

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held on 29 April 2021 Online via Zoom



There were 31 attendees.

1. Welcome:

The Chairman Rob Robinson welcomed everyone and thanked all for their online attendance.

The meeting began at 7.40pm

2. Apologies:

Simon Lord, Mark Holroyd, Jonathan Blake, Bob Price, Tony Bonner, Roy Heath, Andy Jenrick, Roz Hibbert, Phillip Grigg and Lucy Lawler.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on April 2019:

One matter arising: at the last AGM Phillip Grigg announced that he was retiring from Devon & Cornwall Police Force, but he offered to continue as our President until his successor was appointed and could be approached to take on his role. We have made contact with his replacement Emma Stringer and asked for her to consider the position and are awaiting contact back.

4. Informal AGM November 2020 Newsletter

As no formal meeting was held last year due to the pandemic, information on the group's performance and accounts was shared with the group via a newsletter to show due diligence. It covered the work of the group up until lockdown started and all training ceased. During the year Rider numbers continued to increase with new 36 riders signing up to do the associate course, while the twenty test passes in our Drivers section came primarily from 3 yearly retests and a small group of new associates.

5. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Accounts:

As no formal AGM was held last year there were two years' accounts to adopt.

For 2019 to 2020 income exceeded expenditure by £1615 which added to an existing healthy bank balance. Income came from 37 new associates, most of them riders and from 62 group and full members. So, we had about 100 members for this period.

We spent 55% of our income.

2019/20 accounts: The accounts were approved and agreed as a true record. Proposed by Keith Wetherell and seconded by Nick Fletcher.

The 2020/21 accounts cover the period for most of the lockdown. There was a drop in membership 31 new associates (all riders bar one) and 52 group and full members. However, on 31st March 2021 we had 108 members and as of April we have 118.

During this period income exceeded expenditure by £567. We spent 81% of our yearly income. This increase in expenditure against income compared to the previous year came from:

- a) Subsidy of part of the cost of providing urban glow hi vis tops and badges for our rider tutors.
- b) An increase in IT costs for our website due to bi-annual renewals of web hosting/ domain names/ website photography.
- c) Presentation expenses from visiting speakers (bill arrived late – cost relates to last financial year).
- d) Audit expenses.

Sheila Harris queried why no postage costs this year – DF advised all correspondence sent via email.

2020/21 accounts: The accounts were approved and agreed as a true record. Proposed by Nigel Tait and seconded by Debbie Wetherell.

6. Driver Training Officer's Report - Lisa Hosking:

See report attached.

RR thanked LH for her report and confirmed that from the point of view of Driver Training it really has been a year of no activity for our associates and tutors, and very limited opportunity to promote what we have to offer.

He also advised the group that Lisa will be stepping back from some of her role within the group. She is standing down from the committee and role as Driver Training Officer. Lisa has been Training Officer for a number of years and until very recently held overall responsibility for both Driver and Rider Training, a role which she took very seriously working with Chris and Rob to help ensure that the development of the relatively new rider's section was able to continue and feel supported.

The driver's side have benefitted from her vast experience as a tutor and that extra level of knowledge and skill that she holds as a Diploma standard driver. She will continue as one of our tutors and we will continue to look to her for advice in all aspects of training. RR thanked LH on behalf of the group.

As no formal presentations could be carried out, RR congratulated all drivers and tutors who had passed their test or retests within the last two years.

7. Rider Training Officer's Report - Chris Polawski:

See report attached.

RR thanked CP for his report and stated that, despite the long periods of lockdown, because of the ability of riders to social distance - training and some

testing had gone ahead with very good outcomes. Alongside working with associates, the number of Rider Tutors has grown. But even with a growing team of tutors who are doing an excellent job, you are having to work hard to keep pace with demand, which is a great position to be in.

RR thanked the rider associates for their understanding and patience whilst they have been waiting for their training. He then congratulated those who have passed their tests, thanked them for working with their tutors and for following the Covid safety protocol.

8. Chairman's Report:

RR addressed the group and passed on his support and sympathy to any members or their families who have suffered during the course of the ongoing pandemic be it through ill health, loss of work or dealing with the stress that stems from uncertainty or worrying about friends and family.

We were extremely sad to hear about the loss of Rodney Grigg who was our examiner for many years and there are other past members who are no longer with us.

He thanked all the tutors (both Driver & Rider tutors) for their willingness to get training operating again and advised that once venues begin to open up, we will try and get people together and get a programme of events running.

He confirmed that the committee have met regularly, and whilst at times there was little that they could do, they remained positive. He thanked to Chris and Andy for being willing to be co-opted as Rider Representatives.

He then thanked the rest of the committee: Dave Foster who has continued to tackle taking in membership applications and running our accounts. Lisa for juggling her work as a doctor whilst doing her best for the group and Michelle in her role as Secretary.

A final thanks was paid to all our members and once again he congratulated those who have passed an advanced driving or riding test for the first time. We hope you will see this as the start of improving your skills. There is always something new to learn. We hope that it doesn't take a tragedy to make people realise that they could be driving or riding better. It is our job as part of RoSPA to keep selling the message that they can AND do get some fun out of it.

9. Member's Questions:

No questions had been received prior to the meeting.

Sheila Harris asked if the Driver's section had any events planned and acknowledged that the driver's numbers had dropped. She asked if there would be any technical events for associates and events for the existing membership. RR advised that David Enderson has recently volunteered to take over the

Driver Training Officer's role and that was his priority to organise such events. CP also advised that he was going to be in imminent contact with DE as an invite from the North Devon group had been received for Drivers to log in to their online Zoom Roadcraft lectures for Drivers. The invite will be sent to the Driver members.

Keith Wetherell asked if Chris Gilbert was still willing to be a speaker? – LH confirmed she is still in contact with him and once Covid allows, then he is happy to rearrange attendance at a Group meeting.

Nick Fletcher asked if the Cornwall group was restarting driver training? As national guidelines had been issued by RoSPA and rider and driver testing had been restarted - RR referred to the Driver Tutor's meeting held on 23 March 2021 where the Covid-19 Protocol document was reviewed, and it was agreed that it would be a tutor's individual choice when and under what circumstances they resume training.

10. Election of Committee:

RR thanked Chris Polawski and Andy Jenrick for agreeing in November 2020 to be co-opted on to the Committee to represent the Riders' section.

RR reported that Lisa Hosking was standing down as committee member and Driver Training Officer but that all other existing committee members had offered to re-stand.

The existing committee formally retired and the new committee was proposed by Nick Fletcher, seconded by Sheila Harris, and unanimously agreed that the remaining committee: Rob Robinson, Michelle Cowling, David Foster, Chris Polawski and Andy Jenrick should be re-elected.

The election of officers will take place at the next Committee meeting held in 2021.

11. Date of the next AGM: April 2022.

The meeting was formally closed at 8.40pm.