**Blue Knights Scotland II**



**Annual General Meeting 2020**

Zoom - Cyberspace

Saturday 28th November 2020

**Welcome**

The chapter president Ewan Skinner opened the meeting and welcomed all to this unusual AGM

**Present**

Ewan Skinner, Andy Salmon, George Ritchie, Kyle Walker, David Connelly,

Libby Chisholm, Ross Denholm, Colin Aitken, Ian Mackay, Stephen Boyle

**Apologies**

Dave Norris, Jack Russell, Stuart Blyth, Scott Heron

**Minutes silence** – A minutes silence was held for fallen officers followed by a reading of the Blue Knights Pledge by Kyle Walker

**Previous minutes** – The minutes of the 2019 AGM had been available to all members and were unanimously agreed as accurate

**Presidents report** – Ewan Skinner

There has a been a lot going on in the past 12 months, and yet, there seems to be little happening. Obviously, the main talking point of the year has been Covid-19 and the restrictions that has brought to our lives. It would be impossible to ignore what Covid-19 has done to our lives. However, we must remain grateful that how it has affected us is nothing compared to many who have died, loved one’s who have not been able to be there and people who have lost livelihoods and jobs.

Although the year has seen my earnings from tourist guide work and funeral celebrant work fall to almost nil, I still have a pension which is more than some people earn. I have my life and I have lost no friends or family to the awful disease.

Our thoughts and prayers must go out to people who have really suffered as a result of Covid-19.

Back last year, we were planning to have a party from the chapter attend the International Convention in Killarney. Sadly, that fell victim and was cancelled. Although it is planned to hold it in 2021 not all the group are going in 2021. I understand that Jim Thomson and Kyle Walker plan to attend on our behalf.

Our meeting place was closed by government rules, but we did manage to hold some meetings and meet. In August we had a ride out for all three chapters and we did manage to get a bike from each of the other chapters along. The ride out finished at Strupag (my house) and a BBQ was held.

The Highland Games at Lochailort had to be cancelled for well known reasons. On that note, John and Jan suffered a disastrous flood when there was a landslide which also took out the West Highland Railway Line. After many months, things seem to be getting better, however we had a group head up taking a donation of wood and Ian Mackay and Andy Salmon shovelled shit for Scotland.

Clearly, we are back to Zoom meetings and small group ride-outs, but I am hoping next year we will all be able to meet face to face and have good runs.

Sadly I have to report that we have three members and a member’s wife facing their own challenges over the next few years. I would just ask that you keep them in your thoughts. I have offered my support and I am sure I speak for all when I say we are there for them when they need us.

I can also report that we have an old friend (Paul Chinnock) re-joined the chapter.

On a personal level Covid had its impacts. Kim and I were due to marry in March but that has been postponed. Our three boys were stuck at home for three months and despite all you hear, the teachers were not working hard putting up daily lessons online. They are back at school and hating it!

As we look forward to 2021, we have a small group booked for Ireland in April, a team heading to Patterdale for a BK Rally and hopefully the Highland Games in May. If Covid lets us, 2021should be a good year.

Finally, I would like to thank all the committee members and directors and office bearers for their hard work throughout the year. A special thanks to Ross and George for their contributions to the Chapter from its inception.

Once again, I have enjoyed being President and am happy to continue in the post if you are happy to have me.

Raise a glass to 2021 and the end of Covid.

Ladies and gentlemen, Ride With Pride.

**Treasurer** - Andy Salmon

I have brought together the accounts for the Chapter for the year 1st September 2019 to 31st August 2020.

I must report that although the income for the year has been quite considerable, we must appreciate that almost £1700.00 of that income was for deposits for the International Rally in Killarney this reporting year. Unfortunately and as Ewan has already stated, that trip was cancelled.

After yet another successful Burns' Supper, we received a total of £1239.00. After refunds, charitable donations (PC Nick Dumphrey) and payment for the Piper, the surplus from the Burns' night came to £895.00.

This has caused an unfortunate effect on this year's annual charity donation to Kirsty's Kids resulting in a lesser amount than in previous years; the lack of the Tulliallan International Rally making a significant dent in the amount the Chapter is able to make. Therefore this year's donation amounts to £1000.00.

All members have paid their subscriptions for the year 2019/2020.

Subscriptions for 2020 are now due.

One thing I would like to add: there are still outstanding payments for the '1724' (PC Nick Dumphrey) pins. Please can those who have not made their payments do so!

I will close on the note, that as at 31st August 2020, the Chapter bank account stood at £1723.58 (Please note that this figure does not include the deduction for the donation to Kirsty's Kids.)



**Andrew Salmon**

Treasurer

27/11/2020

**Chapter Officers**

Present Holders - President - Ewan Skinner

Past President – Jim Thomson

Vice President - Ross Denholm

Treasurer - Andy Salmon

Secretary - Ian Mackay

At this point the President stood down and Ian Mackay assumed the chair. He reported no other nominations had been received for President. Ian proposed Ewan continue for another year, seconded by Libby and unanimously agreed.

Ewan resumed the Chair. He reported that Ross, Vice-President, had decided to stand down and Ewan thanked him for his many years’ service to the chapter.

A nomination had been received for Kyle Walker to be elected as VP and this was unanimously agreed by all present.

No nominations were received for the posts of Treasurer and Secretary. Both Andy and Ian agreed to remain in their respective posts for another year.

Due to his election as VP, Kyle stood down as a director and a nomination of John Bryden was received. No other nominations were received and he was duly elected as a director. Current directors George Ritchie and Jack Russell were re-elected to their positions

Kyle, also the current chapter quartermaster stated he was happy to stand down if anyone would like to take it on. Prior to the meeting Paul Garrett volunteered and this was endorsed by the meeting

George while happy to remain a director has stood down as Ride Captain. There were no nominations for the post and it will be held open for any member interested

The chapter currently has one honorary member, Steven Boyle and the members unanimously agreed to renew his membership. Due to current membership we can if a suitable candidate exists have a second honorary.

Jim Thomson remains in the position of Past President

**Annual subscription** – The Chair and treasurer recommended the current subscription be held at £25 and is now due for payment

**Chapter Charity** – The current nominated charity is Kirsty’s Kids. No other nominations were received and will continue for another year.

**Events** – We are all awaiting developments in the Covid 19 situation. It is hoped that planned trips and events for 2021 will go ahead

A number of members are planning a trip to Ireland around the Portrush area between the 19th – 23rd April. Anyone wishing to come along or would like more details please contact Andy Salmon asap.

Lakes Rally, 21-23rd May

Highland Games, 28-30th May?

The website calendar and members page are regularly updated with events and dates

**AOCB**

Guy O’Connor our International President has recently had a long spell of serious illness. A get-well card was sent by Ewan on behalf of the chapter. A thank you letter was received from his wife stating they were both very grateful for all the encouragement and support from BK chapters.

Ewan has not wasted his downtime and has completed a course in Mental Health First Aid with MHFA England. He drew the meeting to the work of Mental Health Motorbike an organisation which aims to grow the wellbeing of the motorcycle community. In 2021 they are holding a motorcycle relay around the UK. Further details will be circulated when known. Ewan is always happy to assist any member with a chat or point them in the direction of assistance.

Ewan & Ross are maintaining contact with chapter members who are dealing with long term issues.

Dave Connelly our webmaster encouraged members to send in photos or ideas to refresh the website. If you have any ideas or suggestions for things you would like to see on the website drop an email to Dave or the Scotland 2 mailbox

The membership pack will be submitted in January next year. If you have changed any of your contact details or your membership card is wrong let Ian know by the end of the year. Please also make sure your annual subscription has been paid by then.

No further matters were discussed

There will be no meeting in December. Ewan wished all, should he not be in contact, a safe and happy festive season. The next meeting will be January 17th 2021