

# ACU EASTERN

(AFILIATED TO THE Auto Cycle Union)

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the Board held Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at Gt Blakenham Parish rooms in the presence of

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

Mr C Ralph	Woodbridge	Mr P Armes	Watton
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 K Weavers	Halstead	Mr D Mills	ECMC
Mr E Wass	Braintree	Mr E Hood	Triangle(Ipswich)
Mrs M Mellish	TOMCC	Mr A Kenny	Harwich
Mr D Clampin	Life VP/Castle Colchester	Mrs V Hearn	Stowmarket

1. Mr Hearn opened the meeting and welcomed all present.  
Apologies were accepted from: Mr P Ranson; Mrs Y Smith; Mr R Drane; Mrs M Armes; Mr A Foskew;  
Mr A Brace; Mr G Brace; Mr R Sayer; Mr J Read; Mr D Slaughter.  
(Mr D Slaughter MBE is reported to have fallen at home and sustained a broken hip. Has now been discharged from hospital and is recovering at home. A card has been sent on behalf of the Centre.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016 were proposed for approval by R Chaplin 2<sup>nd</sup> D Clampin.
3. Matters Arising:

P Armes – paperwork had been late coming into him and was not being filled in correctly. Mr Armes will run through the correct procedure with any new organisers and a reminder given at the upcoming dates meeting.

R Greengrass: reports that the printer of the Centre Gazette states that all clubs are sent their delivery at the same time apart from Norwich Vikings whose are delivered personally. Mr Armes has now provided the printer with an address if needed for N Vikings.

Item 6: Braintree Trial – the original date did not clash with any other events but the date change meant that there was a clash. Mr D Clampin is concerned with date clashes. J Hearn pointed out that there are so many events being run making it extremely difficult not to clash at times and that all is done to ensure that clashes are kept to a minimum. P Armes reported that the Trials Committee arrange their own dates and that these are then presented to him prior to the dates meeting. Other disciplines are then added in via a spreadsheet and presented on a screen to the dates meeting for full discussion. There had been 130 events in a calendar year.

Mr Clampin wished to speak about the Banbury Trial held on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2016 in which he took part. 50 miles on a bike which was bought in 1919 from Wickham Market starting out at 5am from Banbury. Mr Clampin had given the bike to Dave Bickers who rebuilt it. The bike was bequeathed back to Mr Clampin in Dave Bickers' will. Mr Clampin was congratulated by the Board for his achievements.

4. To receive correspondence from the Centre Secretary:  
P Armes – is hosting an Evening with Phil Armes on November 8<sup>th</sup> at Norwich Playhouse.  
All further correspondence to be discussed further on the agenda.

Various minutes from ACU were available if anyone wished to see a copy.

5. Financial Report:

Mr Hay, Honorary Treasurer, provided an up to date spreadsheet and report as follows:

A statement of income and expenditure to date which enables a comparison to be seen against approved budgets. There are a number of permit fee cheques to be banked but apart from these, income is just below the level expected at this point in the financial year.

There have been no Inter Centre Team Events so far this year.

Donations – a budget of £300 has been approved for 2016. The Air Ambulances and ACU Benevolent Fund will receive an equal share of the income raised by the reserved numbers scheme. Mr Hay invited the Board to consider how they wish to distribute the £300.

Moto Cross Account - - Income from the hire of transponders is not as high as previous years, the main reason being that less events have been held and that two of the events are timed by ACU Events Ltd.

Recommendation: That the Centre Board notes the current levels of income and expenditure for 2016

That the Centre Board considers how it wishes to distribute the £300 provided in the Budget for donations.

Mr Clampin thanked Mr Armes for the insertion in the Gazette in the Eastern Centre Gazette and reported that approximately £4000 had been raised. Profits to be shared between St Helena Hospice and Essex Air Ambulance.

After discussion, it was agreed to send from the donation budget, £100 to each of the local children's hospices in Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk.

Mr Kenny voiced his concerns regarding less events, Mr Armes responded that there are now more practice tracks for riders and that has an impact and that there are now only 4 clubs running moto cross events. Mr G Garrod also commented that there were not so many younger riders participating. Mr Ralph responded that taking all these facts into consideration, ACU is still the strongest Centre

6. Land Fund Proposals:

Despite advertising for suggestions, only one item had been received from Paul Ranson (Diss Club).

The proposals for discussion were as follows:

- a) Transponders for all clubs to use in the Centre, the initial outlay would be very high so the fund could be used for purchase. Individual clubs would then have to organise their own software to cope with My Laps System. The objective would be to get all Clubs using the same timing equipment bringing all up to date and operating the same way.
- b) Large purchases of machinery, for example, Tractors, JCB, Dumpers and any equipment for track improvements and quicker use with less man hours.
- c) Safety initiatives, investment for rider, spectator, Marshals safety, fences etc.
- d) Track improvements, for example, start gates, timing huts – maybe purchased and held centrally for all clubs to use.

Mr Kenny commented that the Land Fund was instigated for land hire/purchase but that personally he would not object for the money to be used for other reasons. All clubs need to be made aware of the upcoming AGM where Mr Hay will present an amended set of rules for the Land Fund. It was agreed to place on the Agenda as a separate item stressing the possibility of a change of rules. Mrs Hearn stated that clubs need to send in further comments and suggestions prior to the AGM and any firm proposals to be discussed.

Full discussion was made on Mr Ranson's proposals. Timing – would be a huge challenge. Clubs may find it hard to find their own personnel to run timing. The Centre has already purchased equipment – would purchasing more be cost effective?

P Armes stated that all events are required to have a basic first aid level – maybe defibrillators could be an addition. Mr Ralph pointed out that we must not overlook the fact that few clubs own their land and that most lease or hire farmers land and agreement to 'upgrade' tracks might not be easy.

7. Competitions Committee Report: P Armes

Mr Armes presented the minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Competitions meeting for adoption: D Clampin – date for Trial has been agreed as 21<sup>st</sup> August.

K Weavers: has met the new owners of Little Loveney Hall (Wakes Colne) – happy to allow running events this year and will work with the club. It has been intimated that events will run until end of 2017 and further consultation will take place.

The minutes were proposed for adoption by K Weavers 2<sup>nd</sup> G Garrod.

Mr Armes presented the minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> Competitions Committee meeting for adoption.

A question was raised over the amount of paper entries received – the last Mildenhall meeting had been three. The consensus was that if paper entries were refused, riders preferring this method would be excluded. Mr Kenny stated that all types of entries should continue to be accepted. Mr Armes pointed out that at an organisers meeting 18 months ago, this had been agreed. Mrs Hearn commented that it is very easy for race secretaries to add paper entries to the ACU system

This will be raised again and if organisers then show a preference for online only, this would have to be brought back to the Board for discussion and approval. Mr Kenny stated that this must be a Board decision as it was originally a Board decision for regulations to be printed in the Gazette. All present agreed.

Mr Armes reported that he had attended a meeting at Lyng, mainly because of the new format for moto cross championship events. It was reported that now instead of running an expert line-up of 16, there are now four full line-ups of 40 riders. As always in a period of change, Mr Armes had received both positive and negative comments. Two other adjoining Centres are now running mixed classes, again due to lack of expert riders.

Mr Armes thanked Mr Ralph and the moto cross subcommittee for being brave enough to instigate the change. Mr Armes would like, with a few tweaks, the new format to continue.

The minutes were proposed for adoption by A Hay 2<sup>nd</sup> P Nash.

Mr Hood asked A Penny if the National Rally had been successful – Mr Penny said it had been a well-run event.

8. To receive a report from Mrs V Hearn. NMC Delegate:

Mrs Hearn proposed congratulations to Mrs M Mellish on her honorary appointment to the ACU.

Mrs Hearn reported that John Collins is to be the new ACU Chairman.

G Thompson had been concerned that some Centres who no longer have Board and Committee meetings. In those circumstances, ACU are assisting with running events. The suggestion of ACU help was not aimed at Centres such as ACU Eastern who are strong and well run Centre.

Trials – instead of a £10 registration, if riders only enter intermittently, there is now a £3 licence available to purchase.

There had been a complaint from a Centre delegate that Gary Thompson had spent 2 weeks in the Isle of Man running the TT races. All other delegates had supported Thompson over this. MR Hearn had spotted this in a set of minutes from the Isle of Man. Mrs Mellish commented that this had been a remark from an individual, not a centre.

Election Process- there had been one or two protests over the suggestion of 50% by ACU Board and 50% by Centres. The delegates did not agree with this.

9. Nominations for ACU Board of Directors and Sporting Committees:

The nominees were discussed and Mrs Hearn took an overview of the Boards felling regarding voting. The confirmed nominees and their cv's are not yet available. The Secretary will circulate when they arrive.

The Board was asked to endorse Mr Andrews Hay's nomination for Moto Cross Sporting Committee. This was fully supported.

10. Access and Environmental Issues. Mr E Wass – nothing to report. Nothing heard from the European Court issue.

Rights of Way -Ms Berwick reported on behalf of Mr Drane that there had been a meeting last Tuesday. The next day there had been two new appointees including a new cabinet minister. There is rumour that 5 more byways will be added to the closure list in November although this is

not constitutional. Other than that there has been no further changes since the last report. Mr Drane will give a full update at the November board. The next meeting for him is to be held in October.

11. Eastern Centre Gazette:

Report of the Editor Mr P Armes:

Mr Armes had recently sent out an email regarding paperwork and permits being late. Some of the paperwork he receives in hard to read and some forms are not being completed correctly, post codes, licence numbers etc. being left off. Mr Armes has been filling these in but asks that all paperwork is complete and correct before being sent in.

Mr Armes asked that photographs are sent in for inclusion in the Gazette.

Report of the Gazette Treasurer Mr R Greengrass:

Mr Greengrass circulated a report covering income and expenditure from 1<sup>st</sup> April to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2016.

Total Income was £2593.60

Expenditure was £1959.39 creating a surplus for the period of £634.21.

Mr Greengrass commented the Gazette makes less as the cost to the Gazette for regulation used to be £25 but was reduced to £15. A surplus for the period has been declared but there are still cheques to be cashed, one of which is to the ACU benevolent Fund which was sent to Mr Cross in February. Mr Greengrass will follow this up.

Advertising revenue has increased. One advertiser has been lost as Doug Theobald has retired his business.

Base Reward Account – this follows the base rate so interest rates may be cut.

Mr Kenny proposed a vote of thanks to both Mr Greengrass and Mr Armes. Mr Armes stated that the look of the Gazette had Mr Paul Sewter to thank – he does the layout and adds all the little quips.

12. To receive a report from the Benevolent Fund: Ms Berwick had received the figures from the Ben Fund for March to May 2016 and reported that currently no-one from ACU Eastern is receiving any benefits.

13. Any Other Business:

Mrs Margaret Mellish thanked all present for her recent appointment as Life Vice President. It had been suggested that the number of Vice Presidents be increased to six. Mrs Mellish would like to the Board to consider anyone to be proposed. Mr Armes asked if this is a role – Mrs Mellish responded that it is an honour decided by the Board of Directors. P Nash reported that Julian Harvey had won a 3<sup>rd</sup> place trophy at the French 4 day (S2 Class Trial) and asked that this was acknowledged by the Board.

Mrs Hearn reported that she had a conversation with a gentleman who wished to congratulate the Woodbridge Club on the running of the recent Maxxis Moto Cross Championship. He did however, express concern over the flying stones and asked if something could be done about this.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.03pm.

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 13TH 2016 AT STANWAY VILLAGE HALL:  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT 1PM FOLLOWED BY 4<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE ACU EASTERN  
BOARD COMMENCING AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE AGM**