

ACU EASTERN
(AFFILIATED TO THE Auto Cycle Union)
Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the Board 2023 held Sunday 12th November 2023
Great Blakenham Village Hall

President	Mr A Penny (AP)
Chairman	Mr C Keeble (CK)
Vice Chairman	Mr A Foskew (AF)
Treasurer	Mr A Hay (AH)
Minutes Secretary	Mrs B Fenn (BF)

Also in attendance were:-

P Fenn (PF)	Essex & Suffolk Border	R Booty (RB)	West Essex
R Chaplin (RC)	Sudbury	D Blyth (DB)	Woodbridge
C Cook (CC)	Braintree	J Blyth (JB)	Woodbridge
M Beadle (MB)	Halstead	P Sewter (PS)	Norwich Vikings
K Weavers (KW)	Halstead	G Brace (GB)	Vice President
K Doherty (KD)	Eastern Marshals	B Coles (BC)	Woodbridge
A Wright (AW)	Halstead	V Hearn (VH)	Stowmarket
C Dopson (CD)	Wymondham	J Hearn (JH)	Stowmarket
A Waters (AW)	Diss	P Nash (PN)	Southend
S Kenny (SK)	Harwich	J Nash (JN)	Southend
M Wear (MW)	General Secretary for ACU	R Snowden (RS)	Diss

Following the numbering of the agenda:-

1. The Chairman, CK, opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

Apologies were accepted from Mr R Greengrass, Mr E Hood, Mr C Ralph and Mr J and Mrs B Douglas

2. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the Board meeting held on 10th July 2023 were circulated following the meeting and have been approved via email.

3. Matters Arising

No matters arising from those minutes to discuss were raised.

4. Updated Bye-Laws

This was not discussed as the Bye-Laws were not approved at the Special Meeting

5.

a. Election of Centre Secretary

The Centre has not received any nominations for the position of Centre Secretary.

Therefore, it was proposed that CK would continue to act in place of the Centre Secretary, where the input of the Secretary is needed. This went to the vote and was passed.

5.2 Election of members of the Competitions Committee

Only one nomination has been received – this is for CC. It was proposed that CC be re-elected. This went to the vote and was passed.

5.3 Bill Spurrell and Dick Williams Awards

There were no nominations for these awards for 2023. Therefore, the motion to hold these trophies in abeyance for 2023 went to the vote and was passed. The Board is not certain where the Dick Williams trophy is and this needs to be located and returned at some point.

5.4 To receive a report from Mr C Cook, Chair of Competitions Committee

CC reported that there had been a meeting in July of the Competitions Committee. There was nothing outstanding as a result of this meeting and CC asked for any questions.

It was noted that due to human error the minutes of the July meeting had not actually been posted onto the website.

Further discussion was then had about the Motocross rider whose licence had been withdrawn. CC confirmed this issue had been raised at the July and September meetings. They are currently obtaining an opinion on this and should be in a position to make a decision at the December meeting.

CK confirmed that the Competitions Committee is taking advice from the ACU Head Office. No decision has been made as yet.

DB mentioned that it will not make any difference for the rider in 2024 (as they are banned for the whole year) but it will start to affect things the following year.

CK confirmed that this issue could arise for other clubs/disciplines and it was important for the Competitions Committee to make sure that the agreed proposal going forwards is fair for all and can be used if this were to happen again.

JB asked why there was such an issue over this question. Surely, if the rider is banned, they are banned. CK confirmed that this was correct and that the rider cannot compete until the ban is lifted. However, there is a possibility, that when the ban is over, the club may be able to continue to ban the rider from their events if they feel this is appropriate. There is a point to consider in that if the club is running a championship, do they have to consult the Championship Committee to approve such a ban? Disciplinary matters are traditionally dealt with by the Competitions Committee. JB asked why this could not be agreed by the Motocross Committee. It was being discussed in May and we are still no further forwards. CK again said that the answer to the question needs to be applicable to all four Committees and approved by the Competitions Committee. It needs to be a rule which can then be enforceable going forwards. The Competitions Committee are still actively discussing this and a decision will be reached shortly.

PS raised the point as to whether the club could just refuse entry to that rider. CK said that

the National Sporting Code allows the refusal of an rider by the club but not at championship level except with the approval of the championship organiser.

CK again confirmed that the matter will be discussed by the Competitions Committee and the Board will be advised. The matter will be discussed further by the Board if the views of the Competitions Committee are not accepted.

5.5 Administration Committee

This consists of CK, AP, AF and AH. The approval of the Board for this Committee expires on 31.12.23. It was put forwards that this Committee will continue until the end of 2024. This motion went to the vote and was passed.

5.6 Treasurer's Report

AH read through the report for the 2023 finances to date.

Point 11 – regarding the Honorarium payments, AH also suggested a figure of £500.00 for CK in his position as chairman.

Point 16 – DB asked whether the Centre could refund the monies spent on the equipment which was not required for the grass track masters event. After some discussion, CK confirmed that this was a valid point and they would consider this.

Points 17 and 18 – the Board notes the current financial position for 2023. The approval of the honorarium payments went to the vote and was passed.

5.7 National Council meeting

CK had attended the National Council meeting in Rugby on 11th November 2023. A lot of subjects were covered including:-

- GDPR
- Sport 80
- Elections of various officers, which were all unopposed. The director is Tim Lightfoot. The only member of the Centre who was elected was John Blyth. Two nominations were made relating to other members of the Centre but those nominated were not elected.
- Insurers presentation – it is hoped the premium will remain the same for 2024.
- Clyde & Co – legal advisers for the ACU, assisting to ensure that all paperwork is in order. Sport 80 also has the function to upload documents onto the system which is particularly useful.
- Finance of the ACU
- ACU programme outlined as to the way forwards. There will be a meeting early in the New Year to discuss the details of the proposals and a special meeting of the Board will be called if needed. MW confirmed that the plan is to split Trials and Enduro into two separate Committees.
- Licence renewals – these will be going on to Sport 80. There will be no changes to the fees. Day licences will be the only exception and will not be available on Sport 80. MW asked if clubs could be vigilant and ensure that people asking for day licences are not on the stop list.

- Directors and Sports Committee reports
- Isle of Man TT report
- The addition of a Sustainability Committee and a Medical panel are being reviewed.

Some discussion was had about a suggested nomination in respect of the ACU Board for Gary Hockey. The ACU had rejected this nomination as he was closely associated with running the motocross championship on behalf of the ACU which was considered a conflict of interest

CC asked why there had to be a separate promoter for the motocross championship and could this not be done by ACU Events? MW confirmed that this is being reviewed and Motocross promotion will shortly be going out to tender. ACU Events is a separate company and can put in a price for tender in the same way as any other company. There is a lot of money at the top of the sport and MW now wants to try and change this to ensure that the ACU is getting its fair share. Things may be a little uncomfortable whilst this gets sorted out but it should mean a better future for the ACU and its Centres going forwards. MW confirmed that he is happy to attend any meetings where his input is needed.

5.8 Eastern Centre Gazette

(a) Receive a report from the Gazette Editor

PS had prepared a Combined Eastern Centre Gazette and website report. PS was thanked for his work on this. No questions were raised on this report.

(b) Receive a report on the Gazette Finances and Distribution

In the absence of RG, this was given by CK. CK had already mentioned the issues they were having with the bank account for the Gazette. Hopefully, this will eventually be resolved with the assistance of MW.

DB asked how often the Gazette will need to be issued going forwards, could this be changed to bi-monthly? CK indicated that, at present, it is not costing the Centre money and works well alongside the website. PS confirmed that the Gazette is not making him more work whilst it is being run alongside the website. If the paper copy was circulated bi-monthly then the advertising fees may have to be reduced and these are currently keeping the Gazette afloat. CK confirmed that there were no current plans to reduce the publishing of the Gazette. In 2023 they had been looking at the structure of the Centre and in 2024 the plan is to review and improve communication within the Centre.

AW made the point that entries are taken for Motocross and Enduro on Sport 80. Therefore, there is no real need for the paper forms to be completed as well. CK confirmed that this would be reviewed – something new needs to be set up before the old system can be removed. It is now possible to accept paper entries for championship rounds and therefore some riders still go to the Gazette for their entry forms.

5.9 Eastern Centre Website

Report already received above.

5.10 Access, Environment and Rights of Way Matters

RB had prepared and circulated a Report. He had nothing further to add to this. RB was thanked for the report.

CK mentioned that the Board does need to consider the environmental impact of the sport going forwards. This helps to show that we are trying to do the right thing and the environment has been considered. We do not want to become subject to criticism from the authorities or environmental groups.

5.11 ACU Benevolent Fund

DB had prepared and circulated a Report. A cheque had been received today for the Centre's contribution to this. DB had a donation box and badges for sale today.

DB reiterated that you can go to the Benevolent Fund as a member of the ACU for any kind of hardship, it does not have to be as the result of a motorcycle accident.

DB also has some leaflets relating to the Fund which can be distributed to clubs. DB was thanked for this report.

6. Any Other Business

No other matters were raised.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting after thanking everyone for their attendance.

Next meeting date to be arranged