



**Annual General Meeting of SMART**  
**Sunday October 19th, 2025 10:00am**  
**Oak Room, Haven Centre, Crawley Down**

09:30 – 10:00 Coffee / Biscuits

**1. Welcome and safety message by Dominic**

**2. Apologies for absence** by Dominic, with apologies from the following:

Tim Rice  
David Goodman  
Clive Wood  
Paul Matchett  
Tim Benians  
Martin Smith  
Jason White  
Alan Stephenson  
Steve Wolton  
David Mayger

**3. Agree minutes from 2024 AGM** - proposed by Paul Ingleton, seconded by Sue Manning

**4. Introductory Remarks from the Chairman, David.** He expressed thanks to the following:

- Everyone for coming
- Our Instructors and Senior Instructors - for all the voluntary work they put in
- Fellow committee members for all their hard work, engagement and contributions, including:
  - organising this event (Dom / Andrew) and others like the slow riding day (Steve / Paul / Andy)
  - organising and running our training sessions
  - helping organise our Tours and Wizzes
  - keeping our finances up to date
  - managing our communications
  - and everything else you do behind the scenes.

Also, to cover a separate item: **EOMs / Wizzes:**

- On EOMs – he thanked all the ride leaders - only had two cancelled in the last year (Nov and Jan) due to bad weather.
- On Tours and Wizzes –
  - These continue to flourish, and in the last year we've had 5.
    - France
    - Northern
    - Scotland
    - Wales x 2
  - And next year we have 8
    - France x 2 (Steve)
    - Scotland (Andy R)
    - Normandy (Simon)
    - Northern (Andy P)
    - Wales x 2 (Tim, Roger and Hugh)
    - Isle of Man (Andrew)
- Big thanks to all the leaders of these - they take a lot of work - and provide an incredible opportunity to get and enjoy some fabulous roads, awesome scenery and great company.
- We all have a couple of other more ad-hoc rides through the year - Fish and Chip runs and the like - big thanks to John and Steve for continuing that great tradition !
- Finally - a call for volunteers for EOMs next year ! I have a start on the schedule - but will need help from any and all Gold Riders and Instructors to complete the plan. Please come forward and help where you can.

## 5. Updates from Committee

- **Report by the Treasurer (Jonathan Baker)**
  - Summary – (full report available as copy)
    - Gross income £7483
    - Total expenses £6551
  - Cash in bank £15590, with a net income of £932 for our year 24-25.
    - A query regarding the spending of some of the cash in bank was responded to: It was noted that any funds spent needed to be for the benefit of the Group as a whole, and that whilst sundry expenditures were necessary, it would be unwise to reduce the balance at hand by any significant amount.
- **Report by the Membership Secretary (Andrew Jupp)**
  - A big thank you to all of our members for supporting the club
  - Joiners, Leavers and Renewals**
  - We opened in November'24 with 332 Members consisting of :-
    - 298 Associates
    - 34 Instructors

At 8th October we closed with 322 members. Which is 10 down from last year. During this last year we welcomed 31 new members (30 new and 1 returning)

**Leavers:** We had 49 Leavers. This is 15% and is exactly the same as last year (15%); it is less than our 16-year average of 16.4%. Of these 49 leavers, 9 left at their first-year vs 12 last year, and 40 left having been with the club for 2 or more years. In addition, we have seven (7) in their Grace period who may renew or leave and have until early November to decide.

2025 has been an odd year across motorcycle training organisations with all seeing significant reduction in newcomers and for groups like ours, a small reduction in standing membership too.

Of the closing membership for the year of 322, we have:

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 292 | Associates                              |
| 293 | 30 Instructors (reduction of 4 from LY) |

Of these 322, 20 are Privileged members comprising 12 Lifers and 8 Committee members, plus the 31 Instructors (some of whom are Lifers and or sit on the Committee) all deliver our values and develop our membership.

Tony Gillingwater enquired as to the percentage of members who remain actively involved in training – this figure was deemed to be around 12%.

**Action:** there was acknowledgement that we should look again at how to better engage with less active part of the membership.

### **Ride-School**

Ride School was back for 2025 with another success.

| <b>Part 1 March 16th</b> |                   | <b>Part 2 March 23rd</b> |  |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 51                       | Booked            | 52                       |  |
| (5)                      | Cancelled/weather | (4)                      |  |
| 4                        | Walk-ins          | 0                        |  |
| 15                       | Instructors       | 16                       |  |
| 65                       | Net attended      | 64                       |  |

A big thank you and gratitude to those who volunteered to write and/or update the materials and then present at the two sessions. Plus those providing the technical and moral support, including: Andy Reohorn, Colin Smith, Tim Bergin, Jason White, John Cowburn, Darren Stewart, Peter Burfiend, Roger Manning, Steve Tovee, Sue Manning, Simon Lucas, Bobby Thomas O'Connor, Andrew Jupp

### **Ride School for 2026**

We are working on 2026 and notices will be issued soon.

The venue will be back here at The Haven Centre for Sundays 15<sup>th</sup> February and 22<sup>nd</sup> March next year.

At this point there was some discussion regarding standards of riding prior to EOM/Wizz participation. **Action:** A point for the committee to discuss.

- **Report by the Group Chief Instructor (Steve Tovee)**  
Firstly Steve thanked everyone for making the effort to come.

SMART had another good year for training, but not as busy as the previous one. Less training with associates overall and less group members taking their RoSPA advanced riding test. With over 300 members in the group and training is still the main focus of the group. We had only a total of 17 re-tests or first tests.

In August last year Steve introduced a change to the training method. Not so much what we were teaching but the way in which we taught it. He developed the new approach, reviewed first with the committee in Aug '24 and then to the instructor team at the January instructors meeting. After some good discussion, he developed a working update to the training card for review at an instructors meeting at the end of ride school in March. After some real world use and a final review in July instructors meeting – we agreed to proceed. An update will coming out in the new year.

New instructors this year : Martin Smith : Chris Draper :  
New Senior instructors : Jason White and Simon Lucas :

Tim Benians and Jason White organised an instructor practical training day in June. 24 attended. We had the pleasure of three RoSPA examiners attending to see what we do as a group. Four if you include Jason as he is now an examiner. It was a great day and I think many of the instructors benefitted from it.

Outside of all that, there have been the training venues running in the background at Tulleys Farm and Mickeys Diner. Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month. With the extra mid week training at Tulleys on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. Over the year there have been hundreds of training sessions, many peer reviews for instructors and along with the instructor training and testing it has kept our instructor group quite busy.

## 6. Election of Committee Officers

- Chairman  
David standing for re-election – proposed Bobby Thompson O'Connor, seconded by Darren Stewart
- Treasurer  
Jonathan standing for re-election – proposed Sue Manning, seconded by Steve Roys
- Membership  
Andrew standing for re-election – proposed Roger Manning, seconded by Steve Tovee
- Secretary - Dominic, stepping down – Vote for replacement chaired by David  
A very close vote, but by one vote **Darren Stewart** was appointed as Secretary.  
**Action:** Sue Manning suggested that a position on the committee might be considered for potential electees.  
Thanks to both Bobby Thompson O'Connor and Darren Stewart for standing.
- GCI Retirement of Steve Tovee and replacement announcement (David)

David noted that the GCI role is voted on specifically by the Instructor group. That process was run a couple of months ago, and Steve Phillips was voted in as our new GCI. So many [congratulations](#) to Steve - and I am sure we all look forward to working

with Steve and continuing to develop the training and coaching capabilities we provide to our members.

David then thanked Steve Tovee for not only his 6 years as GCI, but his 4 years as Chairman before that (stepping up when the group needed it).

David noted that Steve had been instrumental in developing and rebuilding the instructor base - ensuring a great new cadre of instructors coming through. He also noted Steve has tweaked and continuously improved our approach to training - critical for an organisation like ours. At this point David then opened the floor for comments: Andy Reohorn, Paul Ingleton, Steve Phillips and Roger Manning all praised Steve for the work done on behalf of the Group.

Steve responded and thanked everyone. He made some summary remarks and thanked everyone, particularly the instructors for all the support. He thanks Steve Phillips and Simon Lucas for coming forward to be considered for the GCI role, and he congratulated Steve for his appointment. He noted that he would continue as a senior instructor, supporting the group wherever he could.

At this point, Steve Phillips was introduced and he said how much he was looking forward to working as the new GCI.

Thereafter, a presentation was made to Steve Tovee thanking him for his massive contribution to the group, with some small tokens of appreciation.

**7. Nominees for Group Life Membership** - David made the announcement to appoint Steve Tovee as a lifetime member, to general approval. There were no further announcements.

**8. Questions from the floor** – David asked for responses. There was a little discussion around availability of riding opportunities for those 'post test' who were looking to polish up their skills. It was felt that with current offerings, including allocations for tutors, there should be something for all members, but that more could be done to encourage inactive members to get involved. The potential of promoting more ad-hoc rides beyond end of month, possibly in parallel with training monthly events.

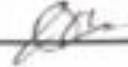
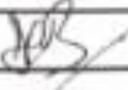
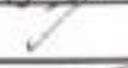
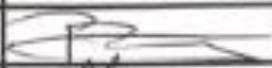
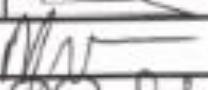
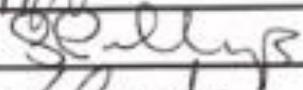
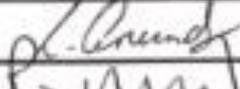
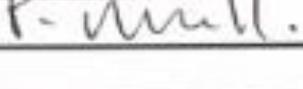
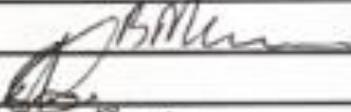
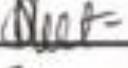
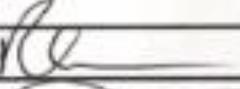
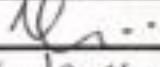
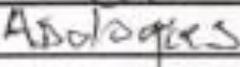
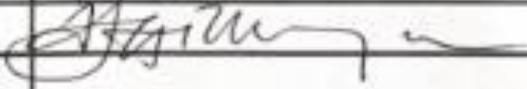
Also, to possibly have another look at Ridewise becoming involved as have in past years Rapid Training. **Action** for the committee to consider.

**Action:** Also, perhaps more regular communication regarding training.

**9. Close of meeting**

David

Sheet1

| Attendees                    | Please sign  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Dominic Gray                 |    |
| Jonathan Baker               |    |
| David Buttery                |    |
| Andrew Jupp                  |    |
| Steve <del>Tovey</del> TOVEY |    |
| Paul Ingleton                |    |
| Andrew Palmer                |    |
| Steve Phillips               |    |
| Len Grundy                   |    |
| Peter Marshall               |    |
| Valentino                    |  |
| Steve Roys                   |  |
| Stewart Patient              |  |
| Brian Minnis                 |  |
| Bobby Thompson O'Connor      |   |
| Darren Stewart               |  |
| John Cowburn                 |  |
| Roger Manning                |  |
| Sue Manning                  |  |
| Simon Lucas                  |  |
| David Magar                  |  |
| Tim Bergin                   |  |
| Robin Brown                  |   |
| Tony Gillingwater            |  |
| Mike Simmonds                |  |
| Andy Reohorn                 |  |
| Peter Burfiend               |  |
| Colin Smith                  |  |
| Dermot Horan                 |  |

