

**MGCC South East Centre**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

**Via Zoom on Saturday 30th January 2021 at 11.00**

**1. Welcome to members and the Chairman’s remarks**

The chairman welcomed members to the first MGCC SE Centre AGM to be held online via Zoom.

He gave a special welcome to Dave Tynan, the director responsible for SE Centre.

He reported that he had attended the online main club AGM on behalf of the Centre. There were 120 attendees and was run in a very formal fashion.

This, our first online Centre AGM, was being carried out within the 15 months legal interval requirement from the last AGM.

He noted that our last AGM had been a very social event and he hoped that the centre would be able to return to that type of event in the future.

He commended the committee for its response to the Covid-19 pandemic. There had been a migration of activity to Zoom and the importance of our Website, online Newsletter and Social Media presence had increased. In particular, he thanked Tim Morris, John Gallop, Ray Ruffels, William Opie and Mick Breare for effecting this.

He was pleased to report that the SE Centre had managed to run Covid-19 compliant events towards the end of the season, and he thanked John Morgan, Andrew Mitchell and John Davies for their work to bring this about. The Centre had been able to stage more events than other CRBs.

He noted with regret that Tony Atcheson will be standing down as treasurer of the Centre and he thanked him for the five years of excellent service he had given. He noted that Tony had kindly agreed to continue, pending the appointment of a replacement and, to that end, Tony will be co-opted back onto committee.

The chairman wished to draw attention to, and thank for the work of, the Natter and Wanderer leaders who had kept their group members involved electronically. Their involvement with the online leaders’ meetings had been particularly valuable.

He noted that the committee had deliberately delayed the publication of the Annual events calendar for 2021 due to the ongoing uncertainty. However, he looked forward to the Centre resuming more normal activities as soon as it is safe and legal to do so.

He noted that some of the objectives that he had set for the Centre at the last AGM were being achieved including:

* The average age of the committee members has been reduced;
* Female representation on the committee will be improved;
* Communication within the centre has been dramatically improved;
* Regular Natter and Wanderer Leaders’ meetings have been established, which has improved information exchange; and
* The Centre has forged new links with other CRBs and MSUK.

He laid out his aims for the future:

* That the Centre becomes more dynamic; and
* That the Centre becomes future proof, by engaging younger members with newer MGs and new ideas.

He asked members to consider what the centre would look like in 10 years’ time and plan accordingly.

He remined members that there would be no spontaneous questions during the formal part of the meeting but that there would be an informal extension to the meeting when issues could be discussed.

Finally, the chairman reminded members of the Valentine’s Photo competition, the details of which are on the website.

**2. Apologies for absence and members present.**

The secretary and chairman had received apologies from: Danny Byrne, Ian Russell, Roger and Freda Marlow, David Griffiths, Grahame White, and Peter Calvert.

The secretary reported that he had received 41 registrations for the meeting and that at this point in the meeting 35 Zoom connections were present.

The secretary reported that the meeting is being recorded and that the recording can be provided, on request after the meeting and will be sent by We Transfer.

The secretary explained the mechanism that would be used for voting. The committee had agreed that a modified regimen would be used in view of the difficulties imposed by the meeting being online and the problems a number of members had with the Zoom electronic voting system.

Members were asked to indicate opposition to a motion by raising a hand. This was viewed by the secretary and then members were asked to indicate abstention in the same fashion.

In the event of there being significant opposition to a motion a full vote would be taken.

**3. A Welcome from The Centre President**

Derek Edwards assisted by his wife Anne, welcomed members to the AGM and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

He hoped that members would stay well and safe and that the deliberations of this meeting would put the Centre on a sound footing for future events in the coming year.

He thanked the secretary for helping to organise the meeting.

He then displayed his Presidential glass medal which had been delivered to him securely earlier in the year but had not yet been seen by members.

**4 Minutes of the 2019 AGM for approval**

These had been provided prior to the meeting and were approved with no votes against and one abstention.

**5 Matters arising from the minutes previously notified to the secretary.**

There were none.

**6 Chairman’s Report**

The chairman noted that his formal report had been posted on the website.

He had no further comments. The report was approved with no votes against or abstentions.

**7.Treasurer’s report and adoption of the accounts.**

The treasurer explained the accounts in detail with the assistance of a screen share.

The final result of a loss of only £152 for the year is excellent given the difficulties provided by Covid-19.

Richard Clark raised two questions:

1. Why were payments made to HQ in relation to members who had recently died? *It was explained that these were donations in memory of members of particular repute. These were Colin Reynolds in 2019 and Piers Hubbard in 2020.*
2. He also wished to know why we paid tax on such a small income? *The treasurer responded to the effect that, as a limited company we are not eligible for personal tax relief. He remits the tax payable to HQ. If when the main club accounts are complete the tax has been overpaid, he would expect Main Club to reimburse the Centre accordingly.*

**8. Secretary’s report**

The secretary’s report has been posted on the website.

The secretary made the following extra observations:

* The need for a replacement treasurer; and
* The need to identify a new Chairman to take over from Chris Leigh at the next AGM.

Membership

* Diana Calvert continues to do a sterling job looking after our new contacts; and
* Tony Atcheson has brought his spreadsheet skills to bear on the numbers.

*The Centre is still losing members but more slowly than recent years.*

*There was a nett reduction of 37 in 2020 compared with a nett reduction of 84 in 2019. The main change was due to a reduction in the number of members leaving the Centre.*

Meetings

The majority of the meetings had been held via Zoom.

Since the last AGM there had been:

* 5 “proper in person meetings” including the General meeting (see the secretary’s report);
* 17 Zoom committees;
* 9 Natter and wanderer leaders’ meetings; and
* 6 Natters hosted.
* **37 Total.**

Communication

The secretary noted that:

* Safety Fast is for the time being our only printed medium;
* The Quarterly Newsletter is Emailed to the membership. Ray Ruffels, William Opie and Mick Breare were thanked for their work;
* Email – had been used extensively;
* The Website is the primary source of information, supported by our social media presence;
* Zoom meetings have been used extensively; and
* Telephone conversations have been valuable between committee members.

The secretary recorded his gratitude to Derek and Anne Edwards, Chris Leigh, John Morgan, Tony Atcheson and John Davies in particular. In addition, the committee members and Natter and Wanderer leaders, all of whom had supported him and made the task possible and enjoyable.

The secretary’s report was adopted with no votes against and no abstentions.

**9. Competition Secretary’s report**

This has been posted on the website.

John Morgan added that he is hoping to reintroduce some mildly competitive driving events in the coming year, which have been absent from our calendar for some 10 years.

He has had some interest expressed, including from the Young Members Branch.

He is hoping to start events in 2021 when the Covid-19 restrictions allow. These will be under MSUK guidance.

**10. Events Secretary’s Report**

This has been posted on the website.

Andrew thanked John Morgan for his assistance with Covid-19 compliance and looked forward to a better year coming.

**11. Safety Fast Scribes and Newsletter production report**

This has been posted on the website.

Ray Ruffels emphasised that the dynamic place for information is the website and noted that the revised date for the “Battle of Britain Run” is visible there.

There is a need for copy for the Newsletter, particularly in the members corner and local events section. William Opie re-emphasised the need for copy for the Newsletter.

**12. Webmaster’s report**

This has been posted on the website.

Tim Morris informed the meeting that he will migrating the website to a new host in the next few weeks.

He has revamped the site somewhat over the past year and pointed out that this is the centre’s primary source of information.

Social media presence is increasing but still at a low base. There are two Facebook pages, the public facing page which replicates much that is on the website and the chat group which is a members’ only area.

There are 160 people using the Facebook page, 112 using the chat room, 170 using Instagram and 60 using Twitter.

**13. Draft Programme for 2021**

This is on the website and members are encouraged to visit it frequently. It contains the most recent information about the Centre.

**14. Confirmation of the election of our President Derek Edwards**

Chris Leigh introduced this item by pointing out that Derek has served the centre for many years in many roles including 7 years as Chairman.

The appointment of President requires ratification by Main Club council, but John Day has indicated his informal approval.

Derek Edwards was proposed by Chris Leigh and seconded by Austin Banner.

He was elected with no votes against and no abstentions.

**15. Election of Officers Conducted by Derek Edwards assisted by Anne Edwards.**

Chairman - Chris Leigh, Proposed: Austin Banner, Seconded: John Davies.

Note: Chris Leigh has given notice that he wishes to serve only for one more year.

Chris Leigh was elected with no votes against and no abstentions.

Secretary - Austin J Banner, Proposed: John Davies, Seconded: Diana Calvert.

Austin Banner was elected with no votes against and no abstentions.

Treasurer – Post Vacant – Tony Atcheson is standing down and will be co- opted pending the election of a replacement.

**16. Election of committee members.**

Members for re-election

The following committee members have indicated their willingness to be re-elected.

*It was agreed to take these en bloc.*

Competition secretary - John Morgan; Proposed: Austin Banner, Seconded: Chris Leigh

Events secretary - Andrew Mitchell Proposed: John Morgan, Seconded: Diana Calvert.

Membership secretary - Diana Calvert; Proposed: John Davies, Seconded: John Morgan

Awards and Trophies - John Davies; Proposed: Diana Calvert, Seconded: Ray Ruffels

Joint Scribe - Ray Ruffels; Proposed: John Davies, Seconded: Chris Leigh

Joint scribe - William Opie; Proposed: Ray Ruffels, Seconded: John Davies

Web Master - Tim Morris

(President MGF register); Proposed: Diana Calvert, Seconded: Austin Banner. Young member liaison - John Gallop

(VC Young Members Branch); Proposed: Austin Banner, Seconded: Tim Morris Member - Roy Baker; Proposed: Austin Banner, Seconded: Diana Calvert

These members were elected with no votes against and no abstentions.

Members seeking election for the first time.

These members were introduced by the chairman with a brief recommendation for each.

Gwen Davies; Proposed: Austin Banner, Seconded: Diana Calvert

*Gwen Davies was elected with no votes against and no abstentions.*

Alex Lemon; Proposed: Austin Banner, Seconded: Chris Leigh

*Alex Lemon was elected with no votes against and no abstentions.*

Ian Russell: Proposed: John Morgan, Seconded: Chris Leigh.

*Ian Russell was elected with no votes against and no abstentions.*

**17. Any other business previously notified to the secretary.**

John Davies, on behalf of the committee and the membership wished to thank the secretary for organising the AGM.

**18. Time, date, and place of the next AGM**

In view of the continued uncertainty, this will be announced later in the year.

The chairman pointed out that it was his hope that it would be a face-to-face meeting with some social interaction.

Austin J Banner

Secretary – February 2021