

It is with some sadness and much annoyance that we have to announce the cancellation of this years ELRAT Enduro at the Glendevon Forest Complex on the 3rd of June. This cancellation is specifically due to illegal riders in and around the forest creating additional work for the forresters preventing the club getting access to prepare the ground for the enduro.

The SACU are deeply disappointed that this event cannot take place this year due to the blatantly irresponsible and selfish behaviour of a few riders who feel they can ride anywhere with no detriment to our sports. Losing this event is simple proof of how wrong they are.

Lindsey Barrie and his team have worked closely with Hamish Murray, the FES Manager for Tayside and the Forest Enterprise staff to find a way forward but the event will not be possible this year. I'm publishing Hamish's note to ELRAT to let our members understand that the FES want to work and collaborate with clubs and events but that illegal riding will continue to get in the way.

In 2017 Forest Enterprise Scotland hosted an event run by ELRAT in Glendevon Forest. This event was well run and we were happy to consider hosting ELRAT again in 2018.

One of the caveats to hosting another event was that we would not see an increase in illegal motorcycle access. Unfortunately, since the event, this appears to have happened and instead of being able to concentrate on working through details for this year's event with the club, we have been spending time trying to sort this problem out. Regrettably, this has meant that it is now too late for ELRAT to run an event this year.

Whilst FES is happy to host such events on the National Forest Estate, in line with our agreement with SACU, we also have to balance up the needs and safety of other forest users.

We have agreed in principle to host ELRAT in 2019 and look forward to working with them on this event and to solving the problems that we encountered last year.

*Hamish Murray
Community and Visitor Services Manager
Tay Forest District*

The SACU is working with senior managers at Forest Enterprise Scotland as they transition to the Forestry and Land Agency in 2019. This is a great chance to build a greater collaboration between the new Agency and Mototcycle Sport. Part of this new collaboration will be aimed at erradicating illegal riders and the SACU will work closely with FES in the coming months.

There is already some great work being done with local forresters around Scotland to build partnerships with FES. A front page article was published last week in the Mearns Leader regarding a new collabotration between Police Scotland, Forestry Commission and Bon Accord MCC

<https://www.mearnsleader.co.uk/news/campaign-targets-illegal-off-roading-1-4726992>

If this strikes a chord with any of our members around Scotland, you are jeopardising all events in Scotland that use Forestry Estate. Be aware that measures are being taken by FES and SACU clubs to track any illegal riders. The SACU will support the Forestry Commission, Forest Enterprise and Police Scotland in any actions they deem necessary to rid ourselves of illegal riders.