

**Minutes of the 2nd Session of the Eastern Centre ACU Board 2015 held on
Wednesday 15th April 2015 at Gt Blakenham Parish Rooms in the presence of:**

President	A Penny
Chairman	J Hearn
Vice Chairman	A Foskew; G Brace
Vice Presidents	Mrs M Mellish Mr A Brace Mr R Chaplin Mrs V Hearn
Treasurer	A Hay
General Secretary	Mrs L Berwick

Name	Club	Name	Club
P Tomlin	TOMCC (Epping Forest)	D Mills	ECMC
T Smith	Essex and Suffolk	J Blyth	Woodbridge
J Erskine	ECMC	G Garrod	Halstead
Mrs D Blyth	Woodbridge	K Weavers	Halstead
J Read	Woodbridge	C Ralph	Woodbridge
P Armes	Watton and DMCC	Mr P Ranson	Diss
Mr M Deeks	Castle Colchester	Mr E Hood	Triangle

Also present by invitation was Mr Gary Thompson MBE, BEM, General secretary of the Auto Cycle Union.

1. Mr Hearn, Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

Apologies were received from: Messrs: R Greengrass, B Drane, R Bannister, Mrs Y Smith, Mrs G Bannister, Mrs M Armes

2. Previous Minutes:

The Chairman sought approval of the minutes of the 1st session of the 2015 Board held on 18th January 2015. Proposed Mr R Chaplin 2nd Mr J Read and accepted as a true record.

3. Matters Arising.

Mr P Ranson representing the Diss Club asked whether the Land Fund wording changes had been made, Mr Hay replied that he had not been able to finalise, therefore this item would not be discussed until the next Board meeting.

D Mills – asked if there had been a response from the ACU regarding the letter sent re Mr A Deeks. Mr G Thompson replied that the letter from the Eastern Centre Board had been put before the ACU Board of Directors for discussion together with other evidence provided by other people from a Facebook page. Nothing had been resolved by the Directors but from now any rider/official/club member or promoter in breach of Article 11.1.8 would have action taken against them in the form of withdrawal of licences/membership etc.

Mr Kenny questioned whether this would be lawful – Mr Thompson confirmed that advice had been taken from the ACU Solicitors and that it would be lawful.

Mr Thompson stated that although it may not be able to be stopped, the ACU did not wish such people posting such comments associated with the Governing Body of our sport.

4. Correspondence:

Ms Berwick had received an 'item for discussion form' for the upcoming National Council due to take place on 16th May.

Insurance update – Mr Thompson will report in next item.

5. Chairman's and Secretaries meeting held in Rugby. Mr Thompson offered to talk this through as follows:

Alison Devine had left her office on 2nd April 2015 and the Board wished her well on her retirement. Stephanie Wainwright has taken her role

There will be a second open day at Rugby on Thursday 23rd April.

Insurance – Premiums increased by 10%. Now back with Locktons. Interim insurance running from 31st March to 31st December then from 2016 Insurance will run from 1st Jan to 31st December – back in sync and negotiating a new three year deal with Locktons.

Still 3 tier cover

1: 0 – 250,00 –Capture Insurance.

2: 250,000 to 10 Million (Liberty)

3; 10- 30 Million

Basic Permits increased from £650 to £699 (same cover)

There is a closer relationship with Insurers. Fast response from Clubs following their events is key to the smooth running of claims procedure.

Medical and repatriation costs – reduced fee for Trials from £95 to £20.

Closed road motorsport – Government have approved the primary legislation, now held up because of the election. Hoped all to be in place for 2016.

Permits only available from MSA but only requests from affiliated ACU Clubs will be accepted.

Mr Armes asked if people knew how to apply to MSA – Mr Thompson agreed to put together a pack of explanation. 1st point of call is via local authorities.

M Deeks – will this have an impact on the charges being made for Trials? Robin Goodwill has spoken to MSA to ask for a bit of leeway, which has been agreed, late entries etc. MSA authorisation will be a separate issue.

Mr Kenny stated that this could be left over from the 1960's when there was a 'gentleman's agreement' in place. Mr Thompson stated that after the election, this would be pursued with the new Government.

Mr Armes – asked how far things had gone regarding the rule on concussion and are Clubs liable if a rider does not disclose previous injury and rides at an event?

The ACU CMO is discussing this issue at the next ACU Board, Mr Thompson agreed to update the Centre on any outcome.

Discussion over a disclaimer being placed in event paperwork. Mr Thompson said that in the event of an accident, he may be contacted via mobile at any time.

Mr Deeks pointed out that Clubs would not know if a rider had been injured taking part in another sport – Mr Armes replied that this is where a disclaimer would be beneficial.

Mr Weavers and Mrs Blyth suggested that a disclaimer (if agreed) should be placed on event signing on sheets.

SE Centre had placed an item on the agenda re 'ageing' volunteers. Mr Thompson stated that should Centres find it difficult to fill roles, the ACU would be there to help in any way.

Mid Wales – levies on National permits and permits issued for forestry events. Loss of income is substantial. South Eastern Centre also has this problem. Mr Thompson stated that this had been discussed at Board level and would be discussed further prior to the NMC.

Mr Thompson reported on the progress of the 2015 TT races. He is now in his fourth year as Clerk of the Course. Some changes to improve safety have been made.

Maxxis Championship – update following the 1st Round at Hilton Park. Mr Higgins has resigned .

ACU timekeeping – can now provide for 3-4 events at the same time.

Mr Ralph – asked if regionalisation took place, how would that effect Centre finances as it could have serious financial implications. Mr Thompson replied that should that ever go ahead, there would be consultation with Centres before any changes were made.

6. Financial Report - Mr A Hay:

Mr Hay supplied a spreadsheet of the current financial situation, income and expenditure.

He also reported that the Centre Function had returned a profit of £30.

Mr Hay reported that the agreed promotional budget was no longer required and that had been withdrawn.

Therefore Mr Hay sought approval of the revised proposed budget as circulated – 2nd A Foskew.

7. Competition Committee Report – Mr P Armes.

Mr Armes reported that the first two events of the season had used email to receive their permit paperwork – this had worked well and therefore this would be continued unless requested by clubs otherwise.

Grass Track – still via post.

Stewards passes – the number issued has been reduced from 40 to 24. Has also spoken to Mr Bannister and agreed that only complimentary gazettes be issued to Stewards listed in the current months issue.

Commented that not all events have Stewards listed and are marked 'tba' – Trials Committee are trying to rectify this. Mr Fenn has struggled to get Stewards in place for Trials.

MX Stewards have been appointed for the whole season. Only one Enduro left to appoint. GT all appointed. Mr Armes to investigate why people take the seminars but do not officiate.

Illegal riding in Thetford Forest – ACU, Police and Forestry Commission will apply zero tolerance approach. Bikes will be crushed. Mr Armes asked those present to report back to their clubs.

Mr Armes reported that the competitions committee are trying to find an active byeways officer for Suffolk and Norfolk.

Mr Armes sought adoption of the minutes of the 1st Competitions Committee meeting – proposed M Deeks 2nd C Ralph

2nd Minutes proposed R Chaplin 2nd E Hood.

Discussion to be made of the vacancies on the competitions committee and to try to find out why there have not been enough nominees for the last couple of years. To be discussed by competitions committee.

8. To discuss Stewards Passes – dealt with above.

9. To discuss environmental issues – as Mr Wass was not present – no report

10. Eastern Centre Gazette Report: Mr Armes began by apologising for the lateness of the March gazette, he had been unwell. He had prepared an apology to be printed but the incorrect editorial was printed.

Benevolent Fund – the previous information printed will be repeated in six months time. Ms Berwick reported that she had the up to date figures if anyone wished to see them. One Eastern Centre member had received benefits.

Mr Armes requested that organisers use the correct forms, which are sent to them for inclusion in the Gazette.

Mrs Hearn commented that she had not received the Gazettes for April until today – Mr Armes reported that there had been a problem with the courier.

As Mr Greengrass was not present, Mr Armes presented the financial report.

Income for 1 st January to 31 st March	£2224.20
Expenditure	£1691.03

Surplus for period	£533.17
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Barclays Current Account	£31, 459.92
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Tracker Account	£26, 429.07
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Following approval at the January Board to transfer the balance of the tracker account to the Reward Account, the relevant paperwork was sent to the Barclays Lowestoft Branch. However it transpired that the bank 'lost' the paperwork resulting in loss of 3-4 months interest. The matter has now been rectified. Mr Armes to speak to Mr Greengrass to suggest recompense is sought from the bank.

Mr Kenny commented that he was pleased to see that the Gazette is still financially healthy

11. To receive a report on the Centre Function.

Ms Berwick reported that it had been a great evening with about 100 people present. Most Prizewinners had attended and that Mr Greengrass had kindly offered to take to Trials trophies that were not collected to the Lowestoft Trial the next day to distribute.

Mrs Hearn and Ms Berwick had decided that although they had really enjoyed putting on the event for the last three years by catering themselves, it was now too much for them and would not be doing this next year. Discussion over what could be done to finance the event (caterers) and Mrs Blyth proposed that the Centre and Gazette could fund half each. Mr Hay ,Treasurer, said that if he could have some firm figures, he would look at this. Agreed to provide costings at next Board.

12. Any Other Business

J Erskine ECMC – Marshals – commented that he liked the way that Woodbridge had organised their Marshals and asked if all Clubs would be using the same formula. It was stated that this could be a good idea but each Club dealt with Marshals in their own way. Discussion over the fact that some people arrived at meetings and said they were going to Marshal and then did not. Mr Deeks comments that he had tried using wristbands but still some did not arrive at the marshal points. Sadly it seems that some people are dishonest.

Mr Kenny asked Mr Thompson if there is anything being done regarding people who move to near a 'nuisance' and then complain (Mildenhall). Mr Thompson replied that over the last 6-7 years there had been a number of cases. Alan Kind (LARA) is well versed in these issues and is used as a consultant.

P Ranson – Land Fund is sitting at £108,000 and asked if it has ever been used. He also asked if it is only premier insurance permit users who pay for this. Mr Hay replied that when Basic Permits came in, the Land Fund levies were frozen and no further payments were taken. Mrs Hearn commented that the levies taken are only for the Inter Centre Team Events but that Basic Permit users pay no levies at all. Mr Thompson commented that to compensate for this, the ACU returns £50 per permit to the Centre. Mr Hay reported that this amounts to approximately £1500 per year, which is about a third less. Mr Penny advised that all Trials events paid levies

M Deeks – at Forestry Commission events after the incident with Jim Clark, it is proposed that rallies will have a Forestry Commission trained Steward alongside ACU Steward.

Mr Thompson advised that there is to be a meeting with the Forestry Commission shortly. Mr Thompson is working with them regarding the way restricted areas are controlled.

Mr Armes – has been made aware that at the ACU AGM in May, there may be a vote of no confidence in the ACU Chairman. 'As a Centre do we feel we arm our delegate to act as he sees fit on the day, do we advise him to abstain or make a resolution to vote against'. E Hood – comments that as we do not have all the information, it would be difficult for the Eastern Centre Board to make a decision.

Mrs Hearn, Mrs Blyth and Mr Hay all commented on how they felt Mr Higgins was very helpful and professional.

Mr Thompson spoke about the amount of work and effort Mr Higgins gives to the sport. Mr Foskew proposed that the Centre supports Mr Higgins if a vote took place.

Delegates voted by a show of hand – 10 for and one against. Motion carried.

Mr Hearn proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Gary Thompson for his attendance and his patience in explaining various issues.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10pm.

Next Meeting. Wednesday 22nd July 2015 Gt Blakenham Parish Rooms commencing at 7.45pm.