

ACU EASTERN

(Affiliated to Auto Cycle Union)

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the Board held Wednesday 19th April 2017 at Gt Blakenham Parish Rooms in the presence of

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

C Ralph	Woodbridge	P Tomlin	TOMCC
A R Chaplin	Sudbury/VP	G Garrod	Halstead
T Smith	Essex and Suffolk	P Armes	Watton
E Hood	Triangle Ipswich	R Greengrass	Lowestoft Invaders
P Ranson	Diss	E Wass	Braintree
J Blyth	Woodbridge	K Weavers	Halstead
V Hearn	Stowmarket	Mrs D Blyth	Woodbridge
Mrs M Mellish	TOMCC /Life VP		

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

Mr Hearn handed the meeting over to the President Mr A Penny who reported that Mr Eddie Cordle had passed away on 8th April. Mr Cordle was Eastern Centre Trials Champion four times and had also competed at moto cross. Mr Cordle passed away after a short battle with cancer at the age of 71 years. There was a minute's silence in his honour. The funeral details are Seven Hills Crematorium 10th May at 2.15pm.

Apologies were accepted from: Mrs M Armes; Mr A Brace: Mr G Brace: Mr A Kenny: Mr A Hay: Mrs Y Smith:

Mr J Read: Mr K Doherty: Mr A Adams: Mr R Drane.

2. The minutes of the previous meeting held on Sunday 22nd January were read and approved as a true record. To add P Armes to attendees: Proposed: R Chaplin 2nd K Weavers.
3. Matters Arising:

Mr T Smith sought clarification that the dates of opening for events is the same online as the Gazette. Mr P Armes explained the reasoning for this. Mr Smith pointed out that the Diss meeting is not yet open online. Mr Ranson will deal with this on behalf of the Diss Club.

R Greengrass asked if anyone had received the promised 2016 permit refunds from Rugby – no-one has to date. It was explained that Xenia had resigned and this had caused a backlog. David Smith is overseeing the finance department and recruitment is being undertaken. Mrs Hearn will bring the financial situation up at the forthcoming NMC meeting. Mr Ranson suggested that the Centre email Rugby – Mr Ralph reported that he had been doing this since January with no results.

Mr K Weavers enquired whether the vacancies on the competitions committee had been filled? P Armes replied that despite items on the website and in the Gazette, no-one had shown an interest.

In any other business from the last meeting, Norfolk County Council Casualty Reductions scheme had been mentioned. Mr Armes reported that the booklets are now available in all Motor Cycle dealers in Norfolk and Suffolk, free of charge.

Mrs Mellish asked if there had been any response regarding that change of date for the November NMC Meeting. Ms Berwick reported that she had been advised that it was not possible to change the date.

4. Correspondence:

Benevolent Fund.

Report from Martin Cross – 3 cheques to be sent in: £250 from Gazette, £75 from Norfolk & Suffolk plus Board meeting donation of £27. No Eastern Centre current cases or suggestions from the Board on how to raise more monies:

Monthly figures November 2016 donations total £9,143.28; December 2016 £7,360.22; January 2017 £4,110.88

A press release has been received from Department of Transport regarding motor racing boost to English tourism when new laws come in to allow motor racing events to take place on closed public roads in England.

An email from Gary Thompson confirming the resignation of Ms Munro on 7th March 2017 as Finance and Support Services Manager.

An email from Gary Thompson regarding the ongoing issues with Powys CC regarding the use of footpaths and bridleways.

Illegal Riding in Thetford Forest. An email from Mr A Waters reported that six more riders had been caught by Brandon police and issued with section 59 notices. The Forestry Commission are in direct contact with Rugby to ascertain if these riders are ACU licence holders.

Mr Hay had sent an email reporting that following a CCJ, Reece Maclaren has now paid in full and has returned the transponder. Ms Berwick reported that Mr Maclaren had subsequently entered a meeting using another person's licence and in a false name. This came to light when he was injured and taken to hospital where he had to give his correct details. A reminder to clubs is to be sent out that all licences must be checked at signing on. The ACU Moto Cross Committee are instigating new requirements regarding how often photographs need to be updated.

An email from G Thompson clarifying that riders do not need more than one speed licence to compete in moto cross/ enduro/trials events.

Mr Hay, a reminder to clubs that insurance/levy declarations should be returned with 14 days of the event.

Ms Berwick reported on an excerpt from the second meeting of the Moto Cross Committee which raised concerns with medical cover and the transportation of patients to hospital. Mr McCauley advised that the Board of Directors would look into producing an action plan where County ambulances will not attend organised events. Hampshire had confirmed that they will not attend sporting events as a priority and could not guarantee them attending events.

Body Armour and kidney belts – from 2018 a new rule will be introduced that make it compulsory. No further news on VNUK threat to motor sport – updates will be given as and when received.

5. Financial Report:

Mr Hay provided a report in his absence: It had been a disappointing start to this financial year with income marginally down on the same period in 2016.

Income: Affiliation fees have fallen £130 short of the estimate.

Production of the Centre Handbook currently shows a deficit of £285 which is the production costs less income received for the Lings advert. The sales revenue has not yet been banked.

The ACU basic insurance contribution has yet to be received from Rugby due to staffing issues.

Expenditure: Trophies cost was £648 which represents a budget saving of £452. Last year lost trophies were replaced and some repaired. This has not been necessary this year.

Centre Function at present shows a loss of £147 which is within the £200 budget. The contribution agreed by the Board of £500 from Gazette funds is yet to be received. With this contribution, a surplus of £353 will have been generated.

Mr R Greengrass, Gazette editor, feels that £500 is too much. Ms Berwick pointed out that it had been voted on by the Board and that £500 should be donated this time. P Armes proposed that in future the Gazette funds should underwrite the Centre Function to a maximum of £500. This was approved. The surplus of £353 will be carried over to the next Centre Function. Mrs Hearn proposed thanks to all those who had helped to put on the function and to all those who had sponsored tables and provided raffle prizes.

Motocross Account; The sale of reserved numbers is £195 down on the same period last year. Based on 2016 sales, the estimated income was increased from £3000 to £3500 which looks to have been slightly optimistic. The only effect will be on the amount donated to the nominated charities.

The centre obtained a CCJ against the rider who failed to return a transponder. The transponder has now been returned and the Centre has received £245 in lost revenue and costs.

Mr Hay recommends that the Board notes the current levels of income and expenditure.

6. Competitions Committee Report:

Adoption of the minutes of the 6th Competitions Committee meeting were proposed by K Weavers 2nd D Blyth and accepted by the Board.

Minutes of 1st meeting of 2017:

Item 4 Facebook – Eastern Centre Trials – P Armes spoke to the person concerned and the name has now been changed.

P Armes – looking to reintroduce a Stewards seminar, especially to help new Stewards. This will be discussed further at the July Board following the next competitions committee meeting.

D Blyth commented that some Clerks of the Course did not wish to be Stewards. Mr Armes said that possibility of segregating C of C and Stewards licences would be discussed also at the next competitions committee meeting.

Mr Hearn suggested that a Stewards meeting being held in an evening and not prior to the AGM on Remembrance Day may be more suitable.

Mr Armes sought adoption of the minutes and this was proposed by P Ranson and 2nd D Blyth and accepted.

Land Fund Review:

Mr Armes reported that a subcommittee was set up to look at the Land Fund (C Dopson; A Hay; E Wass and P Armes) and met on Thursday March 2nd. Mr Armes briefed the competitions committee in March. A document was produced which will be distributed to all clubs for discussion and will be followed up at the July Board.

Items for discussion: Administration; Scope; Use of Fund.

Mr Armes proposed that the name be changed to Centre Facilities Fund and that a committee be set up consisting of Centre Chair, Centre Treasurer, Competitions Chair and three members elected by the Board to serve for three years. Centre Secretary would attend to take minutes. The Facilities committee would be required to meet with 30 days of any request being made and would be allowed to grant up to 5% of the total fund without reference to the Board. Greater amounts would need Board approval.

Scope: would mean being able to extend the fund to loans for other things but land. Anything other than land would be on a loan basis only.

Use of Capital: to own plant and equipment for access to all clubs- the subcommittee were strongly opposed to this for various reasons. ACU Eastern would have a duty of care and a liability.

Other items have been discussed such as facilities at venues, first aid equipment etc. such as defibrillators.

Underwriting of loss of revenue at events – using the funds as a safety net. P Armes stated that ACU Eastern could look to the future and discuss providing an off-road facility for all disciplines situated somewhere along the A14 corridor. – or another option is to leave the Land Fund as it is.

P Ranson asked for clarification on the current land fund rules – as it stands the Emergency Committee are empowered to allocate up to 20% as a grant and 50% if a loan.

7. Access and Rights of Way report:

Mr R Drane had sent the following to the Centre Secretary: Dates appertaining to start and end periods in some Byeways is not consistent, which is being challenged, also a permanent closure. A meeting is proposed for 27th April 2017 to challenge these discrepancy's. The three phases of 'Experimental Temporary Closures' is in its last stages.

8. Eastern Centre Gazette Report:

P Armes reported that all was running well and that gazettes were being delivered on time. The June Issue will be a week early as he will be in hospital therefore he needs items by 10th/11th May latest. Mr Armes had received more photographs to use for the cover and was grateful for those.

R Greengrass Gazette Treasurer reported that income for January to March 2017 had been £198.00 with expenditure of £2095.51 showing a deficit of £108.61.

Current balance in Barclays Current Account stood at £33,388.39 and the Barclays Business Rewards account at £26,703.68.

Mr Greengrass reported that two advertisers had been lost but that others are now taking a full-page advert which counterbalances the figures. Barclays have still not transferred the £10,000 that Mr Greengrass had requested and after three telephone calls this had still not been actioned. This has been ongoing for six months. C Ralph asked Mr Greengrass if he had considered online banking.

Mr Greengrass also reported that expenditure for maintenance and upkeep of the website would probably be in the region of £700.00.

Mr Ranson suggested that the cost of advertising in the Gazette could be printed so that potential advertisers were aware of the cost. Mr Armes will deal with this.

9. Centre Function:

Ms Berwick reported that the Centre Function had been well attended by over 100 guests who had enjoyed the evening. Most of the prize winners who had been invited had attended and there were few trophies left at the end. These would be forwarded on to the winners in due course. It is anticipated that the event will be held at the same venue on a similar date next year. Thanks were given by the Chairman to Lyn Berwick, Vera Hearn and Charlie Ralph for their help in staging the event. It was ascertained that Sudbury and Diss are both holding their awards evenings on 27th January 2018. The date of the 2018 function will be announced in due course.

10. Any Other Business:

Mrs Hearn sought items for discussion for the upcoming NMC Meeting: Stop List and taking entries on the day at Enduro events (this is a competitions committee issue and as such will be discussed at the next meeting).

Mrs Blyth stated that there is a booklet available from ACU Rugby aimed at Meeting secretaries- Ms Berwick will investigate this and report back.

E Hood – repayments from Rugby for basic permits – payments to clubs will be added to the NMC items for discussion list.

Venues – Ms Berwick reported that she had tried to book alternative venues but that Capel St Mary, which had seemed the best option, was booked up on Wednesday evenings and Sunday for regular users. Therefore, the July Board will be at Gt Blakenham and November at Stanway. C Ralph proposed that future venues should be discussed at the July Board.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Date and time of the next meeting:

WEDNESDAY 19th July 2017 AT GT BLAKENHAM PARISH ROOMS COMMENCING AT 7.45PM