



Hogsback Heritage

Key dates, events and personnel



Some basic background and information on the beginnings and growth of the Hogsback Chapter, some significant events which have taken place and the names of the Officers and Road Crew who have supported and guided the Chapter through this period.

Origins

1991-2008 The foundation and development of Surrey Chapter UK

The Surrey H.O.G.® Chapter (H.O.G. Chapter #9084) was founded in Dorking on 31st October 1991, and is one of the oldest H.O.G. Chapters in the UK.

The Rolling Hills Chapter, the oldest UK Chapter, and also the first European Chapter, was founded only two years earlier in March 1989.

The Chapter was sponsored by Surrey Harley-Davidson® (formerly known as Motovecchia Italian Classics) owned by Simon Fenning, with premises in Dorking, initially on the Havenbury Estate before moving to a new showroom and workshops on Dorking High Street.

In 1993, after two years, the club split, with the first Surrey H.O.G. Director, John Wilson, leaving to form AMOC, and with a new Director, Albert Rapacioli, taking over the leadership of the Chapter for the next 7 years.

Surrey H.O.G. continued to grow until a second split in the club which occurred during a regular meeting of the Chapter Committee in March 2005. This resulted in a breakaway group, led by the then Chapter Director, Jeff Fallon, and supported by half of the Committee members. Those who chose to stay included most of the Road Crew. This breakaway group continued to run with existing Chapter members as a new Club known as SCUk, no longer associated or supported by H.O.G. UK.





A small group of the Surrey Chapter Road Crew continued to operate as the official Surrey Chapter, with the full support of the Dorking Dealership and H.O.G. UK, but with no access to the money held in the Chapter bank account, receipt of membership subscriptions, membership records, website and Chapter domain e-mail addresses, which were all taken by SCUUK.

For an interesting description of the events of March 2005 “.....**one cold, dark March night, 12 seasons ago, at a full Committee meeting in a pub near our dealership in Dorking, the Chapter suddenly and violently tore itself apart.....**” have a look at Dik’s Farewell speech given at Club Night 1st December 2016 which can be found here [[“Directors Farewell”](#)].

There followed an interesting period of conflict (and resolution!) with a small number of members continuing to support the Official Surrey H.O.G. Chapter and a large majority who were mainly unaware of what was happening following the split. We were all most grateful to Marjorie Rae, H.O.G. UK Manager, for her unwavering support throughout those difficult days of re-building.

We were unable to recover the Chapter funds from the Bank, or access the membership details, but following lengthy legal proceedings we did manage to reclaim the website domain and re-establish ourselves as “Surrey H.O.G.” For more details of this struggle to retain our name see the “Nominet UK Dispute Resolution Service - Case DRS 2865 - Decision of Independent Expert” dated 6 December 2005 [[Nominet - Case DRS 2865](#)]

It was also the time, immediately following the split, that the core Road Crew of Surrey H.O.G. (who also became known as the “Bisley 8” following various altercations at the Bisley Rallies immediately before and following the split) were subjected to a succession of abusive postings on the SCUUK website.

We found a copy of such a page taken from the old SCUUK website, which gave us much amusement. The page, “[Non-Members of Surrey H.O.G.](#)”, identified Dik Gregory, Keith Dorling, Graham Woods, Terry Bing, Andy England, Gary Morss, Steve Cork and Kevin Pickering, together with our photos, as renegades (which we thought was most flattering – we were much younger and more handsome then!)

One particular quote which we liked was “**They are 8 in number, we are 400+ and so you can see how futile their position is.**” How times have changed!!.....



New Dealership – New Name – New Era

Hogsback Chapter UK 2008 – 2018



With the gradual re-growth of the Official Surrey Chapter, the opening of the new Guildford Harley-Davidson and the dealership's decision to adopt us, it was decided in Sep 2008 to rename the Surrey Chapter "Hogsback Chapter UK" (H.O.G. Chapter Registration Number #7846).

The name "Hogsback Chapter UK" had to be submitted and approved by the H.O.G. headquarters in USA. Only two Chapters out of some 1,400 Chapters worldwide has been permitted to use the word HOG as part of its officially licensed full name. The other is OZ H.O.G. Melbourne Chapter, which was the first Chapter to be founded outside the USA (in 1988).

The growth of the Hogsback Chapter, since the opening and with the support of the Guildford H-D dealership, and H.O.G. UK has been spectacular. Dik's welcome speech at the official opening of the Dealership in 2009 says it all! A copy of Dik's welcome speech can be found [\[Dik's Welcome Speech\]](#)

At the opening, Marjorie Rae (still our national H.O.G. Manager!) presented us with a certificate making it clear that although our Chapter Number had changed to #7846 (it has to be the same as the Dealership's number), all of our history since our founding in Oct 1991 was recognised by H.O.G. UK to make a continuous story.

Chapter Directors

The Chapter Director is normally appointed (and can be dismissed!) by the Sponsoring Dealer (usually after discussions with the other Chapter Officers – but not necessarily!). However, the role of Director has not always been plain sailing and we have had an eventful history with supporting dealerships opening and closing, Directors leaving to set up rival bike clubs, and major ups and downs of membership numbers over the past 27 years of our



existence!

The full Directors "Roll of Honour" (?) from 1991 – 2018 is shown below.

Surrey H.O.G. Directors – the early years 1991 - 2005

- 1991-1993 John Wilson – first Director, left to form AMOC
- 1993-2001 Albert Rapacioli – served as Director for 8 years, retired
- 2001-2003 Neil Hart – served for 2 years, retired
- 2003-2005 Jeff Fallon – served for 2 years, dismissed and formed SCUUK

Surrey H.O.G. Directors – post split 2005 - 2009

- 2005-2006 Dave Deverell - Dealer Principal and Director until closure of Surrey H-D in Dorking
- 2006 – Surrey H.O.G. "on their own" with no dealer support. Committee decided initially that they would operate with no Director and be run by Assistant Directors Dik Gregory, Keith Dorling and Terry Bing, until ... after a few months ...
- 2006 – 2009 Dik Gregory unanimously nominated as Director by the Committee and leads Chapter for the next three years

Hogsback Chapter UK Directors 2009 - 2018

- 2009 John Tenner – First Dealer Principal of the new Guildford H-D and short serving first Director of "Hogsback Chapter UK"
- 2009 - 2016 Dik Gregory – re-appointed Director by the Dealership with the full support of the Committee, retired after 10 years' service (actually 12 years since Dik acted as Director in all but name on behalf of Dave Deverell and John Tenner immediately following the split)
- 2016 – 2018 – Dell Evans – current Director of Hogsback Chapter on a 3 year appointment.

Chapter Membership and Officer Records

Early records of the Chapter membership numbers and Officer positions from the foundation of the Chapter and through the 90's are sparse due to events which took place in 2005 (the Split!) when access to early membership records was lost, but records from 1998 (when I joined the Chapter) to 2005 (the Split) are fairly reliable based on the copies of the Chapter newsletters we have – the "Surrey H.O.G. Newsletter" 1997- 8, "Flywheel", 1999 – 2001 and "Torque" 2001-05.

From 2005 onwards we have full records of Officers and Road Crew and of course the "Surrey Newsletter", 2005-08 and "Hogsback News", 2009-18. Copies of all of these publications can be accessed from the "Members Area" of the website at <http://hogsbackchapteruk.org/members/newsletters.html>



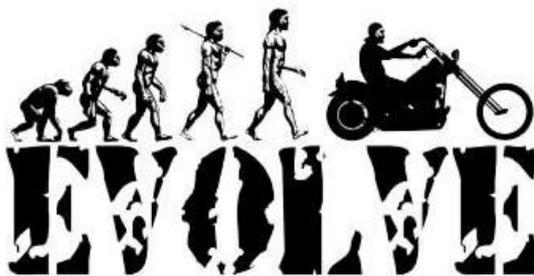
Based on the early (1997-2005) newsletters, discussions with older members and the full records of the Chapter since 2005, we have put together a comprehensive list of Directors, Committee members and Road Crew, with positions held and dates.

These have been split into the Directors – listed below – and links to the full Committee and Road Crew split into the periods:

- 1998-2005 ([Surrey H.O.G. leading up to the split in 2005](#))
- 2005-2009 ([Rebuilding the Chapter with the support of H.O.G. UK](#))
- 2009-2018 ([opening of new Guildford HD dealership and renaming of Chapter – now “Hogsback Chapter UK”](#))

The Future ...

The Chapter continues to go from strength to strength, from 120 or so after the split in 2005 to approaching 400 today. There are some things that we continue to do well and things that we do that some members occasionally object to!



Fortunately we have a steady influx of new members, all with enthusiasm, ambitions and bright new ideas, to ensure that the current Director and Officers of the Chapter are kept on their toes to continue to run and maintain the Chapter well into the future!

Steve Cork
Hogsback Road Captain
and Chapter Historian
September 2018