

## ACU EASTERN

**MINUTES** for the second Trials Committee call of **ACU EASTERN 2024**, held via MS Teams on **Tuesday 2nd July 2024** commencing at **7.30 pm**

**Present** P Nash (Chairman), C Dopson (secretary), M Neale, A Barrell, A Foskew (steward's coordinator), D Cordle, R Snowden (recorder). N Ogden, I Johnston Apologies from E Hood, P Fenn

1. Chairman opened meeting and received apologies for absences as above, the secretary requested that he could have the first subject under any other business.
2. Minutes of the previous call on March 20th 2024 were reviewed, no comments.
3. Matter arising from the minutes not specifically listed on this agenda, no comments.
4. Feedback reviewed from Competition Committee since last meeting, P Nash and A Foskew commented there was no progress in sound testers.
5. Stewards
  - a) A Foskew reported future trials requirements, the only urgent need was for 21/7 at Hawkedon, no volunteers on call, A Foskew to ring around.
  - b) Steward's reports reviewed for 8 trials from 2024, 10/3, 17/3, 24/3, 29/3, 14/4, 21/4, 28/4, 26/5, approved for issue for information to Comps Committee.
  - c) It was agreed that secretary should send accepted reports to Trials contact for each appropriate club
6. Calendar updates, new Lowestoft trial on November 17<sup>th</sup>, Ipswich dates moved 10th to 3<sup>rd</sup> August and from July 20<sup>th</sup> to September 22<sup>nd</sup>
7. Observer Guidelines, the approved document by P Fenn and S Newman, was too late to review by committee, three options, accept as is and distribute, update and approve remotely or take back to Trials Forum, secretary to request feedback and advise outcome.
8. 2024 ACU-EC Trials Championships status discussed
  - a) ACM, working ok but retain current model for 2025
  - b) Youth Beginners, two rounds run so far, one had a few retirements, recommend if organisers have any doubt keep sections simple, not all sections need to count. Feedback from riders and parents is very positive. Lowestoft trial on August 11<sup>th</sup> will be replacement round.
  - c) Online rider grading is up to date for May 2024.
  - d) Note to Trials Contacts and for gazette to remind organisers
    - i. Results should be in correct format, including permit number, "route" to be added to list in Trials Conditions for 2025.
    - ii. Accepted entries to be shown on Sport:80 at latest when entries close

9. Trials Trophies, A Barrel reported the family who donated the Twinshock A trophy, which due to its size and design some winners decline to take away, would like it to be continued to be presented each year. If winners do not take it, the family will store the trophy between presentations. No feedback on any lost Trials Trophies being found, another note in gazette and sent to Trials contacts.
10. First Aiders at trials, two subjects, e-mail from centre chairman and Admin Committee minutes
- a) The centre chairman had sent an e-mail stating that potentially ACU-HQ would fund some local first aid courses, club trials contacts to be requested by secretary to name any interested members.
  - b) Admin Committee minutes from 11<sup>th</sup> April, item 6 and TSR31 seem to be in conflict, the published meeting minutes state that first aiders are required at trials, whilst TSR31 states they are recommended. After discussion secretary asked to do two actions
    - i. contact Admin Committee to ask why this was a subject for the Admin Committee as it clearly relates to Competition and then for only one discipline?
    - ii. contact Admin Committee to request minutes are corrected as this may cause confusion and could be used against a club if an incident occurs and a first aider is not in attendance. The discussion continued that making first aiders mandatory at trials would come with complications for organisers, e.g. checking accreditations, checking attendance and cancelling the event if it did not comply. It was thought that in all disciplines where medical attendance is currently mandated, the support is outsourced and supplied by professional companies.
11. Expert riders for downgrading for 2025, only one applicant, Andy Last, approved unanimously.
12. 2025-26 Trials Calendar process, following up on item 13 of the March 20<sup>th</sup> Trials Committee call, the secretary had requested clarification of the one point. The response was a new process, the secretary responded with now three points for clarification. Again, a revised process document was received with no comment on the three points raised by the secretary, the revised process was circulated to the committee. To help resolve the issue the secretary mapped the previous process and asked how the new process was different, no response was received by the time of this call. In addition, a draft of the Trials Dates request form was received. The secretary requested a clarification on the mention of the Trials Forum on the form, in response an updated form was received, in which the reference to the Trials Forum was removed, so it is not possible to know how or when the Trials Forum can fit in the process. Having been unable to resolve the process the secretary requested if another committee member would take the lead on this subject, at this time there was not a volunteer, see any other business Item 20 b.

- 13.** Beginner's route, the committee had been asked to clarify some points relating to the Beginners route. After discussion it was agreed the Beginner's route could be used by any adult or youth rider who feels it is appropriate. It should be noted that for "Youth Beginners" championship rounds the sections should be marked specifically to suit the smaller machines, and not all sections need to be included due to the suitability of the sections or length of the course. In addition, the committee felt it was essential that trials with "Beginner's Routes" continue to be shown in the calendar as it helps new riders select which trials may be most suitable.
- 14.** Trials Officials Seminars, the committee had received an e-mail from the centre chairman with information on the centre trials officials who need to be reassessed and suggesting this could be started earlier than previous years. The list contained 40 centre officials, of which 29 expired at the end of 2024. The committee agreed that starting sessions in the autumn was a good plan. The secretary said that ACU-HQ had the 2025 material available and it could be released to trainers approved by the appropriate commission. P Nash agreed to respond to the secretary with names to be supplied to the commission for approval and to suggest location and two dates for seminars, maximum 20 attendees at each seminar. Note to trials contact to be sent to request names of attendees.
- 15.** Electric Machine Class Trophy, the secretary had been contacted by Mr S Kenny with the offer of a new award for an electric machine class. The offer was well received but take up of electric machines in the centre currently did not warrant a championship class. The options discussed were to accept the offer at some point in the future or to find another way to make use of the award in the short term. After discussion it was agreed to accept the award for use in the Eastern Expert trial starting in 2025 for the best performance on an electric machine, on the hardest route on which an electric machine was classed as a finisher. In the future this may be reviewed and/or additional awards may be added.
- 16.** 2025 Centre charges, the secretary explained, see March 20<sup>th</sup> minutes item 5, that due to deletion of funding from ACU-HQ the centre support charge for trials had recently been increased to 60p per rider. Understanding that this did not fill the future deficit, the secretary had contacted the centre treasurer to understand the options, as a per event charge for centre championship rounds had been discussed elsewhere. After discussion the committee proposed that simply increasing the current centre support charge was the best option, but requested that it was increased to a level to allow some funding to support clubs who were proposing to run Youth Only events in all disciplines.

17. Youth Support, no specific support was requested apart from the financial support suggested in item 16, I Johnston thanked clubs for supporting the youth championship rounds, especially the first year of the Youth Beginners championship.
  
18. Feedback to Comps Committee, the secretary agreed to get at least draft minutes for input for any Trials Committee members who also will attend the Comps Committee on July 8<sup>th</sup>, P Nash confirmed he would not be at the July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting
  
19. ACU-EC website and August 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.
  
20. Any other business
  - a) The secretary explained this would be his last Trials Committee call in the role of secretary, but he would like to carry on as a committee member, having been either chairman or secretary for at least the last 10 years. The secretary said that he would carry on to close out the items from this call apart from organising the Trials Forum and the 2025-26 Trials Calendar, any support will be given in handover before the Trials Forum
  - b) After discussion R Snowden offered to run the 2025-26 Trials Calendar process, secretary to provide timeline of recent communications outlined in item 12 above.
  - c) The role of secretary remained vacant.
  - d) Suggested dates for the Trials Forum were November Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> or Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>, this may depend on a draft Trials Calendar being available, location and format to be agreed
  - e) N Ogden said the Chelmsford Ladies and Girls British Championship round had been successful and thanked all of those who had helped.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.