

ACU EASTERN
(AFFILIATED TO THE Auto Cycle Union)
Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the Competitions Committee held Thursday 16th May 2024
Claydon and Barham Community Centre

Present at the meeting were Mr A Foskew (AF), Mr A Wright (AW), Mr C Cook (CC), Mr C Keeble (CK), Mr J Hearn (JH), 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.

Apologies had been received from Paul Fenn, Barbara Douglas and Andrew Hay.

2. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting of this Committee, in March 2024, had been circulated to those in attendance 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. Any correspondence received

No correspondence had been received since the last meeting.

5. Sound testing update

CK confirmed that no-one had come forwards to volunteer to undertake sound testing and that this was disappointing.

AW confirmed that the commentators had mentioned this at the Ling, Blaxhall and Wakes Motocross events.

The sound testing will mainly be done at speed events but could eventually be used for other events such as trials.

Similarly, there had been no volunteers for the Motocross lap timing.

6. Permit Secretary Report

The Permit Secretary was not in attendance but a report had been given to the Chairman and this was circulated at the meeting.

7. Stewards Reports

AF confirmed that he had received some reports for Trials along with one for Grass Track. There were no issues arising from these.

8. To approve the updated list of ACU Eastern stewards and consider the appointment of new stewards

CK confirmed that the list of ACU Eastern stewards needed to be approved for this year.

James Newstead is to be removed from the active stewards list for trials.

Neil Sargent was put forwards as a new Enduro steward. CC confirmed that he was happy to accept this appointment. CK will ask Paul Sewter to update the Stewards database to now include him.

All other stewards to remain on the database.

9. To discuss the ACU Eastern Grass track championship for 2024

It was commented that there is generally now only one Grass track championship round per year.

There have been issues trying to find someone to run this round for 2024. AF gave a report to the Committee.

There had been two suggestions put forwards. The first is that Southend will run the event but they would seek a contribution of £500 from the Centre to do so.

PN indicated that it is expensive to run Grass track events and he had made a loss when running the Centre round last year. He also indicated that riders wanted trophies on the day and this created extra costs.

AW commented that if additional funds are given to one discipline to run a championship round then other disciplines would be put out by this and this could cause problems.

The second option is that the event is run by GW Racing. However, it was not generally supported that the event is run by a promoter who would be paid to do so.

Therefore, AF proposed that the Grass track Centre championship round for 2024 does not take place.

CK queried whether there should be an ACU seminar/meeting to discuss the future of the sport for Grass track. It was commented that the sport appears to be in decline and events are making a loss.

CK indicated that there appeared to be no option but to cancel the Centre championship round for Grass track for this year and this was agreed by the Committee.

10. Sub Committee Chairman Reports

Motocross

PH was not present at the meeting and so no report was given to the Committee.

Trials

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

Enduro

JH confirmed that events appear to be running well and entries are up.

There had recently been an event at Alderford which had been well supported and run. There had also been a Youth class.

JH asked if there was any news as to the devolution for the Enduro Committee. CK confirmed that there is a meeting planned this month where this matter will be discussed. CK is to report to that meeting on the matter and will update JH in around 10 days' time.

Grass track

AF had already given the Grass track report above.

11. To consider arranging a seminar for Secretary of the meetings

CC and CK had put forward that it may be a good idea to offer training for those acting as secretaries of the meeting. It could be that some kind of seminar was offered and this would also be a way of getting people together. It is inevitable that as the current Secretaries get older, there will be replacements needed and it would be good to offer them some form of support so that they know how to carry out the role.

CC indicated that a starting point could be to put together a do's and don't's list for each discipline which could be added to the Centre website/Gazette to refer to.

CK confirmed that he would try and draft a suggested list with Barbara Douglas for trials events and then ask CC and PN to have a look at this and comment as appropriate.

This document could then be given to the Motocross and Enduro committees for them to adapt to their individual disciplines.

It was agreed that this would be a good starting point.

12. Any Other Business

CK mentioned that the National Council of the ACU are trying to get a six day Enduro world round held in the UK. They are working closely with the FIM on this.

They are trying to get more money into the sport generally and are now reviewing all contracts at Board level.

The ACU have been speaking with the Health and Safety Executive to try to show them that the proper processes are being followed.

They are also speaking with NFU to make landowners more aware of the processes which are being followed. It is hoped that this may make them more willing to allow their land for future

events.

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

Next meeting date TBC