

SOUTH EASTERN CENTRE A.C.U.

Minutes of the Centre Annual General Meeting held at the Forman Institute, Blindley Heath, Surrey on
Wednesday 11th March 2015.

Attendance: 36 members from 20 Clubs attended [*therefore 36 were not represented*], plus 5 Combines.
Clubs represented were: Bexleyheath, Brighton, Carshalton, Crowthorne, Dorking, Double Five, GEST Motocross, Greenwich, GTSA, Gravesend, Hookwood, Horsham, Normandy, O.W.L.S., Sidcup, Sunbeam, Sporting Elite, Talmag, Twickenham, Witley.

Mr Oscar Horton (Centre President) took the Chair and welcomed the delegates. He asked Mr Roger Brown (Centre Chairman) to conduct the meeting.

Apologies: Received from John Claridge (Sports Council rep), Hazel Collins (Croydon), Alan Dudley (Enduro Recorder), Dave Fagg (Folkestone), Norma Miller (Dorking), Ted Smith (Kingston), Lawrence Osborne (Crawley), Tristan Robinson (SE Enduro Combine), the Croydon Club, the Eastbourne Club.

Minutes of the 2014 AGM: Acceptance was proposed by Mr Peter Burton and seconded by Mr Peter Donaldson.

Centre Treasurer's Report: Mr Roger Brown's report had been circulated to Club and Combine Secretaries. Copies of the Centre accounts were available at the meeting.

Mr Brown said the books had balanced and income was slightly more than in 2013.

Mr Jamie Clarke asked about the Centre and ACU Trials Levy. Mr Brown said the ACU Trials Levy was paid by each rider at each trial and was instead of having an annual ACU Competition Licence.

Mr Brown proposed the adoption of his report which was seconded and carried.

The Sporting Motorcyclist Editor's Report and Accounts: Mr John Bramall's report had been circulated and Mr Andy Wood's report was available at the AGM.

Mr Wood said he was looking into ways to reduce TSM production costs including more automation. He had secured the services of a bookkeeper to review TSM accounts. He will make changes to the subscription renewal procedure.

The production costs and the number of TSMs sold had remained constant, but the total number of pages was less than in 2013. The number of Regulations was about the same; the reduction was in the amount of official minutes and notices. There will be a time when the cost of production outstrips the income from sales and advertising.

Mr Wood appealed for clubs to use TSM to promote their events. There are many purchasers of the magazine who are not competitors, and these people could become observers and/or marshals if they read about future events.

Mr Wood said about 1,000 copies were sold per month; one fifth to the Southern Centre, one third to the South Midland Centre and the rest to the South Eastern Centre.

Mr Brown said John Bramall had expressed a wish to stand down as Editor. An appeal to South Midland and Southern Centres for nominees produced no results. The Southern Centre did not attend a meeting at Rugby to discuss TSM. A meeting at Nash Mills with the ACU's Xenia Munro is planned to discuss TSM and on-line entry.

Management Committee Chairman's Report: Mr Roger Brown's written report had been circulated to Clubs and Combines. He said the world was changing and the ACU and SE Centre had to change with it.

Mr Brown moved the adoption of his report which was seconded and carried.

Centre Secretary's Report: Mr Burrell's written report had been circulated to Club and Combine Secretaries.

A question was asked about the Mid-Sussex Club. Mr Burrell explained that the club had re-affiliated direct to ACU Rugby and although listed as a S.E. Centre club, its officials said the club would not join the SE Centre MX Combine.

Mr Brown added that the Club had left the ACU and was 'courted' by ACU HQ to return to the ACU. It would seem that the Club preferred to communicate with Rugby rather than the Centre.

Mr Rick Colvin said the Oval Track Racing Association had failed to find a grass track venue, so did not re-affiliate.

Mr Burrell reminded the AGM that he will not be seeking re-election as Centre Secretary at the 2017 AGM (2 years time). Mr Burrell proposed the adoption of his report which was seconded and carried.

Permit Secretary's Report: Mr Westley's written report had been circulated to Clubs and Combines.

He said he had issued 213 Permits in 2014, with Mr Brown issuing a further 21 'social' Permits.

Mr Westley moved the adoption of his report which was seconded and carried.

M.o.D. Land Liaison Officer's Report: Mr Alan Dudley's report had been circulated to Clubs and Combines.

Mr Richard Thomas said a new large piece of M.o.D. land was becoming available. It had a hard standing car park for 400 cars.

Mr Peter Donaldson asked if Bagshot North as well as South had been withdrawn as the Sunbeam Club was refused a trial in North. It was said that enduros were definitely out as orienteering was preferred as it was a 'quiet' sport.

Centre Recorders' Reports:

Enduro: Mr Alan Dudley's written report had been sent to Clubs and Combines.

Grass Track: No report had been received and the Recorder was not in attendance.

Motocross: Mr Les Batten's written report had been sent to Clubs and Combines. Mr Batten had said the role of recording had been taken on by ACU Rugby. He had agreed to be available to answer queries from Rugby.

John Powell had taken on a new role of 'Motocross Liaison Officer'.

Trials: Mr Colin Keane's written report had been sent to Clubs and Combines.

Sports Council Repts' Report: Mr Burrell said he and Mr Claridge attend meetings of the London Federation of Sport. Although many aspects are not applicable to our sport (e.g. Council facilities), attending meetings kept motorcycle sport in the minds of the Federation. Recently there was a talk from a company that assists in the promotion of sports clubs. It offers a free two-day review, after which a club can pay for an in depth consultation.

Forest Liaison Officer's Report: No report had been received and the FLA was not in attendance.

ACU Benevolent Fund Officer's Report: Mrs Hazel Collins written report had been sent to Clubs and Combines. Mr Burrell said the recent list of grants showed no cases from the South Eastern Centre. The donations list showed none from this Centre, but the next list will include donations in memory of Dick Dickenson and Mr Gordon Davis.

ACU National Management Council and Chairmen and Secretaries meetings of 2014: Mr Burrell gave a report of the main points from two NC and two C&S meetings.

ACU Chairmen and Secretaries Meeting (15th February 2014):

Messrs Alan Clarke, Herd and Burrell attended.

- The Johnson speedway accident case had been settled for £211k; £98k was legal fees. £300k had been set aside for this case, so there has been a 'saving' of £89k.
- A suggestion was made for Centres to be renamed "ACU South Eastern", etc. This is in line with the FIM renaming the UEM "FIM Europe".
- Insurance premiums for 2014 will be the same as 2013.
- Event paperwork should be kept for 7 years and for events with youths, for 3 years after the youngest rider reaches 18 years old. On-Line entries are kept on the ACU's secure server and backed up.
- Despite attempts to reverse the requirement, MSA authorisation must be obtained where events use public roads.
- ACU Events Ltd. timing team can help all ACU clubs with timekeeping issues.
- The Milton Park MX track has been made more clubman friendly and just three dates are still available for hire. £70k of the £100k loan from ACU Ltd has been used. David Smith anticipated the track will break even in 2014 and make a small profit in 2015.
- 11,000 competition licences have renewed for 2014, with 5,500 done on line. Road Race Licences were added to the on-line system in 2013. Club Renewal was introduced for 2014 and is working well.
- 125k one-event licences were issued in 2013, but only half of the yellow copies were returned to the ACU. When readable, the details are recorded on the licence database.
- Roy Humphrey said riders expected more information on Facebook and Twitter than websites which were now rather an 'out of date' medium.

ACU AGM and National Council (17th May 2014):

Mr Burrell and Mr Brown attended.

- The inaugural Open Day at ACU House had been a success and will be repeated in 2015.
- John Blyth was elected to fill the vacancy in the Motocross Committee.
- The ACU 3-tier insurance was working well and will be continued. To date, no claims in the second or third tiers (over £500k) had been successful, although three possible large claims were ongoing.
- There was no answer to the question of what would be the penalty if a club did not apply for MSA authorisation for an event using public roads.
- John Hemming MP had withdrawn his amendment which would ban motor vehicles from Byways from the Deregulation Bill. However, the 'anti-motorcyclists' were still very active.
- A new feature of the ACU On-Line system allows clubs to set up membership application and renewal.
- Club re-affiliation was moved forward to the end of October each year.
- Maxxis had signed to be the main sponsor of the British Motocross Championship until the end of 2016.

ACU National Council (15th November 2014):

Messrs Clarke, Brown, Robinson, Moore and Burrell attended.

- Club membership via **ACU On-Line** is operational and 16 clubs are currently using it.
- Results of elections were:
 - Board of Directors of ACU Ltd.: Roy Hanks and Ian Murphy
 - Motocross Committee: John Blyth and Chris Warren
 - Track Racing Committee: Steve Brace and Mick Stace
 - Trials and Enduro Committee: Anthony Rew, Mick Wren and Mike Rapley
- Dawn Luby has left Locktons and Neil Want has taken her role. The ACU has an assurance from Locktons that the service provided will continue as before.
- The total insurance premium paid for 2014 was £1.5m, £32k more than previously stated.
- £60k has been added to the Uninsured Loss Fund over the past year.
- Premiums had been held for three years, but a 10% increase will be made from 1st January 2015.
- The Captive 'pot' needs to grow with the long term aim to stand on its own.
- Bookings for Milton Park were nearly full for 2015. Some cancelled events in 2014 meant a small financial loss – it was hoped to break even in 2014, then a surplus in 2015 and beyond.

- Supplementary Regulations can only be changed with approval of Permit Issuing Authority, and competitors must be informed in writing (OK to display a notice at signing-on).
- Operators of drones must provide proof of suitable insurance and sign on the Media sheet. Drones must comply with the rules of the CAA or other regulatory bodies.
- Entries of riders in Championship events can only be refused with permission of the Championship organiser.
- The use of the Social Media to spread foul, abusive or offensive language against any official is not permitted.
- Of the 51 clubs that had used **ACU On-Line**, 23 were from the South Eastern Centre. On-line entering is charged at 3%.
- Organisers using quads on Forestry Commission land must have a Certificate of Competence. Forms are available from quad retailers and the course could cost as much as £200.
- Roger Brown asked why the ACU has ruled that all Practice Permits must be issued from Rugby. The ACU Chairman said the problem is that the SE Centre issued 32 practice permits in 2013 and 47 in 2014. Roger said there is no problem – SE Clubs give the riders what they want.

Centre Chairmen and Secretaries Meeting (21st February 2015)

Messrs Brown, Herd, Robinson, Burrell attended.

- * There will soon be help with taxation and budgeting available to Centres.
- * A Strategy Panel has been set up: members David Smith, Peter Gregory, Paul King. It will look at forward planning for the ACU and PR/marketing.
- * The total insurance premium for 2014 was £1.5m. The total insurance income was £5,106 short of this.
- * Introducing the Captive Insurance has saved the ACU £350k.
- * Roger Brown stated the Talmag Club affiliated to the AMCA to run the Talmag Trophy Trial under an AMCA Permit. This was to avoid the £75 Repatriation premium and £10 Trials Registration for foreign riders. Mr Higgins said this should not be £75 for a trial – the figure should be about £20. An ACU member wishing to ride abroad will be charged £18 for the 'start permission' letter.
- * John Collins added that the agreement with FE is that the ACU is the only body that may organise events on FE land. Roger Brown said the Blue Light and Bognor clubs organise on FE land and neither is ACU.
- * Brian Higgins said ACU Events Ltd. was important to the ACU and sponsors because decisions can be made instantly rather than coming before National Council.
- * The Maxxis British Motocross Championship made a small loss due to the cancellation of one round.
- * The Isle of Man TT provides a revenue stream for ACU(E).
- * ACU Timekeeping is working well and means there is no need for an outside contractor. ACU Timekeeping is making a financial profit.
- * Milton Park made a loss as it was difficult to sell dates to organisers. Milton Park will cost ACU(E) money for the next four years until the end of its lease. David Smith said there is no chance of a profit, but moves will be made to minimise the loss.

Restructuring of the South Eastern Centre: Mr Brown's proposals had been circularised to clubs and combines. Mr Brown said no decisions would be made about the Centre's finances until Combine self-funding was fully established.

Mrs Hayden said each Combine should be audited as they are to receive £5k from Centre funds.

Mr Brown said that if a Combine should be wound up, its funds would be returned to the Centre.

He added that 75% of Centre accounts will be put in accounts that require two signatures.

Mr Alan Clarke said the Centre had about £100k twenty years ago. This should be around £300k by now. Mr Jamie Clarke said an ACU rule states that if a Centre folds, its assets revert to its member clubs.

Mr Brown said the Centre will survive financially with income from Basic Permits and clubs re-affiliation. If not, alternative proposals will be put to the Centre AGM.

Mr Brown proposed the sum given to each Combine to be £3,000. This was agreed by 17 for and 5 against.

Mr Brown called for a paper vote of his restructuring proposal. This was passed by 52 for; 1 against; 7 abstentions.

Election of Auditors for 2015: The meeting agreed to Mrs Hayden and Mrs Simpson continuing as Auditors.

Election of Centre Officers: Centre President: Mr Les Batten was the only nominee and was elected. The President's sash, plus the original one found a few years ago, were presented to him.

Vice Presidents: 9 names had been submitted for the eight Centre Vice-Presidents posts. Mr Jamie Clarke proposed the limit of 8 be exceeded for 2015, to which the meeting agreed. The 9 elected were: Mrs Marge Clarke, Messrs Peter Burton, Alan Clarke, Jim Connor, Dennis Fleet, Roy Francis, Eddie Herd, Steve Westley, Andy Wood.

Centre Chairman: Mr Roger Brown was the only nominee and was elected.

Vice-Chairman: Mr Eddie Herd withdrew his nomination, so Mr Steve Moore was elected.

Treasurer: Mr Roger Brown was the only nominee and was elected.

Permits Secretary: Mr Steve Westley was the only nominee and was elected.

Any Other Urgent Business: Mr Jim Connor asked if the Centre will send a youth team to the Inter Centre Team Trial in Lancashire. Mr Brown said the Centre has always supported team events, so can do in 2015. Suggestions for team managers were made and there was discussion on funding and the distance to be travelled.

There being nothing further to discuss, Mr Brown closed the AGM at 9:58pm – a Centre Board Meeting follows.