



READING CYCLING CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES 2019

Date: Wednesday 11th September 2019

Venue: Upper Room, Park United Reformed Church, 21 Palmer Park Ave, Reading, RG6 1DN

Incumbent Committee: [REDACTED]

Also Present: [REDACTED]

Copy to: Whole Club

Minutes by: [REDACTED]

The meeting began at 19:09 and [REDACTED] welcomed all comers.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from [REDACTED]

2. Minutes of 2018 AGM

The minutes of the AGM held 26th September 2018 were approved and taken as read. There were no matters arising.

It is proposed that these be taken as read.

3. Officials' Reports 2019

Chairman – [REDACTED]

We have had another successful year. The committee is working well together, I think our changes to the Club run / points format are working particularly well.

Many thanks to all the other committee members, a lot of work is done behind the scenes. The club simply would not exist without its volunteers.

We have hit over 200 members yet again, an amazing number considering all the other cycling clubs in the vicinity.

We run a number of highly regarded events; these need continued support from club members in order to continue. Especial mention for the Bill Higson Cyclo-Cross event and the upcoming national hill climb. This last will be extremely prestigious for Reading Cycling Club. This is not to undervalue the open time trials. These run under a much smaller cadre of volunteers and sometimes the lead organisers have problems recruiting, and my thanks go to their efforts.

The club is looking at expanding to allow junior members to come on club runs. This is a development which I am particularly excited about. We need to have younger riders to fill the spaces left vacant by older riders. I believe that cycling needs a younger image.

I look forward to riding this coming year with and for the vibrant organisation that we are.

General Secretary – [REDACTED]

This was my second year as club secretary. I'm so happy to see that our Club continues to thrive. There are many reasons for this, but I believe that the main one is simply that we are brought together by a common love of the bicycle and the enthusiasm of riding it. I've met so many interesting people I would never have had the pleasure of knowing if I wasn't a member of this Club.

Here are just some of the highlights of my second year: club water bottles, a new club gazebo, ALL our open events, the really windy Anthony Maynard Reliability Trial, the entertaining club session at the Wales National Velodrome, the Awards Night and Club Dinner, laughing during Tuesday evening TTs and just simply riding my bike on a club run with my friends. Perhaps the most memorable moment is tendering for the 2020 National Hill Climb with [REDACTED] in front of the London West District Committee. How exciting that this event is coming to our district and that our Club has been chosen to promote it. Whether I'm known as the Chief Cajoler or RCC Mosquito thank you for always responding to and tolerating my messages calling for volunteers for our open events and engaging in the many emails and Facebook posts I write. Our Club can reliably put on a great event because of your support and this is a major reason we were chosen to promote a national event.

I am sure that I do not only speak for myself when I say that I enjoy hearing about and celebrating your achievements which include but are not limited to positions, podiums and points. Keep sharing your experiences and adventures on two wheels; what I hear is always so inspirational that there will always be a reason to ride my bike.

Treasurer – [REDACTED]

This was my fourth year as RCC Treasurer.

Full details of the accounts are on the following page, please note there's a typo in the header which mentions 2016 rather than 2018.

The club started the year with funds of £12238.20 and finished with £12785.77, a surplus in the year of £547.47. There are a couple of points to bear in mind when looking at the accounts:

The committee agreed to continue to fund clothing orders with a discount, so this made the surplus lower than it would otherwise have been.

The timing of the 2019 road race meant that pre-event income of £432 was in 2019, but the expenses will all be in the 2020 financial year.

The club has two types of income and expenditure.

Membership subs, clothing purchase and sales, and the other normal costs of running the club. Including the clothing orders and sales, this part of the account made a loss of £1877.99. However, the main reason for this was the purchase of some one-off expensive equipment, which was effectively funded by the profit from events (see below).

Event promotions. Club time trials made slightly more money than last year, Open TTs slightly less. Last year's Hillingdon Road Race made £522. The Bill Higson CX entry fees were changed this year, as a result the event made £1019, which better reflects the effort it takes, and gives us a good buffer against potential loss from bad weather.

Given the above, I see no need to raise the subscription level for 2019/2020.

The biggest financial outlays this year were the clothing orders, plus race equipment. I'd like to thank David Ebdon again for his very efficient administration of the clothing process.

The new club equipment comprised:

- Gazebo with RCC branding: £1092.
- 4 x CTT approved timekeepers' stopwatches for Open Event timekeeping: £1008.

Since the post of Club Coach is currently vacant, the committee also agreed to fund £520 for [REDACTED] to qualify as a BC coach, on the understanding that he would be coaching club members as part of his qualification and would be available to coach club members once qualified.

The club still holds the "Bill Blake Aspirant Fund", now at a value of £611, which was a kind donation from a long-standing member, to support young riders with equipment purchases, or help towards racing. If you would like to nominate a recipient, please contact the committee.

The Co-Op bank branch in Reading has closed, which makes dealing with cheques even more inconvenient, so please use electronic transfers in club business wherever possible.

It also reduces the workload of the committee if people pay their subs online through British Cycling, rather than via individual payments as a few have still chosen to do.

I'd like to thank [REDACTED] for reviewing the accounts. He's signed a copy of the summary page to indicate that he's reviewed them and not found any problems, but also wishes to point out that since we weren't paying for his services as an auditor, he can't professionally give an opinion on them.

Points Classification Secretary – [REDACTED]

I'm glad to see that the Points Classification contributes in keeping RCC members entertained and engaged with the club. This was made possible by all the members, club run leaders, event organisers who helped collect data to insert into the classification by keeping track of all events, participants and RCC jersey usage. Special thanks to [REDACTED] who took care of recording the events of the RCC Tuesday's Time Trial Season, that was extremely helpful.

Points Rewards:

I am pleased to announce that we will have a number of prizes to be given out at the annual club dinner according to the points classification. Considering last year's popularity with the rewards, the committee agreed to allocate the profits made by the Mini Gran Fondo events plus £300 for the purchase of the prizes. The jackpot will be made of several items; at the annual dinner each member will be invited to choose a prize according to the result in the overall points classification. Together with the rewards there will be awards for the winners of each sub-classification as well. Important: please note that members must attend the club dinner to collect their prize. Don't miss it!

Mini Gran Fondo:

[REDACTED] and I organised a Mini Gran Fondo event to Walbury Hill last summer. We were blessed by good weather and good company; we had 27 participants making a profit of £87. Andy and I are planning to organise another MGF event to Maidensgrove in the autumn. These events are open to everyone so feel free to spread the word. Date TBC.

Road Race Secretary and Criterium organiser – [REDACTED]

2019 saw the second running of the annual RCC Hillingdon Crits. Again, great weather accompanied the event, which saw 69 riders across three races.

The women's 4th category proved a bit hit again with 15 entries and saw the most enthusiastic racing and closest finish of the day.

Numbers were down a bit from 2018, but this has been a consistent theme across all Hillingdon events this year. In turn profits were down too, not just because of total numbers but also because we had to seek commercial help with a first aid provider. This is something to look at for next year's event.

Race 2 was also the Reading CC Road Race Championship, which was duly won by [REDACTED] as first RCC rider over the line. Well done [REDACTED]!

A big thank you for helping from RCC members: [REDACTED] as BC Commissaire, [REDACTED], and the [REDACTED] family and friends, the event could not run without them.

Track Secretary – [REDACTED]

Track cycling in the club has had a great year going from strength to strength with more members experiencing the joys (and pain) of the velodrome. The racing at Reading Track League has been well attended this summer with the biggest RCC representation that I have known in my time with the club. With ever increasing numbers also gaining track accreditation the signs are encouraging to see plenty of RCC jerseys back at Track League next year.

We have had eight members representing the club and contributing to some great racing at Reading Track League this year. After finishing last season with 3rd place overall in the B league, [REDACTED] stepped up to race in the A's this year and has shown he can hold his own amongst some tough competition. With four events left to go during September, [REDACTED] is currently 5th position overall in the track league and 8th in the 20K endurance league. The B league has seen [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] all competing this year. [REDACTED] is currently sitting in 4th place in B league overall and 2nd in the 20K endurance league. A further six club members [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] - have all gained accreditation to race at Palmer Park and are now able to join in the fun.

As far as indoor track is concerned, [REDACTED] raced in the track league at Lee Valley velodrome earlier in the year. We also had a successful club visit to the indoor velodrome at Newport back in February attended by 21 RCC members and 3 guest riders.

Having taken on the track secretary role a few years ago when I was the lone RCC regular at track league, it's great to see so many others now taking part. I would be very happy to now stand down if anyone else fancies taking it on. If not, then I can continue in the role if required.

Time Trial Secretary – [REDACTED]

For 2019, Reading CC undertook to promote four open time-trial and 23 type 'B' (club) time-trials.

[REDACTED] promoted the first open of the season with the '25' in early July on the Aldermaston course. There were 65 entrants and 52 finishers. [REDACTED] promoted the Open 10 on the same roads later in July when he had a similar number of entrants. In this event Henley rider [REDACTED] set a course record 19:03. The Open '50' on 18th August was cancelled at short notice as the course would have had to pass the location of the fatality of Thames Valley police constable [REDACTED]. The open hill-climb is scheduled for 22 September and may see an increase in entries as we look forward to being the hosting club for the 2020 National Hill Climb. My thanks go to the promoters and volunteers who make

these events possible. I would like to see more Reading CC members actually entering these events as riders, we often seem thinly represented.

Our type 'B' events take place on Tuesday evenings. By comparison to other local clubs, we use a wide variety of courses, 9 different ones this year, and have a long season which starts as soon as the clocks change. This is how RCC has arranged its calendar for many years, but I don't really know whether people like that or not! Reading CC is notable among regional clubs in having the cheapest entry fee at £3. In terms of quantity of individual rides, we are having a decent year and are highly likely to exceed 300 rides. For comparison there were 238 rides in 2018, 283 in 2017, 290 in 2016, but 454 in 2015. I've observed a couple of trends in recent years. First, a greater participation of women, which is very welcome. Second, fewer riders on specialist TT machines and more on their normal road bikes. We are a friendly lot and every week riders from other clubs are among those competing in our events.

Although my role as time trial secretary is frequently enjoyable, running the club time-trial programme through the summer is a substantial commitment and I am not willing to continue with the current arrangements. I'm sure that as a club we can find a way to spread the workload and continue to promote events that are real grass-roots racing.

Social Media Secretary – [REDACTED]

Reading CC presence on social media includes Facebook, Strava and Twitter, also for completeness the BC Club Page is included in this report (although not strictly SM).

Plans for the coming year are to ensure that our social media is better integrated, with the new website (once this is committed) and that encourage members to make use of new relevant features which are continually added to Facebook and Strava.

To ensure that we maintain a fresh image that reflects all aspects and activities of the club, new pictures with members in the new kit would be welcome, particularly any of members in competitive events, these could be rotated on the SM pages.

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/readingcyclingclub/>

Total group members: **1114** at end of August 2019, an increase of **18%** over the last year.

The RCC Facebook group has become increasingly the main vehicle for the club to openly interact between members, as well as prospective members and the wider cycling community, including members of neighbouring cycling clubs and organizations. Members are increasingly using it to share information on clubs runs and other club events, including use of the event feature. Admins ensure that key messages are pinned to the top of the timeline.

In FB terminology, it is an 'open group', that means it is visible to everyone, although only members of the group can post or comment on the page. Membership policy managed by the admin's and currently is anyone open to anyone who sends a request, seems genuine and is clearly a real person (many on FB are not). It's a policy that continues to work; the club has attracted many new paid up members through this route, with the number of external users who have had to be blocked being minimal, currently 14 (less than 1.5%).

Top contributors: [REDACTED]

Admins: [REDACTED]

In addition, a new Facebook page has been created 'National Hill Climb 2020' to provide a forum for communication in the lead up to this event over the next year.

If you haven't done so already, please 'like' this page to stay informed:

<https://www.facebook.com/NationalHillClimb2020>

Strava:

<https://www.strava.com/clubs/readingcyclingclub>

Total group members: **486** at end of August 2019, an increase of **15%** over the last year.

During the RCC Strava Group was changed from a 'group' to a 'team', a subtle difference that impacts on what appears on the personal profiles of Strava members. The main summary page has been updated with pictures highlighting the new jersey, as well as more up to date information on club activities. There have been a few external posts / questions made to this page, but this really remains just a leaderboard of weekly activities.

Admins: [REDACTED]

Twitter:

@ReadingCC

This is currently an underutilised SM tool, although it will become more of an asset once it is linked to the new website. Other clubs that successfully use Twitter, tend to use it for providing quick live updates to the main website home page e.g. TT results, club run updates, etc. as well as re-tweeting other relevant tweets from other sources.

Admins: [REDACTED]

British Cycling Club Page:

<https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/club/profile/3529/reading-cc>

This page provides information on the club for those searching via the BC club finder. The page has been updated to include information on club runs, TT's and links to our main site.

Admin: Club Secretary [REDACTED]); those also with admin rights include [REDACTED]

Women's Representative – [REDACTED]

Interest from women in the club has remained steady this year, and we have had several new women join. Both current members and new members have been leading the 'ladies' or 'social' rides. Thank you to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for leading rides.

Ladies rides and social rides seem to be the best way to get more women riding and interested in the club, and I will be continuing to promote these and looking for new ways to increase members confidence in leading their own rides.

█ ran a 'ride leaders' workshop for women which three women from the club attended as well as many women from the Belles cycling group. This was a great bit of networking between the two clubs as well as being a very informative session. I have shared highlights from the session with the women in the club via email.

We have had great representation from the women in the club this year at our RCC and external events. █ has done particularly well in the time trials, and we've seen great achievements from women in the club at cyclocross, hill climbs, Reading track league, Ride London and others.

It's been a tough first year as women's rep for me as I've been unable to ride much. But the support from the rest of the committee and the club has been great.

There are 34 women in the club this year, and we've gone from 13% women in the club last year up to 16% this year.

Sportive Secretary – █

As Sportive Secretary, my two main responsibilities are organising the RCC Anthony Maynard Reliability Trial and coordinating club entries into RideLondon. While I don't report on other Sportives specifically, I do keep an eye out on them and the excellent results that club members have achieved during the Sportive season.

RCC Anthony Maynard Reliability Trial 2019

Despite some challenging weather with high winds and some rain, even hail, this was a well attended event on a slightly modified course.

The event winner was █ in a time of 3:14 against a forecasted time of 3:15.

Group	No. of riders	No. of finishers
MEDIUM Trial	11	8
FAST Trial	26	22
FASTER Trial	0	n/a
PRESIDENT'S Trial	16	16
TOTAL	53	46

We had seven DNFs

Clubs represented	No. of riders
RCC	34
CCC	1
GSH	2
MCC	3
PPV	12
Pankhurst / RCC	1

RideLondon

This year we fielded three RCC teams of 4 riders for the Club Challenge in what is now probably the largest sportive with 25,000 entrants. Twelve riders in all; two men's team and one mixed team added to by other RCC members who entered through via ballot or through charities resulted in an excellent club showing. It was great to see so many cyclists in our distinctive RCC jerseys.

RCC team and overall results below:

Mixed team

██████████	5:13	██████████	5:09
██████████	DNS	██████████	4:34

Men's Team 1

██████████	4:45	██████████	4:01
██████████	4:11	██████████	4:05

Men's Team 2

██████████	5:03
██████████	5:39
██████████	4:48
██████████	4:58

Name	Distance	Time	Ave Speed
	(km) Approx.		(kph) Approx.
	160	04:01:00	39.83
	160	04:05:00	39.18
	160	04:11:00	38.25
	160	04:13:00	37.94
	160	04:31:00	35.42
	160	04:34:00	35.04
	160	04:45:00	33.68
	160	04:48:00	33.33
	160	04:58:00	32.21
	160	05:03:00	31.68
	160	05:03:00	31.68
	160	05:06:00	31.37
	160	05:06:00	31.37
	160	05:09:00	31.07
	160	05:13:00	30.67
	160	05:39:00	28.32
	160	06:22:00	25.13
	74	02:42:00	27.41

Sportive General

While there is plenty of chatter on the RCC Facebook page regarding entries to and even attending Sportives, there are very few reports. Here are links to some:

RideLondon

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/readingcyclingclub/permalink/2304314469648810?sfns=mo>

Marmotte Sportive

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/readingcyclingclub/permalink/2261230060623918?sfns=mo>

Wildwood Gravelcross CX Sportive

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/readingcyclingclub/permalink/2025358064211120?sfns=mo>

I have heard of many more excellent rides both locally and in Europe including some of the greats; Marmotte, Etape du Tour, Maratona and the Classics. Please remember to either write a report on Facebook or send me the details and, as your Sportive Secretary, I can help to publish it.

Sadly, a historically very well RCC attended Sportive, Velothon Wales, was cancelled this year.

All round another excellent Sportive Season for RCC.

Club Runs Secretary – [REDACTED]

2019 continues to be a fantastic year for the club run, already this year we have seen over 200 club runs and a massive thanks to the 41 members who have led those rides. From social rides to 200mile blasts and everything in-between, -5 and bitterly cold, wrapping ourselves in blankets to 34 degrees, sunscreen and six bottles! From the Boxing Day Bacon bap ride to the Surrey hills sunshine ride!

The Thursday rides go from strength to strength often having 2 different groups in the morning and equally the evening rides have also proved more popular with the fantastic weather and short sharp routes ([REDACTED] has also joined ----- in riding both the Thursday club runs in one day.) Sunday continues to be the main day for the club with around 30-50 cyclists often assembling come rain or shine (ok maybe a little less during heavy rain!) and painting the town blue.

One thing that's up and coming at the moment is the social rides, hopefully these will become a staple every Sunday enabling more people to ride with the club and enjoy the benefits of cycling. Shortly to support the younger generation we will be reviewing our guidelines around junior members on club runs, we have had a couple of juniors join us this year and this could be key to getting younger members in the club and ensuring we have a strong pipeline to keep RCC alive for years to come.

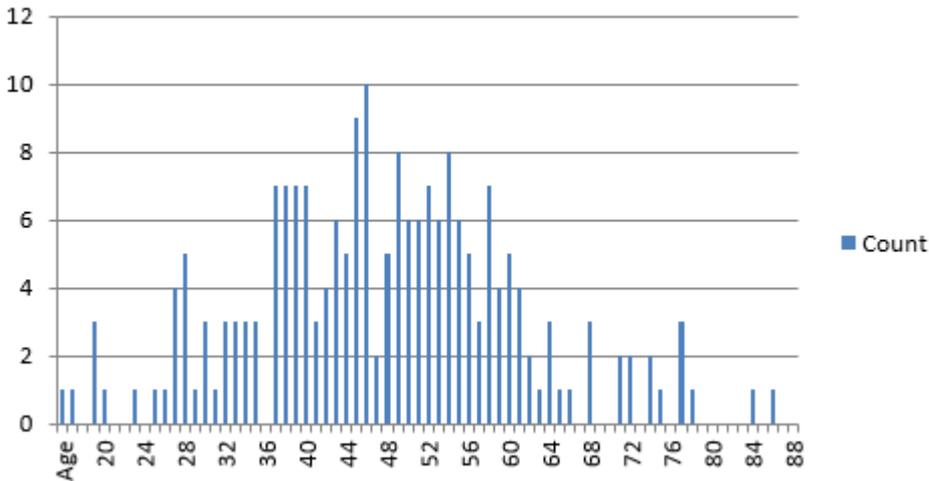
My biggest ask going forward will be for ride leaders to come forward and especially in advance, it really is great when a potential member approaches me and I'm able to advise them of distance & location a good few days before the ride, without our fantastic ride leaders there would be no club runs, if anyone is thinking of stepping up and leading a ride I'd be more than happy to spend time with them and ride together – just ask☺.

Overall a great 2019 and I look forward to another year of club runs, Unfortunately I've not got round to a seaside steady ride however I hear a Christmas dinner ride is on the cards sometime soon...

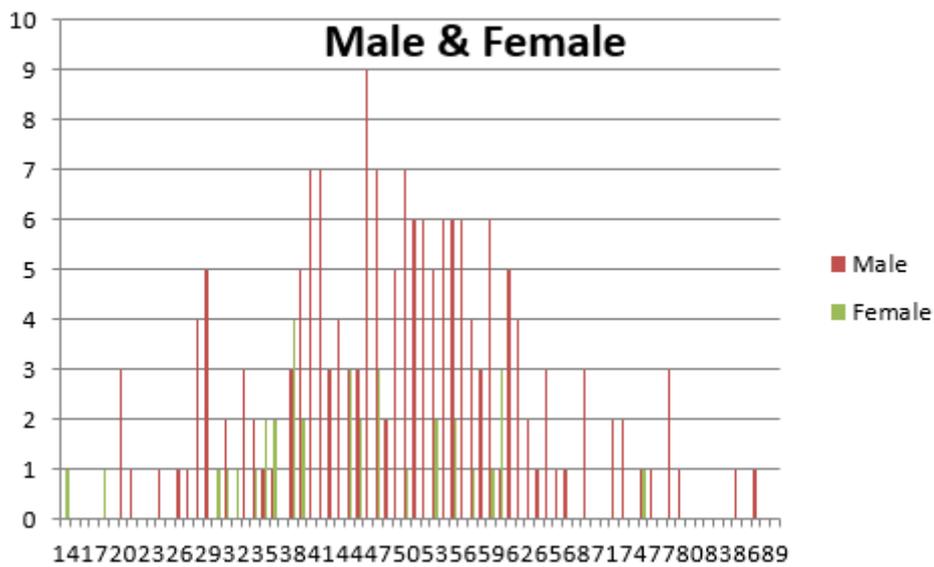
Membership Secretary – [REDACTED]

On the date of the AGM we have 206 members. The two graphs show the age distribution. The average age of the club is just below 50 and the number of female members continues to grow and is currently at 35.

All Members Age



Male & Female



[REDACTED] commented that Reading CC is a thriving club in the area.

4. Election of Officials 2019

The following incumbent officials offered themselves for re-election and were accepted unanimously:

Chair	████████
Club Secretary	████████████████
Treasurer	████████
Membership Secretary	████████
Club Runs Secretary	████████
Points Classification Secretary	████████
Social Secretary	████████████
Sportive	████████
Road	████████
Track	████████████
Welfare Officer	████████
Social Media	████████
Audax	████████
Accounts	████████
Master of Trophies	████████████

The following people were elected unopposed and unanimously:

Clothing	████████
Club Coach	████████████
Women's Representative	████████
Webmaster	████████████

The AGM was most grateful to [REDACTED] for all her work as Women's representative and stepping up to take over from [REDACTED]

The AGM was most grateful to ----- for his work as an unofficial Clothing Secretary. [REDACTED] stressed that club kit is being worn by members regularly and has given the club a stronger identity.

[REDACTED] agreed to stay on as Time Trials secretary dependant on the outcome of proposition B. [REDACTED] has been the Club's Time Trials Secretary since 2014 ensuring that the Club offer a very rich programme of type B events from March-September each year as well as liaising with the CTT and LWDC with regards to both club and Open events. The AGM was most grateful to [REDACTED] for all his work as Time Trials Secretary over the years.

No one was willing to be Cyclocross Secretary, but it was noted that the Club's cyclocross riders regularly engage with the Club through social media.

Open Event Organisers

The following members offered to organise these events in 2020

Open 10 TT	[REDACTED]
Open 25 TT	[REDACTED] / [REDACTED]
Open 50 TT	[REDACTED] / [REDACTED]
National Hill Climb 2020	[REDACTED]
Road/Crit Race	[REDACTED]
Bill Higson Memorial Cyclocross	[REDACTED] and team

[REDACTED] briefly talked about the atmosphere at a National Hill Climb event and how special and exciting this event will be.

5. Propositions

Two club members had provided votes by proxy and the General Secretary counted their votes in addition to those present. The Chair did not vote.

A. The Open 10-mile TT should include a separate road bike category

"I'd like to propose the open 10 runs a second event for road bike. Justification being Didcot doubled their entry by doing just this. Could even run as a linked competition with not just solo event prizes, but linked prizes for the road bike 10."

It may encourage more Reading CC members to enter.

Proposed: [REDACTED]

Seconded: [REDACTED]

Several members at the AGM mentioned that they would enter an RCC Open TT on their road bikes if there was a separate category. [REDACTED] expressed concern that there would be fewer marshals as a result. [REDACTED] stressed that as a club of over 200 members marshalling of events should and would not be a problem and members should always be encouraged to enter RCC events.

The proposal was put to a vote

For: 32 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1

MOTION CARRIED

B. There should be a rota for the Tuesday evening club time trials to enable members to sign up to organise and run them.

The role of time trial secretary should not include organising and running in excess of 20 club events. As many members of the club as possible should be encouraged to run these club events by selecting a date and signing up in advance.

Proposed: [REDACTED]

Seconded: [REDACTED]

The AGM agreed that the details of and responsibility for producing a rota should be discussed at the next committee meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. Club Affiliations

That the club affiliates to the following bodies for 2019-2020:

- British Cycling
- Cycling Time Trials/ London West District of Cycling Time Trials
- Cycling UK (formerly CTC)
- Wessex Cyclocross League

Proposed: Committee

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. Club Promotions

That the club promotes the following open events for 2020, subject to organisers being found:

- **Open RCC Crit Races at Hillingdon** (██████████)
- **Open 50m TT** (██████████)
- **Open 25m TT Clive Pugh Memorial** (██████████)
- **Open 10m TT Colin Roberts Memorial** (██████████)
- **Bill Higson CX** (██████████ and team)
- **2020 National Hill Climb (25/10/2020)** on behalf of the London West District Committee (██████████ assisted by ██████████)

Proposed: Committee

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Nomination of Delegates

The following members agreed to act as delegates on behalf of the Club and were unanimously elected.

- London West DC (CTT) [REDACTED]
- British Cycling [REDACTED] 2 others]
- Wessex League CX [REDACTED]

7. Any other Business

[REDACTED] commented that the club now owns 4 CTT certified stopwatches that can be used to time open events. [REDACTED] is now an LWDC assistant timekeeper and is looking for others in the club to become timekeepers as this will mean that our own club members can time the Club's open events.

Younger members attending club runs was discussed. [REDACTED] will re-write the club run guidance after discussion at the next committee meeting so that club runs become more accessible to U16 members.

The meeting was closed at 20:40.