



Southern Motorcycle Advanced Rider Training

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 17th October 2020, 10.00 am Haven Centre, Crawley Down & WebEx.

Present: Tim Bergin (**TB**) Chairman
 Jonathan Baker (**JB**) Secretary
 Andrew Jupp (**AJ**) Membership Secretary
 Steve Tovee (**ST**) Group Chief Instructor
 Ben Kitchen (**BK**) Treasurer
 Paul Ingleton (**PI**) Kent Branch Chief Instructor

WebEx Attendees: Alan Stephenson
 Alex Beattie
 Dave Goodman
 David Buttery
 John Cowburn
 Mike Gallafent
 Nick Golding
 Simon Osborn
 Tim Bird
 Yesh Patel
 Hugo Trepant
 Robin Brown (late joiner)

WebEx Recording: [SMART AGM – 2020 recording](#)

MINUTES

The meeting commenced at 10.02 a.m.

1. Apologies for Absence.

A collective apology was expressed for the absentee membership.

2. Minutes 2019

ST proposed the Minutes from the 2019 AGM be adopted.

JB seconded

Minutes passed.

3. Chairman Report:

TB opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending.

TB reflected on the trials of 2020 and the concomitant impact on Training.

(see Appendix 1 for Chairman's report.)

TB also affirmed our intention to offer "COVID Compliant Ride-Outs" to groups of six maximum.

TB also confirmed that group training at Tulley's Farm & Micky's Diner were cancelled until further notice.

4. Treasurer Report:

- **BK** opened by assuring us all that compared to many other charities, our finances were in very good shape with a healthy balance at the Bank.
- The deferral of subscription fees for 3 months had been the right thing to do and had had no real impact on our cash holding.
- **BK** went through the numbers that were prepared based on Charity Commission guidelines:
 - Gross receipts down due to 'subs' deferral.
 - There had been an increase in membership.
 - We were running about 'flat' in terms of members 'in-test.'
 - No Gift Aid claim was planned (harking back to a committee decision in 2016)
- **BK** touched on 'Cost Analysis.' (see Appendix II for financial breakdown)
 - This was the first full year using a paid 'membership services' provider: MemberMoJo
 - Activity costs were down due to COVID
- **BK** reminded Instructors to put their expenses in as claims to date seemed low.
- **BK** proposes filing the numbers to the Charity Commission.
Alex Beattie seconds.

5. Membership Secretary Report:

AJ opened by thanking all the members for their continued support.
(See Appendix III for full membership report)

Nov 2019: 284 members 33 Instructors 5 Lifers
In Q4 2019: We lost 34 existing members but gained 5 new ones.

Jan 2020: 255 members
Since Jan: 48 new members 6 Returning Members 21 Left.
Membership @ 16.10.20 stands at 288

So, in a year, we only grew by 4 but under the circumstances of COVID and the restrictions that have existed since March, this is a remarkable number.

In April we extended membership by 3 months. This was warmly received by the group. This has the added feature of moving the 'mass joining' period from October to the beginning of the year,

AJ went on to discuss the RoSPA Test.

The Advanced Test is not every member's goal, however, SMART / Southern Riders has the highest success rate in the country for those seeking the qualification and those wishing to retain it.

Current stats are: 104 members hold GOLD
 20 members hold SILVER
 3 members hold BRONZE

In % terms, 44% of the group are certified at some level and 36% are at Gold.

AJ went on to reiterate that 2020 had been a challenging year for tests and retests and reminded members to inform the Committee of their test successes.

AJ then went on to discuss Ride School.

68 members attended Day 1 of the 2020 Ride School: 53 associates and 15 Instructors. A survey was conducted for the 1st time and feedback was positive.
Day 2 was unfortunately cancelled.

Thanks to Messrs Bergin, Bird, Golding, Tovee & Jupp for all their efforts in putting Ride School together.

Ride School 2021 is in the planning stage and the hope is to return to the 'Haven'. However, a contingency is to hold a 'virtual' Ride School. More information to follow as time goes on and COVID rules tighten or relax.

AJ moved on to 'Whizzes':

Isle of Man trip in April attracted 21 hopefuls although ultimately cancelled.

Wales Whizzes were scheduled for July & September with only September going ahead.

This was conducted in compliance with COVID rules with the attendees divided into 'bubbles' of 6 and 3 separate rides being led each day.

Thanks to Messrs Manning, Benians & Curran for their efforts

PI affirmed that Wales Whizz had been well received by the participants and echoed his thanks to the organisers.

TB asked about Whizz Plans for 2021

AJ said that the Isle of Man trip was in the planning stage but as things stood, any participants would be subject to 14 days quarantine. Hopefully this will have changed by next spring.

AJ threw it out to the audience that any GOLD holders or Instructors who had ideas about other whizzes should approach the Committee.

6. Group Chief Instructor Report.

(See Appendix IV for full GCI report)

ST started by reiterating the sentiment that 2020 had been a strange year.

- ST has over-seen the re-introduction of 'One2One' allocations.
- The Group lost group training at Micky's & Tulley's in March
 - As an aside, ST wished all those who had suffered with COVID well.
- 85 members undergoing training which is far in excess of the norm.
- 24 GOLD and 4 SILVER passes in the last year.
- 2 New Instructors with 5 looking to take the Instructor test.
- 4 Instructors looking to advance to Senior Instructor level.

ST will advise as soon as group training is back on.

7. Proposal for Life Membership.

Although not on the agenda – it's a surprise – **TB** brought up the 2020 nominations for 'Lifer' status.

David Buttery asked what this meant exactly.

AJ: Free Lifetime Membership for those who have dedicated many years of exceptional service to the group.

Those proposed:

- Tony Gillingwater
- Tim Benians
- Robin Brown.

Votes were cast electronically and anonymously and overwhelming voted in favour.

Congratulations from the whole Committee.

8. Election of Officers:

The whole committee was standing for re-election.

All positions were passed unopposed.

Chair: Proposed: David Buttery. Seconded: John Cowburn

Secretary: Proposed: David Buttery. Seconded: Simon Osborn.
Membership: Proposed: Alex Beattie. Seconded: Hugo Trepant.
GCI: Proposed: David Buttery. Seconded: Alex Beattie
Treasurer: Proposed: Alex Beattie. Seconded: Tim Bird

9. Any Other Business:

There was no other business so **TB** opened the floor to questions:

Hugo Trepant: What does the Committee need from the membership?

PI: Ongoing support is the most important. Secondly is that we ask that members reply to emails / questions or any requests for feedback when asked.

TB added that is the members could think of any ideas that may help the Committee or the club then please let us know.

There was no immediate response.

AJ made reference to the new technology being adopted – e.g. WebEx - and said that if anyone was struggling with it, they should let the Committee know.

AJ also encouraged 'Goldies' to lead Ride-Outs. These no longer had to be month-end as the group sizes had to be so small so there could be as many iterations as we wanted.

Mike Gallafent asked whether it was possible to multiple 6 person rides at the same time?

ST replied that as a group we can't be seen to exceed 6.

AJ added that it wasn't just the number of riders on the road but what happened when we all turned up at the same café at the same time. Even leaving 30 minutes apart there was scope for a faster, later group to catch up with an earlier slower one.

TB reiterated that we were subject to RoSPA HQ rules and could not be seen to be breaching them.

Mike Gallafent mentioned that he was asking because he had not been quick enough to get in on a ride-out as they booked up so fast. He was also a fan of mid-week rides.

AJ encouraged those leading rides to offer repeats.

ST wanted to record the fact that he wasn't on his own doing the background work behind the allocations process etc. He had worked closely with **AJ** often having 3 lengthy calls a week as they put a robust framework together.

Yesh Patel: Could the Rideout leaders make a note of those members who were applying for / attending every Ride – perhaps the leader would, therefore, be able to ensure others got a turn?

AJ: We can try but not easy as there is no transparency between individual rides as once published, the leader takes over his own organising.

TB reiterated the need to book early to avoid disappointment.

ST brought up Ride School 2021 again. He believes it is important for the group and asked for help in understanding how best to present the sessions in the event that COVID restrictions are still in place. **ST** said any ideas were welcome – not right now – and encouraged the members to think about it.

PI mentioned that he had been carrying out Instructor training via video link and this might help for Ride School.

TB reiterated that Ride School was important for the group and that a virtual session was better than nothing at all.

Robin Brown joined the call late due to technical issues but **TB** told him about the 'Lifer' award and congratulated him accordingly.

10. Meeting Closed at 11.09 a.m.

Appendix I – Chairman Report.

Thank you all for attending today's meeting.

It has been quite a year! I am not sure that anyone who attended last year's meeting could have foreseen the events of this year.

On a positive note, we have had a blissful summer with the opportunity for long rides and expanding our horizons. This unfortunately has been coupled with lockdowns, social distancing and isolations.

As a motorcycle organisation, we have been bound to comply with government guidelines which has on occasions been as clear as the oil coming out of Andrew's Suzuki Katana.

Unfortunately, as a result of lockdown, we have had to cancel most of our planned activities including the monthly meets at Tulley's and Micky's and the end of month ride-outs. Our planned whizz to the IOM was cancelled as well as other planned excursions. Indeed, we were all compelled to put our bikes away for a number of weeks and resist the temptation to sneak out for a good blast up the road

The good news was that once the lockdown had been eased in June, we were able to recommence one-to-one training and this resulted in a number of our members testing or re-testing and I am pleased to see that this resulted in a number of golds and silvers being awarded. So even with the lay-up, we have maintained our high standards which as Rospa SMART riders we expect from ourselves.

As we go forward, with 2021 on the horizon we must be optimistic. Ride-outs have been reinstated albeit limited in numbers. Hopefully these will continue to operate into the winter months and beyond and so far they have been well attended, albeit limited to six each ride. We will continue to offer these whilst they remain popular and the government allow them to continue. As soon as we can, we will recommence the monthly meets as well but this is unlikely to happen very soon. We will continue to keep you all updated as regards any developments.

Please feel free to comment in this meeting and to express any views you may have about how we can improve the service we offer you as members of RoSPA SMART. In the meantime, keep riding and remain safe. As I recently read in a bike magazine 'We ride to feel alive and when we stop riding, we want to feel alive'.

Tim Bergin Chair

Appendix II – Treasurer Report

(See PDF Attachment)

Appendix III – Membership Report

A big thank you to all of our members for supporting the club through the year.

Membership Stats

Joiners, Leavers and Renewals

During our 2019-2020 year, we opened in November with 284 Members including 33 Instructors and 5 Lifers.

As part of our usual annual renewal attrition we lost 34 members in Q4'19 and gained a modest 5 new members over the same period. Opening 2020 with 255.

January - October (YTD) we have gained 48 New, 6 Returning members whilst losing 21 renewals YTD.

This brings our current standing membership to 288 as at October 16th. So YoY our membership has effectively stayed flat.

Trend analysis shows that we are still maintaining our core membership at a floating average of 255.

Point of note that, back in April we decided, because of the national lock-down, to extend all current membership by 3 months. Whilst it was a small gesture in the scheme of things, it has been warmly received.

AGM SUMMARY : 2019 - 2020				
	Core	Instructors	Lifers	TOTAL
Opening	244	33	7	284
New	52			52
Returning	7			7
Lost	-55			-55
Membership	248	33	7	288

Membership RoSPA Test Status

RoSPA Advanced Riding test is not a goal for all of our members and for some it is a personal challenge which once attained, they do not wish to renew. However, for those that have decided to take the test or retest we have a reputation within RoSPA of one if not the highest success rates in the country. Something we can all be proud of, especially the instructors and of course those actually attaining the test.

Our current standing is :

Silver = 20 (-2 YoY)

Bronze = 3 (flat YoY)

Gold = 105 (+1 YoY)

2019 was :

Silver = 22

Bronze = 3

Gold = 104

Members =	288	
Ratios by Level	Total	
Gold	105	36.5%
Gold Instructors	33	11.5%
Gold Associates	72	25.0%
Silver	20	6.9%
Bronze	3	1.0%
Certified Members	128	44.4%

As we know 2020 is proving to be a challenging year, none more so than for those wishing to schedule a test or indeed a retest.

As always, we ask that members advise the Committee of their test results so we can maintain our records correctly.

Ride-School

This year we had the makings of another successful Ride School.

68 Members (53 Associates & 15 Instructors) attended day one, plus 5 presenters and the feedback and critique received were very positive.

However, Day 2 was cancelled.

A big thank you and gratitude to those who volunteered to write the materials and present over the two sessions.

- Rodger Bain
- Tim Bergin
- Nick Golding
- Steve Tovee
- Andrew Jupp

Ride School for 2021

As you can understand planning for this is on-going.

We are hoping that the COVID situation improves and we can return to The Haven and enjoy a physical event.

However, we are exploring contingency options where we, like today, hold the sessions virtually. It will be challenging but were up for that, if you are.

CLOSING

In closing I thank you all for your support and look forward to another year in this office and submit this report to you, our members for this AGM.

Appendix IV – Group Chief Instructor.

Welcome to you all....

I'll keep this brief and if you have any questions please let me know at the end

From our last AGM to now has gone in the blink of an eye. If 18/19 year was fast paced, the last 12 months has been somewhat strange!

We had a well-attended and productive instructors' meeting in January of this year. One of the topics of the day was the introduction of allocations for trainees to instructors. This is not a new concept as it used to be common place.

Little did we know how relevant this would be in the coming months. We then had some bad weather, a cancelled training day and the small mention of COVID 19 to keep us all at bay. I know some members of the group have been ill from COVID this year. From all of us on the committee trust you are all back to full health.

The last time we trained from either Mickeys or Tulley's was March of this year. Now normally we would have some trips in the year. A slow riding skills day, ride school, end of month ride outs and a monthly group meeting at Mickeys or Tulley's. None of this has happened since March. But we did have a group trip to Wales this year which I am told was great.

So, with that in mind I want to share some info with you: -

We currently have approx. 85 people undergoing training with our instructor group. This has been down to the ability of people to adapt to the new way of training within SMART. Both instructors and trainees. It has had a few challenges, quite some time spent behind the scenes but it appears to be working. Thanks to everyone for getting behind this way of training. And if for some reason you feel you have missed out or been overlooked, please get in touch.

So far this year we have 24 Gold passes and 4 Silver passes. On top of that we have been able to welcome 2 new instructors to the group.

When the news comes that we can start going back to our favoured venues you'll be the first to know.

If you have any questions please ask.

Thank you