

A C U Eastern  
(Affiliated to the Auto Cycle Union)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at Gt Blakenham Parish Rooms

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

C Ralph	Woodbridge	P Fenn	Essex & Suffolk
A R Chaplin	Sudbury/VP	K Doherty	ECMC
Mrs K Beadle	Halstead	M Beadle	Halstead
A Wright	Halstead	A Kenny	Harwich
R Hearn	Stowmarket	K Weavers	Halstead
Mrs V Hearn	Stowmarket	Mrs D Blyth	Woodbridge
P Sewter	Norwich Vikings	J Read	Woodbridge
C Keeble	Norfolk and Suffolk Group	C Dopson	Wymondham
G Muff	Norwich Vikings	G Brace	
C Cook	Braintree	E Hood	Triangle

1. Mr Armes opened the meeting and welcomed all present. A minute's silence was observed. Mr Hearn, the previous Chair handed Mr Armes the Centre Gavel. Apologies were accepted from: Mr R Greengrass: Mr A Brace: Mr R Booty: Mr P Nash: Mrs J Nash
2. The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held via Zoom on 11<sup>th</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021, were confirmed as a true record. Proposed R Chaplin 2<sup>nd</sup> K Weavers
3. **Matters Arising** – there were no matters arising.
4. **Chairman's Report and Secretary's Report.**

Chairman's report:

Mr Armes reported that it certainly had been a different year but even in strange circumstances, Centre Clubs had managed to host 80 competitive events over all four disciplines and were to be congratulated. Mr Armes asked the delegates to feed his comments back to their workforces who had to work extra hard with the work involved with Covid regulations, extra Risk Assessments etc. Two clubs, Norwich Vikings and Woodbridge had hosted really successful British Championship events and had led the implementation of on-line ticketing and advanced sales leading the way in the UK. This had proved beneficial to clubs financially. All centre Championship had been completed and all prize winners will be invited to receive their trophies at The Centre Awards presentation in February.

The first Sustainability Meeting had been held in September and had been a thought provoking and productive meeting and did indicate that the centre was on the threshold of change and we need to embrace the opportunities offered by the digital world and that we need to ensure that all our procedures, practices and resources are correctly recorded, maintained and held centrally so that should something happen to the person responsible for a particular admin duty or similar to step down, then we can access the relevant information and provide guidance to someone who is prepared to take the job. At the moment, it is word of mouth. One point that was clear was terms of reference / job descriptions for incoming Chairpersons and Secretaries, both Centre and Discipline Committees, were lacking and that needs to be addressed.

As we head into our Centenary Year (2022) Mr Armes was confident that as a Centre, we have the knowledge, tools and depth of experience across all the facets of motorcycle sport and business to maintain our Centre as one of the best run and most progressive in the country. Thanks were expressed to Lyn Ralph for her assistance.

## Secretary's report:

Mrs Ralph reported that this year has taught us that we can work differently and that now we are in a 'new normal'. We are still not back to where we would like to be. Zoom meetings have been established and have worked well, although there are still times when face to face meetings is preferable.

There have been some very well-run events held in the Centre and Mrs Ralph thanked the strong band of volunteers who help all clubs, without their dedication, events just would not run.

Mrs Ralph reported that she began the job of centre Secretary in 2010 and then gave notice that if elected, 2022 would be her final year and hoped that someone would come forward to fill the post.

Mrs Ralph expressed her thanks to Mr P Armes who has taken so much on in 2021 and she hopes that he will take the Centre forward in his own inimitable way. Thanks, were also expressed to the discipline committees for all their hard work in the background and to Mr Hay for his invaluable expertise as Centre Treasurer and to Mr and Mrs Hay for their work as the Timing Team. Working with them over the years had been a pleasure.

Mrs Ralph reminded delegates that is of their club personnel changes, she needs that information to pass onto Rugby for the ACU Handbook. On a personal note, Mrs Ralph thanked the clubs for their gift of vouchers as she and Charlie stepped down from their roles as lap scorer and commentator. A special thanks was extended to Paul Sewter for the artwork on the card which also graces the front page of the current gazette.

Mrs Ralph looks forward to 2022 and hopes that the season goes forward with the same energy and enthusiasm to keep ACU Eastern strong and well supported.

### 5. Centre Treasurer's Report

Mr A Hay had circulated his report prior to the meetings and ran through the salient points for the members present and invited questions from the floor. There were none.

Mr Hay reported that over the last six years, £21,000 had been raised via the reserved mx numbers scheme, shared between East Anglian Air Ambulance, Essex and Herts Air Ambulance and the ACU Riders Benevolent Fund. From the inception of the scheme, over £30,000 has been raised. Mr Hay acknowledged Mr Andy Crawford who had instigated the scheme before it became part of the Centre's remit. Mr Armes stated that as a Centre, we should be very proud of this scheme. Thank you letters for the latest donations have been received.

Recommendation: To approve the audited accounts for 2020. Unanimously accepted.

Mr Hay was thanked for his diligence.

### 6. Centre Officers Election.

The following nominations had been received by the closing date.

Officers	Nominations
President	Mr A Penny
Vice President (Max 12 inc. Life VP's**)	Mr A Foskew: Mr G Brace: Mr R Chaplin: Mr A Kenny: Mr J Read: Mrs V Hearn:
Chairman	Mr P Armes
Vice Chair	Mr A Foskew
Hon. Treasurer	Mr A Hay

\*\*Life Vice President A Brace: Mr R G Hearn

Honorary Life Vice President R Bannister \*\*

As there were no posts that had more than one nominee, Mr Armes suggested all to be voted in en-bloc.

Proposed E Hood: 2nd R G Hearn – unanimous.

Comment was made that there was only one Vice Chair where there is space for two. Mrs Ralph confirmed that there had been only one applicant.

### 7. Any Other Business: There was none.

The meeting closed at 1.23pm