



The Club

Minutes of the General Meeting

Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells

1st October 2006

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Andrew Smith, Tony Jakeman, Rick Parish. (These are Apologies for non attendance of this meeting compared with non attendance of the Run which were read to members on Friday)
- 2. Approval of Minutes** of the AGM held at Thetford 7th May 2006
Proposed: Peter Sheen
Seconded: Martyn Roberts **Approved**
- 3. Matters Arising:** The Chairman reported that following the last meeting at Thetford, where Simon Bates was proposed for membership by Dennis, there had been a number of objections regarding Simon's seniority in the industry and his eligibility, based on his role as a Sales Agent. Dennis was informed of these objections and subsequently replied to the Chairman providing further information.
A copy of this letter was sent to all objectors who were invited to vote on whether this new information satisfied their concerns. As a result a majority of the objectors maintained their position. At this stage a further letter was sent to Dennis informing him that Simon had been rejected.
Subsequently, some members but not all, and some committee members but not all, had received another letter from Dennis elaborating further on Simon's activities. The Chairman made the point that nobody had any difficulty with Simon as a person and in terms of personality and demeanour would make a good member.

However, the Chairman went on, there was a problem with eligibility. As a result a committee meeting took place on the Saturday evening of this run attended by all com.members apart from Norman Hyde, who is unwell, and Dennis who would, of course, have a vested interest. A long and involved discussion took place with regard to the question of seniority and eligibility in the case of Simon's application.

Looking at the question absolutely and very carefully at the membership criteria, they are: *senior executives in the motorcycle industry*, and this is the important part, *defined as manufacturers and importing firms of complete machines*, of which Simon's company is not, *components, accessories etc.* of which Simon is not an importer or manufacturer, as far as we are aware, but he does represent people who are, *trade associations and marketing support agencies*, again, he is neither of those. So, under eligibility, he is neither a manufacturer nor importer of complete machines, not a manufacturer or importer of components or accessories and nor is he a trade association or marketing support agency.

The Chairman continued that adhering to the criteria covering eligibility, the view of the committee is that Simon does not qualify. So on that basis; the proposal is that the Chairman writes again to Dennis saying, unfortunately, we have to reject Simon as a member. It was not a personal decision either way but the rules of the club. Members were then asked if they had objections to that view.

Maurice Knight asked if we should give consideration to the long and valuable service given to the club by Dennis. The Chairman replied that the committee had indeed considered that point and asked the meeting for their views. Mike Jackson thought on balance he would allow Simon in.

Martyn Roberts pointed out that it was not a question of whether Simon is a good guy but the constitution of the club says he is not eligible. If we want him as a member we would have to change the constitution.

Peter Sheen raised the possibility of Simon being an honorary member. The Chairman said this had been raised at the last meeting in relation to Ken Sprayson so that if there was someone who had made a major contribution to the industry but were not eligible they could become honorary members. It could be done, but had there been a significant contribution? The meeting thought not.

Wilf Harrison asked if Simon formed a limited company, would he then qualify with himself as managing director. The meeting said he would still not be an importer or manufacturer.

Gerald Davison said that although he had not been involved in this matter and had no strong views either way, we should always be aware of the danger of precedent. If you create a precedent you have changed the rules and at some point in the future someone will come along and say 'Ah, we did that then,' and then you can't say no again. The meeting thought that if we accept Simon we have created a precedent and will have to do so again.

A short discussion took place at this point regarding guests, number of runs etc. during which it was stated that a non-eligible guest may join us twice in three years, and this would, of course include Simon.

The Chairman said that during the meeting the previous evening measures to avoid the current situation recurring in the future had also been discussed. The committee would make a proposal to members that if a guest had been on two runs and is clearly on the 'fast track' to membership, the proposer should discuss with the committee the *eligibility* of the proposed member on his second run and the members would then vote on the *suitability* of the proposed member after the third run. The meeting agreed to this.

At this point Maurice Knight proposed that the application of Simon should be refused and the Chairman should write again to Dennis to explain the members' decision.

Proposed: Maurice Knight

Seconded: Dave Martin

Approved

The Hon. Sec. Advised that following members' decision to offer Ken Sprayson honorary membership Peter Sheen had written to Ken to ascertain his continued interest. Having received a positive reply the Hon. Sec. will write to confirm.

4. **Chairman's Report:** Geoff Selvidge said amid some laughter that his had been an interesting if difficult chairmanship but had considered it a great honour to have served the club over the last couple of years and had thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Thanking Tom Waterer and Nich Brown for this splendid run the Chairman said it had all the ingredients of a TW run - good roads, bad roads, roads covered in mud and gravel together with sheep and rain. The Chairman also thanked Greg Elson for supplying the RAC van, sometimes more than one, the quiz on this run together with Tony Dawson, Dennis Bates for keeping us solvent, Dan Sager for his entertaining run reports, Mike Jackson, Dave Martin, Keith and Richard Davies for Sergeant at Arms duties, Nick Jeffery for acting on behalf of Dennis on this run and the Hon. Sec. for behind the scenes work.

5. **Treasurer's Report:** Dennis reported via Nick that we had a very enjoyable and successful run in Norfolk organised by Rick Parish producing a good profit of £490.

Club accounts at the end of May, prior to monies coming in for the current run, amounted to £6,767.19 of which our deposit account stands at £1,309.18. Demands for booking deposits are becoming more prevalent so I have paid £400.00 to Hollybush Hotel for the spring 2007 run and last week £472.00 to the Swallow Ballachulish Hotel near Fort William for the spring 2008 run. Further monies will be spent on the outcome of archivist Alan Blake's considerable efforts in the production of the names and careers of our presidents. We will also need to purchase a supply of Club ties in 18 months or so.

Donations for this run were received from: Peter Sheen, Bill Colquhoun, Tony Jakeman, Keith Blair, Mike Jackson, Graham Goodman, Rick Parish, Maurice Knight, Greg Elson, Wilf Harrison, Keith Davies, Andrew Smith, John Nelson, Chris Ventress.

The subject of deposits for hotels was raised from the floor outlining the possibility of financial loss should the hotel go out of business. Various suggestions were put forward including the club having a credit card or some form of insurance. The Treasurer was asked to look into these possibilities. Accounts for the spring run are attached.

6. **New Chairman:** At this point Geoff handed over the chairmanship to Martyn Roberts.

7. **Future Runs:**

Spring 2007

Organiser	Gerald Davison	Date	27-28 April
		Location	Sherbourne

Autumn 2007

Organiser	Dan Sager	Date	TBA
		Location	Oxfordshire

Spring 2008

Organisers	Dave Martin Andrew Smith	Date	25-27 April
		Location	Ballachulish

Autumn 2008

Organiser	Greg Elson	Date	TBA
		Location	Warwickshire

Gerald reported that arrangements were well in hand with hotel, lunch stop and point of interest all booked.

Dan Sager was currently arranging the hotel and would advise dates as soon as possible.

Dave Martin advised that the hotel was booked with everyone in single rooms. A stopover en-route to Scotland was envisaged due to the distance involved.

8. **New Members:** Dan Sager, having assured members that as far as he knew his guest was not a relative, proposed Steve Callahan. Steve is General Manager of Suzuki GB Ltd

Proposed: Dan Sager

Seconded: Dave Martin

Approved

Normal process will now be followed as per the rules.

9. **A.O.B.** Dave Martin offered to take over the sourcing of a new design for the club tie. The Hon.Sec. would send the logo.

The Hon. Sec. said that although David Dixon was unable to join us this time he had generously sent raffle prizes. The meeting was appreciative of this gesture.

Meeting closed at 09.45