**Velo Club Venta Annual General Meeting**

**Minutes of the AGM, held on Monday 20th November 2023 at South Downs Social**

Present: David Martin (Chairman)

Jonnie Talbot-Weiss (Treasurer)

Stuart Gilmour (Secretary)

Toby Leyland (Race Team Manager)

Malcolm Cross (Cyclo-Cross Head Coach)

Albert Buckingham-Ellison (Club Kit Manager)

Keith Irvine (Rides Officer)

Philip Allen (IT/Web Support)

Members: Matthew Gilmour, Alex Murphy, Sam Talent, Catherine Murphy, David Talent, Robin Howett, Andy Bateman, Helen Armour, Katy Hill, Chris Hughes, Dave Morris, Neil Wyatt, Chris Hutchings, Oscar Hoult, Brenda Hoult, Martin Pratt, Dani Forshaw, James Blakelock, Tyrone Miller, Jorge Manso, Nick Richens, Richard Sambrook-Smith, Drew Henderson

1. **Chairman’s Welcome**

David Martin (DM) opened the meeting by welcoming those present before presenting a report (copy attached) summarising club activity during the previous twelve months. In particular thanks were recorded to our long-standing sponsor Nick Richens and the London Camera Exchange.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Crispin Quail, Tom and John Adby, Ben Gibbs, Andrew Cowie, Andy Watkins, Nigel Fenwick, Amy Thorpe, Tina Webster, Oliver Hitchings, Becca Gilmour.

1. **Matters Arising from Minutes of the 2022 AGM**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting.

1. **Treasurers Report**

Jonnie Talbot-Weiss (JTW) presented the club accounts for the year ending 30th September 2023 which show a net surplus of approximately £6k. Main contributory factor to this was a £4.5k surplus on club activities including £1883 from go-ride coaching, £661 surplus on kit sales and £1887 racing surplus. There had also been an increase in member subscriptions from £4775 in year 2021-22 with approximately 250 paying members currently plus junior and student members on top of that who receive free membership.

The Club has also received £439 from Worldpay erroneously. This has been communicated to Worldpay who have yet to respond to our emails and resolve the matter so this is currently included as income.

Jonnie reported that he has established, as part of the treasury function, a cash flow analysis which is updated on a weekly basis and projects the flow of funds over a one-year period.

Chris Hutchings (CH) commented on the fact that the club was in a healthy financial position but suggested that we should not be accumulating funds unless there was some longer-term financial project that we were planning for, and consequently asked whether there were any plans to spend some of the club funds. DM advised that this was something that the committee had discussed and was keen to hear suggestions from the floor when we get to the open forum/Q&A at the end of the official business.

(SG - Although not discussed at the meeting there was no proposal from the committee to change subscription rates for 2023/24 with senior membership remaining at £25.00, couples membership at £40.00, students in full time higher or further education and junior membership remaining free).

1. **Election of Club Officials and Management Group**

The revised club constitution adopted at the 2022 annual general meeting requires that the following postholders are to be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting, Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary.

Chairperson – David Martin confirmed that he was happy to remain in the role and there being no other nominations was re-elected unanimously.

Treasurer – Jonnie Talbot-Weiss having been appointed in 2022 confirmed that he was happy to remain in role and there being no other nominations was re-elected unanimously. The caveat to his re-election is that Jonnie is likely to be moving away in summer 2024 and although he has given a commitment to complete the accounts for the next financial year (2023-24) a new treasurer will be required from summer 2024. The committee will seek to identify a successor who hopefully will be ratified at the next annual general meeting but to enable a proper handover to be completed before Jonnie leaves.

Secretary – Stuart Gilmour confirmed that he was happy to remain in the role and there being no other nominations was re-elected unanimously.

Other members of the management group will subsequently be co-opted to hopefully include those responsible for core club business including but not necessarily limited to the race manager, go-ride head coach, CX coach, safeguarding officer, womens section, rides officer and marketing. If anybody is keen to join the general committee they are asked to contact Stuart in the first instance.

1. **Election of a new Honorary Life Membership**

DM introduced a proposal from the committee that Chris Hutchings be elected as an Honorary Life Member of the club. David made a short presentation about Chris’s involvement with the club which includes a hugely significant contribution to the growth of the club from a point where membership had dwindled to single figures driving it forward to the club that we currently enjoy consisting of over three hundred members. Chris was chairman of the club overseeing a five-year plan that focussed on not only growth but greater diversity in the membership. In addition to his wisdom and foresight as club chairman Chris organised our Wessex League cyclocross event for many years as well as supporting and assisting with other competitive events provided by the club and all while competing in club colours successfully on road and off-road. The meeting voted unanimously in favour of Chris being awarded an Honorary Life Membership.

1. **Open Forum/AOB**

Following a short break SG invited any questions or comments from the floor.

Training Venues - SG started by advising that there are ongoing consultations about the re-development of both Bushfield Camp and the Army Training Regiment site on Andover Road North. Richard Sambrook-Smith (RSS) has been in close contact with the developers of the Bushfield site attending the public consultation process to lobby for cycling facilities. This is predominantly to provide an alternative go-ride training venue as activity at South Winchester Park & Ride is subject to regular disruption from illegal encampments, but also seeking opportunity to provide an off-road (cx) training venue as well. Toby Leyland (TL) advised that Winchester Hockey Club have sent out a bulletin to al of their members as they are keen to secure a permanent club base with artificial pitches and some of that infrastructure already exists and will be retained as part of the ATR development. A key element of the hockey club plan is that their members are being asked to “lobby” developers and other key stakeholders. Malcolm Cross (MC) confirmed that there is still money available from a local charitable trust if suitable land were to be identified for CX and road training. Andy Bateman (AB) confirmed that lobbying the relevant local city and county councillors increased profile of interested parties and suggested that the clubs’ interest could be linked with active travel partners (Cycle Winchester) to evidence the possible links between both recreational and sports cyclists. The Hampshire Chronicle remains a really strong mouthpiece for local views and a letter to the Chronicle from the committee outlining our interest in either or both schemes could be advantageous.

Oscar Hoult (OH) asked with the club pursuing training venues whether that meant we would no longer be using South Winchester P&R for racing and/or training. SG advised that the club have a licence with Winchester City Council to use the P&R for cycling activity and that continues to be a facility available to us. As a race organiser and coach though there is always an anxiety around South Winchester P&R specifically around site security and illegal encampments. As the site is only “secure” on a Sunday it does enable anybody with an ulterior motive to simply drive in at any other time of the week so any opportunity to secure training facilities at Bushfield and ATR are considered complimentary to our continued use of South Winchester.

Membership - James Blakelock (JB) referred back to reports earlier in the meeting that approximately sixty new members had joined the club during the past twelve months and asked where those members were which initiated a conversation around membership, how we welcome members and whether we needed to consider a club “induction”. Dani Forshaw (DF) was in attendance having only joined the club a couple of months ago and said that a number of questions that she had asked before committing to joining the club had been answered very quickly and she had found the club to be very welcoming and supportive. The meeting agreed that the weekly notice sheet and also the published rides programme were two popular and informative sources of information. Dave Morris (DaM) suggested that maybe an electronic induction pack could be put together incorporating useful club information. SG noted the possibilities this would create including how we let members know about all of the social media platforms that we are on. Brenda Hoult (BH) advised that her family had only taken up cycling during covid but found the website to be rather “bewildering” due to the amount of information that it contains. SG agreed having been doing some website updates recently that he had visited pages that he did not know existed. Helen Armour (HA) confirmed that there are analytical products available to identify how many views pages get on the website. SG to review.

JTW advised that having worked for many years in a membership-based leisure industry that the club could perhaps consider a new role of a membership officer responsible for all new member introductions but also expanding the role to identify trends, why members join and just as important if not more so, when members leave the club whether there are any core reasons behind those decisions.

Website - There was a request that the website be updated specifically with committee members having pictures on the website as the contacts page currently aside from JTW contains generic pictures alongside postholders that have no relevance to the individual.

Club Kit Hub - Neil Wyatt (NW) advised that the South Downs Social has recently expanded with additional seating and space available on the first floor. Neil had previously volunteered the South Downs Social as a kit hub where members could try on club kit and also as a collection point for orders. Albert Buckingham-Ellison (ABE) as club kit manager and the committee to consider the possibilities of this joint venture.

Club Rides - SG asked for any thoughts or feedback on the re-branding of club rides and start times. DM explained the thought process behind changing the names of the club rides to social, base and training to better reflect the objective of each group and to take focus away from each ride perhaps being identified by pace. CH stated that he preferred the numbers approach as it gave a clear expectation and definition about how fast a ride would be. Considering the rides programme it was agreed that the monthly gravel rides were now well established as part of the rides programme but maybe there was a gap for a more regular off-road ride. TL said that the Tuesday night MTB chainy was now adopted as a regular fortnightly ride. BH suggested a social family off-road or quiet lanes ride. There was also some conversation around the Tuesday night chaingangs in winter and the Saturday morning EMCG. SG advised that the EMCG is not a club ride so we have no club influence over the timing of that but it was acknowledged that during winter months with less daylight hours finding time and space for a fast training ride was challenging, particularly when there is a clash with Zwift race league on a Tuesday evening.

Cyclocross - MC advised that cyclocross training continues on a Wednesday evening currently but that he was looking to move to a Thursday night in Spring 2024. MC also advised that the club still have 3 x 46, 1 x 51 and 1 x 54 CX bikes available to loan to club members if anybody is keen to give CX a try.

Go-Ride Jerseys - Regarding the earlier conversation about spending some club funds, the club historically used to give a free club jersey to everybody who signed up for go-ride. There was some conversation around whether this should be re-introduced or whether a more casual top could be sourced. Committee will carry this forward for discussion.

There being no other business DM thanks Neil Wyatt for his hospitality in allowing the club to use the South Downs Social for the Annual General Meeting this year and closed the meeting at 8.50pm