

## News from the Committee... February and March 2009 by Gordon Ayshford

**Snowbound!** Due to severe weather the attendance at the meeting held on February 3<sup>rd</sup> was low – the snowbound conditions meant that Normandy Hall had not expected anyone to turn out on a night like that and our usual room was locked! Undaunted the hardy few – Bernard Jay, Jo Ayshford, Colin Boniface, Barry Brockman, Ian Exton, Terry Tidbury and myself (Gordon Ayshford) set out some chairs in a small room off the main hall adjacent to the Kitchen – cosy. Meeting called to order at 20.05 but without a quorum present an official meeting could not take place. Some important issues were discussed, to maintain. In this report I have combined the proceedings of both February and March meetings. In March the minutes of the January meeting and the notes from the February meeting were both accepted by the committee as a true record of the proceedings.

**New Club Meetings Venue:** Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> Feb was the last day at the Stoke Horticultural Club under our existing agreement. We had met at the new venue three times by the March Committee meeting (12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> Feb) and at there was general approval at this move to this newly built and well appointed location. Jo Ayshford reported that she had negotiated an equitable deal for the Witley membership with the Compton Village RBL Club on similar terms to the previous arrangement with the Stoke and District Horticultural Society, to whom she had written to formally terminate our agreement.

**Dinner and Awards Evening:** 14<sup>th</sup> March at Bisley Shooting Lodge. At the February meeting Jo Ayshford reported that few tickets had been sold but that she and Julie Batt would visit the lodge on 17<sup>th</sup> February to finalise details. At the March meeting 28 tickets had been paid for, and the committee agreed that the event should still take place.

**Club Stand at Show for 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year:** In February, a stand at the Kempton Park Southern Classic Bike Show on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May was proposed – there is also an autojumble at this event. In March this was agreed. A firm commitment from people with suitable bikes for display is needed. Bikes will have to be in the hall by 7pm on Friday 8<sup>th</sup>. Laurence Richards is co-ordinating this – anyone with bikes to offer should contact him. We are awaiting further details about Brooklands events later in the year and may participate in this, whereas with Wings and Wheels we will keep the situation under review.

**Combine Enduro Feb 1<sup>st</sup>:** This was held at Warren Heath, using newly available extra land. Colin reported the results. There had been many riders with plenty of energy but they had been on an ambitious target in the time available. The course had been good but the Marshalling lacked full control. Colin expressed concerns about the Basic Plus insurance taken out for this event. It did not generate the usual paperwork: there were no rider's signing on sheets, only officials and marshal, and there was no Centre Steward. Colin had not received a receipt from the ACU for the fee. A vote of thanks was recorded for Kelly Drake for her hard work as Sec of Meeting.

**Trailer:** The club trailer is now in regular use, though due to conditions and timing it had been left fully loaded after clearing up from Boxing Day and was currently still fully loaded after clearing up from the Feb Enduro. Therefore some reorganisation is to be undertaken. The stores and trailer both need sorting out, and old equipment disposed of.

**Correspondence:** Unusually, there was nothing to report under correspondence in February but at the March meeting there was a letter from Ian George, in which he resigned from the committee.

**Forthcoming Events: AGM 2009:** 26<sup>th</sup> March at 8.30 pm at the Compton Village Club (British Legion).

**3-Stage Trial:** May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Chawton Park. Sec of Meeting: Gordon Ayshford. Gordon has received the Permit, and also a letter from the Forestry Commission giving their permit number and requesting a route map and risk assessment. John Martin is working on the route and Gordon on the risk assessment.

**Camping Weekend:** Date confirmed: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> – Sun 19<sup>th</sup> July.

**Long Distance Trial:** Sunday October 4<sup>th</sup>. Barry Brockman volunteered to be the Secretary of the Meeting.

**ISDE** Even though Witley are not entering a team for the 2009 ISDE in Portugal in October, Gordon has maintained contact with the ACU and arranged to receive minutes if the managers meeting on Sat 7<sup>th</sup> March. Gordon and Dave Kavanagh are planning to go to Portugal as spectators for this event.

**Reports from Delegates: SE Centre ACU:** A new Club has joined: EPM Enduro Club, Lightwater.

**TVTC:** Witley will run the June and December rounds. Witley's Colin Boniface is now the SE Centre delegate to the ACU. There have been reports on moves to abandon 'Group Sunday'.

**Website:** it was agreed that the Club Newsflashes should be published on the website in a new more accessible area.

**National Rally:** This year's finish is at Bletchley Park again. Gordon Ayshford and Dave Kavanagh are entering the Special Gold category, Laurence Richards is going to do the 'Sunrise' class, starting early Sunday morning and also finishing at Bletchley Park. Gordon reported he had seen one other Witley member listed in the entries to date.

The next Committee meeting will be held on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

**If you have any news or views – or pictures – for the next edition, please send them to [lg\\_richards@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lg_richards@yahoo.co.uk)**

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Visit our website: [www.witleymcc.org](http://www.witleymcc.org)



# CLUB Newsflash

April 2009

## WITLEY'S NEW CLUBROOM VENUE!

**The Agricultural Hall seemed like home to me, as a recent recruit to Witley Club, so I was not too sure when there were proposals to move elsewhere. Would we find anywhere as local and with such low drink prices?!**

Jo and Gordon worked hard to persuade some of us that moving to the new Compton British Legion Hall was the right place to go. It is easy to get to, smart, spacious and friendly. The seating is comfortable and it is quiet (at least until Witley Club get there!). A vast improvement on the noisy crowded Agricultural Hall. Betty is convinced it is further to travel, and I've offered to lend her a ball of string to prove Compton is nearer than Guildford, but she will not believe me!



The new pool table and full size billiard table are a bonus and well used. Stewards Maggie and Colin are very hospitable, the drinks prices compare very favourably, and there are snacks available.

Numbers attending since the move have been about 30 each week, and hopefully this will increase. Becky and Jo have great plans for barbeques, rounders, cricket etc on the green, so it should be an entertaining summer. Rob has also requested a (motorcycle based) quiz or 2, to start after 9.00pm!

I can only encourage those of you who have not yet joined us on a Thursday evening to come along and see what you are missing.

*Diana Delahoy*

## NEXT EVENT: 3 Stage Trial Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, Chawton Park

The course will be entirely off-road; primarily in hilly woodland, observed sections will not be excessively difficult and will be suitable for riders inexperienced at trials riding and those on enduro type machinery. Deviations to the observed sections may be introduced as a challenge for trials bikes. There is no restriction on tyres.

**Stage 1 – cross-country course involving observed sections.** Not against the clock – there should be some time to look at the sections before riding them on the first lap

**Stage 2 – Similar to Stage 1... but against the clock, though not a 'race'**

**Stage 3 – Same cross-country course but no observation.**

Each section becomes a check-point. Riders are required only to pass through the start gate of each section as they make their way round the course.

**Want a ride? Or to help? Regs enclosed**

Contact Gordon Ayshford for details! T: 01483 429523

Or visit [www.witleymcc.org](http://www.witleymcc.org)



## Dinner & Dance and Awards Evening:

Saturday 14 March 2009

Think David Mair and I were the only ones sober enough to remember how much we enjoyed ourselves at the Dinner and Dance (certainly the Chairman was very tiddly by the end!), so I had better make a few notes about it!

We started out early, but I managed to get lost, and Bernard almost gave up hope when I stopped to ask some locals and was told there are too many shooting lodges at Bisley to determine which we were trying to find! However, we did eventually find the right place, in spite of the cunning plan to get the Chairman lost! The dining hall looked fantastic, thanks to Julie and Jo. The meal and company were excellent, and most were pleased the chairman's speech was short and Bernard was limited to only one joke!

One of the main purposes of the annual dinner is to present the awards, and Neil Bowker was very pleased and surprised to receive the Silver Badge (even though he was a little suspicious of being persuaded to go to the dinner just so Amanda could wear her posh frock!) Elliott Beken received the Aeslite Enduro Challenge Shield, and Bernard Jay was presented with the Bert Brett Shield.



Neil Bowker receives the Silver Badge ▲  
from Club President Bill Glover



It gave me great pleasure to present the flowers to Carol Glover, and Bernard found it was well worth digging very deep in his pocket for the bottle of bubbly for Jo as it resulted in a vast embrace which nearly drowned him! (Julie was more cautious, but hopefully enjoyed the bubbly just as much).

Everyone relaxed after the meal, dancing to the disco, having a chat or propping up the bar. Richard Benham was overheard saying how quiet and shy he is, so I said I seemed to remember him dancing around in his spotty underpants last year. He assured me he had a new pair this year, reduced to a thong - I'm not sure if he did get debugged this time, but think Jo had a good try on the dance floor!

There were still a good number enjoying the disco when we left after midnight, so I can only add that those of you who did not come to the dinner missed a good evening out. Try to join us next year please!

Diana Delahoy

## AGM 2009 REPORT

What an excellent venue for our AGM! Beer at the right price and plenty of food laid on by the ladies of the club. That and 36 members turning up, could it get any better?

(I say 36 members, but that does include Dave Kavanagh who was getting some practice in at home by falling asleep in his chair making him some hour or so late and Shaun who "just forgot". Still at least they made it).

My worries for the night were the many positions that had to be filled – some very important ones and others, of a more standard nature. I had previously had two volunteers for the post of Treasurer so felt happy with that, but Secretary, Vice Chairman, Club Captain, Vice Captain and committee members – who would fill those posts?

I need not have worried. We now have such a good bunch of willing club members that with very little coaxing all vacancies were filled. Our new Treasurer will be Tracey Mair. Our new Secretary will be Michelle Cutler (at the AGM with a very young William Cutler); back as Vice Chairman is Barry Brockman; new Club Captain is Becky Brockman, assisted by Vice Captain Jo Ayshford; and two Committee members, both returning after a few years off the Committee, Paul Jay and Neil Bowker. This NewsFlash comes to you from our new Editor, Laurie Richards. Welcome and thank you.

### Showing off at 85...?

As part of the 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities, Witley MCC are taking a stand at the Southern Classic Show at Kempton Park on Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup>. The stand will need to be ready by 8pm on the Friday evening.

If you are interested in taking part – either to show a machine, provide transport or helping man the stand on the day – please contact Laurence Richards on 01483 423480 after April 13<sup>th</sup>.



One error I made during elections was to accept the 4 committee members to 2010 'en bloc'. This included Barry Brockman who had previously been elected as Vice Chairman.

In view of this, we have invited Shaun Smith back as a committee member. Shaun had stood down as Club Captain but wished to remain on the committee – this was not made clear until he arrived.

In addition to the AGM Club elections we had a special announcement from Gordon Ayshford. He has been working away in the background and has managed to get the Accreditations referred to below.

Bernard Jay

### Accreditation:

Gordon Ayshford has been working with the Guildford Sports Council towards formal Accreditation for Witley MCC within the **Active Surrey Club Accreditation Scheme**. This acknowledges recognition by the sporting establishment that the organisation and management of our Club is up to standard in providing an inclusive, safe and fair environment for all to partake in sport at any level. A number of policies, copies of which are attached to this newsletter for your information, have now been prepared. Bronze level has been achieved, with further work required for Silver and Gold levels. Special thanks are due to Richard McVitie for his assistance.

### A warm Witley welcome to our NEW MEMBERS this month:

- Kevin Orpin, Sandhurst: Road & Green Lane
- Reece Munn, Bordon: Enduro
- Ben Mayhew, Billingshurst: Enduro
- James Barnett, Andover: Green Lane

### It's an old story...

Be warned – I've been digging out some old photos of bikes I've owned over the last 39 years 6 months, and started making a few notes about them. If I don't get enough contributions to fill the next NewsFlash, you might be seeing them! So you'd better get writing!!

Seriously though... many thanks to those who have provided material for this issue: Diana for reports, Katherine Brockman and Neil and Amanda Bowker for photos, and of course Gordon and Bernard.

Looking forward to hearing from you...! L.G.R