

Harrogate Advanced Bikes

Committee Meeting - Bilton Cricket Club - 28 October 2013

Present:

Bob Hill
Doug Masterton
Pauline Simms
Tim Simms
Andrew Pratt
Paul Dresser
David Haywood

1. Apologies received from Mike Fourie.
2. Minutes from the meeting on 5 August 2013 read and approved.

Proposed PD; Seconded TS

3a. Update on Group Observers:

PS reported that 5 members currently hold Senior Observer status, namely Bob Hill, Doug Masterton, Dave White, Pauline Simms and Andrew Pratt.

3 members are Qualified Observers, namely Tim Simms, Steve Corson and John Blanchfield.

There are 5 Group Observers, namely Paul Barker, Graham Rymer, Paul Dresser, Graham Crowther and Chris Lawrenson.

PS mentioned that she had been approached by two people expressing an interest in becoming Observers and these requests were under consideration.

3b. Update on Training

Referring to the upcoming Observers meeting on 16 November, PS stated that the intention was to look at the requirements of the new national Observer qualification and to question where we think HAB are in relation to that. If further development needs are identified we can then look at what is needed to bring the group up to the required standard.

PS said she would encourage current non-qualified Observers to become qualified before the start of next season. She also pointed out that qualified Observers can put themselves forward for the new national Observer qualification; if nothing else they would act as guinea pigs to find out how it all works and, until someone applies, we won't know what the IAM requirements are and what support will be in place.

With 8 Associates from this year still to take the test plus 3 likely newcomers for next year, PS thinks we will be stretched. It was generally agreed however that we have sufficient Observers to cover but should encourage members to indicate their interest in becoming an Observer.

DH suggested that we add an item to the proposed members' questionnaire asking everyone if they are interested in putting themselves forward for assessment as an Observer.

*PS to speak with non-qualified Observers re becoming qualified
DH to add item to proposed questionnaire re Observer status interest*

4. BH talked about the IAM group handbook and the importance of being procedurally correct in line with the IAM charter. In particular, the committee should include a Deputy Chairman. Agreed that election of a Deputy Chairman should be added to the agenda for the AGM next March.

***DH to contact IAM for a copy of the group handbook
DH to post item on website asking for nominations for the post of Deputy Chairman
DH to add election of Deputy Chairman to AGM agenda***

5. Group finances:

DM reported that the group currently has £3788.33 cash in the bank but warned that we will make an overall loss for the year, i.e. income won't cover expenditure. There is currently a net surplus of £149 but outstanding items and any new expenditure will push this into the red.

DH suggested that we should consider raising the club membership fee in light of 2013 being the second year with an overall operating loss. BH and PS pointed out that we are still spending surplus from, amongst other things, an earlier training grant and spending this money was the right thing to do and we have no intention of putting subscriptions up at the moment. We are carrying a large surplus of cash and this will be used to facilitate training; we are not a trading company and as such do not operate a profit and loss account.

Agreed the club will buy 15 copies of the latest Motorcycle Handcraft handbook for distribution to Observers. This to (a) emphasise the importance of keeping up-to-date with latest roadcraft thinking and (b) in recognition of the hard work put in by Observers. DM will buy the books via Amazon on his personal credit card to get the best possible price and then be reimbursed from club funds.

DM to purchase 15 copies Motorcycle Handcraft

6. Sunday ride outs

As the 3rd Sunday ride for April 2014 is Easter Sunday it was agreed to move this particular ride out to the 2nd Sunday, i.e. 13th April. All other ride out dates to remain as the 3rd Sunday starting March 16th with the last ride on October 19th.

DH to add dates to website calendar

Confirmed that there are three committee members with access to the club website for posting new items etc. These are: PD, DM and DH.

DH said he would liaise with MF regarding Monday night meeting events and post flyers for these together with flyers for Sunday ride outs to the website.

The Chairman asked for ideas to make ride outs more interesting and suggested these could include riding to a particular event or historic destination etc. Various ideas were mooted and generally this was thought to be a good idea. DH suggested we could include an item on this in the members' questionnaire.

DH to add to proposed questionnaire

PD said he thought ride out leaders should be encouraged to include a first stop where riders could start the ride if they preferred this to Harrogate. TS pointed out this would need a measure of forward planning by ride leaders, for example to ensure timings were reasonably accurate etc.

AP asked that a hi-vis waistcoat in a distinctive colour be purchased by the club so this could be worn by the tail-end Charlie on club ride outs. Agreed by all.

AP to purchase

7. Monday evening meetings, Bilton CC

Confirmed there will be no meeting in December.

We now have something booked for each of the remaining meetings:

November - Paul Mercer with a talk and slide show on his trip across Europe and Asia to the Chinese border.

January - Peter Riley, Helite airbag talk and demo

February - Graham Buxton to address the group on the IAM's new Master's Award

March - AGM

BH commented that, subject to time constraints, we don't need to stick to just one item per meeting.

8. Members Questionnaire

DH showed the committee the latest draft questionnaire; PD says the questionnaire could be put up on the website making it easier for members to respond thereby saving a lot of time and potential postage costs. Agreed to put this out in the New Year.

DH to liaise with PD re setting up the questionnaire on the website

9. DM reported that we have less than 50% of the new leaflets left for distribution. Key bike shops have already been visited and leaflets left. Agreed we should have another trek round these dealers before the start of the new riding season.

AP suggested visiting dealers again to ascertain if leaflets are still on view, how well they are presented and how well they have gone.

PD/BH said they would personally go round dealers in the Bradford / West Leeds area in the New Year.

PS said she was keeping an eye out for the next Bike Safe event in Ripon as it would be an ideal place to distribute HAB leaflets.

10. The seasonal 'Do' has been booked and MF is now taking bookings and payments.

11. Any other business.

(i) DM suggested that an extra element be added to our Slow Riding event covering man handling a bike. TS and PS added to this suggesting there should be sessions on coming to a stop cleanly at a junction without having to 'paddle' the bike forward and 'walking around with one finger' a stationary and unsupported bike respectively.

Agreed we should broaden the scope of the Slow Riding day with elements of the above.

Date set for the Slow Riding event: Sunday 27 April 2014.

DM to book the AtoB car park again

(ii) DH mentioned that he had been approached by an Observer saying his Associate, who had recently passed his advanced test, had not received a certificate. On emailing the IAM they replied to DH saying a duplicate certificate would be sent but pointing out that the Associate in question had "resigned his IAM membership". DH requested clarification on the rules of HAB membership and it was confirmed that it is a prerequisite to being a HAB member to be a member of IAM at the same time.

DH to write to the member in question

(iii) PD thought the slot DM had put together at the last Monday meeting on riding 'myths' was very good and PS said she would devise something similar as a 'stand by' item for future meetings.

PS to look into

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.59pm.

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