

ACU EASTERN

(AFILIATED TO THE Auto Cycle Union)

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the Board held on Sunday 17th January 2016 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 C Ralph	Woodbridge	Mr J Read	Woodbridge
Mr P Tomlin	TOMCC	Mr G Garrod	Halstead
Mr R Greengrass	Lowestoft	Mr A R Chaplin	Sudbury
Mr J Erskine	ECMC	Mr R Bannister	Southend
Mrs G Bannister	Southend	Mr D Mills	ECMC
Mrs Y Smith	ESSA	Mr T Smith	Essex and Suffolk
Mr A Brace	VP/Chelmsford	Mr R Drane	Braintree
Mr K Weavers	Halstead	Mr E Hood	Triangle(Ipswich)
Mr E Wass	Braintree	Mrs D Blyth	Woodbridge
Mr J Blyth	Woodbridge	Mrs V Hearn	Stowmarket
Mrs M Mellish	TOMCC	Mr D Clampin	Castle Colchester
Mr A Kenny	Harwich		

1. Mr Hearn opened the meeting and welcomed all present. A minute's silence was held in memory of John Collins who had recently passed away. Mr Collins had competed in Grass Track and Trials and was a member of the Southend Club.

Refreshments had been provided prior to the start of the meeting and a vote of thanks was given to Mrs Mellish, Mrs Bannister and Mrs Hearn.

Apologies were accepted from: Mr P Ranson; Mr P Armes; Mrs M Armes: Mr A Adams: Mrs D Secker: Mrs T Hales: Mr R Sayer: Mr P Fenn:

2. The previous minutes of the 4th Board Meeting held on 8th November 2015. Proposed for approval by A Kenny, 2nd P Tomlin– carried.

3. Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

4. To receive correspondence from the Centre Secretary:

Correspondence had been received regarding Safety Officers for events on Forestry Commission land. Ms Berwick had forwarded a copy of this to all Clubs and to Mr A Waters of the Diss Club.

P Armes had sent a message to say that the Centre Handbooks would be delayed as he had recently undergone surgery. Order forms will be distributed in the next week via email.

5. To receive a report from National Management Council Delegate- Mr J Hearn.

Mr Hearn reported that he had attended a NMC Meeting at Rugby on Saturday 14th November. Mr Hearn gave an update on the ongoing VNUK issue which the DOT are consulting with the

European Union endeavouring to get all motor sport exempt from the legislation. The ACU are currently engaged with the Motorsport Political Strategy group who are also working on this issue.

Mr Hearn had an agenda item discussed at the meeting on behalf of the Centre concerning the brevity of minutes issued. He agreed with the General secretary that more details would be included where appropriate. If a Centre required further information on a matter, they would need to contact the General Secretary.

Mr Kenny commented that by law minutes should be a comprehensive record of a meeting.

Rebranding – Mr Hearn had commented that he was concerned about the cost of rebranding. The Chairman confirmed that the matter had been passed at the May meeting but that current supplies of paperwork could still be used until such time as more needed ordering when the new logo etc. could be used. New logos were being sent out.

Election results as follows:

Vice Presidents: Mr Moram and Mr Fairbrother.

Mrs Mellish had been unsuccessful – Mr R Chaplin proposed that Mrs Mellish joins the list of honorary members – all present agreed.

Board of Directors: Mr Humphrey and Mr Tyrell.

Moto Cross: Mr Edwards and Mr McCauley

Track Racing: Mr Hurry and Mr Staff

Trials and Enduro: Mr Collins and Mr Sparkes

Panel of Adjudicators: P Beardmore; E Bellars; J Coles; A Foskew; E Jones; R Langdale; B New; A Penny;

D Porter; D Ryder; R D Smith; R W Smith.

ACU Events Ltd update; The Chairman wished to explain that he wanted to provide more detail to those present regarding the workings of ACU Events Ltd. The Timekeeping business returns a small profit. In 2015 Milton Malsor will lose £16,000 and this is likely to be the case for the remaining length of the lease (3 years). Mr Smith reported that it would be cheaper to continue to sustain the Milton business than stop before the end of the lease.

The Maxxis Championship and Timekeeping services was expected to break even in the next year. ACUE IOM had been set up for political reasons for TT race management and it had not been possible to recover funds without a big tax liability. The company was put into voluntary liquidation and ACUE was able to recover £46,000 and £12,000 in cash. Therefore, ACUE was able to show a profit of £20,000 before tax.

Maxxis British Championship: The Chairman reported that since he stood down as series manager earlier in the year he had very little input. Stuart Drummond was his replacement and although he had struggled initially, he was now progressing and had organised dates and venues for 2016. Maxxis had one more year as title sponsor.

Event Secretaries meeting – the day was found to be worthwhile but unfortunately some secretaries were unable to attend due to commitments at that time of year. It is hope to run another meeting in April 2016.

A minute's silence was observed in memory of John Bussell.

Mr Hearn had asked for clarification of promoters being issued ACU unique codes – it was confirmed that affiliated promoters were given such codes.

Mr Hearn advised the meeting that this would be his last as a NMC delegate due to age. The Chairman thanked Mr Hearn for his attendance over the years.

6. To receive a report from the Centre Treasurer Mr A Hay

Mr Hay produced a report for the year end 31st December 2015. The accounts are provisional and allow for outstanding debtors and creditors.

Mr Hay produced a draft budget for 2016 which includes the incorporation of ongoing savings.

There were two major underspends, Inter Centre Team Budget and Promotional Budget.

The report was fully discussed and Mr Hay made the following recommendations;

That the Board notes the provisional accounts for the financial year 2015, 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 2016 including the sums carried forward from 2015.

Proposed A Kenny 2nd A Foskew – carried.

Mr Hay asked if anyone had outstanding expense claims, to send them in as soon as possible.

A discussion took place over the fact that some trophies had to be replaced as were 'lost' and some needed repair.

It was agreed that from this year, if prize-winners were not present at the Awards evening, trophies would be held by the Centre. A note to be placed in the Gazette to this effect and to see if the other missing trophies could be located.

From next year – each discipline will be responsible for collecting and engraving their own trophies. Replicas will still be obtained in the usual manner.

J Read – asked in the land fund monies had been transferred to a better yielding bank account – Mr Hay replied that this is being progressed.

7. In the absence of Mr Armes, Mr A Penny gave the report:

Mr Penny reported that at the first competitions committee meeting, Mr Armes had been elected as Chairman, Mr Penny elected as Vice Chairman and Mrs L Berwick appointed as Competitions Committee Secretary.

Mr Penny sought adoption of the minutes of the 9th competitions committee meeting held on 21st October 2015 – 2nd A Foskew.

Mr Kenny commented on the role of promoters and acknowledged that they work within the rules of the Union.

Amendment to make – 500cc Club ran the Grass track meeting not as stated in the minutes.

Mr Penny sought adoption of the minutes of the 10th Competitions Committee meeting held on 26th November 2015, 2nd C Ralph.

Mr Hood commented on the statement received from Mr D Smith – the statement was explained.

Mr Penny sought adoption of the minutes of the 11th meeting of the Competitions Committee meeting held on 16th December 2015 2nd E Hood. No further comments.

Mr Penny advised those present that the MX Committee at Rugby had at the last minute, relaxed the rule of the ban of tearoffs which had been due to be implemented on 1st January 2016. This had been discussed at the 1st Competitions Committee meeting held on Thursday 14th January 2016 and that the competitions committee, after due discussion, had felt that they would prefer a Centre ban on the use of tearoffs be put in place and agreed that their recommendation for this would be put before the Board today as long as the moto cross clubs had been contacted for their opinion. Mr Penny had requested that Mr Ralph, MX subcommittee Chair would take on this task and report back at the Board.

The committee had been concerned as the reasons for the relaxing of the ban had not been made clear (ACU MX committee minutes refers to a meeting where following representations made to them, the decision was made). The Centre Secretary had contacted Rugby asking for clarification and none had been forthcoming. An email had been received from Gary Thompson stating that Centres/Clubs would be supported by Rugby on whatever decisions were made on this matter.

Mr Hearn stated that the ban on use of tearoffs for Enduro had been met with no resistance and had been followed for the last year with no problems.

Mr Kenny asked if it was possible that it had been perceived as a safety issue.

Mr Mills asked if it would make sense to decide the issue by a vote immediately as the beginning of the season was imminent. This proposal was 2nd by A Kenny and a vote by delegates present was taken by a show of hands.

The vote was 14 for a complete ban and 6 against.

Ms Berwick will contact Rugby to advise them of the Boards decision, advise the editor of the Eastern Centre Gazette and ask Mr Sewter to place notice of this on the Centre website.

Mrs Blyth asked if this could be done quickly – noted that supplementary regulations must state the ban. Mrs Blyth asked if Rugby could be informed and TMX. C Ralph will advise local press

8. Access, Environmental and Rights of Way reports:

There was nothing to report on environmental issues.

Mr B Drane reported that he had still been chasing County Hall to get an answer on who passed the current bill on R of W matters. Signs have been replaced with corrected signs. The Cabinet Member who had been dealing with local issues is no longer in post, so there are new personnel in place. Mr Drane has not been able to access minutes of meetings. Works to close the bye ways have not been completed correctly and have not been inspected therefore no decision has yet been made on the first 5 put in place, the date of the ending of this trial is 31st March 2016. Hidden removable cameras are meant to be in place. Bye way 13 – nothing happening on that front at the moment and Mr Drane is concerned as that was meant to be the yardstick for the other bye ways.

Mr Drane stated that the ACU are the only organisation in the Country who should have all information sent to them but this does not happen. Mr Drane stated that he may need to ask for help from individual clubs asking for relevant information to be forthcoming.

9. Eastern Centre Gazette: as Mr Armes was not present there was no report from the Editor.

Mr R Greengrass, Gazette Treasurer, reported that there was a healthy surplus of £1559.79 at the 2015 year- end.

Payments for the Gazettes had been coming in on time with only 2 clubs still outstanding.

Mr Greengrass is quite optimistic on the future of the Gazette and reported that printing costs had reduced by £40 per month.

Two advertisements had been lost from Tafmeisters and Doug Theobald had only taken ¼ page. Lings and GH Motorcycles have doubled their advertising and Brookfield Motor Centre were looking for a branding on the website.

E Hood has taken on the job of posting out the complementary Gazettes. Mr Hood was thanked by Mr Greengrass for taking on this role.

Mr Greengrass proposed a donation of £250 be made to the ACU Benevolent Fund, 2nd A Brace and agreed by all present.

10. ACU Benevolent Fund – there was no report from Mr Cross. Ms Berwick had downloaded the latest figures from the ACU website and read them out to the Board.
11. Centre Function: Ms Berwick reported that all was organised and that there were 96 attendees at present. Ms Berwick thanked Mrs M Mellish who had donated three raffle prizes.
12. Any Other Business:

Mr A Hay proposed that the January Board meeting, in future, should commence at 10.30am with the hall booked from 10am and refreshments prior to the meeting. This was agreed by all present and will take place from 2017.

Mr Kenny reported that Mark Kemp had departed this morning on his 2 1/2-year fund raising journey raising money for the Teenage Cancer Trust. Unfortunately, his motorcycle has been damaged in transit. There is a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/rtw4tct). K Weavers announced that Nick Mills had passed away, only in his mid-50's – due to cancer. Funeral arrangements to be advised.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.10pm

NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 20TH 2016 AT GT BLAKENHAM PARISH ROOMS COMMENCING AT 7.45PM.