

# Ridgeway Riders Cycling Club AGM Minutes 14-11-2020

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## 1. Members Present

Steve Acutt, Gary Batchelor, Delia Carr, Nick Crabb, Chris Dawson, Chris Dooley, John Eldridge, Neil Farmer, Christina Guppy, Steve Hedges, Andy Jones, Chris Jones, Frank Kerlake, George Leslie, Lisa Livingston, Mark Machin, Simon Boyne-Manche, Peter McKernan, Shirley Millar, Ro Morgan, Charlotte Norris, Rebecca Pearce, Mark Rodgers, Rachael Smith, Brian Stalker, Craig Thomas, Col Thorne, Helen Timms, David Verner-Jefferies, Karl Watson, Matt Woodward.

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## 2. Apologies

Apologies were received from; Terry Goldsmith, Mike Herrin, Steve Wash for not attending.

## 3. Introductions and Welcome

Karl Watson (General Secretary), Steve Wash (Chairperson), Lotte Norris (Chairperson)

## 4. Minutes form last AGM

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

## 5. Treasurers Report

Andy Jones confirmed there was not a great deal to report due to Covid-19. Andy presented the figures in a PowerPoint which was clear and presented the figures money going in and out clearly to all present. Balancing nicely start of year balance was £248 and is now £531. Donated £100 donation to Children in Need, this amount is to come off the balance shown.

## 6. Chairpersons Report-Steve Wash and Lotte Norris

Karl introduced Lotte Norris to read the Chair's report which was well received.

General

You don't need me to tell you what a difficult year it has been for everyone and for our club.

Our rides' programme, social activities and charity / community involvement projects have been heavily impacted. Despite all this our Club has gone from strength to strength. I think a lot of this has been down to:

- a) the overall surge and growth in cycling as an exercise because of the lockdown caused by the pandemic.

- b) the reputation that our club has earned as a community club, encouraging and developing cycling at all levels & abilities.

This has led to a growth in Facebook members from 414 last year to 539 (as at 9.11.20) and in official members, up from 108 last year to 134 this year.

I would like to pay tribute to all committee members, who have worked hard all year to keep the profile and running of the Club going in these challenging times.

In particular, the efforts put in following the easing of lockdown to get club rides up and running within the Covid-19 rules and for the safety and wellbeing of our members.

The organisation and running of these rides was incredible, with large numbers turning out every week, right across the spectrum of abilities, including the very successful ladies only rides. So thank you to all the ride organisers, route mappers, and ride leaders for that.

Those rides, limited in numbers, of similar abilities, may well be as a blueprint for future organised rides when things return to normal, not only because of the manageable numbers and confidence of the riders, but the safety element of a smaller, controlled group on the roads. In particular, I think more novice and not so confident riders have been more inclined to come out on these rides. Something to think about.

Sponsorship - a bit up in the air at the moment. We have obviously lost Ricol Cycles and are currently seeking a new main sponsor.

Sandsfoot Cafe, Dunning Motors & Upwey Wishing Well are still offering RRCC Official members a discount.

Let's hope we can get back to some form of normality soon and look forward to some great events next year.

Special mention to Peter McKernan, Simon Boyne-Manchee and Daniel Mallon for achieving their 200-mile ride goals this year. Charlotte added: The Club donated the postal cost of sending a load of used inner tubes to the charity 'Cycle of Good' who repurpose them in Malawi, providing people with skills and an income. I am intending to speak to FixBike to see if they are willing to be a collection point for used inner tubes so that I can promote it to club members as drop off point. It was noted that Velo Lounge is a collection point. Shirley Millar offered to speak to Halfords to see if Dorchester and Weymouth branches of the store could be used. Charlotte said that she would contact her to see what could be arranged so that club members could be notified.

Lotte added a mention for the people who did the 200 milers this year Simon Boyne-Manchee Mike Machin and Peter McKernan Dan Allen, well done to all of them.

Lottie also added that this year the club paid for us to send in a load of used inner tubes to charity "cycle of good" based in Malawi and repurpose into all kinds of goods, Lotte is going to ask Fix Bike to see if they will be an alternative drop off point to stop inner tubes going to land fill. Shirley offered to ask management and staff at Halfords and it was mentioned that the Velo Lounge do the same.

## 7. Women's officer report - Rebecca Pearce

Rebecca Pearce then gave an informative presentation on the Women's development stating her proudest moment was the first ever ladies ride, 26 women on that day and how we were blessed with fantastic weather. She said it was just a fab morning and saw so many new faces that day, and there was lots of cake. 36 new women joined in over those two rides. Rebecca said the plan is to have at least one ride a month to get everyone involved as much as possible.

Rebecca spoke about women's rides nationally, and mentioned about a couple of women moving this forward nationally the hill climbing championships Laurie Constana was trying to get as many women because it's been so under represented over the years. This year there were over 100 women, and our own Laura Oler was present representing RR, which was fantastic especially as she had tried to get as many of us involved as possible.

There are lots of women trying to tackle gender equality in women's cycling and the little bit of work we do in our club encouraging more women to get involved to remove sexism, less stereotyping and generally less prejudice. The club were keen that this message should be conveyed strongly and everything possible done to ensure women had an equal opportunity and that they were helped in every way possible to feel included and as part of the club as possible and that any barriers to that be removed.

Another group doing much for women's cycling are the Internationelles fighting for equalities, those key areas, those imbalances between men's and women's sport.

Rebecca then shared some interesting facts, next year going to look at some of these barriers and what we can do to encourage women to take part and feel part of the wider club. We had a cake morning and spoke about barriers preventing women having ago. Lacking confidence, holding people up, what do I wear, clipping in, starting on a hill were all things mentioned.

Rebecca was adamant that we as a Club we need to think how we can breakdown these barriers and what drives us to take part. For some it's friendship and support, just being outside, pushing yourself, improving fitness, losing weight, getting faster and starting to race. Rebecca is going to look at ways the club can continue to encourage beginners coming to give it a go, develop group riding, getting teams together to enter time trialing events. Navigation planning routes, Strava and Zwift, developing future riders generally were other topics mentioned as areas for development.

First time trial event is on boxing day, just this side of new forest, fun one fancy dress and Rebecca enthusiastically requested that anyone could join her who wanted to have a go.

## 8. Cycling development officer's report - Mark Rodgers

Mark thanked Rebecca for a great report.

Covid-19 has worked out well for the club, club rides were very big and the groups became fragmented.

Where we've been riding in groups of 6 has focused more on speed which has helped to identify a suitable group to ride with. Even when Covid-19 is over we'll stick to this routine and specific pace so that people are more in their comfort zone.

Mark has made it his priority to help novice riders move on to Group 1 rides and he has been successful in achieving this in addition to supporting men and women building up stamina in Group 2 rides. His favourite ride of the year was with Mags, Elaine and Julie, They set off with Gary and could see they were anxious, but at the end of the day at the top of ridgeway the smiles on all their 3 faces was absolutely brilliant to see. They had said their pace would be around 12mph and Mark said no problem "we'll go at your pace".. they'd averaged almost 14mph and they couldn't believe it! The sense of achievement was brilliant. Mark said again he would like to develop more of that. Mark mentioned rider safety especially for novices it was really important to have ride leader safety and encouragement.

Mark thanked those who had stepped up to lead group rides; Simon Boyne-Manchee, Andy Jones, Karl Watson, Darren Collins, Col Thorne, Adrian Parry, Andy Jones, Martin Hepworth Chris Dooley probably forgotten some others but he wanted to thank them all personally and hoped it would continue.

Mark introduced Col Thorne Kit and Route Co-ordinator.

Col reiterated a point Rebecca had made about confidence, has talked to people on rides, worried about slowing rides down, it's all in the head, easy for me to say that, the club's brilliant see in 2021 want to see a lot of people out we have lots of members we've never seen be great to get some more of those out.

## 9. Chief ride and kit coordinator's report - Col Thorne

Col Thorne confirmed that the groups of 6 is working very well, makes safer and more sociable. Way to stay works out better and safer. The club is brilliant and has grown which is what we wanted. Good genuine people can't really say any more that an bring on 2021 onwards and upwards! Day trips out just to drive and do Cheddar Gorge get out of the county and lots of options locally. Happy to drive that forward if people want to.

## 10. General Secretary's Report - Karl Watson

Ricol no longer sponsoring us, Karl thanked John and Jude & Kerry at Ricol for their support over the last 4 years. Karl also thanked Sam at Sandsfoot Café, and Gareth at Dunning Automatics for their support.

So we're looking at new sponsors and are in talks at the moment - open to anyone sponsoring if we feel it's in the clubs' interest.

Once again, we're going to be associated with British cycling for a year, this has been a useful way to communicate to club members such as sending out tonight's' zoom invitation.

On to Jersey design, this takes time. We had our original jersey this will not change, apart from sponsors. It's not going to change because it's instantly recognisable, so we're just going to keep it as it is. However, we will be having a women's/racing jersey for TT. (There were no comments from committee members on this subject)

Karl thanked everyone who has given feedback, in particular Helen Timms and George Lawson for their input and suggestions to help create inclusivity for the club. (Helen had created a user research problem statement document which she had forwarded to the committee for their review).

Karl has produced brand guidelines on Facebook and on website as well.

Karl said the logo not going to change, will be the same.

Supplier is changing now looking for new one and has asked the current supplier to close twice. Decision on new jerseys will be made end of new year/beginning of new year.

Due to change in sponsor we can't race in our current jersey we'll be fined if we do this is a British cycling rule.

Karl confirmed that as Col is now kit manager, he would be working closely with anyone in the committee if there's anyone who wants to help him your more than welcome to contact Col and Rebecca to ensure your involvement when the time comes.

Karl mention the safety guidelines are on the website and invited everyone to please read them. We had one major accident and as a club the intention is to mitigate accidents as much as possible by raising the awareness of the guidelines, especially as keen riders were stepping up to help.

Karl demoed an idea sharing his screen, regarding the club website, where routes could be created and viewed, and people could go and put events in. The web browser version scaled to mobile phones so could be viewed easily. The reason for doing this everyone has access to the internet one central place that can be accessed without going on social media as not everyone in the club is on Facebook.

Helen asked if there could be a folder created where all existing routes that have been created could be stored and accessed by members. A member asked if anyone could add to that, Karl replied he would give access to ride leaders.

Mark Rodgers agreed about having a central pool of routes that everyone could access so that if anyone wanted to go out on their own they could download a ride to their device and off they go. Be good to have a database in the same way that other clubs in the area have done. Helen and other members agreed.

Col raised the issue whereby people were clicking Interested people not saying Going and Helen raised the point that it could be that people didn't want to put in a public domain that they were going to be out of their home for most of the day! Helen suggested having a similar set up to Purbeck Peleton where there was a public and private Facebook page. Karl said they did have a private Facebook group but not being used now and that the committee would address this issue. Mark Rodgers mentioned they did have a private group set up for members, Karl confirmed that this would be discussed within the committee and a decision made.

Karl thanked everyone who's helped with admin of rides, who'd come up with ideas for the easy administration of rides such as setting up a members' WhatsApp group (for those not on Facebook) and mentioned that Adrian Parry suggested using OSM app (boy scouts use it) for organising rides, it's to do with the boy scouts, he'd had a look, suggested others have a look.

Helen Timms typed in the chat that the google sheets idea she'd shared had been working well, was free and easy for all to access (with training if necessary). By individuals being able to add and remove themselves took away the necessity for ride leaders to all the administration and could be made private. Simon Boyne-Manchee endorsed Helen's comment also using the chat functionality.

Karl suggested having a monthly committee meeting on zoom, this was well received and it was agreed they would start in December.

On a personal note Karl thanked everyone involved in the Club especially ride leaders and the volunteers. Thank you!

## 11. Election of committee members

Election of new committee member if needed, Karl and the committee agreed they were happy with 7 as it made voting easier and this was carried forward.

General Secretary	Karl Watson
Chairperson	Lotte Norris
Chairperson	Steve Wash
Women's Officer	Rebecca Pearce
Cycling development officer	Mark Rodgers
Chief ride and kit coordinator	Col Thorne
Treasurer	Andy Jones

## 12. AOB

Karl asked Helen if there was anything she wanted to add.

Helen, a bit taken by surprise replied that the ride leaders especially for the women's rides and the kit had pretty much been covered by Karl and Rebecca Pearce.

## 13. Questions from the floor

Rachael Smith then asked what credentials were required to be a ride leader.

And that she would like a bike maintenance session when we could meet again after lockdown.

Chris Jones suggested a weeklong riding course, would it be feasible for someone enroll, it's in Bristol (30 days access to e-learning platform and it starts at £135, assessment after that. Not on premises.) Lottie has mentioned it and it's a brilliant resource and disseminate to existing and potential ride leaders. It was suggested a list be created somewhere for those to add who would like to be ride leaders so that we know who they are. Internally, we could do inhouse Ride leaders lesson where people are mentored. A shorter course online was mentioned. Some felt competence and being able to carry out maintenance on route were important.

Helen pointed out there will be some good you tube videos on ride leading which in the virtual world we're in might be a good starting point. Mark said he felt that competence and maintenance not big issue because if bike goes wrong there's not massive amount you can do on a ride. He felt it was more about having the confidence and enthusiasm to lead a group, that to him was the most important part of being a ride leader. John Nicholson ran an evening course for the ladies maybe something we could ask John or Martin because he's got the premises to do again. Run half a dozen people at a time. Good ride ethic, controls, safety awareness and the ability to ensure everyone is safe and involved were all the points raised.

Gary Bachelor suggested putting a simple guide together for ride leaders, Chris Jones offered to help as that's his background. Col mentioned at one point it was suggested carrying a basic first aid kit. David Verner-Jefferies suggested if people are first aid qualified, they could self-disclose and carry a kit.

Chris Dooley added that he's found the rule of 6 was working well and should be continued even after Covid-19. It would help people to move up through the groups and spoke about having a bare minimum number. David responded after a slight pause that we're all adults and cycle under their own volition but good idea to have a back-up plan to which everyone agreed.

## 14. Presentations

Then it was time for the Presentations, there were 4 awards and the winners were;  
First award spirit of the club award - voted by committee members, winner was Chris Dooley. Karl mentioned this was a unanimous vote).

Most improved male rider - Neil Farmer

Most Improved women's rider - Delia Carr and Rebecca Pearce - Draw

Ridgeway Riders Rider of the Year Simon Boyne-Manchee

And that concludes this year's AGM, congratulations to everyone who got involved - a great year.

Karl Watson thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 08:01pm.

**The end :-)**