

Harrogate Advanced Bikes Annual General Meeting 9th March 2015

Present:

19 members + 1 guest

Bob Hill (BH), Chairman
David Haywood (DH), Secretary
Andrew Pratt (AP), Treasurer
Doug Masterton (DM), Chief Observer

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.45pm.

Apologies:

Apologies received from Tim Simms, Keith Hudson, Paul Higgins, Paul Dresser, Andy Partridge

The minutes from the 2014 AGM were accepted as read and approved.

**Proposed by Mike Fourie
Seconded by Steve Coetzer**

There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report

The group has had 10 new test passes in the year although membership has stayed fairly level at an average of around 50.

Bob thanked all those who had led ride outs last year and said these continue to be well attended.

Bob said he thought the group was lacking contribution from others and that's fine if that's what people want. If not, people need to make their voice heard so the committee can take steps to change things.

The Chairman said he had made efforts through the year to get more new people signing up for Skills for Life but for whatever reason, events such as the Open Day have been disappointing in the number of new members achieved. Likewise the Allan Jefferies day earlier this year had been a disappointment in this regard. Bob once again asked everyone to ask any biker friend or relative who might be interested to come along and see what was on offer.

The Chairman said three people (Pauline and Tim Simms, Paul Dresser) have resigned from the committee due to personal commitments and he thanked them all for their time and contribution to the club. In particular, Bob thanked Pauline Simms

for the marvellous job she did as Chief Observer, also Paul Dresser for setting up and maintaining the club website.

Secretary's Report

David Haywood said he wanted to break with tradition this year and use this slot to report on the online questionnaire. He thanked all those who have responded so far - a total of 27 members to date and said that, although there's not been chance to analyse everything yet, some key points are:

- A lot of interest in more training sessions, e.g. 85% interested in 'evening machine control' sessions
- A number of members have expressed interest in joining the Committee
- Overwhelming interest in Weekday or Saturday ride outs - a total of 23 members interested in one or the other, 14 for weekdays / 9 for Saturdays.

David said he would try to get something up and running for weekday rides as soon as possible and would be in touch with the interested parties. He said he was not normally available himself on Saturdays but will speak to those who are interested to get things off the ground.

- Sunday ride outs in particular have produced some very forthright comments. David said it was impossible to please everyone and many views are contrary; however, the committee will need to look carefully at the points raised and address these.

David said that overall the survey has been a very interesting exercise and again thanked all those participating.

Treasurer's Report

Andrew Pratt said he had taken over the role of Treasurer in March 2014 and thanked former Treasurer Doug Masterton for his advice and assistance, also Mrs Carole Dobson who once again audited the accounts.

Andrew presented the accounts which show a snapshot of the Group finances for the financial year to 31st December 2014.

Total cash assets have increased by £803.58 in the year, however Andrew pointed out this includes £1,035 prepaid for 2015, i.e. advance payments for the annual dinner in January and 2015 subscriptions. When these are taken into consideration cash funds have actually decreased by £231.42 year on year.

Andrew pointed out that, despite this reduction, the accounts continue to be healthy with net funds of £3,791.46 held at the end of the year.

Andrew itemised the main factors which contributed to the shortfall:

- Fewer Associates signing up for SFL compared to the previous year (HAB receives a proportion of the fee) which have resulted in a reduction of £155 in monies received from IAM when compared to 2013.

- Expenses paid by IAM in 2013 of £84.48, the 2014 contribution was received late and is in the 2015 accounting year.

Training costs have reduced in the year by just over £300. Andrew said he felt the Group should be spending more of its cash on training across the board. By example, he pointed out that in 2013 money was spent on professional training for Observers and this hadn't been repeated in 2014.

Andrew said that Ride Out and Meetings contributions were static, as were room hire / buffet costs, but pointed out that, after accounting for members' contributions, the Group subsidises each meeting at Bilton Cricket Club by approx. £30. He said that, going forward, the committee had agreed to up the meetings contribution to £2 per head. Andrew considered this still to be great value for the buffet provided by BCC.

Andrew pointed out that most months some members haven't been contributing the £1, i.e. the amount received doesn't equate to the number of people attending. Although the committee don't intend to formalise the collection in any way, Andrew asked that everyone does the right thing and puts their money into the 'collection mug' each meeting.

The Secretary informed the meeting that all Officers of the Club were now standing down.

Bob Hill has offered to stand again as Chairman and no other nominations have been received.

Bob Hill was unanimously voted in as Chairman for the new year.

**Proposed by John Watts
Seconded by Roy Beniston**

David Haywood has offered to stand again as Secretary and no other nominations have been received.

David Haywood unanimously voted in as Secretary

**Proposed by Andrew Pratt
Seconded by Bob Hill**

Andrew Pratt has offered to stand again as Treasurer and no other nominations have been received.

Andrew Pratt unanimously voted in as Treasurer

**Proposed by Doug Masterton
Seconded by Dave Haywood**

Mike Fourie remains on the committee as Events Secretary.

As Doug Masterton is not seeking re-election to the post of Vice Chairman and, as no nominations have been received for this post, the Chairman asked if there were

any nominations from the floor.
No nominations received and the post remains open for the time being.

Bob informed the meeting that, in the light of Paul Dresser's resignation from the committee, Steve Coetzer has agreed to put himself forward for the committee with the specific task of looking at all aspects of publicity and marketing (including the website) for the club.

**Proposed by Bob Hill
Seconded by Andrew Pratt**

Steve Coetzer unanimously voted on to the committee

The Chairman expressed the importance of having a good selection of members with differing views on the committee and referred to the interest received in committee membership via the online survey. He said he would be getting in touch with those expressing an interest in due course.

A proposal was received from the floor for Judith Gasser to join the committee which she graciously accepted

**Proposed by Mike Fourie
Seconded by Steve Coetzer**

Judith Gasser unanimously voted on to the committee

Chief Observer's Training Report

Doug Masterton said the Group currently have 11 Observers including 3 National Observers, 2 senior and a qualified Observer. He thanked Paul Dresser who, although remaining with the club, has stepped down from the committee and will not be continuing as an Observer.

The situation re Associates is currently not so good with just 7 Associates in total and only 2 having joined to start the new programme this year.

Doug said he had been disappointed with the attendance at the first Theory 1 session the previous Saturday; the second theory session is scheduled for next Saturday. There are two more sessions pencilled in for June.

Two Slow riding dates have been set for 26 April with the second in July. Doug said there's a question mark over the venue as he'd not had any response from the managers at Knaresborough Business Park regarding use of the car park etc. Doug is to visit to try and firm this up.

A top up training session has been arranged for Observers with i2i training and is scheduled for 28 March. This will concentrate on the interaction between Associates and Observers.

There's pressure on all Groups from IAM on getting people through SFL and we need to do our bit to ensure our training methods are consistent with IAM requirements.

To this end, Doug has put together materials including a draft Observers Guide. This

is designed to give guidance on the nine Observed Rides Activities with clearer information on each, i.e. what to cover and the various approaches which can be taken.

It's thought that, eventually, the IAM will publish their own guide for Observers.

Doug also said he was putting something together that he hoped over time could be given to Associates when they join to encapsulate the essentials. This would include a commitment sheet and chart showing their ongoing progress through the training process. Again this is something the IAM want to see.

The IAM itself is engaged in an internal exercise for consistency and quality assurance with the aim of achieving a definitive exam standard. Currently different examiners look for different things and this has been confusing in the past.

Turning to our own club ride outs, Doug said all club rides should be exemplars of Advanced Riding standards and a model of good practice. Associates riding with the Group should learn how to ride well by riding amongst us.

Doug mentioned a communication the Group has received from a warrant officer at Catterick Garrison. They have soldiers with motorbikes who often ride irresponsibly and dangerously and there is a feeling that the army should be doing more to give them training.

Bob and Doug have visited and advised a structured day covering theory and essential training, car park exercises with slow riding training, principles of counter steering etc. and some Observed rides on public roads.

We are still waiting for a response from Catterick. IAM have said "go for it" but would like to see National Observers doing the training. This may involve asking for help from other clubs.

Mike Fourie asked if the club would charge Catterick Garrison for the day. Doug replied that a charge would be made, at least for expenses incurred by individuals involved, but this is still to be negotiated.

Any other business

John Watts said he believed a policy had been put forward where non-IAM members were not allowed to get involved in club ride outs; did the committee feel this would be detrimental in attracting and recruiting new members?

Bob Hill clarified this by saying that the IAM do allow newcomers to join the Group for one ride out before making the decision to sign up for SFL.

Doug Masterton pointed out that this could not be extended to such events as the Slow Riding Workshop as non-IAM members are not covered by IAM insurance.

Next meeting

The next AGM will be held on Monday 14 March 2016.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

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