



Minutes of an

## **Annual General Meeting**

of

RoSPA Southern Motorcycle Advanced Rider Training.  
(RoSPA SMART)

at

St Leonard's Church Hall  
Turners Hill  
West Sussex

on

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2004 at 19.30

### **Agenda.**

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Report by the Chairman.
3. Election of officers of the club.
4. Refreshment break.
5. To vote on the resolution put forward by Robert Sansom.
6. To vote on the change of constitution put forward by Mark Baker
7. Report by the Treasurer and presentation of the accounts.
8. Results of point three.
9. Any other business.
10. Close of meeting.

Meeting opened by the Secretary at 19.45pm

### **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from the following members:

Jeremy Nicholls  
Adam Wallace-Scott  
Tony Young  
Collette Bishop  
David O'Keefe  
Michael Sentinella

Thirty one members were in attendance on the evening.

### **Report by the Chairman**

Hugh Curran noted that he had taken a 'back seat' over the last year. This down to personal issues, not least his motorcycle accident earlier in the year. He thanked the remainder of the committee for 'standing in' during this period and for continuing the management of the group and ensuring the groups objectives were met, at all times.

HC commented that he felt he was stepping down and leaving the group in a very healthy state. He went on to say that he hoped the group would continue to flourish, as he felt it would, with the new committee at the helm.

### **Financial report by the Treasurer. Robert Sansom.**

Robert issued printed handouts showing the accounts and annual report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> October 2004.

Robert noted that the resolution put forward by him was to help the group fulfil their legal obligations under the charities act, as we must be seen to be re-investing into the group. Therefore, there was a need to invest the surplus of funds back into the group. Further, RS hoped that his resolution would be voted against, as this would be an indication that members were keen to spend the surplus of funds in such a way that, they felt it would benefit the group more than a temporary suspension of membership fees.

With the accounts and annual report submitted to the members present they were formally accepted by George Minns and seconded by Tony Gillingwater.

## **Report by the Chief Instructor (Paul Farmer)**

In his report Paul Farmer noted the following statistics:

### Instructors

Senior Instructors	10
Instructors	13
Trainee instructors	6

### Year to date test passes

Gold	9 (Ride School attends)
Silver	4 (Ride School attendees)
Silver	3
Gold retest	14
Diploma	1

PF went on to note that he was currently working on a formal instructor training course instead of the Autumn Ride School. It was hoped that this would take place prior to the Spring Ride School. It was anticipated that the costs of the Instructor Training Course would be met in full by group funds. However, the key to a successful ITC and RS would be in getting people to attend. It was noted that the Spring 2004 RS was well attended and that there were already fifteen firm bookings for the Spring RS 2005. PF also mentioned the requirement to promote and advertise the group more. PF went onto to thank the instructors and senior instructors for their commitment and efforts displayed throughout the year.

During the CI's question time Mark Baker asked if the decision to revert to Sunday training at Pease Pottage was proving a success for either trainees or instructors. PF replied that there had been a distinct lack of trainees in attendance.

## **General question time**

George Minns suggested that a regular meeting place should be set up in order that members can meet for training and for general socialisation. GM commented that following the Instructors meeting in the Summer he and Karen O'Gorman had sourced such a venue in Crawley but despite pushing this issue the committee had shown no commitment to it and the proposals had not been progressed. MB mentioned that he was not aware of the progress of this issue but hoped that the newly elected committee would pursue this issue further. A few other members went on to say that they also agreed that a fully equipped meeting place would be of great benefit to the group. Jackie Howard

went on to say that this had already been in place in the form of the monthly speaker evenings at Lewes, and that a decision was taken to cease the evenings due to a lack of attendance. With the cost of the venue and, on some occasions the speaker, it was not viable to continue these evenings. This opinion was supported by Mark Baker and Hugh Curran.

It was noted by Marion Barnes and supported by various members that there was a distinct lack of communication within the group. This was the main reason for a great deal of the apathy now being experienced within the group. Marion felt that this breakdown in communication could be remedied by a periodical newsletter which would inform those members not on email (14 at time of meeting) of events, meetings etc. Mark Baker went on to say that the compilation of the newsletter was extremely time consuming as, whilst there were a few, there were no consistent editorial contributions from the membership. Robert Sansom went on to say that the cost of the newsletter was approx £1000 per annum and for this reason the committee took a decision to cease production. Mark Baker noted that he felt that a newsletter would be very beneficial to the group and this was echoed by many members. Despite requests to the members present no volunteer was forthcoming in taking on the role of Newsletter Editor.

### **Presentations by candidates for Chairman**

Copies attached.

With Tony Clarke not in attendance, Geoff Parker gave a brief presentation as to his proposals as he to be elected as Chairman.

With the proxy votes and the written votes submitted prior to a refreshment break, Hugh Curran reconvened the meeting and announced that the members had voted as follows:

Chairman	Geoff Parker
Group Secretary	Andrew Adams
Treasurer	Robert Sansom

The change to constitution proposed by Mark Baker was voted FOR by a show of hands.

The proposal put forward by Robert Sansom was withdrawn by Robert Sansom and was, therefore, not voted on.

**AOB**

MB thanked Hugh Curran for his contribution to the group over the years and for bringing the group to it's current state. HC was presented with a gift from the membership as a sign of this gratitude.

RS thanked MB for his efforts as Secretary over the last three years.

With no other business to discuss the meeting was formally adjourned at 10.15pm

Minutes adopted by: .....

Seconded by: .....