

# ACU EASTERN

(AFILIATED TO THE Auto Cycle Union)

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the Board 2019 held Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at Gt Blakenham Parish Rooms in the presence of

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

C Ralph	Woodbridge	K Doherty	ECMC
A R Chaplin	Sudbury/VP	A Wright	Halstead
J Read	Woodbridge	Mrs D Blyth	Woodbridge
Mrs V Hearn	Stowmarket	K Weavers	Halstead
A Kenny	Harwich	Mrs J Nash	Southend
P Armes	Watton	P Nash	Southend
Mr E Hood	Triangle Ipswich	Mr P Fenn	Essex and Suffolk Borders
Mr C Keeble	Norfolk and Suffolk Group	Mr P Tomlin	TOMCC
Mr A Brace	VP & Chelmsford	Mr A Waters	Diss

1. Mr Hearn opened the meeting and welcomed all present. Mr Hearn acknowledged members who had recently passed away: R Garrod; S Penfold; D French; B Brooker and G Steward.  
Apologies were accepted from: R Greengrass; J Blyth; Mrs Y Smith; Mr A Hay; Mr E Wass; Mrs M Mellish; Mr R Sayer; Mr D Slaughter and Mrs M Armes.

2. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2019 were proposed for approval by K Weavers; 2<sup>nd</sup> R Chaplin

**3. Matters Arising:**

P Armes: Item 12 Benevolent Fund Officer. Mrs Blyth confirmed that she would accept the post of Benevolent Officer from November 2019.

Mrs Ralph reported that the timing equipment insurance had now been put in place but was unable to update on the current position on when out on loan.

**4. Correspondence:**

Sporting committee nominations had been circulated. There was one vacancy for the moto cross committee – Dave Edwards.

Two nominees for Trials and Enduro – following discussion, Mrs Hearn was instructed to use ACU Eastern’s vote to support P Sparkes.

Mrs Ralph had received the audited ACU accounts on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April and circulated to the delegates. Mr Armes expressed concern at the £237,000 loss in the last financial year and asked Mrs Hearn to ask for that to be explained when she attends the National Management Council meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> May. Mr Armes is asking for clarification on the figures quotes on the loss of running events, such as ‘what are the events?’. Mrs Hearn will seek answers and report back.

**5. Treasurers Financial Report:**

Mr Hay had forwarded a written report on the current situation detailing the current spend against the budget. There were no questions or comments.

**6. To discuss the frequency of Board Meetings – Mr P Armes**

Following the previous Board meeting where dwindling number of attendees had been discussed, Mr Armes had established that the rules for how many Board Meetings must be held under ACU rules had now changed and it is no longer a requisite to hold an AGM plus 4 Board Meetings. Mr Armes had prepared a proposal that stated 'In addition to the AGM, the Centre shall hold at least 2 meetings of the Board each year'. Mr Armes proposed that the AGM and November Board be held on Remembrance Day and that the next Board be held approximately 6 months later and reminded those present that there is an option to call an Extraordinary Board meeting if necessary and that there is also an Emergency Committee that may also be called upon. Sub committees deal with the day to day running of their own disciplines and the competitions committee meets 6 times per year.

Mr Keeble commented that he thinks that the Agenda deals with items that are reports about things that have been dealt with and as such is more historical and that in his opinion the Agenda needs to refocus and made more relevant to attract more attendees. Mr Kenny responded that the agenda, as it is, follows set procedure. Mr Armes stated that there had been discussions on how to make the meetings more attractive.

Mr Hood commented that the same people would attend however many meetings were held and 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr Armes proposal.

Mr Penny felt that should the Board Meetings reduce; the Centre would suffer. Mr Fenn commented that the Board Meetings were the only times that people could meet for a discussion on Centre business. Following an in-depth discussion, Mr Ralph proposed that three Board Meetings should be held. Mr Armes amended the proposal to read "An AGM and November Board Meeting, one further Board meeting plus a 'Sustainability Meeting'" (where the agenda would be suited to that meeting). A vote was taken with the following result. 17 for 0 against with 2 abstentions.

**7. Revision of the Bye Laws:**

An amended document changing the Byelaws to reflect the change to ACU Eastern, the devolution of the Trials Committee and the frequency of the Board Meetings had been circulated prior to the meeting. Mr Armes will revise this document to reflect the previous item and this will be circulated prior to the July Board for discussion. A question was raised as to why these are 'Byelaws' and not the Centre Constitution – The response was that the Centre runs to the 'Laws' of the Auto Cycle Union, therefore these are Byelaws.

**8. Competition Committee Report:**

Mr P Armes sought approval for the adoption of the minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Competitions Committee of 2019. Mr Armes reported that he had spoken to Mr G Hockey regarding Item 12 of the minutes and that the next Sudbury event had been much better managed in respect of spectator safety and marshalling. Mrs Blyth questioned whether this was just because there were paying public present: Mr Armes responded that these measures should be in place at any event where there were spectators regardless if paying or not. Mr Waters commented that with Hare and Hound events, there should always be dedicated spectator areas. Mr Waters informed those present that he had been asked by ACU Rugby to prepare a presentation aimed at Safety Officers. He also commented that the same rules will apply to Trials in the future. Mrs Blyth expressed concern that some Enduro events do not appear to comply with the current rules.

Mr P Nash proposed that the minutes be adopted. 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr A Wright.

**9. To discuss the mileage rates for Stewards Expenses.**

Currently ACU Eastern rate is 25p per mile whereas Rugby pay 33p per mile. Mr Hay, Treasurer, had sent Mrs Ralph an email stating that his personal opinion was that ACU Eastern should now come into line with Rugby. Mr Chaplin, representing the Sudbury Club, advised the Board that at a recent committee meeting, Sudbury would be against this as it equated to a 32% increase and they felt that 29p per mile would be a preferred option. Mr Fenn commented that in his opinion, the rate should reflect the cost of running the vehicle. Mr C Ralph proposed that ACU Eastern should align with Rugby and that if Rugby increase their rates, ACU Eastern should also increase. A vote was taken with all delegates voting for this proposal. There was one abstention. This increase shall take place with immediate effect.

10. **Environmental Issues:** Mr Wass was not present. There was no report.

**11. Eastern Centre Gazette**

Mr Armes, Editor, reported that there had been a slight dip in sales but that this is normal at this time of year and have now returned to roughly where there were at the same time last year.

In the absence of Mr Greengrass, Mr Armes reported that the figures show a slight surplus in the last quarter, due to two new advertisers. Mr Armes had reduced the number of Gazettes being printed which brought down costs. Mr Armes stated that he is very grateful for input from those who send in reports but he is always happy to receive more, be it race reports, recollections and observations.

Mr Greengrass had proposed that a donation of £250 should be sent to the ACU Benevolent Fund. This was approved unanimously.

**12. Benevolent Fund:**

Mrs Ralph had received the figures for January and February from ACU Rugby. Income for January £1606.24  
Income February £4311.90. One ACU Eastern member is in receipt of benefits at present.

**13. Centre Function**

Mrs Ralph reported that the Centre Function had attracted 108 attendees and that it had been a great success. Most of the winners had attended. Final figures are yet to be declared but will be well within budget. Mrs Ralph thanked all those who had donated raffle prizes and thanked Mr Paul Nash who had donated two crash helmets which were auctioned off.

Next years Awards has been booked for Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February at Needham Market Community Centre. Mrs Hearn has visited the venue and made the booking. Venue has to be changed next year as The Cedars will be unable to accommodate the event due to building works. Mrs Ralph has organised a caterer (Mrs Tammy Hubbard) and there is a permanent bar at the venue. Price should be held to the same as this year.

**14. Any Other Business**

Mrs D Blyth expressed concern that Norfolk and Suffolk Junior Club appeared to be insisting that riders join the club in order to ride their events and were holding the closing date for club members only before opening up to others and asked for clarification that 'adult' riders who belong to NSJMCC are able to ride in ACU Eastern adult events if they belong to a 'Junior' Club. Mr Armes responded that NSJMCC are affiliated to the ACU and riders would have an adult licence therefore able to ride any event. Concern was expressed that junior riders may be unable to enter at the expense of the number of adult riders.

NSJMCC run under an Open Permit.

Mr Ralph commented that there had been four other events running under ACU permits clashing with the British Championship at Lyng. Mrs Ralph had a discussion with Steve McCauley who had told her that it is within the Centre's prerogative to object to other permits being issued. There had been objections raised by Mr Armes, but permits had been issued despite this.

Mr Penny – had brought some flyers for the National Rally to be distributed.

A Foskew – had been approached by S E Centre's Peter Burrell seeking Marshals for 2 dates which clashed with ACU Eastern Events. Mrs Ralph advised those present that she had sent Mrs Clarke a list of ACU Eastern dates in the hope that clashes were avoided. Mrs Blyth had received an alert to say that Sidcup had now arranged cover themselves for their events.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.34pm

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