

Minutes of the

Annual General Meeting

of

RoSPA Southern Motorcycle Advanced Rider Training.
(RoSPA Smart)

at

St. Leonard's Church Hall
Turners Hill
West Sussex

on

Thursday 23rd October 2003

Group Secretary, Mark Baker, formally opened the meeting at 19.50

Apologies for absence:

Were received from the following members:

Martin Lycett, Liz McConnell, Don Hobson, Hugh Curran, Trevor Shearsmith,
Robin Brown, Alison Rook, Graham Bailey, Charles Broadbelt, Tim Benians,
Sophie Baker, Ted Etherington, Michael Sentinella.

Chairman's report.

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances the Group Chairman, Hugh Curran, was unable to attend the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Group Secretary Mark Baker.

In his report he commented that the group had completed two very successful Ride Schools during the previous twelve months. Thanks were given, on behalf of the group, to Paul Farmer for his outstanding contribution to the organisation of the Ride Schools and also to all the instructors and members that took part. It was noted that the possibility of a different Ride School venue was being investigated in order to take advantage of a larger catchment area and to reduce the distance travelled by some instructors and attendees. One potential venue is the Surrey Police HQ in Guildford, this is being investigated (excuse the pun) by Mark Baker and Paul Farmer. Members were asked to look into and report back to the committee with any alternative potential venues.

Mark Baker went on to say that once again the groups social side and Wizzes had proved extremely popular and hoped that this will carry across into the coming year.

It was noted that the 'Wizz Levy' had caused a great deal of anxiety within the group and that hopefully by the end of the meeting this point would have been decided and it would be a great relief to see a conclusion to what had proved to be such an emotive issue.

Mark Baker reiterated to all members present that the group did not belong to the committee, but to ALL members, and whilst some members were doing a great deal for the group, the workload was still unbalanced. Members were asked to volunteer their services in any way, great or small, in an effort to spread the workload.

Chief Instructor's Report

Chief Instructor, Paul Farmer opened his report with the good news that in the past twelve month period we had achieved nine gold passes and three silver. There were no bronze awards and no failures. Ten of the passes were from those members that had 'graduated' from Ride School.

Whilst the training at Pease Pottage had proven successful it was deemed that it required a great commitment from the instructors but only a limited commitment from the members wanting training. For this reason Paul commented that it was planned to concentrate our training on the Ride School format. In addition, instructors would continue to carry out individual training on a more localised basis.

Paul Farmer commented that plans were afoot to set up a more formalised system of training for trainee instructors and it is hoped that the group could sponsor some, if not all, of the Senior Instructors to complete the RoSPA Diploma in Advanced Motorcycle Tuition.

Membership secretary's report.

Membership Secretary, Mark Kennedy reported that we currently have 180 members on our database. Whilst 26 members had not renewed their membership we had gained 56 new members.

At this point Robert Sansom stressed the importance of sending the membership renewal cheques off to Mark Kennedy as soon as requested, in order to keep administration to an absolute minimum.

Open forum

The meeting was declared an open forum for members to put questions to relevant people or to comment as they saw fit.

Anthony Rangecroft commented that the communications within the group were sometimes lacking, especially when plans for ride outs etc changed at the last minute. Mark Baker replied that whilst the egroup was a great resource it was by no means fail proof. Anthony asked if some sort of information could be put onto the website. Andrew Adams, webmaster, commented that he was reluctant to put this kind of info onto the homepage. However, the possibility of putting last minute plans/information into another area of the website would be investigated.

Derek Watson commented that the monthly speaker evenings had become very disorganised. It was suggested that there may be a benefit in reducing the frequency of such meetings. i.e quarterly. Chris Horton commented that he was willing to arrange some evenings. Tony Clarke commented that an alternative and more central venue may be the answer to diminished attendance at the meetings. He went on to say that he has access to a meeting room at Guildford College. This to be discussed at a future date.

Derek Watson felt that we were not pushing the social side of the group enough and whilst we made mention of it at the end of Ride School, we could do more to sell it.

Anne Hodson asked if we ask for feedback from Ride School attendees, in particular those that do not complete the course. Paul Farmer noted that whilst we do ask all attendees to complete an evaluation questionnaire, very few are returned. Anthony Rangecroft commented that it would be a good idea to telephone those that fail to complete the course to ask, in an effort to improve the Ride School, why. Mark Baker agreed with this but stressed that these are the kind of 'jobs' that it would be good to see members volunteer for.

Presentation by Mark Baker. For the Wizz Levy.

Copy attached

Presentation by Derek Watson. Against the Wizz Levy.

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Member's vote on the Wizz Levy.

Robert Sansom agreed to remain neutral during the voting procedure and count the votes

The votes returned as a combination of members present and votes received by proxy.

FOR:	24
AGAINST:	18

Resolution put forward by Robert Sansom.

It was deemed unnecessary to vote on the resolution as the Wizz Levy had been voted **FOR**.

Treasurer's report.

Group Treasurer, Robert Sansom, presented the accounts and annual report, for the year ended 31st October 2003. A copy of the report is attached.

Changes to club constitution.

The changes, as noted in the agenda, were proposed by Tony Clarke and seconded by Chris Horton. There were no members in opposition.

Election of the officers of the club

Group Treasurer.

Robert Sansom was proposed by Peter Hayes and seconded by Adam Wallace-Scott. There were no members in opposition.

Group Secretary.

Mark Baker was proposed by Andrew Adams and seconded by Marion Barnes. There were no members in opposition.

Any other business.

Anthony Rangecroft asked for information regarding the motorcycle hub. With no members in a position to answer Anthony's questions it was suggested he contact Bob Knights.

Tony Clarke thanked the committee for all the work that they had put in throughout the year.

With no other business to discuss. The meeting was formally closed at 22.20.

Mark Baker
Group Secretary.

Date: 23/10/03