

Minutes of TOMCC Meriden Branch AGM – 23rd February 2015

1. **Chairman** Steve Bradwick opened the meeting at 8.34pm with 27 members present.
2. **Apologies** for absence received from Bob Wisdom, Gerry Boland and Bob Taylor.
3. **Minutes of the 2014 meeting.** Approval of the Minutes were proposed by Bob Johnson and seconded by John Nelson, with all in agreement.
4. **Matters Arising** from the 2014 Minutes. None.
5. **Correspondence**
 - a. The VMCC has sent information and an application form for a stand at this year's Banbury Run being held on 21st June.
 - b. Mallory Park has sent information and an application form for a Branch stand at their Mallory Bike Bonanza being held from Friday 10th to Sunday 12th July.
It was agreed that the Branch would have a stand at both shows.
6. **Officers Reports:**
 - **Chairman:** Steve Bradwick said that the monthly Committee meetings introduced last year were proving a good idea and helped with the smooth running of the Branch.
He was pleased to report that the Meriden rally was a success again and hopes that it will become an established and popular rally in the TOMCC calendar, now that we are entering our fourth year. Steve thanked all the Committee members for their help and hard work over the year.
 - **Secretary:** Julie Taylor said it had been an interesting 12 months and she has been kept very busy with paperwork and other associated jobs.
There has been more emphasis on charity events during the year and over £500 has been donated to the Warwickshire & West Midlands Air Ambulance charities. The Branch members have also donated crash helmets and, more recently, mobile phones to the Air Ambulance charities, which have been gladly received.
If any member has other ideas for helping good charitable causes, then Julie and the Committee will be pleased to listen and, if possible, make it happen.
 - **Treasurer:** After a very trying several months getting new signatures accepted by the Bank, Steve Malin was finally able to take full control of the accounts. Our bank account is in a healthy state, slightly up from last year at just under £6,400.
Len Taylor approved the accounts and was seconded by Mick Jones. Accepted unanimously.
Subsequently Bob Johnson queried whether the Triumph Bonneville cutaway engine should be included in the depreciation figures and, in fact, perhaps it should be reported in the Accounts with an appreciation. There was no final decision about this matter with member opinion seemingly split. When asked, the Committee confirmed that they wanted to keep the engine and had no intention of selling it, being an asset at shows, drawing people to the stand.
 - **Membership Secretary:** Ian Ellis was pleased to report that we currently have 257 Full members and 10 Associates, 12 up on last year. Of these members, one is from Glasgow, one from Guernsey and one from the USA.

Whilst tidying his office recently he came across some information from 1997 when Meriden Branch had 144 members and the TOMCC had in total nearly 6,000 members which in subsequent years fell to 4,000, but has now gone back up to about 5,500+. During this period Meriden numbers have steadily risen to our current number of 267. It may be that members attending external meets such as Hoar Park have helped spread the word and encourage new members to join us.

Finally, Ian reminded members that to take advantage of the £2.00 discount if you renew on-line, via the TOMCC website, you must sign in first before going through the renewal procedure, otherwise it will not recognise you as a member and action the reduction.

- **Runs Captain:** Keith Snell thanked the members for their support with the various runs, rallies and events that had taken place during the year.
 Especial thanks go to Simon Dudfield for organising the Mystery Tea run to the herb garden centre and a 'meet you there' run to Lighthorne last year. Also a big thank you to Simon & Denise who organised a charity day for the Katharine House hospice in Banbury, an event which was hosted by the Hare & Hounds at Wardington and raised over £400 in total. This event will be repeated this year and has been added to our Events list (20th Sept).
 The Cleobury Mortimer bike show which was cancelled last year will return this year and is on 13th September.
 If anyone has any runs ideas, or would like to organise one, Keith will be glad to hear from them.
- **Branch Scribe:** Position vacant. Being covered by a Committee produced report at the moment.
- **Communications Officer:** Derek Moxon told the meeting that the main difficulty with this role is keeping the e-mail addresses up to date. We now have about 200 members who have e-mail and although that is increasing every year, it means that there are still some members who don't receive regular information and it would be nice to entice more members to our events.
 A short discussion followed about ways to contact those members who didn't have internet/e-mail. One thought was to find out whether these members could be sent text messages. However the cost and difficulty of multi texting means the idea is not viable. Two other suggestions put forward will be seriously considered by the Committee, one being to ensure that any known events are put in each month's Branch report in Nacelle and secondly to post out the yearly Schedule of Events to those members who wouldn't otherwise receive them. Although not covering any last minute plans, at least it will keep them more in touch with what is happening over the year.
- **Webmaster:** John Nelson informed the meeting that he has recently moved our website to a different server which is faster, especially for uploads. However, he needs to lose three sets of photographs in the Gallery section as he is unable to edit them and it makes it harder to upload and run the system.
 The accident John had last year has made him aware that it is important that a second member should learn about how to operate and use the Branch website as back-up. We have a licence that allows the site to be installed on two computers and the requirements only need Windows 7 or later (not Apple) and the system is quite simple. Please let him know if you are interested.
 Lastly, he wants to keep the web-site up-to-date and interesting and needs input from everyone to help this happen. Please let him have photographs and/or information of any events that you have been to that will be of interest to our members.

7. Election of Officers:

- As there were no new volunteers for any of the Committee positions and the Committee personnel are all prepared to carry on for another year, it was proposed by Mick Jones that they should be re-elected en bloc. This was seconded by Len Taylor and carried unanimously. Unfortunately we still don't have anyone to take on the role of Branch Scribe.

8. Propositions

- Keith Snell proposed that Len Taylor be voted on to the Committee as Social Secretary and this was seconded by John Nelson. There was unanimous agreement.

Therefore the Committee for 2015 is as follows:

Chairman: Steve Bradwick

Branch Secretary: Julie Taylor

Treasurer: Steve Malin

Runs Captain: Keith Snell

Membership Secretary: Ian Ellis

Communications Officer: Derek Moxon

Webmaster: John Nelson

Social Secretary: Len Taylor

Branch Scribe: Position vacant

9. Branch Stands for 2015 (to date) and volunteers to take equipment:

21st June - Banbury Run – Derek Moxon

28th June - Meriden Megaride - a volunteer is still required, may be able to set up Sat pm.

10th - 12th July – Mallory Bike Bonanza, Mallory Park – Denis O'Neil

19th July - VMCC Founders Day Rally at Stanford Hall – Steve Malin

23rd - 24th August – Coventry Festival of Motoring weekend, Stoneleigh Park – Len & Julie Taylor

Ian Ellis has been contacted by the people organising the Coventry Motofest 2015 asking if the Branch want a stall at the event. The date is over the Bank Holiday weekend of 29th – 31st May. No decision made, to be discussed further.

Keith Snell has received information about a Bideford-on-Avon Vintage Gathering being held on 16th & 17th May. It was agreed to have a stand, a volunteer is required to take it.

10. Any other Business

- Martin Wake told the meeting about the Easter Egg run he has organised for the Branch. The chosen charity is the Acorns Hospice and we are collecting Easter eggs, toys and Toys R Us vouchers to be taken to the hospice in Birmingham on 5th April, leaving the Heart of England Club at 9.00am. A letter from Acorns has been e-mailed out by Derek, with suggestions for gifts that the children would appreciate. If you are unable to come on the run and want to donate something or ask Martin any questions, then he will be glad to speak to you at any Monday meeting. If he is not around then Julie or Len will be glad to help. Some donations have already been received; thanks go to those who have been so generous already.
- Len Taylor showed four posters/banners left from the Bonneville celebrations in 2009 and asked if anyone would like to buy them, with the proceeds going to the Air Ambulance. Mick Jones and Mike Drakeley bought one each, totalling £30 for the charity. Shirley Reid suggested that we use one of the others as a raffle prize at our Meriden rally this year. As there were no takers for the fourth, it was decided to use both as prizes.
- Ian Ellis said he had agreed to visit the New Spires Pub off Allesley Old Road, Coventry on Friday 27th February to hear a band called Guitar Heroes, as a possible group for our rally this year. He would like to have some others come along too, so the decision is not his alone. Martin Wake, Steve Malin and John Nelson have volunteered. All are welcome.
- Neville Riley reminded the meeting that the Megaride this year was a combined event, between both the Rotary Club and us, the Meriden TOMCC. A new item is being added to the afternoon this year, with voting and prizes for a desirable classic bike and desirable modern bike. It would be fantastic to reach or go above the £8,000 raised once before. Proceeds this year are being shared between the Air Ambulance (Meriden charity) and the Princes Trust (Rotary charity). We need to push advertising for the event and Julie has prepared advertising packs consisting of posters and leaflets if anyone would like to distribute to any venues/shops, places that they know. The three nearest Triumph dealers have been, or are being, asked to show the posters.
- Bob Johnson asked if a date for the proposed Sammy Miller visit had been decided yet. Julie hopes it will be sometime in June, she will be getting an e-mail out to members asking if they are interested before finalising the trip. Thought needs to be given to a suitable venue for meeting up, somewhere that cars can be left for the day.
- Lastly, it was stressed that the Air Ambulance was the 'default' charity for the Meriden branch. Whilst we all agree that they are a very worthwhile charity and are more than happy to support them, the Committee are open to any other suggestions if anyone wants to put forward an alternative charity.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.34pm