

# ACU EASTERN

(Affiliated to Auto Cycle Union)

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the Board held Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at Gt Blakenham Parish Rooms in the presence of

President	Mr A Penny
Chairman	Mr R G (Jack) Hearn
Vice Chairman	Mr A Foskew
Centre Secretary	Ms L Berwick

C Ralph	Woodbridge	P Tomlin	TOMCC
A R Chaplin	Sudbury/VP	P Nash	Southend
T Smith	Essex and Suffolk	P Armes	Watton
P Owen	Southend	R Greengrass	Lowestoft Invaders
A Kenny	Harwich	Mrs M Mellish	TOMCC
J Blyth	Woodbridge	K Weavers	Halstead
V Hearn	Stowmarket	Mrs D Blyth	Woodbridge

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

Mr Hearn advised those present of the untimely death of a competitor at a recent Enduro at a Sudbury Club event. Mr Gareth Young had passed away at the age of 43 years from natural causes. Mr Hearn asked for a few moments reflection.

Mr Hearn had attended Mr Young's funeral which had been well attended. Mrs Young had personally thanked all those who helped at the event.

Apologies were accepted from: Mrs M Armes; Mr A Brace; Mr G Brace; Mr P Ranson; Mr A Hay; Mrs Y Smith;

Mr J Read; Mr E Hood; Mr R Drane.

2. The minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017 were read and approved as a true record: Proposed: R Chaplin 2<sup>nd</sup> C Ralph.

3. Matters Arising:

R Greengrass – Item 8 should read £1968.00

Permit refunds – most clubs have received the £25 permit rebate per event from 2016.

4. Correspondence:

Ms Berwick reported that:

Mr P Ranson will be replaced by Mr Waters as a delegate for the Diss Club.

An upgrade to the online entry system is now in place simplifying rider's refunds.

Event Secretaries guidelines – Ms Berwick had obtained a copy from Mrs Goggins and noted that this is dated 2011. Mrs Goggins has agreed to upgrade this booklet for 2018.

A document had been received from Gary Thompson outlining the introduction of ACU Ltd Mutual Aid Fund.

Ms Berwick read out the aims and objectives of the fund. Mr P Armes commented that it is basically the same as the proposed ACU Eastern Facilities Fund.

Mrs V Hearn commented that she thought it would be beneficial if the ACU bought such items as stakes, posts, markers and tape in bulk and allowed clubs to purchase such items. This would mean that monies would be used up rather than chargeable loans which could increase the fund. Mrs Hearn will suggest this at the next NMC Meeting.

Mr T Smith asked if the Secretary had taken the query on riding number 411 to the competitions committee. Ms Berwick responded that this is an item for the next MX Sub Committee and that the recommendations made would then be put before the competitions committee.

5. Financial Report:

In the absence of Mr Hay, Ms Berwick had circulated the written report provided.

There were no comments on the figures provided.

Mr Hay had recommended that the Board notes the current level of income and expenditure for 2017 and that the Board considers how it wishes to distribute the £300 provided in the donations budget. Mr Hay recommended that the Benevolent Fund is the recipient.

Following a show of hands, this was agreed by all present.

6. Land Fund Review:

Mr Armes had provided two documents for discussion at the last Board, and had asked delegates to discuss these within their Clubs.

Mr Kenny reminded the Board that the Land Fund was originally set up by Mr D Slaughter in the 1980s. Mr Kenny stated that clearly things have changed and it is now not realistic to buy land and that the Sports Council is no longer there to offer assistance and in his opinion, it would be better to use the money to help ourselves from our own resources.

Mr Armes then sought a response to the question:

Do we leave the Land Fund as it is or do we change it to The Facilities Fund?

Mr Greengrass commented that he was concerned that levies would be taken – Mr Armes responded that the payment of levies had been suspended in 2009.

A vote was taken and with only 2 votes against, it was agreed that the Land Fund would become The Facilities Fund.

C Ralph – commented that another option would be to return the money in the fund to the clubs although this would be very difficult as some clubs who had contributed were now defunct.

Ms Berwick reported that Mr E Hood had contacted her to say that The Ipswich Triangle Club were in favour of the change, but were concerned that the administration committee should be fairly equal in members across the 4 disciplines.

Mr A Foskew reported that the Marshals Club had shown concern that should a member of the administration have a conflict of interest, that he/she should be replaced by another person for such discussions.

Comment was also made that the original Land Fund had been set up by a solicitor. Ms Berwick asked where the original documents were kept – Mr Kenny will try to find them. It transpired that although a solicitor's advice had been sought, no legal signing of the document had been made in the presence of a solicitor. It was muted that it would be a good idea for someone with legal knowledge to check any new documentation.

Mrs Mellish felt that it would be beneficial to start the Fund in a small way and let it progress.

The result of these deliberations was as follows:

The administration of the fund 'The ACUE Eastern Facilities Fund' shall consist of the following members;

ACUE Chairman

ACUE Treasurer

ACUE Competitions Committee Chairman

Three Members elected by the Board for a term of 3 years: no one discipline to have more than 2 members. A stand in person to be sought in the event of a conflict of interest/vested interest.

\*That the ACUE Facilities Fund Committee would be required to meet or hold a virtual meeting within 14 days of a request from an affiliated club.

That ACUE Facilities Fund would have authorisation to agree a grant/loan of up to 5% of the capital held within the fund with any request for a loan/grant over and above that requiring Board approval.

\*Mr Armes proposed the above and this was 2<sup>nd</sup> by P Nash and agreed by all present.

Use of capital –

1: Facilities at venues – the provision of loans/grants to enable clubs to improve their facilities and equipment offering clubs a practical solution to improving their venues and safeguards the value of the fund.

2. First aid equipment: All speed events have a requirement under the rules of the ACU to have a minimum first aid presence. However, trials events run under less stringent guidelines and the purchase of first aid equipment/defibrillators may be an option to consider. There would be ongoing maintenance costs and clubs would have a responsibility to ensure that the equipment is available at events.

3 The option of building a new sports facility to be included with a view to the future.

The Facilities Fund to be reviewed on a yearly basis.

Mr P Armes to rework the proposal for submission to the November Board – proposed by P Armes 2<sup>nd</sup> A Kenny and agreed by all present.

7. Competitions Committee Report:

Mr P Armes sought comments on the minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> competitions committee meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

Land Fund – the proposals had been discussed by the competitions committee who had been in favour of the proposed changes.

STOP List – ACU system has improved. Mrs D Blyth pointed out that it does not stop the rider entering but it does flag up that he/she is on the Stop List.

Stewards reports – Mrs Blyth would like stewards to attend a seminar as has been mentioned in the minutes particularly in respect of the filling in of forms. Mr Armes confirmed that a seminar will be arranged. Mr J Blyth commented that just stating ‘a good event’ is not sufficient as a comment.

A Foskew confirmed that the ACU Eastern Grasstrack Championship is being run by GW Racing at Gosbeck on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September.

Mr Armes sought adoption of the minutes – proposed by Mrs D Blyth 2<sup>nd</sup> P Nash.

3<sup>rd</sup> competitions Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at Brome Swan:

Item 9 – re accident involving Dean Smith. Mr Blyth reported that Mr Smith senior had contacted Rugby and that Chris Warren had carried out a track inspection at Mildenhall. He had confirmed that the track conformed with the current track certificate. Mr Blyth will follow up on this with MX Committee at Rugby and report back.

Mr Armes sought adoption of the minutes – proposed K Weavers 2<sup>nd</sup> C Ralph.

8. National Management Council Report:

Mrs V Hearn reported that a Trials Working Group was being set up. Ms Berwick had circulated the relevant paperwork to the Trials Committee. Mr Nash advised the meeting that ACU Eastern would be nominating a member – he was reminded that nominations need to be sent in by 31<sup>st</sup> August.

VNUK – this is still ongoing. Mr Robinson is dealing with this and Mrs Hearn advised the meeting that things could change post Brexit. She will update as and when further information is available

New rules to allow removal of a person from a Sports Committee have been put in place where a person can be put on suspension.

9. Nomination of NMC Delegate. Mrs Hearn was the only nominee and a show of hands confirmed her appointment. Mrs Hearn accepted and stated that ACU Eastern is one of the strongest centres in the Country Mr Kenny asked the Board to acknowledge all the hard work Mrs Hearn has put in as NMC delegate.

Mrs Mellish advised that at the last meeting, the president, Rev John Oliver had retired. No news yet as to his successor.

Board of Directors and Sporting Committees.

The Board agreed to support the nomination of Mr J Blyth for the MX Committee and Mr S Brace for the Track Racing Committee.

The Board discussion the nominations for the various committees and agreed that the Centre Secretary would circulate the nominees when received. Unfortunately, the elections are due to take place a day before the next ACUE Board.

10. Access Environment and Rights of Way:

Mr Wass was not present. No report on Environment.

Access and Rights of Way: Mr Drane had telephoned Ms Berwick and advised that the closures in place as previously reported had been lifted as it had been deemed that the closures had been made illegally. The issue will be discussed at a future meeting. Mr Drane will update.

11. ACU Eastern Gazette:

Report from the Editor Mr P Armes – two clubs have recently missed the deadline and the regs. have been held over to the next edition.

Mr Armes is pleased to be receiving more reports including enduro reports from Mr Chaplin and updates on the MX Championship from Mr Ralph. Halstead have been sending in notes from Paul Payne and Mr Kenny continues his recollection section.

Report from The Treasurer and Distribution Officer Mr R Greengrass: reports that Mr D Spurgeon is now well enough to resume his role a distribution officer for the Southend Club.

Finance from 1.4.17 to 30.6.17 show a deficit of £1070.93. Income £1628.40 Expenditure £2699.33.

This includes the £500 paid to the Centre Function and £725.00 paid for the upkeep and maintenance for the website.

Current Account £22,317.46. Business Reward Account £36,720.93.

Mr Greengrass reports that Barclays Bank has now upgraded and is now machine led – payment is now via machine readers. He did have a problem with a payment in but this has been resolved. The £10,000 that he requested to be transferred in November, eventually happened in May.

12: Benevolent Fund report: Ms Berwick reported that nothing had been received from the Ben Fund Officer Mr Cross. Ms Berwick advised those present of the income to the Fund in March and April and of the payments out in May. One Eastern centre rider had been helped by the fund and another has been put in contact with Mr Cross following an accident at the recent Wednesday evening MX at Watisfield.

Concern was raised that Mr Cross is unable to attend the Board. After discussion, it was the consensus that although Mr Cross does not attend, he does the job well and is contactable via email. Mr Kenny was concerned that Mr Cross' non-presence may have an adverse effect of raising income. Ms Berwick responded that periodically, Mr Cross does ask her to highlight the fund and this has been done.

13. Any Other Business

Ms Berwick reported that she had a telephone call from Terry Gold of the South Midlands Centre who had noticed a Sudbury Enduro running in Hertfordshire. He was concerned that the South Midland Centre had not been contacted by ACU Eastern. Ms Berwick asked Mr Gold to contact Mr Armes to discuss a reciprocal agreement when dates are set.

Mr Kenny advised those present that Mr Ken Davis, a previous centre Secretary was quite unwell and suffering from dementia.

P Nash – sought the Boards approval to support his daughter's application to become a trainer – agreed by all present and paperwork signed by ACU Eastern Secretary.

Mr J Hearn advised the Board that the Braintree Club had two Ossett electric bikes stolen which has stopped them operating their training school. Mr P Nash has offered to lend them replacement machines.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.05pm.

Date and time of the next meeting:

**Sunday November 12th 2017 AT STANWAY VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 1PM**