

EASTERN CENTRE OF THE AUTO-CYCLE UNION

MINUTES for the Annual Trials Forum of the **EASTERN CENTRE 2022**, held at The Parish Rooms, Gt Blakenham, Ipswich, Suffolk on **Thursday 3rd November 2022**, commencing at **7.30pm**

Present

R Snowden	Diss	C Dopson	Wymondham	K Plummer	EFA/Ipswich
M Neale	Wymondham	E Hood	Triangle	P Nash	Southend
J Nash	Southend	R Norman	Castle	A Barrell	Ipswich
C Crowfoot	Ipswich/EFA	A Keeble	ESBMCC	N Sargent	BSE
D Cordle	Ipswich	R Greengrass	Lowestoft	L Johnston	Castle
M Banham	Ipswich	J Harvey	Ipswich	R Challis	EFA
T Smith	EFA	T Jones	Lowestoft	R Higgs	Southend
A Penny	ESBMCC	C Keeble	ESBMCC		

1. Mr Nash opened the meeting. Apologies from J Newstead, K Hood, A Foskew, P Fenn, N Ogden
2. **Previous Minutes:** Mr Dopson asked for comments on the minutes of the December 2021 Trials Forum and they were accepted as a true record of the meeting.
3. **Matters Arising:** After general discussion
 - a. The new for 2022 ACU-EC charge for all disciplines was generally working well with Mr Hay chasing overdue payments from a few clubs, the £50 per permit payment from ACU-HQ for all permits issued by HQ was progressing very slowly with some being overdue, again being chased.
4. **Report from 2022 Trials Committee:**
 - a. It was reported that this had worked well, there had been 2 calls during the year, minutes and notes issued in the normal way.
 - b. Mr Foskew is managing steward appointments and reports, generally all required events are being covered, one event had an injured rider sent to hospital and the club did not report to the steward, clubs are reminded this is required.
5. **2022 Trials Review:** The main observations were
 - a. Championship positions are on the ACU-EC website, winners still to be decided in Expert B, Intermediate A and B, Twinshock B and C, and all Pre 70 classes.
 - b. There was comment that Intermediate B riders were finding white route sections at some events too easy, after discussion of options it was decided to leave this class as it is route wise, but to ask clubs to make sections more severe, this white route is not a championship route for Novices.
 - c. Twinshock C generally has very few entries as white route shared with Novices is found too severe, after discussion it was agreed that there was not an option to change class or route structure.
 - d. After discussion about riders who may not want to ride the route specified by their class the use of the Clubman class could be used.
6. **Expert A entries,** at the 2021 Trials Forum due to low number of Expert A entries in 2021 (A Class average 2.8 per event), it was agreed if this did not improve options would be considered. In 2022 the average entry had increased to 6.4 per event and therefore it was decided not to change current classes.
7. **Expert A Practice Lap,** after discussion it was agreed to remove the option for the first lap for Expert A riders in A Class rounds to be non-counting. It was noted that if there were any issues of Expert A delaying completion of events then this option could be reconsidered.

8. **2023 Trials Championship:** there was a lengthy discussion after which it was decided not to change except for the change in item 10.
9. **Youth Championships,** the change to Youth Expert and Novice, irrespective of age seemed to be working well. There was a proposal to move the Youth Classes to B Class rounds. After discussion this was agreed for the simple reason that in B Class Youth Expert could be on Red/Blue, Youth Novice on White route, and potentially Youth Intermediate on the 50/50 route. All ACU-EC championship Youth classes will be open to all Youth age group classes riding age appropriate machines. This was thought to help Youth progression and Mr Cordle kindly offered to supply an award suitable for Youth Intermediate.
10. **Club Championship,** as discussed before there were still issues with results not accurately showing the ACU-EC club or riders, not confirming if they are a member of an ACU-EC club. After discussion it was agreed that riders should be encouraged to ensure their online entry data is accurate and complete and clubs should ensure that all available data is included in results, even if this means asking riders at signing on.
11. **2023 – 2024 Trials Calendar:**
 - a. Mr Dopson reported that Mr C Keeble had been coordinating dates requests from all disciplines to prepare a provisional calendar for the Trials Forum. Due to lack of national dates for other disciplines Trials have a standalone provisional calendar which had been circulated to Trials Committee members.
 - b. Mr Dopson pointed out there were only two dates which had two trials, (September 17th and October 1st) after review it was considered due to geography and classes this was the best that could be achieved,
 - c. After some additional championship rounds were offered the final result was A,B and C Class all have six rounds in the calendar.
 - d. Southend club to propose the dates from the calendar for D Class rounds.
12. **ACU-EC Perpetual Trials awards,** arrangements need to be made to get these back to Mr Hay for engraving for presentation, it was decided to do this by class, A Class Mr Cordle, B Class Mr Snowden, C Class Mr Dopson. Trophies required to Mr Hay before 1st January latest.
13. **ACU-EC Annual Trials awards presentation,** there is a potential that the annual multi discipline awards presentation may not take place in early 2023. If this was to happen it was decided to organise a standalone Trials awards presentation evening in a central location. The event would need to be simple without any food or central funding, although it may be worth requesting room rental fee. Volunteers to organise were Mr Cordle, Mr Plummer and Mr Snowden.
14. **Request from Observers,** at a recent trial a group of regular observers has requested would it be possible to make it a rule within ACU-EC trials that all riders should have two riding numbers. After discussion this was agreed to start in 2023, one number on the front of the machine and one fitted to the rear of the rider's helmet. Note riders are responsible for the method of attaching the rear number and ensuring it did not affect the function of the helmet.
15. **ACU Eastern Dates Meeting:** Mr C Keeble explained that discussions were continuing and in the worst case a meeting may be required to deal with any inter-disciplinary date clashes, but this cannot currently be scheduled.
16. **Trials Seminars:**
 - a. There was some confusion about the notice of licence seminars at Rugby, attendance at these seminars is not required as Mr Nash pointed out that seminars for both regional and national licences could be carried out within ACU-EC.
 - b. Mr Dopson informed the meeting that ACU-EC had said it is probable that the online licence application will be possible for renewal applications.

- c. Mr Dopson requested a point of contact for each trials club to coordinate the demand for face-to-face seminars, a list of names was agreed.
- d. Mr Nash agreed he would propose a date for the face-to-face seminar to be before the end of 2022.
- e. Mr Nash agreed he would request with ACU-EC the possibility of extending licences if required if arrangements cannot be made.

17. 2022 Observers Award: As there two nominations it was decided by a show of hands to make the award to Ron Greengrass. The award to be presented at the annual awards presentation or a local trial if more appropriate.

18. ACU-EC FFC,

- a. Mr Dopson explained that applications for grant funding are encouraged from the ACU-EC Facilities Fund, and any clubs represented in the meeting who could make use of funding for the benefit of ACU-EC should consider making an application.
- b. The meeting discussed that often Trials rather than buying something, could benefit from being able to hire portaloos to make events more comfortable for female attendees. Mr Dopson offered to take this question to the FFC.

19. Trials Committee: After discussion and request for any new committee members to volunteer, it was agreed the committee would remain for 2023 as 2022. The committee remains, Mr P Nash – Chairman, Mr C Dopson – Secretary, Mr R Snowden – Recorder, Mr A Foskew– Stewards Co-ordinator. Members: Mr E Hood, Mr N Ogden, Mr K Hood, Mr P Fenn, Mr A Barrell, Mr D Cordle, Mr J Newstead and Mr M Neale.

20. Any other business:

- a. The committee secretary will prepare some notes from this meeting for inclusion in the December Gazette.
- b. There was concern in the meeting about the ACU-HQ introduction of Sport80 systems, and how this could affect trials in early January 2023. After discussion it was agreed to wait until after the November board meeting to see who was in what roles before asking for clarity on subjects including, competition licence applications, method of applying for permits etc. Mr Dopson to monitor issues and report back if required.
- c. There was concern that observers were being distracted to tell riders their recorded scores, it was suggested that Clerks of Courses should brief observers that they do not need to tell riders their scores.
- d. There was a discussion about the possible inclusion of championship class, or classes, for air cooled mono-shock (ACM) machines. After discussion it was agreed that clubs should be reminded that additional classes, including ACM, can be added in any trial. At the 2023 Trials Forum the number of ACM entering to be reviewed, and if these entries are additional or substitutional.
- e. In answer to a question about how to find information about classes and routes, the committee secretary pointed out that all the information is on the ACU-EC website under Useful Info, Competition Conditions, Trials.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm