



The Club

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The Club,

Bell Inn, Thetford.

23rd April 2017

- 1) **Apologies for Absence:** Maurice Knight, Ben Matthews, Keith Davies, Andrew Smith, Adam Kelley, David O'Neil, Andy Mayo, Simon Hill.
- 2) **Approval of Minutes:** Ireland September 2016 **Proposed:** Dave Martin
Seconded: Frank Finch
Approved
- 3) **Matters Arising:** It was noted that some members who are unable, or don't wish to attend a Run are not advising Organisers and thus making room bookings and allocation more difficult.
- 4) **Chairman's Report:**
The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished them all a very happy St George's Day. He thanked Rick Parish and Steve Callahan for an excellently organised run that 'ticked all the boxes'. Dan also thanked the previous chairman, Graham Matcham, for all his hard work during some challenging times, and to the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, for their continued efforts behind the scenes, to ensure that the Club functions.

Dan highlighted the contribution made by those members who add extra value to runs, including Dave Martin, who not only maintains the website, but also provided a quiz on this run, our Sgt at Arms Steve Callahan and Geoff Selvidge, whose Run Reports provide a happy reminder of our travels. The Committee has provided invaluable support to the new Chairman.

Dan reminded everyone of the need to ensure a good turnout on runs and urged members to encourage fellow-members to come and bring guests, both those eligible to become members and interesting riders from outside the industry. His objectives during his Chairmanship are well-attended runs and an influx of new members - research by Geoff Selvidge revealed that the Club relies on a core of 30 members who regularly come on runs and if, for any reasons, they can't attend, then it can be difficult to attract sufficient riders to make a run break even. Dan was heartened to see prospective members on this run.

- 5) **Treasurer's Report:** Rick opened by stating 2016 had not been a good year for many reasons, and a year to put behind us. So, financially, the two runs in Scotland and Ireland had each lost approximately £750 or so, leading to combined deficits of about £1,500. (David Martin pointed out the impact of Brexit that increased costs by nigh on 15% overnight).

The cost of the web site and general admin is about £500, so the combined effect was that bank balances have reduced by about £2,000. This means that cash reserves had reduced to about £4,300 after the Spring run.

Although this is adequate to fund the club, it means that the safety net we had a few years ago has gone. With each run having basic costs (before drink/bar) of about £8,000, it means that should a hotel go bust, just as we had paid for rooms etc., we are potentially vulnerable. It means we could no longer fund that loss from reserves and would therefore have to deprive members of a run with no refund of their money. Hopefully very unlikely, but should a problem of that nature arise, we no longer have the reserves.

Rick also mentioned that runs are budgeted on the basis of primarily members riding, with guests. However, with an increasing trend of retired members attending, the impact of the retired members discount is having a disproportionate effect on the funding of a run. We may need to look at how we budget the run, but Rick will be looking at this.

Also, the increase in the use of PayPal is affecting finances. When only a few paid by PayPal the costs were relatively small. But it's being used by quite a few and hence the costs are now around £90 per run. We have had dialogue with PayPal, but, alas, they refuse to give us the free service that individuals get so we pay charges as if we were a business receiving payment (i.e. approx. 4% charges—i.e. £10 per person) .Again, Rick will be looking at this and our options and report next time.

Regarding the financing of future runs, Rick commented that in planning this run, he had tried to address the results of the survey and was expecting this run to come in at about £300 surplus, through a cheaper lunch and self-service coffees etc. The good turnout and 5 guests will have a significant impact on the outcome.

Donations: Adam Kelley, Keith Davies, Tony Jakeman, Peter Sheen, Geoff Selvidge, Ian Kerr, Frank Finch/Dave Martin, Lester Harris, Nick Hopkins, Andrew Smith, Rick Parish.

Apologies for non-attendance: Alan Blake, Craig Carey-Clinch, Bob McMillan, Tony Jakeman, Ray Battersby, David Dew, Luke Plummer, Jonathan Martin.

6) Future Runs:

Autumn 2017	Tony Dawson/Nick Hopkins	Date	8th September
		Location	Sheffield Area

Spring 2018	Andy Smith/Martin Lambert	Date	TBA
		Location	Shrewsbury

Autumn 2018	Geoff Selvidge/David O'Neil	Date	TBA
		Location	Cumbria

Nick Hopkins advised that the hotel is within a few hundred yards of Junction 36 M1. We would be taking a route through the Peak District taking in some of Tony's 'favourite haunts'. We could be in for a surprise or two here!

Martin Lambert and Andy Smith will be checking out possible routes within the next few weeks now that Andy will have plenty of spare time.

Geoff Selvidge said that he and David would develop the Cumbria idea further.

7) Club Website:

Dave Martin reminded Run organisers that Guide Notes are on the website to make things easier for them, giving links to Run Rules, budgeting etc. Having set up and run the website for five years or so Dave is now handing over that task to Alan Halford next year.

8) New Members:

Steve Callahan proposed Nick Campolucci, who has been responsible for UK sales of Honda products for a number of years. **Proposed: Steve Callahan**
Seconded: Frank Finch
Approved

Further to our desire to attract new members and to refresh the minds of existing members as to the procedure, here goes:

- 1) Invite prospective member as a guest to a couple of runs so we can get to know him. Importantly, he also can get a feel for The Club and what we are about.
- 2) Following the second run submit a summary of the prospective member's career in the Motorcycle Industry, or subsidiary industries, to the Committee in order that the Committee can decide on his/her **Eligibility**.
- 3) If the Committee agree his/her eligibility you can Propose the prospect for Membership at the Meeting following his/her next run. The meeting will decide on the **Suitability**.

9) **A.O.B.:**

Dave Martin raised the subject of the costs of running the website which are currently around £450 a year which is paid for by members who attend a run, members not attending pay nothing. Dave suggested that a membership fee/subscription is introduced to cover this expense. Some debate ensued regarding the number to be attached to the fee and the possibility of refunding members attending a run, bearing in mind we do not hear from, or see several members from one year to the next. The Chairman summed up the debate by saying that the meeting broadly accepted the idea and that it should now be discussed in Committee with a proposal being put to the General Meeting after the next run.

Nick Jeffery raised a point about the rules regarding guests being on the website. The Chairman agreed to look at correspondence on this subject.

Dave Martin raised the point of an ineligible guest attending two runs, becoming eligible, being voted in as member on his third run. Martyn Roberts said that if an ineligible person has been a guest for two runs and we now know him, why should we put him through another three runs before he can become a member.

The Chairman said this would be another discussion point for the Committee.

The Chairman, in closing, advised the meeting that one of his duties is to appoint a Vice-Chairman, so we have been warned.

Meeting closed 09.40