

MINUTES OF THE SMCA EXTRA ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

THE LAMB, THEALE. 22.03.2009

THOSE PRESENT Les Batten, *Chairman*, Steve Tye, *Secretary*, Sue Tye, *Treasurer*, Martin Guilford, *Vice Chairman*, Chris Helm, *Press Officer*, Pam Humphrey, *Bulletin Editor*, Paul Pelling, *British Championship Co-ordinator*, Sue Kemp, Ian Cooper, Eric Maguire, also in attendance Ann Peters,

APOLOGIES Gary Patey, *Membership Secretary*

1. The meeting was opened by the Chairman who invited Martin Guilford to lead the discussion on the reasons for considering a change of name for the Association. Martin's thoughts were that the use of the word "Association" in the title could put people off from joining as it seemed to convey that the SMCA is not a club. Ann Peters read out a dictionary definition of the word "Association" and it did seem to describe the aims of the SMCA fairly well.

A lengthy discussion about the pros and cons of using the word "Club" instead of "Association" in our title followed. Chris Helm suggested that if there was more publicity about what was done by the SMCA, so there was greater understanding, it might attract more members and reduce the need to consider a name change. It was felt this was a good course of action to pursue. Also it was agreed that Chris should look at the original "Aims of the Association" documents and suggest updates to these as necessary.

2. 2010 Subscription Rates. There had been a suggestion at the AGM that the lower subscription rates charged by other clubs deterred people from joining the SMCA. The inference was that significantly lower subscriptions would attract more members. The treasurer explained that over the past three years the running costs of the SMCA had been fairly stable at about £1300 and that they were only just covered by the current membership income. If that amount was decreased there would need to be an additional form of fund raising to meet expenses. As there was no obvious opportunity from elsewhere for the SMCA to raise funds, it was decided that to reduce subscriptions was not an option at this time. There was a discussion about whether a greater differential between members and non members for the cost of dinner tickets could be a means to encourage membership and it was agreed to try this. Also it was suggested that to have membership forms and 2010 licence forms available at the South Hants Club's Sidecar Sunday would be an ideal way to promote the merits of belonging to the SMCA.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2.05pm

