

ACU EASTERN

(AFILIATED TO THE Auto Cycle Union)

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the Board 2019 held Sunday 27th January 2019 at Stanway Village Hall in the presence of

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

C Ralph	Woodbridge	K Doherty	ECMC
A R Chaplin	Sudbury/VP	A Wright	Halstead
J Read	Woodbridge	E Wass	Braintree
Mrs V Hearn	Stowmarket	K Weavers	Halstead
A Kenny	Harwich	Mr C Cook	Braintree
P Armes	Watton		

1. Mr Hearn opened the meeting and welcomed all present. Mr Hearn announced that Lyn Berwick, Centre Secretary and Charlie Ralph are to marry on 14th February. All present wished them well.

Apologies were accepted from: A Penny: E Hood: R Greengrass: J Blyth: Mrs D Blyth: P Nash: Mrs Y Smith:

Mrs M Mellish: Mr D Slaughter and Mrs M Armes who had sent her good wishes for a safe and successful 2019 season.

2. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th November 2018 were proposed for approval By A Foskew; 2nd K Weavers

3. Matters Arising:

Ms Berwick advised the Board that she had sent a letter of thanks to Mr R Drane following his resignation from the post of Rights of Way Officer.

Mr Hay – had not progressed the setting up of online banking – but will do so.

Pop ups – have been purchased at a total cost of £87. They have been delivered to Ms Berwick. Enduro pop up shows Luke Parker and MX has Shaun Southgate.

K Weavers – asked if the issue of insurance for the timing equipment had been resolved – Mr Hay responded that he had made further contact with the current insurers who did not wish to negotiate and had put several conditions regarding alarms etc in place. MIS had insured the South Eastern Centre's equipment after intervention by Terry Gold, but were not so accommodating for this Centre and had not responded to Mr Hay having been advised of this meeting date.

PP Sports had been approached but had not responded. Mr Hay has obtained a quote from another insurer at a cost of £868. He had also contacted Roy Humphrey at ACU Rugby and H S Sports.

Mr Hay sought the opinion of those present reminding the delegates that the equipment is worth £26,000.

Mr Hay also reminded those present that the transponders are loaned to Norfolk and Suffolk Junior MCC on occasion and are at present charged a nominal fee of £150 per loan, as agreed by the competitions committee.

Mr P Armes proposed that for this year, the Centre pays the £868 quoted by Sports Insure and look for alternatives for 2020. This item will be added to the November Board Agenda for further discussion. 2nd K Weavers and voted unanimously in favour.

Mr Weavers suggested that the fee to loan the transponders should be increased. Ms Berwick was concerned whether the Centre Insurance would cover the transponders when in the care and control of NSJMCC. This will be clarified.

4. Correspondence:

Communication had been received from Mrs W Bavin. To advise Ms Berwick that she is moving house and has programmes and paperwork for offer to a good home. Mr Kenny, archivist, declined the offer as he felt that he was also in possession of the same information. Ms Berwick will contact Mrs Bavin.

Neil Doctor, the new Assistant General Secretary at Rugby, had circulated information regarding a new club wishing to affiliate to the ACU as a Non-territorial Club. This is a Road Race Club based in Stratford upon Avon and named GP Originals. There were no objections.

British Championship 2 stroke class has been cancelled. Mr Stuart Drummond sent out this information disclosing that this was due to lack of entries by the signing up closing date. The 2 strokes will now run alongside David Willetts Apico 2 stroke Festival.

5. Treasurers Financial Report:

Mr Hay circulated a written report the purpose of which was to advise members of the provisional financial position for the year ended 31st December 2018, subject to final reconciliation.

The provisional accounts indicate a surplus of £3,854. Mr Hay outlined the reasons for this, the major underspend being no Inter Centre Team events. The budget for this for 2019 has significantly been reduced for 2019 and used to fund the Centre Function.

Mr Hay also provided a draft budget for 2019 in which there is no allowance for Inter Centre Team events and a reduced promotional budget as approved by the Board in November, an allowance of £1000 has been included for the Centre Function.

Mr Hay recommended to the Board that as a gesture to clubs running small events, that the exemption of levies for under 30 competitors should be continued.

Within the moto cross budget, Mr Hay has increased the projected income from transponder hire by £1000 which could be achieved by events running with entries of up to 200 as opposed the maximum 160 previously.

MX Account – there has been no further expenditure since the November Board.

Mr Hay has made an allowance for increased insurance premium.

The only income to date is from the reserved number scheme. In excess of £1500 has been received so far, on a level with last year. Unreserved number go on general sale on 4th February.

Recommendations:

That the Board notes the provisional accounts for the financial year 2018, which are subject to final reconciliation.

That the Board extends the exemption of levies for low entry events which attract less than 30 entries for a further 12 months.

That the Board adopts the draft budget for 2019.

Proposed by A Foskew 2nd A Kenny. And agreed unanimously. Mr Hearn thanked Mr Hay for his continued excellent work on behalf of ACU Eastern.

6. To receive a report from Mr P Armes deputy NMC Delegate

Mr Armes kindly attended the NMC Meeting as deputy to Mrs V Hearn and reported that:

Insurance for Premier Permits has increased by 5%, this being half of the 10% increase incurred by ACU Rugby.

Mr Armes suggests that clubs would have to decide whether to pass this increase on by raising entry fees.

£25 permit refunds have now come to the end of the three years period as the surplus that caused this has now been cleared. Mr Armes reports that the ACU Statute states it is non-profit making. They had accrued a surplus and decided to give this back to the members/clubs.

The 2019 ACU Handbook has new Risk Assessment changes and there are outline risk assessment forms to download for each discipline. Mr Armes will add the new risk assessment forms to the permit packs he sends out.

There is also now a requirement for all VIP/Guests to sign on if they will be taken into areas prohibited to the public, just as a Marshal/Track official would be required to do.

The Appeals Structure has also been changed, mainly in the area of drug testing.

Mr Armes reported that Neil Doctor is a new recruit and is Gary Thompson's Assistant.

Committee Elections – most elected unopposed. MX Committee is running one short as one nominee failed to get his paperwork in on time. This will be revisited in May and dealt with by co-option.

70 Year Rule – this was debated robustly with the rule being changed to the 73-year-old rule which appears in the 2019 Handbook. Mr Hay confirmed that this is a rule whereby when the age of 73 is attained, the role comes to an end even if the term elected is still in force.

7. Competitions Committee Report:

Mr Armes sought adoption of the minutes of the 5th Competitions Committee meeting held on Wednesday 19th September 2018 at Gt Blakenham Parish Rooms.

Item 7 – The Pinhard Trophy – Mr Armes confirmed that this had been awarded to Ryan Vickers, Road Racer from Thetford who will be riding British Superbikes in 2019. Congratulations were extended to Ryan on a great achievement.

Ms Berwick informed the Board that Drew Kemp, Woodbridge Club member and 16-year-old speedway rider had also been nominated and had scored highly. He has been invited to apply again next year.

Minutes proposed for adoption by K Weavers 2nd C Ralph.

Mr Armes sought adoption of the minutes of the 6th Competitions Committee held on Wednesday 17th December at Walsham le Willows Football Club.

K Weavers sought clarification on Stewards passes and said that he was under the impression that only the Steward for the day was entitled to enter a meeting on a Stewards pass. It was clarified that the number of Stewards passes and those who received a free Gazette had been reduced to those that had officiated within the last two years and that their pass entitled them and one other to free entry to Centre events. Centre Officials such as Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary etc are also issued these passes. Ms Berwick commented that it would be beneficial if gate staff were made aware of the existence of these passes.

Ms Berwick is waiting for an up to date list from Rugby following the recent Seminar.

Minutes proposed for adoption by A Wright 2nd A Foskew.

8. To discuss the proposal from November Board regarding the date and time of the AGM and November Board.

Mr A Foskew commented that things have changed considerably since he started attending the Board 20 years ago. There used to be a Stewards meeting in the morning, a lunch break followed by AGM and Board Meeting. He commented on how things are different in respect of there being so much else to do with shops open etc. He also commented that the numbers attending the meetings have got lower and that it appears Clubs are struggling to get people to attend 4 Board meetings a year. Mr Foskew suggested that the November Board should stay on the same date but the start time moved to 5.30pm to 6pm with a 15-minute break and a finishing time of 10pm. He also suggested that as the July Board is not well attended, that it could be moved to the end of June or earlier in July.

Mr Kenny responded that he would not be keen on an evening meeting at that time of year and would still support to continue to have the AGM and 4th Board on Remembrance Day but move the start time to 2pm giving those wishing to attend Remembrance Services the time to do so. Mr Armes reminded the Board that the ACU Rules state that affiliated clubs must hold 4 Board Meetings per year and suggested that ACU Eastern could ask for this to be placed on the next NMC Agenda for discussion to reduce the Board Meetings to 'a minimum of 2 per year'. Communication is now totally different to when the rules were set and a contact list for all delegates is used by The Centre Secretary. Communication on subjects needing discussion between meetings could be addressed by using 'reply to all;' emails. Mr Weavers asked if we had to be out of the hall by 5pm. Ms Berwick responded that this can be flexible.

Mr Hay requested that the Agenda could be made less general and more specific which may encourage a better attendance if clubs could see specific items for discussion.

The decision was as follows: To place an item on the NMC Agenda requesting to reduce to a minimum of 2 Board meetings per year. Following a decision on this, the item to be placed on the next available agenda and Clubs to be contacted and encouraged to send a delegate to attend. Mr Hearn proposed that the November meeting for 2019 should commence at 2pm and conclude at 6pm.

9. To receive a report from Mr E Wass on environmental matters. Mr Wass had nothing to report.

Mr P Armes had seen a report on VNUK and advised those present that The MID has confirmed that all motorsport has now been granted exemption and that the matter is now closed. (Irrespective of Brexit)

10. To receive an update from Mr A Kenny following the resignation of Mr R Drane Rights of Way Officer.

Mr Kenny advised that he had also written to Mr Drane thanking him for his service to ACU Eastern. Mr Kenny had contacted the TRF and discovered that they are affiliated to the ACU. He ascertained that the Essex Local Access Forum which is available on line, also covers Southend and Thurrock. Mr Kenny has made contact with Vernon Glashier, an ex-road racer who serves on this committee. There are 14 members of the Forum chaired by Catherine Evans and they have meetings arranged for 12th February, 7th May, 6th August and 5th November. Mr Kenny will contact Mr Glashier with a view to asking if we could have copies of any relevant information and whether he could put us in touch with representatives to similar groups in Norfolk and Suffolk.

11. Eastern Centre Gazette: To receive a report from the Editor Mr P Armes:

Mr Armes apologised for the lateness of the January Gazette, He missed the print deadline and had to wait until after the Christmas holiday. The numbers of Gazettes seem to be holding well with numbers slightly down. Mr Armes is aware that some clubs running speed events are anxious to go on line entries only, which will come, but while the Gazette continues to do well, it will carry on.

The Centre Handbooks have been printed and the intention is that they will be delivered with the Gazettes this week.

Mrs Hearn raised the question of when the Gazette gets to the point of not continuing, where will the income come from to cover that. She is concerned that Basic Permits do not incur levies as do the Premier permits. Mr Hay stated that there is £50 cash back from each permit which equate to 50p per 100 riders. He has tried in the past to raise the subject of levies with Rugby but the response was negative. Mr Armes commented that at present every set of regs. that are printed in the Gazette costs £15 and that if entry was online only, that would still incur the same charge. He conceded that there is a loophole with riders' entries on line on a basic permit and that needs looking into and that this would be undertaken over the next 12/18 months. At present, the Gazette Funds are healthy and it would be many years before they dwindle enough for concern. Ms Berwick did point out that if the Gazette ceased, income could then be raised by online advertisers. P Armes stated that two new advertisers have been taken for the Gazette and one for the Handbook which gives that a surplus.

There being no further business, the meeting closed 4.10pm

12. Benevolent Fund:

Ms Berwick reported that she had no report to give. Mr Cross had been contacted and advised that there is an interested party looking to take over The Benevolent Fund Officer role in November. He has provided some notes on the role as has Debbie Walmsley from Rugby. Ms Berwick has forwarded these to Mrs Blyth to consider.

13. Centre Function

Ms Berwick reported that ticket sales have now reached just over 100 and that several raffle prizes have been donated. Most of the award winners are attending.

14. Any Other Business

Mr A Foskew – Stewards mileage: This has not been changed for some years and stands at 25p per mile whereas Rugby pay 33 per mile for events run under basic permits. Mr Foskew suggested that the Centre mileage should be increased to 28p per mile. Mr Hay commented that in his opinion the rates should be equal. Mr Cook commented that this would have an impact on costs to organising clubs and that he would be against this.

Mr Armes proposed that the increase should be half way between the two figures and that this be placed as an item on the next Agenda. Ms Berwick agreed to notify Clubs that this would be an item for discussion and that it would be beneficial for as many clubs as possible to be in attendance due to the financial implications for them.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.20pm

The next meeting will be Wednesday 17th April 2019 at Gt Blakenham Parish Rooms commencing at 7.45pm.