

ACU Eastern MX Committee Meeting
Wednesday
8th April 2021 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: A Smith:

1. C Ralph opened the meeting welcoming all present. There were no apologies for absence.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th December 2020 were proposed for approval by K Weavers 2nd A Foskew.
3. Matters Arising:
Sponsorship: CR had spoken to Paul Bickers and offered the flags and banners back. Mr Bickers asked that they are kept as he hopes to help with sponsorship in the future.
AH - (Item 8 in AOB Transponders) the first two events in 2021 will not be using the online system to collect payment for transponders, therefore, the timing team will be taking cash on the day. AH will speak to Paul Sewter so that he can amend the relevant wording online.
PH – Diss will also not use the online system.
4. Update on current event dates:
CR stated that all present should be aware of the date changes which have been updated on the online calendar. CR reminded all present to advise P Sewter and P Armes of any changes.
Lyng – British Championship now on 23rd May, Blaxhall switched to 30th May which clashes with MX Nationals at Fat Cat. Unfortunately, this was unavoidable.
Donna Secker confirmed her dates all OK but there is one clash with another schoolboy club, also unavoidable.
RHL is also clashing with a MX Nationals, but that is for the two organisers to sort out. CR reflects that there more date changes will be likely. There is now a British GP also fitted into the calendar. Blaxhall British Championship will now be on 8th August and Halstead Sidecar Champs swapped to 15th August. KW concerned that some sites still show the Halstead Club running on the 8th. JB assured KW that Sonia (ACU) has let all concerned know of the change.
A Smith, Braintree, will be running at Foxborough on 24th October – final round of NGR Champs.
AH – ECC championship round has been swapped to 1st August from 20th June which is NGR round.
5. 2021 Grading/Expert Rookies:
CR recommended that the grading points should be started from zero as there were no points accrued last year and those from 2019 would no longer be relevant. – all agreed.
Expert Rookies – CR recommended that the Expert Rookies from 2019 and the more recent upgraded riders should form the rookies for 2021 – no objections.
6. Non – spectator events finance:
Discussions had taken place regarding how the Clubs who would be running with no spectators could be assisted by the Centre. AH advised the committee that the Timing costs for non-spectator events could be funded from the hire of transponders and that the charge of £250 to the Clubs could be waived. This would be self-financing as long as 29 transponders were hired out. All present agreed that this should be implemented for all non-spectator covid related mx meetings.
M Beadle reported that Halstead have a full entry for 18th April with 29/30 experts entered (20 from Centre). MB will take charge of the parking to ensure the correct distance apart.
CR – entries were full for Blaxhall Practice Day and for 25th April, which is encouraging.
Club memberships also seem healthy with out of centre riders joining many of the ACU Eastern clubs.

7. Any Other Business:

CR advised those present that Phil Armes is now Centre Chairman. Mr Armes has been working on costings for contactless payments (info to be circulated) with a view to the Centre purchasing the equipment which then could be utilised by Centre clubs.

PA had also been costing the hire of toilets with a view to the Centre obtaining a discount for multiple bookings and venues for clubs to utilise if they so wished. A brief discussion took place and it was intimated that most clubs had their own contacts and were happy with those.

Mrs Secker commented that she uses the company that PA has been in discussion with, and does not find them easy to deal with.

CR advised those present that discussions had taken place at a recent competitions committee meeting regarding Stewards at events following the announcement that Rugby will no longer appoint Stewards for anything under National events.

CR stated that if Clubs still wished to appoint a Steward, they would have to bear the cost.

JB commented that he had changed his opinion following listening to Mr A Waters reasons for no longer wishing to use a Centre Steward. CR advised that Mr Armes was working on proposals regarding Stewards on a per discipline basis, which would be discussed at the next competitions committee meeting.

CR advised that the cost of a basic permit had risen by 5% to £525.00.

A brief mention was made on the financial position of the Centre, levies, kickbacks etc.

A Hay and C Dopson are working on figures which will be presented to the Board in November and discussed at the next meeting (Sustainability Meeting) in July.

D Secker reported that there is still much illegal riding and that there is an ongoing police investigation. It appears that some bikes seized had been crushed.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25pm.

Date and Time of the Next Meeting: To be advised