

ACU Eastern MX Committee Meeting
Wednesday
15th January 2020 at Gt Blakenham Parish Rooms

Present: J Hearn: A Foskew: C Ralph: A Hay: D Secker: M Secker: P Hubbard: D Mayhew: P Grantham: M Beadle: K Weavers: L Ralph

Apologies received from: P Aldridge: J Blyth

1. C Ralph opened the meeting welcoming all present.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 30th October were proposed for approval by K Weavers 2nd A Foskew.
3. Matters Arising: Item 8. Harvey Thomas has been informed of the refusal to allow him to downgrade to Junior status.
4. Grading Issues: Mr Ralph circulated information showing the amount of expert grading points carried over from 1.7.19 to 31.12.19.
Ryan McDonnell had sent a request to Mr Ralph requesting downgrading to Junior status. Following due discussion where it was apparent that Ryan had not scored any expert points in the last 12 months, it was agreed to accept his request. Mrs Ralph will write to confirm this to him.
A discussion took place regarding riders over 40 that may attain the requisite points to upgrade to Expert. It was agreed to defer a decision on this until the next committee meeting.
5. Update on the make up of the MX Committee following devolution:
Mr Ralph advised those present that following in depth discussions, the make up of the current committee is as follows:
Clubs organising three or more events would have 2 members, clubs organising less than 3 events would have one member and that the committee should consist of no more than twelve members as per the current terms of reference. Braintree have intimated that they would like to be involved and kept informed but may not be able to send a representative on a regular basis.

At this point, Mr Ralph stood down as Chairman and handed the meeting to Mr Hearn (ACU Eastern Chair) for the election of officers:

6. Election of Chair and Vice Chair:
Mr Ralph was asked if he would stand for Chair again and accepted. Mr K Weavers proposed Mr Ralph as Chair and this was unanimously agreed.
Mr Hubbard was asked if he would stand again as Vice Chair and agreed. Mr Hubbard was proposed as Vice Chair by A Hay and this was accepted unanimously. Mr Ralph proposed Mr Hubbard as Riders Rep but Mr Hubbard proposed Mr D Mayhew. Following discussion, Mr Mayhew was elected as Riders Rep.
7. Election of MX Committee Secretary: Mrs Ralph accepted the nomination and was elected by a unanimous vote.
Mr Ralph proposed that the secretary would be 'non-voting' and this was accepted by all present.
8. Confirmation of the ACU Eastern MX Championship Conditions 2020:
Mr Hay had previously proposed an increase to Junior Championship prize money. Mr Ralph had circulated this proposal and by a 5 against and 3 for vote, the decision is for the prize money to remain the same for 2020.
An email had been received from J Blyth expressing concern regarding the sponsors free entry for their riders and the number of passes given.

Following discussion, it was agreed that Bickers Lifting would receive one rider's entry as previously agreed. Passes would be discretionary. Instanda would be given one riders entry. Mr Ralph has been in contact with Stebbings who have yet to come back to him re their sponsored riders for 2020 and at this time, no agreement has been made regarding entries.

Reps of clubs' present were happy to issue passes at their discretion.

Mr Ralph informed the meeting that Simon Eastwell of HRM Boilers had offered to provide a trophy for the expert rookie's class. Mr Ralph will deal with this.

Mr Hay was asked to invoice the sponsors at a time of his decision.

Entry fee – this was discussed as Mrs Secker stated that N&SJMCC had increased theirs to £55.

Mr Ralph explained that this had been debated previously and in view of the decrease in ACU permit fees, it was agreed to stay at £50 for 2020.

Stewards: Mr Ralph will be contacting Stewards shortly to confirm their appointments.

9. Update of Fixtures and venues for 2020:

Halstead did manage to arrange a British Sidecar Round on 5th July. The Richard Fitch now moved to October 4th when an NGR Round will be included.

Braintree are running on 3rd May instead of 7th June at Foxborough.

Norwich Vikings are intending to run a Practice Day on Saturday 29th August at Lyng

10. Any Other Business:

C Ralph – online entries only for ECC rounds. Clubs still have the choice to run paper entries at other events, or not, if they so wish.

P Hubbard – ACU have amended their ruling on 250 2stroke machines which may now contest MX2. Following discussion, it was agreed that for the purpose of the ECC, 2 stoke machines up to 250cc will be classed as MX2 and of 251cc and above will be classed as MX1. Mrs Ralph will amend the Championship Conditions to this effect and advise Mr Armes so that this is included in ACU Eastern Handbook. A discussion took place about the correct colour of backgrounds. Mr Hay checked the ACU Handbook. The rule is MX1 machines have white backgrounds with black numbers. MX2 machines have black backgrounds with white numbers.

Mr Hubbard would like a hard and fast rule made regarding downgrading from expert to junior status. Following due discussion, it was agreed that should a rider attain no expert points, in the expert championship races, for three years, he/she would be advised to apply to be downgraded by this committee; that a rider who did not gain points would also have the right to remain an expert if he/she so wished. The scenario of a former 'GP' rider was briefly discussed with the outcome that they should be treated in the same way as non 'GP' riders and that all applications would be fully discussed and voted upon by this committee. Mrs Ralph will draft a set of guidelines for discussion at the next committee meeting.

Mr Ralph suggested that a pack should be produced with guidelines for all aspects of the MX Committee following devolution. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

MR Ralph – expressed concern over the lack of noise testing at ECC events. Mr Hearn confirmed that Mr P Armes is currently looking into this matter. Mr Hay confirmed that the Centre noise meters have been calibrated.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm.

Date and Time of the Next Meeting: Wednesday 29th April 2020 at Gt Blakenham Parish Rooms commencing at 7.30pm.