

ACU EASTERN
(AFFILIATED TO THE Auto Cycle Union)
Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the Competitions Committee held Thursday 25th January 2024
Claydon and Barham Community Centre

Present at the meeting were Mr A Penny (AP), Mr A Foskew (AF), Mr A Wright (AW), Mr C Cook (CC), Mr C Keeble (CK) and Mrs B Fenn (BF).

Following the numbering of the agenda:-

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

Apologies had been received from Mr P Fenn and Mr M Beadle. Retrospective apologies received from Mr P Hubbard.

2. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting of this Committee, in December 2023, had been circulated following that meeting.

3. Matters arising from those Minutes

No issues had been raised regarding those minutes and these were approved by this Committee.

4. Election of Officers

The following election of officers were proposed and approved by this Committee:-

Chairman – Mr C Cook
Vice Chairman – Mr A Penny
Secretary – Mrs B Fenn (in a non-voting role)
Stewards Co-ordinator – Mr A Foskew
Permits Secretary – Mrs B Douglas

5. Stewards Co-ordinator for all disciplines

The Stewards Co-ordinator for 2024 will be Mr A Foskew – he confirmed that there were not any issues arising from the Stewards Reports which had been made.

6. Permit Secretary Report

The Permit Secretary was not in attendance and so no report was given to this Committee.

7. Stewards Reports

Please see point 5 above.

8. Sub Committee Chairman Reports

Track racing

AF advised that a date had been agreed for a National Grass Track Youth and GT140 round to be held at Southend on 3rd August 2024.

There is also going to be a grass track technical seminar held on 2nd March 2024 at Shaun Harvey's house.

There is going to be a grass track meeting of the New Stars club at Ugley on 28th July 2024. This is the new club formed following the disbandment of the Norwich New Stars. It is assumed by this Committee that the new club have taken over the use of the Norwich New Stars equipment.

This Committee notes that there is a clash of dates in September. The British Masters event is being held on the same weekend as an event in Germany meaning some riders will not be able to ride in the Masters.

Enduro

The Chairman, Jack Hearn, was not present at the meeting. However, AP was able to provide some information to this Committee.

The Enduro Committee no longer wants stewards at the two man events.

Neil Sargent had made a request to run an Enduro Youth Championship. It was agreed by this Committee that it is always good to promote youth events and this request was approved.

This Committee is still engaging with the Enduro Committee as to its devolution. The Chairman of the Enduro Committee has been unwell and it may be worth suggesting that he could delegate someone to attend these meetings in his place. If the Enduro Committee wishes to become devolved then they need to be in communication with this Committee and send someone to the meetings.

CK, AP, AF and Andrew Hay have discussed the devolution of the Enduro Committee in depth. Terms of reference are being written up and they need to meet with the Enduro Committee to discuss these. The devolution of the Enduro Committee needs to be managed properly.

The Enduro Committee has asked for Centre support to purchase some new timing equipment, which will be a large expense to approve. A lot of riders now have transponders. CK needs to make contact with the Enduro Committee to discuss this point.

Motocross

The Chairman of the Motocross Committee was not present and so no report was given to this Committee.

Trials

The Chairman of the Trials Committee was not present and so no report was given to this

Committee.

9. Any correspondence received

No other correspondence has been received other than those points already mentioned above.

10. Dates for the rest of the Competitions Committee meetings for 2024

These need to be agreed and will be circulated shortly – the next meeting is likely to be 21st March 2024.

11. Any Other Business

This Committee needs to remind clubs about the need to have dates approved in advance. There has been a recent occasion where a club has advertised a Centre championship round on Facebook before this had been approved by this Committee. It doesn't clash with any other dates but should be approved first. Similarly, another club has recently changed an event date without seeking approval from this Committee. This Committee is here to help all clubs but must be communicated with to ensure we do not run into any problems.

CK informed this Committee that he went to the Motocross Committee meeting last week. This Committee had previously discussed what should happen if a previously disqualified rider entered a championship round. It was agreed that this rider could be refused an entry if they had been disqualified for over six months or received a £500 fine. The Motocross Committee were concerned that any decision would need to be made quickly. As a compromise CK has agreed that if a previously disqualified rider enters a championship round, and the organiser wants to exclude them, then they must contact the Chairman of this Committee (CC). CC will then communicate with the members of this Committee and a decision will be made within 24 hours, the outcome of which will then be given to the organisers.

CK informed this Committee that the clubs do not receive any notification when a new member joins them via Sport 80. This is not an ideal situation.

Some discussion was then had about sound testing equipment. Some sound meters had been found which were capable of calibration. However, they have been sent to ACU Head Office at Rugby, who have said that the meters were too old or broken to be re-calibrated. Therefore, these meters need replacing. New meters, which are of FIM quality, cost around £1,200. New meters need to be purchased but there is not anyone on this Committee who is qualified to know what equipment is needed or how it should be used.

Ben Cole of Woodbridge Club has some FIM equipment. AP has previously spoken to Ben and he has indicated that he could come to some events and do some sound testing as long as he is not already attending another event.

CK confirmed that there is some concern about pressure groups who will complain about the noise and try to stop events from happening. If sound testing is being carried out, then the Centre has official data to show it is monitoring the issue and is trying to self-regulate.

There was some discussion as to whether random sound tests could be done to check bikes e.g. during scrutineering. AW suggested that it would be better to carry out the tests during the meeting so that exhausts could not be swapped over by riders.

It was agreed that AP would contact Ben Cole and confirm he is happy to come to some events. He would also ask him if he was happy for someone to shadow him using the equipment and learn from him how to do this. If Ben is happy to do this, then a note could be placed in the Gazette/on the website asking if anyone would be interested in taking on this role, to cover all disciplines. CK agreed to draft the wording of the advertisement in readiness. There needs to be some incentive for taking on this role – travelling would definitely be covered but hopefully there could also be a monetary incentive. Once someone has shadowed Ben and learnt how to use the equipment then this could be purchased by the Centre. It would also be necessary for that person to attend a seminar on the subject.

It was agreed that the ACU Head Office at Rugby are going to destroy the old sound meters.

It was also confirmed that Motocross will need someone to run their timing system after the end of this year.

CK indicated that Paul Sewter is updating the online system so that the names of all stewards will be recorded against the database.

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

Next meeting planned for 21st March 2024