

## ACU EASTERN

**MINUTES** for the first Trials Committee call of **ACU EASTERN 2024**, held via MS Teams on **Wednesday 20th March 2024** commencing at **7.30 pm**

**Present** P Nash (Chairman), C Dopson (secretary), M Neale, A Barrell, A Foskew (steward's coordinator), E Hood, D Cordle, R Snowden (recorder). N Ogden, I Johnston plus Chris Keeble as ACU-EC Chairman  
Apologies from J Newstead, P Fenn

1. Chairman opened meeting and received apologies for absences as above, noted after the call, James Newstead has decided to stand down from the committee, thanks to him for his support.
2. It was agreed that all Committee roles from 2023 will continue for 2024.
3. Minutes of the previous call on July 18th 2023 and Trials Forum on November 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 were reviewed.
4. Matter arising from the minutes not specifically listed on this agenda, the only subject was the proposed observer's guidelines, secretary to ask P Fenn for update on progress, and in particular how this will deal with "hopping" and "tacking" in Pre 70 No Stop trials.
5. Feedback reviewed from Competition Committee since last meeting, P Nash and C Keeble explained that due to stopping of funding from HQ centre support charge will go up to 60p per rider from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2024, all other conditions apply. A proposal to make a charge per championship round was not passed, but is likely to be revisited.
6. Stewards
  - a) A Foskew reported future trials requirements, D Cordle offered to do 21st April trial, other vacancies still apply all asked to support if possible.
  - b) Steward's reports reviewed for 11 trials from 2023, 16/7, 29/7, 10/9, 17/9, 24/9, 8/10, 22/10, 29/10, 5/11, 26/11, 31/12, approved for issue for information to Comps Committee.
7. 2024 ACU-EC Trials Championships changes discussed
  - a) ACM, working ok but will make results more complicated
  - b) Youth Beginners, provisional round on 28<sup>th</sup> April will not count as Youth Beginners Championship round, secretary and I Johnston to check possibility of a replacement trial later in the year or the championship will be 5 rounds only
  - c) As started last year any Expert rider can request to be demoted to Intermediate by asking the Trials Committee, any applications for demotion in 2025 to be made to the Trials Committee before July 1<sup>st</sup> 2024.
8. Beginners route marker colours, Youth Beginners is the first championship to use the route below white route and there is not an agreed marker colour. After much discussion, including any colour blindness issues, it was agreed that, at least for Youth

Beginners Championship rounds, the route below white route should be marked with ideally orange markers, if this is not possible a new colour not already used, but all markers for this route should have clear black cross. This will be reviewed at the 2024 Trials Forum.

9. Pre 70 machine eligibility, due to risk in the future of unavailability of suitable knowledge to complete eligibility checks, it had been agreed to test riders being asked to confirm if they believe their machine is eligible or not. Diss offered to test this for the trial on July 27<sup>th</sup>. Secretary to investigate if Woodbridge would also test the option.
10. The meeting discussed the recent Trials Award Presentation Evening and gave a vote of thanks to Richard Snowden, Kevin Plummer and David Cordle. The event gave a surplus of £60, to add to the previous year's surplus of £179. This year's event had more than 70 attendees and had provided more food. The centre had offered support, if needed, up to £100, in future it was agreed to offer more food and to target a loss of up to £100.
11. N Ogden explained that Chelmsford was moving forward with their Ladies and Girls British Championship round at Purls Hill on June 30<sup>th</sup>. He thanked the support from Castle club but said that more volunteers to observe were required and obviously any lady or girl riders from within the centre would be welcomed.
12. Trials Trophies, after discussion it was agreed
  - a) Twinshock A Trophy, winners are reluctant to take this trophy home due to the risk of it getting damaged. It was agreed to talk to the donating family about using another trophy for this class, and potentially returning it to the family if wanted.
  - b) There are several centre trial trophies which are missing, e.g. Duckham's Shield, it was requested that anybody who thinks they may have one of these trophies to return it. If suitable one of the returned trophies could be used for Twinshock A, assuming it will show the previous trophy name and previous winners.
13. 2024/25 Trials calendar process. The secretary explained that for Wymondham club there had been a late change by the Comps Committee of a trial to a supplied alternate date due to cross discipline clashes. There was no discussion and it caused the club issues. For the previous 10 years or more it has been policy that alternative dates have not been used after the Trials Forum without club agreement. This can leave clubs reluctant to supply alternative dates if they need to be protected after the Forum. Before next year's calendar process, it needs to be agreed if this change in policy is going to continue so that clubs can be advised and understand the implications of giving alternative dates. At least two clubs said that there was reluctance to give alternative dates. This issue may have also occurred in other disciplines.
14. At the Trials Forum there was consensus that a request should be made to the centre for financial support for youth only trials, but could apply to other discipline youth only

events, as part of the centre strategy is to encourage youth participation. The proposal is for these events to have permits free of charge to the clubs, realising this is more difficult and costly to the centre as permits cannot any longer be issued by the centre. It was agreed that the secretary and I Johnston should prepare a proposal for the treasurer which will have to go to approval potentially by the centre board.

**15. Centre Trials Conditions**, after discussions it was agreed that some events were not being run to the following Centre Trials Conditions

- a) Trials results for events, above closed to club status, not being published on the centre website.
- b) Trials results not being to the required format, in particular for A and B Class championship trials not including a rider's club makes it difficult to accurately calculate club championship points.
- c) Marking parent/guardian mobile numbers on youth riding numbers is not always being done, this is to assist location of responsible adults if there is a problem with a youth rider.

It was agreed that club trials contacts should be reminded of these points and it will be noted in gazette notes from this call. In particular for point b) the centre recorder has often to chase clubs to get the required information to allow the championship tables to be correct. Trials Conditions can be reviewed at the next Trials Forum.

**16. Trials Officials licence seminars**, Chairman reported that as there was only one applicant, who applied online, there would not be a seminar this year. The licence extensions for Covid have removed the demand for this year's renewals.

**17. Feedback to Comps Committee** to include reminders about results, see 15a and 15b above and concerns about the process to make late changes to the centre calendar. Feedback requested to Trials Committee

**18. ACU-EC website and April gazette**, secretary to prepare appropriate notes from this call, to hit the gazette deadline feedback will need to be urgent or approval will be assumed.

**19. Any other business**

- a) It was noted that HQ have explained that they can support any applications for permits, licence checking etc outside of Sport:80.
- b) HQ have not made documents including STRs, NSC etc available on the ACU website, but they can be downloaded from Sport:80
- c) All trials clubs will be issued with a centre banner to display at events to encourage new members
- d) Centre Handbook has gone to print and will be distributed as soon as possible, hopefully without the need for the cost of postage.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.