

**The Southern Sporting Motor Cycle Club**  
**Minutes of the February 2014 AGM**

Held at "The Adelaide", 57 Park Road, Teddington, Middlesex on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2014

The records show 3 Honorary and 17 full members, being present at the start of the meeting, this rising to 18 full members before the end. It was noted that one proxy vote had been registered on behalf of Estelle Potter

Apologies were received from Estelle Potter

The meeting started at 8.13pm

The meeting being quorate, the Club President (John Mason) welcomed everyone and thanked people for coming. He said that it was strange this being the 76<sup>th</sup> AGM as the 70<sup>th</sup> celebrations down the road at the NPL seemed like only yesterday and this also meant that there were only 4 years to the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. John added that this would be a busy meeting with awards and several motions. Finally he asked everyone to be welcoming to new members so they would want to participate and therefore get more of a change of scenery at the top table! He then handed the running of the meeting over to the Hon General Secretary Russell Sommer.

**Minutes of the 2013 AGM**

The minutes of the 2013 AGM, produced and proposed by Robert Wood, were seconded by Russell Sommer and accepted without dissent.

**Honorary Treasurer's Report**

Chris Booker said he had not produced a written report but referred people to the audited balance sheets in Contact, to which he did not have much to add, but was open to any questions.

Dave Regan asked why a reference was made to the Christmas Meal breaking even as the club had not contributed any funds. Robert Wood as Auditor replied that the monies had still gone through the Club books and therefore the statement was just confirming in an easy to understand manner that the amount received matched the amount expended.

Dave then started to ask a question about the Training Scheme accounts, however the President asked if this could be brought up under the training scheme section of the agenda which Dave confirmed he would.

There being no further questions, Chris Booker proposed the accounts, which were seconded by Robert Wood and accepted without dissent.

### **Honorary Club Captain's Report**

Mick Wallace referred members to his written report. There being no questions, Mick proposed his report which was seconded by Chris Booker and accepted without dissent.

### **Honorary Social Secretary's Report**

John Mason reported that unfortunately Doug Chaney had been help up and was not present so referred people to the written report in Contact. There being no questions, Russell Sommer proposed this report, which was seconded by Mick Wallace and accepted without dissent.

Just after the vote the Honorary Social Secretary arrived and apologised for his lateness.

### **Honorary Public Relations Officer's Report**

Richard Barnett referred those present to his written report. He added that whilst he was standing for re-election this year he would not thereafter as he felt the role should be taken on by a more "internet savvy" person. He then offered to answer any questions members had.

Dave Regan asked why the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club had not been promoted by the PRO and the committee.

John Mason replied that on a personal level it was that because last year he had concentrated on his own 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

Russell Sommer said that whilst the committee were responsible for running the Club, members should always remember that they get out what they put in and should always ask themselves "what can I do?" and not expect the committee to do everything.

Ian Slater said that perhaps this discussion should act as a catalyst for everyone to plan for the 80<sup>th</sup> celebrations.

Richard Barnett replied that he accepted that the as PRO he should have done more on that occasion.

There being no further questions, Richard proposed his report, which was seconded by Kathy Frost and accepted without dissent.

## **Honorary Editor's Report**

Amoret Whitaker referred members to her written report. She added that she would like more input from members as this really makes a difference and that this input can be on any topic. She also mentioned that she wanted to try and get Contact out promptly at the end of every month in the forthcoming year, so she would be introducing a deadline for contributions of the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. She then asked if members had any questions.

Anne Byard said she would like to compliment Amoret on the quality of contact over the last year.

Steve Pearce then asked about putting contact on the web. This then provoked a lively and wide ranging discussion of which key contributions were as follows:

Sasu Duviau said she did not want contact on the web as it included photos, which she personally was not happy to share beyond club membership

Russell Sommer clarified that promoting the club on the web was not the same as publishing Contact on the web (in relation to some of the discussions occurring).

Heather Wallace asked if there could be discussions with the editors of the Club's Facebook site to make the public profile more informative.

Amoret Whitaker said that perhaps the website could contain Contact "tasters" (i.e. samples of what you got for your money but without any photos or other personal content).

A discussion then started about the Club's Facebook site, however John Mason intervened and said that this was not a matter for the Editors report and suggested that if people wanted to do this it could be done under AOB at the end of the meeting.

There being no questions, Amoret Whitaker proposed her report, which was seconded by Dave Regan and accepted without dissent.

## **Honorary Competitions Secretary's Report**

John Mason said that there was no post holder and no written report. He added that there was a Trial last year although the Club proved unable to fully staff it and two sections had to be observed by members of other clubs. He added that Chis Frazer had done a great job as Clerk of the Course and thanked Bob Brown for being Secretary of the meeting. The trail had made a surplus and this had been used in the form of a loan to assist the Training Scheme.

There being no questions, John proposed his verbal report, which was seconded by Mick Wallace and accepted without dissent.

## **Award Voting**

Award voting slips had been collected at the start of meeting and there were none outstanding at this juncture. John Mason announced that he was nominated for 2 awards but was declining that nomination, so this meant that any votes made for him would be discarded.

Amoret Whitaker asked if it was possible to know who had nominated the individuals for The Enthusiasts Cup and Road Safety Award and why.

Robert Wood replied that the Club Rules did not allow for this information to be given unless the individuals who made the nominations wished to do so voluntarily. He further explained he had made nominations and explained these.

Kathy Frost asked how one made nominations as she had not received any invitation to do so.

Russell Sommer explained that this via the AGM nomination that had been E-Mailed out. He added that he was sorry if there was an issue with this in Kathy's case and asked if she could see him during the break to investigate and resolve.

**John Mason then announced a short break in proceedings (8.45pm) for refreshments and vote collection/counting.**

The meeting restarted at 9.01pm. John Mason announced that the next item of business was the Honorary Training Scheme Organisers Report.

## **Honorary Training Scheme Organisers Report**

Heather Wallace referred people to her written report & the Training Scheme Accounts in the AGM pack.

She said she had two things to add to her report. Firstly the DSA had been down doing periodic check assessments of a number of instructors. She was pleased to report these all were successful. Secondly John Mason had given notice that due to the sale of his mother's house the Scheme would lose its bike garaging facilities during mid 2014. She was confident however that between two other possibilities of garages belonging to Andy (the school caretaker) and Ken Stone, that a solution would be found. She then asked if anyone had any questions.

Dave Regan asked why the Balance Sheets were showing loans to the Training Scheme as they had never done so before.

Robert Wood (as Auditor) gave a comprehensive reply reading out the relevant agreed motion text from 2001 & 2005, which specifically referred to loans and not donations or gifts to the Training Scheme. He said that as this was the first year that loans had been enacted from

both the Training Scheme Benevolent Fund and Club that the text had been added so members could clearly see the current situation.

There being no questions, Heather Wallace proposed her report, which was seconded by Mick Wallace and accepted without dissent.

## **Motions**

Russell Summer announced that 4 motions had been submitted in accordance with the rules.

Motion 1 – Proposed by John Mason, seconded by Robert Wood  
*“Not to run the Star Group Trial if there was no Competitions Secretary”*

John Mason explained that he had submitted this motion as he would not be around this September due to holidays and said that as no Competitions Secretary had been identified before the AGM he felt we should not run the Trial and wanted to give the Star Group as much notice as possible.

Robert Wood added that he totally agreed with John, but wanted members to realise that the Trial had provided an important and useful surplus to funds most years and they needed to realise the implication of this.

The motion was adopted without dissent

Motion 2 – Proposed by Dave Regan, seconded by Anne Byard  
*“All funds (monies) other than that required to pay for insurance purposes (in 2012 this was £1700) are used to support the SSMCC Training Scheme”*

Russell Sommer read the motion but asked Dave Regan if he could clarify to the meeting his exact intentions of the Motion.

Dave Regan replied that he was unhappy with the 2005 motions that limited support from the Club Funds to a total of £1000 and wanted all Club funds to be made available to the Training Scheme.

A long discussion then ensued about a number of matters which included the status of the Training Scheme and Club funds as defined by the rules (which this motion was not suitable to amend), the exact wording of the motion as well as the need to keep some funds to enable the Club to continue operation. Robert Wood explained that he was firmly against using up the Club funds to just put off the inevitable and contrary views including Kathy Frost explain that to her the Training Scheme is the Club. The following key points came out of this discussion:

- a) Dave Regan was happy for the above wording to be modified by the Hon General Secretary post the meeting, providing it achieved the same effective result

b) John Mason submitted an amendment to the motion that placed an upper restriction on the funds that would be made available to the Training Scheme, that restriction being that Club funds would not be reduced below £500. This amendment was proposed by John Mason and seconded by Mick Wallace and approved by 11 votes For to 5 Against. This therefore became the substantive motion.

The new substantive motion was then voted on and passed by 9 votes For to 7 Against. As agreed by Dave Regan who submitted the motion the formal record will show the following as the final motion passed and an explanation as to its formulation:

*“That the SMMCC offers a loan from Club Funds to the Training Scheme to enable its continued operation. The maximum value of this loan at any time will be all the available Club funds minus £500 (i.e. further loans cannot be made if that would cause the available Club funds [Petty cash plus Bank plus Savings account] to drop below £500 in total). However it is recognised that the loan may never be repaid, especially if the Training Scheme should eventually close.”*

This wording has been decided upon as the Hon General Secretary believes it meets the desire of the members as expressed at the AGM and allows the above wording to be a direct supplant of Motion 6 from the 2005 AGM which was:

*“That the SSMC offers a loan of up to £1000 from Club funds to the Training Scheme to enable its continued operation. However it is recognised that the loan may never be repaid, especially if the Training Scheme should eventually close.”*

Motion 3 – Proposed by Dave Regan

*“The Club Captain (or leader) is protected on Club rides”*

Russell Sommer read the motion and said he felt he had information that would make the motion redundant but asked if Dave could explain the motion.

Dave Regan explained that he was actually submitting this motion on behalf of a member who could not be here this evening, but the essence was that given recent press about cases involving other clubs, they felt it was important that the Club Captain was legally protected as far as was possible from incidents arising on Cub Runs.

Russell Sommer then explained that as long as the Club remained affiliated to the BMF, they were covered by the BMF Liability Scheme of which he read out core details. He added that due to his personal oversight that BMF membership had lapsed in 2013, but this was being rectified and would be back in place by March.

A long discussion then ensued about various methods of providing protection, but the conclusion was that Dave felt the BMF Liability Scheme as outlined by Russell would meet the concerns of the member who raised them and he agreed to withdraw the motion.

Motion 4 – Proposed by Dave Regan, seconded by Anne Byard  
*“Committee meeting notes are published”*

Russell Sommer read the motion but asked Dave Regan if he could clarify to the meeting his exact intentions of the motion.

Dave Regan said that he felt it was important for members to be able to see the minutes of Committee Meetings and that currently they could not easily do this.

A long discussion then ensued about how people could ask for the minutes if they wanted to see them and the exact form “publication” might take (contact, email, Website etc). The key output of this discussion however was an amendment from John Mason to the motion that any publication should not involve the financial information (members could ask for this from the Treasurer and Training Scheme Organiser if they wanted this) and that the Committee should be allowed to decide the best channel for publication. This was seconded by Graeme Byard and approved 11 votes For to 3 Against. This therefore became the substantive motion.

The new substantive motion was then voted on and passed by 14 votes For to 2 Against.

### **Resignation of the 2013/14 Club Committee**

John Mason informed the meeting that the next item on the agenda was the resignation of the 2013 Club Committee & Delegates. He said he wanted to start by informing those present that this year would be last that he would stand as Chairman.

He then said the next step to ensure continuation of the meeting would normally be that the Hon General Secretary would be re-elected but that there were no nominations in advance of the meeting and nominations would be accepted from the floor.

Russell spoke and said he would be willing to stand for 2014 if no one else came forward but that he was giving advanced notice that this would probably be his last year due to his intention to move to the east of London. He also added that the basis on which he stood was that he would perform the duties his way and that if members did not like this then the correct action was not to complain but to stand themselves.

There being no other expressions of interest, Russell’s nomination was seconded by Dave Regan and he was therefore re-elected unopposed. John Mason resigned the 2013 Committee and handed control of the meeting to Russell Sommer.

## **Election of the 2014/15 Club Committee**

Russell Sommer said that breaking with usual tradition he would like to seek nominations from the floor for those posts for which there were no advance nominations. After some debate the following nominations came forward:

Ian Slater – Club Captain - seconded by Russell Sommer  
Heather Wallace – Minutes Secretary – seconded by Amoret Whitaker

Russell therefore announced the election of the 2014/15 committee as there were no contested posts which was seconded by John Mason and adopted without dissent

This included the following:

President	John Mason
Vice Presidents (3)	Ian Slater, Robert Wood, Richard Barnett
*Chairman	John Mason
*Hon General Secretary	Russell Sommer
*Treasurer	Chris Booker
*Social Secretary	Doug Chaney
*Competitions Secretary	Position Vacant
*Club Captain	Ian Slater
*Editor	Amoret Whitaker
*Training Scheme Organiser	Heather Wallace
*Public Relations Officer	Richard Barnett
Auditor – Club	Robert Wood
Auditor – Training Scheme	Robert Wood
Minutes Secretary	Heather Wallace
Contact Mailing Secretary	Amoret Whitaker
Star Group Delegates (2)	Position Vacant / John Mason
BMF Liaison Officer	Position Vacant
ACU Centre Board Delegates (2)	Position Vacant / Position Vacant

Russell handed control of the meeting back to the Chairman John Mason.

John Mason welcomed the 2014 Committee to their posts.

## **Award Presentations**

John Mason announced the winners of the various awards with the assistance of other committee members as appropriate. The winners' list was:

Enthusiasts Cup	Laura Barnes
Road Safety Award	Heather Wallace

Bateman Cup  
Training Scheme Supporters Shield  
Old Gibber Award  
Twisted Spanner Award  
Photographic Award  
Lynmouth Trophy  
Trevor Smith Award  
Pritchard Trophy  
Darts Trophy

Richard Barnett  
John Davison  
John Mason  
Doug Chaney  
Estelle Potter  
Ian Slater  
Mick Wallace  
Chris Frazer  
Not awarded this year

John Mason congratulated all the winners and then asked the meetings permission to destroy the award voting slips at the end of the meeting. This was seconded by Russell Sommer and accepted without dissent.

### **Any Other Business**

John said that this represented the end of formal business but was happy to go back to the issue the Club's web presence and Facebook. The general feeling from the floor however was that given the long meeting and late hour, this was best left to another time.

Russell Sommer said he was happy to attend a meeting organised by others to discuss the matter but suggested that before people attended that they thought seriously about the sort of Club they wanted the SSMCC to be in the future as that would inform any digital channel engagement that followed.

There was no other business and John Mason declared the meeting closed at 10.36pm

Minutes taken by Robert Wood