

ACU EASTERN

(AFILIATED TO THE Auto Cycle Union)

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the Board 2018 held Sunday 21st January 2018 at Stanway Village Hall in the presence of

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

C Ralph	Woodbridge	P Tomlin	TOMCC
A R Chaplin	Sudbury/VP	K Doherty	ECMC
J Read	Woodbridge	Y Smith	ESSA
A Brace	Chelmsford/VP	A Wright	Halstead
V Hearn	Stowmarket	A Waters	Diss
R Drane	Braintree	A Kenny	Harwich
G Bannister	Southend	K Weavers	Halstead
P Armes	Watton	R Bannister	Southend/ Hon Life Member
C Sutton	Norwich New Stars	M Mellish	TOMCC/ VP
		C Cook	Braintree

- Mr Hearn opened the meeting and welcomed all present. A minute's silence was observed in memory of Ken Davis, a former Centre Secretary and Gazette Editor. Mr Davis also acted as a Marshal until he was 80 years old and was a true servant of the Centre. The details of the funeral service were made known.

Apologies were accepted from: Mr A Adams; Mr R Greengrass; E Wass; G Garrod; D Slaughter; Mrs M Armes; Mrs D Blyth; Mr J Blyth; Mr M Cross; Mr E Wass

- The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th November 2017 were proposed for approval by R Chaplin 2nd
K Weavers.

- Matters Arising:

Item 16: P Armes has changed the initials to ACU-EC and all relevant paperwork has been updated.

Item 10: Update – Insurance costs to remain the same for 2018. Public Liability amount has been increased to 40 Million Pounds.

- Treasurers report: Item 5 became item 4 as Mr Hay had to leave early. Mr Hay had produced spreadsheets detailing figures for 2017. Some debtors and creditors are still to be finalised. The provisional accounts indicate that the Centre has returned an estimated surplus of income over expenditure amounting to £2,485. This has been achieved despite income falling short of the estimate by about £275.

The surplus has been achieved by savings and underspending from the expenditure budget. The expenditure was approximately £2,760 below the original budget estimate. There has been an ongoing trend of underspending on travel expenses, administration and telephone charges due largely to so much more

online information and distribution of official paperwork, a reduction in the number of meetings and numbers attending those meetings. The Centre Function also returned a surplus of £353 thanks to the contribution from the Eastern Centre Gazette of £500; the budget set aside for noise meters and conference expenses was not required.

The major underspend again was due to there being no Inter Centre team events in 2017 and despite combining the funds with potential promotional events this budget was not used to its full extent.

Mr Hay also produced a draft budget for 2018 which incorporated the ongoing savings. Mr Hay commented that it seems unlikely that Inter Centre Team events will go forward in the future and has taken that into account when setting the budgets.

Mr Hay also recommends reducing the levy from £1.00 to 75p per competitor and to keep the exemption for events with under 30 competitors.

The Moto cross Account runs from 1st November to 31st October therefore there has been no change since the last Board. The timing clock has arrived in the country and is being modified for 12-volt battery use. This has not yet been invoiced or paid for.

The income received so far from the numbers scheme is £1,420.

Mr Hay made the following recommendations:

The Board notes the provisional accounts for the financial year 2017, which are subject to final reconciliation.

That the Board extends the exemption of levies for low entry events which attract less than 30 entries for a further 12 months.

That the Board approves a reduction of the Centre Levy from £1.00 to 75 pence per competitor, applicable from 1 March 2018.

The Board adopts the attached draft budget for 2018.

Mr Chaplin commented that the Gazette has made a loss in 2017. This item will be discussed in Item 8. Mr A Kenny proposed that the Board accepts Mr Hays recommendations, 2nd Alan Foskew and a vote to accept these was unanimous.

5. Correspondence:

Mrs C Sutton raised the issue of first aid – she had recently attended a seminar at Rugby. Mr Armes will discuss this in Item 6.

Newmarket MCC has appointed a new secretary. Mrs Anne Winters. Her contact details have been placed on ACU Eastern website and are in the 2018 Handbook.

Ms Berwick reminded those present of the MX Seminar on 27th January at Gt Blakenham Parish Room the Marshals Seminar on 28th January at Hasketon and the Enduro Seminar at Gt Blakenham on 3rd February.

2018 Paperwork should have been received by all clubs – it appears some did not receive it. Ms Berwick will circulate.

Body Armour – Ms Berwick reminded those present of the new rule for moto cross which states body armour (front and back) must be worn and checked at scrutineering and on admittance to the start line.

Mrs Sutton advised those present that at the Grass Track seminar, it was also agreed that checks must be made to ensure that helmets were the correct fit and size.

6. Competitions Committee:

Mr Armes presented the minutes of the 5th Competitions committee held on 20th September. Mr Armes enquired if anyone had an update on the Foxborough Land – Mr Chaplin replied that it had been sold and that the last event had run under the new ownership. Mr Hockey is liaising with the new land owners.

Item 11 – Mr Kenny asked for confirmation of what was reported in the minutes from LARA was correct. Mr Ralph responded that he had a detailed response from LARA which was as reported. Mr Armes confirmed that there had been a problem at Lyng when a tunnel had been built and a villager had reported this causing the tunnel to be removed. It is apparent that these rules are in place but it is down to each individual local authority as to how they are applied.

Ms Berwick also advised those present that the rules on temporary buildings and 'movable buildings' had also been changed. Again, this may vary from local authority to local authority.

Mrs Sutton had seen note of First Aid in the Facilities Fund Document. Mr Armes responded that this was primarily for Trials where it was not usual to employ medical staff. Mr Armes had contacted John Collins and the ACU are organising courses, the first of which is already fully booked. Mr Armes has asked to be advised when another date is found. Mrs Sutton reported that she had a trainer for their club and the cost was £100. Mr Armes sought opinions on whether it would benefit all disciplines if ACU Eastern ran a seminar paid for by the Centre. It was agreed by all present to look into this further. Mrs Sutton will liaise with Mr Armes and give details of the trainer she has details for.

Mr Kenny asked if the ACU First Aid Training would become mandatory – this is not known at present. Mr Cook raised the question of liability? This will also need to be clarified.

Mr Armes sought approval to adopt the minutes: Proposed by Mr A Brace 2nd J Read.

7. Access and Rights of Way:

Mr Wass was not present therefore there was no report on access and environmental issues.

Rights of Way: Prior to Mr Drane giving his report, Mr Chaplin mentioned that he had read an article in the local press which stated that there are no TRO's anywhere in Essex for motorcycles. Mr Drane was given thanks and a well-deserved round of applause.

Mr Drane reports that as from December 2017, no TRO's for motorcycles remain in Essex. Mr Drane has been assured that the restructuring by an outside organisation has been successful. A new communication group is being set up not just with the ACU but with other user groups to repair byeways. One byeway remains closed until the end of March for repairs after damage caused by the landowner and Forestry Commission. Mr Drane stated that he had more or less made himself redundant but he will stay on in this role for the foreseeable future and update the Board as and when required.

8. Report of the Gazette editor:

Mr Armes reports that all seems to be going well. He has updated the paperwork pack with a slightly modified 2018 Gazette Application form. 2017 form will still be accepted.

Mrs Sutton commented that she had been unable to download forms from the website- Mr Armes will speak to Mr Sewter to see if this can be rectified.

Report from the Gazette Treasurer:

Mr R Greengrass was absent. Ms Berwick reported on his behalf that for the period of 30th September to December 31st 2017, a deficit of £818.83 was declared. Closing balance of £21,722.99 in the Barclays Current account and £36,766.98 in the Reward Account. For the 12 months period ended a deficit of £1774.01 was declared. Mr Greengrass had emailed the following: "It is probably noted that the Gazette had a loss over the year which is the first time ever. This is due to a loss of advertising and sales revenue compared with 2016 and the additional £500 supporting the ACU Eastern Function. In May this year the Gazette will be invoiced for 'Upkeep and Maintenance' of the website at £725. I have said before and I say again that I don't think the Gazette should meet this as the website is for the benefit of ACU Eastern and certainly not to the benefit of the Gazette and has resulted in the loss of sales and possibly, indirectly loss of advertising revenue, though I recognise the Gazette is published online. To be realistic though, the Gazette's resources (£55,000) are ACU Eastern's and if the losses continue, they will last 20 years or thereabouts."

Mr Armes commented that he did not think that the figures quite reflected the situation as there were more cheques to clear. As for website upkeep, Mr Armes felt that it is correctly supported by the Gazette finances and should continue to be so. Ms Berwick asked if anyone could remember when the cost of Gazettes was last increased and that maybe that is an option. Mrs Hearn voiced concerns that she felt that riders who downloaded the entry forms rather than purchase a Gazette were better off and in a way got 'a freebie' and that purchasers were subsidising the others. P Armes suggested that things are monitored and review this in six months. Ms Berwick felt that Mr Greengrass should be privy to any discussions. Mr Kenny proposed that this should be discussed when Mr Greengrass is present – agreed by all.

9. To receive a report from the Benevolent Fund Officer. In the absence of Mr Cross, Ms Berwick advised the Board of the incoming and outgoings to the Fund in September and October. One of the donations had been raised by the auction of TT Timekeepers Stopwatch – 1st 100mph Lap in 1957. This raised £5,600

Mr Cross had communicated that he had since sent donations in for £20 from J Hearn Stewards Expenses, EC Numbers Scheme £1135 and £300 donation from the Board. A donation of £75 after Christmas from Norfolk and Suffolk MCC had also been received.

Mr Kenny voiced concern that not all Centres contribute to this fund. Mrs V Hearn as NMC delegate was asked if she could ascertain how many Centres actually contribute. Mrs Mellish stated that over the years various schemes had been suggested to increase Centres' involvement but that none had proved successful. Ms Berwick will backtrack on the last 12 months and provide information of which Centres had donated to the April Board.

Mr Kenny commented that it may be sensible to look at 'looking after our own'.

Mrs Mellish has a few latest ACU Badges at a cost of £3 each.

Mrs Smith wondered if riders were aware of the Benevolent Fund and it was obvious from comments that a lot did not. A discussion took place as to whether the name needs modernising.

10. Centre Function Update: Ms Berwick reported that out of 40 winners, 27 had accepted invitations and that to date 69 tickets had been issued. For the first time all trophies have been located. Mrs Smith has some old trophies – agreed to ask if Rugby would take them for the trophy cabinet.

11. Any Other Business: Mark Kemp who travelled the world raising funds for the Teenage Cancer trust is appearing at the Cedars Hotel Stowmarket hosted by the Norfolk and Suffolk Group, to give a talk on his journey. Tickets available from Mr and Mrs Hearn. £10 each including supper.

Claire Sutton on behalf of Norwich New Stars explained to the Board that the club have had financial problems since taking over from the previous committee. There had been no funds handed over and at present the club has just short of £400. They now have to engage a paramedic due to ACU rules and this has increased the cost to £999. To cover this from entries alone, it would mean an entry fee of £50 which is not viable. The club have worked hard to gain interest and have managed to obtain a donation from the ACU and a local benefactor to enable them to run their first meeting. They do inhouse catering, a raffle, and parents provide the trophies so there is not any more they can do without help. The Norwich New stars also run training days (for all disciplines, not just Grass Track) and this brings in a small income. Mrs Sutton is seeking help from the Centre to help the club grow and to purchase various items necessary for them to continue. Mrs Sutton was advised to provide a request to the Centre Secretary detailing all the requirements which will be passed on to the Facilities Fund Committee to consider. Mr Kenny would like to see this placed on the next agenda for an update. Mr Armes stated that he had visited the facility and it is excellent. He pointed out that The Facilities Fund could meet and come to a decision within 14 days.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.50am.

**The next meeting will be Wednesday 18th April at Gt Blakenham Parish
Rooms commencing at 7.45pm**