

Aintree Motor Cycle Racing Club Limited
Minutes of 40th Annual General Meeting
Held 19th January 2020 at Suites Hotel, Knowsley

The meeting was opened at 4pm by the Chairman, David Edwards (DE)

1. Apologies

John Abel (JA) welcomed everyone and there were no apologies to record.
30 Members were present.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the last AGM held on 19th January 2019 were accepted as a true record.

DE read the minutes of the previous General Meeting held 12th December 2019 and stated that the same constraints regarding any discussion of the ongoing litigation still applied.

Matters Arising:

a) Track Certificate:

Ken Halliwell and Philip Cronshaw questioned the validity of constraints by the ACU and it was asked if we could not race until the legal case was over. JA stressed that this could not be discussed by the officials of the club.

DE explained the difficulties with Aintree being primarily a horse event and not having a permanent track protection system in place for motorcycle racing.

Greg Lewis (GL) asked if the track inspection done in March 2019 gave any chance of racing resuming. JA replied that discussions were still ongoing with all parties involved.

Peter Shepherd (PS) and GL suggested an action plan be put to the ACU.

JA expressed concerns regarding the financial implications and the doubts regarding the track resurfacing and repairs.

Andy Daley (AD) said that if we make sufficient effort there is nothing the ACU could do to stop us from racing again at Aintree.

Amanda Mason (AM) suggested that the NW Centre of the ACU may be able to assist.

JA stated that the improvements would probably require the entire reserves of £34,000 to be spent which would make it impossible to fund future race meetings.

GL believed that money could be found but we need to clarify the ACU requirements and the ACU need to be more helpful in this respect.

Anthony Stock (AS) suggested the money be spent on the track repairs in any case rather than leaving it in the bank. PS supported this as current offers of financial help may not be available in a year's time.

JA stated that he would speak to Ken Wilson at NW Centre ACU regarding a formal approach to the ACU in Rugby.

It was agreed by all present that the track repairs should go ahead as soon as possible subject to the cost being reasonable.

GL asked about riders joining the Committee to which DE and JA stressed that this was essential for the future of the Club and "new blood" was certainly required to take forward all the work that would be required to set up the circuit and meet the requirements of a new Track Certificate.

3. Treasurer's Report

Lesley Abel reported that the club had made a small surplus of £727 in the 2018 financial year.

Based on the ACU statement in February 2019 that we would be good to race last year, the club contracted for the usual materials and services required.

However, with this expenditure and the lack of any revenue the Club suffered a deficit of £13,565 in 2019. The reserves currently stand at £34,398.

The accounts were accepted by the meeting. Proposed by Amanda Mason and seconded by Paul Fairclough.

4. Chairman's Report

Dave Edwards thanked everyone for their attendance.

After the suspension of racing at the Aintree Circuit there was nothing to discuss in that respect and we should focus on the positives from last year.

There were several superb performances at the TT and Manx Grand Prix by Aintree club members. Jamie Coward was sensational with a top ten finish in every race he entered topped off with a second in the lightweight race, less than a second behind winner Michael Dunlop.

Excellent rides by Rob and Jim Hodson, Richard Wilson and Mike Norbury, to name but a few, highlighted the depth of talent this club has enjoyed over the past few years. To all the riders both modern and classic who competed in the IOM last year it is a massive achievement just to get there, well done to you all.

There has been lots of correspondence behind the scenes which was discussed at great length at the meeting held at the Suites on the 12th December.

While the litigation has been ongoing it has been difficult to progress the issue of the track certificate and this will be discussed further under Any Other Business.

In conclusion I would like to thank all the Aintree members for your patience and support over the difficult last 12 months and of course the Officials and Committee members for their continued assistance in trying to keep the club afloat - it is well appreciated.

Let's hope all the issues can be resolved soon and we can get back to racing at the best club circuit in the country.

Well done and Thanks again to you all.

5. Any Other Business

- a) The possibility of racing at other circuits was discussed as Darley Moor had offered 11/7/2020 but this was the weekend following the Southern 100 races and it was felt that entries would be too low to make the meeting viable. Eddie Nelson was thanked for the offer of support.
- b) As the 3 Sisters track seemed fully booked and not really suitable, no further action was proposed.
- c) Peter Shepherd asked if the club would be putting the membership form on the Internet to demonstrate our commitment to the ACU and others. John Abel confirmed this would be done at the existing rate of £15.
- d) It was asked if spectator access could be given to the Railway Straight banking. JA stated that this had been tried in the past and was not safe.
- e) JA confirmed that spectator access alongside the track by the Start Line area would have to be restricted under the conditions of any new Track Licence and the Timekeepers' bus moved to the infield area.
- f) JA highlighted the need for help in setting up and taking down the proposed protection systems of any new Track Certificate as this would not be possible with the existing small team of volunteers. Obviously these need to be non-competitors.

6. Election of Officials

DE & JA reported that half the existing Committee wanted to step down and new members are desperately needed, especially a suitably qualified Treasurer.

DE asked that anyone interested should email him: dave.edwards15@btinternet.com

The existing Committee members would remain and work alongside new appointees to ensure a smooth handover.

Amanda Mason proposed a vote of thanks to the Club officials which was met with applause by those present.

The meeting closed at 17:55