

**MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING (2011 SESSION) OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL
HELD AT ACU HOUSE, RUGBY ON SATURDAY 19th NOVEMBER 2011**

Present:	Chairman	Mr B Higgins
	Deputy Chairman	Mr J Collins
	Director	Mr P Beardmore
	Director	Mr P Gregory
	Director	Mr E Jones
	Director	Dr P King
	Director	Mr I Murphy
	Director	Mr B Puckett
	Director	Mr D Smith
	President	The Rt Revd John Oliver
	Vice President	Mr C Moram
	Vice President	Mrs M Mellish
	Honorary Deputy Chairman	Mr F Carter
	Managing Director ACU Events Ltd	Mr J Parker
	NC Delegates	Ian Dommett
		Rhiannon Fraser
		Jack Hearn
		Mark Jessup
		Sue Payne
		Ann Watson
		Paul Franklin
		Matthew Wear
		Anne Bates
		Robert Wilson
		Ian Reavley
		Bob Livesey
		Colin Boniface
		Barry New
		Dave Porter
		Charlie Pattison
		Frank Sweeting
		Tom Vivian
		Graham Heywood
		Penny Ludgate
		Archie Sheddon
		Dick Sullivan
		Phil Tomlin
		Cheshire & N Wales
		Cornwall
		Eastern
		East Midland
		East South Wales
		East Yorks
		Isle of Man
		Midland
		Mid Wales
		Northern
		North East
		North West
		South Eastern
		Southern
		South Midland
		South Western
		Wessex
		Western
		West South Wales
		Yorkshire
		SACU
		Non-Territorial Board
		Non-Territorial Board

In attendance:

Honorary Members	Colin Armes
	Eddie Bellars
	John Bussell
	John Coles
	Roy Collins
	Ken Sprayson

Attendees	Eric Adcock	North Western Centre
	Vic Ashford	South Western Centre
	Chris Berisford	Cheshire & N Wales
	Peter Burrell	South Eastern Centre
	Chris Fletcher	Southern Centre
	Eddie Herd	South Eastern Centre
	Norrie Lamont	SACU
	Chris Mawer	South Midland Centre
	Brian Webster	Midland Centre
	Dave Willoughby	East Yorks Centre
	Jayne Blackwell	Asst to the General Secretary
	Xenia Munro	Financial Controller
	Gary Thompson MBE BEM	General Secretary

Item 1: Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from: David Banks, Ted Bartlett, John Blower, Alan Clarke, Roy Hanks, Andrew Hay, Jenny Jones, Dave Loney and Dennis Slaughter.

Item 2: Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman said that as he was coming to the end of his first year as Chairman and it had not been an easy one, we faced many challenges in a difficult economic climate. He said that some hard work had been done to encourage all disciplines to look at Grass Roots Sport as the bigger events tend to look after themselves.

There had been two major projects this year – insurance and On Line Licencing. As both are included in the agenda, he just wanted to take this opportunity to inform everyone how important their support to both these items would be when discussed later in the day.

The Chairman also touched on Finance. Since the heydays of about five years ago, he reported it has been a constant struggle to keep our events and membership numbers up which also reflects upon the profit and loss sheet. Having worked closely with the Accounts Department during the year and up until the end of October, we are showing a decrease in running cost and admin expenses of approximately £180k over the same period in 2010.

A large part of this is due to some hefty staff cuts, which resulted in the early part of the year the office running on a bare minimum. We now have Jayne Blackwell as the Assistant to the General Secretary and Eddie Nelson back in his original role as Road Race Manager. However he continued that the Board have allocated a sensible amount of money to allow us next year to bring some of our staff salaries more in line with realism.

He emphasized it is important to note that when we also take Insurance into the equation, the ACU will still make a loss this year, which is why it has been so important for us to make minimal adjustments to our insurance charges until we are able to stabilise the situation.

In addition we have looked at Office heating, light, water, cleaning and maintenance, plus in an in depth look at Banking and Credit Card charges and all have been reduced.

The Chairman also stated that he had asked all Sport Committee Chairman to review their discipline budgets and he was pleased to announce that going into 2012 there will be an overall reduction of 14.4%, but not to the detriment of Grass Root sport.

He thanked the meeting for allowing him to make this short address but he felt it important to let everyone know where we currently are regarding Insurance and finances in general.

Item 3: To confirm the minutes of the first meeting (2011 session) of the National Council held on 14th May 2011

Proposed by Sue Payne and seconded by Jack Hearn, that the minutes of the first meeting (2011 session) of the National Council held on 14th May were accepted unanimously.

Item 4: Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting that were not considered in today's agenda.

Item 5: Elections to the Board of Directors and Sport Committees

5.1 Election Procedure

The General Secretary confirmed the procedure for the elections and stated that the voting strength was 23, therefore to be successful all candidates had to achieve a minimum of 13 votes to be successful (50% of the votes cast + 1 rounded up to the next highest number).

Mr Bussell and Mr Coles were appointed Independent Tellers assisted by Ms Blackwell.

5.2 Board of Directors. To elect two Members for a period of three years.

Candidates: Mr R Hanks and Mr I Murphy.

Round One: Mr Hanks – 22 votes, Mr Murphy – 20 votes, Abstentions – 4.

Mr Hanks: Cheshire & North Wales, Cornwall, Eastern, East Midland, East South Wales, East Yorks, Isle of Man, Midland, Mid Wales, Northern, North Eastern, North Western, Southern, South Midland, South Western, Wessex, Western, West South Wales, Yorkshire, SACU, Non-Territorial Board x 2.

Mr Murphy: Cheshire & North Wales, Cornwall, Eastern, East Midland, East South Wales, East Yorks, Isle of Man, Midland, Mid Wales, Northern, North Eastern, North Western, Southern, South Midland, South Western, Wessex, Western, West South Wales, Yorkshire, SACU,

Abstentions: South Eastern Centre x 2 and Non Territorial Board x 2

Both Mr Hanks and Mr Murphy were successfully re-elected to the Board of Directors for a further period of three years commencing 1st January 2012. Mr Murphy gave his thanks to everyone present for having confidence to elect him for the next period.

5.3 Motocross Committee. To elect two Members for a period of three years.

Candidates: Mr A Deeks, Mr A Hay, Mr J Percival and Mr C Warren

Round One: Mr Deeks – 5 votes, Mr Hay – 6 votes, Mr Percival – 21 votes, Mr Warren – 12 votes and Abstentions – 2.

Mr Deeks: Cheshire & North Wales, Cornwall, North Western, Yorkshire and SACU.

Mr Hay: Cornwall, Eastern, East South Wales, South Eastern, Non-Territorial Board x 2.

Mr Percival: Cheshire & North Wales, East Midland, East South Wales, East Yorks, Isle of Man, Midland, Mid Wales, Northern, North Eastern, North Western, South Eastern, Southern, South Midland, South Western, Wessex, Western, West South Wales, Yorkshire, SACU, Non-Territorial Board x 2.

Mr Warren: Eastern, East Midland, East Yorks, Isle of Man, Midland, Northern, North Eastern, Southern, South Midland, South Western, Wessex, West South Wales

Abstentions: Mid Wales and Western.

After Round One, Mr Percival was successfully re-elected to the Motocross Committee, however as the other candidates had not achieved the required minimum number of votes a second round of voting was to be held. In accordance with ROU Article 6 – Election Procedure, having achieved the least number of votes, Mr Deeks would not be eligible for the second round. Therefore, Mr Warren and Mr Hay went into the second round of voting and achieved the following:

Mr Hay – 4 votes, Mr Warren – 17 votes, Abstentions 2.

Mr Hay: Eastern, North Western, Non-Territorial Board x 2

Mr Warren: Cheshire & North Wales, Cornwall, East Midland, East South Wales, East Yorks, Isle of Man, Midland, Northern, North Eastern, South Eastern, Southern, South Midland, South Western, Wessex, West South Wales, Yorkshire, SACU.

Abstentions: Mid Wales and Western.

Mr Percival and Mr Warren were therefore re-elected to the Motocross Committee for a further period of three years, commencing 1st January 2012.

5.4 Track Racing Committee. To elect two Members for a period of three years.

Candidates: Mrs A Boyle and Mr C Tyrrell

Round One: Mrs Boyle – 16 votes, Mr Tyrrell – 20 votes, Abstentions – 10.

Mrs Boyle: Cheshire & North Wales, Cornwall, Eastern, East Midland, East South Wales, East Yorks, Midland, North Eastern, North Western, South Eastern, Southern, South Midland, South Western, West South Wales, Yorkshire, SACU

Mr Tyrrell: Cheshire & North Wales, Cornwall, Eastern, East Midland, East South Wales, East Yorks, Midland, Mid Wales, North Eastern, South Eastern, Southern, South Midland, South Western, Wessex, Western, West South Wales, Yorkshire, SACU, Non Territorial Board x 2.

Abstentions: Isle of Man x 2, Mid Wales, Northern x 2, North Western, Wessex, Western, Non-Territorial Board x 2.

Mrs Boyle and Mr Tyrrell were therefore re-elected to the Track Racing Committee for a further period of three years, commencing 1st January 2012.

5.5 Trials & Enduro Committee. To elect three Members for a period of three years.

Candidates: Mr Fairbrother – 22 votes, Mr Rew – 21 votes, Mr Wren – 22 votes, Abstentions – 4.

Mr Fairbrother: Cheshire & North Wales, Cornwall, Eastern, East Midland, East South Wales, East Yorks, Isle of Man, Midland, Mid Wales, Northern, North Eastern, North Western, Southern, South Midland, South Western, Wessex, Western, West South Wales, Yorkshire, SACU, Non-Territorial Board x 2.

Mr Rew: Cheshire & North Wales, Cornwall, Eastern, East Midland, East South Wales, East Yorks, Isle of Man, Midland, Northern, North Eastern, North Western, Southern, South Midland, South Western, Wessex, Western, West South Wales, Yorkshire, SACU, Non-Territorial Board x 2.

Mr Wren: Cheshire & North Wales, Cornwall, Eastern, East Midland, East South Wales, East Yorks, Isle of Man, Midland, Mid Wales, Northern, North Eastern, North Western, Southern, South Midland, South Western, Wessex, Western, West South Wales, Yorkshire, SACU, Non-Territorial Board x 2.

Abstentions: South Eastern Centre x 3 and Mid Wales.

Mr Fairbrother, Mr Rew and Mr Wren were therefore successfully re-elected to the Trials & Enduro Committee for a further period of three years commencing 1st January 2012.

Item 6: Proposal from the East Yorks Centre:

That the £25/£43 ACU Licence be abolished for Off Road Speed Events and that it is replaced by a £10 Affiliation fee and an appropriate Rider levy.

The Chairman said that this had been discussed by the Directors in the previous days Board meeting. As licence applications had already been issued for 2012, this could not be brought in until next year if this was decided the course we wanted to take.

Mr Willoughby was asked to make a comment and he stated that the ACU Clubs struggle for entries to events which inevitably leads to revenue issues. The main reason for this was the procedure for competitors to obtain an annual licence and the somewhat cumbersome procedure at events for those wishing to buy a one event licence. One event licences also caused an unnecessary amount of work for the Club Secretary, who were often faced with long queues during the Signing On process.

The Chairman commented that the Board's view was that an in depth review be carried out to look at the feasibility of moving to a Registration and levy system for all Off Road disciplines. He said there were current benefits with the £43.00 licence and any variation from this might cause an adverse affect on our overall revenue.

Mr Willoughby thanked the Chairman for his sensible remarks and said that if a consultation process was going to be carried out, he would gladly withdraw the proposal until the next meeting.

There were various comments made in favour and not in favour of the proposal. Mr Burrell welcomed the Board's intention to investigate this proposal further and asked if this would take priority over the On Line Entry system. The Chairman said this would not be the case and that both matters would happen concurrently. Mr Boniface thought this would be a backward step in this day and age and Mr Livesey said that the only difference between the current system and the proposed system was as far as he could see was that instead of a £43.00 licence being available, everyone would buy a £10.00 Registration and then be levied for each event they attended.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their comments and said that the Board would look at this proposal in greater detail ahead of the May National Council meeting.

Item 7: Proposal from the South Midland Centre

That Handbook's be circulated to all Club Secretaries who are not entitled to Handbooks as Licenced Officials.

The General Secretary explained that last year when it was decided that only Licenced Officials would receive Handbooks and all Licenced Competitors would receive CD's, the Club Secretary copies had fell by the wayside. It was unanimously agreed that copies of Handbooks would be sent to all Club Secretaries as they appeared in the ACU Handbook annotated under the Contacts section.

Action: General Secretary/Assistant to the General Secretary

Item 8: Proposed Amendment to the Rules of the Union

Current Wording:

Any member who is absent from three consecutive meetings of any Sport Committee, Sub-Committee or Advisory Panel meeting to which he is an appointed member without reasonable cause accepted by the appointing body shall forfeit his membership of that Sporting Committee, Advisory Panel or Sub-Committee as the case may be.

Proposed New Wording:

Any Member who is absent from three programmed meetings of the Board of Directors, Sport Committee meetings, Sub-Committee or Advisory Panel meetings in any one year of which he is an appointed member without reasonable cause accepted by the Board, may forfeit his membership of the Board of Directors, Sport Committee, Sub-Committee or Advisory Panel as the case may be.

This proposal was unanimously accepted. The General Secretary to ensure the Rules of the Union are duly amended.

Action: General Secretary

Item 9: On Line Licence System

The Chairman spoke briefly about the On Line Licence System and thanked Ms Munro for her work in project managing this important new addition to the ACU.

Ms Munro said that after several tests, the system had gone live at the Dirt Bike Show and proved to be very successful. For the first time only, a licence holder needs to register on the ACU members System. Once this has been done, they log in with their Members licence number and password and follow the on screen prompts to complete their renewal process.

Ms Munro confirmed that Unique Codes had been issued to all Club Secretaries. A licence holder would now be able to contact his Club Secretary to obtain a Unique Code number which can either be emailed or given over the phone. The Unique Code number effectively acts as the Club stamp which negates the requirement for the competitor to send in his licence application to the Club Secretary to stamp and sign.

The system can only process Licence Renewals at the moment and it is hoped that New Licence applications can be processed from mid December.

For those new licence applications who have not got a Club membership, for their first year only, they will be able to join 'ACU Club Rugby' and pay an additional charge of £15.00. At the

Board meeting held yesterday, it was agreed that the £15.00's received in this regard would be returned to the relevant Centre for their further use.

Both Mr Boniface and Mr Wilson commended Ms Munro for her contribution to the On Line System and both said that it was much easier and very efficient in comparison to the forms previously distributed.

Ms Munro confirmed that Officials licences will not be able to renew on line due to them having to attend a seminar on a three yearly basis.

Additional Agenda Item – Milton Park

Not originally on the agenda, the Chairman introduced Mr Stuart Drummond, the ACU Events Ltd Operations Manager, who gave a Powerpoint Presentation to outline the activities at Milton Park during 2011 and the projections for 2012.

Mr Drummond reported that he was working closely with South Northants Council on a number of projects which included; Anti-Social Behaviour Courses, Cycling Coach days, a School Open Day for a Big Cycle Competition and a National Cyclo Cross event. The Venue has also been used by the Police Dog Section for Dog Handling which promotes security and good relations with the Police and the community.

Item 10: Insurance

The Chairman spoke briefly about insurance and thanked Mr Smith for the tremendous amount of work he had put into ensuring the transition from Lockton/Brit to Doodson commencing 1st January 2012 was seamless. Mr Clayton and Mr Jones from Doodson were introduced to the meeting and gave a brief account of themselves and what service they intended to give the ACU. Before this Mr Smith gave a detailed powerpoint presentation, which outlined the following points:

- The principle of Basic and Premier Permits will continue.
- Basic and National Permit applications will continue to be processed by ACU Head Office. Open and Restricted Premier permit applications will continue to be processed at Centre level.
- The cost of a Basic Permit will remain at £650 from which the relevant centre will continue to receive £50 'commission' in lieu of lost levies. The figure of £650 is based on an event entry of 90 competitors. Organisers will now be required to complete a post event return showing the numbers of competitors and, on a sliding scale, pay an additional insurance fee which will be capped at the upper level of 190 competitors. Events with less than 90 riders will be rebated, again on a sliding scale to a lower level of 60 riders.
- Premier Permits will continue to operate using the Bellars insurance matrix. For National status events and above, 2012 pricing will be the same as 2011 with the exception of some very small changes for Road Racing. For Trials there will be no cost changes next year. However for Motocross, Track Racing, Enduro and Hare & Hounds, Open and Restricted Permit per capita costs have been reduced by £1.50 to £2.50 per head. This will reduce the cost differential between Basic and Premier Events for larger meetings to encourage Organisers to stay with or return to Premier cover for their events.

Item 11: Medal of Honour – Vic Ashford and Eric Adcock

The Right Reverend John Oliver presented Vic Ashford and Eric Adcock with the ACU Medal of Honour for their outstanding contribution and dedicated service, not only to the ACU but also to Motorcycle Sport in general.

Item 12: To Receive Minutes/Reports.

12.1 Directors Minutes

4th Meeting: 13th May
5th Meeting: 15th July
6th Meeting: 27th September

Only one comment had been received from Mr Livesey and the General Secretary confirmed that because of Child Protection issues a statement now appeared on Officials Licence application forms which meant that Officials now gave a Declaration that they have not or are not currently on the Sex Offenders Register.

Item 13: To Receive Committee Minutes:

13.1 Road Race, Drag & Sprint

1st Meeting: 8th March
2nd Meeting: 16th August

13.2 Motocross

3rd Meeting: 1st June
4th Meeting: 7th September

13.3 Trials & Enduro

2nd Meeting: 24th February
3rd Meeting: 26th April
4th Meeting: 7th June
5th Meeting: 20th July
6th Meeting: 6th September

13.4 Track Racing

3rd Meeting: 21st May
4th Meeting: 1st September

Item 14: To Receive Service Panel Minutes:

Sustainable Event Management Panel - 21st July

There have been no meetings of the Medical Panel since the last meeting.

Item 15: Any Other Business

Mid Wales Centre: Miss Bates commented that this year was the 60th anniversary of the Mid Wales Centre. She was also disappointed that not a lot of publicity had been made of Chaz Davies winning the World Supersport Championship. The General Secretary would speak with the PR Officer to

ensure something was placed on the ACU website.

Action: General Secretary

South Midland Centre: Mr Porter asked that as a cost cutting measure had we considered sending out the Election CV's electronically. The Chairman said that as a matter of rule, we sent them out in paper form so that the Centres and Delegates could see the manner in which individuals wrote their CVs, which he thought was important.

SACU. Mr Sheddon stated that 2013 would be the SACU's centenary year and it was planned that each discipline would organise a special event to commemorate the occasion which would include a DVD being made by Duke Marketing.

After not having one event licences in 2011, these were being re-introduced in 2012, however one day licences would not be available for National Championships.

ACU Handbook. The General Secretary reminded everyone that amendments to the ACU Handbook should be sent to Jayne Blackwell (jayne@acu.org.uk) as soon as possible with a view that the Handbook could be printed and published during or shortly after the Christmas period.

Item 16: Date of Next Meeting

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 1.05pm. The first meeting of the National Council (2012 session) will be held on Saturday 19th May.