

# ACU EASTERN

(AFILIATED TO THE Auto Cycle Union)

Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Board held Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at Gt Blakenham Parish rooms in the presence of

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

Mr C Ralph	Woodbridge	Mr P Ranson	Diss
Mr P Tomlin	TOMCC	Mr G Garrod	Halstead
Mr R Greengrass	Lowestoft	Mr A R Chaplin	Sudbury
Mrs J Nash	Southend	Mr P Nash	Southend
Mr C Stevens	Diss	Mr D Mills	ECMC
Mr K Weavers	Halstead	Mr T Smith	Essex and Suffolk
Mr E Wass	Braintree	Mr E Hood	Triangle(Ipswich)
Mr J Blyth	Woodbridge	Mrs D Blyth	Woodbridge
Mrs M Mellish	TOMCC	Mrs V Hearn	Stowmarket
Mr D Clampin	Life VP/Castle Colchester		

1. Mr Hearn opened the meeting and welcomed all present.  
Apologies were accepted from: Mr P Armes;
2. The previous minutes of the 4th Board Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2015. Proposed for approval
3. Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.
4. To receive correspondence from the Centre Secretary:  
Notice of the AGM of ACU Ltd due to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2016  
Latest update from ACU Benevolent Fund for January and February 2016.
5. Financial Report:  
Mr A Hay circulated an up to date spreadsheet detailing the Treasurer's report.  
Mr Hay reported that in general it had been a good start to 2016 with some income marginally up on the same period in 2015.  
However, affiliation fees have fallen £60 short of the estimate. Production and distribution of the Centre Handbook has generated a surplus of £212 largely due to the Lings advert on the back cover.  
The ACU Basic Insurance contribution was only £950 so consequently there will be a shortfall of £550 from this budget heading. There were considerably fewer basic permitted events during 2015 compared to the previous year.  
Expenditure, as reported to the January Board the trophies overspend was £344. Hopefully this can be absorbed by savings elsewhere in the budget (see centre Function budget- underspent by £195).  
At the first meeting in January, the Competitions Committee agreed a policy for the distribution of the promotional budget for Championship events which benefits all disciplines. Each Championship Organiser (MX 7 Rounds, Trials 7 Rounds, Enduro 5 Rounds and grass Track 1 Round) will receive an equal share of the £2,400 available.  
Mr Hay recommended that the Centre Board notes the current level of income and expenditure for 2016.

6. Competitions Committee Report: In the absence of Mr P Armes, Mr A Penny sought adoption of the minutes of the first competitions committee meeting held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016.2<sup>nd</sup> C Ralph.

D Clampin asked for clarification on the change of date for the Braintree Long Distance Trial and commented that there are too many clashes and changes of dates. It was noted that the change of date was made to avoid a clash with an event run by Essex and Suffolk Borders but then clashed with another event run by ATC. Mr Clampin asked for assurance that date clashes are carefully discussed.

7. Tear off update;

Ms Berwick reported that following the last Board Meeting in January, a communication had been received from Gary Thompson apologising that his email of early January has incorrectly used the word 'Centre' when discussing the tear off situation intimating that Centres could enforce a ban. Following many communications with Mr Thompson, a letter from Mr Thompson had been circulated to all clubs stating "The use of tear off lenses on goggles is at the discretion of the event organisers. It must be stipulated in the event supplementary regulations if they are allowed or not for each individual event' Mr Thompson also quoted that this is derived from the Standing regulations in the ACU Handbook page 149 Para 8.2.7. At the time of sending his email in early January, Mr Thompson had not been aware that this paragraph had been included in the ACU Handbook. Mr J Blyth stated that part of the reason for the change of heart by the MX Committee was due in part to representations made by some clubs who were afraid that to uphold the ban would mean less entries.

Consequently, Ms Berwick sought the Board's approval to reverse the decision that had been taken at the January Board – there were no objections but Ms Berwick was asked to ensure that these minutes reflect the dissatisfaction in the way this issue had been handled and that the Board felt they had no choice but to agree. There was discussion from Diss representatives as to how they intend to encourage riders not to use tear offs at their first event. The Diss Club have worded that they 'request' riders not to use tear offs rather that state they will not be allowed.

8. Rights of Way – Mr Drane was not present and there was no report.

Environmental Issues – Mr Wass stated that there had been no further information on the VNUK Insurance issue – Mrs Hearn will seek an update at the next NMC Meeting in May.

Mr Wass had also been unable to find out how the NFU stand on the use of tear offs on farmland. Ms Berwick will attempt to make contact with the NFU on this matter.

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

Mr Greengrass, Distribution Officer, reported that between January and March 31<sup>st</sup> 2016, a surplus of £391.99 was made. A cheque for £250 to the Benevolent Fund had not been cashed as at 31<sup>st</sup> March. Mr Greengrass forecasts that during the next three months, a loss is expected as the upkeep cost of the website is due for payment. The numbers of Gazette distributed are holding firm. Mr Hay requested that distribution to all clubs is equal as some clubs receive Gazette far sooner than others. Mr Greengrass will address this issue.

10. Report on the Centre Function: Mrs Hearn reported that the event had been well supported with just over 100 guests attending.

Discussion had been made at the event as to whether next year, individual tables could be sponsored by local dealers/clubs for £50 per table to help with costs.

The date of the function for next year is Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at the Cedars Hotel. Mr Clampin proposed a vote of thanks to the organisers of the Centre Function. Mr Hearn added his thanks and stated that he felt that this year's event had been one of the better ones.

Mr P Ranson noted that the Enduro runners up and 3<sup>rd</sup> placed riders receive their trophies at the Enduro Forum but that the winners do not get the chance for their peers to acknowledge their success and wondered if the Centre Trophies could be available on the same evening. Mr Hearn responded that this would be difficult due to the time constraints but would consider what could be done.

11. Any Other Business: Mr Chaplin wished to inform the Board of the passing of Alan Suckamore, a past member of Castle Colchester and ESSA and wished to record 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday wishes to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second.

Mr Clampin: expressed concern regarding outside assistance at enduro events and referred to regulation 35 in the ESR's. He voiced his concerns over the insurance aspect of outside assistance. Mr Penny pointed out that the event to which Mr Clampin referred was an Extreme Enduro which has different regulations. Mr Hearn pointed out the signed on Marshals were covered by insurance. Mr Penny will clarify this with the Trials and Enduro Committee but stated that Extreme Enduro rules do not state that help is not allowed.

Mr Clampin also expressed his concern regarding date clashes. Mrs Nash commented that within the Trials Section, organisers have always been encouraged to avoid running championship events during the summer months. The Trials Committee will revisit this to see if the situation could be eased. Mr Clampin remarked that the date setting was better when all dates were approved by the competitions committee. Mr and Mrs Blyth stated that the dates meeting works well but that no-one from the Trials Committee attends as they set their dates and send them in. Mr Nash agreed that he would attend the dates meeting in 2016. Mr Ralph commented that the Trials Committee has been fully devolved and that the use of subcommittees enables those experienced in their discipline to run events correctly.

Mr Clampin also remarked that the Charity Trials he wishes to run will be run under the auspices of ACU Eastern and that he will pay for the permit. It had been suggested that this Trial be run under the banner of a club, but Mr Clampin was not keen to do this. Mr Clampin also was concerned about over use of certain venues.

Mr Clampin remarked on the ban given to two moto cross riders who had been caught riding illegally. In his opinion the ban was not long enough. The representatives from Diss asked who the riders were and it was revealed that they were Luke Benstead, Centre Champion in 2015, Ryan Watts and Adam Reeve. Both Benstead and Watts were banned for 3 months. Mr Benstead had appealed against the ban but the ban was upheld. Mr Reeve is not a race licence holder. Mr Ranson proposed 2<sup>nd</sup> T Smith that the riders should be named in the Centre Gazette and on the website. Ms Berwick to contact Rugby regarding Adam Reeve to see what could be done to stop him riding on a day licence.

Mrs Hearn: Stowmarket Club would, with the permission of the Board, like to be able to instigate a discussion on the use of Land Fund monies. It is apparent that the fund is most unlikely to be used for land purchase, but they would like to see a relaxation of the rules to allow clubs access to funds for updating facilities and making improvements, either by the way of grants or loans. Mr Hay reminded those present that any changes to the rules must be made at an AGM and that the rules had just been updated to include help with leasing of land. Following discussion, Mr Ranson agreed to prepare a proposal to bring to the July Board and Ms Berwick will contact all Clubs with a view of obtaining any useful ideas.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY July 20th 2016 AT GT BLAKENHAM PARISH ROOMS COMMENCING AT 7.45PM.**