

EASTERN CENTRE OF THE AUTO-CYCLE UNION

MINUTES for the Annual Trials Forum of the **EASTERN CENTRE 2021**, held via **Teams on Thursday 9th December 2021**, commencing at **7.30pm**

Present

R Snowden	Diss	C Dopson	Wymondham	P Fenn	E & S Bdr
M Neale	Wymondham	E Hood	Triangle	P Nash	Southend
J Nash	Southend	R Norman	Castle	A Barrell	Ipswich
N Ogden	Chelmsford	D Cordle	Ipswich		

1. Mr Nash opened the meeting. Apologies from J Newstead, K Hood, A Foskew
2. **Previous Minutes:** Mr Dopson asked for comments on the minutes of the November 2019 Trials Forum and they were accepted as a true record of the meeting.
3. **Matters Arising:** After general discussion
 - a. It was reported that the issue that Trials had raised of the inconsistency across disciplines of the contribution per rider to the cost of running the centre had been resolved. At the November board meeting a charge per rider for each discipline was agreed for 2022.
 - b. Also, at the November board meeting Trials had asked why trials clerk of the course licence seminars could not be completed virtually by zoom/Teams as is believed is done for other disciplines, the official answer is that the Trials and Enduro committee only want to do this face to face. The logic is not understood why this should apply to probably the lowest risk discipline. It was agreed the chairman and secretary should raise this issue with Neil Doctor explaining that this risks loss of licenced officials and therefore potentially events.
4. **Report from 2021 Trials Committee:**
 - a. It was reported that this had worked well, there had been 2 calls during the year, minutes and notes issued in the normal way.
5. **2021 Trials Review:** The main observations were
 - a. 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, see note 6a. below for options for future years.
 - b. 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.
 - c. 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.
 - d. It is not possible to present the Youth championship trophies due to lack of entries, see section 6b for plan for 2022.
 - e. 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.
 - f. The 2021 Intermediate champion Fraser Arden is promoted to Expert from 1/1/22.
6. **2022 Trials Championship:** there was a lengthy discussion including the points raised in 5 above, with following conclusions, unless mentioned all other points remain as 2021.
 - a. Experts, 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.

- b. Youths, 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.

7. **2022 – 2022 Trials Calendar:** The dates for next year were discussed, clashes were sorted and championship rounds proposed. Mr Dopson would issue the dates on 13th December to trials organisers, committee members and Mr P Armes.
8. **Youth riders:** As it appears N&S Junior MCC will not be organising any more trials in the near future the committee agreed to reach out to the club and provide information to any trials members and parents about other events that might be suitable in the centre, which routes to ride etc.
- 9 **ACU Eastern Dates Meeting:** Mr Dopson explained that this was planned for 17th November to deal with any inter-disciplinary date clashes, but due to issues with the International MX dates this had been postponed
- 10 **Trials reports,** 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.
- 11 **Trials Seminars:** session arranged for 18th December, details on the website and in the gazette.
- 12 **2021 Observers Award:** There have been only one nomination this year, the award will be presented to Michael Snailham who all agreed deserved this recognition. The award to be presented at the annual awards presentation or a local trial if more appropriate.
- 13 **Trials Committee:** 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, he will remain on the committee. Mr R Snowden volunteered to take on the role and was accepted unanimously. The committee will now be, Mr P Nash – Chairman, Mr C Dopson – Secretary, Mr R Snowden – Recorder, Mr A Foskew– Stewards Co-ordinator. Members: Mr E Hood, Mr N Ogden, Mr K Hood, Mr P Fenn, Mr A Barrell, Mr D Cordle, Mr J Newstead and Mr M Neale.
- 14 **Any other business:**
 - a. The committee secretary will prepare some notes from this meeting for inclusion in the January Gazette.
 - b. 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.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.50 pm