



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 15th October 2009 at 8.00 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. Amendment to the constitution.
8. Election of officers.
9. Any other business.
10. Close of meeting.

Meeting opened by the Secretary at 8.00 pm.

Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from the following members:

Richard Strommer, Sue Manning, Tim Bird, Hugh Curran, John McGregor, Alan Leslie and Rob Pervis

Twenty twenty four members were in attendance on the evening.

Minutes of last AGM agreed

The minutes of the last AGM were agreed (Proposed by Tony Gillingwater and seconded by Godfrey Town).

Report by the Chairman (Mark Kennedy)

Mark started with a little introduction of himself. He then thanked everyone for coming along.

Mark explained that he had become chairman as Tony Clark had resigned. Mark expressed his thanks to Tony for the work he had done as chairman for 20 months.

Mark thanked Paul Reynolds, the secretary, for his administration work; Roger Manning, membership secretary, for maintaining the database; Hugh Curran, chief instructor, for his initiative and drive in the training world and Adrian Russell, outgoing treasurer for his finance and other work over the last two years. Mark welcomed Owen Evans, treasurer elect, to the committee.

Special thanks were made to Robin Brown who had stepped down as rideout coordinator after 18 months and has now become the Trainee Instructor Coordinator. Robin is working very hard in this role and creating a structure and check list to reflect John Taylor's ideas. Mark hopes that Robin continues in this important role.

Special thanks were also made to Luke Bartlett who has been very active in organising the speaker club evenings and has taken over from Robin in the role of month end rideout coordinator.

We have ran two first aid courses this year with 48 members taking advantage of the subsidised event and three machine control handling days which were useful , informative and entertaining.

We supported Hampshire Fire Brigade where we provided assessment rides at one of their open days and we picked up three new members.

We have purchased on-bike videoing equipment a new portable laptop and portable over head projector.

The committee is open to suggestions. Please let the Mark or the committee know if there are any issues – don't stew on them!

Report by the Treasurer (Adrian Russell) and presentation of the accounts

Adrian issued printed handouts showing the accounts and annual report for the year ended 31st September 2009.

Adrian explained some of the figures on the report and summarised that there was a cash inflow of £328, balance in bank and cash stands at £8,898.

There were no questions relating to the accounts.

Adrian thanked Alec Gore for organising the slow riding days, the committee for support over the last two years and all the members of the group. He wished the group all the best but said he would not be around too much as work will be taking him out of the area.

Report by the Membership Secretary (Roger Manning)

Roger reported that we have had a good year with 67 new members.

A total of 281 members (290 last year), made up as follows:-

Roger reminded the AGM that he warned last year that he expected a lot of members not to renew for reasons such as moved out of the area or they no longer ride a bike, which was about right.

	2009	(2008)
Fully paid up members	281	(290)
Main Sussex	190	(207)
Hampshire	32	(34)
Kent	58	(49)
New members 07 – 08		96
New members 08 – 09	67 (to 30/09/09)	

Non renews and/or replies 1/11/07	23
Non renews and/or replies 1/11/08	76
Full Members	54
Members (associate & trainee)	172
Senior Instructors (tutor advanced)	18
2 x Kent (29/1)	
3 x Hants (10/1)	
13 x Sussex (14.5/1)	
Instructors (tutor approved)	24
8 x Kent (7/1)	
3 x Hants (10/1)	
13 x Sussex (14/1)	
Instructors (tutors) Dormant	4
Trainee Instructors	8
1 x Kent	
0 x Hants	
7x Sussex	

Average age of membership = 48.13 years

One of the reasons the 2008 figures for new members are so high is because of the recruitment drive undertaken by the last committee in 2007. The group is currently holding its own but cannot at present take on too many more trainees. The new style ride school seems to help with retention of trainees.

The ratio of trainees to instructors of 14:1 in the Sussex branch is too high. The Kent branch's ration of 7:1 is more manageable.

Tony Clark said that the fact we had to close the books to new trainees showed we were at maximum capacity.

Max Harris asked if we chased the non-renewers to find out why they did not renew. Roger said we did not, but he was planning to this year.

Peter Hayes asked if we should appoint an allocations office. Roger said that Hugh was doing this but this is one aspect that will handed over to Paul Farmer, Alex Gore and Graham Allen following the constitution change.

Mark Kennedy said that there were commitment issues with both trainees and instructors.

Report by the Chief Instructor (Hugh Curran)

In Hugh's absence, Paul Reynolds read out a report prepared by Hugh [see attached].

There were no questions or issues raised following this report.

Constitution changes

The proposal put forward by Hugh Curran to change the title of the Chief Instructor to Group Chief Instructor was unanimously approved.

Election of Committee Members

As only one person was standing for each position on the committee, there was no need for any vote and the committee is:

- Mark Kennedy as Chairman
- Paul Reynolds as Secretary
- Owen Evans as Group Treasurer
- Roger Manning as Membership Secretary
- Hugh Curran as Group Chief Instructor

AOB

Andrew Adams asked if the current situation of having a Bulletin Board and an email group for general discussion was working and should we not adopt one or the other. Paul Reynolds said that he liked the email system as it is 'push technology' and it comes to him rather than having to go looking for the messages. Rob Wilkie asked if there was a way to get the bulletin board on a weekly or daily digest. Andrew Adams explained that you could set up the bulletin board to email when a new post has been made and that this can be set up at thread or board level. Following a show of hands it appeared that the email system was preferred. The committee will discuss this at their next meeting to discuss further.

Max Harris asked what was happening with radios and was it worth continuing. Roger Manning said that Graham Allen has a good system he uses and he has taken the development of this on. Paul Farmer said that radios were becoming more common on tests. Roger Manning said that Hugh Curran and Graham Allen will try again.

Rob Wilkie mentioned the MC1 and MC3 days held by I2I for RoSPA SMART and Kent IAM. He said these days were superb and perhaps we should promote this more in this area. Paul Reynolds said that part of Hugh Curran's speech was to liaise more with professional bodies and see if we could get any benefit from their expertise.

Rob Wilkie also mentioned that Jon Taylor has released a book 'How to be a better rider' and this was much better than Roadcraft.

Roger Manning said that the renewals should have gone out by now but due to his holiday they have not. There is now a postage strike looming which may hold them up. The group has good funds in the bank so is not desperate for the money so understands if cheques are not received by renewal date.

The meeting was formally adjourned at 10.00 pm.

Minutes adopted by:

Seconded by: