

SMCTC Forum Meeting Thursday 2nd February 2017

The meeting was held following a request by the members at our AGM in November 2016 to enable members to put their views and ideas forward to the committee for consideration and future development of South Manchester CTC.

The notice of the meeting was posted on our website and members also had the opportunity to send their suggestions by email to the Chairman prior to the meeting. Only three emails were received. Seventeen members attended the meeting.

The Chairman started the meeting with the three emailed suggestions received.

A request to make all the contact numbers available to all the members was discussed but all were not in favour. The Chairman stated that currently his, the secretary's, the ride leader secretary and the C ride leader numbers were on the website and members could contact anyone of those people at anytime. In addition to this the majority of ride leaders listed their telephone numbers on the rides list. It was agreed this was adequate and sufficient information.

This however raised a point regards riders having an identity card or bracelet, which should include, a contact name and number, in case of an accident or emergency. This should also include any particular medical detail thought necessary. It was agreed that this notice should be made very clear on the membership form and the responsibility of all current members to now adopt this practice. **AGREED**

Club safety rules when riding in a group, group size, single/dual riding and Ride Leaders and back Markers.

It is a fact our rides are now attracting more riders and that any group must ride safely. It is the responsibility of the ride leader to oversee the safety of all in the group, however when leading from the front it was not always possible to know what was going on at the back of the group. There was a lot of discussion about the rides and how to keep riding as safely as possible and keep the groups to a reasonable size to avoid upsetting motorists who often struggle on narrow roads to pass a group of 15/20 riders.

It was therefore **AGREED**

Any groups in excess of 12/15 riders must be split in to two groups. With at least a minimum of 200 meters or more between the first groups back man and the second group leader. The main leader prior to starting briefs all riders on the destination and a brief idea of the directions to be taken. The ride leader will then appoint a second ride leader and also a back marker for each group. It is the responsibility of the second group leader to maintain the distance between the two groups. There will of course be times a catch up situation may occur at junctions and traffic lights. When that's the case one creates the gap again as soon as possible.

With regard to dual riding this should only be done when its safe to do so and the usual shouts warning of vehicles behind etc must be observed and on narrow or busy traffic roads single file riding should be observed.

Another idea if a rider is not observing the correct group riding etiquette for example, riding on the wrong side of the road, not concentrating, half wheeling, it is suggested the back rider has a quiet word with the rider, or the ride leader is informed and they speak 'gently' to the rider in question.

Succession of Key Membership Post

It was agreed that if any member wished to join the committee they would be welcomed and just need to let one of the current committee members know.

Recruitment of more Ride Leaders

It was pointed out that Cycling UK do have training days but at a cost of £112 per delegate. However it is known that from time to time they offer free courses in certain areas. One suggestion was for anyone interested in leading that they are taken out with one of our experienced leaders and the knowledge and expectations passed on. There have been four new leaders appointed during this last year.

Clubs strategic plan.

Although the club does not have a specific strategic plan the current committee is in the process of looking at a 2/3 year financial plan. Once this is done maybe we can then look at an overall strategic plan.

New Lady Members and a Committee Role

Everyone is pleased that we are now seeing an increase in our lady membership and it was agreed as previously stated that any member will be welcomed to join the committee if they so wished.

First Aiders

A member had investigated the provision of first aid training and obtained three quotations, they were all group based and ranged from £17.14pp through to £40.71pp. It is thought that the club should have some qualified first aiders and if we proceeded with one of these companies, volunteers would be asked for. However before taking the matter further a member knew a paramedic member who he thought might be interested in training our members and he will contact that person and report back.

Attracting new members

A question was asked about attracting new 'younger' members or more 'middle aged' members. A good response from a younger member was one of cost on a Sunday ride. With coffee, cake and lunch making the ride expensive. Other points raised were a faster group on a Sunday but the current Saturday A+ ride accommodated those riders. If the future brought more members and made the groups too large then we would have to reconsider and probably have several different ride levels.

Once again the idea of using Facebook for the membership was discussed and eventually agreed that we would trial it. A younger member would help with ideas on the set up. It was thought that this would up the profile of the club.

This prompted the question 'how much do you want the club to grow' this was not really answered but it's an interesting thought.

Group holidays were mentioned and once again the type of tour, central location or travelling-on tour limited the numbers.

A suggestion to meet at an earlier time of 8pm was agreed to be trialed after Easter as we have already committed and paid to that date. It would be trialed as long as no addition cost was involved.

All those attending the club on a Thursday night were to contribute a £1 towards the tea and biscuits provided, this in fact should pay for the clubs use of the drill hall.

There is a vacancy for the position Registration Officer on the committee, which will be posted on the website, all are welcome to apply.

DJB