

ACU EASTERN

MINUTES for the first Trials Committee call of **ACU EASTERN 2023**, held via MS Teams on **Tuesday 18th July 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), J Newstead N Ogden plus Chris Keeble as ACU-EC Chairman

Apologies from K Hood, E Hood

1. Chairman opened meeting and received apologies for absences as above.
2. Minutes of the previous call on March 3rd 2023 were discussed and approved,
3. Matter arising from the minutes not specifically listed on this agenda, nothing raised.
4. Feedback reviewed from Competition Committee since last meeting, P Nash and C Keeble stated there was nothing to report,
5. Secretary explained feedback he had sent on behalf of the Trials Committee with reference to the proposed byelaws
 - a) Maximum number of committee members, currently 12 including one ex-officio, proposal is a maximum of 10, committee requests maximum to be 12 not including ex-officio members.
 - b) Voting process, currently not specified, proposal is voting should be secret ballot only, committee requests secret ballots are an option.
 - c) Retention of committee funds, minutes of the March Trials Committee meeting identify a surplus from the trials awards presentation, this will be returned to Andy Hay as centre treasurer. It is assumed the surplus will be available to support similar future events. Confirmed transferred by R Snowden 20/7/23.
6. Stewards
 - a) A Foskew reported the first trial needing a steward is 17/9/23.
 - b) Steward's reports reviewed during the call or after for 7 trials from 2023, 5/3, 12/3, 19/3, 2/4, 7/4, 16/4, 28/5 approved for issue for information to Comps Committee.
7. Current year calendar updates, Woodbridge requested a trial on 12th August, this was not in ACU-EC calendar and Ipswich requested the same date for their planned trial delayed from 23rd July, as this was not possible after the meeting Ipswich decided on 5th August.
8. After discussion it was decided all four Expert riders who applied for downgrading to Intermediate for 2024 would be accepted, these are Richard Norman, Richard Beales, Nigel Allen and Stephen Howard. The rules as previously agreed will apply regarding scoring points and winning awards and the process will be repeated in 2024 with again a 1st July cut off.

9. After much discussion relating to the availability of emergency contact numbers at trials now that entry forms are not generally available at trials, it was agreed that where ACU-EC stewards are in attendance the riders' emergency contact list should be checked to ensure it is available either as hard copy or via the Sport:80 system online. It is also recommended that for all trials the riders' emergency contact list should be available and observers' emergency contact details should be either on the signing on form or the observers' card.
10. ACU-EC Pre 70 championship machine eligibility checks in the future were discussed on the last call and after some discussion it was agreed to have a separate call to agree a way forward, the call to include committee members and representatives of each of the three clubs that currently run championship rounds. From the committee the following volunteered, E Hood, R Snowden, A Barrell and C Dopson. The secretary agreed to contact the three clubs and organise the call.
11. Trials officials' seminars, on the last call it was suggested there may be a need for a mid-year seminar, currently this has not been required but the chairman suggested it may still occur in September. It was agreed to request demand from clubs and organise seminars around the end of year as before. After the call the secretary received information that due to the Covid licence extensions there are not any renewals needed at the end of 2023, although there hopefully will be some new or relapsed applicants, which will all require face to face seminars.
12. Trials contacts, to assist communication the secretary has been requested to collate a list of Trials Contacts for each club currently organising trials in the ACU-EC.
13. Trials committee attendance, after discussion it was agreed that the Trials Committee accepts clause 8 of the proposed ACU-EC byelaws with regard to Absentees. It was agreed the July 2023 call would not count but that future Committee calls/meetings and the annual Trials Forum would all count.
14. ACU-EC chairman Chris Keeble gave some feedback from the recent ACU-EC board meeting on 10th July
 - a) Attendance at the meeting was disappointing and minutes will be issued shortly
 - b) The proposed byelaws were discussed and there was a suggestion to consider if the Comps Committee was still required.
 - c) The suggestion to make the board meeting hybrid online and face to face to increase attendance was discussed and will be considered, there appears to be a lack of knowledge available of how this could be cost effectively operated.
15. Youth riders on adult electric machines, the secretary had been asked to clarify this point for youth A and B class riders, the feedback from ACU HQ after several requests was that adult electric machines, e.g. EM Pure, were not to be accepted to be ridden by

Youth A and B class riders. It is not clear how this decision was made and publicised to organising clubs.

16. Youth trials were discussed again and it was agreed that the Trials Committee and Comps Committee should continue to work together to support any requests to encourage Youth only trials, e.g. by reducing costs or simplifying the organisation.
17. ACU-EC website and April gazette, secretary to prepare appropriate notes from this call
18. Feedback to Comps Committee and Sport:80/Stripe, following a long discussion with input from many members, especially Paul Nash on behalf of Southend, it was agreed that the following issues should be passed to the Comps Committee on the next call on July 20th, and to report anything of relevance back to the Trials Committee.
 - a) Sport;80, most clubs are making the system work although some of the helpful features of the old system, e.g. copy and paste event formats, are not available but Chris Keeble said some of these features will shortly be available, e-mail from M Wear 19th July confirmed this.
 - b) Stripe Bank had been threatening at least three ACU-EC clubs with withholding funds or not accepting entry payments, Vikings and Wymondham seem to have currently fixed the issues, but Southend were effectively unable to accept entries for upcoming Grass Track. Paul Nash has tried several times to get ACU HQ assistance to resolve, but this latest event could be cancelled if not quickly resolved and Southend are considering obtaining permits for future events from other sources, e.g. NORA.
 - c) Costs ACU versus AMCA, some clubs have decided and others are considering running smaller events on AMCA permits rather than ACU permits due to the ease of obtaining permits and the cost, if this trend was to continue it could reduce the number of ACU-EC trials per year.
19. The secretary offered to organise the Trials Calendar process for 2024/2025 as previous years in conjunction with the Comps Committee, this was accepted and there should be a request for clubs to consider offering dates for events which would spread out the trials more equally throughout the year, where possible. CK reported that he had met with the chairmen of the four sport committees and the competitions committee and it was the unanimous view that the fixture list should be agreed at a dates meeting to be convened by the competitions committee, he also reported that the competitions committee would be sending out the forms for clubs to request dates later in the year
20. Trials Forum, as previous years secretary to organise date and venue for the annual Trials Forum, it would be helpful if representatives of the Youth Academy events could attend so we could discuss how to work together.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

