

## ACU EASTERN

**MINUTES** for the first Trials Committee call of **ACU EASTERN 2023**, held via MS Teams on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023** commencing at **7.30 pm**

**Present** P Nash (Chairman), C Dopson (secretary), P Fenn, M Neale, A Barrell, A Foskew (steward's coordinator), E Hood, D Cordle, R Snowden (recorder) plus Chris Keeble as ACU-EC Chairman  
Apologies from K Hood, J Newstead, N Ogden

1. Chairman opened meeting and received apologies for absences as above.
2. It was agreed that all Committee roles from 2022 will continue for 2023.
3. Minutes of the previous call on July 5th 2022 and Trials Forum on November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022 were discussed and approved, Forum minutes after addition of comment about all youth age classes being eligible for all ACU-EC youth trials championship classes. In line with new ACU-EC requirements future minutes will be issued to committee members for review and feedback within seven days before issuing to the ACU-EC website.
4. Matter arising from the minutes not specifically listed on this agenda, nothing raised.
5. Feedback reviewed from Competition Committee since last meeting, P Nash and P Fenn stated there was nothing to report,
6. Stewards
  - a) A Foskew reported future trials covered up to an including event on 28<sup>th</sup> May.
  - b) Steward's reports reviewed for 11 trials from 2022, 17/7, 30/7, 18/9, 25/9, 9/10, 16/10, 30/10, 6/11, 27/11, 4/12, 27/12, plus for information PKT ACU-EC report, approved for issue for information to Comps Committee.
  - c) After discussion it was agreed to inform ACU-EC stewards of the following, "The ACU-EC trials championship conditions require a minimum of 10 sections per lap, 30 counting sections per trial and all sections must have an observer. i.e., no rider observing. In the circumstances that insufficient observers are available to cover 10 sections for the whole trial, the number of sections per lap can be reduced, the minimum of 30 counting sections per trial should be maintained, even if this means increasing the number of laps. Obviously, it is important that the club communicates to the riders the number of sections per lap and laps to be completed".
7. 2023 ACU-EC Trials Championships, after discussion, no issues, biggest change is Youth classes moving from two routes/classes in A Class trials moving to three routes/classes in B Class trials.
8. Question had been asked how riders progressed to Intermediate and then Expert, and between A and B grade within the latter two, after discussion it was agreed as follows
  - a) As defined in the Trials Conditions movement between A and B grade is at the rider's choice, but in a calendar year if a rider scores points at A level, they cannot subsequently score at B level in the same year.

- b) Criteria for promotion from Intermediate to Expert is not clear or published anywhere. It was agreed for each year the Intermediate A champion is promoted to Expert starting in the following year.
- c) Criteria for promotion from Novice to Intermediate is not clear or published anywhere. It was agreed for each year the Novice champion is promoted to Intermediate starting in the following year, also any Novice who wins three or more Best Novice awards in a year in trials above closed to club with 5 or more novice riders will also be promoted to Intermediate for the next year.
- d) Any rider can inform the trials committee they want to self-promote to the next grade, this can be done at any time by informing the Trials Committee.
- e) Any Expert rider can request to be demoted to Intermediate by asking the Trials Committee, this can happen on an annual basis, any applications for demotion in 2024 to be made to the Trials Committee before July 1<sup>st</sup> 2023.
- f) Any Expert who is demoted cannot score Intermediate ACU-EC championship points, club championship points or win Intermediate awards for two years, for example for any rider demoted for 2024 this will apply for 2024 and 2025.
- g) Secretary to update the Trials Conditions on the ACU-EC web-site and include the above in notes for the April Gazette.

9. After much discussion relating to Trials Standing Regulations (TSRs) it was agreed that Clerks of Courses should be reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure all requirements of the TSRs are met.
10. For the last few years ACU-EC Pre 70 championship machine eligibility checks have been mainly completed by Eddie Hood and communicated to the organising clubs by the secretary to highlight non-conforming machines in the event results. The machine eligibility rules have not changed for many years and for example in the last 2022 championship round only two machines did not comply, in both cases as Japanese carburettor was fitted. The committee needs to recognise that for the integrity of the rules to be maintained additional volunteers are required and a request for volunteers, either as part of the steward's role or stand alone, should be made via the gazette and website. (Note from secretary, to maintain the integrity in and rider support for the championship, it is important the eligibility rules and their interpretation should be maintained unless this is agreed to change by the Trials Forum. This is to ensure currently compliant machines are not then excluded and vice-versa)
11. The meeting discussed the recent Trials Award Presentation Evening and gave a vote of thanks to Richard Snowden, Kevin Plummer and David Cordle. A financial report was circulated and showed a surplus of £179. It was agreed to retain the surplus to support any future similar events. After much discussion the committee decided, by majority, that a Trials only presentation event would be preferred in the future, even if the centre was organising a multi-discipline event.

- 12.** Paul Nash gave feedback on the trials official seminar held at the end of 2022, it was well received and Paul was thanked for organising it. Paul reported he had more interest for another seminar in April, secretary to post notice on ACU-EC website requesting any interested applicants before end of March. Date and location to be decided by Paul based on applicants.
- 13.** The meeting was addressed by Chris Keeble, ACU-EC chairman, who explained the review that is ongoing relating to the operation and future of ACU-EC, all interested parties are encouraged to contact him to give any thoughts or suggestions about the future of the centre.
- 14.** The Centre Support charge had been introduced for all riders in all disciplines in 2022, some clubs had delayed their payment and it had been agreed in some cases that Youth entries would not be included. It has been agreed that with immediate effect Youths will not be included in Centre Support charge across all disciplines, Due to changes in centre funding caused by the introduction of Sport:80 the centre support charge costs will be reviewed at the end of 2023 for introduction in 2024.
- 15.** Youth trials were discussed and it was agreed that the Trials Committee and Comps Committee will work together to support any requests to encourage Youth only trials, e.g. by reducing costs or simplifying the organisation.
- 16.** Paul Nash and Paul Fenn agreed to deliver any requests to the Comps Committee, next call on March 18<sup>th</sup>, and to report anything of relevance back to the Trials Committee.
- 17.** ACU-EC website and April gazette, secretary to prepare appropriate notes from this call
- 18.** Any other business, a lengthy discussion took place with regard to Sport:80, some clubs and some riders are still struggling to get the system to work as required. The intent is to retain the requirement for all ACU-EC trials championship events to only accept entries by the online system but in the short term some flexibility may be needed, recognising this removes the system check on rider's trials registrations.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.55 pm.