

SOMERSET ADVANCED MOTORCYLISTS

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – Wednesday 17th January 2024.

Held at Lamb & Lion, Hambridge. Start time; 7.30pm.

Present: Trev Watts, Jim Donnelly, Richard Pearse, Rick Chubb, Steve Schlemmer, RAB Lavender, John Eggleton, Linda Hay, Dave Parker, John Sheffield, Elaine Callaghan, Tony Sauer, Anita Jelley, Will Eccles, Jackie Wenden, Martin Surrey, Andy Bourne.

Apologies: Graham Tulloch, Tom Moore, Callum Bremner, Simon Greenwood, John Ridd, Jez Martin.

Any further action required following on from the last Committee Meeting? No.

Chair's Report:

- **Website update;** Martin has spoken with Ben about our requirements but nothing has happened, despite promises being made. It was decided that Martin should contact Ben once more, giving a 14 day ultimatum. It was also suggested that if we asked Ben about paying for website maintenance/service on a more professional basis, would it make any difference.
- **IAM Regional Meeting;** Martin and Andy went to this event last October, held at Haynes Museum, and was attended by both motorcycle and car groups. They told us of all the ideas they have for promoting and improving the brand and got us to have group discussions and presentations but ultimately it felt like a box-ticking exercise. And the product is still too expensive.
- **Club constitution;** There is still some concern that, despite our healthy funds, if the worst did happen to the club this would leave Gina's Bursary exposed. It was decided that the only way to protect it would be to create a totally separate account. As such, Martin will contact Peter for these changes to be made.

Treasurer's Report:

- Currently, we have £4486.91 in hand.
- Income, so far, for this year's SWSPR is £3160.00
- Under 30 budget of £1500 still has £1412 available as only 1 has been subsidised so far. This prompted a discussion about how to better promote this scheme.
- It was suggested that we should look at a subscription reduction at the AGM.
- Following the discovery that we hadn't paid our MAG subscription for a couple of years, we needed to confirm who would be our MAG representative. Rick Chubb had previously held this role and confirmed he would be happy to continue.

Training Report:

- 3 more LOs have now qualified as NOs.
- Observer Training sessions have now been streamlined and will be restarting on 6th March.
- 10 members have expressed an interest in becoming Observers prior to these sessions so far.

Observer Coordinator Report:

- Currently we have 53 Associates with 47 in training.
- 32 Associates have been training for less than 12 months.
- Currently we have 49 Observers.

Events Coordinator:

- We currently have 56 rides/events planned for the forthcoming year.
- There are 2 Slow Riding Skills days planned for May and September.
- So far, we only have 1 lady ride leader.

Merchandising:

- A steady flow of sales continue.
- SWSPR Mugs deal now on – 2 for £1.
- Linda suggested promoting Ladies only Rides.

Membership Secretary:

- 6 new members in January, taking the membership total to 310.

Measuring Somerset Prize:

- After some discussion, it was decided to raise the prize from £30 to £50. To be more motorcycle relevant, it was also decided to make this a voucher for Helmet City in Cheddar or, possibly, West Bay.

AGM:

- Date decided was Saturday 11th May at the Lamb & Lion in Hambridge. We would make food available, hopefully free. Possibly combine with a skittles event. Possibly Pod rides to the venue too?
- With a good number of committee member posts becoming vacant this time around it was decided that we put an article together in the forthcoming Full Chat.
- Vacant posts will be; Events Coordinator, Taster Rides Coordinator, Club Secretary, Treasurer, Observer Coordinator and Social Media Lead plus the Under 30 Rep, Recruitment and Publicity posts which have been empty for some time now.

Hinkley Point Motorcyclists:

- Apparently, if motorcyclists who work at Hinkley Point want to ride their motorcycles to the site, they now must have passed their Advanced Test. We should look at enabling this.

Docbike:

- Elaine Callaghan asked how Docbike could be further promoted within SAM. It was agreed that Full Chat and the Group Facebook page should be utilised.

Bloodbikes:

- The same question was asked about how to promote Bloodbikes within SAM. Again, it was agreed that Full Chat and the Group Facebook page be utilised.

Promotion of SAM:

- Will Eccles brought up the subject of Social Media and attracting younger members. Perhaps we should be looking at alternatives to Facebook to attract younger members and maybe a role encompassing Social Media, Under 30 rep, recruitment and publicity would work better.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 9.10pm.