

Mid Sussex MCC AGM 2015 – 4th December 2015 – 7.30pm

Held at the Peacock Lodge Felbridge

In attendance Colin Woodman, Riona Woodman, Paul Roeton, Sharon Clements, Tony Clements, Chris Lawrance.

Colin welcomed everyone taking the time to come to the AGM and made apologies for Sandie Evans, Wayne Wigger and Becky Cappa who were not in attendance.

Riona opened with the Expenditure Report on Sandie's behalf explaining that we have done very well as a club during the past year. She then went through some of the items on the report.

Sharon then did a quick update on the marshals saying that it was going well and that Jamie and his marshals are happy to continue doing this for us next year. Everyone was happy with this.

Colin asked for those standing down to do so. Paul Roeten, our existing membership secretary removed himself from the committee table at this point, Riona advised that Becky had also stepped down earlier that day.

Riona explained once we were informed Paul intended to step down at the AGM , we approached Karen Conway about the role of membership secretary. Riona asked if there were any objections to Karen joining us on the committee and invited Karen to the table.

Before Karen could join us, Martyn Pagett asked why the posts of Club secretary, Treasurer and Chairman were not up for re-election this year, Riona explained that these posts are elected each time for a 2 year stint. Members elected people for these jobs in 2014 so not up for election in 2015. Greg Nicholas disagreed as he thought the Mid Sussex Constitution showed it was updated in 2013. We explanation that in 2013 the constitution was updated when Mid Sussex went ACU. The posts were elected in 2012 & 2014. Martyn then asked why his point wasn't on the agenda as to Paul being voted on as Chairman, the committee explained that for Paul to be chairman he had to be nominated and it being seconded by someone and it could then be put to the vote, but overall it would be down to Paul to either accept or decline the position. Paul Roeton then told those present that although he would like the job of Chairman it would not be at the detriment of the current Chairman and he would only apply if the position was available, he also explained that at this moment in time it was not a good time for him and his family as he had stepped down as Membership Secretary as he needed to concentrate more on his family and Ollies riding. Therefore as the position of Chairman isn't up for election in 2015, it was not relevant. This had already been explained to Martyn prior to the meeting. Greg now agreed that he also understood the procedure.

Claire Ongley & Martyn Pagett then queried why Karen had been chosen when they hadn't seen Paul's job posted on the website or facebook, although it has been common knowledge since June that Paul was stepping down at the AGM. Claire and Martyn said had they known someone might have wanted to apply for the post, but as they didn't know it was available they couldn't. They said they thought it had to go onto the website prior to the AGM so people could apply. Riona explained that no-one had come forward last year when Paul first intended to step down and subsequent posts during the year asking for help had not been taken up, Therefore, we as a

committee had approached Karen internally, as we agreed she would be a good candidate. More discussions about not knowing the vacancy was available got very heated and due to the nature of these discussions Riona walked out. Further heated discussions followed and Chris also walked out.

After further discussions about why the job wasn't advertised Colin explained that the committee needed someone to be able to pick the job up quickly. The new membership applications are uploaded to the website just after the AGM and therefore we needed someone ready to be available, just in case again, no-one took up the offer at the AGM. No-one present confirmed they wanted this position so Colin asked once more if the members attending were happy with Karen joining us, no-one objected and we invited her to the table again.

Karen joined the committee at the table.

Someone asked why Wayne wasn't there to which Colin said he had private business to attend to and it wasn't for us to discuss with the members but he couldn't be there.

Jack Dade's dad asked why everything is on facebook as not everyone does facebook, and wanted the website to be updated with the same information that goes onto facebook to keep it up to date. Committee to approach Lee to keep details up to date.

Claire Ongley said during the year she has been approached by members asking who's our Chairman, as they are unsure who it is. She has always sent people to Chris as he seems to be the man to go to. Colin said all the committee jobs are shown on the website. Claire then explained she feels with Wayne being the track builder that he isn't in the pits and therefore isn't around for the members to approach him as the Chairman. If a member has a problem with the track who do they go to, the chief track builder or the chairman, as Wayne is both they feel that he should have one job. If he had one job title instead ie. Chairman means that he could sort any queries should there be any in respect of the track conditions. Whereas if he is the Chief Track Builder members could approach the Chairman to help resolve any track problems.

Someone asked who they should go to if they do have a problem with the track, Colin explained that from the morning of a meeting the Clerk of the Course is the person to contact as he has checked the track and he's the one to approach. Colin suggested that they look at the rule book which would explain what the powers of the Clerk of the Course are in more detail.

Someone asked what a Chairman does. Colin advised that amongst his duties as chairman he is the person to make the not so pleasant phone calls of calling members for things like enforcing warnings and bans, and such like.

Greg Nicholas asked our 2 day meetings can be trophy meetings and to not have the 2nd day as a championship round. This would relieve the pressure of gaining Championship points at each meeting and would make it a more fun weekend. Colin said we may have trouble fitting this in as we are trying to fit in the SEYMX into our provisional calendar and the 2 dayers could end up also being a SEYMX round, although not a Mid Sussex championship round. A suggestion of having a pairs meeting at a 2 dayer was also brought up. The committee agreed that we would look into the possibility of having just trophy meetings once we have sorted out the SEYMX.

Greg also wanted to know if we could have another wild track. We explained that we had put some thought into this and maybe we could approach Cheddar, Halstead, Rocket World, Cusses or Culham for a date, Colin mentioned this track could take the place of Wildtrax and explained its a hard track to monitor due to the manpower needed on the day to make sure it's safe for our members, it is a great venue because of the go karts and kids playground etc etc, and great to watch from the viewing area but it is difficult being trackside. A few members said we only have to ask for help, but they wanted it to stay on the calendar. Colin made it known that he didn't really want to COC it on the day, but the committee will need to discuss further.

Colin then proceeded to explain that we do have agreements with some of our track owners that we will use them a number of times a year. This will keep them solely for Mid Sussex, if we don't use them we will lose them to another club. A suggestion was put forward by Martyn Pagett of using the additional layouts we have for Rusper, the committee said we had already discussed this and will look into doing this next year to make the track different.

Shermanbury was also bought up, Riona has already spoken to the landowner about changing the track, but he wasn't too keen, Colin will approach the landowner again to ask if we can re-face the jumps and maybe alter the layout slightly to slow it down, over time Shermanbury has become very fast and should be changed to keep riders safer.

Colin mentioned that Wayne has spoken to another farmer who is interested in having a track on his land for us to use, but we need to look into this more to make sure we don't build the track and then he uses it for practice. Wayne to find out more.

Martyn, asked if we could have the adult groups split between 125's and 250 up. With the full line ups we have it would be dangerous to mix the abilities, James Coker pointed out that a slower rider sometimes gets in the way while trying to get out of the way of faster riders and this itself causes accident. Therefore, it's a lot safer with the groups being split by ability rather than bike size. This will stay as it is – Adult A & Adult B group.

Paul Blake asked if the split of 125's / 250's could be applied to the Senior group. We decided that it is a possibility although the results for the split group might not be done on the day, but it could be uploaded as a split on the website after the race meeting. The Committee to discuss further at a future meeting. Paul Blake said he is happy to help police this on the gate at the meetings to make sure people on correct bikes.

We were asked if the minutes of the committee meetings are available to the public, we advised that sometimes we have private and sensitive items on the agenda which the members should not be privy to. A suggestion of a newsletter given out at the meetings or newsletter sent to members was raised. However it was taken onboard that we should update our website and facebook page with a link to the website on a more regular basis with more information.

The subject of the Committee being dedicated to their positions jobs was brought up by Martyn Pagett. He asked why is it some committee do not attend all meetings?. We advised that we are all volunteers and sometimes it's not possible for a committee member to attend. However if that happens the remaining committee will have been told and their duties given to someone else either on the committee or someone who can cover it in their absence. It was also brought up as

to why some committee members go home before everything is packed away at the end of a race meeting and some don't. The members were advised that we have the track clearance team which is either a paid duty or a marshal duty and there should be enough manpower to do the job. Sharon explained that it's normally around 1 to 1 ½ hours to clear a track and this is covered each meeting. Certain committee members' jobs involve a lot of pre meeting preparation whereas other work done by the committee are more on the day of a race meeting.

The points scoring system we have been using means that the riders at the bottom of each race are all receiving 1 point, we asked if the members would like to adopt a different scoring system where all riders get points from a descending point system all the way down to 40th place. The members agreed this would make for better results especially as we have full line ups in a lot of the groups.

Last year due to a technical error we implemented split B group races. Paul apologised for the error and the problem in created at the beginning of the year where he allowed 70 members to join and explained he feels it would not be needed this year. We discussed that if we were to implement this again as a regular thing for the B, should we have to cancel a meeting, we would have problems with the scoring of the last group. The existing committee agreed with this and membership should be restricted to 60 riders as usual.

Upgrading riders for 2016. The laptimes need to be looked at in order for us to upgrade some of the B group riders to A group, to enable us to advise these riders. Committee need to look at this and advise, before we allocate memberships.

Chris Lawrance apologised for his outburst and returned to the table and was happily received by all.

Colin attended a seminar the previous weekend in Rugby at the ACU and marshalling was brought up. The ACU have suggested that all marshals are officially trained by a member of the ACU and gain a marshal license. Colin said we have a core of good marshals to which the ACU offered to trial the system with Mid Sussex. Sharon has spoken to Jamie who brings our core marshals along and they are happy to do this. The training would also be available to all members who wished to take up the offer. The ACU may also officially train Sharon up in order for her to give training on the day for people who do not have a license. Members to be advise when we have a training date for them to attend.

Colin then spoke of Statement of Fact - no rider in any group should receive outside assistance, if a spectator runs onto the track to assist someone that rider can be docked points. It is dangerous to have people running around on track who shouldn't be out there.

Someone on the track has to be witnessed by a committee member, we will not accept a competitor or a non member of the committee advising that someone has been running on the track. Although it will be noted for future should that person run out to assist again in the future.

The Auto and Junior groups have their allotted pick up marshals who are signed on and this will remain, but riders in these groups should not have any other outside assistance from parents or spectators.

It was suggested that all marshals should have radios so they know what is going on during the day. We advised the members that all committee, both on and off the track have radios and are in constant contact with each other. Should something need to be relayed to somebody, any committee member can be contacted via radio to action this.

The committee advised the members that Mid Sussex will now be noted in the ACU handbook as a promoter. Nothing else changes in respect of the Club, but we are look upon as a better club for the promotion of both the SEYMX and the Compass Cup.

Dangerous racing was spoken about and what to do about it. A couple of riders have been known to ride a bit too aggressively last year. One in particular who the committee are aware of, and will be keeping an eye on during the season. It is not sportsman like behaviour, and should not be happening. If it continues a formal complaint will have to be made.

Colin advised members present that for 2016 there are no tear offs allowed. This will be monitored to make sure none are used.

AOB

Steve Bliss asked who the rider's rep is. Going forward it was agreed that Tony Clements will be the rider's rep.

Members want to see more people on the track team for next year, so that they are not out on the track until after midnight, as it's not fair to them. Currently we have Wayne Wigger, Paul Maxwell, Chris Lawrance, and Jack Lindsay. Greg Nicholas, Mark Akers and Ben Wheatland offered the help for 2016 season. The members asked why can't we have a track team where everybody knows what's to be done and can get on with it, instead of having a chief track builder who has to give them the jobs. They should all know what is required.

New jackets for the Committee with our job titles on was briefly discussed so the public know who to contact for specific queries/problems.

Colin closed the meeting at 10.20