

Harrogate Advanced Bikes

Committee Meeting - Bilton Cricket Club - 7 April 2015

Present:

Bob Hill

Doug Masterton

Mike Fourie

Andrew Pratt

Judith Gasser

Steve Coetzer

David Haywood

1. Minutes from meeting of 7 April 2015 read and approved.

2. Resignation of Officers

DH informed the meeting that he will have served as Group Secretary for 3 years at the end of this year and that, due to other commitments he has decided to stand down from the committee at the end of December 2015.

BH will also have served 3 years as Chairman and feels that this is about the right time for the group to seek a replacement and therefore won't be putting himself forward for re-election at the AGM.

The group is therefore in the situation where we need to find and appoint a new Chairman and Secretary in the near future.

DM made the point that this is the proper thing for an association to do and felt that it was unhealthy for a committee to plot successors all the time and that something should come from the grassroots membership.

JG concurred saying we should bring the situation to people's attention and invite nominations as soon as possible.

MF suggested that the first indoor meeting on 14th September should be used to let everyone know how important it is that we get people to stand up, not necessarily just for the two important posts becoming vacant but as committee members generally. Agreed to advertise the Sept 14th meeting accordingly.

DH to publicise on website

3. Open Day

Although the first Open Day in 2013 went well the response to the second in 2014 was disappointing.

AP said if we are to repeat again this should be at the start of the season rather than the end and that we should put some proper thought into what we are going to do and how we are going to promote it.

SC said we should lean on IAM more to get advance publicity from them, e.g. with details in one of their newsletters etc.

SG also suggested we open up the club's Facebook page to all and encourage interest that way.

DH said he understood that the Route 59 Café had a regular biker meeting on Tuesday evenings. AP and SC suggested we could tag onto this or a similar event for an open day venue and maybe sponsor coffees etc.

Agreed discussion on an Open Day to be held over and to bring up as a separate topic at the September 14th club meeting.

ALL: Add to Sept 14 discussion

4. Speakers and events for Club nights

DM said we should ask Dave Dobson to speak at a meeting again and all agreed.

MF to contact Dave Dobson

DM suggested we could have different people with experience of organising group rides to talk about how they went about organising these.

The following three suggested for one club night meeting:

DM: Piece on Scotland and the outer Hebrides

AP: Piece on doing European tours, e.g. the routes, hotels, timings etc.

MF: Piece on his South African tour

MF to decide which month; DM, AP and MF to prepare their stint

JG said she could have a word with a medical consultant she knows who does work for British Superbikes and ask if she (or someone she knows) would be prepared to talk at one of our meetings.

JG to look into

As last year, a quiz night is to be held at the December 14th meeting.

BH/DM to organise

Christmas 'January' dinner. Agreed that we should change the venue next time. Agreed to ask members for suggestions at September 14th meeting. The Kestrel and The Pine Marten were put forward as possibles.

ALL: Add to Sept 14 discussion; MF to take from there

5. Training events

DM confirmed he has earmarked a Slow Riding event for Sunday 4th October but still needs to get formal permission to use the site; hopeful this will be OK.

DM to firm up

6. Club ride outs

AP said he thought Sunday rides had been made more interesting this year with emphasis on making good progress but still within a safe and legal framework.

He said he was concerned that attendance has been down this year; from March to August turnout has been down 24% and his perception was that some people going on the new weekday rides were not going on the Sunday rides as a consequence.

DH said there was no evidence to support this and thought the more likely cause was privately organised tours; in particular those organised by both himself and AP in June through August, all of which had unfortunately clashed with Sunday ride dates and inevitably affected the latter.

BH said he thought weekday rides should be run on the same principles as the Sunday rides and with the same £1 per head contribution. DH questioned whether it would be better to abandon contributions for all ride outs and instead make a modest increase to the annual subscription but this was not considered appropriate.

DM said Sunday ride out attendance in general should be added as a question for the Sept 14th meeting: "what is it that's making the Sunday ride outs less popular?"

DH to ensure ride out contribution is collected on future weekday Ride Outs

ALL: Add to Sept 14 discussion

7. Any other business:

Club website

SC proposed that the current website is ditched and that an alternative is sought. Reasons being (a) the present website is not intuitive enough and (b) the host company are poor at solving issues. There is also an ongoing issue which has broken the auto-emailing facility; this means that all posts have currently to be emailed separately to all members.

SC said he was looking at other web hosting providers for a possibly replacement. It was not clear if this would include auto-emailing like the WordPress system but SC to look into this.

SC to prepare a proposal with costs

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

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