



Mid Devon Cycling Club Committee



Annual General Meeting Meeting Minutes

8th January 2022, Cafe 3 Sixty, Bovey Tracey

Present: J Alan, J Alan, D Allbrook, P & C Ash, S Bergman, G Brodie, D Brooks, C & L Butler, F Chelminski, M Churchill, R Delve, S Dunn, E Fraile-Whysall, A Goodwin, M Gratton, M Holmes, R Hopkins, J Horton, H Howells, H Jukes, R Keegan, J Kettle, S Kings, H & P Loader, P & A Martin, J Percy, N Potts, J Scanlon, J, N & T Sharp, B, F & E Simcock, L Simpson, M Smith, D, A, C & E Start, J Taylor, B Tisdall, N Tomlinson, C & D Twigger, J Williams, B, M, M & R Woodger,

1. **Apologies:** E Barber, P Cowlard, F German, M Gibson, C Kilburn, A & M Lane, S & L Mc Grath, I & H Myers, A Perkins, F Pryde, M Sanders, J Stevens, A Styles, J & G Ward, S Wood

2. **Minutes of the 2021 AGM:** Circulated to all present in advance and were approved with out changes.

3. Reports from Officers:

Chairman's Report incorporating all other sections:

Just a few words before I begin my report. On the slideshow that's been playing, you can see the tribute to Ken who we obviously all knew but the other tribute is one that Ken was working on for the 2021 AGM which only happened online. Margery Williams (which was her maiden name, she became Margery Hopkins when she married club legend Roy) who's father Jackie "Pop" Williams got Ken to join the Mid Devon Road Club in 1957 died in late 2020. Her son Roger is here tonight and I'm sure we'd like to pay tribute to Margery and the whole Hopkins family for their contribution to the club.

Secondly, another thing that Ken was working on before he passed was the club trophies. Over the years, many trophies have been given out and not returned so this year it was decided that the trophies would be presented, with an opportunity for a photo before being housed here at 360 with a label next to it showing the current holder. The winner will receive an engraved memento which they can then keep forever. This way we don't have the mad scramble every year to try and retrieve the trophies.

2021 was in general a quiet year for the Club as the world continued to battle through the Covid pandemic. However on December 17th we changed forever as our most loved member, friend and Vice President Ken Robertson sadly passed away.

I'm sure you have all seen the hundreds of tributes from all around the world that have been sent in. We all knew Ken was special, but seeing the influence he has had on generations of cyclists is truly outstanding. Words like "legend" are often bandied about but in Ken's case it was apt. I saw several people describe him as a "force of nature" and I think that's the closest words can come to describe him. I remember when I first joined the club and somehow before I even knew what I was doing I'd been recruited to hire a van, meet Ken in Torquay, collect a Marquee and deliver for the Tour Series Event in Torquay as well as help erect it and then marshal! When he asked it was hard to say no.

Ken joined the club in 1957 and the contribution he made through his membership is an incredible achievement. As well as his own racing successes his organisational skills were legendary His promotions in Road Racing and Time Trialling were some of the biggest in the country. He was a

driving force behind the inception of the Dartmoor Classic as well as seeing it develop into the event it has become today. Beyond the sporting aspect, Ken also did huge amounts of work in helping to push cycling as a means of transportation and developing cycle routes/sustainable links. In 2022 he was planning to organise a Road Race, 50 Mile TT, 25 Mile TT, help in his role at the Classic as well as a trip to the Tour and sitting on countless committees. Not bad for 85! That was an easy year by Ken's standards. As I said before, words struggle to describe Ken's contribution to cycling and the club, so I'd like us all just to take a moment to pause and reflect on Ken and our own thoughts and memories of him.

Membership - Jamie Horton - 2021 has seen the clubs membership grow steadily from the 435 of 2020 to a much more healthy 511.

We are still very much in the grips of Covid-19 which has ultimately affected our ability to provide members with a full and active programme of events.

The fact that we ended the year with over 500 members is testament to the clubs standing amongst it's members and as a Committee we are keen to build on this during 2022.

All members new and old will now be sent a welcome email when they renew membership with a questionnaire for them to fill out, the information gathered will enable us to make sure that all club members feel included and their annual fee provides real value for money.

The velopark continues to be an important hub for members and there is a great future ahead with more facilities on the horizon.

All in all, well worth the 15 pound membership fee, and in conclusion, as membership secretary, I look forward to seeing the clubs numbers grow again as we look towards resuming the many activities this great club has to offer.

Dartmoor Classic - Guy Langworthy- 2020 saw a first for many things, sadly it was the first year since its inception that the Dartmoor Classic had to be postponed. The event had already sold out and there was a mammoth task of dealing with huge numbers of emails about the postponement. Entrants were offered an automatic place on the 2021 event, but many, understandably wanted a refund. To fully refund everyone would probably have seen an end to the event being held again. Working within our established Terms and Conditions, we kept our cool, and responded to each request depending on their situation, making sure that those who really needed a refund were given one. When I say "we" I mean Stewart Bergman, to whom the rest of us on the Dartmoor Classic Committee give our heartfelt thanks to for managing that monumental task.

Fast forward nine months and we were again faced with more confusing restrictions, and it was touch and go whether or not the event would be run in 2021. Not to run the event would have been a financial disaster for both the Dartmoor Classic and of course the Club itself. Stewart and Guy, along with support from Andy Parker and Tony Watson, were able to persuade the Teignbridge Safety Advisory Group and subsequently the top brass at British Cycling, who in turn had to be sanctioned by Sport England, to allow us to run the event. This was finally agreed three weeks ahead of the event itself. Stewart and Guy created a Covid Safe Event Management Plan and Risk Assessment that passed muster at the highest level.

The Dartmoor Classic was the first and only large Sportive that was run with the full support of British Cycling and all the other authorities whilst event size restrictions were in place. This was a testament to how good and well respected our event is.

The event was run in a somewhat different way than the last few years and some of those changes that were implemented are being carried forward into this years event as we felt they were an improvement.

The event was once again a massive success and ran, all things considered, very smoothly. I

would like to give my thanks to all the members of my committee and all of you volunteers who have made and continue to make this fantastic event what it is!

2022 will see the running of a specific "Club Classic" which will take place a few weeks ahead of the Dartmoor Classic and only MDCC members will be invited to ride it. We hope that, with all your help, we can put on this ride in such a way, that will enable all those club members to ride this event with the full Dartmoor Classic Experience! We also hope that this will leave you all available to continue to help run the Dartmoor Classic on the weekend of June the 19th. Guy has been lucky enough to Chair our Dartmoor Classic committee for 10 years but over those years we have been led by Ken Robertson, our most important member, who we have now so sadly lost. On Monday evening the Dartmoor Classic Committee will meet and item 1 on our agenda is discussion and planning of what we are going to do to honour and remember Ken and his wonderful contribution to cycling, in this club and the community as a whole, he will be greatly missed!

Finance - Mark Sanders has again done a sterling job. The headline figures being that from the Club's general activities we made a loss of around £7,000 (which is the money we used to support the Youth and Junior Cyclists) and we received £27,000 from the Dartmoor Classic to bolster our reserves. So the net position is we have £20k more in reserves. Copies of the accounts are available to view if you are interested.

Club Rides - The pandemic has changed the nature of some of the club runs, with members of ten choosing to continue riding in smaller groups. It's been disappointing to see the Social rides come to end and we thank Mike and Michele Radant for all the work they have done over the years. We hope to re-establish similar rides for new members this year.

Road Racing - Despite a diminished calendar we continue to enjoy our share of success with the Junior Race Team fielding a strong team for the Junior Tour of Wales, we hope to see more from them in 2022 as we build on the Race Team/Academy idea going forward. We really want to see more senior riders racing in club colours next year and again plans are afoot to make that happen. That being said, we still managed to finish 2021 with the most regional points for a SW club once again, so that is pleasing to see.

Youth Academy - Rob Woodger - Development goes from strength to strength in many disciplines with many podium finishes as you will see later with the awards.

We have seen a strong development of road riders move into Time trails and track cycling along with good strong performances in XC MTB and cyclocross at a National level and in the South West.

Highlight's include: Grace Ward, Anna Lane and Molly Lane all under 14's winning the women's 12 hour race at Newham. Anna Lane coming 2nd in the National XC round one at Woody's, Jacob Start winning the SW age 12 Time Trial and Bayley Woodger coming 2nd in the National age 12 Time Trial. Ed Selwood has been selected for the track sprint national development squad. 1st year Under 14 Edward Fraile-Whysall got some good road results and finished with the highest National points in the club. Under 12's Matt Holmes and Lauren Fox are both unbeaten in the SW cyclocross series again this year.

Offroad - Martin Smith. After a very sparse 2020 with just a few MTB events locally, 2021 saw a strong return of events in both mountain biking and cyclocross. Club members that raced XC MTB had some great rounds of the South West XC series with events at Grammarcombe, Minehead and Woodys Bike Park. Woodys also hosted the South West round of the National XC MTB Series and we had some great representation of MDCC across the age groups with Jamie Ward also competing in many of the National events around the

country with daughter Grace.

All the local events had some amazing turnouts of riders, proving that XC racing is back and as popular as ever. Woodys will again host a National Series round in 2022 so a good opportunity for our club racers to ride a nation event in the region.

For Cyclocross after a year of no races, the South West Cyclocross league were able to create a series of events for the 2021/22 season. 7 events in total with Mid Devon riders all doing very well especially in the Junior ranks. In the seniors, as well as some excellent results in the South West, and the Masters World Championships hosted in Ipswich, Robin Delve has won the 60+ National Trophy series, with Cath Kilburn, Martin Smith and Bailey Woodger all putting in some great rides through a very busy season around the country. They also will have raced in the National Championships and will be coming direct to the AGM from Crawley.

Our own round of the SWCX league, Velopark Jinglecross was a great success along with the Mince Pie ride that also remembered Ken Robertson.

We also, as club and part of SWCX league, have been awarded a round of the National Trophy Series for 2022.

We are currently nearing the last planning stages for the off-road enhancements project at the Velopark so really hope to have a very good course in place during the Spring.

As an off-road race team we give thanks to Mid Devon CC and Dartmoor Classic for the rider support at National and International races.

General Secretary - From Paul Martin who does a huge amount of work and I'd like to place on record my thanks for his assistance in my role, we have the following notes:

Here at Cafe 3 Sixty the new Trophy cabinet initiated by the previous Chairman, Liam McGrath, has been installed and is a very fitting way to house the wonderful collection and promote the club. After the AGM all trophies will be displayed and marked with the current holder.

The club has moved to an online storage/archive system which is now increasingly being used to hold current and past documents and pictures. We need all members with any important memorabilia to get in touch so we can add things to the archive before they are lost forever.

Events - Despite the great uncertainty throughout 2021 the club were able to stage 4 popular events which passed off safely and smoothly with all members taking the precautions that were necessary at the time.

First off we were able to stage our 'Mid Summer Fish & Chip Ride.' 40 of us are very grateful to Linda Simpson for organising an excellent gathering on Babbacombe Downs a day after restrictions were eased.

In July 60 members enjoyed a dry first half to the Camelford Ride Back before a real soaking for the run home, there were still plenty of smiling faces for an event that will be well remembered.

In early September 25 members used the Penzance YHA as their base for a 2 night stay with a 100km ride around the Lands End area on the Saturday before enjoying the Grand Depart of the Tour of Britain on the Sunday. 2 memorable nights out added to the weekend especially the Admiral Benbow in Penzance which we can thoroughly recommend.

The following day saw glorious weather for a very large gathering of club members above Post bridge to see the pros snuggle on the Dartmoor terrain which gave us all heart for our own efforts.

We ended the year with the usual 'Mince Pie Ride' which sadly became something far more poignant and wonderfully, had an enormous turnout to honour Ken. Many thanks to Martin Smith for incorporating this into the Cyclo Cross event at the Velopark and sorting the catering.

Let's hope a fuller program will be possible in 2022.

Concluding remarks- I'd like to finish with a few personal words about our path forward. We all know Ken's passing will leave a huge hole and I'm sure we all want to make sure that we continue to run as the Club Ken knew and loved. We have decided as a committee to appoint a Liaison Officer ongoing to help bridge the gap between the Club Committee and the membership. I think sometimes there is the feeling that the club is a monolithic organisation run from up high by dik tat, whereas the reality is we are just a group of bike riders trying to enjoy our hobby as well. If you want to get involved, please just contact me or one of the other committee members. We need volunteers but we also need energy and enthusiasm to drive projects and ideas. Let's make it Ken's legacy to keep the flame of desire burning that he had to deliver opportunities for other cyclists.

4. Election of Officers for 2022

All current officers are willing to continue but in addition the committee want to further develop the connection with the wider membership by appointing a Liaison Officer. Linda Simpson is willing to stand for this role and is proposed by Paul Martin & seconded by Andy Parker.

Vive Presidents: Ron Georgi, Ron Keegan, Andrew Parker & Andrew Perkins

Chairperson: Mike Gratton

Honorary Secretary: Paul Martin

Honorary Treasurer: Mark Sanders

Liaison: Linda Simpson

Membership: Jamie Horton

Mountain Biking: Ben Tisdall

Off Road: Martin Smith

Road Racing: Mike Gibson

Time Trials(Club): Jane Taylor

Welfare: Maria Woodger & Tessa Adams

Youth Academy: Rob Woodger

All officers were elected.

5. Code of Conduct

The draft document was circulated with the agenda and minutes. It is proposed by Linda Simpson and seconded by Mike Gibson.

The Code was adopted.

6. The Chairman reminding everyone of Ken's memorial fundraising in aid of Rowcroft Hospice as chosen by the family.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 1925h.

Paul Martin - 9th January 2022