



## Annual General Meeting 2021

of

RoSPA Southern Motorcycle Advanced Rider Training

RoADAR Southern Riders  
(SMART RoSPA)

at

The Haven Centre  
Crawley Down  
RH10 4LJ

on

Sunday 24th October 2021 at 10.00am

### Officers:

	Tim Bergin	Chairman
Apologies:	Jonathan Baker	Secretary
Apologies:	Ben Kitchen	Treasurer
	Andrew Jupp	Membership Secretary
	Steve Tovee	Group Chief Instructor
	Paul Ingleton	Kent Branch Chief Instructor

### Minutes:

Meeting started 10.05am with 30 people present

- **Chairman Review** - Tim Bergin (**TB**) read out review.
- Apologise for absence asked, Jonathan Baker and Ben Kitchen, no other names from the floor
- Minutes from 2020 AGM were agreed by Paul Ingleton (**PI**) and confirmed by Steve Tovee (**ST**). It was agreed that the minutes be signed off when hard copy available.
- **Treasurer Review** - Andrew Jupp (**AJ**) read out the statement from Ben Kitchen.
- **AJ** confirmed that the Safety Jackets are being purchased through the website and account to allow for the group discount. This should be cost neutral although it may cost the group £1.20 per purchase. This was agreed not to be an issue.
- As hard copies of the accounts were not present to hand out these would be added to the 'minutes' notes and available on the website.
- Roger Manning said that we need to claim the gift aid, although commented this this will just add to the growing money in the accounts, **PI** confirmed that this has grown as many of the normal costs such as Ride School etc could not be carried out due to Covid during 2021.
- Sue Manning asked: what new members received when they joined? **AJ** confirmed they receive welcome pack etc. Tony Gillingwater suggested that as we have the funds currently should they possibly receive a copy of the Highway Code and Roadcraft.

- Roger Manning then suggested they possibly get a couple of vouchers which could be redeemed for the training which would then be paid by the group.
  - Martin Smith Suggested value could be lost by people joining and he felt that the cost of around £50 was still good value.
- Gideon said that he felt the group should be looking to attract younger people and / or those who have just achieved the DSA pass.
  - **PI** confirmed that this had been discussed many times in the past and although the committee dedicate much time already to SMART, they would be happy to support any one person or group of people that would like to contribute further to the club especially with their time. SMART will happily supply the relevant material.
  - Colin Blackwood suggested using funds to advertise more on-line or through magazines etc
  - **ST** asked for a show of hands for those prepared to volunteer to assist. Several people did so, including ***Dave Goodman, David Buttery, Claire Thurgar, Stuart Hill, Richard Whitburn, Sue Manning, Fabiano Soldati and Johan Pietersen.***
  - **TB** talked about setting up sub-groups which he will investigate. Paul Ingleton said that the committee will email the people to ask what they would like to action to support the group and then would come back with tasks needed.
  - Roger Manning that adding numbers would probably just keep building funds even further
- **Membership Review** – Andrew Jupp (**AJ**) including:
  - Confirmed the membership numbers were retained
  - 280 members at the same time last year closing the year with 322
  - Lost 32 members and gained 75 New people
- The group discussed the growing numbers and why everyone thought it was happening. **AJ** said he felt it was the 'laid-back culture' which many people enjoyed although, as always, people will join from other groups, and we will lose people to other groups as this fits them better.
- **AJ** confirmed that the group had given 2 x 3-month holidays due to Covid and therefore membership numbers may be slightly different this year. Sue Manning confirmed she felt that normal reduction in numbers in November may not occur as now much of the group will be renewing in April with this being the start of the riding season. It was generally agreed that time will tell but everyone thought this may be the case.
- **AJ** asked for anyone who spots anything on the website or on any other marketing etc., that they felt was wrong or could be improved to let him know.
- **AJ** read out comments on number of current members pass levels, he also commented that for the last few years the number of the membership who hold a Gold Pass has increased by 1 per year over the last few years.
- **AJ** asked for all people looking to take the test to let the committee or especially the GCI know as this will allow for all Trainees and current members who are re-testing to arrange for check rides or further training as required.
  - David Buttery asked about the timeline for booking a test currently as this is arranged by RoSPA? Times ranging from 1 month down to 1 week were mentioned. **AJ** confirmed that it was difficult for the committee to comment as all testing was arranged by RoSPA.
  - David Buttery asked about the process and **PI** confirmed that the instructors should encourage the trainee to arrange a check ride prior to taking the test to ensure we help them succeed.

- It was discussed that many of the pass certificates sent out by RoSPA are being delayed. After a short conversation it was agreed that each individual would need to chase their own.
- Yeshwant Patel asked how the allocation of trainees to instructors was going and it was agreed that this would be discussed during **ST** GCI review.
- **AJ** requested that anyone wishing to assist with Ride School next year to please come forward.
- **Group Chief Instructor Review – Steve Tovee (ST).**
- **ST** confirmed that over 240 training sessions had been reported and given the fact that no training could take place between November 2020 until April 2021, this was a great statistic. He also thanked the instructor core.
- Instructor Group quite busy
- Mickey's Diner and Tulley's Farm have been quieter.
- **ST** would like to encourage everyone to get back to both venues and for the Instructors to encourage their trainees to attend as this will help cross pollination of training and help trainees get more from their training. This will also help to share ideas and different approaches and benefit trainees more.
- **ST** confirmed 5 more people are either in training or are gold holders looking to start training as an instructor.
- **ST** commented that he had heard that a couple of tests had been stopped by the examiner recently, therefore, he encouraged people to have check rides to ensure they are ready for the test.
  - Roger Manning confirmed that this is not mainly looking at their ride at this stage, it is more about the etiquette of the test, how it is run and what to expect etc.
  - **ST** confirmed that over Covid times this has slipped but he encouraged all instructors to get back to this.
- Nick Golding asked if the 'trainee instructor' training would start again in the spring? **ST** confirmed that this would continue over the winter, including: the doubling up of trainee instructors, using Teams/Zoom call training etc and confirmed this is what had been actioned during the training of David Buttery and Johan Pietersen. Both commented that they had felt this was beneficial.
  - It was agreed that **ST** and **PI** would look to set the same training again for the new TI's
- Sue Manning commented that being a Gold rider doesn't always mean that you would make a good instructor; you need to be a specific type of person and will need to learn how to instruct. **ST** commented he totally agreed with this and had felt the same way when he started training.
  - TG commented that the plan had always been not just to get a Trainee Instructor to a competent level where they were able to train people, but for them to go out and learn their own style. This is then supported by peer training etc. TG thanked the committee for setting up the WhatsApp group as he felt this had been very beneficial.
  - Yesh Confirmed that you learn HOW to instruct when you get out there and do it. He also recommended that instructor training for existing instructors starts again. **ST** confirmed that this had already been agreed earlier today and had only stopped due to the Covid restrictions. The committee confirmed that this would be actioned soon.

- David Buttery asked if we have ever done poor surface training? **ST** confirmed that Tim Benians had arranged some very good off-road courses in the past. This certainly helped with machine control etc. This would be looked into again.
- **PI** then stood the committee down and then confirmed that all members of the committee are happy to stand again for another year. **PI** checked that no other people had put their name forward via Email etc. **PI** then asked the room if anyone would like to stand for any of the positions on the committee. No one volunteered. Therefore **PI** asked for people to propose and second the individuals on the committee individually:
  - Tim Bergin: Proposed by Andrew Palmer, Seconded by Johan Pietersen.
  - Jonathan Baker: Proposed by Martin Smith, Seconded by Colin Blackwood.
  - Ben Kitchen: Proposed by Roger Manning, Seconded by David Goodman.
  - Andrew Jupp: Proposed by Martin Smith, Seconded by David Buttery.
  - Steve Tovee confirmed he was happy to stand again. This is a position not voted on but appointed through a quorum of the group and by the instructors.
- **Benefits update.** **AJ** asked if anyone had any other ideas that could be looked at, Yeshwant Patel suggested looking at ear protection and that he knew a company. **PI** suggested that this could possibly be tied into one of the ride school events for 2022.
- Godfrey Town commented that the 'biker down' courses had been very good, Tony Gillingwater commented that he had shared details with individuals to book themselves but no group sessions had been arranged as this is supplied by the fire brigade. Due to Covid etc this had been more difficult to arrange. The committee will investigate this for 2022, although Tony mentioned there are more courses running in November. **TB** said he would share this with the group.
- One attendee (Martin ?) asked if more orange vests could be supplied for End Of Month rides etc., as there always seem to be a shortage? **ST** confirmed that these will be ordered although there were plenty supplied before and everyone needs to look after the ones they are given.
- **Life-time Membership Nominations:**  
Tim Benians nominated Charles Broadbelt and Graham Bailey:
  - Charles Instrumental in setting up the group and been a very active instructor and Secretary of the group.
  - Graham Bailey had been Chief instructor for many years and carries on leading by example on wizzes etc with his quality of riding.
  - Votes were taken from the room for each individual and both received in excess of 80% of those present, therefore it was agreed they would be added to the Lifetime members list and be notified accordingly.
- **Any Other Business.**
  - Claire Thurgar commented that she had felt it difficult to book to attend the various wizzes as she is a female and either the rooms were all doubles, or she would have to pay extra for a single room. Therefore, she felt this was sexist. **AJ** confirmed that some trips have been single room only and Andrew Palmer added that Claire had already mentioned that she had found the Devon Trip difficult - due to not being able to room share – as this was both unfair and sexist. Andrew Palmer apologised if she felt that way but thought she wouldn't want to share with a male. Claire confirmed she would have been happy to. Sue Manning commented that some of the males in the group may be happy to share but their wives/partners may not feel the same! It was agreed this would be discussed at the next committee meeting.

- Colin Blackwood suggested that SMART should arrange a social event; a summer BBQ or something similar. The committee agreed this would be investigated and possibly something the volunteers could action.
- AGM ended 11.58