

**Yeovil Cycle Club Annual General Meeting Minutes 2022  
at the Abbey Rooms, The Forum, Yeovil  
on 12 September 2022 at 7.15 pm**

Appendix A: Record of attendance of non-committee members

Enclosure 1: Financial Report

**Present**

|                |                               |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Dave Notley    | Chairman/Newsletter Secretary |
| Garry Michener | President                     |
| Derek Todd     | Treasurer                     |
| Martin Wills   | Runs Secretary                |
| Nick Young     | Records Secretary             |
| Nick Armstrong | Road Race Secretary           |
| Sandra Wills   | General Secretary             |
| Mark Boxall    | Membership Secretary          |
| Mark Fisher    | Press/Welfare                 |
| Robert Galvin  | Committee Member              |
| Mark Edwards   | Committee Member              |

Members: See Appendix A

**Agenda**

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Matters Arising
- 3 General Secretary's Report
- 4 Treasurer's Report
- 5 Time Trial Secretary's Report
- 6 Road Race Secretary's Report
- 7 Membership Secretary's Report
- 8 Runs Secretary's Report
- 9 Records Secretary's Report
- 10 Newsletter Editor's Report
- 11 Welfare Officer's Report
- 12 Press Secretary's Report
- 13 Motions
- 14 Election of Officers
- 15 Affiliations
- 16 Any other business

## **Chairman's Opening Remarks**

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting for 2022.

Firstly let me say thank you to all of you that have made the effort to come along tonight. I am very aware that this is the first formal opportunity you have had for three years to express your opinions. This is your club after all, as members of the committee we are here to provide what you want from the club, and we really value your support tonight.

Secondly I should like to thank all the committee members that have remained in post throughout this difficult period, keeping the club running and continuing to provide as much cycling activity as was permitted. In particular the people that have kept the club runs going, navigating a minefield of changing regulations and Covid protocols. They are Martin, Sandra, John and Marius.

The committee members will each give a brief report on their activities and you are welcome to comment or question them once they have finished. If you would like to speak to them can I please ask you to raise a hand, and when invited to comment state your name first, just to make life easier for our Secretary.

As I said in the mail that went out with the Notification "Most of the current committee are prepared to stand again so we are not about to press-gang anyone, but I really would like you to consider whether you would be willing, at some point in the future, to join the group that runs your club. Now is the time to make use of the wealth of experience and knowledge the incumbent officers have. It will be so much easier if someone can work with the existing person and tap into their knowledge rather than being thrown in at the deep end when the time comes to take over. We will get to the formal election of Officers at the end of the meeting and if there is a post you are tempted by please feel free to express an interest at that stage, or if you would rather, come and talk to us after the meeting .

### **1 Apologies**

Apologies were received from John Butler and Tom Riall.

### **2 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

### **3 General Secretary's Report**

My role in the club is quite simple in that I receive and respond to correspondence and take and produce minutes of our monthly committee meetings.

I have become proficient in passing on most correspondence, which needs actioning, to other committee members.

### **4 Treasurer's Report**

See attached for breakdown of income/expenditure..

### **5 Time Trial Secretary's Report**

This has been a very difficult period and I want to express my sincere thanks to Derek Todd, Garry Mitchener, Martin Wills and Mark Johnson, the team that have kept the events going over the last three years.

After the first lockdown there was a huge upsurge in the numbers of riders competing. Although we were only able to run 5 events that year there were 195 rides averaging 39 each week, with a peak of 49 riders one week.

We were optimistic that the huge increase in the number of people out riding their bikes would continue into 2021. Initially the numbers were good with a maximum of 46 riders in the early season. However, numbers slowly dropped throughout the year. We managed to run 17 events with a total of 368 rides, an average of 21 per week.

The diminishing numbers are part of a national trend, which seems to be due to a number of factors. We did a quick survey of riders via Facebook to see if there was a particular problem with what we were offering. The overall response was positive, the courses, timings and cost were not the issue.

We have run 19 events this year, despite the fact there were more helpers than riders on several evenings. There were just 162 rides. An average of 9 riders per event. It took until late in the season before we finally gained access to the Sports Pavilion building, so we now have use of toilets/changing rooms and shelter – this lack of facilities may be one contributory factor in the decline of numbers – which is now resolved.

We did have a good contingent from Wincanton Wheelers join us late in the season and as they do not have their own TTs we are hopeful they will ride our events in 2023, if that is the case we may be able to persuade them to provide some assistance too.

We have to pay a levy of £3 for each ride to CTT, as well as the cost of the licence to use the air base and the hire of the HQ. The events normally break even, but this year may see a slight loss.

The National body for time trialling, CTT, are seriously concerned about the falling numbers and looking into what can be done. I have been around for long enough to see the peaks and troughs of participation in all forms of cycling. It wasn't that many years ago we would have considered 12 a good turnout for a club run. I am hoping this is now the bottom of the curve and things will start to improve.

Provided we are able to get enough volunteers to run the events next year I would ask you to support them for one more year so that we can see where the trend is going and then reassess our offering.

For those that look on time trialling as a technical, and expensive sport, I would urge you to come and give it a go. What it should be is a bunch of club mates all out to do the best ride they can with the competitive edge of trying to beat a fellow rider of a similar ability. No specialist kit is required, just a will to ride as quickly as you can, followed by a bit of banter, and a retrospective enjoyment of the challenge.

## **6. Road Race Secretary's Report**

After the Covid limited years of 2020/21, unrestricted road racing was allowed to resume this year. However, it would appear that the restrictions of the previous two years have had a knock on effect as entries have been low and a number of races have had to be cancelled due to financial non-viability. Indeed, I was due to be an Accredited Marshal in the Exeter Wheelers' race on 11 Sep and it has just been cancelled. In sum, the South West Region has only promoted 8 road races in 2022. On the brighter side, two of those races were National Series events (one for juniors and one for U23s), and in addition, we have provided 24 closed circuit races. We hope that those events will produce the road racers of the future.

One final point on the regional front; some of you will recall Yeovil CC's recent, very successful, promotions of the Ham Hill and Pittards road races, where it was only at the last moment that we were sure we could cover the costs of organising. Over 3 years I warned the SW Road Race Work Group that events would be lost if BC did not underwrite them. Each time I was met with refusal on policy grounds. This year the Group has finally acknowledged this need. It remains to be seen if our National Board members can persuade BC to support the requirement.

Turning to my responsibilities to Yeovil CC, this year we have had no-one racing in Yeovil CC colours, and so the Club does not feature in BC's ranking tables. Therefore, I can see no reason to ask the Club to review its decision not to promote any road races. This is however a good point at which to reiterate my thanks to the six YCC members (named in the Club's Facebook page) who gave up a day to help with the running of the Stars of the South West U23 RR on 28<sup>th</sup> August. You did the Club proud.

I will be continuing as a member of the SW Road Race Work Group, and I am happy to continue as YCC Road Race Secretary albeit as something of a holding post until we have some members who wish to get involved in road racing.

One final thought, the 24 closed circuit races referred to above, all took place on just three circuits, in Exeter, Paignton and Cornwall. We could do with one at this end of the Region. If the long-promised multi-sports centre ever gets built in Yeovil, I recommend we fight tooth and nail to ensure it includes a road circuit around its perimeter. It has been successfully done in a number of locations around the UK.

## **7. Membership Secretary's Report**

162 members at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021  
32 members did not renew in 2022  
19 new members year to date 2022  
149 paid up members year to date 2022

### **Notes**

Membership at end of 2021 was unnaturally high because all 2020 fully paid up members were given a free membership in 2021 and we only had 2 partial year members who did not renew. I estimate that approximately half of the 32 members leaving in 2022 would have left in 2021 where it not for the free 2021 membership. So the estimated adjusted number for end 2021 is 146. Membership remains strong but has declined a little from the end 2019 figure of 156. We normally gain a few members in the final quarter of the year and I expect the final figure to exceed 150 members we had in 2020.

I have now completed three years as Membership Secretary and I am willing to continue in this role.

## **8. Runs Secretary's Report**

When I last reported to you all, it was three years ago in 2019 and the COVID 19 Pandemic hadn't started. The club runs were continuing very much as they are now. In fact, when I make up the present quarterly runs schedule, I usually search out my files from 2018 and 2019 and cut and paste some of the Garmin routes from them.

I'm pleased to say that normal service has been resumed but not without some consternation in the interim. We had lockdowns, when club runs were out of the question. We had the rule of six, when we could operate in a limited way and it was never sure if cafes were serving inside, outside or at all. And before the vaccines, I was never sure whether our activities were detrimental to our members or not. Happily, although several club members inevitably suffered from the disease, it seems unlikely it stemmed from our outings. There was an apparent cycling boom during the epidemic and there are still more cyclists out and about than before but that hasn't boosted our attendances at Sunday Runs. In fact numbers have decreased since 2019. Riders turning up at Mudford Rec have numbered around 30 for a summer run, in fine weather, where it would have been 40 plus pre pandemic. We have been able to host two Sandra's Hundreds since my last report. The first in 2021 attracted over 60 riders, including a large contingent from Sherborne Cycling Club. This year the ride coincided with the last really hot day of a very hot spell of weather. Numbers were down but not as low as I first thought. It transpired that three groups started very early and sensibly avoided the hottest part of the day. Of the later starters, we had one who had to drop out, one who cut short due to the heat and a couple who seemed delirious but completed the ride. My thanks go to Marilyn Cottle, whose continued support has been pivotal on the success of the event, Scott Graham for assisting Marilyn and Jane Baker, whose Broom Wagon, was vital in rescuing Ray Clift.

Obviously, purely social events were out of the question during the pandemic but we did manage a Christmas Ride or rides in 2021, which proved successful and I will ask the Prince of Wales pub on Ham Hill if we can return again this year, unless anyone can suggest an alternative venue.

I'm happy to report, that the Thursday rides are as popular as they have ever been. This is mainly down to a core of regular attendees and possibly a greater variety of routes and destinations. However, a disparity of physical ability is more noticeable with the smaller number of participants and splitting the Thursday riders into groups of like ability has proved problematic but worth persevering with. There have been some very good rides and the "away days" have added variety.

Since my last report, I have passed another significant birthday and as a septuagenarian I feel I don't have much new or fresh to offer the post of Runs Secretary. I can keep on churning out the same Sunday runs, plus the occasional new cafe stop or route, as I have for the last umpteen years but is it still what the membership wants? With Marius Evans and John Butler controlling the Thursday rides and the regular riders submitting the routes, there seems that there is a wealth of untapped potential to make runs more interesting, even if they involve more rough tracks, risky canal paths and endless climbs. What I'm trying to suggest, is that it's time for someone or more than one, who have more up to date IT skills and lots of local knowledge, to get to know what I do and do it better. That doesn't mean I'm standing down yet but sometime in the future, I will.

## **9. Records Secretary's Report**

Noticeable results since September 2021:

Alec Rich – 21:52 October 2021

Bethany Simmonds – RTTC National 25 participant June 2022

Nick Cooper – 57:49 August 2022

YCC Club events 2022

U30/5 – Alec Rich 11:04 29 March

U30/5 – Alec Rich 10:52 12 April, YCC U30/5 club record

U30/10 – Alec Rich 21:32 May

## **10. Newsletter Editor's Report**

I usually stand here and tell you the same thing each year but for a change it is slightly different this year. Some of you may have spotted that the newsletter had just three editions rather than the usual four. Published in January, to coincide with membership renewal: April for the start of the time trial season and August for the AGM. Content has remained much the same but I feel the time is fast approaching when the printed newsletter will be superseded by Facebook and the website.

## **11. Welfare Officer's Press Secretary's Report**

It is with regret that I'm standing down from the position of both Welfare Officer and Press Secretary at this Annual General Meeting. Unfortunately over the last few years I have found it increasingly difficult to give the time to these two roles that they deserve.

Thankfully another member of the club has already offered to take on the role of the Welfare Officer. This role is a mandatory role required as part of our British Cycling affiliation for the safeguarding of young people and vulnerable adults. As previously highlighted, without having younger members this role hasn't required a lot of involvement, but having a member on the committee in this role is very helpful to consider aspects from a general welfare perspective, sometimes to offer a different opinion and act as a sounding board

## **12. Press Secretary's Report**

The last few years have been sparse news wise, as for a number of years the club hasn't organised any Road Races or open Time Trials. Also, unlike periods in the past, we haven't had an abundance of members competing in competitive events, such as Road Races and Time Trials. This has meant that all that I have been reporting again for the last couple of years is the Evening Time Trials to the Western Gazette. As previously highlighted, the traditional role of press officer has changed in recent times, with modern media, such as the club's website and Facebook page taking an ever greater role.

## **13. Motions**

13.1 Proposed change to Rule 28 from the Committee – Delete the last sentence which reads "The chairman/woman may serve for a maximum of five years".

Proposed – Mark Boxall, seconded Martin Wills This was discussed and unanimously agreed by those present.

## **14. Election of Officers**

All officers are willing to continue in their roles, apart from Mark Fisher as Welfare/Press Secretary. No-one has come forward for the role of Press Secretary so it will remain vacant.

Sue Nisbet was voted in as Welfare Officer and Mark Fisher as Committee Member.

Officers for 2021/2022 are therefore:

|                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| President               | Garry Michener |
| Honorary Vice President | Derek Todd     |
| Executive Committee:    |                |
| Chairman                | Dave Notley    |
| Deputy Chairman         | Derek Todd     |
| General Secretary       | Sandra Wills   |
| Treasurer               | Derek Todd     |
| Time Trial Secretary    | Vacant         |
| Membership Secretary    | Mark Boxall    |
| Road Race Secretary     | Nick Armstrong |
| Runs Secretary          | Martin Wills   |
| Records Secretary       | Nick Young     |
| Newsletter Editor       | Dave Notley    |
| Press Secretary         | Vacant         |
| Welfare Officer         | Sue Nisbet     |
| Committee Members       | Robert Galvin  |
|                         | Mark Edwards   |
|                         | Mark Fisher    |

## 15. Affiliations

It was agreed unanimously to continue with affiliations to British Cycling, Cycling UK, CTT, Western TT Association and Road Peace.

## 16 Any Other Business

- 16.1 Catherine Fraser asked whether the accounts are audited. It was explained that this is not in the club rules and accounts are presented annually. However, Tim Watkins (club member) is a chartered accountant/auditor and is willing to audit the club accounts.
- 16.2 Catherine also suggested producing the newsletter online. Members will be asked again if they wish to continue receiving a hard copy of the newsletter.
- 16.3 Neil Cochrane asked if the income/expenditure was of a typical year, with the answer being that it is.
- 16.4 There was debate regarding the lack of club members racing. Sam Fox mentioned that Marc Powell is competing and that this may encourage others.
- 16.5 Mark Fisher reminded the meeting that in 5 years it will be the club's centenary. This will be debated at committee. An annual celebration will also be discussed.
- 16.6 Mark Fisher asked if the club would be willing to host a cyclocross race. This will be discussed at committee as there is no venue suggested and no-one has experience of this type of event apart from Mark.
- 16.7 Sue Nisbet proposed that if there are extreme temperatures predicted prior to club runs, such as the 100, they should be postponed.

Attendees were thanked for attending the meeting which closed at 9 pm.



## **Appendix A**

### **Record of Attendance of Non-Committee Members**

Stuart Wroot

Marius Evans

Julia Boxall

Alan Brimecombe

Catherine Fraser

Neil Cochrane

Scott Graham

Tim Watkins

Steph Riley

Sam Fox

Marc Powell