



Southern Motorcycle Advanced Rider Training

Minutes of an

Annual General Meeting

of

RoSPA Southern Motorcycle Advanced Rider Training
(RoSPA SMART)

at

Southgate West Community Centre
Ditchling Hill
Southgate
Crawley
West Sussex
RH11 8QL

on

Thursday 22nd October 2015 at 7.30 pm

Agenda.

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Agree the minutes of last AGM.
3. Report by the Chairman.
4. Report by the Treasurer and presentation of the accounts.
5. Report by the Membership Secretary.
6. Report by the Chief Instructor.
7. Election of officers.
8. Any other business.
9. Close of meeting.

Meeting formally opened at 7.32 pm. 32 members were in attendance on the evening.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from 59 members.

2. Minutes of last AGM agreed

The minutes of the last AGM were distributed with the notification for this meeting and copies were also available for attendees of the meeting.

As no amendments, issues or concerns were raised with respect to the previous minutes, they were agreed (Proposed by Godfrey Town and seconded by Dennis Mustard).

3. Report by the Chairman (Andrew Bell)

Within the last 24 hours Andrew Bell gave apology for not being able to attend as he had double booked himself with a business meeting in Bristol. No message or statement was forwarded for the Committee to read out.

4. Report by the Treasurer (Alex Beattie) and presentation of the accounts

Alex issued print- outs showing the accounts and annual report for the year ended 30th September 2015.

A Copy of the Report and Accounts are attached to these minutes. Alex has done such a concise report that it speaks for itself rather than including points within these minutes.

At the end of the Report Alex asked for questions from the floor.

Mark Bloxham congratulated Alex on a very concise report.

Robin Brown also congratulated Alex on what he thought was probably the most thorough set of accounts presented to the AGM. He then went on to enquire whether when a Trainee Instructor attains the standard and passes the assessment, if their expenses could be sent in the form of a cheque with the Letter of Congratulations instead of having to apply for them. Alex responded that it was much better to be able to do these sort of transactions electronically rather than through writing out cheques and posting them. In the letter he emails to the new Instructor he also asks for details so he can do the transaction. Some have claimed, some have declined to claim.

Martin Howe, posed a question regarding the £5000 reserve. Alex responded that it was a left over from the days when we were part of the Sussex Car Group.

Various members asked questions regarding the cost of hiring the headsets for Instructors. Trevor Shearsmith questioned whether as the units were down valued in cost on the balance sheets, could the cost of hire be reduced as well. RM answered for Alex to say it would be looked into and discussed at Committee level, he also commented that there may now be a better product on the market to help Instructors communicate with their associates while out on the road.

A request to accept the Report and Accounts was put to the floor. Proposed by Tim Benians, Seconded by Andrew Adams.

5. Report by the Membership Secretary (Jim Quay)

Jim gave quick review of the current situation.

Current Membership is 287. (Because the Chairman was supposed to report on the bestowing of Life Membership, it was not mentioned that Roger Manning and Andrew Adams have been awarded Life Membership during the term of this committee.

Jim explained that this was the figure after the removal of 85 people who had not re-subscribed at the beginning of 2014-2015 year.

Behind the scenes issues with membership cards had been resolved and would be sent out after renewal of membership this coming November.

There were 57 new members in 2014 – 2015. To add to this, Roger Manning (GCI) also commented that people joined for various reasons, not only for training but for other reasons as well. We need to target those that want to be active.

Jim also spoke about his plan to send out a questionnaire to renewing members to obtain feedback from the membership for anything we could be doing better or could start if there was enough interest.

6. Report by the Chief Instructor (Roger Manning)

Roger Manning started his report by going through the results of the last 12 months:- There have been 25 test passes – 8 Gold retests, 16 first time Golds and 1 Silver. Additional to that, there have been 2 Senior Instructors test passes, 2 Senior Instructor retests, and 8 New Instructor test passes.

Roger said that he had been looking to step down as GCI after being in the role for some time and wanted more time for himself and personal projects. A re-organisation has led to implementing two roles of Chief Instructors; Tony Gillingwater at Tulleys Farm, and Paul Ingleton at Mickeys Diner, being responsible for general organisation on the prospective Sunday Training sessions. He said he was now seeing the benefits of the new arrangements. He would like to thank Tony and Paul for stepping up to those positions.

Roger went on to give thanks to the following:

Mark Kennedy for co-ordinating the End of Month Ride Outs. He also mentioned trialling Mark Bloxham's suggestion of having 2 EOM ride outs during summer months. This was trialled, but may not happen again next year as it caused a few logistic challenges. Mark Kennedy was also instrumental in organising meetings for recruiting new Ride Out Leaders. This was very successful and the full year's calendar was achieved. Mark K also wanted to thank those who attended and went on to run Ride Outs. Most were well attended.

Robin Brown for organising another successful "Ask the Experts" at our new venue of Frant Village Hall, along with Campbell McBriar and Gary Baldwin for giving up their time to participate.

Andrew Adams for organising the Slow Riding (Machine Control) day, and the other Instructors who attended to assist him.

Tim Benians, Tony Gillingwater and Paul Farmer for assisting him with various projects and advice to the benefit of the Group.

All those that organised Wizzes. The Wales Wizz will be on again in 2016, and a new hotel is being looked at, but the Ardennes Wizz was in jeopardy. Roger then put out a call to arms, to get people to think about organising group wizzes. (Robin Brown then mentioned that the Vosges Wizz will most likely be on again in 2016).

Since Hugh upped sticks and moved out of the area, it left a hole in the Ride School team. Also the the notes for each session is rather fragmented. Not wanting to lose this important part of our ethos, Tony Gillingwater has offered his help in creating a new team and to revamp all the notes to bring it up to date and easier to present. This should be ready sometime in February/March 2016. Roger thanked all those who officiated at this years RS he then expressed his appreciation to TG for his undertaking in revamping the presentation.

Regarding the monthly training sessions, 1st Sunday of month at Mickeys, and 2nd Sunday of month at Tulleys. Roger stated that 2 years ago we had not enough Instructors. This has been addressed, but, in his opinion Tulleys, could now take more trainees. Kent is still short of Instructors, as we have lost 2 Instructors in the last year, he was pleased to see some Instructors coming to Kent from Sussex to help out.

Finally Roger thanked all Instructors for their attendance at the monthly training sessions, and Committee members for their positive input and helping to shape the group during that last year.

7. Election of the Officers of the Group

For committee positions where only 1 person was standing, no vote was required and those people were re-appointed to the respective position.

The only position to be filled was that of Chairman. Because it only transpired at the last committee meeting that Andrew Bell was stepping down, the Secretary left this nomination open to discussion on the night of the AGM. SO and RM put requests out to the floor. A general discussion then followed during which the committee asked Steve Tovee if he would consider standing. After questions and considering for a time. ST agreed that he would take on the role. To make it official it was proposed by Mark Kennedy, and seconded by Mark Bloxham.

Group Chairman

Steve Tovee. Appointed.

Group Secretary

Simon Osborn. Re-appointed.

Group Treasurer

Alex Beattie. Re-appointed.

Group Chief Instructor

Roger Manning. re-appointed.

Membership Secretary

Jim Quay was re-appointed.

Chris Bantin will remain in his position as Allocations secretary, and Mark Kennedy is remaining in the position of EoM Ride Out Co-ordinator.

8. AOB

1. Reintroduction of Members Forum

Andrew Adams gave a small talk regarding the re-introduction. This will be mediated by Jason White. Andrew explained how it would work. AA and JW hope to have the forum up and running by the time of the new biking season.

2. Attracting New Members to the Group

Following a discussion point raised by Peter Ross at last years AGM to try and attract a younger membership, in particular sports bike riders, and those who have newly passed the DSA test, It was announced that Martin Howe would be heading up a sub-committee, RoSPA smart Marketing Taskforce. RM invited MH to say a few words to those present, as an introduction. MH mentioned that he was thankful to our group to improve his own riding skills, (thanks to Tim Benians), and wanted to give something back to the group. He would study demographics, that would show where we should be directing our promotional material, and to bring in those new members from the criteria mentioned earlier. A short discussion then took place by all in attendance.

3. Subsidised Membership Subscription for Instructors.

It was announced by Roger Manning, following discussions at Committee level, that Instructors membership subscription would be met by the group. This is in recognition of their voluntary participation. The only proviso was it would only be given to those who were seen to be active Instructors, as well as turning up on Sundays at Mickeys or Tulleys. This will commence as from the start of the new membership year.

4. Final Comments from the Floor

Godfrey Town mentioned that as there was only one woman present this evening, would the newly formed Sub Committee consider addressing this as well? Martin Howe replied that it was on his agenda.

9. Close of Meeting

Roger Manning thanked the Committee for their contribution over the last year and the meeting was formally adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Minutes adopted by:

Seconded by: