

# ACU Eastern MX Committee Meeting

Wednesday

15<sup>th</sup> July 2021 via Zoom

Present: C Ralph: A Hay: D Secker: P Hubbard: P Grantham: M Beadle: K Weavers: L Ralph: P Aldridge:  
A Foskew. D Mayhew.

1. C Ralph opened the meeting welcoming all present. Apologies for absence received from Aaron Smith. J Blyth had tendered his resignation, all committee members had been informed prior to the meeting by email.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021 were proposed for approval by P Hubbard 2<sup>nd</sup> K Weavers.
3. Matters Arising:  
A Foskew missed off attendees from previous meeting.  
Confirmed that Braintree would be running at Foxborough in October. It would seem that timing equipment will not be used due to there being no timing loop in place.  
Stewards – CR informed those present that there is an ongoing discussion regarding appointment of Steward – due to be discussed further at the next Competitions Committee. AH – P Sewter is due to be Time Keeper at Lyng but is currently awaiting a hospital admission date. Donna S said that Chelsea would step in if necessary. AH thanked her.  
DS – reported no further illegal riding to date.
4. Summary of Race Meetings to date:  
CR reported that the first three rounds of the Championship had run very well with no problems. At the fourth round, held on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July at Blaxhall by WDMCC, there had been a few issues. An email has been received, via D Blyth, and circulated to all members. CR will respond to the rider concerned following this evening's meeting. Obviously, no-one wants riders to be unhappy and his concerns will be addressed. The consensus was that the rider (s) should have been aware that the ECC run a 'Premier Class' (and that the Championship Conditions are freely available) of the fastest 40 and therefore should expect that they may be riding with fast riders, having qualified to do so. Mr Ralph will explain that there are no Expert/Junior Championship races. The Club had tried to accommodate the rider's concerns by allowing him to ride in a lower group when a space became available. It was an exceptional situation, not likely to be repeated this year, that some 11 national riders were competing as the next British Championship round is at Blaxhall. The outcome had been that 6 Centre experts did not make the cut but 14 junior riders did. Had the 11 National riders not been present, the usual number of Centre experts being on average 23, this would not have happened. CR recommended that for next year, dates should be fully considered to avoid the same thing happening. The system was agreed on a democratic vote and Mr Ralph commented that there are always those that will knock the system. It will be for next year's mx committee to look fully at how the championship will run and whatever system is agreed, by a democratic vote, that members of the committee should all support it. CR also reported that the South Eastern centre also ran their championship on the same day, using the same format, with a similar number of competitors. It was pointed out that there had been only one complaint but it is necessary to respond, which CR will do. He will circulate his response to all.  
KW – it is a shame that Juniors do not get the recognition that they deserve under the current system, but all agreed that Clubs could not afford to run with half full line-ups. PA agreed, saying it lacks the excitement for a rider with no junior final. CR stated that this year it is run under an Allcomers basis, a Junior Champion will be declared and points are kept separately. Overall, it has been a success but the main crux is that we have achieved full line-ups which helps clubs immensely.  
MB commented that a lot of the fast juniors compete in National meetings are used to competing with experts. CR did agree that there had been a lot of lapping but that 10 experts also got lapped and that there had been lapping in all the groups, including D group. PG stated that it was purely the National riders being present that had caused the situation. CR stated that in his opinion, the Club had not utilised enough blue flaggers, only one, but should have been more. J Blyth's resignation is regrettable

as he is an experienced organiser. All organisers have done a great job this year and it was a one off caused by those riders who are not likely to appear within the Championship again this season. Discussion took place over the way that the track changes during qualification affecting lap times, this pointed out in a mail from Aaron Smith. The format of who practices first etc, will need to be discussed by the next committee when it sets the conditions for 2022. Unfortunately, all that took place, the complaints etc have left a bad taste, but there will be no changes to the way the Championship is run this year.

5. Grading:

CR had circulated the gradings as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

Bayliss Utting and Callum Murfitt have been upgraded to expert status but both wish to finish the season competing for the Junior Championship.

Yan Gardiner also has the necessary points and has been contacted re his upgrade. He also will complete the Championship as a Junior as he is currently leading the championship by 7 points. CR will advise Rugby.

B Parry is on 10 points – keen to gain more. A Stephenson has 9 (over 2 meetings) and there are a few others to keep an eye on. Liam Bennett, only 15 years old, has 14 points. Tommy Clarke has 11. CR will keep the committee updated.

6. Sponsorship for 2022:

CR is hopeful that Tim Hardcastle will continue his support and also Anthony Skerry. There has been an enquiry from PPS (Paul Shorter) via P Armes, who sells accident insurance and sponsors the Women's British Championship. CR will speak with him again. A figure of £1500 was touched upon.

DS said the NSMJCC had turned him down. AH and DM confirmed PPS have always paid any sponsorship etc promptly. that CR would also like to try to involve Lings and possibly GH Motorcycles. MB has a contact who he will approach as this person has expressed an interest in the past.

7. 2022 Riders Entry Fees:

AH informed the committee that fees in 2010 were £45 and rose to £50 in 2015. Discussion took place with PH suggesting a rise to £60 bearing in mind the increase in costs like First Aid cover. AH stated that leases for land is very costly. CR advised that he is aware that there will be opposition but it will be for the new committee to decide democratically. The committee would only decide the fee for championship rounds and that clubs would be free to decide the entry fee for non-championship events. AH also suggested that Marshal's payments should be discussed. CR responded that whatever figure is decided, all clubs should sign up to pay the same amount.

8. Any Other Business:

Forum Date: Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm via Zoom.

To be advertised in the Gazette, website, Race Programmes, FB etc.

CR announced that he and Lyn will be stepping down sat the end of the season from all aspects, commentating, lapscoreing, secretarial duties etc.

AH announced that he and Val will do one more year Timing, and then they will also step down

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

Date and Time of the Next Meeting: To be advised