

Annual General Meeting – Thursday 9 June 2011

This was the furthest west that the Branch had ventured for its Annual General Meeting which was in keeping with the objective to hold this event at varying locations through the Branch area to enable as many members who wished to attend. It was therefore a pleasure to welcome 15 members to this event which was held at the Sammy Miller (Motorcycle) Museum in New Milton, Hampshire. The numbers attending were very comparative with numbers for other venues.

After enjoying an excellent, fresh buffet lunch in the Bashley Manor Tea Rooms located in the museum grounds (no, this is not a 'tea room' the range of lunches and food, all home made, is impressive), members moved over to the Museum where were allocated a space amongst the exhibits and at the end of one wing for our meeting. Unusual but very effective.

Steve Spender, the Institute's President, thanked the Branch for the opportunity of speaking to the meeting when he updated and provided data on the current state of the Institute's Membership and Finances. He thanked the Branch Committee for moving the date of its Winchester Seminar so as to coincide with the National AGM which was held in Winchester after the Seminar. Both events were very successful and did a lot to raise the profile of IHE within the Hampshire CC area as well as nationally.



Following on from his report at last year's event, he said that, if anything the future would be more challenging than at this time last year. There had been a slight reduction in membership numbers but due to the general financial

restraints facing the nation, IHE had become a victim in that revenue for events had seriously declined with the Institute's main source of income just being membership subscriptions. Along with other Council and Senior Management colleagues, various methods of increasing efficiency and cutting costs were being considered and implemented (now where have we heard that expression before?) to reduce our operating deficit and attract members.

On a plus side, the Institute remained highly regarded and influential in the industry and Council would be working to maintain that reputation.

Chris Stark reported on the Branch's activities over the past year highlighting the events that had been held. The Branch had organised 8 events that had attracted a total attendance of over 380 delegates. This was achieved by the hard work of the Branch Committee to whom Chris expressed his thanks. Future events were in the pipeline and Chris urged members to make a regular visit to our regularly updated web site for further information.

The Branch Accounts revealed a slight glitch in that we had been late in gathering in fees for the 2010 seminar which was not realised until the seminar venue was pressing for payment. Despite this oversight and a loan from HQ to tide us over, nearly all revenue was gained and as at the beginning of '011 our account stood at £2628.07 which was used to finance our regular events for venue hire and light refreshment costs. Helen Currie was thanked for her efforts in securing the outstanding monies, despite having a busy work and home life.



On a more pleasant aspect, two new Committee members were welcomed and unanimously elected. Chris Stark thanked Les Gillingham and Graham Sapsed for agreeing to join the ranks.

Once the business of the day was complete, members were hosted to a tour of the exhibits. The museum holding one of the largest collection of motor cycles ranging in 'vintage' from 1890 up to 1992 is unique almost in that it is the inspiration of its founder, Sammy Miller who remains active in its day to day running, even to the extent of him taking the odd machine for a ride despite (dare I say it) he is no longer what one would consider a typical rider.

Photo opportunities were boundless and at the end of this report are a few pictures taken of members inspecting the exhibits which are maintained in an immaculate condition. Thanks to Peter Fisher for providing the images. Anyone looking for a good meal at reasonable prices (perhaps Bashley Manor 'Tea Rooms' is a misnomer as it provides excellent home made lunches etc.) and a visit to this fascinating museum should not hesitate to give it a try. You don't necessarily need to be a biker fanatic to find something of interest there. Check www.bashleymanor-tearooms.co.uk and www.sammymiller.co.uk for more information.

We are grateful to the both the Bashley Manor Tea Rooms and Sammy Miller and his knowledgeable colleagues for their warm welcome and hospitality



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