

# ACU EASTERN

(AFILIATED TO THE Auto Cycle Union)

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Board held Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November 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

C Ralph	Woodbridge	P Tomlin	TOMCC
A R Chaplin	Sudbury/VP	G Garrod	Halstead
J Read	Woodbridge	Y Smith	ESSA
J Erskine		D Mills	ECMC
T Smith	Essex and Suffolk	R Sayer	Triangle
E Hood	Triangle	R Greengrass	Lowestoft Invaders
A Brace	Chelmsford/VP	E Wass	Braintree
C Dopson	Wymondham	A Kenny	Harwich
V Hearn	Stowmarket	K Weavers	Halstead
R Drane	Braintree	D Blyth	Woodbridge
J Blyth	Woodbridge	M Mellish	VP/Hon Life Member
P Armes	Watton	C Cook	Braintree

1. Mr Hearn opened the meeting and welcomed all present.  
Apologies were accepted from: Mr P Ranson; Mrs M Armes; Mr P Fenn; Mr D Clampin; Mr A Adams
2. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016 were proposed for approval by A Kenny 2<sup>nd</sup> G Garrod.
3. Matters Arising:

Mr Kenny stated that he was pleased to see that Mr Slaughter MBE had recovered well from his fall and was present at the meeting today.

Land Fund – says AGM – should say Board Meeting:

Mr Hay reported that he had struggled with revising the Land Fund Rules and feels that it would be more appropriate for a subcommittee to be formed from within the competitions committee to discuss this further. To be discussed fully in Item 9 on this agenda,

4. Competitions Committee Report:  
P Armes sought adoption of the minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Competitions Committee meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at Stanway Village Hall. Proposed R Drane 2<sup>nd</sup> E Wass.  
Mr Armes reported that online only entries had been discussed as some clubs had indicated that this is what they wished to do. The Competitions Committee has felt that this would exclude those competitors who preferred to enter by paper entry forms and agreed that the option for both should remain. It had been discovered that only 2-3 paper entries were received for events on average. It had been pointed out that it was not the remit of the competitions committee to make that decision but that the decision was the Board's. The Board then agreed that both options should remain. P Armes reported that it is also an issue when clubs open their entry, as it should be in line with the Gazettes date of the 4<sup>th</sup> of the month. At present, it is the club's decision unless the Board makes a decision to fix an opening date. Mr Armes made a proposal that the Board approves a motion that an amendment of both the option of paper and online entries and that the opening date is the 4<sup>th</sup> of the month be made. This was seconded

by K Weavers and approved by delegates present. P Armes sought approval for this to be implemented by the competitions committee and that he would take this for discussion at the upcoming dates meeting (16<sup>th</sup> November), C Dopson was unsure how this could be policed and it was therefore agreed to trial for 12 months.

Mr Armes reported that he had prepared a provisional calendar in advance of the dates meeting.

Mr Armes apologised that the November gazette had been late because of pressure of work.

Mr Brace queried why he, as Club secretary had not received the dates request paperwork for the second year running. Mr Armes responded that he had in fact received date requests from the Chelmsford Club and that he had sent out emails asking for clubs to let him know if they had not received the paperwork.

5. Competition Committee Election:

There had been two nominations: A Foskew and C Ralph. Mr Foskew's nomination was withdrawn as he had previously been elected as Vice Chair which automatically gave him a place on the competitions committee. Mr Ralph was duly elected. It was pointed out that there are 4 vacancies on the competitions committee and delegates were requested to take this up with their clubs to see if others would be interested. There is an option of co-option to invite people to attend to gauge how they would feel about being part of the committee. P Armes will also place an item in the Gazette to this end.

6. Mr Penny took the Chair for the election for the Bill Spurrell and Dick Williams awards.

The nominees for the Bill Spurrell were Keith Weavers and Bob Warner. The result was in favour of Keith Weavers. The Dick Williams nominees were Jack and Vera Hearn and Charlie Garrod. The result was in favour of Mr and Mrs Hearn. Mr Penny suggested that Clubs take the time to think about nomination for these awards earlier in the year. Mr Armes to place an item regarding this in the Gazette.

7. To confirm the appointment of the Rights of Way and Environment Officers.

Both Mr R Drane and Mr E Wass accepted the appointments for one year.

E Wass stated that the Centre still does not have a Rights of Way Officer in the North of the Centre. D Mills stated that in his opinion the Rights of Way Officer should be able to cover the whole Centre. Mr Drane responded that this would be impossible due to the area that needs to be covered. Mr Armes had been in contact with Norfolk County Council and discovered that Norfolk is covered adequately by the Trials Riders Association who are affiliated to the ACU.

8. To receive a report from the Centre Treasurer:

Mr Hay produced a report on Centre Finances 2016 and the Motocross Account 2015/16.

A summary of income and expenditure was attached which showed performance against approved budgets.

Income: looks likely to fall below that expected. The overall income may be around £1000 short of the estimate.

Expenditure:

There had been no Inter Centre Team events therefore the budget of £3,425 remained untouched.

Some lost trophies had been replaced and with engraving the cost was £44 over the projected budget.

Honoraria: It is now policy to pay the honoraria before the end of the financial year and Mr Hay sought approval to pay:

Secretary	£440
Competitions secretary	£220
Centre Treasurer	£440
Permit secretary	£440
Total	£1540

The above figures had not increased since 2008 and the total had reduced with the discontinuance of the role of Stewards Co-ordinator.

Mr Kenny asked if the officers were happy with the amounts. Mr Hay responded that it would be up to the Board to decide if an increase was due. Mrs Blyth proposed that the amount be increased to £500

for the Secretary, Permit Secretary and Treasurer. The Competitions Committee Secretary to £250. This would total £1750. 2<sup>nd</sup> A Kenny. The attending delegates voted and this was carried. Mr Kenny asked if the income of the Centre would continue to decline. Mr Hay responded that until he has seen a fixture list it would be difficult to answer that question.

Mr Hearn proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Hay for his continuing work as Treasurer.

9/10 Proposed wording changes to the Land Fund Rules:

Mr Hay reported that following the Board Meeting in July, he had spent a considerable amount of time looking at the proposals that had been discussed. Regarding the purchase of equipment, it gave cause for concern in the way of maintenance and insurance and who would be responsible for such. Depreciation was also an issue and assurances would be required from clubs regarding upkeep etc. At present, Mr Hay has incorporated his draft ideas attached to the end of the current rules.

Mr Hay seeks input from others to discuss this further. Mrs Blyth asked if a solicitor would be required and when the Land Fund was instigated. Mr Hay felt that it would be sufficient for the Board to agree such changes. Mr Brace commented that the Emergency Committee should be called to do this. Mrs Hearn commented that it may be better to be less specific and a clause that simply allows the fund to be used for things other than land could be added so that clubs could apply to the fund.

Mr Armes put forward a motion that this could be discussed at the next competitions committee meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> November. Mr Armes offered to take responsibility for setting up a subcommittee and bring back the results to the January Board. He also stated that if it was deemed necessary, legal advice could be sought.

Mr Armes proposal was 2<sup>nd</sup> by J Sayer. The Board delegates agreed this by a show of hands.

Mr Kenny made comment that the Land Fund had been set up by Mr Slaughter in the late 1970's and that now that land costs were so high things did need to change. He also stated that any changes and the fund itself must be administered correctly and legally.

11. To receive a report from Mrs V Hearn, National Management Council delegate

Mrs Hearn reported that she had attended a NMC meeting at Rugby on 12<sup>th</sup> November and that the attendance had been very good with most Centres represented.

Mr Tristan Robinson had been elected to the Board of Directors along with Mr B Higgins. Mr Robinson is under the age of 30 years and looks to be a valuable addition due to his work background.

Congratulations were extended to Andrew Hay who was elected to the Moto Cross Committee.

Clubs MSA have now given permission for Trials to run on the highway between one section to another and no longer have to pay upfront but may pay after an event with a true number of competitors.

Basic Insurance, insurance supplements will cease (£1.50 per rider over 90 entries) from January 2017. There will be a Chairman's and Secretaries meeting next year. The last two have been cancelled.

will The TT races have a sponsor – Future 7 Media- but as there have been contractual problems, the TT rights. run under the ACU as this year. The ACU have an agreement with the I of M and will always have the rights.

Mrs Hearn reports that Trails and Enduro seminars will run separately from next year.

12. To receive a report from the Gazette Editor and Treasurer:

Mr Armes Gazette Editor:

Apologised for the lateness of the Gazette.

do Mr Armes reports that he had now begun to receive more photographs but would like some more. They not all have to be of motorcycles and some of officials would be good. Reports on centre matters would also be well received.

to Mr G Brace stated that the Trial that Chelmsford were running would be taking entries on the day due to the lateness of the Gazette and that riders could contact him for information.

1<sup>st</sup> Mr Ralph asked about the cut-off date for entries in the Gazette, Mr Armes responded that it states the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month but that he is prepared to accept items up to the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication.

Mr Hearn reported that there is a problem with online entries for both sidecars and two man enduros.  
Mr Hay reports that the ACU have this in hand.

R Greengrass Gazette Treasurer:

Mr Greengrass had circulated a balance sheet July 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup> 2016 which declared a deficit of £629.96 for the period mostly due to production costs of £1748.80. Notification had been received that the interest rate on the Base Reward account was being cut to 0.25% from 5<sup>th</sup> December. Mr Greengrass proposed to transfer £10,000 from the current account to the Base Reward account. Agreed by those present.

Mr Greengrass reported that two advertisers have indicated that they will not be renewing in 2017 which will mean a reduction of £620 income. (Chris Self and Brian Bowers). Mr Kenny stated that the Centre needs to take note that advertisers when reviewing their promotional costs may not see the inclusion in the Gazette as cost effective. Mr Greengrass to write to both to thank them for their previous support.

E Hood – has taken over sending out free Gazettes from R Bannister. He has looked at who receives Gazettes and suggested that the costs could be cut in half. Mr Hood agreed to place a note with the next Gazettes sent out to ascertain if they really are required. It had been agreed previously that only officials who had officiated in the last 2 years should receive a free Gazette. P Armes will furnish Mr Hood with a list of active Stewards.

Mr Ralph questioned if the need to send free Gazettes at all was still valid. This will be reviewed by the competitions committee.

It was noted that the distribution for Southend Club had to change as Mr D Spurgeon is unwell.

13: Centre Website Report: Mr Sewter was not present but had reported via P Armes that all was well with the website management.

14: Access, Environment and Rights of Way report:

Mr Drane reports that the decision in 2014 on Highway 13 had been revoked. In November 2014, a blanket closure of 5 Highways from 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> March had been put in place. In November 2015, another 5 had been added. All maintenance of closed byeways had been put out to tender and was now under the remit of Ringway Jacobs/ECC. Mr Drane's reports that due to a change of personnel, the contacts he had are no longer relevant. He has been unable to obtain any new information and therefore is unable to give an update. The new Councillor for Highways is E Johnson who was invited to a user group but had declined to attend. At present, there are 15 byeways closed either for the reasons of repair or damage to flora and fauna. Mr Drane sees this as a cost cutting exercise and only two meetings have taken place this year. Section 50 of RTA states that every byeway has to be maintained for the use of all motor vehicles but the Council are not adhering to this. Mr Drane reports that in his opinion, motor cycling is being discriminated against. Mr Kenny asked if Mr Drane liaises with The Vintage Club in Essex. Mr Drane responded in the affirmative.

Access and Environment: Mr E Wass nothing to report.

15: ACU Benevolent Fund Report: In the absence of Mr Cross, Ms Berwick gave an update on the income and expenditure for July and August and also reported that no rider from ACU Eastern was currently receiving held. Ms Berwick had contacted Mr Cross who had indicated that he is happy to continue as Benevolent Fund Officer. Mr Cross also asked if anyone had any ideas for increasing the fund, to let him or Ms Berwick know.

Ms Berwick stated that the Fund had received a donation of £1170 from the Riders Number Scheme recently.

16: Ms Berwick advised the Board of the date and venue of the Presentation Evening. The Cedars Stowmarket on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2017. The venue has been booked and the deposit paid. The cost of tickets this year will be £12 with prize-winners plus one guest being invited. Ms Berwick and Mrs Hearn have offered to try to obtain sponsorship by writing to local dealers and clubs to offer a sponsorship of £50

per table which would then be named after the sponsor where their literature could be displayed. Ms Berwick proposed that a donation of £200 could be made from the Gazette Funds towards the cost of the evening. Mr Armes proposed that the Centre underwrites the event by way of a £500 grant annually. 2<sup>nd</sup> A Kenny and agreed by those present.

17: Any Other Business:

Mr Penny – advised that a Trials and Enduro seminar has been booked for 17<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at Christchurch Hall, Needham Market commencing at 11am.

A MX Seminar has been booked for Sunday January 15<sup>th</sup> 2017 at the Cedars Stowmarket with Clerk of Course/Stewards Seminar commencing at 9.30am followed by a Technical Seminar commencing at 1.30pm.

Grass Track – a date to be arranged by Mr Foskew and will be advised by email.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.15pm

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON  
SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY 2017  
AT STANWAY VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT  
10.00am**