

**The Norton Owners Club  
Executive Committee Meeting  
11am, Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2017  
The Kenilworth Room, The Chace Hotel, London Road, Coventry**

**Minutes**

*The meeting opened at 11am.*

*Attending;* Tim Harrison (Chairman); Barry Owen (Vice-Chairman); Nicole Hill (Treasurer); Tony Ripley (Technical Administrator); Peter White (International Liaison Officer); Peter Scatchard (Branch Liaison Officer); Dave Catton (Records Officer, Twins); Joan Catton (Magazine Distribution and Renewals); Chris Streather (Records Officer Singles / Librarian); Jill Streather; Dave Kington (Web and Data Manager); Neil Shoosmith (Spares Administrator); Ally Gillingham; Tim Gosling; Lena Gosling; David Harris (Events Officer); Ian Somerville & Rose Somerville (Merchandise Managers); Colin Cheney (Secretary).

- 1) **Apologies** were received from Brian Harriss, Mark Woodward & Dominic Loram.
- 2) **Minutes of the last meeting;** the Committee noted that Eric Cox had sadly passed away in October. Chris Streather, Jill Streather and Peter Scatchard had attended the funeral on behalf of the Executive Committee. The *Pass the Baton* event (*item 11*); Peter Scatchard hoped to start this initiative at the 2018 AGM with the Tamar Branch. The minutes were formally agreed.
- 3) **The Spares Situation;** the Chairman opened a discussion regarding the supply of spare parts. In general, the system was working very efficiently. There were difficulties, however, with Members who chose to order parts but who also chose not to use the PayPal method that was generally used by the majority of Members. Other difficulties arose when Members returned parts. The principle concern of the Committee seemed to be centered on communication issues; the spares e-mail address could on occasion be full and not accepting messages, and the telephone machine was also frequently full, issues which were regarded as potentially confusing and disruptive for Members. The Committee recognised that a mechanism needed to be identified regarding the return of spares. The Committee agreed that a meeting of the Spares Team should be organised to deal with the various problems with the present system. The members of the team were identified as Ian Somerville, Chris Streather, Neil Shoosmith, David Harris, Gerry Senior and Kevin Feltoe. Changes to the payment systems would be considered by the EC at the next meeting.

- 4) **Future Events and Rallies;** Tony Ripley spoke about the future events. The Weeting Norton Festival would be called the *Norton In-Steam Festival* and this would be part of the Weeting Steam Festival. Tim Gosling informed the Committee that the Club would have their own area and a separate gate that would allow a reasonable level of access to the site. There would be various events throughout the day, organised by both the Club and the organisers of the event. One problem that had been identified was related to the provision of separate showers and toilet blocks. Refreshments and other costs would be assessed before a price for attending the rally could be agreed. Bookings would go online shortly thereafter. A budget for awards at future rallies would be agreed instead of the existing situation whereby the costs of awards were added to the attendance fee. **2018 International Rally;** with regard to this event the Club Chairman would be the primary contact. It was recognised that accommodation in Austria would be difficult to obtain and quite expensive due to the event taking place during a busy holiday period when there were other significant events taking place simultaneously. The Club van may be taken to the event once costs had been established. **2019 International Rally;** the Norton Owners Club of the Netherlands had approached the Club and had offered to organise this event; the Committee agreed to accept the provisional offer. The Rally Team hoped to organize another event similar to the In-Cider Rally at Pontins (*September 2017*) but it was difficult to obtain dates for the 2018 season. It was generally hoped that events and locations for the 2019 season would be examined and booked with more attention to the lead times for booking such events. For 2019, The Secretary suggested a camping event at Donington Hall to celebrate the Diamond Anniversary of the foundation of the Club. The Committee gave Tony Ripley permission to provisionally book a hotel in Scotland for 2019. Mr Stuart Garner of Norton Motorcycles Ltd. intended to have a black-tie ball at Donington Hall on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2018. To complement this event there would be organised rides to the event from Plumpton, Andover and Wolverhampton (*the three principle sites of Commando production*); the Committee agreed to support this initiative.
- 5) **A and B list of Event;** David Harris outlined the various events that the Club supported. These were provisionally identified as ~

<b>‘A’ List of Events</b>	<b>‘B’ List of Events</b>	<b>‘C’ List of Events</b>
Race Retro	Bristol Show	Norfolk Camping Weekend
AGM	Prescott	Ardingly Show
Stafford (April)	Founders’ Day	Southern Classic Show
Endurance Legends	Café Racer Day	
VMCC Banbury Run	Stafford Show (October)	
Festival of 1,000 Bikes	Coventry Moto-Fest	
Norton Festival		
International Rally		
National Rally		

Peter Scatchard agreed to configure the 'C' list; Peter and David Harris would work together on the 'B' list.

- 6) **Forks Video;** Peter Scatchard made a provisional agreement with John Nettleship to organise the video with proper lighting, camera work and editing for approximately £2,000. Filming was expected to take place during January 2018 with Mick Hemmings presenting the dismantling and assembling of Norton forks. A rehearsal would be arranged beforehand to establish timings and a suitable script. Peter would oversee the production of the video. It was hoped to include girder-forks. Costings included travel and overnight accommodation for the cameraman and producer. Peter White asked Peter Scatchard to speak to Mick Hemmings to determine whether he could incorporate brakes into the filming. Peter Scatchard was given full permission to proceed with the arrangements and the filming arrangements.
- 7) **Website Issues;** Dave Kington informed the Committee that the system was running on a new server and it appeared to be running more efficiently. The existing messages would be transferred to the new system at a suitable point. Some Members' browsers had generated a message which suggested that site was 'insecure'. Dave asked for a programming change to remove the 'insecure' note; this would cost approximately £100 and would be undertaken by White-Hot; this was agreed.
- 8) **Changes to EC meetings;** the Admin Sub-Committee would begin meeting in 2018. The members would consist of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Treasurer, the Secretary and a minimum of two other Members of the Executive Committee. The two extra members were identified as Dave Kington and Peter Scatchard. The dates and types of meetings are set out in the table below~

<i>Executive Committee</i>	<i>Admin Sub-Committee</i>
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> of March	Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> of January
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> of July	Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> of May
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> of November	Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> of September

The agendas and minutes of each meeting will be distributed to the Members of the Executive Committee. The decision to undertake this system would be reviewed at the meeting of the Executive Committee in November 2018.

- 9) **James Lansdowne Norton's Grave;** the Vice-Chairman had asked for clarification regarding designs for the plaque on the grave. The Committee agreed to the second option they were shown; the cost would be £360. A wreath-laying service would be organized for a date in April.

- 10) Drawings held by the Club;** the Club held drawings of many parts of Norton machines. The drawings had been scanned at some point. Tony Ripley had possession of the scans. Andover Norton had formally requested copies of the drawings. The Committee considered the request from Andover Norton but expressed reservations regarding intellectual property held by the Club. A set of barrels for 600cc machines were presently being commissioned from such a drawing. The Committee agreed that once sets of barrels had been successfully completed some of them could be sold to Members and also to Andover Norton and other Norton spares manufacturers and retailers. The Secretary was instructed to consult Dave Fenner who was the Secretary of the Club at the time of the purchase of the drawings to ascertain that such a purchase had been made possible location of the receipt. The drawings would continue to be held by the Club and the situation would be discussed at the meeting of the Admin Sub-Committee in January 2018.
- 11) Branch Folding Procedure;** this proposal was agreed. The Constitution would need to be amended at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee instructed the Secretary to draw up the necessary papers in advance of the 2018 Annual General Meeting.
- 12) Guest Speakers;** Peter Scatchard had requested from the Branch Secretaries a list of people who could be recommended for the role of speaking at Branch meetings. Some branches had provided lists of suitable speakers but there were problems regarding location of the speakers and their willingness or ability to travel to the other branches.
- 13) Branch Grants;** Peter Scatchard asked the Committee to note that branch grants covered the whole of the respective year. The deadline for the return of applications for 2017 grants was fixed at the 15<sup>th</sup> of December. The recommendations would be made before the end of the financial year and, if agreed, would be paid following the meeting of the Admin Sub-Committee on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January.
- 14) Calendar update;** Lena Gosling informed the Committee that the sales of the large-format calendar were broadly in line with those of 2017 calendar but sales of the desktop calendar were showing an increase. The 2019 calendar would be the last one that the Calendar team would be able to produce and distribute the calendar. The Committee noted that under the managements of the existing calendar team the production and distribution of the calendar had been extremely successful. The Committee thanked the team for their hard work since they took on the role. The Chairman proposed that the existing problem with the postage rates for the calendar on the website shop should be resolved at the January meeting; this was agreed.
- 15) Treasurer's Report;** the Treasurer reported that the financial year for the 2017 accounts would close on the 24<sup>th</sup> of December. Officers should note this issue if they required outstanding payments or expense claims.

- 16) Roadholder Format;** this issue was raised on behalf of Mark Woodward. Mark had examined the possibility of a larger magazine but prohibitive postage costs by sending larger and heavier magazines would lead to a highly significant rise in the cost of production and consequently, the Club subscriptions. It was decided not to proceed with this initiative.
- 17) Online back copies of Roadholder;** the Chairman raised this issue and noted with much concern that the upload of previous back copies of the magazine had ceased. The files had been processed but there were concerns regarding their quality. The Chairman would speak to the Editor and Tony Ripley would consult Chris Grimmett regarding a solution for this issue.
- 18) Records Officers' Charges;** Dave Catton and Chris Streather suggested that the prices for records services be revised in line with the document which had been distributed. The Committee agreed to an immediate increase for record services from non-Members. The increase for Members would be discussed at the January meeting of the Admin Sub-Committee.
- 19) The John Hudson Award;** this item was discussed.
- 20) A.O. B. Branch of the year award;** this was discussed.