



**Southern Sporting
Motor Cycle Club**

CONTACT

January

2019

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Dates for your diary

20 Feb	81st AGM, The Adelaide, Teddington
24 March	Pioneer Run – 10.30 Box Hill
April	
May	
June	
July	
August	
September	
October	
3 Nov	Brighton, Vet Car Run (TBC)
22 Nov	Motorcycle Live: NEC Birmingham
Dec	Christmas Party

Editor Note

I realise this is an epic edition with very few pictures, but please try to read it in advance of the AGM so that the AGM can be fairly quick and reflect your views. This looks like it will be a fairly pivotal AGM for the Club.

As usual, an apology for my late delivery of this document. Hopefully whoever steps up at the AGM (or before) will be a speedier key-board warrior and will bring the requisite enthusiasm to the role.

Cheers

Estelle

Training Scheme Viability Review

Intro

As some of you know I pulled together a couple meetings for the Training Scheme Instructors to try and look for options to keep the scheme open in some form. What follows is hopefully a reasonable record of the issues, options we discussed and a recommendation to the Club for consideration when reflecting on the motions proposed at the AGM.

Scheme Challenges

These fit in 3 main categories; finances, staffing and pupil attraction.

Finances

We don't have enough money to;

- Cover our overheads (roughly £3,000 annually or £60 weekly for insurance and bike maintenance and storage). We are paying as much for insurance as a scheme that runs 6/7 days per week so it's much harder to cover costs.
- Invest in new kit; we don't have sufficient operational radios and our bikes and helmets are aging. Ideally, we need to be trying to earn enough to replace one of our 9 bikes each year to keep ourselves running for the long-term.
- Advertise the scheme competitively

Staff

We don't have enough committed, skilled and qualified instructors to be able to earn enough money to cover our costs. Our weekly overheads are approximately £60 per week, if we open the school, this costs £94.50, which is a total of £154.50. We would require 5 pupils to cover those costs, and if we can successfully attract them and have them turn up, we currently have only 3 keen committed instructors. We have a couple more who are willing to help out within the limitations of their family commitments and social lives, and if this were the only issue, I'm pretty sure we could find a way... but it's a long way from ideal.

Pupil attraction

The scheme has historically attracted pupils through word of mouth, but we all recognise that the internet has had a major impact on where people choose to shop so word of mouth is less relevant. We also need to recognise that the fewer people we train, the fewer are available to talk about us, so the word of mouth

opportunities are dwindling. Steve Pearce has done a great job in the last 12 months keeping the web-site high on the google searches and attracting potential pupils to call, but that's where our next issue occurs. Given that none of us are full-time employees of SSMCC, we are not always able to take that call immediately or respond to e-mail within the hour, and so some potential pupils have made another call to another scheme and registered elsewhere before we can get back to them. Of those we reach in time; some want a one-day training or week-day training so we cannot convert them to pupils.

Our try-bike/taster sessions have been useful in reaching people and CBS have been great with their recommendations. But the reality is that 5 pupils routinely every week is probably too ambitious.

Scheme Goals

The scheme probably means something different to all of us, for me it's what makes our club different to any other club; I'm proud to be part of this initiative. As well as the ride outs, and the socials, it's also an opportunity for people to get together socially on bikes and it supports the regular Saturday breakfast meetings. I would be sorry to see us lose this point of focus.

For some of the group, the value is in performing the role of instructing; helping others to enjoy biking and be as safe as possible.

Options

1. Keep the scheme open and continue to subsidise it from club funds
2. Find an alternative training option without the same overheads
3. Close the scheme and walk away

I've hosted a couple instructor meetings to explore what we might be able to do to make option 1 more appealing to the club at the AGM or to find an appropriate option 2.

Ideas considered to keep us open as we currently operate;

- Shared use of the school to reduce the £94.50 cost. Not really viable, from health & safety perspective and because any other user would probably expect us (understandably) to commit to our proportion of the cost for every week and this could end up more expensive than our current ad-hoc usage.

- Find an alternative venue cheaper than the school. Despite a couple of the instructors actively engaging with local businesses to try and find an alternative, we weren't successful.
- Sponsorship for the insurance from one of the big bike insurers – dismissed as we don't train enough pupils to generate enough business for them.
- Two pupils per instructor; Given that our instructor base is not likely to be our most experienced instructors, this would be too challenging for the instructors and also detracts from what has always kept us special as instructors.

Ideas for a change of focus

- Give up CBT and focus on further training where pupils are likely to have their own bikes and insurance and we will not need the school. There is a new government scheme which we could support. We would still need the Public Liability Insurance which is the much lower cost.

This is a viable option but would require that our instructors have the skills, qualifications and radios. We would not need the bikes (bike maintenance or storage) and could sell these to re-invest.

Recommendation

That we look at the further training option. Phase 1 will be building our own skills, both on the road and on the radios. Assuming the Liability insurance remains at £350- £400 we need to be thoughtful about when we launch to ensure that we have sufficient instructors and pupils immediately available to at least start to cover those costs. Realistically it may take some time and some advertising to re-establish ourselves as a further training organisation but our overheads will be much lower so the risk to the club funds will be much reduced. If we choose to register for the government scheme, we may need to invest in some formal training and assessments for the instructors. I recommend that we build skills as far as we can internally for the first half of 2019 and then look to invest in this in the latter half of 2019 with a view to re-launching the training later in 2019 or early in 2020.

Practically we are talking about still having breakfast on Saturdays and then going out riding from there, using Saturday afternoons for assessed rides to build skills and confidence among the group. Priority training focus will need to be given to potential instructors but all club members would be welcome on the rides and can also volunteer to receive feedback on their skills if they wish.

AGM Considerations

Do we have the enthusiasm to support this? It will still be a time commitment for instructors and the Training Scheme organiser to plan/collect payments etc.

Decision for later in 2019

Once we build skills and see what commitment we have from people on Saturday afternoons we need to decide what level of instruction are we going to aim for? Just advanced riding skills to attract new members to the club or do we want to register with the government scheme which will require assessments and some cost?

What decision do we need to make at the AGM to make this work?

We need to keep the Training Scheme as a viable option which means retaining the TSO committee post for at least another year and, whilst selling the bikes seems a sensible approach to avoid having to insure them or worry about them as un-insured items, we also need to ensure that the money raised from the bikes is not automatically absorbed by the club but remains available to the training scheme.

Estelle

Scheme Supporter

AGM Time

Southern Sporting Motor Cycle Club

81st Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 20th February 2019

“The Adelaide”, 57, Park Road, Teddington, Middx

Start time 8.10pm prompt

Agenda

1. Opening Address by the Club President
2. Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting
3. Honorary Treasurer’s Report
4. Honorary Secretary’s Report
5. Honorary Club Captain’s Report
6. Honorary Social Secretary’s Report
7. Honorary Public Relations Officer’s Report
8. Honorary Editor’s Report
9. Award Voting

Break

10. Honorary Training Scheme Organisers Report
11. Motions
12. Nominations
13. Resignation of the 2018/19 Club Committee
14. Election of the 2019/20 Club Committee
15. Award Presentations
16. Any Other Business (at the discretion of the Chairman)

Club Nominations

<u>Post / Award</u>	<u>Nominations Received</u>
President	John Mason
Vice Presidents (3)	Ian Slater, Mick Wallace, Richard Barnett
*Chairman	None received – open to nominations on the night
*Secretary	Ian Slater
*Treasurer	John Mason
*Social Secretary	Heather Wallace
*Club Captain	Mick Wallace
*Editor	None received – open to nominations on the night
*Training Scheme Organiser	Chris Booker
*Public Relations Officer	Steve Pearce
Auditor – Club	None received – open to nominations on the night
Auditor – Training Scheme	None received – open to nominations on the night
Centre Board Delegate (2)	None received – open to nominations on the night
Star Group Delegate (2)	None received – open to nominations on the night
BMF Liaison Officer	None received – open to nominations on the night
Minutes Secretary	Heather Wallace

Positions Marked * are defined as Committee posts. Only Full or Honorary members may hold these posts. One member may only hold one Committee post

Awards

Enthusiast's Cup	Darren Mason/John Mason/Steve Pearce
The Road Safety Award	Darren Mason /Ian Slater/Doug Chaney

Motions

There have been 7 motions submitted as follows:

Motion 1

Submitted and proposed by John Mason.

To make sure the club has enough money to pay debts and carry on with other forms of activities. I feel we need to keep £1,000 of clubs money in the bank to cover any eventuality.

Motion 2

Submitted and proposed by John Mason

To close the Training Scheme if all things are not in place by this AGM. Only continue to run from 2nd March 2019 with Cardington Instructor, Scheme Organiser, Instructors, Helpers, Insurance.

Motion 3

Submitted by John Mason.

That any money received from the sale of the Training schemes motorcycles.

Half to go to the club to go towards the loans handed out over the last four years.
Half to go to the scheme helping to pay for insurance.

Motion 4

Submitted by Robert Wood

Should the effective outcome of the 2019 SSMCC AGM be that the Training Scheme is closed or wound up then the following changes to the Club rules be enacted:

Rule 4 amended to delete the position of Training Scheme Organiser

Rule 5 amended to:

“At any Committee meeting four (including the Chairman if present) shall constitute a quorum. In the absence of the Chairman, a deputy (who shall have a casting vote only in addition to their own vote) shall be elected by those Committee members present. Under normal circumstances the Chairman would have a full vote at meetings should they wish to use it.”

Rule 6 amended to:

“In addition to the Committee, the following, who may be Full, Associate or Honorary members, shall be elected by ballot, at the Annual General Meeting:

- a One Auditor (excluding the Treasurer or Honorary General Secretary).
- b Two ACU SE Centre Board Delegates
- c Two Star Group Delegates
- d One Minutes Secretary
- e Other positions and representatives as defined by the Committee each year in the notice for the Annual General Meeting

These posts may be held in addition to any Committee post. It is the responsibility of the elected delegates to keep the Committee informed of the progress in the respective areas.

Rule 7 amended to:

“An Annual General Meeting shall be held in February of each year. Reports shall be presented at the Annual General Meeting by the Honorary General Secretary, Social Secretary, Competitions Secretary and Public Relations Officer. An audited balance sheet shall be presented by the Honorary Treasurer. The Club accounts will be audited by the Honorary General Secretary and the elected auditor.”

Rule 13 amended to:

“Election of Full, Associate, Honorary and Reciprocal members shall be by the Committee, on receipt of a proposal for election (which has been duly proposed and seconded by Club members). A copy of the current rules will be issued, free of charge, to all such members. “

Rule 14 amended to:

“There shall be four grades of membership:

- a Full Membership, whose holders shall enjoy the full benefits of the Club. There shall in addition to the standard full membership be a reduced rate of full membership equal to that of the associate member rate open to those people who are either full time students or registered disabled upon receipt of appropriate documentary proof.
- b Honorary Membership, which shall be bestowed at the discretion of the Committee. These members shall enjoy full benefits of the Club.
- c Associate Membership, at the discretion of the Committee. These members may not vote, nor hold a committee post. They may however receive Contact and participate fully in the Club (except sporting events). They may hold elected non-committee posts.
- d Reciprocal Membership, which is only open to members of other A-C U affiliated Clubs. These members may participate in sporting events and receive Contact and these shall be there only benefits.”

Rule 15 amended to:

“The annual subscription for the various grades of membership in rule 14 shall be decided, according to the prevailing circumstances, by the Committee and shall be operative from the first day of the month of the members acceptance by the Committee. Membership shall be for a period of twelve months from the date of acceptance by the committee or renewal. Renewals will be backdated to the last date of expiry unless a period of thirteen months has elapsed from that date, in

which case the renewal will be for twelve months from the date of payment. Members whose subscriptions have lapsed for more than five years shall have to reapply for membership. The membership records will be maintained by the Honorary General Secretary.”

Rule 19 be deleted

Rule 20 be renumbered Rule 19

Rule 21 be renumbered Rule 20 and amended to:

“Members names, addresses and contact details will be stored and used solely in connection with Club, Auto-Cycle Union and British Motorcyclists Federation affairs. Members accept that such records exist and may have access to their records by application to the Honorary General Secretary. The processing of all information will be detailed in and governed by the current version of the respective Privacy and Processing Notice for the membership grade concerned which will be available upon request from the Honorary General Secretary or via the Club’s website.”

Motion 5

Submitted by Robert Wood

Unless the AGM is successful at appointing a competitions secretary then it is likely that the Club is unlikely to participate again in Trials for some while. As the club has also let its subscription to the STAR Group trials combine lapse, that the reference to Two Star Group Delegates in Rule 6 be removed and the remaining positions be reordered as required.

Motion 6

Submitted by Robert Wood

In order to give the Hon General Secretary time to process Proxy requests and to ensure they are valid and proper, that Rule 10 be amended as follows:

“At all General Meetings, 30% of the voting membership eligible to vote at the time shall form a quorum. Only fully paid-up Full and Honorary members may vote at any General Meeting **in their own right**. No subscriptions will be accepted after the published time of the meeting. Members unable to attend General Meetings may appoint a **Honorary, full or associate** member to be their proxy **by notifying the Hon General Secretary in writing or via E-Mail at least 24 hours prior to the meeting concerned of their choice of proxy** . The proxy will be provided with the voting papers of the appointing member.”

Motion 7

Submitted by Dave Regan

I propose the SSMCC training scheme closes immediately due to shortage of instructors.

Motion 8

Submitted by Dave Regan

I propose that the SSMCC training scheme assets i.e. Bikes are sold on the open market to obtain maximum value. The proceeds are then ring-fenced in the SSMCC training scheme bank account for two years in the expectation of the Training Scheme restarting even in a different format.

Social Secretary's Report 2018

I was quite looking forward to this year.

I was going to be a challenge juggling social events with anniversary ones, but social evenings were planned including darts, bowling, pool and a picnic.

Unfortunately, sometimes best laid plans can go pot.

The first evening I planned was Trivial Pursuit, but there were not enough people available on the 12 May to go ahead with it.

7th July was booked for bowling at Heathrow, and whilst this did go ahead, unfortunately due to a family bereavement, the Wallaces (well Mick as Heather hadn't manage to make it) had to leave the others to play on. This meant that no records were keep to be able to make it a competition.

The next attempt was 15th Sept for darts at the Adelaide. This evening got superseded by Mr & Mrs Rob Wood having a 'leaving drink' prior to them moving to Devon.

The pool night had to be abandoned as the usual venue Rileys was being refurbished.

In between all of these attempts, John, Club Captain was arranging anniversary dates and lots of club ride outs, some of which took place and others that were cancelled due to bad weather. The list is below.

This meant that the Picnic in the Park didn't take place, but I did manage to finish the year off with a Club Xmas dinner at Cote Brassiere in Teddington.

18 of us attended. Lively conversation, crackers, jokes, reindeer party hats, plenty of wine etc, and music were enjoyed by all. The food was great as well.

I did try one last ditch attempt and would have arranged ice skating at Hampton Court, but there were just not enough people who wanted to skate, and as the idea and part of the fun is the taking part and not just spectating, I abandon the idea.

List of events

18 May – Barnstable – Anniversary run

27 May – Biker Down course – Heston – contact Estelle Potter

17 June – Langton Arms – Tarrant Monkton

23 June – Open Day – Isleworth Town School

1 July – Seaford BBQ

17 July – Luxembourg - Anniversary

12 August - Littlehampton

18 August – Anniversary Party – NPL

4 November – Brighton – Veteran car rally

23 November – NEC Bike Show

I really hope I can make a better job of it for 2019, and hope that people will consider taking part. If you have any suggestions that don't cost the earth, I'd gladly consider them. Thanks

Heather Wallace

Social Secretary

PRO Report 2018

After taking over the role I gained access to the website, I also looked at how the scheme and club was advertised through the website, Lisa had done a great job building the site, so the site format and most of the content remained unchanged. I did however make some tweaks to some of the website wording to try and increase finds via search engines, I can see that we have seen a good increase on clicks through the site. Lots of SEO was missing, so I've updated that.

There were several out of date adverts that just needed amending, contact numbers aligned and updated the operating hours. I also started using Google+ for free promotion of the scheme.

Website amendments also included the GDPR amendments.

Regarding the training scheme we ventured into Google Adwords. Although I can see how many people have found us via Adwords – we unfortunately do not have conversion figures from enquiry to booking. Although this does sound simple, it does not always reflect 100% on how a customer found us.

Because where I live it is difficult to make a trip up to visit the shops, it was mentioned at committee meetings that there was no scheme presentation at the local shops, this came with mixed responses, either way – I did say before taking the role on this would be an issue for me.

Contact is updated to the website when received, so easily download a copy as and when you wish.

Looking forward: It really depends how the scheme decides it's going to operate will also reflect on how much advertising will be needed from now onwards. In my opinion "The Club" should always be represented on a website and linked to as many organisations as possible which usually needs periodic checking.

Steve Pearce.

PRO 2018.

Editor's Report

OK, so 2018 started fairly well. I had a goal to make Contact a way for us to connect with other members, help us chat more easily with the members we've never met before and hopefully make it a little easier for new or infrequent attendees at events to feel more comfortable that they knew a few more of the other members.

I also wanted to make sure that everyone knew where and how to get the most from the club so the standing section was developed with the regular meeting places and club benefits.

I have a few people to thank;

- Thank you to everyone who wrote a bio for Contact; I very much appreciate your support and engagement!
- Thank you also to the couple people who reached out to say they enjoyed Contact
- Finally; most importantly, thank you to the members who sent me articles!

I'm not sure quite where it all went wrong.... Heather has already mentioned the lack of socials we actually managed to hold and the number of John's runs which were cancelled through poor weather. I think this contributed to us not having much material for Contact. After the initial responses to the bios started to dry up as well, I confess I started to find it more difficult to find the enthusiasm for sitting in front of the PC for an evening after a day at work sitting in front of a PC.

I'm aware that the club membership expect and deserve a regular monthly Contact and so I offer my deepest apologies for my failure and will do anything I can to support whoever takes over.

Cheers

Estelle

Out-going Editor

Making the most of your Club

I'm not sure how many people are aware of some of the benefits they receive as club members, aside from the scintillating company of our fellow members

CBS in Whitton give us a 10% discount. They're a great bunch of people who support the club and promote the training Scheme so if you have an opportunity to put some business their way or just say Thank You then please do.

BMF (British Motorcycle Federation). As club members we are also affiliate members of the BMF which didn't interest me very much until I was trying to organise European break-down cover for my more than 10 years old blade. The cost was prohibitive until they asked me if I was a member of any sort of motorcycle group. The affiliate membership saved me £100. So it's worth mentioning next time you seek an insurance renewal or similar.

Regular venues

Wednesday evenings from 8pm in the Adelaide Public House, Teddington.

Saturday mornings Sam's café, Nelson Road in Whitton. If there's a big rugby match on at Twickenham Stadium when we usually reconvene at Power Mill Lane café so it's worth getting hold of one of the team to get confirmation.

Saturday Afternoons : There's still a potential for us to have a Saturday afternoon club focus based on further training... Let's see what happens at the AGM. Otherwise, maybe join the small but perfectly formed faction in Honda Chiswick enjoying a civilized cuppa from a proper cup and saucer.

24/7 We have a Club page and a Training scheme page so please "follow" both and make sure your views are heard.



FIND IT OUT AS IT HAPPENS:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/8085330049/?ref=bookmarks>

Contact: This document should come out monthly... This document is restricted to club members only where the FB pages are more promotional and open to a wider audience so there may be more detail in this than we would share on line.

DRAFT January Committee Meeting Minutes

SSMCC Committee Minutes

Meeting Saturday 12th January 2019 at Estelle's.

In Attendance:

Mick Wallace (MW)	Chairman
Chris Booker (CB)	Treasurer
Doug Chaney (DC)	Training Scheme Organiser
John Mason (JM)	Club Captain
Steve Pearce (SP)	PRO
Estelle Potter (EP)	Contact Editor
Ian Slater (IS)	Secretary
Heather Wallace (HW)	Social Secretary

Meeting started at: 10:00hrs

Apologies – None

Minutes from the Last Meeting

The minutes from the last meeting were proposed by Heather Wallace (HW) and seconded by Chris Booker (CB) and were adopted without dissent.

Matters Arising

None

Correspondence

IS advised he had received some cheques for membership. Passed to CB. IS also received various nominations for AGM.

Club Secretary

IS advised that if any more nominations or motions where to be included for the AGM they needed to be with him by 31 Jan.

EP needed the AGM documents for the 'Contact' by 7th Feb. Committee member reports also needed to be done.

New Members

None.

Treasurer's Report

END OF YEAR

Cash: £ 154.17

Bank: £ 729.77

Deposit Acc: £ 2352.02

Audits have been done by Martyn Young and figures for both Club and Training Scheme have been agreed. IS advised he needed the accounts signed off.

Club membership fees had been paid so far by Chris Osborne, Mike & Sharon Roberts, Martyn Young, Doug Hunter-Brown, Julian Donnelly, Angus Craig-Wood, Graham Dunbar, Estelle Potter & Matt Farrow, Marlie Prentice, Rob Wood, John Cresswell, Doug Chaney, Wallaces

Training Scheme

Bank: £ 109.84

Cash: £ 56.91

Dribs and drabs enquiries have come through. If we do run in March there are a couple of people available.

JM asked if any MOTs due between now and FEB, IS confirmed there were a couple which would cost approx. £15 each. IS asked if we wanted to go ahead with MOTs. It was agreed they should be done either, so that the bikes could be used for training, or be sold on with a valid certificate. Arrangements would need to be made as to how the bikes would get to CBS. They will need to be collected or delivered in a van as the bikes will not be insured. IS will make arrangements with CBS.

CB is still waiting for a date from Cardington.

JM asked IS if he was going to continue to maintain the bikes. He advised he may not still be in the area so should not be included in the operation of the scheme going forward.

Social Secretary's Report

The Christmas Dinner at Cote Brassiere went well, everyone seemed to enjoy the evening.

HW advised she had tried to plan ice skating at Hampton Court but as there had been so little interest in actually skating (only 3 other people), she decided to cancel.

HW apologised that the 2018 social calendar had not gone as well as she had hoped, but with any luck 2019 will be better.

HW advised she had sent her report to EP, the editor for the AGM addition of Contact.

HW confirmed she would stand for 2019

Editors Report

EP welcome any items for articles.

EP will not be standing for next year. Committee thanked her for her efforts.

Captain's Report

JM is not standing for this post in 2019.

Run to Hayling Island had about 10 attended in the end.

Chairman thanked JM for his efforts on behalf of the committee.

Public Relations Officer's Report

Nothing to report.

SP is still owed £90 (balance between what was owed to him and the cost of attending the Xmas dinner price, although he may pay his membership from this. He will liaise with CB)

SP not sure if standing for 2019

Any Other Business

EP – asked about still being supporter for Hounslow Police event. Not sure if this would be possible if not actually operating. DC also has box of 'stuff' that was from when we had the stand at the Excel show. JM said he would take it and dispose of as required. DC also has other training scheme achieve stuff which he would like to pass on.

JM – awards – training scheme award needs to be thought about.

Fixtures

AGM - 20 Feb

Pioneer Run - 24 March

Seaford BBQ - 7 July TBC

Brighton Veteran Car Rally - 3 Nov

NEC Bike Show - 22 Nov

The meeting closed at 10:45hrs

Thanks were given to Estelle Potter for her hospitality.

Next meeting – Monday 18th March – Mick and Heather's