

**ACU EASTERN**  
**(AFFILIATED TO THE Auto Cycle Union)**  
**Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Competitions Committee held Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 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), Mr J Hearn (JH), Mr P Hubbard (PH), Mr P Fenn (PF), Mr P Nash (PN) and Mrs B Fenn (BF).

Following the numbering of the agenda:-

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

No apologies received.

**2. Previous Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting of this Committee, in January 2024, had been circulated following that meeting. AP indicated that he had made a comment on those minutes but these had not been re-circulated. BF confirmed that the minutes had been updated following those comments and the final version had been published on the website. CK showed AP a copy of the updated version and AP was happy with this.

**3. Matters arising from those Minutes**

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

**4. Sound testing update**

AP had spoken to Ben Cole since the January meeting. Ben had re-confirmed his offer that he was happy for someone to shadow him when he does sound testing at a British Championship round.

We still need a volunteer to come forward. CK confirmed that he had not been contacted by anyone willing to take on this role. No one else present at the meeting had heard either. There will be another advertisement in the Gazette this month and hopefully someone will come forwards.

CK asked PH if he could ask the commentators at a Motocross event to mention that a volunteer for sound testing was required. PH agreed to do this.

It was generally agreed that the sound testing would be a good idea as it would show that the Centre is doing something to monitor noise.

Once a volunteer had come forward, the Centre could buy new sound testing equipment and may be able to approach Head Office to assist with funding. It is intended to purchase one meter to cover all disciplines.

## **5. Permit Secretary Report**

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

## **6. Stewards Reports**

AF confirmed that he had received two Stewards Reports. One was from CC for the Purls Hill event and the other was from the Southend event at Poles Wood. AF confirmed that the report for Poles Wood indicated that, despite a very wet and trying day, it had been a well run championship round.

## **7. Sub Committee Chairman Reports**

### **Motocross**

PH confirmed that he did not have anything significant to report – there had not been any problems.

There is a practice scheduled at Blaxhall this coming weekend with over 200 riders attending. There are also events scheduled at Blaxhall on 7<sup>th</sup> April and Wakes Colne on 14<sup>th</sup> April. The entries for these are filling up and they are expecting around 200 riders for each event.

PH did indicate that there were lots of entries from out of Centre riders. Some discussion was had as to whether preference should be given to Centre riders when accepting entries. It was accepted that this was a good idea. However, it is important to get a balance between the Centre riders and the event being well attended by the public who want to see the better riders.

AW confirmed that they already had officials in place for both April meetings which was positive.

CK asked if anyone had come forward as a volunteer for timekeeping at Motocross events. PH indicated that he had not heard that anyone was interested as yet. It was agreed that we would run another advertisement in the Gazette for this.

### **Trials**

PN confirmed that there was not much to report – again there had not been problems.

There had been two A rounds in the Centre and a sidecar round, which had attracted five entries.

PN asked whether a call out could be put out for other clubs to run sidecar events. CC confirmed that Braintree may be able to run one at Gosfield or Purls Hill. PF commented that Essex and Suffolk Border had not run a sidecar event for some time and the land at Raydon was not really suitable for that type of event.

### **Enduro**

JH confirmed that there had been an event at Santon on 25<sup>th</sup> February which had been well supported with over 200 riders. Despite heavy rain, there had been no flooding and this had

been a good meeting. AP confirmed that there had been some minor injuries but he felt that this was possibly because it was the first event of the year and there had not been a chance to practice leading up to the event because of the weather. It was not a Club issue.

JH confirmed that there is an Enduro Committee meeting this coming Tuesday where they will discuss their devolution.

JH confirmed that they had not got any further with the new time keeping equipment – at present, there was still no one to operate this. Some discussion was then had as to why Enduro uses two different systems for time keeping. JH confirmed that he did not know why this was. It would be a good idea for those using transponders if the same system was used throughout. CK confirmed that it would also be much easier for the IT support if the same system was used.

PH asked if the Centre would fund the new equipment – CK confirmed that the Enduro Committee would need to put a case forward for the Centre to consider once they had found someone to run and look after the equipment. The cost is likely to be in the region of £20,000 - £30,000.

### **Grass track**

AF confirmed that neither Southend or the 500 Sidecar club were running a Championship round.

GW Racing are planning to run an event. If they run this as a Championship round then they want the Centre to pay them run this and provide the trophies. PN asked whether we should be using a promotor to run an event – there is not an issue with providing trophies but we should not have to pay them to run a Championship round. It was suggested that AF speak to George Wilby to see if they could run a Championship round as they had previously done.

It was also noted that the 500 Sidecar club were only running one event this year. Some discussion was had as to whether they could possibly run a Centre Championship as part of that event. It was also suggested that the 500 Sidecar club could run a Championship event on Southend's land, although PN indicated that they did have issues with neighbouring properties being concerned about noise.

### **8. Any correspondence received**

No correspondence has been received. CK confirmed that the National Sporting Code and the regulations were now visible on Sport 80 under the "Resources" tab.

### **9. Any Other Business**

PN indicated that he believes he has a sound meter at work – CK confirmed that it could be sent off to Rugby to see if it is of any use.

PH asked about the circulation of the ACU Events book. CK confirmed that the book was being printed this coming week and would be circulated soon.

CK confirmed that the Centre is arranging for signs to be printed to be used at Motocross, Enduro and Trials events to try and recruit people to get involved with the sport with a link to

the website which will cover all disciplines.

CK mentioned the problem of local newspapers covering the sport in Suffolk. He has recently seen an article in the East Anglian Daily Times which said that they will print details regarding amateur sport if the information is sent into them. CK asked if clubs could send a report to the East Anglian and let him know when they do this. If it is not printed, then CK will take this up with the paper on behalf of the Centre. PH confirmed that he could prepare a couple of reports for his upcoming events which he would send on to the East Anglian to publish.

PN asked if we could have one or two of the meetings a year somewhere near to Colchester for those who live in Essex. It was agreed that this suggestion would be explored.

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

Next meeting planned for 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024