



Trail Riders Fellowship Guide to the AGM

The AGM formal notice with details of the new documents was electronically served to members on 1st Feb 2018

All documents are accessible on the TRF web site.

The AGM Notice is a legal document. Here is the friendly “Guide to the AGM”

TRF Key Numbers

The accounts for the financial year to August 2017 are available to view at <https://trail.trf.org.uk/2018/02/01/annual-general-meeting-2017/>

The TRF’s income in 2017 under increased by 10%. The forecast for 2018 is for another 10% growth in income which will bring the TRF’s income close to £200k.

The Finance Directors gave a full report in Winter Trail showing where the money is spent.

In summary, the TRF financial situation is good and has improved since last year.

Budget options for 2018 contingent on AGM decisions will be presented at the AGM by the Finance Director.

Behind the TRF financial resources there is a hidden value of an estimated £3.5M in volunteer resource from over 200 volunteer officers involved in 40 groups through the country.

The TRF’s membership has grown to 5000+ members, its largest ever membership

The TRF Aims and objectives show a 5yr target (by 2023) of increasing our influence by growing our membership to 6500 & growing our financial income to £300k p.a.

Trail riding key numbers

Using MCIA figures, the TRF estimate the economic value of trail riding to be £106M per annum in direct spend and a further £11Mn per annum in tourism related expenditure.

Evidence is supportive of Trail riding contributing £58M per annum of Gross Value Add (GVA) and 1500 jobs in the UK.

The average contributory value of each mile of usable Green Road to the UK Trail Riding economy is estimated at £26,000 per mile per year.

There are an estimated 20,000 trail riders in the UK based on DVLA records of motorcycles registered which are in common use for responsible trail riding. This includes the 17,000 trail riders who are registered on the TRF database and of which over 5000 are current members of the TRF. It does not include the riders of larger adventure machines since figures for Trail and Adventure bike sales from the MCIA show these bikes represent up to 20% of the UK new bike sales market. Sales of Trail and Enduro machines in 2016 were 6732 of a total 118,990 or 5.6% of the market.



Operational Review

The TRF's influence is a factor of membership, financial resources and Roads Conservation success. The growth in income in 2017 reflected the increased demand for the TRF's membership. An improvement in management of Operations including risks and liabilities resulted in a surplus of £1.4k. The TRF results are positive despite a negative market environment for many other motorcycle organisations experienced over the period.

Key Achievements over the past 12 months include;

- Formalising the TRF's Vision and Aims
- 32 Green Roads saved
- Membership growth to over 5000 members
- Nathan Millward, Austin Vince, Geraint & Dylan Jones and Mick Extance have become involved with the TRF and taken up membership.
- Presenting the TRF's views on Green Roads to the House of Lords
- Participation in the Parliamentary Motoring Stakeholders Working Group on Green Roads.
- Improved governance achieved through an increase in the number of Directors to nine members of the TRF Board and a Directors Training Programme to ensure consistent standards and effective working as a team.
- The introduction of Group Chairs Newsletter and a Group Chairs conference to coordinate our 40 TRF Groups and 200 Groups officers
- Return of Trail Magazine in print & launch of Trail on the web.
- Improved management of Risk and Liabilities through
 - register of current Road Conservation actions recorded by the Finance Director
 - a framework of Risk Assessment, Event Management and approvals for TRF Events
- Reaching out to landowners and the wider non-motorcycling Public at The Gamefair and at BBC Countryfile Live exhibitions as well as County shows throughout the nation.
- A programme aimed at increasing our visibility of Trail Riders views to Parliament and local authorities
- Working with several Police forces including S Yorks & S Wales on education against motorcycle anti-social behaviour activity.
- Launch of a rider training aimed at "Least Impact" to the Trail. The TRF has accredited 6 training partners including Yamaha Off Road School, & Mick Extance and has a further 10 members undergoing accreditation.
- Membership of the ACU – the largest ACU club and supported by a programme for ACU accredited training to Clerk of Course with 8 trained and 14 TRF members 14 booked in for training . We envisage having 30 ACU qualified TRF members by end of 2018.



TRF Bylaws

The temporary bylaws have been in place now since October 2015. The TRF may technically have fulfilled our obligation “to commence a review with 12 clear weeks” but the directors do not believe we have fulfilled the members' expectations to complete this review and replace the temporary bylaws with a more appropriate version.

The current board have felt that progress has been driven this year by “compelling events”. The board have not dwelled on the reasons behind the delay in reviewing them and have simply agreed to review the current bylaws and propose a revised version for the members' approval.

The current Temp bylaws have served us well. In addition to removing duplication & a “haircut” of unnecessary text, the broader revision of the Bylaws will include a much-needed simplification of the values & behaviours model that will drive strategic points - such as setting expectations on member behaviour below.

Summary of the changes

- Provide definitions of terms used e.g. “TRF” & “Statement of Finances”
- Amend Values and Behaviours model with a simplified model
- Remove provisions for Affiliate Membership due to never used & TRF now has critical mass
- Amend Bylaw 2.11 (a) to a) Attend ordinary TRF Group meetings that are open to all TRF members choosing that TRF Group as their first choice.”
- Amend Bylaw 3.1 (b) to “Promote the TRF's interests on local liaison groups and access forums”
- Remove References to TRF Bulletin & Forum and replace by TRF Trail (web & magazine)
- General Meetings - Remove duplicate provisions for "General Meetings".
- Remove provision for National Conferences due to low attendance & replaced by Groups organised events with Directors visiting Groups.

Rationale; National Conferences had attendance of as low as 10 & typically 25. A group meeting or large riding event can have 60. Costs of directors speaking at Group events them are also cheaper or even free.

- Remove provisions for Social Media and replace with a comprehensive Values & Behaviours model

Rationale; TRF members will be expected to behave in a courteous manner both on & off the bike, and on & off their devices.

- Remove provisions for Group involvement in Policy Development, keeping the requirement for membership-wide consultation in relation to major policy

Rationale; Never used & Substituted with Member Consultation & Surveys (800+ responses!)

- Amend Directors Handbook

Code of Conduct changes

The proposed Code of Conduct is substantially the same as the current Code of Conduct, which has served TRF well and is favourably acknowledged by Government. In approaching the revision of the Code of Conduct the main question was one of “can we do better?”



The Code of Conduct has not been diluted in its requirements. The content is designed to reflect the good practice trailriding which is associated with TRF members.

Terminology

This has been revised and brought into line with TRF's language. The aim is to reduce confusion and counter the proliferation of terms associated with green roads and trailriding. The terms used are designed to convey the simple fact that the public are entitled to responsibly motorcycle on roads, whether or not those roads are green or black.

Clarification

The current Code of Conduct does not distinguish between requirements and guidance. The proposed Code of Conduct achieves this by use of different fonts and a footnote.

Entitlement

A clear requirement to only ride where entitled to do so. Additional guidance that clarifies this means BOAT and UCR's.

Low – impact

Requirement and guidance to keep to defined area of the road.

Speed and sustainability

25mph voluntary maximum has been retained. The rationale for this has been clarified with guidance. Higher speeds = greater impact on the road surface. Stopping distance introduced and set more restrictively than Roadcraft recommendation.

Group sizes

New guidance introduced. This provides for the minority of areas/circumstances where large group sizes are inadvisable.

Identify yourself

Changed to endeavour to be a good ambassador for trailriding. Identify yourself as a responsible trailrider and friend to the countryside by your behaviours both on and off the bike. Reinforces the TRF standard of responsibly trailriding as quiet enjoyment – which is compatible with National Parks and peaceful countryside. Requirement to carry TRF membership card has been dropped due to irrelevance and non-compliance.

Serving Directors

The following Directors currently serve the TRF
BARRABLE, Christopher Appointed on 8 January 2017
BOSWORTH, Stewart Andrew Appointed on 17 January 2017
CARLING, David Appointed on 11 October 2015
COSTA-SA, Mario Francisco Appointed on 11 November 2012
LINSSEN, William Edward Appointed on 8 January 2017
MCKENZIE, Carla Elizabeth Appointed on 8 January 2017
NEVILLE, Stephen John Appointed on 11 October 2015
SABATIER, Michel Appointed on 11 October 2015
VANNUFFEL, John Appointed on 25 January 2015
Jonathan Dingle has served as Honorary TRF General Counsel since 2013
Stuart Metcalfe has served as Honorary TRF Director since 2015



Director Changes

Wil Linssen has asked to step down as a director and free up more time to work on the TRF's IT platform including Trail and the Green Roads database.

Following a soft start engagement with the TRF board over a couple of years, Doug Cartwright, former Chair of T&NY TRF is standing with the support of the TRF Board to become a TRF Director.

Doug Cartwright TRF Director Manifesto

My name is Doug Cartwright and I would like to introduce myself as I am standing to become a TRF director at the AGM and would very much appreciate your vote.

I bought my first trail bike as a student in 1978 but did not start trail riding until 2004. It was then that I discovered the wonderful world of Rights of Road and joined the TRF like most members to find out where to ride legally. I then discovered the delights of our historical road network and it was not long before I was well and truly pulled in to furthering our cause to conserve Green Roads.

Since that time, I have met many TRF members and made some lifelong friends. My navigation and riding skills have improved dramatically to just OK! I have served as Chair of the Teesside and North Yorkshire group where I'm currently the Vice Chair. My interest in all things Rights of Road found me also volunteering as a motorcycle user on the North Yorkshire Local Access Forum where I am currently Vice Chair.

In between I have also chaired a National TRF conference and have been very active in stakeholder negotiations and repairs to Deadman's Hill...a key road connecting the North and South unsealed road network of Yorkshire.

My background is engineering, specialising in engine design although latterly I have worked in the challenging work of international vehicle emissions legislation for a large US based company.

By standing as director of the TRF I will focus on connecting issues that are key to the Northern groups to ensure that they are represented and make best use of the TRFs very successful organisation and skill base.

The TRF has a great future and I hope that I can count on your support and attendance at the AGM.

Please contact me should you have any questions.

Doug

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The directors have had an expression of interest in another soft start from a new director candidate and more applicants are welcome. For an informal discussion please contact directors@trf.org.uk or call Mario on 07721 480000.