

**MINUTES AGENDA
MID SUSSEX MCC
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (2017 season)**

The Peacock Lodge, Lingfield
On 8th December 2017 at 7.30pm

In attendance, Paul Roeton, Chris Lawrance, Tony Clements, Ben Hobden, Martyn Paget, Sharon Clements, Karen Conway and Julie Dade,

Paul welcomed everyone and thanked them for taking time to come to the AGM followed by apologies for Sandy Evans, who was not in attendance.

Paul opened with The Chairmans report saying we'd had another good year, with good racing and attendances. we had a number of visitors riding with the club all year. The Compass Cup was a great venue and looking at the number who attended the AGM it looks like we are doing the right thing, as there was a small number of attendees.

The Treasurers report followed, Paul read on behalf of Sandie that we have had another great year and after paying out to upgrade the fencing at Rusper, (which cost £1,500) getting a new timing van and more transponders to rent out, we still have a healthy bank balance of £18,000 which can be put back into the club and tracks we use. We spent more on hiring tracks and the presentation venue this year and still have a good balance.

Paul requested the existing committee to stand down as per the Clubs Constitution. (This does not include the Chairman, Club Secretary & Treasurer as these posts are elected for 2 years starting last year).

Paul then invited the members to vote on the 2018 committee that wished to remain in their current position for the following year. All re-elected.

The attending members were then advised that there was going to be a shuffle of jobs within the committee of the following:

Julie Dade – from Club Secretary to Membership Secretary

Karen Conway – from Membership Secretary to Chief Timing officer

They were then informed that Simone Laughton after helping throughout 2017 has agreed to become Club Secretary for 2018. In accordance with the Constitution we are able to appoint a new person to finish the one year remaining for the post of Club Secretary.

All members agreed and therefore the committee for 2018 is elected as follows:

Paul Roeton - Chairman
Chris Lawrance - **Vice Chairman**
Simone Laughton – Club Secretary
Sandie Evans – Treasurer
Karen Conway - Chief Timing Official
Julie Dade – Membership Secretary
Ben Hobden – Chief Steward

Sharon Clements – Chief Marshal
Tony Clements - General Committee/Assistant Steward
Martyn Paget – Chief Track Builder

Members were advised that we would have a new person doing the Pick up jackets and that would be Phil Hollamby. He will be issuing the jackets from his van, which makes it easier at the end of the day for the jacket return. It was discussed that some people have been handing their jackets to other parents which means they are not signed on, to stop this happening Phil will also be handing out wristbands so the committee have a visual when the parents are out on track as to who has signed on.

Paul advised those present that the following people would be also be attending the meetings:

New burger van, (they came to the last round at Rusper on a trial, the members liked the food, fresh coffee and baguettes) we have only their tender for the position so they will be our new food bar.

They are looking forward to joining us in 2018.

The spares van - Tony Robinson, Photographer - Ian Bassett and ice cream van - Oz and his brother will remain the same.

Paul advised that the race calendar for 2018 currently has

Mildenhall – 25th March,

Milton Mailsor – 17th June

Canada Heights – 1st July

Wroxton - 2nd September

With the Compass Cup also at Wroxton on 13th & 14th October 2018

Other tracks include Rusper, Shermanbury, Iden and Staplecross for the remaining rounds.

We have not put Wildtrax on the calendar.

There are 12 rounds with one reserve – there will be no Easter Meeting as it will clash with East Kent and no August Bank Holiday meeting as this will clash with the GEST 2 dayer.

Rob Cappa pointed out that the Compass Cup will clash with a round of East Anglia's championship. Unfortunately this was unavoidable. We had a couple of tracks in the pipeline, but the one with the date we originally wanted now potentially has a round of the British Maxxis and in view of this we had to book another track. Need to speak with East Anglia as they may be able to change their date. East Kent are now ACU and have been invited to join the clubs for the Compass Cup.

Someone asked if we will be doing any updates to Rusper and Shermanbury. Paul said we have already looked into changing the start at Rusper and using an alternative route so that the start straight only gets used for the start as the first corner currently ruts up badly. Shermanbury, we are only able to use 14 times a year and the locals are all over it when we are there. Paul working hard with the parish council. The locals complained a toilet left at the venue for 11 days, this was due to it being very wet after our last round and the lorry being unable to get in to retrieve it. Because it was there for 11 days they wanted 11 days to be deducted off our total of 14. Bearing in mind it takes 2 days to set up the track for one day of racing there, its a lot out of our allotted time there. Paul smoothed it over with the council and they agreed to not deduct these days. This is what we are up against and to completely revamp will take up a lot of these days, however we will look into changing parts of the track, which will take less time to implement.

Race Fees for 2018 will remain the same.

Paul then invited Karen and Julie to explain the membership protocol for 2018

Any existing member who rode more than twice will be able to apply to renew their membership. If they didn't ride more than twice and their absence wasn't due to injury, they will be treated as visitors and can only apply when it opens to visitors. Date for members to get their membership forms in is 6th January 2018.

A lot of riders join the club purely to take up a license with the ACU. This means people like Jamie Stocker who rode as a visitor every meeting last year didn't qualify for a trophy as he wasn't a member because all member places were taken. However, as these members (who use us to get their license), didn't book in for any meetings there was a place left for him to ride each meeting.

Having spoken to the ACU, they advised they can offer an Associate Membership, this means a rider can apply to Mid Sussex for a license only. An Associate Member, means the rider is not a member of the club, they cannot book in as a member and will be treated as a visitor. If anyone wants to qualify for the championship they will have to apply for full membership and full license to be eligible, as a full member they are then eligible to book in as soon as booking in is open. Choice to be made at the start of the year, no changes to be made to membership or license after the season has begun.

Groups for 2018

125 Youth group will be available at Mid Sussex for 2018, They will be scored separately to the Youth but will race together, however if only a handful of 125's apply for membership, they will be merged as one back into the youth championship, and scored together as one championship. We have a few riders who currently ride the Youth Championship who might want to do the 125's.

Adult groups

Having looked at the A & B groups and attendance numbers and suggestions from members, going forward A & B will be split as A group, and B group will now be "Over 35's and Ladies". With both being scored separately. Paul said that across the other groups we don't have any splits and splitting the adults is unfair, when maybe the youths or 85s could benefit more, but splitting between over 35's and ladies seems to be a fairer system, giving a wider group of riders a chance of racing.

However, anyone over 35 that still wants to ride with the A group can do so.

When joining the club anyone Over 35 cannot do both the A & over 35's Championship its one or the other. You can ride the over 35's if your 35th birthday falls within the year you are applying for. I.E. if your 35th birthday is say in September, you can ride all year in the Overs as it is your 35th year.

Race numbers within what was the A & B group will be on first come first served basis for anyone having to move to the A group.

"A" group has always had less riders attending, therefore moving up the B group under 35 riders fills these places, with some moving back down to the Overs, This should give us around 15 places for ladies.

If we do get over subscribed there is the possibility that we could run one extra race at the meeting, as we did a couple of years ago where each rider races 3 races out of 4 races at that meeting. This gives 52 available entry places instead of 40. Worked well before with a lot of people saying they enjoyed this mix.

Going back to membership to alleviate the problem with riders joining and not riding, if a rider joins as a member and does NOT do the first 3 rounds (so long as they are not injured) their membership will be reallocated to someone who does want to ride each meeting. The member not having ridden the first 3 rounds will then be treated as a visitor going forward. However, if the member receiving the reallocated membership has raced the first 3 rounds (as a visitor), these rounds count as attendances in order they can qualify for the end of year championship standings. No points will be awarded for these 3 rounds. A rider has to complete 10 rounds out of 12 to qualify for the championship, therefore if you haven't done the first 3 rounds you can't qualify, but another rider can if they've done the first 3 rounds.

With the new Associate License being available hopefully this won't happen.

Holidays - confirmation was that only 2 rounds can be put down to holidays, it cannot be put down as holiday if you're riding elsewhere.

Marshals for tracks that are further afield;

Members were advised that although our marshals are able to attend the local meetings they are not all able to attend the meetings further away due to transport problems. Quiet often one driver does 2 runs to get the marshals to the tracks, not possible at Mildenhall etc. Mildenhall is not such a problem as they have their own marshals we can call upon. However, Culham, Wroxton and Milton Mailsor are not practice tracks and have no-one to call upon. Paul said we could do it as a ballot and let people know in advance they will have to provide, or we could do it from when visitors book in, stating all visitors have to provide. Rob Cappa pointed out that if he had the option of having to marshal or ride somewhere that he didn't have to supply a marshal, he would go with the latter.

Apparently East Anglia approached local security companies and their security guards have helped them out at meetings. This could be an option. Another option is that we can ask local Sea Cadets, Air Cadets, Scout groups etc, so long as the marshal is over 14 and part of an organisation as just mentioned they are allowed to marshal.

Rachel Gidley (East Kent) said they have approached other clubs in the area of where they are riding to assist and have had no problem with clubs helping out with their core of marshals attending East Kent meeting. Could be a solution.

The ACU are implementing a new rule for back protection coming in for 2019, however this will be optional for 2018, but should be noted by all riders if you are intending to buy new body armour, you have to have full front and back coverage the correct certified number for the back protection can be found on the ACU website. This will be checked at scrutineering and on the line for 2019.

It is still up to you if you ride with a neck brace. The ACU are not currently enforcing this.

Members were advised that we will be updating our Constitution with mainly names, and a couple of other items which have already been agreed in the past. It hasn't been updated for a few years but once done will be uploaded to the website.

AOB

Rob Cappa asked if we can provide everyone with the Compass Cup entry criteria earlier in the year as many riders are disappointed at the end of the season when they think they are going to qualify and they are not chosen.

This will be done and be sent to all clubs earlier.

Rob Gidley asked if we could drop races instead of rounds at the end of the year. He asked if 7 races could be dropped as through the year his son had to miss out on a round as he was also racing a championship with another club. We advised we'd thought of it before and members had voted to keep it rounds, it was put to the people in attendance and again was voted for rounds.

Karen advised that membership should be available at the end of next week (before Xmas) we are awaiting a couple of clubs to announce their dates.

Those in attendance were advised that the 2 dayer at Rusper will be better than we've had before. Although we may not run the Parents Race as the ACU have advised we cannot run adults on kids bikes and have adult bikes and kids bikes racing together as we have had in the past. Everyone agreed that was the fun part of it and it will take away from the fun of the race. Plus dads with auto, 65's, SW & BW bikes would all have to borrow or buy a bike. Therefore, no-one was keen on running it. We haven't the last 2 years anyway so the trophy will be retired.

Someone asked what happens if we lose 2 rounds and have to use the reserve round, can we not make a single round into a 2 dayer championship round. We advised this is not always possible but in the event we were to lose 2 rounds the qualification criteria would then drop to 9 rounds out of 11 to count towards the championship.

Membership will be put up online for members to download and they then need to post their membership to the PO Box number. Nothing will be taken on FaceBook or via email. All membership applications to be posted back to the membership secretary.