

## **PROPOSAL AND REASONS FOR CHANGING MONTHLY MEETING FORMAT**

**Presented by Sue Jones, Branch Secretary, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2018**

Many of you may be aware that the way we run our monthly committee meetings is NOT according to the Ulysses Club constitution.

According to the Constitution the committee meetings and the monthly social meetings should be two separate events.

The Constitution says that

- The Branch Committee is elected by members to conduct the affairs of the Branch (Interp p 1) and
- Social Meetings of the Branch are for members to gather for companionship and social activities. Business transacted at such meetings is not in accord with this (the Ulysses) Constitution (Interp p5)

We've been running our meetings in this current format for a long time, however on 24<sup>th</sup> February, the National Secretary, Henry Rokx met with several committee members and a Branch member. This was in response to emails he had received from members.

One of the things Henry discussed was our monthly meetings. He made it clear that our meetings are not according to the Constitution and we should really have our committee meetings separate from the general membership.

When I've talked to some of you from time to time about this very thing there have been two major arguments brought as to why we don't or shouldn't change our current format.

1. A concern that the committee will become some kind of overbearing entity because you're not there to keep it honest.
2. Communication – if we don't do it this way we won't know what's going on, we won't be able to organise ride leaders, we won't get ride reports, and we won't be able to let the committee know what we want.

Let me just say about the first point – the committee is here to SERVE the Branch members. It's not a power trip or ego boost to be on the committee and never should be.

I'll talk about communication a bit later.

What are the disadvantages of doing it in our current format?

1. Our monthly social meetings don't entice many of our members to attend. Not everyone thinks a good night out is to go to a committee meeting.
2. We miss out on having a great social get together every month. Our monthly socials could be lots of fun and more appealing to the general membership and potential members if we had more time other than 30 minutes for a drink and a chat before the committee meeting. We could get more creative about what we do on these nights and turn it into an event we look forward to.
3. We miss out on keeping new members. In the 2 years I've been here any new person who has come to a monthly meeting has not stayed.
4. You guys end up doing the work you elected your committee to do!

So, if we changed and came into line with the Constitution how would everything work?

The committee would meet at some agreed time with just committee members attending and look after general business.

Our monthly meetings would become a specifically social get-together, which we could get creative about – maybe bbqs or meals from time to time, a guest speaker on occasion, trivia night, movie nights – who knows?

And going back to communication, sometime during the night Mike and others can take a few minutes to make any announcements, ride leaders can be called for, upcoming rides can be promoted, and the raffle can be drawn.

And as far as communicating ideas and suggestions to the committee, any member can speak to or write to any committee member at any time. Anything put in writing to me will be brought to the committee meetings, and, if the committee is doing its job properly, they'll be listening for your concerns.

I believe that the positives far outweigh any perceived negatives if we make this change. I believe it is in the Branch's best interests to be in accord with the Ulysses Constitution.

There will be a motion put at the March meeting to change our committee meeting format to be in line with the Constitution from the April meeting onwards. If you wish to vote for or against this change please ensure you attend the meeting.