

## **Minutes of the 82nd AGM of the CTC Shropshire Member Group held at Rodington Village Hall on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2010**

Present: Jenny Leese (Vice President); John Nowell (Chairman), Linda Hamilton (Hon Secretary), Peter Lobban (Hon Treasurer), Peter Mathison (West Midlands Councillor) and 42 other members.

### **1. Election of a Chairman for the meeting**

Jonathon Blowers was proposed by John Nowell and seconded by Jenny Leese. Those present elected him.

### **2. Apologies for absence**

John Cooper, Emrys Jones, Peter Crofts, Ian Bartlett, Martin Beardwell, Lisa Rowley, Stan France, Sue Collinson, Rod Jeffrey and Rita Taylor.

### **3. Minutes of the 81st AGM held at Uffington Magna Village Hall on 01 November 2009**

The Chairman presented a synopsis of the full minutes. Anita Crofts proposed that they were adopted as a true record, Malcom Adams seconded.

### **4. Matters arising from the minutes**

- (i) The committee were to review the use of surplus funds. It was agreed that this would be picked up later under the Treasurer's Report.
- (ii) Members wanted to have more access to the national councillors. It was agreed that this would be picked up later under the National Councillor's report.
- (iii) Group cycling/speed – It was agreed that this and similar issues would be picked up later under Items for Discussion.

### **5. The Ray Page Memorial Award**

John Nowell presented the Award to Bill Dorrell with the following citation – “He always elects to ride at the back of the group to keep an eye on everybody, (in fact he seems to manage to lead a ride from the back too!), and is always the first to stop and offer assistance to anybody who needs it. He demonstrates always, unstinting consideration, kindness and selflessness to all, whatever their persuasions! On top of that I know he does a lot of good work as a committee member, organising the rides programme and is a thoroughly good and decent human being!

One or two ladies I've spoken with say that he makes them feel secure and safer when riding close by. He is one of those utterly dependable persons who tend to be taken for granted, and then are sorely missed if and when they are not present. I notice him much more when he's not there, than when he is - I think that says it all. I very much hope he gets it, he deserves it!”

### **6. The Annual Report**

The Secretary read out the Annual Report. Group secretaries and Ken Knight, on behalf of audax organisers, delivered their own reports to avoid repetition.

Bernard Goodman said that anyone would be welcome to join the Saturday Casuals on their rides. Ken Knight gave a brief introduction to the world of audaxing and explained that for a member group of our size we organise more than our fair share of events. The events cannot happen without helpers and Ken expressed particular thanks to Linda Hamilton, Marian Knight and Jenny and Graham Milne.

Bill Dorrell proposed that the Annual Report be adopted and Bryan Roberts seconded. (See Annual Report for full details).

## **7. Treasurer's Report and Accounts**

Peter Lobban presented the statement of accounts for the year ending 30th September 2010, which was appended to the AGM agenda. It was noted that there was a deficit of £577 for the year. Items of expenditure included the registration of the address for the new website, software and web hosting fees. Printing spend was also high due to colour printing of the newsletter and rides lists. Expenditure on social events included room hire and prizes for the Day of Rides. It was noted that there was some income outstanding from audax events held towards the end of the year. The reduction in bank interest was also highlighted. This is due to low interest rates. Peter also mentioned that the committee had agreed to use some of the surplus funds to subsidise the club jerseys.

Thanks were extended to Phil Guy for auditing the accounts. Phil has agreed to continue in this role for one more year after the current year.

Bernard Goodman proposed that the Treasurer's report be adopted and Jenny Leese seconded.

## **8. Report on Cyclists' Rights - Right to Ride County Representative for Shropshire:**

Peter Crofts sent his apologies. However, regular updates are now posted on the website.

Bryan Roberts commented that the cobbles under the railway bridge have now been sandblasted.

Rob Fris commented that the path under Telford Way offset is not easy to see in the dark.

## **9. National Councillor's Report**

Peter Mathison reported that there would shortly be new advice coming out around subsidiary groups and group structures. The Policy Handbook is also being reviewed during 2011. HQ support for member groups has been less than satisfactory and Julie Rand will be the new contact, replacing Adrian Lawson. Peter provided some feedback from the recent member group survey – existing services are more important to members than new services, membership complaints are reducing, and an interim decision has been made re the allocation of funds. Allocations will be based on CTC membership numbers plus special pleadings. The allocation of just 37p per member was questioned but Peter reiterated that bids could be submitted for additional funding if needed for something specific.

Peter concluded by saying that we're an open and forward looking member group, as good as any in the West Midlands.

## **10. Election of President for 2010/2011:**

Anita Crofts was proposed by Jenny Leese and seconded by Richard Newey.

Anita said that she was honoured to be asked and that she has loved her time with the CTC both here and before. She was humbled to be following in Dennis's footsteps.

## **11. Election of Vice Presidents for 2010/2011:**

The Vice Presidents, Joyce Catchpole, Jenny Leese and John Carter were voted in 'en bloc'. Proposed by Hazel Nowell and seconded by Helen Gilmour.

## **Election of members of the Member Group Committee for 2010/11:**

The outgoing and existing committee members were thanked.

John Nowell and Sue Collinson were willing to stand for a further year. John Hamilton and Ian Bartlett stood down and were thanked for their contribution.

The chair asked for nominations for new committee members. Richard Newey and Jenny Milne agreed to stand. All members were elected 'en bloc'. Proposed by Steve Holloway, seconded by Claire Ashton.

Group Representatives have automatic places (Bill Dorrell, Sally Ralphs, Lisa Rowley, Steve Holloway and Bernard Goodman).

Edwin Hargraves said that he might consider joining the committee during the year to represent the audax organisers.

## **12. Election of Honorary Officers for 2010/2011:**

The following people were accepted 'en bloc'.

Secretary - Linda Hamilton

Treasurer - Peter Lobban

Auditor - Phil Guy

Proposed by Malcolm Adams, seconded by Jenny Leese.

## **13. Items for Discussion**

### **Use of Cycle Lanes**

Much discussion took place about whether or not cycle lanes should be used. The general feeling was that for experienced cyclists it was safer to stay on the road, especially at junctions and along roads where the cycle lane crosses a number of side roads. Side roads usually have priority over the cycle lane. However, the use of cycle lanes is at the discretion of the ride leader. The onus is on the ride leader to communicate their intentions effectively with the rest of the group. It is important that the whole group does the same thing so as not to confuse motorists. It was acknowledged that many cycle lanes are not well designed, such as those that go round the outside of roundabouts forcing cyclists to be in the wrong lane. Holding areas are also often inadequate, especially for a group.

It was questioned whether there might be a legal implication if a cycle lane is not used where it is available but Peter Mathison assured the group that this was not the case and that the CTC would oppose any such move.

The committee agreed to relook at the Group Cycling guidance.

### **Marehay Tree Site**

Jenny Leese raised the issue of the upkeep of the tree site at Marehay where several past members had their ashes scattered. Trees and bulbs were planted and a fence erected. Members have previously been able to go there for picnics but the seat and stile are now rotten and access to the site is restricted by debris. Some discussion was had about whether we should attempt to clear and then maintain the site or simply let it go. If we wanted to reclaim the site we would need to put a long term solution in place. It was questioned whether there would be enough volunteers to do it ourselves or whether we could pay someone to do it for us. It was agreed that the committee would look into the options and bring it back to next year's AGM for a decision.

### **Club Jerseys**

The general feeling was that club jerseys were a good idea. A show of hands suggested that the majority would be interested in purchasing one. However, members thought it would be worth spending some money to get a professional to come up with a unique design that reflected the county. There was a suggestion that a design based on the old cloth badge might be suitable. Some people were in favour of keeping the design simple.

### **Lighter Longer Campaign**

Paul Glanville suggested that the member group should support the campaign to stop putting the clocks back in the autumn, thus increasing daylight cycling time during the winter. Peter Mathison advised that members should write individually to the CTC if they felt strongly about this.

## **14. Members Suggestions for Events in 2009/10.**

Suggestions included advanced bicycle maintenance courses, another cycle jumble, a summer BBQ, a ceilidh and more social events.

The Easter weekend has limited places left. Members were advised to contact Ken Knight if they were interested.

### **15. Any Other Business**

A volunteer sheet for audax events was made available for people to leave their details if they would be willing to help.

It was suggested that training be provided for existing and new rides leaders to remind them of best practice. Concerns were raised that this might put off leaders if the role is made to onerous. We would have to keep it very informal. It was noted that the issues are not always the fault of the ride leader but may be due to a lack of discipline and respect on the part of some group riders. The committee agreed to arrange a meeting with all rides leaders to go through the guidance in detail and set some standards.

Peter Lobban reminded the members of the importance of registering on the website to receive news updates. He also offered tuition for anyone who needs it.

As there was no other business the meeting closed at 13.30.