

**Annual General Meeting held at the Fountain Inn, Parkend
Wednesday 7th October 2009.**

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 8.20pm.

1. Members Present

Graham Carter, Matthew Heaman, Trevor Hyde, Bob Parry, Andrew Freeman, Colin Parry, Bart Venner, Alan Jones, Andy Lock, Martin Green, Jeremy Addis, Earl Smith, Steve Price, Alan Crowley, Paul Sharpe, Jonathan Batts, Don Gittings, Robert Newth, Trevor Kingdon, Catherine Howard, Julie Bailey, James Riches, Kevin Reeks.

Apologies were received from Jenny Green, Andrew Jones, Louise Insall, Carol Jones, Jamie Baker, John Linden .

2. The minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 1st October 2008 had been circulated prior to the meeting were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Matt Heaman, seconded Andy Lock and carried.

There were no matters arising out of the 2008 minutes.

3. Reports.

Chairman's Report Season 2009

Again I have been proud to have been your chairman for the last 12 months.

I have however felt under a great deal of pressure recently, particularly with the Enduro organisation. I know that I am not the only one and I will talk more on this.

It is probably in my nature to over control things and I am sorry if I have put any noses out of joint, but I am acutely aware of my overall responsibility for the club and do not like things to fail. We have had a very strong committee again this year and I should rely more on you all and do less myself, but there are gaps occasionally in what we have covered off and rather than delegate I tend to just do it. Given my ever increasing work pressures and responsibility I am going to have to rely on a number of you to help out with some of the actions that I normally deal with. These include the chasing for attendees for the dinner and the chasing of the trophies ahead of the dinner. This of course presupposes that you want me to continue as your chairman.

Many thanks to all of the committee for their continued support and all of your efforts. I know that a number of you are proposing to stand down or to take on

a new position. If you do stand down thank you for all of your efforts and please don't be a stranger.

2008/2009 has seen the club move on again in many areas. These being the number of members, the performances of the racers and the size of the entry for the Enduro to name a few. However with these changes there are also pressures and growing pains. I believe that we are at a tipping point in the club's development and we need to act carefully to ensure that these changes are handled appropriately.

An example of the issues I refer to are the size of the Enduro. A great cash cow for the club but at the expense of a great deal of time and effort, sleepless nights and grey hairs from a very small group of people. I think that we should seriously consider the events future and whether this should be under our stewardship. Our continued involvement does affect our ability to promote other events and I for one would like the club to put on an open 25 mile TT.

I was a little concerned over the numbers at our club TT's as these were down on previous years. I did take a straw poll to find out why those that normally ride were not competing. Almost without exception there were genuine reasons for the absences such as changes to shift patterns, or participation in open events at the weekend which took priority etc. and not due to a problem with the events. We may want to keep an eye on this and promote the start of the programme earlier to maximise numbers.

The performances of our racing teams, both road and TT have brought us to the attention of other larger sponsored clubs and a number of riders have been approached and in the case of Jack Reed poached. We cannot and should not change to prevent this from happening in all cases but I believe that the introduction of certain measures may be required to prevent this drain on our talent pool. These measures may include a kit allowance for selected members to provide a similar offer to these sponsored clubs and to ensure that we provide a unified appearance whenever a number of us race in the same event. We need to be careful that this does not promote a them, and us attitude within the club. It is something that the club provided a number of years ago so I do not believe that we would be setting a precedent. I would appreciate your thoughts. Ultimately I would hope that we could secure sponsorship for the club as we are of a size now that would justify this. I would not want this to change the nature of the club but it is I believe a logical next step, but one that requires handling carefully with due regard to all of the potential issues.

After many years of organising the Audax, Trevor has handed this on to Steve Price. Whilst the event waxes and wanes a little each year in terms of numbers it is firmly established on the Audax calendar even if AUK seem to find new and interesting methods of frustrating our intentions each year. Thank you Trevor and Steve.

Given the increase in the size of the club and the scale and number of our activities it probably makes sense for non committee members to take on specific tasks to spread the load. I would encourage all to consider where they could help out. It may be sensible to consider providing a shadow for a number of the committee posts to spread the burden and perhaps show others what is required for a potential future position.

We do need to follow up on the junior recruitment ideas that we have and sign up the welfare officers as agreed. Trevor has done another manful job on this one but has I think been frustrated by a number of us not completing the forms correctly. Sorry. One way of encouraging additional younger riders may be by the club purchasing a couple of cyclo cross bikes to allow a taste of mass start racing without the danger of cars and other road users. This has been discussed previously and again I would be interested in opinions.

It is comforting to again have attracted additional members and we have seen a number of these being very active in the last few months.

We have again taken part in almost all aspects of cycling and for the first time for many years we are active again in cyclo cross.

I believe that we continue to meet our intentions of promoting all aspects of cycle sport and the promotion of good fellowship in cycling as amply demonstrated by the recent Vintage Tankard.

I appreciate that I have given a slightly negative report this year but we are in great shape and I am warning in part against complacency. My watch words for the future are caution and pragmatism. Caution that we do not become blasé and enter a period of decline for the club, and pragmatism in the way that we approach some of the decisions that we will need to take to keep the club moving in the right direction for the benefit of all members.

I have been encouraged by a number of senior members of the club to continue as chairman again this year and for the foreseeable future. I am happy to do this if people feel that I still have something to offer and as long as I continue to enjoy myself. On the other hand if someone is keen to take on the position I would give them my full support to move into the position.

Thank you.

Treasurer.

The Account Balances Report was circulated (copies available from Treasurer or Secretary).

Alan Jones reported difficulties caused by the timing of the Enduro which impacts on the on the production of the annual accounts. Coming as the Enduro does not all income and expenditure has been finalised yet and the annual balance sheet will reflect this. The income for the year was

£8219.03; the expenditure £8724.45, making the expenditure over income £505.42.

The Current account stands at £866.24; the Stroud and Swindon Building Society account is £623.98 which includes the donation made to the Club by Mr & Mrs Watson in memory of Tim. The Club has £1350 held in the stock of Club kit

Bart Venner proposed a vote of thanks for Alan's work over the year which was seconded by Trevor Hyde

Secretary's Report

I commenced the Club year as the Membership Secretary and finished it as the Club Secretary.

As Graham Carter did not want to stand for Secretary this past year I stepped into the role and Julie was volunteered into the role of Membership Sec. Although not doubt covered in Matt's report the highlight of the year was the success of the Enduro with close to 400 entrants. At the same time it was a bit of a nightmare for me pre and post event with some ongoing issues yet to be resolved.

This was my last year as organiser of the Clubs Audax events in May. I've have passed this baton over to the safe keeping of Steve Price who has plans to expand these events.

From the perspective of the Secretary the year has been straightforward with regular attendance at monthly meetings and keeping the membership up to date with Club matters. This is quite straightforward usually being mainly email, but I would urge members to update the Membership Sec with any changes immediately they happen. It would be great to see more of our members at events, perhaps then I could rid myself of some of the 100 drinks bottles that we bought for the membership at the start of the year.

My target for this year was to help develop a youth policy and I have to own up to being disappointed. Despite an enthusiastic start with 5 volunteers it seems to have lost the way. Maybe the Club needs to major on this so that we can attract youngsters and hold them.

I have enjoyed the experience of serving on the committee over the past 7 years as Press Sec, Kit man, Membership Sec and Sec but I would like to stand down from the Committee if someone else can be found. I find the 20 odd miles between Newent and The Forest to be an obstacle to me doing the job as well as I might, one needs to live in the Forest ideally. I miss so much just by living somewhere else.

We need new blood on the Committee in order to keep the Club vibrant and forward looking.

Press Secretary

Martin Green thanked contributors for their reports over the year. A new response form was started this year and things began in a healthy way but then dropped back to the usual contributors, he is always happy to receive report by phone if it helps. Martin felt the coverage in the local press has been very good with the exception of the Forest Review. Martin also felt that the success of the Enduro was in no small part due to getting press releases into the mountain biking press.

Martin felt it would be an advantage to extend the role to include that of runs secretary whereby he would organise Club runs and leaders.

He was happy to continue in the role if elected.

Racing Secretary

John Linden reports that it has not been quite such a good season as last year; 230 raced the time trials (including the VT) as against 281 in 2007 and 236 in 2008.

I think it is partly a cyclical thing but also we have tended to have poor weather on Tuesdays - I remember 2007 as being consistently good. On a positive note this year saw the successful creation and use of the Hilly Lydbrook 15 mile event and I expect that we will make use of the course a number of times next season. The proximity of the New Inn being a pleasant benefit.

John was happy to stand for re-election... also happy to step aside if anyone else fancied a go.

Social Secretary

Andrew Lock reported the dinner in 2008 was quite a good event inspite of the poor food at the Courtfield Arms. This years dinner at the Annexe in Lydney was looking good as the time gets closer. At the moment there will be no guest speaker but John Fisher will attend to give the prizes. The 60th Anniversary party was a notable success but Andrew felt the Bar-B-Q was a disappointment and poorly attended. Andrew urged members to reply to emails in respect of social events.

He was not prepared to stand for re-election.

Membership Secretary

Julie Bailey reports a very successful year for Club membership with 124 members on the books. She has already started the process of sending out subscription reminders for the new 2010 Club year.

Julie was prepared to stand again as Membership Secretary.

Club Shop Co-Ordinator

Bob Parry reported that the Club has £1350 worth of Club Kit in stock. He felt this was quality kit and was less expensive than other club that was to be had on the market. Bob expressed a wish to stand again in the post.

Ladies' Representative

There was no report from Louise Insall but it was felt that apart from personal commitment she had been frustrated by the lack of interest from women riders over the last year. Louise has resigned from the post.

Web Site Manager

Jenny Green felt that her skills were limited and she would like some feedback on occasion. She was happy to continue in the role unless someone else with suitable skills wanted to do it.

4.

To vote on 3 proposals tabled by Matthew Heaman.

a) That the Club provide a kit allowance to be determined by the Committee for selected riders in order to retain talent within the Clubs membership.

There was wide ranging discussion on youth involvement rather than a kit allowance. It was felt by some that any money would be better spent on coaching and attracting youngsters to the Club. During the debate Alan Crowley volunteered himself as a coach. There was no seconder for the proposal and it was therefore not taken up.

b) For the Royal Dean Forest Club to register with South Wales DC for time trial purposes. This was proposed by Matt and seconded by Earl Smith and was carried by the membership present.

c) For the Club to provide Club kit in children's sizes. This was also agreed by the membership present.

5. Election of Committee

Position		Proposed	Seconded	
Chairman	Matthew Heaman	Trevor Kingdon	Earl Smith	Elected unopposed
Treasurer	Alan Jones	Bart Venner	Kevin Reeks	Elected unopposed
Secretary	Trevor Kingdon	Matthew Heaman	Jim Riches	Elected unopposed
Press Secretary	Martin Green	Graham Carter	Julie Bailey	Elected unopposed
Racing Secretary	John Linden	Matthew Heaman	Trevor Hyde	Elected unopposed
Social Secretary	No candidate	Position vacant		
Membership Secretary	Julie Bailey	Trevor Hyde	Andrew Lock	Elected unopposed
Club Shop	Bob Parry	Matthew Heaman	Martin Green	Elected unopposed
Ladies Representative	Catherine Howard	Julie Bailey	Jim Riches	Elected unopposed
Website manager	Jenny Green	Bart Venner	Graham Carter	Elected unopposed
Club Coach	Alan Crowley	Bart Venner	Kevin Reeks	Elected unopposed
Co-opted member	Ben Oliver	Jim Riches	Andrew Lock	Elected
Co-opted member	Trevor Hyde	Trevor Kingdon	Matthew Heaman	Elected

During the elections for Club officers there was a proposal that a club coach be appointed during the elections.

6. Matters Arising

Matt Heaman - The Club will have to make some decisions about the Enduro which had got very big and difficult to managed perhaps the Club should sell it to a commercial eventing company or possible go on-line entry only. Wide discussion on this, parking for the event had also become an issue.

Andrew Freeman - Gave a vote of thanks to the Committee and led a round of applause

Jeremy Addis - Asked when was the Club kit going to be updated. There was a discussion on this. The Committee would look at this.

Catherine Howard - The email address list must be kept up to date. Her experience of note going round leading up to the Vintage Tankard indicated this to be the case.

Colin Parry - Said it was good to see the Club doing so well.

Kevin Reeks asked what were the qualifying criteria for Club trophies. Matt Heaman explained that in all cases 1st claim riders qualified. The exception to this was the Lindsay Venner Trophy and this was decided by the Venner family.

Trevor Kingdon made an offer to support the club through his company by way of cycles and clothing and to provide selected club members with a sponsorship deal to be decided.

Martin Green said that Club members should be supported by having entry fees paid by the Club. The Club should also aim to socialise after events and to change the format of Club meetings to change to try to work into them a social element. New faces were needed as ride leaders.

Graham Carter said the Forest of Dean Community Sport and Physical Activity Network were offering 8 - 10 session to anyone in a Forest sport club free of any charge. They have a budget of £15000 for this.

Bart Venner praised all involved with the Vintage Tankard and what a good effort it was.

There was no further business and the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.30pm.

Date of next years AGM; **Wednesday October 6th 2010.**