

# ACU EASTERN

(AFILIATED TO THE Auto Cycle Union)

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Board 2018 held Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018 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          |
| Treasurer        | Mr A Hay            |
| Centre Secretary | Ms L Berwick        |

|             |                  |           |            |
|-------------|------------------|-----------|------------|
| C Ralph     | Woodbridge       | P Tomlin  | TOMCC      |
| A R Chaplin | Sudbury/VP       | K Doherty | ECMC       |
| J Read      | Woodbridge       | D Blyth   | Woodbridge |
| A Brace     | Chelmsford/VP    | A Wright  | Halstead   |
| Mrs V Hearn | Stowmarket       | E Wass    | Braintree  |
| A Kenny     | Harwich          | R Drane   | Braintree  |
| Y Smith     | ESSA             | K Weavers | Halstead   |
| E Hood      | Triangle Ipswich | Mr C Cook | Braintree  |
| P Armes     | Watton           | M Mellish | TOMCC/ VP  |

1. Mr Hearn opened the meeting and welcomed all present.  
Apologies were accepted from: Mrs M Armes; J Blyth; R Greengrass; P Sewter; D Slaughter. J Sayer; R Sayer; T Smith.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018 were proposed for approval by R Chaplin 2<sup>nd</sup> J Read.  
The Chairman sought permission for Mr Drane to give his report following matters arising as he needed to get away due to a family gathering.
13. Mr Drane. Mr Drane reported that he was standing down from his position as Rights of Way Officer as he felt the time had come for someone else to take over. He reported that all 6 Byeways were now permanently open to Motor Cyclists. Mr Hearn thanked Mr Drane for all his hard work which had been over 30 years. Mr Kenny also thanked Mr Drane and commented that Mr Drane had put motorcycling in a good light and represented the Centre well. Mr Kenny asked Mr Drane if there was anyone else that he thought may pick up the role within his riding group. Mr Drane was not able to provide a name. Mr Drane commented that he had also helped set up the first Long Distance Trial and that he is in his 70<sup>th</sup> year as a member of the Braintree Club. Mr Drane was given a warm round of applause.
3. **Matters Arising:**  
P Armes – First Aid Training – will discuss in Competitions Committee report.  
EC MX Championships. Will discuss in Competitions Committee Report.  
Item 13; P Armes asked Mr Weavers for an update on the situation at Wakes Colne. All is well, the land was purchased by club member Trevor Avery and the club will still be able to use the land for car parking.
4. **To receive a report from P Armes Chair of Competitions Committee:**  
Mr Armes sought adoption of the 4<sup>th</sup> Minutes of the Competitions Committee: G Brace raised the subject of the Stewards Report from the Wakes Colne motocross on 1<sup>st</sup> July and pointed out that an injury to an official, Emily Birch, had not appeared on the report from D Mills. The form was not filled in correctly either, where the number of injuries were declared. The injury to Miss Birch had been noted by the competitions committee as some members were present at the event. Miss Birch sustained injuries to her knee and is still taking prescription pain killers. She has seen a physiotherapist who has referred her to a sport injury therapist. There is

connective tissue damage in the knee joint and she may need further scans. An x-ray has shown that bone structure appears normal.

P Armes pointed out that the event was run under Basic insurance and therefore comes under the auspices of Rugby. We have noted as a Centre the comments and will write to Rugby asking that at the mx seminar in January, the correct filling in of steward's reports is raised.

Proposed for adoption J Hearn 2<sup>nd</sup> G Brace.

**Noise meters:** Mr Armes reported that the noise meters that were returned were in calibration but they are due to be recalibrated in January 2019. Mr Armes will deal. He will be talking to Rugby to obtain an up to date list of noise testers who are trained in the use of the current equipment. He will ensure that noise testing is carried out for all speed events on an ad hoc basis.

**Update on Devolution:** Trials – going well. Mr Armes attended the recent trials Forum and found it interesting. There had been a good attendance.

MX Devolution – the situation is that the subcommittee are almost ready to devolve. Following discussion at the last competitions committee meeting, it was decided that the sub committee would run for one more year and look to devolve fully in 2020.

**Facilities Fund:** Mr Armes reported that there has been one application to date and a grant has been offered to £457 to Norwich New Stars. This has not yet been processed as Mr Armes is seeking a solicitor to draft an agreement and who is understanding of the motor cycling business. Norwich New Stars have also undergone a change of personnel but have assured Mr Armes that there are no plans to cease running the club. Mr Armes will be meeting with the new committee in the near future and will report back to the Board and make the grant available.

Mr Armes had also considered changes to the current rules of the Facilities Fund but at present it seems that the rules are adequate. Mr Armes will report to the November 2019 Board and will discuss there if any changes are deemed necessary.

**GDPR.** All officials to be listed have agreed to their details being published. Stewards etc will have names only.

P Armes will be contacting all Stewards and officials to update any changes to their current details.

Permits/Gazette. A new line has been added to the bottom for signature agreeing for details to be published in gazette and website.

**First Aid:** The idea of providing first aid training is aimed primarily at Trials (the handbook says a competent person) At the Trials Forum, P Armes discussed the suggestion and approximately 80% of clubs represented said they would like some training. The cost is £600 for 12 persons. P Armes proposed the Centre pay 60% and Clubs 40%. The cost to the Centre would be £360 and Mr Armes sought Board approval to move this forward. He suggests that the training would be held at Gt Blakenham. Mr Hood commented that he thought Clubs should pay 50%. Mrs Blyth stated that she thought that the Centre should not fund this at all as clubs running speed events pay for their medical teams at quite a high cost. The question was asked how long the certificate would last for and whether this would need to be updated. The response was that it would be for one year and would therefore need updating annually. Mr Hay supported Mrs Blyth's comments and pointed out that the Centre does not pay for training of officials.

Mr Weavers then proposed that First Aid Training should be paid for by participating Clubs.

Mr Armes proposal received 9 votes. Mr Weavers proposal received 12 votes. Mr Armes abstained.

**2019 Mx Championship Conditions:** Mr Armes reported that he had attended a recent moto cross sub committee meeting where a debate had taken place regarding the 2019 MX Championship. It had been apparent that the series had been very popular with some riders unable to gain entry. 2019 Championship Conditions have since been drafted and will be finalised for ratification by the competitions committee following a meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> November. Mr Armes will update in January.

## 5. Election of Competitions Committee

There were three nominees. C Ralph seeking re-election. A Foskew and A Wright. Mr Foskew withdrew his nomination as he is entitled to attend competition committee meeting as an ex officio member (Vice Chairman). It was pointed out to Mr Foskew that if his position as Vice Chair changed, he would lose his position on the competition committee. Mr Foskew withdrew his nomination. Mr Ralph and Mr Wright were elected to serve for three years.

There are still three vacancies on the competitions committee.

Mrs Blyth asked that with devolution, would it still be necessary to have a competitions committee. Mr Armes responded that it would for the foreseeable future.

## **6. Bill Spurrell and Dick Williams Awards**

Dick Williams Award: One nomination Jennifer and Dudley Ling – Course Marshals for over 20 years nominated by Eastern Centre Marshals Club.

Bill Spurrell Award. One nominee Kieron Doherty nominated by the Eastern Centre Marshals Club and by the Halstead Club. The Board had no objections to the nominees.

Ms Berwick to send invitations to the Awards Evening.

## **7. To confirm the appointment of Rights of Way and Environmental Officers**

Mr Wass agreed to carry on as Environmental Officer.

As previously stated, Mr Drane relinquished his role as Rights of Way Officer. Mr Kenny agreed to liaise with Mr Drane as mention had been made of someone who had shown an interest in the role but would not want to serve on a committee. Mr Kenny thinks it is important to maintain some contact with the Essex County Council and will endeavour to speak to the interested party. He will also contact TRF.

A Vote of thanks was proposed to Mr Drane and Ms Berwick will write a letter of thanks. It was suggested that Mr Drane should be put forward next year for an Award (Dick Williams).

Ms Berwick informed those present that Woodbridge DMCC Ltd had put forward Drew Kemp for the Pinhard Prize.

## **8. Treasurers Report:**

Mr Hay provided a summary of the income and expenditure for the financial year 2018 to 5<sup>th</sup> November.

Income is likely to exceed the budget approved for the current year. Permit fees are up by over £300, affiliations include a one-off payment from 2016 and 2017 amounting to £380 and the basic insurance contribution from ACU is £280 higher than estimated. The income from Centre levies is likely to reach the estimate despite the reduction in the fee from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

Expenditure: despite the Centre providing a budget of £1250 for Promotional Events, there has only been a limited spend of £200 to date. Trophies underspend of £336 from the approved budget.

Centre Function showing a loss of £412. A Hay will send an invoice to Mr Greengrass as the agreement was the Gazette funds picked up any loss.

Honoraria: Mr Hay sought approval for payment of the Honoraria. Mr Kenny asked if recipients were happy with the amount. All agreed they were and E Hood proposed and A Kenny 2<sup>nd</sup> approval to pay the honoraria. All delegates in agreement.

Motocross Account: This has now been operative for seven years. During 2018 the daily hire of transponders has once again increased slightly. The daily hires together with Norfolk and Suffolk Junior MCC having hired transponders from the Centre during the year means that there is £510 in excess of the budget figure. The reserved number scheme brought in the same amount as last year, £3400 split equally between East Anglian and Essex Air Ambulances and the Benevolent Fund.

There is an estimated surplus of £1049 for 2018. The insurance for timing equipment is currently being re-assessed by Locktons and as yet, the updated premium has not been received.

Mr Hay has been advised by Locktons that their broker will not re-insure the equipment unless my Hay has an approved burglar alarm fitted to his home. Mr Hay has been in contact with Roy Humphries at the ACU and is pursuing other options. He will update the Board accordingly.

Recommendation: That the Centre Board notes the current levels of income and expenditure – agreed by all present.

Ms Berwick reported that the pop ups used at the Awards need updating. There is money in the promotional budget available. Ms Berwick will organise the purchase.

## **9. To discuss a proposal to set up online payments: Mr A Hay.**

Mr Hay reported that the local branch of Barclays he uses is closed and he is not keen to use the City Bank.

However, he has since discovered that there is a branch at UEA that he can access. However, he would like to offer a facility whereby Clubs can pay for their insurance declaration online. He would need to set up an email (P Sewter will be asked to facilitate this) and that declarations could be paid by using permit number as the payment reference. Following discussion, it was agreed to trial this in 2019 to run alongside the current system.

Mrs Blyth asked if it would be possible for the form to be online for completion therefore avoiding the need to scan documents. Mr Armes suggested that the Centre investigate and goes forward with online banking for

centre fees and charges and also to look at providing on line forms. Mr Hay suggested that the trial could be used for the next two years following which the online system be used as the preferred option. Mr Hay will discuss this with Mr Sewter.

#### **10. To receive a report from Mrs V Hearn NMC Delegate**

Mrs Hearn reported that there had not been an NMC Meeting since the last Board but there is on 24<sup>th</sup> November at Rugby. Mrs Hearn reported the increase of licence fees which had been circulated to all Clubs. Mrs Blyth commented that there had not been any problems with the increase reported at either Weston or the Dirt Bike Show. There had not been an increase for 4 years. Mrs Hearn did report that insurance may be going up but that ACU Rugby were holding the cost for the first three months of 2019 and discussions with the insurers are yet to be completed.

##### **10a) VNUK Update**

Mrs Hearn reported that this was still ongoing and that a claim had been received in this country. The ACU are still lobbying for a decision to be reversed and motor cycling made exempt. At present the MID will cover any claims until such time as a final decision has been reached.

Mrs Hearn sought direction from the delegates on the voting for Directors and Sporting Committees. There is only one election to take place for the Trials and Enduro Committee. It was decided to instruct Mrs Hearn to vote for the retiring members seeking re-election. J Collins and P Sparkes.

Mr Armes asked Mrs Hearn to ask this question at the NMC Meeting:

The Motor Cross Committee are taking over the running of the Maxxis British Championship from ACU Events: What are the implications to the ACU and who now owns rights to the ACU British Championship.

Mr Armes commented that sponsorship from Maxxis is about to end with one year of the current agreement to run.

D Blyth stated that she had been reassured that sponsorship is in hand.

#### **11. Eastern Centre Gazette**

a) To receive a report from Gazette editor P Armes

Mr Armes reported that all is going well and thanked all the contributors and would welcome more articles. Mr Armes said that ultimately numbers will decline and become an online document only. However, at present it is holding numbers well.

Mr Armes is looking into the possibility of online regulations and supplementary regulations.

Mr Armes has received telephone calls from two people in the last two weeks asking to advertise in the Gazette. Mr Kenny thanked Mr Armes for making the Gazette look so attractive, Mr Armes responded that the plaudits for that go to Paul Sewter.

b) **To receive a report from Gazette Finances and Distribution Mr R Greengrass**

Mr Greengrass had been unable to attend the meeting but had provided a balance sheet from 30<sup>th</sup> June to 30<sup>th</sup> September which showed a deficit of £50.76.

The balance of monies held are as follows:

Current Account £21,487.96

Reward Account £36,841.55

Mr Greengrass had intimated to Mr Kenny that he is happy to continue in his role.

#### **12. Eastern Centre Website Mr P Sewter**

Mr Sewter was not in attendance. Mrs Berwick reported that Mr Sewter would like more results and championship standings from clubs and recorders.

Ms Berwick had received an email from Mr T Smith asking why approved minutes had not been updated. Mrs Berwick apologised to the Board for her failing to keep them updated. Ms Berwick had sent the necessary documents for uploading to Mr Sewter on receipt of the email and had also contacted the recorders to remind them to also upload their reports/minutes. Ms Berwick had tried to upload to the website but had been unable to do so. She has contacted Mr Sewter and spoken about this.

#### **13. Access, Environment and Rights of Way matters**

Mr Wass reported that as previously discussed, the VNUK problem was ongoing.

Mr Wass reported that he had seen a documentary regarding poisonous caterpillars which had arrived in the country and seem to be primarily on oak trees. He would like people to be aware of these black and white caterpillars in the spring.

**14. ACU Benevolent Fund.**

Ms Berwick had received an email from Mr M Cross, Ben Fund Officer stating that he would like to tender his resignation but that he would be willing to continue for one more year if there had not been time to recruit a new officer. There was interest shown by a delegate and Ms Berwick will contact Mr Cross to ask for a job description. Ms Berwick will liaise with the interested party.

**15. Centre Function**

Ms Berwick reported that the venue has been booked for Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February at The Cedars Stowmarket. There had been an issue with cost but Mrs Hearn had managed to secure the same price as last year after a second visit. Ms Berwick will be sending out invitations to the award winners in due course and will have tickets for sale at the January Board.

**16. To discuss a proposal to set a budget for the Centre Awards Function**

Ms Berwick sought approval to set a budget to cover the costs of the Centre Function as last year it was a worry that it would be overspent. Mrs Hearn and Ms Berwick enjoy running the event but do not need the added pressure of worrying about the costs. Ms Berwick proposed that a budget of £1000 be set. My Hay responded that there is room within the Centre Funds to set that budget. It was proposed by E Hood 2<sup>nd</sup> A Kenny to approve this budget. Agreed by the delegates unanimously.

**17. Any Other Business**

Ms Berwick had been advised that it is likely that Dunmow Club will be dissolved following a meeting later this month. Sadness was expressed at this but J Sayer had advised the Secretary that the loss of land and ageing members were the cause.

Mrs Blyth asked if there was any way the date of the AGM could be changed away from Remembrance Day and possibly not on a Sunday at all. Following discussion, the secretary was asked to place this as an item for discussion on the January Board Agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting closed 4.10pm

Following the conclusion of the Board Meeting, it was announced that an item brought to the Board had been omitted for discussion. Rather than leave this until January it was proposed that an EGM be called- proposed by P Armes and agreed by all present.

Extraordinary General Meeting:

Item for discussion.

Mr A Foskew had requested that the Board considers that Mr Albert Brace be made a Life Vice President of the Centre. This was wholeheartedly approved by all present.

**The next meeting will be Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2019 Stanway Village Hall.**