

Notes from ACU Eastern Trials Forum Call December 2021

The 2021 Trials Forum on December 9th via Teams was attended by 13 riders or organisers representing 8 clubs, the full minutes will be posted on the ACU Eastern website, here are some points of note.

1. For 2022 the format of all centre trials championships will remain the same as 2021, except for youth riders, see point 3 below.
2. There appears to be very few Expert A riders competing in championship trials, the average over the four 2021 rounds was less than 3 riders per event. It was agreed that unless Expert A entries in A Class championship rounds increase in 2022, for 2023 it is proposed that only one Expert class will be included in A class championship rounds, the section severity to be between the current yellow and red/blue routes. Clerks of courses are reminded that a yellow route is not required on all sections if the number of entries and/or the available land does not justify it.
3. For many years the centre has attempted to run a Youth A championship and a Youth B championship, but due to a lack of youth riders and inconsistency in the routes ridden by the age groups it has not always been possible to present the trophies. After discussion it was agreed for 2022 the championships would change to be known as Youth-Expert and Youth-Novice. Both are to be incorporated in ACU-EC A Class trials with Youth-Experts riding the red/blue route and Youth-Novices riding the white route. Both classes will be open to all Youth riders, but results should show the youth age group of each rider, e.g., YA, YB etc
4. It is not possible to present the 2021 Club championship due to missing information of which clubs riders were competing for. For championship rounds secretaries of meetings to be reminded to ensure results show club names and riders to ensure that when using the on-line entry system that their ACU-EC club name is used.
5. To assist with collating championship positions it is critical championship classes are clearly identified and therefore for A and B class championship rounds. at least, all championship classes to be detailed in regulations and individual classes and routes to be shown on on-line entry system.
6. Some riders have self-promoted themselves to ride in A Class rounds when entries were limited, after discussion it was agreed that at least for ACU-EC championship rounds these riders should remain in the higher level.
7. The 2021 Intermediate champion Fraser Arden is promoted to Expert from 1/1/22.
8. At the recent centre board meeting there was request for any reports of trials for the gazette and/or the website, it was said that all contributions would be appreciated and the forum would like to encourage anybody to think about contributing.
9. For the 2022 Trials Forum it would be preferred if a face-to-face forum could be arranged if rules and circumstances allowed. The secretary pointed out that this year's Forum was delayed due to lack of responses from committee members.
10. The session, arranged by Lyn Ralph on 18th December, for licences to be renewed for Trials Clerks of Course and Stewards, has unfortunately had to be cancelled. Another date will be announced in due course and the consequences of any licences that will be needed before the rearrangement will be clarified.
11. Mr D Cordle announced he was resigning as Centre Recorder after 35 years in the role, the meeting gave him a vote of thanks for all his efforts. Mr R Snowden volunteered to take on the role and was accepted unanimously.
12. For 2022 the trials committee will be Paul Nash (Chairman), Clive Dopson (Secretary), Alan Foskew (Stewards Coordinator), Richard Snowden (Recorder), Kevin Hood, Paul Fenn, Eddie Hood, Matthew Neale, Nick Ogden, James Newstead, Andrew Barrell and David Cordle.

Clive Dopson