

**SOMERSET ADVANCED MOTORCYLISTS**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024.**

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

**Present:** Trev Watts, RAB Lavender, Linda Hay, Dave Parker, Elaine Callaghan, Anita Jelley, Jackie Wenden, Jez Martin, Graham Tulloch, Adrian Armstrong, Mike Collins, Anna Price, Matthew Galea, Callum Bremner, John Evans, Ian Styles, Rob Bartlett, Martin Surrey, Andy Bourne.

**Apologies:** Tom Moore, Jim Donnelly, John Ridd.

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

**Chair's Report:**

- **Letter to IAM;** It had been suggested that, as a club, we should write to the IAM to express our concerns over all the price increases that have now come into force. Dave Parker had written to them a few weeks ago on this subject but has not received a satisfactory response. Groups in London are, apparently, considering setting up a breakaway group.
- **How do we promote ourselves?** Do we resurrect leaflets for under-30s? Do we produce leaflets for Bloodbikes events? Docbikes events? Bike Nights?
- **Do we subsidise the Advanced Rider Course?** There has been a huge increase in road fatalities in Somerset. At the same time, there has been a huge cut in Somerset County Council's road safety budget. We could afford to fully subsidise 25 riders; do we do that? This was put to the vote; 6 for. 6 against. 7 abstentions. Do we set up a hardship fund? This was put to the vote; Unanimous, with all 19 present agreeing.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- We have £9500 available to set budgets against. Following discussions it was decided that the following budgets be set for the present financial year; SWSPR (£1000), Recruitment (£2000), Training (£3000), Training Bike (£1500), Social Event (£1000), Hardship/Under-30 Fund (£1500).
- When submitting expenses claims, please use the Treasurer email address; [samtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:samtreasurer@gmail.com).
- Anita Jelley to verify accounts.

**Training Report:**

- 10 Trainee Observers have now been allocated Mentors following the theory sessions in March.
- We have 10 Local Observers who will hopefully go for the National Observer qualification.
- There will be 2 practical Observer sessions on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May and Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May, from Cartgate.
- There is a proposal for a Ride for Gina to be run in early September. Callum said the 2<sup>nd</sup> but that's a Monday so clarification required.
- We will be hosting the IGTT event in October.
- There is a need for more Observers to undertake PTAs; assistance is available from the Training Team if required.

**Events Coordinator:**

- For the Pod Rides organised in March we had 35 riders attend. 3 more Pod Rides arranged to ride to the AGM on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

- Tickets for the Slow Riding Skills day on May 12<sup>th</sup> will be available through Eventbrite from Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April.
- At present, for the rest of the year, we have the following number of rides planned; 11 Red Rides, 12 Amber Rides and 20 Green Rides.

#### **Merchandising:**

- A steady flow of sales continues from the C&T events and through the club website.
- Ideally, we need to promote our merchandise more; it was suggested that an article be produced for the next Full Chat and include in subsequent editions.

#### **Membership Secretary:**

- There was a flurry of 6 new members prior to the IAM price increase. Since that time, just 1.
- Dave to check for any current under-30 members for RAB for any course cost reimbursement.

#### **Club Secretary:**

- Re the AGM, we have organised with the Lamb & Lion to have a buffet, at the club's expense, following the actual meeting as well as having a Skittles Event for those who want to participate.
- Pleased to report that we have nominations for the following posts; Events Coordinator, Taster Rides Coordinator, Club Secretary, Treasurer and Observer Coordinator.
- With Social Media Lead, Under 30 Rep, Recruitment and Publicity posts still being empty, there was a discussion about these roles being covered by a team of people rather than an individual. Requires further discussion at the committee meeting after the AGM.
- Following the production of short "how to" videos by Ben Everard, it has been much easier to update the club website; it would be nice to now update photos from more recent events. Graham Tulloch to send me some photos from Full Chat submissions.

#### **AOB:**

- Ian Styles asked if we could organise a ride to the Ace Café in London for their MAD day on 2<sup>nd</sup> June; Martin agreed to organise. There will also be a Ladies Day event on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2024; could we look at organising something for this too? And he also asked if we could organise a club ride up to the National Motorcycle Museum in Solihull; Andy suggested that he would try to organise something this year.
- Martin advised that there will be another Hog Roast Social Event on a Saturday during August. Date to be advised.
- Gina's Fund; following on from conversations with Peter, RAB is now going to set up a separate bank account for this.
- Following on from the earlier discussion about writing to the IAM about price increases, it was suggested that we should review new member numbers after 6 months to see what impact this has had; if these are significantly down, then we should write to the IAM with these facts.
- Apart from the Hog Roast event, we don't have any club social events; during the summer months, should we combine a social evening with a committee meeting?
- On 18<sup>th</sup> May, there is an Air Ambulance coast to coast event which requires marshalling; volunteers required.
- On 11<sup>th</sup> August, Taunton Classic Motorcycle Club are organising an Exmoor Run and this also needs marshalling; volunteers required.

**With no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 9.05pm.**