

Lowveld Motorrad Club Report

1. Membership

The club is growing and membership has increased from 103 in 2019 to 110 members at the end of January 2020. With renewal cut of date end of March a couple of member did not renew for various reasons. Since end of January 2019 to date 28 new members has joined.

2. Financials

The club still had some funds in the bank (R12500 as at end Jan 2019) but a decision was made to up membership fees by R50 and this proved to be a good decision. We also got some sponsors on board and had some shirts made of which the sponsors carried the cost and the members paid almost halve price for the shirts. This put a bit of a boost to the bank account to push it up to more than R45k. The money received from BMW for our help with the GS Trophy also helped to raise the bank balance as the money paid out was done so in a clever way. Current bank balance is just over R40k with renewals due soon

3. Committee

The clubs AGM took place on 20 February and the new committee that was elected is as follows:

Chairman : Wayne Lesch

Vice – Chairman – Cobus Engelbrecht

Treasurer – TJ Mare

Secretary – Rolf Pfutzenreuter

Tar Route Org – Johan de Rouwe

Gravel Route Org – Martin Breytenbach

Additional Member – Barnard Bence

4. Training

The club still has a good working relationship with Thomas Bohm and SVRA and the club continues to try and assist members when going for training with Thomas. We are trying to make riding more fun and an approachable “sport” for the female riders as there has been quite an increase in the interest from potential female riders. We also plan to do a couple more skills days to help riders be safer. We decided to copy the idea of club West rand where the members go to SVRA for training and get their normal members discount. After completion we then refund them a further R500 which then makes the training much cheaper. We still need to discuss and set aside a budget for the year and this will only happen after the AGM. We would however give preference to first time training as this should help make these riders safer.

5. Activities and Highlights

This past year we didn't do a long trip away as the normal dates we do this was so close to the GS Trophy dates.

We did however have a very successful skills challenge at SVRA and we helped at the opening of the Kishugu Lowveld Air show in Nelspruit.

Throughout the year the attendance at our monthly rides was not great but we did have a couple of times with new events sometimes co-hosted between the club and outside parties that the attendance was better.

One of the highlights of the year for us would probably be co-hosting the GS Trophy qualifier with SVRA at the annual Sabie challenge. The weather certainly made this one to remember with all challenges made a bit more difficult with the continues rain.

But the biggest highlight must be the GS Trophy. A first ever for me. It was just a great experience to be part of and although it had its hiccups was still a very enjoyable event with only the one really serious accident. Wynand Roos is doing well and recovery seems to be going great. The weather once again caused a bit of havoc but fun was still had by all. We want to wish Team SA all the best and we hope that they can bring home the Trophy again this year.

But now we can congratulate Team SA for winning the International GS Trophy.

For both these events a big thank you must go out to Thomas and Jacqui Bohm for all their assistance and guidance to this rookie. Also big thanks to our club members who helped at these events. And a big thank you to BMW for hosting these type of events to make it fun for us the customers.

6. General

We are busy putting in a lot of effort in the marketing and social media platforms to try and grow the club as well as making people more aware of the brand. We have also made some progress with the website and the member registration is so much easier. This will definitely help with the admin as well as the communication to members. Thanks to Ian and Charl for all their help in this regard.

Last but not least we again want to invite all clubs to come and spend some time with us in the Lowveld. Please feel free to make contact prior to your visits if any info or help is needed and we would try and assist as best as we can. We can also meet up and have some rides together.

Wayne Lesch

Lowveld Club Chairman

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