

## EASTERN CENTRE OF THE AUTO-CYCLE UNION

### MINUTES for the Annual Trials Forum of the **EASTERN CENTRE 2019**, held at **The Parish Room, Gt Blakenham, Ipswich, Suffolk** on **Thursday 7th November 2019**, commencing at **8.00pm**

<b>Present</b>		R Snowden	Diss	R Challis	EFA
C Dopson	Wymondham	A Penny	E & S Bdr	J Newstead	N&SJun
P Fenn	E & S Bdr	P Kibble	N&SJun	M Neale	Wymondham
A Foskew	EC Vice Chair	T Smith	EFA	E Hood	Triangle
P Nash	Southend	C Cook	Braintree	S Baldwin	Ipswich
C Grice	Lowestoft	C Crowfoot	EFA	J Nash	Southend
K Plummer	Ipswich	M Baldwin	Ipswich	L Jonhston	Castle
R Norman	Castle	T Kemp	Ipswich	G Timms	Ipswich
A Keeble	E & S Bdr	A Barrell	Ipswich	P Woods	Woodbridge
C Keeble	E & S Bdr	K Hood	Ipswich	K Carroll	Woodbridge
D Rose	Woodbridge				

1. Mr Cook opened the meeting. Apologies from N Ogden, S Smith, R Greengrass
2. **Previous Minutes:** Mr Dopson asked for comments on the previous minutes and they were accepted as a true record of the meeting.
3. **Matters Arising:** It was agreed there was only one matter arising from the above minutes which are not specifically listed on this agenda. This was the subject of first aid courses for Trials organisers, the request for centre funding was rejected at the November 2018 board meeting, although Mr Armes has offered to organise at cost to clubs. Mr Penny said that some funding may be available from ACU Rugby and the subject could be discussed again at the November 2019 board meeting.
4. **Report from 2019 Trials Committee:**
  - a. It was reported that this had worked well, there had been 2 meetings during the year.
  - b. Mr Foskew had dealt with the Steward's appointments; although overall events were being supported, there is always a need for more volunteers.
5. **2019 Trials Review:** After some discussion it was agreed that on both the white route and the red/blue route the sections should be slightly eased and in particular the nature of the sections should not be intimidating. Those who rode the 50/50 routes noted that clerks of courses should pay more attention to ensure that for the sections where the harder route is ridden the sections selected are not too hard. Mr Dopson noted that the overall trend for reduced entries in A class championship rounds is continuing.
6. **2020 Trials Championship:** there was a lengthy discussion about the reinstatement of Pre 70 C championship points (raised by Mr Carroll). The conclusion was that for the Pre 70 C and Twinshock C, the championship points should be calculated. For all Pre 70 classes the 2019 method to determine machine eligibility should continue but that this should be made more transparent, as follows,
  - a. For each Pre 70 championship round (except the Thumpers Trial which has formal scrutineering) a volunteer will be identified to inspect machines to identify machines which appear to contain components which do not meet the ACU Eastern Pre 70 machine eligibility rules, as printed in the ACU Eastern Official Handbook. Volunteers so far include Mr E Hood, Mr Plummer, Mr Carroll and Mr Dopson. Any competitor who has concerns about the eligibility of their machine before an event should, in the first instance, contact the event secretary of the meeting, to be passed on to the relevant person.

- b. The details of any machines identified as in a. above, are then sent to the Committee secretary who reviews and sends the information to the secretary of the meeting, so that the issued results can highlight the machines that are considered not to comply. Any issues with the results are initially to be reported to the event secretary.
- c. The volunteers on the day are only collecting information relating to the identification and source of such components, and should not discuss eligibility with the competitor, unless to help clarify the source of components.
- d. Any questions relating to interpretation of the machine eligibility rules will be dealt with by the Trials Committee and will follow the ACU National Sporting Code and be accompanied by the appropriate fee.
- e. As reported in the October Gazette the wording of Pre 70 machine eligibility rules will be changed in 2020 to clarify the interpretation of the rules.
- f. ACU Eastern championship eligibility does not affect any decisions made by the organising club relating to the organisation of individual trials.
- g. As stated at the 2018 Trials Forum, there is no commitment to have trophies for Pre 70 C or Twinshock C.

- 7. 2020 – 2021 Trials Calendar:** The dates for next year were discussed and clashes were sorted. Mr Dopson would issue the dates on 8<sup>th</sup> November to trials organisers, committee members and Mr P Armes.
- 8. Youth riders:** Based on a suggestion by Mr Wakley it was agreed parents of youth riders should write their mobile numbers on the riding numbers, but can opt out at signing on, to assist in informing them if there is a problem. The centre rules to show that this can be checked at the lanyard check.
- 9 ACU Eastern Dates Meeting:** Mr Dopson explained that this was on 20<sup>th</sup> November and was for Mr P Armes to deal with any inter-disciplinary date clashes.
- 10 Entry form information:** the meeting was reminded that NSC requires, “All entry forms shall be available at the start of all competitions. “, it is recommended that all on line entries are downloaded and preferably printed.
- 11 Devolution:** Mr Dopson updated the meeting on devolution of other disciplines within the centre. Trials has had devolved control since the start of 2014, based on some guidelines jointly developed by Mr Hay and Mr Dopson, which were agreed at the November 2013 Board Meeting, during this time for trials this has been considered to be a success. Recently MX, and potentially Enduro, are considering devolution and to this end MX were asked, without Trials knowledge, to propose some new terms of reference for devolution. For reasons not understood the MX wording, sent on November 4<sup>th</sup>, was much more prescriptive and would have needed many changes to the operating model used by Trials for nearly six years. Mr Dopson proposed some words which should have allowed both disciplines to operate under the same wording, but MX were insistent it needed more specific terms. Therefore, the only way forward is discipline specific wording, the implementation of which is not clear under the centre bye-laws, at the time of the Trials Forum it is not clear if MX can apply for devolution at the Centre Board Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> November.
- 12 Trials Seminars:** two sessions arranged by Chris Cook for 25<sup>th</sup> January, details on the website and in the gazette.
- 13 2019 Observers Award:** There have been two nominations for this, Carol Read and Rita Lea, A vote was held. Rita Lea was declared the winner, award to be presented at the annual awards presentation. It was agreed that previous winners can be reconsidered after 5 years

**14 Trials Sub Committee:** Mr C Cook announced he was resigning as Co-chairman and committee member, the secretary thanked him for his work over the years for Trials. After some discussion Mr A Barrell and Mr R Snowden volunteered to join the committee. The committee will now be, Mr P Nash – Chairman, Mr C Dopson – Secretary, Mr D Cordle – Recorder, Mr A Foskew– Stewards Co-ordinator. Members: Mr E Hood, Mr N Ogden, Mr K Hood, Mr P Fenn. Mr A Barrell, Mr R Snowden, Mr J Newstead and Mr M Neale.

**15 Any other business:**

- a. The centre recorder announced that R Beales will be promoted from Intermediate to Expert, and Trevor Cox and Simon Donnelly will be promoted from Novice to Intermediate. It was also pointed out that in recent trials in the standard Novice and Intermediate classes there is often insufficient entries for the class winner to qualify for promotion so some judgement is required.
- b. The meeting was reminded that ACU HQ were recognising the reduction in youth participation by encouraging “Try our sport” events and asking for any feedback about what went well and not so well.
- c. The committee secretary will prepare some notes from this meeting for inclusion in the December Gazette.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.30 pm