

# Ridgeway Riders Cycling Club AGM Minutes 20-11-2021

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## 1. Members Present

Alyson Curtis, Andrea Scott, Nigel Gallican, Andy Jones, Nick Crabb, Rachel Crabb, Simon Broom, Gareth Dunning, Pete Mckernan, Gary Long, Steve Acutt, Alan Pearce, Victoria Barnett Matt Pye, Mark Rodgers, Becky Pearce and Karl Watson. Other members were there but didn't sign the attendance sheet.

## 2. Apologies

Apologies were received from; Steve Wash, Alaine Harman, Mark Harman, Steve Hedges, and Mags Almond for not attending.

## 3. Introductions and Welcome

Karl Watson (General Secretary), Mark Rodgers (Welfare Officer), Rebecca Pearce (Woman's Officer)

## 4. Minutes form last AGM

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

## 5. Treasurers Report

Just a quick summary of what's gone on in the club's finances this year. We've received £1,410 in subscriptions plus a further £500 for the club's assistance in the Weymouth Ironman event.

We've spent £346 affiliation fee to British Cycling and contributed £200 to Weldmar and £50 to the crowd funding funeral costs for the cyclist that lost his life last week. The club giveaway this year, the buffs, cost £660. We've also incurred other expenses associated with the Ironman etc totalling £168.

Alongside this we have received £1000 in sponsorship to go towards the new kit. This has meant that we will have a few 'spares' to be used/purchased if people missed out first time.

The bank balance currently stands at a respectable £844.

## 6. Chairpersons Report-Steve Wash

Welcome & thanks to everyone for coming.

Good to be back to some normality after difficult year. Our Club has continued to grow & evolve, thanks to the Committee for their hard work & to our members, especially those who have organised our rides in a safe & structured manner.

Official member numbers up from 134 last year to 150!!!! this year.

Well done to members for their achievements this past year, RAFA 500, Rebecca, Wales in a Day, C2C, and LeJog Jon Hollund, Mags, Alaine and Mark (any more ?) Claire Carlin Graham eating the most cake! and personal achievements.

Thanks to Ironman volunteers and Rebecca for organising, allows us to support other athletes and donate to worthy causes.

I was going to talk about Sponsorship but I think Steve H is doing that.

I think it's worth a word / reminder of safety now Winter months approach : clothing, lights, brakes, tyres. Enjoy your evening

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

It was the start of something, which, I think was really special and we developed the women only rides over the year. There hasn't been as many as I'd hoped. Obviously, Covid got a little bit in the way, but they have been really well attended. They focused very much on the social side of riding. We've made lots of lovely cakes for each ride and had cake stops as well as our coffee stops on the ride, which have been really well received. And my Children have loved making the cakes, so hopefully they've gone down well. I want to talk about some women ladies who have done amazing things over the year as part of this presentation because I think we've had two people this year who have done the most incredible thing and they're not unfortunately here tonight, but they've cycled 874 miles over two weeks, and that Mark was telling me, they were averaging 70 plus miles every day for two weeks. Just thinking about how I feel after one day of cycling 70 miles is pretty amazing and I know that Mark has been doing lots of work with them in preparation for that. And I asked him a few days ago about how they were at the start and I obviously have talked to them about it, and they were really nervous about doing this and initially didn't think they could do it. They've done the most incredible thing. And I think that that kind of feeling about not thinking you can do something and then actually stepping out and stepping up and doing it is something that I feel really kind of strongly about. It's getting that motivation to do something that you didn't think was possible, that's so powerful. Cycling is really good for helping you to do that. There's lots of ladies who've done lots of brilliant things this year, and Mags and Elaine doing the Land's End to John O'Groats, I think was truly inspirational and I know I'm sure many of you followed there their posts every day about how their day had gone and how they were feeling. It really was an incredible achievement, and I think it sums up what we're about as a club. I think Mark, your work with them and getting them to actually feel like they could achieve that and do it was so important to them and really powerful. I know you said that one of the most important things for you when you're helping them prepare was getting their average to 11, 12 miles an hour for their rides. One day they had a 13 mile an hour average and the looks on their faces when they realised what they've done was really special for Mark and obviously for them as well. And I think for me as the women's officer, helping people to achieve things that they didn't think was possible is really important.

I know there's lots of other people in here looking over to this table over here and there's some ladies there sat there who have achieved incredible things as well. I'd like to mention Shirley because she's someone who has stepped up amazingly this year and I love following your kind of posts about what you've been doing. You always do it with a little cheeky comment or something naughty. I know you haven't been feeling particularly well the last few weeks. But I've loved seeing and hearing about how you've developed in your confidence and the amount that you can cycle. And I think Alison, you've helped helped her to do that and I think it's people like that that make our club so special because Alyson has been doing her mystery rides, which I've loved hearing about. Unfortunately, I'm always working when you're when you're doing them, but I think it's people like that who made things really special. You've enabled Shirley and others to do things that probably a few years ago, you wouldn't have thought that you could do and I think that's that's really important. I mean, there's some others, Delia who's sitting over there who whips it up the hills and done amazing things this year and should feel really proud. And Victoria who, when I ride behind you, your cadence and you're pedalling power is just incredible because I'm someone who slogs away on this massive gear and exerts loads of effort and she's there, pedalling away really fast and economically and making it look so easy. So we have got some amazing ladies in this club. Laura, who's not here tonight who who's been doing some of the time trialling with me and also did the National Hill Climbing Championships this year, is another one who has done amazing things. And I think it's just about how for me, I see my role as how we can get more people involved in the club and doing these incredible things I've probably followed the Ridgeway Riders on the Facebook page, must have been six months before I dared actually come out on a ride and I still remember that vividly now my first ride and what it was like and how I felt.

I see my role in the committee as thinking about ways of how we can encourage more women to get involved in cycling because there's so many barriers out there. I think not just women but men as well. I'm sure they feel the same sometimes but I know women. We feel like we're not going to be fast enough or we're not going to be good enough or we're going to keep holding people back. I felt the same today for my first mountain bike ride with the club. I still get nervous. I know it sounds crazy because I've been out with the club loads, but I still get nervous before every ride, and that's that's maybe just what kind of person I am. But I see my role in the club as trying to break down those barriers and getting people involved in cycling who think, well, can I do it? My message to everyone, probably not the people who are here, because there's obviously not many women here tonight but is yes you can and it's making that first step and I think we've got a wonderful club who support and encourage and make you feel good about yourself. Even when you had a really crap ride, they still say those things and it's a that's what I think makes our club so special. And through the women's rides, we've been talking a lot about kind of barriers to women taking part in cycling, whether it be kind of a lack of confidence or thinking, will I keep up with everybody and I'm going to hold people up to am I fit Enough, is the weather rubbish. The road is going to be crappy riding with other men and how they're going to perceive me. And it's all things that certainly go through my mind. It's how we as a club can break these down because there's lots of things wanting us to get out and give it a go. But sometimes it's not easy.

So, we've talked in the women's rides and I've tried to write down things that people have said after the rides that are important and ideas for the future. So I just want to share some of those with you, obviously carrying on with beginner rides? I know Andy's been doing an

amazing job with beginners and getting loads of new people out. You kind of see little groups developing where people have got confidence to go out with a certain group, and that's really good to see. And so many have got involved in those rides.

I suppose another thing for me is with the time trialling. Before last year I wouldn't have dreamt of kind of getting involved in time trialling and I always thought, Well, I'm not fast enough. I'm not good enough. This club has helped me to believe that I can do it. And so what I want to try and do next year is to get more women, but also more men as well, involved in the time trialling. It's a really supportive, friendly kind of community that meets, locally on a Tuesday, which is local to us. Also the Poole Wheeler's do things on a Wednesday night as well. So any of you who maybe haven't done it before, but think I might like to give it a go, I mean, I'm totally addicted now and it's taken over my life in a crazy kind of way. I never thought that would have been possible. So I'm hoping that next year we can develop more people getting involved in that, so hopefully some of the women and some of the men would like to get involved in that next year. I'm going to stop now because I think I'm just going on!

## 8. Welfare officer's report - Mark Rodgers

Good evening, everyone. So I've taken over from Lotte Norris, who was welfare officer for the last couple of years. Unfortunately, due to work commitments, she had to step back. So I'm taking over from her. So, really welfare officer is, luckily, from our clubs point of view has been quite a quiet role. Because generally if something goes wrong, then the welfare officer has to step in. We have a couple of issues this year, but they managed to be resolved fairly well. So we're okay. So, for me, being a welfare officer, it's generally about the safety of all our riders. So the main priority of our club, I think is trying to send the word out to everyone that, well, to people that were interested in cycling to join our club, give it a go. I'm sure loads of people would like it. But from a serious point of view, the safety is obviously a big aspect of our club. We did have a new rider today that came out in our ride. Although I wasn't there at the time due to various reasons, David did come off his bike today and had quite a nasty fall. I have messaged him and he is okay, but he's going to be very, very sore tomorrow morning because he did come down quite hard. So, obviously with group rides, from a safety aspect, point of view, it's a lot safer, I think riding in groups. If you do ever go out on your own, then obviously the key thing to do is let someone know you're going out. Emergency contact numbers, those sorts of common sense type of things.

I've got quite a lot of thanks to say to people just from being at the club, being a member of the club for such a long time, I'd like to thank Karl for his tireless work and commitment to the club. He just doesn't stop, and he's what our club is all about and I like to thank you for that. I like to thank Alyson for trying to push our midweek rides which has been really really popular. Not everyone is free weekends so midweek rides are quite helpful for a lot of people, so thank you so much for that. I would really like to thank Andy Jones for your

Sunday rides. You've done a fantastic job and he's really, really helped the club move on with encouraging, new people to the club and it's just going from strength to strength. I see every Sunday 15, 20, 25 people joining. So it's thanks so much, Andy. You're one of the main people that's made our members grow from strength to strength, so thank you very much. I'd also like to thank our sponsors. Sven cycles are offering discounts on parts and bikes. Peter McKernan and Gareth Dunning both put in £500 each towards the club. Thank you very much, and Sam Wait, who runs the Sanford Cafe? He's been with us for years. Basically offers us very cheap coffees and cakes as well. Sam is not here tonight but he's top man.

The other thing that I feel quite passionate about is we're obviously a nonprofit club and we do raise money and we do give money to charities. So starting next year, what I'm gonna put out there on our Web site is a vote. This is going to be a vote of which charity is important to various members and we'll have a vote and whichever charity comes on top for that one year. Any money we raised will go to that one charity, and then we'll run it each year. So I think that's a good idea as well. All right, that's it for me. Thank you.

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

Velo Lounge no longer sponsoring our jersey. Didn't go quite to plan. RRCC Buffs still there if you want one. One door closes, plenty more open.

Thanks to our new sponsors Gareth Dunning at Dunnings Automatics. Peter Mckernan at Wyke window Cleaning Solutions, Sam at Sandsfoot Cafe and finally thanks to Sven Cycles who got in touch. Simon (not here as baby due) offering 20% off Servicing and 10% off parts.

We are associated again with British Cycling for another year.

RRCC Brand guidelines. Design. Please follow them. Don't change the logo!

Ride Leader guide is written but not published yet!

Jerseys: We cannot enter races or TT's in the current jersey as they have old sponsors. We also can't wear our new pink/purple kit. But we can continue to wear them for everything else :-). RACING ONLY IN NEW RED/BLACK CLASSIC KIT.

Safety: guidelines are on the website. Please read them.

Rides are on Facebook/Strava . NO MORE SPREADSHEETS.

Thanks to everyone who has helped in the admin of rides and coming up with new ideas and routes .

WhatsApp: I'm not a fan!

Thanks to Rebecca for organising Ironman feed stations. Amazing Day. £500 for the club/charities

Thanks to Adrian for organising RRCC hoodies and T-shirts

Thanks to everyone involved with the club in these difficult times. Committee, Ride leaders, volunteers, sponsors and of course our amazing members. You've all helped the club and you have all helped me. Thank you :-)

## 11. Election of committee members

General Secretary	Karl Watson
Chairperson	Mags Almond
Chairperson	Steve Wash
Women's Officer	Rebecca Pearce
Welfare Officer	Mark Rodgers
Cycling development officer	Alyson Curtis
Chief ride coordinator	Col Thorne
Treasurer	Steve Hedges

## 12. AOB

Club cycling tour of Dumfries and Galloway was discussed.  
New kit is arriving next Monday :-)

## 13. Questions from the floor

First Aid course was mentioned and Adrian and Gareth will look into it further  
Try to make ordering kit easier in the future?  
Could we have a bigger bank of routes on the RRCC website?  
Could we have a regular schedule of routes?  
Club Charity ride?  
Club Sportif?  
Club TT?  
Isle of Wight Ride?

## 14. Presentations

Sspirit of the club award - voted by committee members, winner - Graham Miles.

Most improved male rider - Simon Broom

Most Improved women's rider - Alaine Harman and Mags Almond

Ridgeway Riders Rider of the Year: Andy Jones

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

**The end :-)**