



# Andreas Racing Association Ltd.

## 55<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting



In accordance with the Articles of Association of the Andreas Racing Association Limited notice has been given to all members that this meeting at the Creg Ny Baa Hotel, at 7.00 pm on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 is the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Company. The Andreas Racing Association is a non-profit making company limited by guarantee and is managed by its committee. Club members who are unable to attend may vote by proxy.

### Minutes

1. Apologies – Chris Kinley, Dave Molyneux, Lee Bartram
2. Approve minutes of the AGM held Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022; proposed Liz Warden, seconded Val Crone
3. Chairman's report:
  - Welcome everyone!
  - 2023
    - Stats – numbers similar to 2022
      - 106 different riders/drivers across 7 championship race meetings (5 weekends, because of 2 two-day meetings)
      - Best meeting had 64 riders, worst 53, (average 56)
      - Every meeting had over 100 grid starts (x two, remember!)
      - Solos averaged at least 14 on every grid (best 22, worst 10; 2<sup>nd</sup> races often less)
      - Most classes/grids looking ok. Weakest are post-classics, lightweight, singles, supertwins & PI 600s
      - Sidecar grids "ok" (more on this)
    - Test days popular, but
      - club lost money on them
      - prices will have to go up for 2024
    - Race school still producing new licence holders – another 11 this year
    - Another successful Jurby Day
      - ~4k visitors
      - Made some money for the club
      - More good publicity for ARA, especially within government
      - Plan to make it a more integral part of MGP for 2024
    - 2023 Centre Champion:
      - Solos: Ryan Cringle
      - Sidecars: Jim & Ben Gale
      - Novice & Clubman: Grant Thompson
  - Plans for 2024
    - Everyone being careful with money. The club is viable, has some decent reserves, and so we will:
      - Keep rider membership fees unchanged
      - Entry fees will have to go up slightly (circa £10)
    - Classes looking good, so thinking we stick with the same. Always open to proposals
    - Dates are booked (and on web site)
      - Pre-season test days in early March
      - Race days
        - March 31, April 21<sup>st</sup>, May 12<sup>th</sup>, June 16<sup>th</sup>, July 2-day on 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>
        - Sep 15<sup>th</sup>

- Oct 12<sup>th</sup> - Endurance  
Test day on the Saturday before all race days except July 2-day
- Planning for the future of the club
  - We're not a commercial club like those across in the UK; we need club members have to contribute
  - We always need:
    - More people to be involved at committee level
    - Officials – CoC & Timekeepers
    - Most of the committee have done 4 (hard!) years, and looking to step down – we need the next generation to step up
  - I won't steal Linda's thunder, but we are planning to change the roles we have for next year. I'm a clerk of the course now, so in race control almost every race day, and I want to look to the future for the club, and engage more with government and the ACU to take us to the next level.
- Annual dinner:
  - Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January
  - Palace Hotel, Douglas
  - Please come if you won a trophy!

4. Secretaries report:

**Thanks** to Neal and the ARA committee for all they have done this year.

Neal has provided some stats for the year, when you see what we achieve as a small island club it makes we very proud, the committee, the riders, the ACU officials and the spectators, thank you all for making it possible for ARA to achieve what we do

It takes time and dedication, my reserves of both are doing pretty well but we do need more help to run our events...

To quote a few people you all know

1. Tom and Blake from Unrestricted Isle, after helping out at a meeting earlier in the year, where they had both sets of radios, track and paddock, at the end of the day they came into race office looking rather frazzled, and Blake's words were " I will never again complain about being at the gate for a few minutes"

2. Val, the cake baker extradinare, "before I joined the committee I thought "they probably all make a plan on a Monday or Tuesday and then do some forms and we go racing on the Sunday, little did I know what is involved! I do now!"

And above all, thanks go to my paddock partner Jason Walker, we have laughed, nearly cried, shouted, screamed and stamped our feet (probably me rather than him), got soaked many times, got sunburn( not so often this year) but always left the track happy and content we did our best.

Jason and I work well together in the operational side of things and we hope to move this forward next year with some of the plans we have and our nominations to step up a rung, Jason can't be here this evening but is joining the meeting via Teams to listen in. He had a better offer and is away in Liverpool, I wish him lots of luck for the next few days as I am sure you all do too. I am expecting a bionic man version of Jason to be at the dinner in January.

Working with motorsport isn't always easy, ARA have pretty hefty criteria imposed on us for our events and this is only going to increase for 2024, We are up for it and we are prepared, our dates have all been agreed and we have some early test days in the calendar, the season never really finishes for the committee.

**Race classes** – Neal mentioned and we will discuss this once the formalities are out of the way, one close to my heart is sidecars, we need to agree a roadmap for next year, we need more outfits on track, how can we make this happen ?

**Finances** – As Neal said we are holding our own and we are trying to keep costs down, supporting our events, whether its riding (entry fees), marshalling (saves us a cost), helping at Jurby day (saves us buying in staff), it all adds up. We know there is another provider of track days but we urge you to consider the club and if there was no ARA how would you feel ? No Steam Packet deals, no ACU Benevolent Fund for when you have an off, no ACU Race School, no signatures on island for licence upgrades, perhaps no racing at all just track days.

Jurby Day did clear approx. £4,600 for the club; we plan to do this again next year but we really do need some help with set up and on the day, so please remember the date (Sunday at the end of MGP – the 25<sup>th</sup> August)

**2024** – Neal and I have come through some pretty heavy going with ARA over the last 4 years and the word proud is one I have used already this evening, and hope to continue to in the coming years. We have agreed some changes to the leadership structure and Neal will be stepping down, not away at all, we work too well together for that to happen and have we have not nearly finished with what we know ARA can do. I will be, if agreed this evening, taking on the role of Chair, with Jason as my ViceChair, Neal will take over from me as Secretary, personally nothing will really change apart from on paper, we know our lanes and we will keep on doing what we have been doing, but a little less pressure on Neal.

#### 4. Treasurer's Report: Neal Champion provided an overview of the accounts to the room

- We made a loss over the year. This is manageable, but will have to address this in 2024
  - Race days made small profit – but not enough, with increased insurance costs
  - Test days all made a loss
  - Jurby Day was profitable ~ £4.5k
  - Spent some money on equipment
    - 2 course cars - both were bargains
    - Bales
- Income and Costs
  - It now costs nearly ~£5.0k in fixed fees to put a race meeting on, before a wheel turns
    - Plus ACU insurance for each competitor
    - Plus Paypal processing fees for each transaction
  - This year 1-day race meetings have made us a profit of around £1.5~£2k
  - But we've lost ~£500 on the Test Days, and lost a lot more on the Endurance Meeting
    - To keep running the Endurance, the entry fee will have to go up a lot ☹️
  - The fixed costs of running the club outweigh membership & other income by nearly £10k
  - Leasing the ARA hangar to Northern Autocare means we're getting an income from that asset of ~£4k pa
- Proposed Changes for 2024
  - Race entry fees go up by £10 for first event, and £5 for 2<sup>nd</sup> i.e. £129 & £30
  - Test day fees go up to £99 (£15 for extra session/class)
  - Keeping riding membership the same (£40 for rider, £20 for U18)
  - Putting supporter membership up to £20
  - Entry on gate for spectators will also go up (£7 ?)
- I've been acting as Treasurer again this year, but the good news is that Craig Melvin is taking over! Craig has a very responsible day job, and is regulated by the FSA for that, so we are in good hands

5. Elections to the committee:

Nominations have been received by the closing date of 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The meeting will consider nominations made from the floor of the meeting. If there is more than one nominee for a role then it will be put to a vote; if only one nominee, then the meeting will be asked to approve the election to the following 3 positions.

<b>Appointed Role</b>	<b>Nominee(s)</b>
Chair	Linda Alton-Heath (proposed by Jason Walker, seconded by Liz Warden)
Vice Chair	Jason Walker (proposed by Linda Alton-Heath, seconded by Liz Warden)
Club Secretary	Neal Champion (proposed by Liz Warden, seconded by Linda Alton-Heath)

A number of the members below were co-opted onto the committee during 2023, and the meeting was asked to ratify their appointment for 2024 and to ratify the reappointment of the existing members by a show of hands; majority ruled in favour

<b>Committee</b>	
Race Secretaries	Liz Warden & Val Crone ((ratify)
Treasurer	Craig Melvin (ratify)
Other Committee members	Bruce Cobburn (ratify) Chris Kinley Dave Moffitt Emma Limerick Lee Bartram (ratify) Mike Brown Paul Cassidy (ratify) Ryan Smith Tony Redmond Amanda Wheatley (ratify)

6. Election of President and Vice Presidents: Proposed:
  - a. John Quilleash continue in the role of ARA president for another year; proposed Paul Cassidy, seconded by Neal Champion
  - b. Gordy Moore, Peter Cain, Dick Hodge, Ray Knight, Phil Kneen and Dave Molyneux continue in their role as Vice Presidents for another year; proposed Jason Walker, seconded by Marcus Simpson
7. Appointment of Auditor for the forthcoming year. The Committee propose that we ask Alta Group to be our Auditors for the forthcoming year; proposed Neal Champion, seconded by Craig Melvin
8. Any other business - Yes

Discussion topics were

1. Sidecar grids in 2023 and viability of full championship in 2024
  - Number of sidecars on island was discussed and if classics can run in open race
    - Agreement that yes they can (subject to usual ACU rules)
  - Meetings / laps available at a meeting
    - Agreement to continue with championship race at all rounds for 2024
    - Agreement for each meeting to have at least 1x free practice, 1 x quali session, 1 x 8 lap race, 1 x 6 lap race
2. Track prep / Jason's set up team (help needed)
  - Request for assistance to help with preparation for events and after
  - New role has been created within DforE for a caretaker for site; hopefully a positive move
    - Hugh and Emily have offered their assistance to Jason
    - Anyone is welcome to come along on a prep day/post event to assist, will be advised on social media/whats app
3. Mountain course licence dates now up to TT, 3 ARA events before that in 2024
  - Discussion re licences and positive news that the end of the time period for ACU sign off is now right up to TT and MGP

4. Trophies for meetings
  - Agreement for 1<sup>st</sup> place in all classes for the second run of each class per race day to be given an award
5. 3<sup>rd</sup> track
  - Discussion around delay/timing of completion of track; explanation given to the room regarding the damage to the surface of the track by other users resulting in ARA not being able to commit funds to prepare the required chicane needed for the ACU course licence sign off. DforE are aware of this and we await their reply.
6. Endurance event
  - Discussion around the format and timing of the event, the 2 style (traditional and pony express) event this year was well received, could we expand on this and reschedule the date for earlier in the year
    - Committee to consider and revert to riders via riders reps
7. Entry fees and membership prices
  - Discussion re rising costs of insurance, losses at track days and etc
    - Agreement to increase solo entry fees to £129 / £30
    - Agreement to increase sidecar entry fees to £145
    - Agreement to hold rider membership fees £40 / £20
    - Agreement to increase social membership fees to £20
    - Agreement to increase day entrance fee to £7
8. Super sport rules (in particular Triumph 675 eligibility)
  - Discussion regarding eligibility rules for the class
    - Agreement to follow BSB / No limits rules; committee to agree and advise via WhatsApp
9. CB500 class
  - Discussion around use of newer versions of tyres
    - Agreement to align with other series in UK, Juan Hunter to provide further guidance to committee who will be supportive of consensus
  - Discussion around eligibility of newer models of CB 500 (2002 – 2007)
    - As spares are becoming difficult, Jack Hunter will monitor CB rules and be an advisor to committee re age limits
    - Agreement to stick with current eligibility
    - Newer models are welcome to race with us, but this will be in the open class not the designed CB500 class, Jack Hunter will monitor and advise committee