

CHESTER & NORTH WALES CTC

Secretary

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President

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Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the Chester & North Wales CTC Annual General Meeting held at Kinnerton Scout Hall on Sunday 4th November 2007 commencing at 12.30 pm.

Present: There were 43 members present as recorded in the Attendance Register.

1. Notice convening the meeting

The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting.

2. Election of Chair

Dave Hill proposed and Reg Waud seconded the nomination of Mike Cross as Chair. The motion was carried unanimously. Mike Cross took the Chair and thanked the meeting for electing him.

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Ann Taylor, David Robinson, Doreen Lindsey, Roy Spilsbury, Ifor Jones, Ken Brown, Pat Brown, Jim Skelding, Lowri Evans and Hazel McDougall.

4. Minutes of 2006 AGM

The minutes of the 2006 AGM had been made available. Dave Hill proposed and Roy Bunnell seconded the motion that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the 2006 AGM. The motion was carried on a show of hands.

5. Secretary's Annual Report

The Secretary's report had been made available. In presenting the report the Secretary noted that this had been a very challenging year. It had been to the credit of everyone in the DA that we had risen to the challenge and come through successfully. Looking back over the year the tragic and untimely death of Graham Mills stands out. His contribution to the DA and cycling generally was immense. It was therefore entirely fitting that the first nomination made by the DA's new Awards Committee was a posthumous CTC Certificate of Merit award to Graham for a lifetime of dedication to cycling. Graham would have been pleased to see that our activities have continued and our sections prospered. The Café Hoppers joined the DA at the beginning of the year giving us nine active sections for most of the year. Unfortunately by the end of the year the Café Hoppers, having considered the implications of the new Policy Handbook, had decided to revert back to becoming an unrecognised group of friends although retaining their individual CTC memberships. The Wrexham section on the other hand had decided to continue and had elected Lowri Evans as their new secretary.

The DA Committee, like most others around the country, spent a great deal of time this year considering the new Policy Handbook and other policy initiatives from National office. Such was the feeling here and elsewhere that for example Des James took the principled stand of resigning from the CTC and returning his membership card in protest at the imposition of the new Policy Handbook by CTC Council. After some 25 years as a CTC member and 20 years as Wrexham Secretary this is not something he did lightly. However the main focus of the DA Committee has been on DA activities and events. The Secretary drew the meetings attention to the programme of events for 2008 but noted that we still needed an organiser for next year's Vets' 100. Turning to the DATC results the Secretary praised the achievement of the DA's riders in having six riders in the top 20 places and noted that the DA had just missed out on retaining the team prize coming second with 619 points behind first placed South Bucks with 622 points.

The Secretary paid tribute to his colleagues, particularly Des James, Barry Davis, Kate Alston and Reg Waud all of whom are standing down after many years of service to the DA. Finally he thanked the DA for giving him an opportunity to work on behalf of Chester & North Wales CTC.

On a motion proposed by David Ackerley and seconded by Dave McWilliam the Secretary's Report was approved with no one against.

6. Treasurer's Report and Accounts

The Treasurer's Report and Accounts had been made available. The Treasurer introduced the accounts by noting that the three things he had promised to do last year had been implemented. The Halifax Building Society account had been closed, the DA's loan to NO had been increased and the amount raised last October through the sale of the remaining DA tops had been included in this year's accounts. All income and expenditure incurred was included, all cheques had been cleared and there were no debtors or creditors. The accounts had been audited by David Ackerley and approved subject to a caveat that monies held by Two Mills section were being kept in an inappropriate account. The old account had now been closed and new arrangements were being put in place. All the DA events had covered their costs while the slide show had generated a significant profit. He suggested that it may now be time for event income and expenditure to be channelled through the DA rather than only the net amount as is now the case. The Treasurer drew attention to the apparent profit shown against the Link which was due to only three issues being produced during the year. The surplus for the year amounted to £35.74 with total assets standing at £6,681.72. As less than £1,000 was needed to service our activities he proposed to transfer a further sum to CTC National Office. He was also considering transferring the DA account, currently held in the Ellesmere Port branch of the Yorkshire Bank to another branch or bank. In conclusion the Treasurer thanked event organisers for their co-operation and Eunice Mawson for her help.

The Chair invited questions from the floor. Dorothy Clift asked for further elaboration on the Treasurer's suggestion that event income and expenditure could be channelled through the DA. The Treasurer explained that monies received could be paid into the DA account directly. The Chair noted that with a surplus for the year of only £35.74 the Committee might wish to consider raising event entry fees so that every event makes greater contribution to the DA's running costs. Andy Blomfield wondered why the DA needed to carry such funds. The Chair noted that we might, for example, need a new website and this could require a significant sum to be taken from our funds. Dorothy Clift thought that the fee for each event should be decision of the event organiser. Janet Gregory noted that with costs rising she would have to raise the fees for the Spring 50 in the coming year; however we shouldn't overcharge.

The Treasurer's Report and Accounts were approved with no one against on a motion proposed by Dave Hill and seconded by Arthur Miller.

7. Notices of Motion

None received.

8. Election of Officers and DA Committee Members

The DA Committee had made recommendations for the nomination of officers at its meeting of 25th October 2007. These were as follows:

Office	Nomination	Proposer	Secunder
President	Mike Cross	Arthur Miller	John Mawson
Vice President	Arthur Miller	Reg Waud	Eunice Mawson
Joint Secretary & Registrar	Sue Booth Glennys Hammond	Bryan Wade Bryan Wade	Reg Waud Reg Waud
Treasurer	John Mawson*	Lowri Evans	Reg Waud
Rights Officer	Vacant		
Social Secretary	Vacant		
Link Editor	Veronica Nicholas	Bryan Wade	John Mawson
CTC Cymru Rep.	Lowri Evans	John Mawson	Arthur Miller
Webmaster	Vacant		
Membership Secretary	Vacant		
Invited Members	Arthur Miller	Reg Waud	Eunice Mawson
	Lowri Evans	John Mawson	Arthur Miller
	Eunice Mawson	Lowri Evans	Reg Waud

Notes: * It was agreed that the work of Treasurer would be shared by both Eunice and John Mawson although John Mawson would appear as the named officer.

Kate Alston proposed and Reg Waud seconded the motion that these recommendations should be accepted. The motion was carried unanimously.

The Chair asked for nominations from the floor for the four vacant posts of Rights Officer, Social Secretary, Webmaster and Membership Secretary.

On a proposal by David Ackerley, seconded by Mike Wilkinson, Janet Gregory was elected as Rights Officer.

On a proposal by Martin Gooch, seconded by Dave McWilliam, Tim Schofield was elected to the Committee as an invited member and Webmaster.

On a proposal by Mike Wilkinson, seconded by Sue Booth, David Ackerley was elected to the non-committee post of Membership Secretary after agreeing to be nominated only on being given an assurance by the Secretary that this was a non-committee post.

No nominations were forthcoming for the post of Social Secretary.

Section representatives are nominated by their respective sections and are as given on the Agenda.

9. Election of Hon. Auditor

The DA Committee had made a recommendation that David Ackerley should be reappointed as Auditor for the coming year. On a motion proposed by Reg Waud and seconded by Mike Wilkinson this recommendation was carried with no one against.

10. Election of DA Awards Committee

The Chair noted that the DA was unique in having its own Awards Committee. Ann Taylor who had served on the Committee this year was standing down on health grounds. The DA Committee recommended that Arthur Miller should be nominated to serve with the two existing members. The DA Committee's recommendations for the nomination of officers (all of whom hold a CTC Certificate of Merit) were as follows:

Nomination	Proposer	Secunder
David Ackerley	Reg Waud	John Mawson
Mike Cross	Reg Waud	John Mawson
Arthur Miller	Bryan Wade	Lowri Evans

Brian Pendlebury proposed and Dave Hill seconded the motion that these recommendations should be accepted. The motion was carried unanimously.

11. President's Ribbon of Office

The Secretary presented the new DA President, Mike Cross, with the DA's President's ribbon of office.

12. Tribute to Retiring Office Holders and Committee Members

Arthur Miller paid tribute to those retiring Officers and Committee Members who would be leaving the Committee at the end of the AGM and also to Graham Mills who died earlier in the year. He mentioned Des James former acting President, Vice-President, Webmaster, Membership Secretary and Wrexham Section secretary who had resigned from the CTC in protest over the imposition of the new changes: Barry Davis who had done such an excellent job of protecting our rights over many years; Reg Waud, the Tops man, for his contribution to the DA Committee and to Kate Alston for the alternative and independent view she brought to Committee proceedings. Finally he thanked the outgoing Secretary for the innovations he had brought to the DA and for his thoroughly professional approach. Bryan Wade was then presented with a book token, bottles of wine and a bicycle pump as a token of the DA's appreciation for the work he had undertaken. Jill Witton then presented Erla Wade with a flowering orchid for her help and support. The Secretary, momentarily lost for words, thanked the meeting for their appreciation of his work and noted that from now on whenever he needed to inflate (his tyres) he would be reminded of the DA. He thanked the DA for an enjoyable and interesting four years.

13. Policy Handbook for CTC Member Groups and Organising Committees

Arthur Miller's summary of the main features of the Policy Handbook had been made available. Arthur Miller opened the presentation by guiding the meeting through the key features of the new Policy Handbook approved by CTC Council in the summer. This new document sets out the rules for setting up and running a local group. It is in effect the constitution of the local group and replaces the old DA Guide which was last revised in 1991. The policies contained within the Policy Handbook are mandatory and will come into effect over this coming year but DAs and sections have been given until next year's AGMs to implement them. The Policy Handbook will be supported by two other documents: a Guidance Handbook due to become available in the spring and a Tool Kit of forms, incident reports and other documentation.

He then summarised the four reasons why CTC Council has introduced the new Policy Handbook.

1. The old constitution is now out of date and in need of revision.
2. Recent legislation including the Charities Act, Data Protection legislation and Companies Act require changes in our constitution in order to comply.
3. Council wants the CTC to represent all cyclists and wishes to make it easier for new groups such as disabled cyclists, work groups, mountain bikers etc. form member groups within the umbrella of the CTC.
4. Finally Council wants to clear up the confusion and informality that exists between DAs and sections in some parts of the country.

To accomplish this Council will do away with the terms DAs and sections but wishes to retain the DA/section hierarchy. To do this it has formulated a policy for Member Groups which can be a Parent Member Group (previously a DA), a Subsidiary Member Group (previously a section) or an independent Member Group. Additionally it has identified an Activity within a Member Group such as a rough stuff group or a Thursday riders group which is less formally structured than existing sections.

Existing DA sections have been given up to next year's AGM to decide which type of group they wish to become. They have a choice of four types of groups.

1. Unrecognised informal riding group outside the formal CTC structure. Essentially riding as a group of friends without any organisers'/leaders' insurance cover. This is the route that the Café Hoppers have already decided to take. Individual members could still remain as CTC members able to participate in all CTC activities and events.
2. Informal Activity group within the Chester & North Wales CTC Parent Group. In this case the group loses its independence becoming an integral part of the Parent Group which takes full responsibility for its operations. Organisers'/leaders' insurance cover is provided for all the Activities operations through the Parent Group. The Activity would have representation on the Parent Group Committee but the Activity would have no committee of its own nor would it hold an AGM. All its business would be handled through its Parent Group.
3. Subsidiary Member Group within the Chester & North Wales CTC Parent Group. This is the closest option to the existing DA/section relationship. The group retains its independence but stays within the ambit of the Chester & North Wales CTC. The group is recognised as a CTC Member Group by National Office and is subject to the full panoply of the rules in the Policy Handbook (except for financial auditing), including the need for the mandatory posts of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and for the roles of Registration Officer and Welfare Officer to be filled by a Committee member.
4. Independent Member Group. This option enables a group to operate as a fully independent group reporting only to National Office. It must comply with all the rules and regulations imposed by the Policy Handbook including the need to have accounts independently audited.

Arthur Miller then went on to consider the implication of these choices for individual members and for their voting rights. Under the new rules members would be free to join any of these types of groups and would be allowed, as now, to be a member of any number of such groups. However voting rights at Member Group AGMs would be restricted. Members would be allowed to specify a single Member Group as their Main Member Group and to do so they would need to inform National Office. Their Main Member Group would then receive the CTC capitation allowance previously paid only to DAs, and event affiliation, such as DATC, would be made in terms of the members Main Member Group. Members choosing a Subsidiary Member Group as their Main Group would be able to vote at the AGM of that Subsidiary Member Group plus the AGM of its Parent Member group, but at no other Member Group whatsoever. This would mean that if both the Two Mills and Wednesday sections became separate Subsidiary Member Groups then members would have to choose which one of the two they wish to be their Main Member Group and they would not be able to vote at the other. Members choosing a Parent Member Group, such as Chester & North Wales CTC, as their Main Member Group will only be able to vote at the Chester & North Wales CTC AGM.

The Chair thanked Arthur Miller for his detailed presentation and invited questions from members. Pam Cross asked what would happen to the voting rights of those living in adjacent DA areas. The Chair replied that voting rights would remain with existing DAs unless the member chose otherwise. Members could choose any Member Group anywhere in the country as their Main Member Group. David Ackerley asked why Member Groups without funds needed to have a Treasurer. Arthur Miller thought that this was an anomaly but in practise a group without funds would probably opt to become an informal Activity within a Parent group. Reg Waud and Andy Blomfield were concerned about members who rode with more than one group having to decide which would be their Main group. Brian Lowe asked how sections were to decide what they wanted to do. The Chair replied that they needed to consider the options and then decide at a section General Meeting. Roy Bunnell was very concerned about the loss of voting rights implied by the restriction that members could only vote at the AGM of one of their riding clubs. He

thought this was undemocratic and that the DA should protest. The Secretary replied that he, on behalf of the DA Committee, had made the DA's position clear to both Council and National Office. There was still time for Council to clear up the remaining anomalies and drafting errors and he felt sure that the new DA Committee would be taking up these matters with National Office. Additionally he noted that the Policy Handbook allowed groups to adopt their own Local regulations and that these could be used to mitigate the worst effects of the new policies. He felt confident that the new DA Committee would be considering such Local Regulations and other policy changes with a view to bringing them to next year's AGM for formal adoption.

14. Any Other Business

10.1 The Chair noted that Dave Hill, the DA's Link Editor, was handing over responsibility to a new Editor. He thanked Dave Hill for his hard work and the introduction of new innovations to the Link. He asked members to support the Link Magazine by making sure they subscribed. He also asked section secretaries to encourage as many of their section members as possible to subscribe.

10.2 Dorothy Clift drew the meetings attention to a recent letter by Roy Spilsbury in the Independent regarding liability for traffic accidents.

10.3 The Chair thanked those members who had worked to provide the tea and coffee and those who had helped with the tables and chairs.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 14.25.