

Minutes of the Manchester DC AGM held on 25th September 2023

at: Parish Rooms, Cheadle Hulme and via Teams

Attendees

Parish Rooms:

Tim Smith (MBC)
Nicholas Smith (WT88)
Ian Ross (M&DTTA)
Mavis Ross (M&DLCA)
Tony Millington (Buxton CC)
Holly Carter (Manchester Wheelers)
Rob Bailey (Cheshire RC)
Sam Taylor (Weaver Valley)

Remote:

Alastair Ribbands (Congleton CC)
Alistair Rutherford (MBC)
Alex Critcher (Team Wheel Guru)
David Clayton (Macclesfield Wheelers)

Apologies

Dave Fearon, Martin Harney, Matt Last, Robbie Harcourt, Mike Cotgreave, David Wright, Phil Fern, Alex Royle

Minutes of 2022

Read and accepted - Proposed – Tony Millington, Seconded – Rob Bailey

Chair's report

Alex apologised for not being able to attend but was keen to say that he felt it had been a good year. He wanted to thank the committee, organisers and marshals for their work. He feels that we still have work to do on rider behaviour and etiquette but we can continue to work on this next year.

Secretary's report

It seems to have been a busy year and a lot of that has been caused by poor rider discipline. More on that later.

Since the last AGM we have had 5 meetings - District Council meeting for National AGM and 4 District Committee meetings. For the past few years we have been holding virtual meetings but we have now progressed to trying a hybrid virtual and physical meeting. The virtual element was initially let down a little by technology but we have invested in a better microphone/speaker device and hope this will improve the situation.

My hope is also that the ability to join remotely may encourage other volunteers for the committee.

Accidents

This year we have had 7 accidents – compared to only 3 last year. Fortunately none were serious, and not all were rider fault but it's still a worrying increase and a significant reason behind why the committee are taking a hard line on poor rider behaviour. Two of the accidents involved Juniors/Juveniles, and again whilst there was no specific evidence of poor riding, I'd ask that clubs stress safety to their young members at all times.

Rider Discipline

This year we have had 4 disciplinary hearings which is extremely disappointing. These were against mostly for riding standards. To their credit the majority were apologetic.

Earlier in the year, the committee reconfirmed the local regulation regarding Tri-Bars and Chelford Island following an event where numerous riders were reported for not adhering to this. Concerningly, even after this and with clubs making the rule blatantly clear on start sheets, at HQs and verbally, riders still ignored this. This year over 20 riders have been disqualified for breaches of this rule.

The DC do not treat taking disciplinary action lightly but we have to be seen to be enforcing a rules for many reasons. As you may be aware, insurance costs are increasing significantly and impacting the future of our sport so anything that improves safety is a necessity.

Marshalling

It's also been a recurring theme this year that clubs are struggling to get marshals. It's great that we have an almost full calendar of events for next year but I'd urge clubs to be confident that they can provide a full complement of marshals and ensure that the event is run safely before applying.

National 25

It's fantastic news that the Board have invited Manchester to run the blue ribbon 25 next year as we announced on the Facebook pages. This is nominally being run by Manchester BC but we'll definitely be reaching out to other clubs for help in ensuring this is a fantastic event.

Social Media

We've recently looked at revamping the Manchester CTT Facebook pages with more changes to come but whilst the Cheshire TT Chat forum is a great informal resource we would like to make the Facebook page somewhere people go to find important information and results etc. Any ideas welcome

Finally, I'd like to thank all the Committee for their support this year but especially to Alex and Alistair who add a new dimension to the committee.

Treasurers report

Accounts for financial year were completed and sent to Mark Sanders. We spent £50 on travel and stationary. Rest of petty cash balance (£200) was returned to National as agreed.

Accounts since COVID have not been audited. National haven't requested this.

Open Events report

2023 has shown an increase in the number of entries to open events over the previous year but is still well below pre-pandemic levels. Also, the number of events on the calendar appears to be declining by the year.

This year saw a 1 minute 39 second breaking of the 25 mile area record by Adam Duggleby, ADDFORM Vive Le Velo in 46:04 on the newly reinstated J5/8. So that should give you something to aim for next year!

Event organisers are fast becoming an endangered species, maybe it's low entries not making it worth the hassle, last-minute roadworks or the difficulty in getting enough marshals. So I thank them most sincerely for their sterling work in promoting their events this season and hope they will continue to do so in 2024.

Club Events report

In 2022 levies collected amounted to £7,425 (2,475 rides) down on the 2021 figure of £8,317 (2,772 rides.) These numbers are well down on 2014 figures when there were 4,619 rides. It remains to be seen if the decline continues in 2023.

The CTT facility for uploading club events to be displayed on the CTT website is working well. 8 or 9 Events deemed as NOT Come & Try It Events have not been uploaded at the request of the organising clubs.

No accidents in club events have been reported to me. (This isn't to say that there haven't been any.)

As of today (25/9) only levies from Glossop Kinder Velo have been received showing a very slight decrease on 2022. (67 rides c.f. 77) Many clubs run Hill Climbs in October so levies usually start to come in after those. (Too many clubs still need a nudge or two before the levies are forthcoming.)

The current Police Notification system in Cheshire is a huge improvement on the previous system.

At the last AGM I said that 2023 would be my final year as Club Event Sec and, thankfully, Nicholas Smith has volunteered to take over. Hopefully Nicholas will be accepted by the committee and I'll give him all the help I can.

Note: 2 accidents occurred in Club Events – both in Westmead Club 10s and non-serious.

Note: Stone Wheelers club event levies for 2023 also received. Number of rides significantly decreased to 32 from 87 in 2022.

Courses Report

The only new course created this year was the one for next years' National 25 based around Lower Withington. A new 50 mile course taking in the Congleton by-pass will be created before the end of the year and may be used next season either as a first choice or a backup emergency course in the event of say road works. There is potential for the creation of one or more new 10 courses using the new by-pass if any club wishes to try these roads for club or open events. If so clubs can approach the courses secretary (Dave Fearon) and I will be happy to risk assess and measure such courses. However applicants should also suggest potential HQ so that suitable start and finish points can be identified.

Note: the meeting agreed that it would be beneficial if courses could be prepared and circulated to clubs for potential use rather than clubs approaching with suggestions.

Risk Assessments

Risk Assessments all up to date, and information provided to National as requested in August.

Need to confirm if R/A for J2/21 has been completed

Election District Committee and Officers

The following were elected:

Alex Royle (Chairman)
Alistair Rutherford (vice-Chairman)
Tim Smith (Secretary)
Matt Last (Treasurer)
Ian Ross (Open Events)
Nicholas Smith (Club Events)
Dave Fearon (Courses)
Paul Jennings (N.Staffs)
Tony Millington (Risk Assessment)

David Clayton
Robbie Harcourt
Martin Harney
David Wright
Alastair Ribbands
Tony Millington
Bob Norton

Alex Critcher

Delegates to National AGM

Alex Royle
Rob Bailey
Tim Smith
Nicholas Smith

Auditors

Not Elected

Closed 19:42