

# ACU EASTERN

(AFILIATED TO THE Auto Cycle Union)

## Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the Board 2021 held Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021 via Zoom.

President	Mr A Penny
Chairman	Mr P Armes
Vice Chairman	Mr A Foskew
Treasurer	Mr A Hay
Secretary	Mrs L Ralph

Mr C Ralph	Woodbridge	Mr K Doherty	ECMC
Mr A R Chaplin	Sudbury/VP	Mr R Snowden	Diss
Mr J Hearn	Stowmarket/LVP	Mr P Sewter	Norwich Vikings
Mrs V Hearn	Stowmarket	K Weavers	Halstead
Mr A Kenny	Harwich VP	Mrs J Nash	Southend
Mr R Booty	West Essex	Mr P Nash	Southend
Mr E Hood	Triangle Ipswich	Mr P Fenn	Essex and Suffolk Border
Mr C Keeble	Norfolk and Suffolk Group	Mr P Hubbard	Diss
Mr M Beadle	Halstead	Mrs K Beadle	Halstead
Mrs D Blyth	Woodbridge	Mr J Blyth	Woodbridge
Mr D Cordle	Ipswich MCC	Mr A Waters	Diss

1. Mr Armes opened the meeting and thanked all for their attendance.  
Apologies were accepted from C Dopson and Mrs Y Smith
2. **Previous Minutes** from the 4<sup>th</sup> Board of 2019 held on 10<sup>th</sup> November were accepted as a true record. Proposed: R Chaplin 2<sup>nd</sup>: A Kenny
3. **Matters Arising:**  
There were no matters arising
4. **Election of Centre Secretary:**  
There was one nominee: Mrs L Ralph – elected unopposed.
5. **Competitions Committee Election:**  
Nominees were: C Ralph: A Foskew: A Wright: M Beadle who were all elected unopposed.
6. **To accept the nomination of Mr Ray Booty as Right of way Officer:**  
Mr Armes thanked Mr Booty for stepping forward and offering his services as Rights of Way Officer for ACU Eastern. Mr Booty had worked with the previous Rights of Way Officer, Bob Drane. Mr Booty had sent in a resume to the Secretary which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Mr Booty was accepted unanimously to the post. Mr Booty had contacted the Secretary when he questioned someone who was purported to represent the Centre on the Essex Council working groups and this was not the case. This person no longer attends those meetings. Mr Booty advised those present of the amount and frequency of various meetings and will report further on in this agenda.
7. **To receive a report from Mr P Armes, Chair of the Competitions Committee:**  
This report had been circulated prior to the meeting – Appendix 4.  
Mr Armes thanked the organising clubs, sub committees and the competitions committee who had managed to produce a full calendar for 21/22 which is being updated regularly on the website. Mr Armes stated that this year particularly, clubs would need to work together as dates will be changed and that means that some clashes are unavoidable. The competitions committee had met online throughout lockdown and minutes from the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> meetings had been circulated.  
Mr Armes sought adoption of 5<sup>th</sup> minutes – proposed J Hearn 2<sup>nd</sup> A Foskew. (Appendix 5)

Mr Armes sought adoption of the 6<sup>th</sup> minutes – proposed K Weavers; 2<sup>nd</sup> J Hearn (Appendix 6)

**8. To receive a report from Centre Treasurer Mr A Hay:**

The Treasurers report had been circulated prior to the meeting (Appendix 7)

Mr Hay reported a deficit of £1147 which in the current climate was not a bad result.

Timing equipment insurance had reduced by £305 as transponders were no longer being hired out.

Mr Hay had produced a draft budget but emphasised that there are many things that may change and much will depend on the speed that events can start running. The Centre will be able to issue permits from 1<sup>st</sup> May which should create some income.

There is a budget included for room hire. Mr Armes commented that although online meetings seem to be the way forward, that does not mean that face to face meetings will cease completely.

To facilitate online meetings, Mr Hay recommended the purchase of an annual subscription to Zoom. The original cost quoted had been reduced to £106.29 as a 30% discount had been gained.

Recommendation to the Board:

That the Board notes the final accounts for 2020

That the Board approves the purchase of an annual subscription to Zoom at a cost of £106.29.

Both recommendations were accepted unanimously.

**9. To receive a Facilities Fund report from Mr P Armes:**

Mr Armes had circulated a report prior to the meeting (Appendix 4)

Because of Covid, the ACU made a large loss of approx. 1 Million pounds, and although previously they had offered to match grants that Centres had given, the current situation is that they are unable to do this for the time being and the offer was withdrawn.

The Centre's Facilities Fund is still available.

**10. To receive a report from Mrs V Hearn, National Management Council.**

Mrs Hearn had circulated her report prior to the meeting (Appendix 8.) Mrs Hearn commented that the lack of riders taking out licences had a financial impact.

The Isle of Man TT has now been cancelled as have the Manx GP and Classic Races which will have an impact on finances also.

Correspondence was received today from ACU regarding the resumption of events after 29<sup>th</sup> March.

As of today, Mrs Hearn reports, the Isle of Man 2-day Enduro Championship is still taking place – a non-spectator event.

R Chaplin stated that contact with Braintree council regarding a change of venue had been made. Mr Armes had not been informed of this change and he will be contacting the Sudbury Club on this point.

A Waters: Forestry England have agreed that events can take place on Forestry Land from September. This could impact on the British Enduro Championship. Mr Waters has put in an application for a November event.

Mr Hay commented that two points on the information received from Rugby needs discussion. This will be discussed at the upcoming Competitions Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> March.

**11. ACU Eastern Gazette:**

P Armes – Editor had circulated a report prior to the meeting (Appendix 4)

Mr Chaplin thanked Mr Armes for keeping the Gazette going during the last few months. Mr Armes stated that the future of the Gazette is due to be discussed by the Competitions Committee with a view to preparing a report to the Board.

Mr Armes also reported that the only Premier Permitted events issued by the Centre will be for Trials. The Trials Committee have made the decision that all Championship Trials events will be online only and this brings into consideration if the Gazette is still relevant. A discussion ensued on if changing the distribution to quarterly or bi-monthly may be sustainable.

C Ralph commented that Clubs would need a decent amount of notice as membership fees would be affected.

Mr Hood commented that he thinks that the Gazette is still required as some people do use it still to access regs.

Mrs Blyth stated that Woodbridge Trials secretary has intimated that he would continue to use online entries rather than going back to paper entries. Mr Cordle also agreed that online is much easier to administer events.

Gazette Finances: Mr R Greengrass had circulated reports prior to the meeting. Last quarter of 2020 had shown a surplus of £33.40.

Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 had shown a deficit of £1244.45 which in the circumstances had been reasonable. Current Account stands at £20,352.12; Reward Account balance is £37,025.68.

**12. Eastern Centre Website report; Mr P Sewter:**

A report from Mr Sewter had been circulated prior to the meeting (Appendix 9).

Thanks were extended to Mr Sewter for his efforts in keeping the website up to date as new information is received. Mr Armes stated that all relevant information, updated Risk Assessments, etc. are all accessible. The events calendar is kept updated as much as it can be. Mr Sewter is keen that the website could be utilised more and that he would be happy to be involved in projects such as live timing, videos etc to make it more attractive to younger people.

Mr Kenny stated that the Centre Website is head and shoulders above many others he has seen and Mr Ralph extended thanks to Mr Sewter for his efficiency.

**13. Access, Environment and Rights of Way Report:**

Mr Booty provided the following information:

Over the past twelve months there has been a great deal of illegal riding in the Thetford and Mildenhall areas with several police interventions. There are also three areas of concern on green lanes which are:

**Norfolk**

Fox & Hounds Lane in Themelthorpe near Reepham. Due a combination of the very wet weather and overuse the lane has been closed by a TRO. This has led to a move by residents to have to UCR (Unclassified County Road) downgraded in a move to exclude motorised users. There are also concerns that this action will be extended to other UCR's in the area.

**Suffolk**

Byways from Lackford to the B1106 and onto West Calthorpe Heath have been closed by a TRO due to inappropriate use mainly by 4x4s which has damaged the byways extensively. This closure will last until the autumn at least and possibly much longer.

**Essex**

The byways from Debden to Hamperden End have been closed for large scale repair works. This area gained some notoriety on social media with people travelling some distance to challenge their bikes or 4x4s. The issues all stem from the land owner diverting the path of the byway many years ago. They have now agreed to submit a DMMO to move the line of the byway and then create a proper surface. Once this has been completed maintenance will be passed back to Essex Highways.

**14. ACU Benevolent Fund report:**

Mrs Blyth had circulated the report prior to the meeting (Appendix 10)

Mrs Ralph commented that some riders are still not aware of the existence of the Ben Fund. The Centre has made efforts to raise the profile of the Fund. Mr Kenny intends to write an article on the history of the Fund for a future Gazette. Mr Sewter stated that there is an article on the website about the Ben Fund.

**15. Centre Function:**

Mrs Ralph will update the Board at a future meeting. Mr and Mrs Hearn are willing to continue to help in organising the event which will take place in February 2022.

**16. Any Other Business:**

Mrs Hearn – asked that Clubs discuss the possibility of riders being charged 25% if they wished to have licences for more than one discipline. This was not implemented at the last minute but she feels it will be raised again at the next NMC.

Mr Penny – The National Rally is to go ahead on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> July. There will be 10 controls in East Anglia (Unmanned)

Mr Armes – thanks all who voted for him and stated that he will work hard on the Centre's behalf. Mr Hearn will pass on the gavel!

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.27pm. Date of next meeting – to be advised