

Draft Annual General Meeting

15 January 2016

Walshaw Sports Club

Welcome and opening address

Martin thanked members for coming.

Present

Tony Ashworth, Mike Bigmore, Harry Box, Peter Brewer, Ben Colman, Martin Conway, Sharon Cox, Wayne Entwistle, Bobby Feven, Nick Griffiths, Frank Hanily, David Harrison, Mark Holme, Mark Leach, Derek Pritchard, Heather Stafford, Paul Vanderkamp, Jez Wadd, Rick Warburton, James Whitham plus Martyn Bowen, Adele Vanderkamp, Eileen (Sharon's mum), Janine Pritchard

Apologies

Gareth Michael Davies, Gareth Davies, Kim Hargreaves, Pete Leyden, Suzanne McDonald, Carl Morris

Minutes from previous AGM

These were accepted as correct.

Chairman's address – Martin Conway

It has overall been a quieter year for the club in 2015. We had fewer car assisted rides than in some previous years, and no specialist fundraising rides aside from the Peter Jackson Memorial ride to Southport in September. We participated in the Reg Harris Memorial ride in late August and for the third year in succession we benefited to the tune of £2000.

We had no collections in 2015, and it is difficult to remember when we last managed to do this, as street or town centre collections seem to be much harder to arrange than in the past. Therefore although our income appears largely stable, with approximately £14,000 in the bank overall, we are only ever roughly 18 months away from running out of money sufficient to keep the club on the road. There is also no certainty that the Reg Harris ride will continue as an annual event, and there is certainly no guarantee that we will continue to benefit each year.

Our pilot situation remains precarious, but as rear riders are not currently opting to come out on every ride, the demand is mostly being met. On some Sundays we have several tandems coming out, often four or five on a ride, on other Sundays we will have only one or two, and on rare occasions we may have no ride at all. Following many years of experience, Derek knows that this is simply the way it is. The committee and Derek in particular will continue to monitor the situation on an ongoing basis. Recently one or two potential pilots have come forward and we are always happy to receive new support.

Our most eventful ride of 2015 was on 26 July. This ride was held on a particularly wet summer Sunday, and it culminated in Wayne and Derek coming into direct contact with a car. Derek got a significant injury to his leg, meaning that he was unable to walk for some time, and unable to ride a bike for several weeks. It kept him from riding with the club for two months approximately. As both Derek and Wayne were thrown from the bike, the injuries sustained could have been even more serious. This brings it home to all involved the risk involved in going out

on the open road. Thankfully both Derek and Wayne were able to return to riding with the club. Relevant claims have been lodged and my understanding is that there is no question of the driver's liability.

The committee has unfortunately lost one member this year, as Janice Lowe has stood down after many years of riding with the club, and many years of serving the club through committee membership. Janice was social secretary and as she is no longer riding with the club, unfortunately she has ceased her club membership. We also have two other committee members who are unsure whether or not they can give sufficient commitment during 2016. Should they decide they cannot stay on the committee, we could be down to a committee of six, with the maximum number allowed to serve being 11.

This would mean more tasks relevant to the running of the club, falling upon fewer people. This is far from an ideal situation, and we are seeking potential new members for the committee. Anyone thinking of volunteering does not need to do so tonight. Anyone thinking of joining the committee can come to a meeting or two in order to see if it is for them. The commitment needed is to attend a meeting every six weeks, and to assist where possible with such tasks as helping with applications for fundraising grants etc. As we currently have no fundraising coordinator we are sharing the load, and so any fresh membership of the committee and any fresh ideas would be welcomed.

This club, like others of its type, belongs to its members. In some ways we appear in a very healthy state, as we have roughly £14,000 in the bank, and we have good quality tandems which are well maintained. However we are only ever hanging by a relatively thin thread. If a couple of key people were not to be in a position to continue in their present roles, the club could fold quite quickly. We will therefore have to come up with some fresh fundraising ideas this year, and we could clearly do with some freshness on the committee.

Treasurer's report

Tony Ashworth presented the accounts which had been compiled by Anne Gill and examined by Alexander Bursk Accountants.

Total income over the year was £8997.34, compared to £9832.95 in the previous year. Income came from:

- Reg Harris sportive: £2000
- Prestwich Athletics Club £1000
- BT £700
- Spirit of Dixie country and western club £310
- Miscellaneous £415

Sponsorship

- My Donate site £3159.26
- Drome to Drome: £1351.97
- Interest: £6.17
- Riderbike insurance: £53.95

Total expenditure for the year was £8655.56, compared to £9226.13 in the previous year. Expenditure included:

- Repairs and parts: £2714.24
- Mechanic wages: £3466.17
- Bike cleaning: £46
- Mechanic insurance: £1686.10
- Sundry items: including £333.05.

We generated £341.78 more income than we spent in the last year.

Total funds in the club at the end of the financial year were £16187.

Tony thanked Alexander Bursk and Anne Gill. Tony asked that we send a letter of thanks to both and noted that he had sent a small gift to Anne Gill.

Harry Box asked what the mechanic insurance was.

Tony replied this was for public liability and buildings and contents insurance.

Dave Harrison asked whether the MyDonate site charged for its use and what it has been used for.

Tony replied that there was no charge for using the site. It was recognised that the club cannot easily identify exactly what money has been raised through which events. This year money has been raised from the Southport ride (£950), Jame's Ironman (£850) and other events (£310 from John Bunting) and sundry donations.

Mark Leach suggested some of the money in the deposit account could be transferred to a higher interest account.

Tony will look into this.

Martin thanked Tony for his continued work as Treasurer.

Membership and Riderbike – James Whitham

James reported that in 2015 the club renewed 30 Riderbike insurance policies, and has taken one additional policy out since. Nine policies were not renewed, so there has been a significant drop off from year before.

The club has had two new members - Laura and Pete

There are now eight stokers and 18 pilots, of which 13 are regular Sunday riders.

In the last six months of 2015, there were 93 tandem rides. Four pilots did 60% of the rides i.e. there are a small number of pilots doing a lot of the rides and if all the stokers wanted to ride each week, this would be a problem. The club needs more pilots.

James made a special mention of Janice, who has left the club. She was a long term club member and committee member

who, over the years, gave a lot of her time and energy to organising fundraising and social events.

James noted there are still a number of Riderbike payments outstanding, and asked members to pay tonight.

2016 has started with three potential front-rider enquiries; two found us via web-site.

Three club members have made insurance claims in the last year: Derek and Wayne for the accident on Chorley New Road and Rick for an accident when cycling on his solo bicycle.

Though the claims are taking a long time to resolve, they do highlight the need for insurance and the benefits of personal cover.

James reminded members that Riderbike insurance covers them for all cycling, not just while on the tandems.

Mechanics report – Mark Holme

Mark reported that the club currently owns 19 tandems. 18 have been converted to nine speed and all have been converted to V-brakes. One tandem will be converted to nine speed when worn. Six of the tandems need kitting out with extras such as bar bag brackets, cycle computers and back lights.

One tandem was written-off due to the accident.

Mark requested that if there is a problem with a tandem, pilots use the white board and write more clearly what the problem is.

Nick Griffiths asked what had happened to the written-off tandem.

Derek responded that Longstaffs have quoted £6000 to £7000 to replace the tandem and the driver's insurance company are dragging their heels.

Mark Leach offered to help with the claim.

Fundraising – Martin Conway

Martin opened this item for discussion, stating that the club doesn't have any major fundraising rides planned for the year.

It was noted that a long ride is good for club morale and galvanises members into action. However, long rides can also lead to a lot of organisational time, especially if overnight accommodation is required.

It was noted that the club may be the Mayor's charity in 2016 and this offered good opportunities for fundraising.

It was agreed that the committee would explore a number of longer Sunday rides and separately would explore opportunities for local fundraising rides – for example static rides or laps of a circuit.

Social report – Martin

Martin noted that Janice has now left the club and there is a vacancy on the committee. There had been an event in June which Janice and Rick had organised. The President's Ride did not happen this year.

Rick noted that the committee put on events in response to members' requests. The committee remain happy to put events on but they need members to respond to emails and to continue to support the events.

Communications – Ben Colman

Ben reported he had produced three editions of Spoke in the last year and included a few ride reports. This is something to continue and he asked all members for contributions. He thanked Carl, Laura and Matthew who have all contributed.

The website has been revamped and the club is receiving emails from it. In the last year, there have been 1700 sessions on the website, 45% women and 55% men. 1/3 aged 25 to 34; 28% 35 to 54 years old, 28% 18 to 24 year olds. It was especially busy in March, May to late June and at the start of this year.

Facebook continues to be well used and we have made it a closed group as we were receiving some odd posts.

We are making contact with other cycling organisations and making some links as a referral route for new riders and to raise our profile.

Election of Officers

Mark Leach proposed that the current officers of the committee are re-elected. Jez Wadd seconded the motion and the committee was elected.

Membership

James introduced club membership fees.

The current approach is that there is no membership fee, but the club insist on all members taking out Riderbike insurance.

A number of prospective members have refused to join because they already hold insurance and don't want to pay again.

The committee has taken the view that we need all members to be insured under a single insurer for cases where there are multiple claims, such as Derek and Wayne.

However, the committee is considering moving to a paid-for membership, with the insurance included in membership. The committee would also look to further benefits of membership such as local discounts.

In order to cover the insurance fees, the membership costs would be:

Individual £25

Family £35

Any money left over following insurance fees would be added to club funds.

If accepted, the proposal would be that this would come into effect in 2016, with membership fees due at start of Sept, one month in advance of Riderbike cover finishing.

Jez Wadd asked whether this would have an impact on the club's charitable status.

Ben will look into this.

Club rules – Ben

We held a quiz over dinner to remind members of the club rules. Derek and Rick won.

Closing remarks – Martin Conway

Martin thanked everyone for attending and invited anyone who wanted to get involved in the club, to feel free to volunteer. He thanked committee members for their work.