

Minutes of the General Meeting of The Club

Aviator Hotel, Sywell, Northants

28th April 2019

Note: Due to Graham Goodman being indisposed Nick Jeffery stood in as Hon Sec.

1. Apologies: Graham Goodman, David O'Neill, Peter Sheen, Peter Meek, Mike Jackson, Bob McMillan, Graham Matcham, Tom Waterer.

Peter Sheen had expressly asked for his best wishes to be conveyed to the membership along with his regrets that he had not been able to attend this run. The members expressed their thanks for Peter's continued interest in the Club and conveyed their best wishes to him and also to Bob McMillan for a speedy recovery from his recent accident and to all others who were experiencing health issues.

2. Approval of Minutes: Cumbria **Proposed:** Andrew Smith
Seconded: Ian Kerr
Approved nem con

3. Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report: Martin opened by thanking Simon Hill and Stephen Burgess for a superb run, blessed with much more clement weather than anticipated and some great visits. Also for the invaluable back-up of Tim in theSCH support van. (Applause) It had been very interesting to see the two Zero electric bikes on the run - a Club first - ridden by David Taylor and Dale Robinson and their need to exploit every opportunity to keep their batteries charged!

He had one point he wished to raise following discussions with Simon Hill and Rick Parish. and this was the difficulties that arose for the organisers when members requested bespoke arrangements e.g. wishing to attend for just one night and/or for part of the run or for dinner only. A subsidiary issue was where members had originally booked but were unable to attend and the question arose as to whether a refund was possible.

A discussion ensued which reached consensus on the following points of principle:

- The Club existed to foster social intercourse between like-minded motorcycle enthusiasts while riding motorcycles over the course of a weekend, arriving on Friday before dinner and leaving on Sunday after the members' meeting. As such the 'default position' was that members should book for a full weekend and ride a motorcycle on the associated Run.
- However, with the age profile of members, the Club had mellowed from actively discouraging non-riding members from travelling in cars to a position where this was supported if it enabled a no-longer-riding member to attend for the weekend. In that respect the attendance of Michael Evans for the first time in many years was particularly welcome, as was Maurice Knight's unfailing participation.
- There would always be exceptions to this on a case-by-case basis and the example of Peter Meek's special effort to participate in this run was cited with approval. It was recognised that these cases would require sensitive treatment by the organisers. However members must be mindful of the difficulty organisers faced when attempting to make special arrangements with some hotels

where the hotel's expectation was for a 'full service' weekend package to be taken by all attendees and negotiations inevitably centred round this concept.

- Hotels were now demanding final numbers to be confirmed at least 4 weeks in advance so all members must confirm their attendance and have paid by then,
- If for any reason members could, for legitimate reasons, not then attend then the possibility of a refund would be canvassed with the hotel. However the default position was that refunds would not normally be given.

Action: All - to note the points raised above and act accordingly.

5. Treasurer's Report: Rick opened by saying that he had observed a recent trend where runs operated at a surplus. One big factor in this was that we were drinking less - the bar bill was now around half of what it used to be. Obviously this depended to some extent on the price hotels charged for alcohol but it was probable this run would be in surplus as well. He stressed that the object of runs was not to generate a profit and it might be possible to reduce the cost of runs in future if this trend continued.

He also reminded organisers that they were entitled to a 'free run' as partial compensation for the considerable expenses they incurred in receiving and selecting venues for their intended run. Some organisers he knew did not avail themselves of this, presumably being concerned that if they did the run would then move into loss. He encouraged them to take up this offer.

Moving on to the specifics of the Autumn 2018 Run in Cumbria, Rick circulated the financial results (attached). In brief, the run had made a surplus of £858.06 and, at the end of January 2019, the closing bank balance was £5238.65. The Club was in good health financially.

Donations for this run had been received from Tony Dawson, Rick Parish, Andrew Smith, Maurice Knight, Ian Kerr, Frank Finch, Tony Jakeman, Peter Sheen, Nick Hopkins, Nick Jeffery and Steve Callahan. Stephen Burgess had also kindly covered the cost of the delicious home-made cakes at the afternoon tea-stop

The Chairman thanked all donors and Rick for his presentation and his continued work.

6. Future Runs

Autumn 2019. Organisers: Norman Hyde, Martyn Roberts

Date: 13th-15th September 2019. **Location:** The Glebe Hotel, Barford, Warwickshire

Martyn reported that the hotel was booked and stops planned with final tweaks on the route being worked on. The run itself would be around 190 miles heading south west to the edge of the Malvern Hills and then returning via Ross-on-Wye, Gloucestershire and Warwickshire on mainly free-flowing roads.

Spring 2020. Organisers: Craig Carey-Clinch, Ian Kerr

Date: TBA **Location:** TBA

Note: Although no volunteer organiser had come forward prior to the meeting, during the meeting Craig Carey-Clinch offered in principle to organise a run with another member in support. This was enthusiastically welcomed. After the meeting Ian Kerr volunteered to assist Craig and agreement was reached with Craig that their run would be in south/south west England. This supported the desire, in view of the Autumn Scottish Run, to avoid two ultra-long mileage runs consecutively.

Autumn 2020: Organisers: Andrew Smith, Bob McMillan

Date: EITHER Thursday 10th to Sunday 13th September 2020

OR Thursday 17th to Sunday 20th September 2020

Location: Fort William, Scotland

Andrew reported that plans were proceeding well involving one of the above two long weekends. The intention was to have an overnight stop on Thursday in Kirkby Lonsdale (although not in a hotel previously used) and then proceed to Fort William where three possible hotels had been identified. The route would involve some 226 miles as previously heading to the Isle of Skye/Kyle of Lochalsh. He was exploring the possibility of loan bikes and a flight option.

Andrew also floated the idea of offering to participants the opportunity to continue motorcycling in the week following the run, with the possibility of the North Coast 500 being incorporated.

2021? Neil Tuxworth floated the possibility of organising a run based on the Lincolnshire Wolds into Yorkshire. This was enthusiastically welcomed.

The Chairman thanked all organisers for their kind offers and hard work without which the Club would not exist.

7. Website: Alan Halford stated he had been looking into the possibility of incorporating a photo and video gallery into the website as the current one, based on a commercial web shop, was not optimised for these features. His preliminary investigations had suggested that a new site could be devised for possibly half the cost of the current one. Mike Evans confirmed that this should be possible with, for example, a Word Press site with a Shop add-on.

Alan had asked at the last meeting for member input as to what features the website should offer but had received no feedback. After discussion it was agreed that the best way of proceeding was that he should circulate to all members his proposal of features he wanted to build-in and then request members' comments and suggestions within 2 weeks of this. It was noted in passing that Ray Battersby occupied the position of Hon Archivist and it was believed that he may have material relating to members' career profiles which could feature on the website.

Action: Alan Halford to circulate to all members proposed new website content listing with an invitation to comment.

All members to respond to Alan with comments/suggestions within 2 weeks of circulation.

8. New Members: Andrew Smith announced that Kevin Howells of Datatag had now completed his third run and he wished to propose him for membership. This was seconded by Ian Kerr. Kevin's eligibility for membership had already been confirmed by the committee in view of his current position as Managing Director of Datatag ID, a supplier to the motorcycle industry. Andrew was invited, in accordance with the rules, to outline Kevin's background in the industry and for members to determine his suitability for membership.

Andrew said he had known Kevin since 1977 when Kevin was working at a Yamaha dealer, Pete Jones Motorcycles of Shrewsbury, and competing in motocross. Kevin subsequently became involved with the SmartWater security product and its adoption to motorcycles and achieved a 5-year association with Honda UK. In 2001 he joined Mitsui Yamaha as head of sales of their Datatag division which was then in their ownership. Later he led a management buy-out and is currently Managing Director of Datatag ID offering security initiatives to many sectors but with motorcycles remaining a core activity. Datatag is the preferred supplier to the MCIA-supported MASTER (Motorcycle and Scooter Tagged Equipment Register) Scheme supported by OEMs such as Honda, Suzuki, Yamaha, Kawasaki, Triumph, Ducati, Indian, Harley-Davidson and BMW.

Andrew concluded that Kevin is a real enthusiast involved both with road and off-road racing sponsorship and rides a Yamaha WR450 off-road.

On a show of hands, with none dissenting, Kevin's application was provisionally approved. In accordance with the rules the full membership will now be afforded the opportunity to support or make any objection to Hon Sec within 14 days of the circulation of these minutes before final confirmation.

Action: All members to consider Kevin's application in accordance with the rules.

9. Any other business:

Simon Hill raised the issue of the potential liability of run organisers in case they were the subject of litigation following an accident on a run for which they might conceivably be held negligent. Although this was felt to be unlikely discussion followed from which it emerged that a form of insurance might be available covering this liability. Craig Carey-Clinch undertook to obtain details which the committee would then consider. In the event that such insurance could be obtained on a reasonable basis the committee was authorised to proceed with obtaining same without reference back to the members.

Action: Craig Carey-Clinch to obtain details of insurance and forward to Hon Sec
Hon Sec to circulate to committee on receipt for subsequent discussion.

Martyn Roberts asked whether a special note could go to members reminding them of forthcoming run dates to put in their diaries. Although the next run date was on the website this highlighting of the dates might encourage attendance. It was agreed that this was a good idea.

Action: Hon Sec via Webmaster to circulate all members with a specific dedicated notice emphasising the following diary dates:

Autumn Run 2019 - Barford, Warwickshire **13th-15th September 2019**
Autumn Run 2020 - Fort William **EITHER 10th-13th September 2020**
OR 17th-20th September 2020

There being no other business Martin wished all members a safe journey home and closed the meeting.

MEETING CLOSED 09.40