

EASTERN CENTRE OF THE AUTO-CYCLE UNION

MINUTES for the Annual Trials Forum of the **EASTERN CENTRE 2023**, held at Chequers Indian Lounge, Gt Blakenham, Ipswich, Suffolk **on Wednesday 1st November 2023**, commencing at **8.00pm** delayed from 7.30pm due to last minute venue change.

Present

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|------------|------------|--------------|-----------|-------------|----------|
| R Snowden | Diss | C Dopson | Wymondham | K Plummer | EFA |
| M Neale | Wymondham | E Hood | Triangle | P Nash | Southend |
| J Nash | Southend | R Norman | Castle | A Barrell | Ipswich |
| A Keeble | ESBMCC | N Sargent | BSE | I Johnston | Castle |
| D Cordle | Ipswich | R Greengrass | Lowestoft | L Johnston | Castle |
| N Ogden | Chelmsford | P Fenn | ESBMCC | R Challis | EFA |
| T Smith | EFA | T Jones | Lowestoft | B Douglas | Vikings |
| A Penny | ESBMCC | C Keeble | ESBMCC | J Douglas | Vikings |
| C Chapman | EFA | A Bilbow | | R Wreathall | EFA |
| J Williams | Ipswich | S Newman | EFA | A Robinson | Ipswich |
| J Johnson | Ipswich | S Howard | Ipswich | R Petts | Ipswich |

1. Mr Nash opened the meeting. Apologies from J Newstead, K Hood, A Foskew,
2. **Previous Minutes:** Mr Dopson asked for comments on the minutes of the November 2022 Trials Forum and they were accepted as a true record of the meeting.
3. **Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising
4. **Report from 2023 Trials Committee:**
 - a. It was reported that this had worked well, there had been 2 calls during the year, minutes and notes issued shortly after each call to the website and gazette.
 - b. Mr Foskew is managing steward appointments and reports, generally all required events are being covered, but there is always a need for more volunteers.
5. **2023 Trials Review:** The main observations were
 - a. Championship positions are on the ACU-EC website.
 - b. Comments were made about the suitability of the venue of the ESBMCC B class round on 10/9/23 for a championship round, club members explained that at the last moment the available land was reduced but comments would be considered.
 - c. Comments were made about the amount of looping occurring in some trials, after discussion it was agreed clerks of course to be asked to consider how to control this when marking sections, and riders to be instructed to ask the observer before riding the section if there is any doubt and the rider maybe taking a new line through a section.

6. **Annual demotion from Experts**, four applications approved for this year, annual process to be continued. Applications by 1st July each year for following year, as Trials Conditions.
7. **2024 Trials Championships**: After discussion it was agreed no other changes apart from those noted in points 8, 9 and 11, plus for 2024 clubs will be allowed to accept paper entries for championship rounds. These entries can be in addition to online entries and all entries must respect the closing date, see point 13.
8. **Youth Trials**,
 - a. After discussion the following was decided. For 2024 the Youth Championship classes within B Class rounds will remain as 2023, that is Youth Expert, Intermediate and Novice. Where a club organising a B Class round can offer a beginner's route (lower than white) there will be a new Youth Beginner class. For 2024, dependant on how many B Class rounds can incorporate the Youth beginner class, additional rounds may be added to ensure there are sufficient rounds for a Championship. Organising clubs that can offer an appropriate venue and route will be considered. This is included for 2024 to gauge interest from riders and clubs. Once proposals have been received the calendar will be reviewed and updated. Points will be calculated but there will not be a trophy in 2024. Once a rider has ridden as Youth Novice or above, they cannot score points as Youth Beginner. All youth classes remain open to all ages of youth riders dependant on parents or guardians ensuring they are capable of riding the class entered.
 - b. Support for Youth Only Trials, after discussion it was agreed that to encourage youth participation any support from the centre would be appreciated in paying for Youth Only Trial Permits, Trials Committee to pursue.
9. **Pre 70 machine eligibility**, for 2024 it was decided to make a small change to simplify the machine eligibility rules that will not affect any current machines. Also, for 2024, in addition to the normal inspections during trials, before some C Class championship trials, riders will be asked if they believe their machine complies with the current ACU-EC Pre-70 machine eligibility rules. The trials committee is always open to more volunteers to get involved in checking machine eligibility; the only requirement is to have some knowledge of the type of machines being used.
10. **Twinshock observing**, S Newman had requested to address the meeting about the style of riding being seen on twinshock machines, and other machines, in B Class rounds that was not being given a five. After discussion it was agreed that due to other classes B class rounds could not move to non-stop, and it was not clear if this alone would improve the situation. It was suggested that an "Observer's Guidelines" document available to clubs to be issued to observers may help the situation, so that for example going backwards would be given a five both in Stop Allowed and No-Stop trials. S Newman and P Fenn offered to draft this document for review by the trials committee.
11. **ACM class**, after discussion it was agreed to test for 2024 to identify demand, for no annual trophies, championship points to be calculated for any riders of ACM in A

Class rounds riding red/blue and white routes, if appropriate riders will also score championship points as Intermediate A or Intermediate B.

12. 2024-25 Trials calendar: Prior to the forum a draft calendar, with proposed A, B and C Class championship rounds, was circulated to trials committee members and club trials contacts. Currently there are no date clashes but the following points were made

- a. At the last-minute Chelmsford club has been offered a Ladies and Girls British Championship trial on 2/6/24, currently there is a Norwich Vikings trial on this date, discussions to take place. (Note after the meeting date actually confirmed by ACU-HQ as Saturday 1/6/24, so no dates issue)
- b. For the first time proposed AMCA trial dates are shown in the calendar, this is for information only and is not controlled by ACU-EC.
- c. The calendar will need to be reviewed for any issues when more MX and Enduro events are added.
- d. Any additional events will have to be introduced around those already in the calendar.

13. Trials Entry Forms, after discussion, to support point 7 it is going to be requested to reintroduce to the Centre Gazette insertion of at least one generic Trials Entry form.

14. Entries, currently some clubs are not publishing on Sport:80 accepted entries before or after the closing date, after discussion it was decided that if clubs are using Sport:80 all accepted Sport;80 entries must be shown after the closing date.

15. Trials Awards Presentation, following a successful 2022 Trials Awards Presentation evening, after much discussion including understanding what other disciplines are considering, it was decided whether there is a multi-discipline 2023 centre annual awards presentation event or not, a 2023 Trials Awards Presentation will be planned. The organising committee will be as 2022, that is R Snowden, D Cordle and K Pummer, the proposed date is 20/1/24, venue to be decided.

16. Observers, recognising these are ageing and therefore will disappear over time, what can we do? See point 10 with regard to issuing observer guidelines. After much discussion the following were suggested for clubs to try,

- a. Incentivise riders to observe in one event by offering a free entry in another event run by the same club
- b. Incentivise observers by offering riders a free entry by supplying an observer not already expected by the club.
- c. Incentivise observers by giving free lunch and/or a cash observer raffle prize.
- d. To encourage more ladies to attend trials and potentially observe supply toilet facilities at event, trials committee to request if this can be funded by Centre Facility Fund.

- e. Use of an observer register for clubs to use to contact observers, the logistics of this to be discussed by trials committee.

17. Trials reports, please can clubs write reports for the website and gazette, especially if photographs are available.

18. Results, please can these be to the format defined in the Trials Conditions.

19. Trials official seminars, to be arranged based on demand, currently there have only been two applicants identified by clubs. P Nash offered to organise a seminar if date and venue can be agreed, it was agreed that an evening would be preferred. Clubs to be asked again for any more applicants.

20. 2023 Observers award, after two rounds of voting by show of hands award to be presented to T and R Harvey at the annual awards presentation or a local trial if more appropriate.

21. Trials Committee: The meeting was informed that K Hood would like to stand down, thanks to him for his support. After discussion and request for any new committee members to volunteer, it was agreed that I Johnston would join for 2024. The committee will be, 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 I Johnston, Mr P Fenn, Mr A Barrell, Mr D Cordle, Mr J Newstead and Mr M Neale. Roles within the committee for 2024 to be decided at the first meeting.

22. Any other business

- a. The committee secretary will prepare some notes from this meeting for inclusion in the December Gazette.
- b. 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 D Cordle, B Class R Snowden, C Class C Dopson. Trophies required to A Hay before 1st January latest

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.00 pm