locktons but it is expected that there will be a slight change to the premium

Mr Hay made the following recommendations:

The Centre Board notes the current levels of income and expenditure for 2015.

The Centre Board notes the provisional Motocross Accounts for the financial year end 31st October 2015.

The Centre Board considers, and if thought fit, approves payment of the honoraria to the 2015 Centre Officers listed above.

Proposed for approval by A Foskew, 2nd P Tomlin and agreed.

9. To discuss the proposed wording changes to the Land Fund Rules as circulated previously.

Mr Hay had produced a new copy of the Land Fund Rules reflecting the name change from Executive Committee to Emergency Committee. Mr Hay sought approval of these changes which were accepted by all present.

10. Eastern Centre Gazette: Mr P Armes reported that numbers are fluctuating and that there has been a minimal decline. Mr Armes proposed a vote of thanks to Mr and Mrs Bannister for distributing the Gazette to Officials over the years. Mr Armes also requested photographs for use in the Gazette to be forwarded to him. Mr R Greengrass, Gazette Treasurer had distributed his report which showed that there had been a small loss of £380.02 for the period 1st July to 30th September 2015 but for the year to date a surplus of £149 had been accrued. The current account stands at £31,075.76 and the Reward Account stands at £26,520.73. Mr Greengrass had received a refund of £88 from Barclays for the interest lost when the paperwork was mislaid by the bank.

Mr Greengrass passed on his thanks to clubs for prompt payment and issued personal thanks to Mr and Mrs Bannister.

Numbers of sales had reduced slightly but an increase in advertisers had balance this out.

Mr Greengrass commented that it makes sense to pay for the online Gazette costs but does not understand why the Gazette pays for the upkeep on the website. Mr Kenny replied that in effect all the funds are Centre funds. Mr Kenny also commented that he felt that the Centre Function should be funded from the Gazette monies. Mr Hay commented that if the Centre took over the running of the website, he would have to use Centre reserves and that income has been reducing for the last 6/7 years. The only income now is obtained from trials levies and one club who runs under Premier Insurance. Mr Hood commented that interest of £88.11 had been accrued by the Gazette funds but that the Land Fund only shows interest of £27.15. Mr Hay agreed to look into switching to the Reward Account.

Mr Hearn commented that he had attended a Sudbury Club meeting where riders were still saying they preferred the paper Gazette.

Mr Bannister asked if anyone had come forward to take over sending out the free Gazettes. Mr Armes replied that to date there had been no interest. It entails sending out approximately 60 Gazettes per month. Anyone interested to let Mr Armes know.

11. Eastern Centre Website: Mr Sewter was not present so there was no report. Mr Armes reported that Mr Sewter is working on a new piece of software for the numbers scheme and that all is well with the website.

12. To discuss the implication of dropping the word 'Centre' from 2016.

Mr Hearn reported that the directive from Rugby was that this could be rolled out slowly and that there was no need to change stationery etc. until supplies run out. Rugby have issued a new logo for use. Mr Hearn was instructed to ask if the decision could be overturned as the implications are far reaching. Eg, trophies, flags, banners, Mr Ralph pointed out that the ACU are servants of the Centres and that Centres should have their say. Mrs Blyth pointed out that delegates had voted through the change at a previous NMC meeting which seems to have been steam rolled through with little consultation. Mr Hearn will report back to the next Board.

13. Rights of Way and Environmental Reports:

Mr R Drane reported that in regard to Byway 13, the TRO has been removed after 16 years. Essex County Councils' experimental' prohibition of motor vehicles has been extended to a two-year trial as a 'research project' had been advertised incorrectly. Improvements have been promised to the byways. It is noted that 300 people had used Byway 13 in one season. Phase 2 following the initial 5 selected Byways is now under review. Mr Drane had asked who had made this decision but did not get an answer on who made the decision on the second wave of Byways, some of which have some of the longest which traverses 3-4 villages. Mr Drane reports that this has been a challenging time but that he speaks up on behalf of the ACU and continues to ruffle a few feathers. Mr Armes asked if the information could be obtained under a 'freedom of information' request.

Mr Wass reported that anyone who uses Forestry Commission land should be aware of both Ash and Larch disease. Also the cattle disease Anthrax has been diagnosed – so be aware. There are also new set aside rules in place.

14. Benevolent Fund Report.

Mr Cross was unable to be present but had confirmed to Ms Berwick that he was willing to continue in the role of Benevolent Fund Officer. Mr Cross had reported that there had not been many donations recently and that one Eastern Centre claim was finalised recently. Mr Cross asks if Clubs would consider raising funds for the Fund. Ms Berwick reminded the Board that a third of the reserved number scheme money from 2016 would be sent to the Benevolent Fund. Mr G Brace reported that he had recently put Mr Cross in touch with a Chelmsford Club member who had sustained an injury.

It was noted that the Board considered that Mr Cross was doing a good job.

15 Centre Function: Ms Berwick reported that the function would be held at The Cedars Hotel in Stowmarket on 30th January 2016. Most prize-winners have been invited. Tickets are available to anyone else at a cost of £10. The hotel has offered a discount for anyone wishing to stay overnight. Ms Berwick invited clubs to provide a prize for the raffle. She will contact local motor cycle dealers asking for prizes/vouchers.

16. Mrs M Armes – stated that with the announcement of Lynx being re-introduced into some forests, had the ACU given any thought that it may impact of motor cycling on Forestry Commission land. Nothing has been circulated from Rugby as yet.

Mr R Chaplin reported that since the last Board, Tomba Smith has passed away. Several members of the Board had attended his funeral.

Mr Greengrass – noted that in the minutes of the last Board of Directors meeting it was stated that an ISDE appeal had been made and an ACU protest had now been sent to the FIM in Geneva. It seems that riders were allowed to ride while under appeal.

Insurance: there is concern that the basic permit paperwork is not clear that there is no personal accident and death benefit in place – it was agreed that this needs to be made clearer.

There had been an increase of 800 licences reported – unclear if this included trials registrations.

Up to 24th September 49 concussions had been reported to Rugby.

The General Secretary, Mr Thompson, is seeking legal advice re trials bikes on road work.

Keith Weavers – the ACU does not allow events on Remembrance Sunday – he suggests that the ACU revisits this rule as other federations do run. This has been discussed many times at Eastern Board level – Mr Weavers asked if this could be taken to Rugby for discussion. Mr R Sayer stated that should events be allowed, they could be used as a fundraiser for the poppy appeal. Mr Hearn was asked if this could be placed on the agenda for the next Chairman's and Secretaries meeting.

Mr Hood – stated that he was concerned that the Southend Club obtained their permits via Rugby therefore paying no levies to the Centre. Mr Armes responded that most clubs obtain their permits direct from Rugby and that there are only two clubs who use Premier permits for speed events. All trials run under Premier permits but that Southend are the only club who obtain their trials permits from Rugby. The ACU handbook states that trials permits should be obtained via Centres. Mr Hay reminded those present that £50 is returned to the Centre from all basic permits. Mr Hay has raised with the MX Chairman at Rugby asking for an increase on the £50 but received a negative response.

Mr Kenny asked if the Centre was still paying towards the ACU for legal expenses – the answer was yes.

Mr Brace advised the Board that EASCC were having a seminar for moto cross clerk of course and technical on a proposed date of 23rd January and wondered if Centre officials could attend. It seems it would be at Rugby. Ms Berwick explained that she was in consultation with Rugby to organise seminars in this Centre. She agreed to distribute the details when finalised.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.47pm.