

CTC New Forest Rally Cycle Club

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held on 27th July 2013

Present: Andy Cook(chairman), Davin Palmer (organiser), Carole Russell (Treasurer), Bob Cooper (publicity), Rupert Harris (auditor), John Capell (secretary) and approx 80 club members.

- 1. Opening address by Chairman.** Andy Cook welcomed everyone to the meeting; this is the 39th edition of the New Forest Cycling Week and he congratulated Geoff and Lyn Clark, who had been present at the first Rally in 1975. Andy informed members as we are a “CTC Member Group” it is a CTC requirement, that we must have an annual general meeting, although it is clearly not feasible to hold the meeting in the October/November period as per other Member Groups. The Rally is also a CTC National Event in status, similar to the Birthday Rides, the Welsh Festival of Cycling and the York Rally – the latter was cancelled this year, a fate which he did not expect to befall the New Forest Cycling Week!

Andy continued by saying that a full report on our event had been submitted to the CTC, including accounts, which had been audited by the CTC Auditor; copies of the reports and accounts were available from the secretary. Insurance for the Rally was covered by CTC Insurance, which applied to events attended by up to 250 people. He urged all those attending the Rally to ride carefully, both on the site and in the New Forest National Park – overall cycling has a good safety record, but an accident had occurred to one of our members earlier today – please therefore ride carefully. Lastly, Andy thanked the committee and also Janice and Dan Montgomerie for their excellent efforts in transferring the many photographs onto digital

- 2. On-site Organiser’s Report.** Davin thanked Andy for his opening remarks and explained that the success of the Rally is dependent on volunteers, who are willing to lead rides – we need at least 3 rides each day written up on the Information Board, otherwise the groups are too large. He asked that leaders should not just accompany their friends and relatives, but open up their rides to other attendees at the Rally. Another issue causing concern was the future of the Rally – numbers are down this year – mostly the Rally is attended by regulars, some of whom have been coming for many years, but sadly each year some are unable to attend as old age takes its toll. We welcome newcomers but unless we get more publicity, numbers may well decline and perhaps we should consider advertising in the CTC magazine. The secretary explained that we are in a strong financial position, but that this was a matter for the organising committee.

Davin went on to give details on the trip to Calshot Velodrome and Simone explained the arrangements for Wednesday’s children’s activities, the Science experiments evening courtesy of Bournemouth University and the evening swimming sessions on Sunday and Tuesday.

- 3. Address by Louis Bonner, Director of UK Youth at Avon Tyrrell.** Louis gave a brief history of the manor house, which was built in 1892, largely thanks to a successful wager by Lord Manners, who unexpectedly won the Grand National in 1881. It is a grade 1 Listed Building and during the last war, it was used initially by evacuees, then by the Canadian Army Intelligence unit and in 1946, donated to the National Association of Boys Clubs, in due course becoming the UK Centre for the

National Association of Youth Clubs(NAYC) of which there are 40 local associations and 7000 clubs, catering for 790,000 children and young people. Avon Tyrrell has 60 employees and is used by over 20,000 youngsters each year. The President of NAYC is Nigel Mansell, a keen cycling enthusiast and this year, the NAYC's cycling team enjoyed national success. Apart from our event, the site is also used for the "Big Bike Bash" Mountain bike festival.

Louis said that he hoped the new shower and toilet block by the lake would be ready next year – planning permission had been obtained and ground works started; approx £70,000 remained to be raised but he was confident that this sum would be forthcoming.

4. **Election of the Organising Committee.** From the floor it was proposed and seconded that the existing committee be re-elected; this was agreed nem con:-
Chairman: Andy Cook, Organiser: Davin Palmer, Treasurer: Carole Russell,
Publicity: Bob Cooper, Auditor: Rupert Harris and Secretary: John Capell.
Sharon proposed a vote of thanks to the officials, which was readily agreed by all.
5. **Refreshments.** At the close of the formal meeting, members enjoyed cheese and wine.