

## NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 4.30PM IN THE TOWN  
HALL, ASHLEY ROAD, NEW MILTON

	R A Reid (Chairman)		M Craze (Vice-Chairman)
p	J Adams	p	P Moores
p	J Baker	p	R Murrow
p	G R Blunden	p	A D O’Sullivan
p	S J Clarke	p	D E Hawkins
	D Rice-Mundy		K Trehorn
p	S P Davies		V E Schooling
p	W Davies	p	M Scott-Johns
p	D N Tungate		

In Attendance:

G Flexman - Town Clerk

J Bean – Civic Administrator

In the absence of Cllr A Reid Chairman and Cllr M Craze Vice-Chair, the Town Clerk asked members to elect a Chair for the meeting. Cllr S Clarke proposed, and Cllr S Davies seconded Cllr D Hawkins, who was duly appointed Chairman for this meeting.

47. CHAIRMAN’S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed members and guests to the meeting and said that it was an honour and privilege to present Samuel Hamilton Miller, MBE with Honorary Freedom of New Milton.

48. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs M Craze, R A Reid and V Schooling.

49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ANY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None

50. CONFERMENT OF HONORARY FREEMAN OF NEW MILTON

Councillor S Clarke introduced this item by saying:

“I am delighted to have been asked to speak on this auspicious occasion.”

Cllr Clarke’s full speech is attached. He introduced his proposal, as follows:

“Samuel Hamilton Miller, founder of the world famous Sammy Miller Motorcycle Museum in New Milton, it being winner of the 2022 RAC Historic Awards Collection, and he being a championship winning motorcycle racer, in both road racing and trials, appointed Member of the British Empire in 2009, is considered to be worthy of being admitted as Honorary Freeman of New Milton in recognition of the distinguished and eminent service rendered by him over the last 40 years to the people of the town. I therefore propose:

***Whereas it has appeared to the Town Council of New Milton in the County of Hampshire that Samuel Hamilton Miller - Founder of the world-famous Motorcycle Museum charity in New Milton - having rendered distinguished and eminent service for many years to the people of the town, should be awarded Freedom of the Town”***

*This was seconded by the Chairman who spoke in support of the proposal:*

***“Having rendered distinguished and eminent service to the people of the town for over 40 years, and in recognition of that valuable and unselfish service, it is hereby now agreed that the Town Council of New Milton in Hampshire does hereby confer upon the said Samuel Hamilton Miller the Freedom of the town.”***

*The Town Clerk then read out the Recommendation for Members, as follows:*

***“That the Town Council of New Milton does hereby confer upon the said Samuel Hamilton Miller the rights, privileges and advantages attaching to the style, rank and title of HONORARY FREEMAN OF NEW MILTON”***

*It was then, under and by virtue of the provisions of section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 unanimously:*

**RESOLVED: That the title of Honorary Freeman of New Milton be conferred by the Town Council on Samuel Hamilton Miller MBE in recognition of the eminent and distinguished service rendered by him to the people of the town.**

51. PRESENTATION OF ILLUMINATED SCROLL

The Chairman presented the recipient with an illuminated scroll within a casket.

52. REPLY BY SAMUEL HAMILTON MILLER

Sammy Miller thanked everyone for the prestigious Freedom of the Town award, his speech is attached.

53. SIGNING OF THE REGISTER OF HONORARY FREEMEN

Samuel Miller, MBE duly signed the Register of Honorary Freeman of the Town.

54. CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 5.00pm.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Distribution:

Town Councillors

District Councillor Mrs J L Cleary

County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter, K Mans

New Milton Police

Press

Sue Larking – NMRA

Mark Jeffries – Estates & Facilities Manager



# Sammy Miller



Scottish Six Days Trial in 1954

The

Sammy Miller has several claims to fame: motor cycle trials rider and road racer, inventor and museum owner. He was born in Belfast on 11 November 1933,

and later moved to New Milton. He was inducted into the AMA Motorcycle Hall of Fame in 2007 and awarded an MBE in the 2009 New Year Honours.

His career included road, dirt/grass track racing and motorcycle trials. His Grand Prix career was limited to the years 1955-58, spanning the 250cc Ulster Grand Prix in 1955 to the Isle of Man TT 250cc Lightweight TT in 1958. During this time, he achieved six podium finishes from 14 starts, coming third in the 1957 250cc Grand Prix championship on a Mondial.

However, it is as a trials rider that he is best known. He was British Trials Champion 11 times, and won the European Trials Championship twice.

Miller is a winner of over 1,300 trials, nine gold medals at the International Six Days Trial, three victories at the North West 200, as well as coming 3rd in the 1957 250cc Grand Prix in championship.

He is best known for the 500cc Ariel HT5 that he lightened considerably from standard ex-factory condition. The bike was famously known by its UK registration mark, GOV 132

Sammy's early successes on a bike of his own design led to further development work and the establishment of Sammy Miller Products. His company was based at New Milton from 1964, with a

few old bikes on display for old times sake. The products company was sold in 2007, but the small collection of bikes expanded, and Sammy established a motor cycle museum in the same year.

Today, some 340 machines, about 300 of which are owned by Sammy himself, are on display. All are in working order, with an active workshop continuing to maintain and restore historic models. The museum is set in open country and visitors are greeted by an unlikely juxtaposition of historic petrol pumps, alpaca, goats, donkeys and an aviary.

The lucky visitor may also find Sammy there as well, surrounded by the photos, memorabilia, and hardware from his days of racing, including 1,400 trophies!

Sammy's thank you speech.

Sammy gave a very full thank you speech. He stated that it was a great honour to be joining the ranks of the Freeman of New Milton as the fourth recipient, and that the three other Freeman, John Hutchins, Alan Rice and Goff Beck had all been very supportive of his endeavours in the town, assisting him to negotiate bureaucracy and red tape. He reminisced about his move from Birmingham where he had always felt a little out of place, being so far from the sea in every direction.

He told the story of how he had bought the farm which at the time was derelict, having been brought up by a builder father and having served his time helping him he had an excellent idea of what needed to be done.

He said that the museum is his passion and that he has many of the bikes he admired when he was a boy. The museum has over 500 bikes and they are all special, he does not collect ordinary bikes, he is interested in the prototypes, and one offs, things that were never mass produced. He still spends six days a week in his workshop.

He said how pleased he was that he'd put New Milton on the world map, the museum visitors' book is a testament to the fact that people come from far and wide to visit it.

He said that the new tea rooms at the museum is nearing completion after 19 months of work and that this, in turn, will lead to more space for bikes. He is planning some shopping trips to expand the collection.

He said he felt very honoured to have a hobby which is also a sport, and which has been his profession throughout his life. And now that he has been made an Honorary Freeman he is looking forward to driving his alpacas down the High Street and is also hoping for a free parking permit! Finally, he thanked everyone for coming and invited them to the reception at the museum.