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It is already getting near to the end of the 2017 season and I have only just got round to compiling the first HalfLink of the year. Read on for a rather belated report from this years Harp Hilly, note the date change for the AGM and last club run and see the minutes from the 2016 AGM.

Harp 2017 AGM

Please note the date for the 2017 AGM and club run has been moved one week later to Wednesday 25th October. Venue is Blackwells cafe at Chipperfield, the same as previous years.

Harp Hilly Hundred 2017

An unexpected overnight drop in temperature to well below zero at Nash Mills resulting in icy conditions in the HQ car park and ice up the first couple of lanes, Rucklers and Bulstrode, led to a hasty decision to re-route the start to avoid the ice .



Fortunately temperatures soon rose above freezing and the ice had gone in Rucklers and Bulstrode by the time everyone returned for the fast descent back to the HQ.



Those riders who braved the conditions and started were also greeted by heavy rain showers around the course resulting in a steady procession of rather wet and muddy riders completing the ride to claim their reward of hot drinks and food back at the HQ.



Yet again the 200 online entries were all taken within a week of entries opening showing the ongoing popularity of the HHH but the number of riders actually turning up to ride on the day was greatly affected by the weather with only 125 starters.

The Berkhamsted CC, with a total of 53 counting riders, were once again convincing winners of the Harp Hilly Shield taking it for their third consecutive year.



As agreed at the AGM we supported three charities this year topping up the proceeds from the Harp Hilly Hundred from Harp Road Club funds to allow us to donate a total of £1500, £500 each to Guide Dogs for the Blind, the Cynthia Spencer Hospice in Northampton and CassieWorld, a fund for a 10 year old girl suffering from Rett Syndrome.

Feedback from the riders was that, even with the inclement weather, they had enjoyed the experience and the free food and drink that greeted them on their return was the icing on the cake. As well as being thanked by riders as they made their way home we also received a number of emails thanking us for running the HHH, some excerpts below:

Thanks for the certificate. My riding buddy and I had a great ride on Sunday and I just wanted to say thanks to you and all your team for putting it on. It took me back to my youth when I was a regular participant in the late '70s - early 80's when I used to be able to do the 100 miles on fixed - not any more !

Thanks for organising another great event. Our members really enjoy the HHH

Thanks as always to those helping on the day, Mick C, Mick K, Dave & Barbara, Jim, Dave P, Malcolm, Glenn & Bob.

Medium Gear '25' Record

Another rather late report due to the scarcity of HalfLinks. For the first time in nearly 20 years a Harp TT record was broken when Richard recorded a time of 58:11 in the Lea Valley MG '25' in April 2016 beating the previous record of 1:00:38 by over 2 minutes and his personal best by over a minute. Although not quite as fast this year Richard got under the hour for the third time in the 2017 Lea Valley MG '25' with his second fastest ride of 59:15.



Minutes of Harp Road Club AGM held on Wednesday October 19th @ Blackwells, Chipperfield

Present : Phil Corley (President), Jim Williams (Chair), Mick Clark (Secretary), Richard Hutt (HHH Organiser), Graham Holdstock (Treasurer), Dave LeFevre, John Warren, Bob Degavino, Pete Coombs & Dave Pratchett.

Apologies received from Peter Yates, Malcolm & Alison Putman, Terry Gambles, Andrew Hutt, Alyn Ross, Glenn Butterworth & Mike Dawson. Meeting commenced @ 13.55 hrs.

- 1) Minutes of 2015 meeting. Read & Approved with no matters arising.
- 2) Chair's review of the year. Copy attached and accepted.
- 3) Financial report – Graham's fully audited account showed a surplus for 2015 of £124.19 with a total of £1,582.02 in the bank. Copy of said account is available upon request. Please pay your 2017 subs (£5) by BACS, details available from Graham. Account approved.
- 4) Affiliations for 2017 – Renewal's for CTT & WLC. BC will be paid before year end. Jim recommended Cycling UK (ex CTC) if members needed individual insurance, they will take on any cycling related dispute you may have with another party free of charge.
- 5) Promotions for 2017 – Richard willing to organise the HHH and looks forward to the membership's continuing support. Next year's date has yet to be confirmed although Mick Clark advised he would not be available for the third weekend in January (which is the normal slot) due to a prior commitment. Aside from the HHH, Richard will be organising a special 60 klm. ride to celebrate his 60th birthday in early July. Pete Coombs's Leicestershire ride from Café Ventoux will be late July and it was agreed next year's club rides will revert back to Wednesdays.
- 6) Appointment of Officers 2017 – All this year's officials have indicated they are willing to stand again. Agreed
- 7) Appointment of Auditor – Graham Holdstock advised Mr. J.W.Keighley is willing to continue and was duly elected.



8) Charity donation(s) for 2017 - Following suggestions/causes for consideration were discussed. Dave LeFevre spoke about a 10 year old girl Cassie Twohigg suffered from a debilitating problem called Rett Syndrome. Cassie can only communicate with her eyes via a eyegaze computer which she uses at school but needs on at home . More details on www.facebook.com/cassiesworld.

The club was shocked to hear about the death of Bob Sturnham from lung cancer so it was thought appropriate support should be given to fight this terrible illness. Enquiries will be made with his family as to the best way we can assist.

Richard Hutt advised his local Guide Dogs for the Blind offices had been burgled, losing computers together with other items and he felt the club could assist with a donation and finally Jim Williams noted the canal boat business by the Hemel club room was running again and is called 'Waterways Experience'. They operate much as before offering trips to disadvantaged peoples groups and he felt we should support them as have done in the past.

It was agreed to take £500 from club funds to bolster the £1,000 HHH generates and that three out of the four above causes would be supported which is a tough call. There's enough time to make a final choice however comments/suggestions/ways of supporting all four is requested from the membership via the Secretary.

9) A.O.B. – None and the meeting closed at 14.30 hrs