

**ACU Eastern MX Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday**  
**16<sup>th</sup> December 2020 online via Microsoft Teams**

Present: C Ralph: A Hay: D Secker: P Hubbard: P Grantham: M Beadle: K Weavers: L Ralph: P Aldridge:  
J Blyth

Apologies received from: A Smith (Braintree)

1. C Ralph opened the meeting welcoming all present.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were proposed for approval by P Grantham 2<sup>nd</sup> K Weavers.
3. Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.
4. Dates for 2021 season:  
Dates have been forwarded to P Armes for inclusion in the 2021/2 calendar. CR commented that these could still be subject to change depending on the situation with Covid 19 and that there are still 2 clashes between RHL and MX Nationals to be resolved. AH stated that he thought that RHL would stick to their chosen dates. PH will confirm the NGR dates to P Armes.
5. 2021 Championship conditions:  
CR had previously circulated his thoughts on possible changes to the ACU Eastern 2021 Championship conditions so that committee members have had time to read and consider. CR asked those present to confirm that they were all in agreement that it was important to attain full line ups in these times where some clubs were struggling financially. All agreed.  
CR asked those present for their comments and feelings on how to proceed as he felt that expert entries may be down this year.  
JB – felt that provisions are already in place to top up the expert entry with junior riders.  
CR agreed that everyone would prefer to see a full line up of experts riding in their own class and that his circulated proposal had been that the experts should practice independently to prevent them for encountering new or slow riders when trying to set a fast lap time.  
CR determined that in reality there were two options:  
Fastest 40 riders from timed practice, irrespective of status, to contest the championship races  
Or  
All experts in, topped up to a full entry of 40.  
CR then asked all present for their comments and preference:  
KW – fastest 40  
MB Fastest 40  
AH – Fastest 40 (would like committee to consider leaving the entry for experts open for a bit longer so as many as possible can get into meetings.  
PA – Fastest 40 (for financial reasons) but expressed concern that it might impact on Juniors who would not get the chance to race their own championship and the kudos of winning races.  
PH – would like it to stay the same as this year but to add in up to 20 junior riders.  
PG – Fastest 40.  
JB – Experts topped up with Juniors as now.  
DS – Fastest 40.  
CR – Fastest 40

Following this discussion, it was agreed that for 2021, the format would be changed to the Fastest 40 from timed practice, irrespective of status and this would be for a one-year trial. LR and CR will amend the Championship Conditions in readiness for publishing in the ACU Eastern Centre Handbook and that committee members will be sent a draft for comments before they are finalised.

Race durations were discussed with the following outcome:

Championship Races 18 minutes + 1 lap  
Group A supports 15 minutes + 1 lap  
B, C, (D) 12 minutes + 1 lap.

6. Sponsorship Update.

Instanda and Anthony Skerry have both confirmed that they will support the Centre Championship in 2021, but have not yet confirmed the amount they can provide.

Prize Money – CR had circulated his thoughts to the committee with a recommendation that this should be reduced. The reason being in the main that it looked certain that Paul Bickers would not be in a position to provide his sponsorship next year which in effect halved the money available.

JB said that he thought that the prize money should not be cut but all others present agreed that Clubs would find it hard to keep it as it was and voted to cut it down, therefore prize money will reduce.

7. 2021 Committee:

CR advised the committee that he will organise a meeting to form the new committee, still with 2 delegates from each organising club, during January and that he will invite Mr J Hearn to oversee this (via MS Teams).

8. AOB:

AH – Mr Hay had sent a document to LR which had been circulated setting out the change in the way that transponder hire will be dealt with in 2021.

AH also asked those present to advise him which events they wished the ACU Eastern Timing Team to time.

JB – asked if transponders could be still be hired via the ACU online system – AH confirmed that this would be the case.

PG – will liaise with CR to try to select a date for Littleport to run an event.

CR – questioned if the refund charge for withdrawal from a meeting would remain the same – affirmed.

CR pointed out that the £3 per rider charge levied by Rugby, would only be in the event of a cancelled event and that this is to cover bank and admin charges. This has no impact on the club. The riders bear this cost.

LR apologised for the lateness of the meeting due to MS Teams issues with attendees being online in “2 Rooms”.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

Date and Time of the Next Meeting: To be advised