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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE ASSOCIATION OF EASTERN MOTOR CLUBS  
20<sup>th</sup> Aug 2020**

**Held as Zoom virtual meeting – locations various**

The meeting commenced at 20.00 hrs

**Attendance**

**Members**

26 were present representing 16 clubs as follows

Gary Nicholls	Chairman / CMC
Stanley Graham	Vice Chairman / Anglia Motorsport Club
Stuart Kingham	Treasurer / WAC
Alan Barnard	West Essex MC
Paul Barrett	Rally Championship / CMC
Mike Biss	Boundless
Mark Banham	Kings Lynn & DMC
John Boot	West Suffolk MC
Tony Burchnall	Eastern Counties MC
Tony Clements	Regional Committee Rep / CMC
Chris Deal	Green Belt MC
Matt Endean	Motorsport UK Committees / CMC
Suze Endean	Chelmsford MC
Lucy Fryer	Chelmsford MC
Clive Grounds	Training / Cambridge CC
Barry Guess	Sutton and Cheam MC
Paul Jeeves	Middx CMC
Liz Jordan	ASEMC / MMK MC
Tony Michael	Web / Comp Sec / CMC
Barry Morris	Borough 19
Dan Pearson	Eastern Counties MC
Allan Smith	Wickford AC
Pete Walters	Speed Championship / Herts County A & AC
Michael Weeks	Southern CC
Dave Whyman	Sutton and Cheam MC
Brian Hemmings	Secretary / Anglia MSC

## **Welcome**

The chairman welcomed everyone.

## **Apologies**

Andrew Williamson (Middx CAC)

## **Previous Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday the 14th Jan 2020 were reviewed and unanimously agreed to be a true representation of the meeting. Adoption of the minutes was proposed by Cambridge CC (Clive Grounds) and seconded by Herts CAAC (Pete Walters)

## **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes

## **Chairman's Report**

The chairman thanked everyone for supporting this the first virtual meeting of the association indicating that the management team had used the format in recent weeks to gain familiarity with the format. He felt that while “face to face” meetings will continue to be part of the plans going forward virtual meetings of this type which have significant advantages in reducing travel and time commitments will become part of the future plans. Future “real” meetings should have a virtual attendance option to make them more easily and widely “available”.

Although there have not been any events the association had been working on several initiatives which will be covered during the meeting.

The chairman offered congratulations to the team from Green Belt MC who had very successfully organised the sprint at North Weald, the first event in the region after lock down.

The meeting was asked to remember Roy Smith and John Conboy who had sadly passed on recently, both of whom had been significant contributors to motor sport in the region.

## **Treasurers Report**

A draft set of accounts for 2019 had been circulated. The treasurer highlighted that higher than usual costs had been encountered due to the need to provide a new trophy for the sprint championship and a short fall in sponsorship.

Further information on several areas was requested and additionally a cross year view on championships that clarified overall costs. The revised formats to be provided for the next meeting. Liz Jordan offered to support if required.

The current bank accounts stand at £11,225

## **Secretary's Report**

During the “lock down” period general updates had been received but nothing that was association specific.

In an attempt to provide up to date information on events being planned or considered during the “volatile” resumption period a list of dates and updates which had been received from clubs for the remainder of the year had been circulated on a semi regular basis. Delegates agreed that this had been beneficial and should be continued to cover the remainder of 2020.

## **Championship Reports**

### **Stage Rally**

3 rounds have been successfully run prior to “lock down”. There are potentially 5 additional rounds which it is hoped will run before the end of the year. On this basis the plan is that the championship will be valid for 2020 running under sponsorship from Marsh Commercial previously known as Jelf. There will be no awards ceremony held in early 2021 as it is felt that restrictions will still be in place in the early year. Awards will be distributed at the first events in 2021

### **Speed**

Although no events have been run at the time of the meeting a number are planned for the remainder of the year and these will make up the 2020 championship with no roll over of the 2020 series into 2021. Competitors registering for 2020 will however receive a free registration in the 2021 series.

## **Club Reports**

Clubs provided an overview of the situation in respect of their position and plans in returning to holding events.

Clubs reported that they are progressively using virtual meetings to maintain contact with their members.

The main challenge identified was the situation in terms of availability of MoD venues. The general situation with MoD seems to be that they are being very cautious currently and either not looking at reopening for outside activities or working within a 30 maximum attendees rule. This impacts the potential for events in the region as a consequence of the relatively high current dependence on MoD Venues. While there is no definite timing on restrictions indications are that there will be no change until at least the New Year. It is recognised that the position can be different at individual venues and so is being monitored closely.

Plans for sprints and trials using non Mod property are progressing.

A query was raised as to how to interpret the guidance on allowing passengers in car trials. It was agreed that this would be followed up at the Regional Committee meeting being held the following day.

## **Other Matters**

### **Future direction for the Association**

A working group has been looking at options for how the association can evolve to ensure it meets the needs of its member clubs and improves engagement with clubs and club members.

A draft proposal was presented based on a concept of the association developing as a “centre or hub” for event and club related matters. This would include organising some activities e.g championships, training sessions and becoming a centre of knowledge in others e.g. Technical compliance, club development and communication. The structure would be based around an administrative activity integrated with focus areas for relevant topic areas. (the illustrative diagram which was used to explain the idea accompanies these minutes. Following discussion it was agreed that the idea can deliver real value to the sport in the region and should be progressed. During the discussion it was identified that getting engagement with clubs and members will be a key challenge and critical to success.

Clubs were requested to discuss the proposal and to feed back any thoughts and ideas. Members of the working group indicated they would be happy to participate in/support discussions to help with clarifying thoughts and developing ideas.

### **Any Other Business**

#### **LARA**

The treasurer indicated that an invoice had been received from LARA with regard to 2020 associate membership. The amount has been reduced for 2020 from previous years to £100. It was agreed that this should be paid.

#### **Electric Vehicles**

Barry Guess indicated that a “demonstration” electric vehicle had been present at the recent Abingdon sprint. The unit is self contained and comes with its own support team and is aimed at providing an insight into the potential for “standard” electric vehicles at sprint type events. If anyone is interested in the vehicle attending their event (sprints only) they should contact Barry.

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on the 13th Oct. and will form the 2020 AGM followed by a delegates meeting