

KINGS HILL WHEELERS CYCLING CLUB

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 28 November 2019 at 7.30pm at David Lloyd Leisure.

Those present: Mike Kirk, Mat Mcloughlin, Phil Gerry, Rick Gambling, John Bacon, Glen Greatwood, Gary Smitherman, Margaret Colman, Neil Sherlaw, Robin Holden, Mark Owen Watson, Lisa Waspe, Stuart Skilton, Steven Pope, Jerry Teasdale

Apologies were received from: Martin Bartlett, Trevor Walker, Dave Elcome, Andrew Scott, Inci Patel, Graeme Heathfield-Eliott.

The minutes of the previous AGM on 28 November 2018 were agreed as a true record.

Matters arising from the minutes:

1. It was agreed that the communication throughout the club had been vastly improved throughout the year, which was due in no small part to the creation of a club website. The meeting expressed its thanks to Neil and Margaret for their hard work in this respect.
2. The suggestion of a quarterly newsletter was not pursued as it was viewed that the website should be used for news, articles etc. Contributions this year have included articles on the Alps Trip, RideLondon and the Velodrome session. All future contributions should be sent to the Secretary who will forward them on to Neil.
3. The position of honorary Life Member has been accepted by Tony Beadle. The meeting was unanimous in its agreement that Mike Kirk should be offered the same position in recognition for his service as retiring Chair. Neil Sherlaw accepted the position of Honorary Member in recognition of the work he does in the area of IT.

Chairman's report

The progress the club has made during the year was summarized as follows:

1. Membership has increased from 36 to nearly 50.
2. Our charitable donations have amounted to over £2000 throughout the year.
3. We have continued to work closely with our sponsors.
4. This year has seen trips to the Alps, the Velodrome at the Olympic Park, a regular ride to Folkestone, and 3 sportives for which the club has made a donation to the relevant charity.
5. Thanks were given to the Treasurer and Secretary, and the membership as a whole, for their support and companionship.

Treasurer's report

The Treasurer had already circulated the latest accounts that show a balance of £1825. Further costs this year will include £200 for wine at the dinner, and a fee for the conjurer.

The subscription for 2020 will remain at £20, which was also agreed by the meeting.

Election of Officers

The following nominations had been received by the Secretary:

Chairman	Mat Mcloughlin
Secretary	Jerry Teasdale
Treasurer	Lisa Waspe
Media Manager	Margaret Coleman
Events Manager	Stuart Skilton
Clothing Manager	Mark Owen Watson

Neil Sherlaw was again co-opted to the committee for his IT expertise.

All were proposed by Mike Kirk and seconded by Robin Holden.

Thanks were given to Rick Gambling and Martin Bartlett who have stepped down from the committee.

The future of the club

This is now a regular item where members are asked for their views on how the club should be run in the future. The following suggestions were made:

1. Margaret suggested that we look into the feasibility of setting up an off road group for young people, which is something that would be of benefit to the club and Kings Hill. The problems of allowing under 18s to join the club was reiterated in that a Welfare officer would need to be appointed and would need to be qualified. However, the committee will look into the setting up of an off road group. Mat will circulate a note early in the New Year.
2. There was a general discussion on whether club rides should be more structured, such as the appointment in advance of a ride leader and routes being put on the website so members could more easily assess their suitability. In general, it was considered that more members should be encouraged to be ride leaders. Mat will send round an email early in the New Year to gauge people's views.

3. The meeting agreed that e-bikes should be allowed on our rides should a request be made, as it may prolong the riding careers of members.

Charity Donations

We are fortunate in maintaining our 7 sponsors whose annual payments go a long way to enabling us to contribute to our charities. Our main charity continues to be the Heart of Kent Hospice, along with Action for Medical Research and the Kent and Sussex Air Ambulance. We will also continue to support the various charities that may be connected to the Sportives in which we participate.

It was also recognised that some members raised money for other charities through their participation in RideLondon. These included the Royal National Institute for the Blind, Demelza House, Children with Cancer, and Save the Children. Collectively, close on £2500 was raised for good causes.

Parking

Ever since our inception, the club has met at Waitrose for the start of our rides as it is a reasonably central venue with parking facilities. However, Waitrose now allow just 90 minutes free parking, which is insufficient time for those members who have to drive to the start. Whereas the car park between Waitrose and Asda, and Queen Street, still offer parking options, Margaret stated that this will not be available for much longer. Margaret has also negotiated a limited number of parking spaces with Asda, which will certainly be an answer to the problem in the short term.

A discussion took place on whether we should consider moving the start of our rides to another venue. David Lloyd was mentioned as a possibility as they are one of our sponsors and we usually go back there after rides for refreshment.

The committee will consider the possibilities with the view of approaching a new venue that would offer a more long-term solution.

Constitution

It was proposed that the constitution be changed to allow any prospective new member 3 trial rides before committing to join rather than 1 as currently allowed. This was unanimously agreed.

Any Other Business

1. Mat declared an interest in the club providing a facility for time trialling, and being affiliated to cycling time trialling. This will be discussed at the next committee meeting.
2. Members were reminded about the Action for Medical Research sportive on 3 May and asked to consider helping with the signage during the previous week.

3. Mark reported that a total of 27 members had ordered new clothing from the club's new range. This is due to be despatched during the 2nd week of February.
4. Mat proposed a vote of thanks to Mike as retiring Chair.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm.