

## **Minutes – Chester Road Club Annual General Meeting – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 6:30pm**

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**Attendees:** James Eastbury Sam Marshall Fiona Marshall  
Lynsey Whitley Nick Whitley David Claymore  
Keith Nield Phil Pearson Ann Pearson  
Stephen Armstrong Chris Lawson Stephen Rooke  
Paul Modern Jean Evans Ian Taylor  
Gavin Broadhurst

**Apologies:** Jonathan Walker Gary Maoudis

The constitution states that “a quorum shall consist of twelve members, three of whom must be officers”; these conditions were satisfied & the meeting proceeded according to the fixed agenda for the AGM as stipulated in the club’s constitution.

### **a. Minutes of the previous AGM and matters arising (S. Armstrong)**

There were no matters raised from last year’s AGM & minutes.

### **b. Reports from the officers:**

#### **Chair (J. Eastbury)**

James focused on the recent survey of members’ cycling interests. Responses have been received from 94 members (40% of the membership). From the responses to the first question a ‘net promoter score’ may be calculated, which is a measure of members’ satisfaction. A score of 40% was calculated, which is indicative of high membership satisfaction with the club. James then took us through the responses to the remaining questions. The majority of respondents had been members for 3 or more years & expressed interest in a wide range of cycling activities including virtual cycling. The majority thought that the club subscription was good value for money (90%), were satisfied that the club did enough with regard to its activities (70%) & almost all (95%) said that they were happy to once again join group rides (given on-going health concerns). Amongst these respondent there was a willingness (60%) to volunteer their time (2-3 hours / year) to help the club. Other questions explored members interest in an annual dinner & awards event, satisfaction with club kit & provided an opportunity to provide individual feedback.

James committed to share the results with the committee for detailed review & that collectively the club will take on-board the feedback given to shape future activities.

#### **Secretary (S. Armstrong)**

Stephen considered the impact of the health crisis on the club since becoming secretary in 2019. Club runs have now resumed thanks to the efforts of the ride leaders, whilst open & club TTs have resumed this year thanks to Ian Taylor & Paul Modern. However GoRide & track sessions are yet to do so. Uncertainty with regard to club membership (in 2022) was expressed as all existing members (in 2020) had their membership extended free-of-charge to end-2021 to recognise the lack of activities during the pandemic. Thanks were extended to our longstanding sponsors, Toni & Guy (Gary Maoudis) & Pearson Financial Management (Ann & Phil Pearson), who will step back during 2022 &

the club will transition to a sponsor-free situation. Stephen's final comments focused on gender diversity; a concern that has been crystallised in recent weeks through member feedback. However we should not ignore ethnic diversity. Today only 15% of the membership are ladies; clearly not a good reflection on us as a club. Some are undoubtedly daunted by the prospect of simply coming along. Then there are those who do make it, but don't feel as if they fit-in & then drift away. Finally for others we simply can't meet their basic expectations such as a ladies-only rides.

Feedback from the meeting confirmed that this is a longstanding problem & that to truly address this issue a 'proactive campaign' is required with various elements suggested.

#### **Treasurer (F. Marshall)**

Fiona provided a synopsis of our current financial situation. At the beginning of the year (1<sup>st</sup> January 2021) the club held funds of £17,400. Income of £2,700 has been received (from new memberships, kit sales, TT entries & return of a cash float), whilst out-goings were £2,300 (for kit purchases, gifts to recognise long serving committee members, CTT levies & the deposit for our hoped for Christmas Ride & Lunch at Cheshire View). Please note that the later event has now been cancelled & the deposit transferred to next Summer's planned event at the same venue. This leaves a current balance of £17,800.

A question was raised with respect to the price of club kit to members. It was confirmed that we not only sell the kit at cost price but also members benefit from the club buying in bulk at a lower unit cost (rather than buying individually).

#### **Membership Secretary (C. Lawson)**

Chris provided an overview of our membership. The club currently has 235 members (compared with 220 pre-Covid). Membership mix has remained essentially unchanged with 85% men & 15% women, whilst there have been 44 new members during 2021. Looking at our members; 47% are British Cycling members with just under half of these holding a racing licence (suggesting an interest in racing or at least an intent to race). In order to grow membership Chris suggested that the focus should be on attracting more lady members as well as increased ethnic diversity.

#### **Matters arising from the reports (All)**

Matters arising from the reports were addressed during the meeting & reflected in the above comments.

#### **c. Election of officers and members of the general committee for 2022 (All)**

Several members have decided to step down creating a number of vacancies; vice-chair, secretary\*, membership secretary\* & deputy welfare officer.

**Note\*:** A new secretary & membership secretary are sought; however current post-holders, Stephen & Chris, are prepared to continue for a short-time should candidates not be immediately identified.

At the time of the AGM no members had volunteered themselves against the vacant positions. No volunteers were forthcoming from the meeting attendees.

The following motion was put to the meeting & passed.

**Motion to re-elect the following committee members for 2022; Keith Nield, Geoff Chaplin, James Eastbury, Stephen Armstrong\*, Fiona Marshall, Paul Modern, Chris Lawson\*, Lynsey Whitley, Gina Riley, Jean Evans, Phil Pearson, Ann Pearson & Gavin Broadhurst. All have confirmed their intention to continue into next year.**

**Voting: For: 15 votes Against: 0 votes**

**d. The appointment of Rebecca Falcon to conduct an independent review of the club's financial transactions for 2021 (All)**

Fiona introduced Rebecca to the meeting attendees as an enthusiastic & capable individual, who was delighted to be asked to act in this capacity. The motion to appoint Rebecca was put to the meeting & passed.

**Voting: For: 15 votes Against: 0 votes**

**e. Draft programme of competitive and social events for 2022 (All)**

Paul gave a brief overview of next year's programme of TTs organised under the auspices of CTT. The club will promote 2 open events; a hilly TT on the 26<sup>th</sup> February & an open 25TT on 29<sup>th</sup> May. For the regular Thursday evening club events Paul has reached out to Birkenhead Victoria CC, Birkenhead North End CC & Port Sunlight Wheelers. A rota of events is still to be agreed; however Paul confirmed that we do not have sufficient volunteers to run the weekly club events at Saughton on our own.

Nothing has yet been fixed with regard to mass start events (under British Cycling or TLI guidelines).

Jean provided a brief update on GoRide for 2022. It is hoped that GoRide will resume, as there is clear interest from parents, but at this time a suitable venue is still being sought.

Ann confirmed that a provisional booking has been made for the evening of Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at Cheshire View for a club-wide social event.

**f. Motions**

A number of motions had been submitted to the Secretary per the constitution. An opportunity was given to all attendees to share their views on each motion prior to voting. With regard to voting the secretary cast proxy votes on behalf of 2 members. The results are given below.

**Motion (Fiona Marshall / Stephen Armstrong):**

**Title:** Constitution Revision – Appointment of Auditors

**Description:** It has been highlighted that the wording “Auditor” has a specific financial & legal definition. This motion proposes the replacement of the current wording of point (a)(iv) under meetings “the appointment of Auditors for the ensuing year” with “the appointment of a non-member to conduct an independent review of the club’s financial transactions”.

**Voting:**                **For:** 15 votes        **Against:** 0 votes                                **Motion Passed**

**Motion (Ian Taylor / Stephen Armstrong):**

**Title:** Constitution Revision - Clubmark

**Description:** Sport England no longer supports the Clubmark accreditation scheme & British Cycling plans to develop its own cycling specific scheme, but details are yet to be announced. With the demise of Clubmark point (c) under titles & objects “the Club commits to maintaining Club Mark Status” becomes redundant. The motion is to remove this point from the constitution (without substitution).

**Voting:**                **For:** 15 votes        **Against:** 0 votes                                **Motion Passed**

**Motion (James Bilham / Gavin Broadhurst):**

**Title:** Facebook page to be made public again

**Description:** In an attempt to deliver ‘more value’ for our members the restriction of our Facebook & Strava pages has indeed, done the opposite & perhaps irreparably. Since the Facebook & Strava pages have been made private the club has lost its sense of community that made us the great local, diverse family club we once were. External contributors that provided helpful feedback & input have been marginalised.

**Voting:**                **For:** 3 votes        **Against:** 11 votes                                **Motion Failed**

**Motion (James Bilham / Gavin Broadhurst):**

**Title:** Strava page to be made public again

**Description:** In an attempt to deliver ‘more value’ for our members the restriction of our Facebook & Strava pages has indeed, done the opposite & perhaps irreparably. Since the Facebook & Strava pages have been made private the club has lost its sense of community that made us the great local, diverse family club we once were. External contributors that provided helpful feedback & input have been marginalised.

**Voting:**                **For:** 2 votes        **Against:** 13 votes                                **Motion Failed**

**g. Any Other Business**

Please note that business not on the agenda cannot be brought up until all items on the agenda have been disposed of, nor shall such business then be discussed unless voted as urgent by at least two thirds of the members present.

Potential items of AOB were raised by Phil & Sam, but not discussed (as they did not meet the above criteria). Both have been added as agenda items for the next General & Executive Committee meetings.

The meeting closed with Keith extending his thanks to all club officials & volunteers, whose collective actions make 'Chester Road Club the best club in the area'.