



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 25th October 2012 at 7.45 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. Election of officers.
8. Any other business.
9. Close of meeting.

Meeting opened by the Secretary at 7.45 pm.

Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from the following members:

Chris Draper, Chris White, Costis Alexandropoulos, Dean Collins, Ian Laker, Jeremy Nicholls, John Adams, Justin Pilbeam, Kevin Mahony, Sue Manning, Marion Missing, Mark Bloxham, Niall Fitzgerald, Paul Kelly, Robert Wilkie, Robin Hancock, Rob Purvis, Robin Brown, Tim Benians, Tim Berry, Warren Evans, Luke Bartlett, Paul Alexander, Anthony Jackson, Roy Granville, Dave De Boick, Bob Hewitt, Mike Seary, Jeff Staples, Danielle Neat, Llewellyn St. David, Dermot Horan, Jeff de Noronha, Pieter Malan, Robin Medcalf, Neal Gordon, Graham Mentor-Morris, Tommo Thomason, Michael Campbell, Matt Davey, Craig Croft, Rashmin Shah, Andy Bell, Khush Irani, Tony Flint, Trevor Hinchey, Nicholas van Bussel, Martyn Hutchby, Sue Morrice, Chris Green, Stuart Long, Josh Raymond, Geoff Brunton, Luke Stevens, Spiros Kanellis, Steve Abramson and Howard Cooper.

24 members and 1 guest were in attendance on the evening.

Minutes of last AGM agreed

The minutes of the last AGM were read and agreed (Proposed by Tim Bird and seconded by Owen Evans).

Report by the Chairman (Mark Kennedy)

Mark Kennedy gave the following report:

Good evening and welcome. Thanks for coming and nice to see so many here.

I would like to start by thanking the team. Paul Reynolds for all he does secretarially. Owen Evans for keeping the books. Mr Paul Ingleton for allocations. John MacGregor for taking over the allocations. Andrew Adams for the support and website updates. Tim Bird for membership secretary and GroupSpaces. Sue Manning for taking over membership secretary. Finally to Roger Manning the Group Chief Instructor – who is so laid back it is not healthy!

Events: We have had a RideSchool four weeks in January and February. Many thanks go to Hugh Curran, Tony Gillingwater, Paul Ingleton and Max Harris. Thanks also to Owen Evans for arranging the venue and refreshments.

A couple of revised RideSchools are being planned for the near future.

Rideouts: These have been well attended, with many old and new faces. Rideout leaders have been hard to come by, even a relaxation of rules to allow Gold Riders to run rideouts has born little fruit. The next Sunday's rideout had 40+ attendees confirmed.

Wizzes: There have been two Ardennes wizzes to a new venue and different format, two Welsh wizzes in which good roads were experienced and some people had a lot of fun.

Clothing: Mr Paul (Ingleton) is on the case and has found an outlet for logoed apparel and he is in the process of acquiring items in various sizes to try on. It is proposed that once a garment has been selected members can order online. Garments include fleeces, sweatshirts, nice Oxford shirts, hoodies, rugby shirts and even baby suits and bibs.

Social evenings: We have been suffering the embarrassment of very low attendee numbers for some speakers. Whilst we had a fairly good turnout for Anna zee (BMF Chair), Simon Wier (RiDE magazine), Phil Edwards (Wealden EVT) and Paddy Tyson (MAG and Bike Adventure). With falling attendees is it worth considering whether we need social evenings or not?

I have sent an email last night asking all to update their Group Spaces account. This is mainly to update records but also to gauge response. Sop far only 49% have opened the email and unsure of how many have updated their records.

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 2012 and gave a report on the accounts as follows:

The financial position of the charity remains strong, with an increase of cash funds of approx. £2,800 over this time last year. With an increase in income of only £400 over the last financial year, the increase in available cash is mainly due to a reduction in outgoing costs. Using the Bewbush centre as our RideSchool venue has reduced these costs, and there have been less significant one off charges for instructor equipment, only ring binders have been purchased this year. The previous year saw significant spending on record forms and waistcoats for instructors.

The majority of payments from members are now coming via Paypal, which is making the administration and tracking of these payments a much less troublesome task. We will continue to encourage members to use this payment method wherever possible.

There has also been a reduction in new instructor passes and payment, although this will soon be addressed with plans for a new batch of trainee instructors.

A new category for speaker expenses has been added this year, as it was felt that offering to cover expenses would encourage good quality speakers to join us. I would like to congratulate Max Harris for arranging some excellent Speaker evenings this year and thank him for his efforts. I would also like to thank Andrew Adams for his continued support with the website.

As last year I would urge all instructors to check the current expenses document and make sure they are claiming all legitimate expenses.

With no proposals for spending the money in our reserve account, the amount has remained the same and again, I would encourage proposals for good ways to spend this fund to be submitted to the committee. The idea of Bluetooth headsets was put forward this year, but this was not followed up with a proper proposal.

Unless there are any further questions, I recommend these accounts to the meeting for submission to Charity's House and out records.

Trevor Shearsmith asked why the slow riding days were so cheap and asked if Kent Police has invoiced us. Owen said that the amounts owed to Kent Police are in outstanding payments (on page 2) as the cheques had not been presented.

There being no further questions, Andrew Adams proposed the adoption of the accounts and these were seconded by Trevor Shearsmith.

Report by the Membership Secretary (Tim Bird)

Tim Bird gave the following report:

Current Membership is 290 with 10 members pending i.e. they have applied but have not been accepted yet. Total membership on November 1st 2011 was 283 so there has been a slight increase in the total number of members over the year.

Last year, despite being sent 3 emails and 2 written reminders to pay the annual subscription and given the opportunity to feedback if they were not going to renew, we had 80 non renewals. This means that this year we have successfully recruited 97 new members (including the 10 pending).

This has given the group a healthy influx of new trainees, but has found us struggling on occasion to meet the demand for training.

I am standing down this year as Membership Secretary and have started a managed hand over to the new Membership Secretary, Sue Manning. However, I will remain available to the Group to provide whatever support is required for group spaces (the online membership database and electronic payment system).

Tim Bird and Owen Evans explained that pending trainees are those awaiting instructors and there are probably 7 or 8 that will be removed and not join.

Mark Kennedy thanked Tim for all of his hard work as membership secretary, especially in the setting up of the Group Spaces.

Report by the Chief Instructor (Roger Manning)

Roger Manning gave the following report:

The Group have had 89 new Trainees sign up, with the help of Paul Ingleton and MacGregor acting as Allocations Officers we have almost kept on top of the situation, but not always! I am putting another 10 Trainee Instructors into the Instructor Pool with the help of the Senior Instructors to alleviate this problem, they will be tested to the regime set out last year and have had training material issued as of now.

With regards to the Allocations being a not so perfect situation I am having a few “floating instructors” to help with the Training requirements at the official Sunday training meetings so we can cover the “Ad Hoc” training at each venue more comfortably.

I have attended most of the official training sessions at both Miceys Diner in Kent and Tulleys Farm in Sussex on the first and second Sundays and do not feel I need a Chief Instructor at either venue, although the constitution allows for this, but, do not think the constitution should be changed so the next incumbent has the option to put somebody into the post if they wish.

Rideouts are very well attended which allows people to practice advanced motorcycle riding every month end in addition to there official training sessions, I can see a marked improvement in people as every month goes by which is good to see, as always I do need more Gold and/or Instructors to lead the rideouts and will help any new leaders to plan and lead there day out.

Ride Schools are still well attended, thanks to Hugh Curran, Paul Farmer, Tony Gillingwater and Max Harris for running these, I am running a new format that will encompass the theory sessions into one morning, not at detail as the full R/S which can be attended as well. This is so Trainees that miss the spring R/S can have an overview of Roadcraft at the beginning of there training and we do not have to teach the fundamentals of Advanced Motorcycling on the side of the road. These sessions will probably be held bi-monthly and my thanks to Trevor Shearsmith for all his work on this project so far.

The Group has run two slow riding courses at the police headquarters in Maidstone this year, both of which were very well attended, again my thanks to Brian Baker, Trevor Shearsmith and Paul Ingleton for running them both.

All Instructors have been invited to partake in a “Rapid Training day” that was subsidised by the Group, the outcome is that the participants have had a great days riding with a lot of great input from the “Rapid Training” Instructors, but I also have an independent assessment of our Instructors Riding ability to keep on file.

Whizzes are still well attended, these are a fast-track to better riding, my thanks to Robin Brown, Hugh Curran, Tim Benians and all who help to organise and run them.

My thanks go to all who have supported the Group and myself in the past year, we have had many Gold and Silver passes, both at first tests and retests which is a credit to the Instructors who have bought all these people to this standard, very well done, I have lost count of who and when, my apologies.

Lastly John Taylor has withdrawn from Examining the Senior Instructors due to other commitments but I have engaged the help of Tony Green based in Rye to take over this role as from 1/11/2012, also Mick Culver has stopped examining as from 21/10/2012 for personal reasons, he has been an active examiner for the Group for over seven years, many thanks to both of them.

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)
- Roger Manning as Group Chief Tutor (re-appointed)
- Paul Reynolds as Secretary (re-appointed)
- Owen Evans as Group Treasurer (re-appointed)
- Sue Manning as Membership Secretary (appointed)

Roger Manning passed on a message from Sue Manning saying that Sue sent her apologies for not preparing another newsletter recently and this will be done in the next couple of weeks. Sue thanked the members for the contributions they have sent to her and requested that this continued.

Many thanks were recorded to Sue for all of her hard work in the news letter and this was agreed by all.

AOB

There was a lengthy discussion on social nights and the dwindling attendees. Owen Evans reported that the Southgate Social Centre was now fairly expensive at £90 for an evening, rather than the £30 it was. Max Harris suggested using other venues. Paul Baker suggested using function rooms in different pubs and perhaps just having socials in these pubs without a talker, just as a group get together. Mark Kennedy said he was considering resurrecting the treasure hunt and Roger Manning had an idea of a rideout where the leader changed at every junction and the leader chose where to go.

Greer Avery said that KAMG have family days and run a bigger event with raffles, clothing sales etc where the kids can play for a hour or so whilst the parents are having a meeting.

Roger Manning said he had given up with arranging stuff in Kent as lots of people moan nothing happens there, but when it does nobody turns up.

Peter Ross said that wizzes were a good social event, perhaps we should have more shorted wizzes, perhaps just overnight.

Paul Baker asked if we had looked at the average stats of members – ages, riding styles, tract day enthusiasts etc. Owen Evans said, although no study had been done, he did not think that the demography had changed much. Perhaps extra lists can be set up on GroupSpaces for, say, track days etc.

The final decision was that, for now at least, Southgate would not be re-booked and Paul Baker volunteered to check out the Bell at Henfield for a meeting. It was welcomed at asked if others would do the same.

Tony Gillingwater said that if a member passed at Silver they seemed to be stuck in limbo and tended to drop out of the system as there is no specific training to move them on. He asked why not get all of the silvers together and move them on towards Gold and used as a stepping stone to instructor. Tony said that he was happy to help with this idea and asked the committee to consider it.

Roger Manning said it was a great idea, the committee will support this and he will contact Tony to discuss this and thanked him for the offer.

Paul Ingleton then talked bout clothing and had some samples for people to look at. The idea is that a company that he has found will hold out logo and then members can purchase direct from them. There are high postal costs but as Paul lives just around the corner he is willing to pick them up and pass them on, assuming people don't mind a small wait. Costs are £14 polo shirt and £16 sweatshirt. People can ask for their own products to be logoed up, but he had not obtained costs for this.

The meeting was formally adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Minutes adopted by:

Seconded by: