



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 28th October 2010 at 7.30 pm

Agenda.

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of last AGM agreed.
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. Election of officers.
8. Any other business.
9. Close of meeting.

Meeting opened by the Secretary at 7.35 pm.

Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from the following members:

Richard Strommer, Sue Manning and Jan Westhead

Twenty two members were in attendance on the evening.

Minutes of last AGM agreed

The minutes of the last AGM were agreed (Proposed by Andrew Adams and seconded by Tim Bird).

Report by the Chairman (Mark Kennedy)

Mark started by saying that he very much appreciated the support over the last year from all RoSPA SMART members. The very kind donation to the hospice had won him a year's membership to a health club.

Mark felt that he not done much over the year due to personal reasons.

Mark recorded his thanks to Paul Reynolds for secretary stuff, Roger Manning doe the maintenance of the membership database, Owen Evans for keeping the finances in good shape and Hugh Curran for keeping up the standards of the group.

Mark pointed out a few areas that needed addressing including instructor inactivity, low ride-out attendance, the change of format to Rise School and the streamlining of the Membership Secretary and Treasurer role. This last point was going to cost much more money than initially thought so although there will be no change at the present, this idea will be progressed.

Report by the Treasurer (Owen Evans) and presentation of the accounts

Owen issued printed handouts showing the accounts and annual report for the year ended 31st September 2010 and gave a report on the accounts.

Robin Brown said that there was currently a lot of money in the pot and it was not being spent. Robin suggested that some should be spent on Instructor Training.

Hugh Curran pointed out that some had been spent on taking Instructors on training with Rapid and this will continue. There are a good few trainee instructors progressing and a payment is made when they qualify.

Owen advised that payments can now be made electronically – all he needs are bank details.

Given the size of the funds, instructors and all other eligible members were advised to claim their expenses when they are due.

Report by the Membership Secretary (Roger Manning)

Roger started by explaining that although we looked at streamlining and updating the membership, it would cost too much for what we wanted and it did not seem appropriate to only update some of the system. There are plans to modify the system over the next year as Owen is looking into things.

Roger mentioned that about 250 members seems to be our natural limit.

Sussex (main group)	200 (+10)
Kent	51 (-7)

There were 54 new members (67 in 08/09) and 68 non-renews (76 in 08/09)

Hampshire is now off the books. Hampshire members that stayed are now allocated to Sussex.

Senior Instructors	16
Instructors	24
Trainee Instructors	6
Dormant Instructors	4
Full members	58
Trainee/associates members	143

More active instructors are needed to cope with current levels of members wanting training.

Report by the Chief Instructor (Hugh Curran)

Hugh started by recapping on what had happened:

34 test taken. 20 first time test and 14 retest.
75% of first time test Gold and 25% Silver.
79% of retest Gold and 21% Silver.

The new members are from all different backgrounds from those that have just passed their test to IAM holders.

Hugh asked if we were doing any goos taking on IAMers, but thought there was no real answer. Tony Gillingwater said that he agreed it was pointless, but we are there to provide a service.

Hugh said he thought that the set up of RoSPA to IAM is a real double edged sword. The IAM is a commercial group, big head office, CEO, reps, agents etc and members money that gets paid goes to the IAM. RoSPA is a "1 man and a dog in Birmingham" 2 people in the office and Bob Smalley. The good side is HQ leave us alone, RoSPA have a good test and good reputation. Our training is less structured than IAM (not sure if good or bad though).

Hugh summarised that RoSPA and IAM are both in this together so maybe we should take the bigger view and train whoever comes along.

Paul Ingleton pointed out that RoSPA is getting more members than Local IAM groups and agreed that we should train whoever wants training and not worry about those that don't.

Bill Mulholland pointed out that people joined to be trained, it does not matter what previous training they have, they join and should be entitled to it.

Hugh said that one issue is lack of instructors to take people out. Robin is doing great work on the instructor training and this is starting to filter through and we are reaping rewards of his hard work.

Max Harris asked if it was more instructors or more active instructors we needed. Hugh said that we are a voluntary group and cannot force people to instruct, so both really.

Paul Ingleton said that a minimum standard should be kept up and what was being done about that. Hugh said that this is a problem knowing if an instructor that has not been seen for a while is up to scratch. Karen O'Gorman said that about three years ago something was set up with minimum hours required and Geoff Berry maintained a list and she was surprised that this had not continued. Paul Ingleton said that this is something that needed to be checked regular and Roger Manning (with his Chief Instructor elect hat on) said that Paul has now got a job.

Max Harris said that perhaps a target system should be set up, ie get two people to test standard. Paul Ingleton agreed in principle, but said that every trainee starts at a different level and some may never get to test standard so a bit unfair. Roger said it was a great idea but should not be cast in stone. Dani Neat pointed out that some people joined the group to improve on their riding but not to take the test.

Geoff Cosgrove suggested a re-test for instructors every 3 years. Hugh said that any instructor active for three years is entitled to take the advanced tutor test to become a senior, but for inactive instructors there is a problem.

Hugh mentioned how popular and good the wizzes are. He said that they are brilliant for standard of riding. Not many new members are on them – they appear to be put off, think that they are not allowed on them or they fill up with the same old faces too quickly. Paul Ingleton suggested implementing a reserve list for people already booked on one wiz before allowing them on another.

Hugh finished by saying he had be Group Chief Instructor for three years which was plenty of time and a change would freshen things up. He had suggested Roger as he was sure that Roger was capable of doing the job. Hugh would be around to help Roger in the future.

Election of Committee Members

The following committee positions were the only people standing for each of the positions, there was no need for any vote and the committee remained:

- Mark Kennedy as Chairman (re-appointed)
- Paul Reynolds as Secretary (re-appointed)
- Owen Evans as Group Treasurer (re-appointed)

- Tim Bird as Membership Secretary (appointed)
- Roger Manning as Group Chief Tutor (appointed)

AOB

Roger Manning (with his membership secretary hat on) said renewals will be in the post soon and then he will meet with Tim to hand everything over after that.

The meeting was formally adjourned at 10.10 pm.

Minutes adopted by:

Seconded by: