



YORKSHIRE CENTRE AUTO CYCLE UNION

PRESIDENT Mr M Jackson



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Yorkshire Centre A.C.U. held on Tuesday 5th December 2023 at the Cleckheaton Sports Club. The Chairman Mark Yeadon called the meeting to order at 7.45 p.m.

In Attendance was:

The President – Martin Jackson

President Elect –

Vice Presidents –

Past Presidents: Ron Eddings & Graham Wilson

Life Members – Graham Wilson, Sue Smith, & Paul Whitaker.

Chairman – Mark Yeadon

Treasurer – Graham Wilson

Secretary - Sue Smith

Auditors – Martin Jackson

Ben Fund Officer – M Carter

Events Co Ordinator– Graham Wilson

Recorders - Trials – Mike Washington.

Delegates from The Yorkshire Centre Clubs: Airedale & Pennine 0, Barnsley 0, Batley 0, Bradford 3, Bumpy 0, Hillsborough 0, Horsforth 3, Hudds Falcon 3, Ilkley 0, North Riding Enduro 0, Richmond 0, Spen Valley 2, Stocksbridge 0, West Leeds 3, Wetherby 0, Yeadon-Guiseley 3, Yorkshire Classic 0, Yorkshire Enduro 0,.

Apologies for Absence from: None Received.

The minutes of the AGM held on the 24th January 2023 were accepted as a true record on a proposal from, Steve Smithies 2nd Martin Fairburn

PROPOSED MEETING DATES of 2024. February 27th, April 30th, June 25th August 20th, October 29th, December 10th (DATES & AGM). PASSED.

Centre Team Trial – NO CLUB Volunteered to Run this event in 2024

Annual Reports:

National Council Meeting – Martin Jackson

After thanking everyone present for attending, our President explained that a report on a National Council meeting would not normally be given at an A.G.M. but since several troubling concerns were raised at the November N.C. Meeting our Centre A.G.M. has provided a useful opportunity to convey some key aspects to a Centre-wide audience.

The N.C. Meeting progressed well enough as regards the elections to various positions and later ACU Director and insurance expert, Mr. Tony Steele addressed the meeting. One notable comment was that the ACU's annual insurance costs amounted to about £2.4 million, which represents approximately 64% of the ACU's overall expenditure of £3.69 million.

Of the people who addressed the meeting; Ms. Rochford of Locktons gave an interesting presentation. Mr. Freeth, of Magma (*the ACU's accountants*) commented (*via a video link*) on the ACU's financial position and thus far, based on a year on year comparison to only the end of the third quarter, the ACU is up for the period. Mr. Spencer, of Clyde & Co., the ACU's legal advisors, then made his presentation and after a lengthy "Q & A" session relating to these three dedicated presentations, the time came for ACU Director and new Chairman Mr. Tim Lightfoot to make his special and relatively secret presentation regarding what the ACU Board of Directors are planning under their so called "Way Forward" agenda. The proposed near and medium term changes to how the ACU may ultimately manage their operations and govern motorcycle sport in the future turned out to be quite a modernist and radical agenda.

It seems that several of the ACU's Directors support the proposed "Way Forward", which, among other worrying aspects, would, by various means, if progressed and adopted, further marginalise every Centre in the country to the point of redundancy.

Some key aspects were and are as follows;

(a) From 1/1/24, Permit Fee income and club Affiliation Fee income will cease to be given to Centres.

(b) Longer term, come 2026/27 the ACU wishes to re-structure the long established Centre model, where, under the ACU's new plan, the current arrangement of 20 Centres would cease and instead six larger ACU "Regions" would be created. Groups of geographically close Centres would essentially be amalgamated to form these six "Regions" and under such a plan the Yorkshire Centre, the East Yorks Centre, the North Eastern Centre, the North Western Centre, the Northern Centre and the Isle of Man Centre would be lumped together to become ACU Region #2. (***The implications are too complex to be explained within the scope of this report.***)

(c) Under the “Way Forward” there would be no National Council; instead a “Regional Assembly” would be created where the six new ACU Regions, plus the Non-Territorial Board and the Scottish A.C.U. would be represented. It is worth noting than in practice the N.T.B and the S.A.C.U. would carry on as before, since the ACU’s plan does not dilute their standing.

(d) In the near future the Trials and Enduro Committee is to be split to separate each discipline.

(e) Ultimately, the sporting discipline committees will be rebranded as commissions rather than committees. Sneakily, since they will no longer be actual committees the rules currently applicable to ACU committees will not necessarily be considered to apply to the new commissions and consequently the planned rebranding would be significantly more than merely a change in name.

(f) The Trials Registration is set to be dropped and an annual Trials Competition Licence will be introduced instead. This may happen as early as 2024 however the plan may be deferred or otherwise reviewed.

(g) It is planned (*for as soon as 2024*) that riders may apply for a Competition Licence without first joining an ACU affiliated club. Furthermore, competitors need not join a club at all unless the restriction applicable to a given event is such that they have to be a member of the organising club, or a club within a particular Centre, in order to enter and compete.

The President commented that more would be known after an ACU meeting in January 2024 and as a related aside given that some within the ACU’s internal management promoted and oversaw the premature Sport 80 debacle no one should be quick to market their latest “Way Forward” as being the best way to progress.

Events Coordinator (Permit Officer): -

As the issuing of permits since the start of the 2023 season has now been taken over by Rugby, the previous role of the Permit Officer is somewhat obsolete, hence a proposed change to Events Coordinator.

As all permit applications for events in the Centre are notified to the Centre for approval the main role is more as liaison with clubs on dates.

In total 138 permits had been issued by Rugby for events in the centre.

Benevolent Fund Officer: Margaret Carter gave her report

The total raised from the Yorkshire Centre has been £3,196.90 which is slightly down on 2022, but I can assure you that we are extremely appreciative for everything which we receive.

I am very grateful to all those Clubs and individuals who have contributed throughout the year and especially to Bradford DMC, The Scott Trial and Horsforth DMC for their very generous donations and continued support. At this point I would like to mention Horsforth who have since I took over as Benevolent Fund Officer for the Yorkshire Centre in 2001 made a total contribution to the Fund from their Bob Owen Memorial Trial of £26,587.48p. This is an unbelievable amount of money and I would like to thank Graham and everyone else concerned with this event for their hard work and support.

It would be wonderful to see more Clubs within the Centre supporting The Ben Fund but I do appreciate there are so many Charities out there it is very difficult to single out any one in particular.

I wish to remind all the Clubs that The ACU Benevolent Fund is there to help individuals and their dependants who are past or present members of the ACU or past or present members of Clubs affiliated to the ACU, who may find themselves in financial difficulty no matter how that has arisen and often in distressing circumstances. It could be any one of us or a fellow rider and family who needs our help. Please remember The Ben Fund if your Club should be planning to run a Charity Event in the future.

The fund has helped 7 people from within the Yorkshire Centre in 2023 and some of that help will continue into 2024. Countrywide that help has gone to 55+ applicants.

Overall, the “Donation Income” for 2023 is £30,254 which is approx. £10,000 down on 2022. However, the amount paid out in Grants totals £55,500 which is down on the 2022 figure. Luckily our income is supplemented by the sale of the TT Badges, Investment Income and those who have sadly passed away but have been kind enough to leave us a Legacy in their Wills.

The Ben Fund Administrative Committee meet every 2 months and is made up of a total of 9 Representatives from Scotland, Cheshire & N Wales, Western, Isle of Man, Midland, South Midland, East Midlands, South Western and myself from Yorkshire. Personally I believe this to be a good cross section of all the Centres throughout the UK and a good cross-section of all motorcycle disciplines.

All applications are treated in the strictest confidence and we sincerely hope that with the help of those who donate we can continue to support those less fortunate.

I rely very much on you, the members of The Yorkshire Centre to bring to my attention anyone who you feel may be in need the help of The ACU Benevolent Fund.

Recorders for Trials – Mike said there wasn’t much to report with still 2 championship events to run.

Treasurer Report – The accounts were circulated at the meeting and Graham went through them.

A detailed Balance sheet had been circulated.

This, recorded a final loss for the year of £1192.42

Fortunately, the interest on the Term Deposit with Virgin paid £ 755.47 which helped offset the operating cost for the year and had been rolled over for another term at 4.3%

This loss was predicted, as we knew income from previous sources would be lost or reduced due to the move to Rugby for permits and event payments.

We had also agreed to not to charge the rider levy to help clubs with the increases that had been imposed for 2023.

We had managed to make several reductions in costs which are seen on balance sheet which had helped keep cost to a minimum.

As there is likely to be no more support from Rugby in future and the only income likely to be the interest on the term deposit, we will be looking to further review costs over the coming year.

Fortunately, the Centre is in a sound position financially and our reserves sufficient to see us through until it is established how the Centre will operate.

Auditors Report: from Martin Jackson – I can confirm that the well-presented “Accounts” accurately show our Centre’s financial position for the eleven month period ending 30/11/23. As shown in the accounts, the turnover of £9587.05, less operating charges of £11534.94, plus interest of £755.47, credited within the year, on the Term Deposit account, has resulted in a loss of £1192.42 for the eleven month accounting period.

Our Treasurer, with Centre Board approval, has rolled-over the funds on term deposit for a further twelve months @ 4.3%, which, next year, will yield £1742.23 in interest.

Combined Centre funds, as of the end of November 2023, amount to £51586.01 and I recommend that the accounts, as documented and presented at the A.G.M., are approved as a true record of our Centre’s financial status.

I must add that 2023 has been a transitional year and with all the changes forced upon us by ACU Head Office and with further negative changes still to come, 2024 is going to be significantly worse for us and all other Centres financially; consequently, it is looking very probable that our only income in 2024 will be the interest earned on our Centre’s Term Deposit account.

Although not purely a financial matter, I think it would be prudent to keep end November as the end of our new accounting year so that we may again have our Annual General Meeting in December.

Secretary:

I can’t give you a rundown of Centre championship because they are not complete.

My thanks go to Martin for his President Job this year; he has once again done a great job promoting the Centre going round the nationals stewarding these events. Thanks to Mark for been there when called upon, has chairman, and to Mike for looking after the points and grading’s, and to Graham for looking after the money, and to all Club Secretary’s that come to the Centre Meetings to keeps us going. Hopefully this year we may have some new blood attending meetings. Thank you for all your help over my 23 years of service to the Yorkshire Centre I hand over to a younger and more knowledgeable to the computer world we now live in.

Chairman: Mark Yeadon thanked all the officials for their hard work, he said it was sad that Ripon had decided to leave the Centre, but hopefully may come back in the future.

President – Having said plenty already during this meeting our Centre President kept his report relatively brief. He remarked that 2023 had been quite a stressful year in several respects and that although the early introduction of the ACU’s poorly conceived Sport 80 platform brought unwanted problems for competitors, clubs and our Centre, we were lucky enough to have several knowledgeable computer gurus within the Centre who gave generously of their time to help us deal with the issues and our President thanked them for their contributions. The President said that as well as keeping the Centre accounts in order, our Treasurer had also done a fine job of keeping some people within ACU House “on their toes” and Martin thanked Graham for all the good work he had done for the Centre throughout the year.

Additionally, the President used the opportunity of his annual address to express his gratitude to our retiring Centre Secretary Sue for all that she has contributed over the decades. Martin stated that Sue’s service to the Yorkshire Centre has been and remains remarkable and that whilst he and Sue didn’t always see “eye to eye” on things, such minor differences of opinions simply added to the “spice of life”. Martin further commented that Sue is a friend who is liked and respected by him and many others and he wished Sue well, both in her new role and also when she eventually takes up the deserved position of Yorkshire Centre President.

Vote of Thanks to Retiring Officials from Martin Jackson.

Officials Expenses: To be deferred to the first meeting of 2024 on the treasurer recommendation.

Election of Officials:

1. ELECTIONS -

PRESIDENT	-	Martin Jackson
President Elect	-	Sue Smith
Vice Presidents	-	Martin Fairburn, Howard Gully
Chairman	-	Mark Yeadon
Treasurer	-	Graham Wilson
Secretary	-	Martin Fairburn
Auditors	-	Martin Jackson
Events Coordinator-		Graham Wilson

		Training Officers -	Sue Smith & Mark Yeadon
		Benevolent Officer	Margaret Carter
		Dinner Organiser	Graham Wilson
		Handbook	Graham Wilson, Ron Eddings, Kudu
		Noise Inspectors	Graham Wilson
Recorders	-	Trials	Mike Washington
		Delegate to General Council	Martin Jackson, Martin Fairburn

Officials Accepted on block – All in Favour

Proposals for Rule Changes 2024

General: That a subcommittee be formed to revise the rules of ther Centre and review Centre Championships events. A member from each Club
 Proposed by Horsforth 2nd Braford PAST

Rule 2 (a): New post of Events Coordinator be added to Officials PAST

Rule 4 (f) Change the precedence in allocation to :
 A: Maintaining Historical Event Date
 B: Status of event (i.e. Centre Champ, etc.,)
 C: Submission within date specitified by Centre,
 Proposed by Horsforth 2nd Bradford PAST

Rule 6 (d) Withdrawn
 Rules 7 & 4 Withdrawn
 Rule 4 (h) Withdrawn
 Rule 7 (a) Withdrawn

Rule 7 (e): Delete the words ‘with exception of Adult Championship Classes who will discard 2 rounds.’
 Proposed Bradford & Richmond & Horsforth ALL AGREED PAST

Rule 7 (e): Add ‘A’ rider must compete ina least 3 rounds to quailify
 Proposed Richmond 2nd Bradford CARRIED

Rule 7 (f): Withdrawn

Rule 7 (h): Delete words ‘ at least 14 sections’ and replace with ‘a minimum total of 36 sections, and a minimum of 10 sections per lap.’
 Proposed Braford 2nd Horsforth

Amendment ‘ 3 laps 12 sections’ CARRIED

New Rule Withdrawn

Rule 9 (c) Change £6 to £7
 Proposed G Wilson 2nd M Fairburn PAST

Rule 10 (b): Withdrawn

MEETING CLOSED AT 9.04 PM