

The BMW Club
United Kingdom & Ireland



**The BMW Club
Annual General Meeting
Saturday 18 April 2015**

**Registration from 10.30 am
Commencing promptly 11.30 am**

**Venue
The Cairn Hotel
Ripon Road
Harrogate
North Yorkshire
HG1 2JD**



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**The BMW Club
Annual General Meeting
18 April 2015**

AGENDA

- 1 President's Welcome and Report
- 2 Count of members present, by Sections; Appoint Tellers
- 3 Apologies for Absence
- 4 Approval of Minutes of 2014 Annual General Meeting
- 5 Matters arising from those Minutes
- 6 Reports (in writing) from:
 - General Secretary
 - Social Secretary
 - Editor
 - Membership Secretary
 - Sporting Register Secretary
 - Vintage Register Secretary
 - Sidecar Register Secretary
 - GS Register Secretary
 - Merchandise Secretary
 - Tool Hire Secretaries
- 7 Treasurer's Report and Accounts
To receive a report from the Treasurer and to adopt accounts for the year ended 30 September 2014 (see separate booklet)
- 8 Appointment of Accountants for ensuing year
- 9 Confirm Subscription fee for 2016/2017 (Club rule 10)

10 Election of Club National Officers for 2015/2016

President:	Nominated: Michael Warrilow
Proposed: Dik Langan	Seconded: Bob Barker
Gen Secretary:	Nominated: Anita Johnson
Proposed: Piers Curran	Seconded: John Elvidge
Treasurer:	Nominated: Jim Lepley
Proposed: Alan Myles	Seconded: Keith Walker
Membership Secretary:	Nominated: Bob Barker
Proposed: Marjorie Burnett	Seconded: Dik Langan
Social Secretary:	Nominated: James Bettley
Proposed: Bob Denman	Seconded: Erica Body
Editor:	Nominated: Stewart Lowthian
Proposed: Lynn Sumners	Seconded: W J Smithson
Vintage Reg. Secretary:	Nominated: Peter Ardron
Proposed: W J Smithson	Seconded: Robert A Freeman
Sporting Reg. Secretary:	Nominated: Robert Bensley
Proposed: Ian Saunders	Seconded: Anita Johnson
Sidecar Reg. Secretary:	Nominated: Keith Thomas
Proposed: Peter Ardron	Seconded: Neville Jones
GS Reg. Secretary:	Nominated: Neville Jones
Proposed: Judith Jones	Seconded: Denis Bradbeer
Vice Presidents (1 post)	Nominated: Graham Walker
Proposed: Simon Johnston	Seconded: Ashley Gane

Vice Presidents, elected for 3 years: Alan Orme 2013, Cliff Batley 2014

11 Presentation of Trophies

12 Special Resolutions

These resolutions are all to alter the Articles of Association of the Club. Due to the possibility that some may not be passed, the secretary is directed to prepare a final version of the updated Articles that includes those resolutions that are passed and to register the updated Articles as soon as possible with the Registrar of Companies.

a In order to help streamline the process for nominating officers ahead of an AGM, Dik Langan has submitted the following special proposal to the meeting:

SPECIAL RESOLUTION TO ALTER ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF THE B.M.W. MOTORCYCLE CLUB LIMITED

Incorporated under the Companies Act 1985 with Registration Number: 4261129

THAT the articles of association of the company be altered as follows:

Current Article 13:

An Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held, whereat the Reports and Accounts (the latter duly inspected) for the past year's activities shall be presented, election of the Club's Officers carried out, and any other matters on the agenda discussed. Members shall receive notice

of the meeting in the January Journal. Nomination of Officers (proposed seconded, and signed by the nominee) and all other matters for inclusion in the agenda must be received in writing by the General Secretary by 31 January. The agenda, together with accounts for the year, shall be circulated to all members twenty-one clear days prior to the meeting.

Proposed changes:

3rd sentence, after 'Nomination of Officers' delete from '(proposed seconded, and signed by the nominee)' replace with "in paper format proposed, seconded and signed by the nominee or by email in 3 steps, proposed, seconded and accepted by the nominee, but CC'ing the National Secretary at each step."

Start a new 4th sentence with the word "These,"

New Article 13 to read:

13 An Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held, whereat the Reports and Accounts (the latter duly inspected) for the past year's activities shall be presented, election of the Club's Officers carried out, and any other matters on the agenda discussed. Members shall receive notice of the meeting in the January Journal. Nomination of Officers can be made in paper format proposed, seconded and signed by the nominee then forwarded to the National Secretary or by email in 3 steps, proposed, seconded and accepted by the nominee, but CC'ing the National Secretary at each step. These and all other matters for inclusion in the agenda must be received by the General Secretary by 31 January. The agenda, together with accounts for the year, shall be circulated to all members twenty-one clear days prior to the meeting.

Proposed by Dik Langan East Anglia Section National Committee Member, seconded by Colin Ross, Western Section National Committee Member and ably assisted by Ian Dobie, Oxford Section National Committee Member.

b In order to modernise the Club further the Yorkshire Section have submitted the following special proposal to the meeting:

"I/we propose that the Club should change the name of the monthly magazine (The Journal) to 'The Beemer The monthly magazine of the BMW Club' from July 2015 onwards."

Proposed by Piers Kurrein, Yorkshire Section – Seconded by Tony Robson, Yorkshire Section

SPECIAL RESOLUTION TO ALTER ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF THE B.M.W. MOTORCYCLE CLUB LIMITED

Incorporated under the Companies Act 1985 with Registration Number: 4261129

***THAT** the articles of association of the company be altered as follows:*

Remove the words THE JOURNAL and replace it with "The Beemer The monthly magazine of the BMW Club" as below.

78 The Club will endeavour to produce and send a monthly Journal to all Full Members. This Journal will be called the 'The Beemer The monthly magazine of the BMW Club' and will be edited by a National Officer on behalf of the National Committee. A new or late renewing member is not entitled to have sent a Journal in the two months following the subscription being accepted. Associate Members will not be entitled to receive their own copies of the Club Journal, or any other publication produced from time to time by the Club.

c In order to clarify the Club stance on modifications to its logo / Badge, Colin Ross has proposed the following change:

SPECIAL RESOLUTION TO ALTER ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF THE B.M.W. MOTORCYCLE CLUB LIMITED

Incorporated under the Companies Act 1985 with Registration Number: 4261129

THAT the articles of association of the company be altered as follows:

After the wording 'An alternative to' insert 'the plain blue background' and after 'individual Sections of the club' insert 'provided the design remains compliant with the current BMW Corporate guidelines. This must be submitted via the National Committee to the BMW Clubs European Federation for approval by the International Council of BMW Clubs'

2 The badge of the BMW Club is the Motoman Logo, consisting of a left facing representation of a motorcycle and rider in white superimposed on a blue background, together with the BMW logo and approved typography and layout, all in accordance with the BMW: Clubs Corporate Identity document of July 2008. An alternative to the plain blue background of the Motoman design is permitted for individual Sections of the Club provided the design remains compliant with the current BMW Corporate guidelines. This must be submitted via the National Committee to the BMW Clubs European Federation for approval by the International Council of BMW Clubs. Any reproduction of the Club badge, for whatever purpose, must conform exactly to the published and officially distributed guidelines. No modification to these designs, proportions, colours, or typography is permitted under any circumstances.

13 Proposal for discussion from WESTERN SECTION

Streamlining of the National Committee as Proposed by the Western Section

The day to day running of the Club is managed by the National Officers consisting of, President, National Treasurer, National Secretary, National Membership Secretary, National Social Secretary and Journal Editor. To ensure there is an input from the respective Sections on the direction of the Club and decisions made by the National Officers the National Committee meets to discuss relevant items and is defined in Article 34 of the M&AA as:

Recognised Officials	Number Represented
National Officers	6
Representative from each Section	15
Total	21

However Article 34 also states that the NC shall not be subject to a specified maximum only a minimum.

Article 35 goes on to define all the National Officers of the Club as:

- a) The National Officers as defined in Article 34
- b) Assistants to National Committee members
- c) Three vice presidents
- d) Register Secretaries
- e) Special function or liaison officers

It is understood other than the National Committee Members defined in Article 34, those defined in Article 35 may also attend National Committee Meetings but have no voting rights. In practice only the three Vice Presidents regularly attend National Committee Meetings therefore the general number of attendees at such meetings is 24, all of whom may claim expenses in accordance with Article 51 of the M&AA.

Based on information available from the published expenses associated with NCM costs each "face to face" National Committee meeting costs in the region of £4,200. Therefore three such meetings result in an estimated expenditure of £12,600 pa. It was recognised by the National Committee that faced with reduced membership levels and therefore subscriptions there was a need to reduce costs, this being realised by a reduction in the mileage allowance to attendees and a reduction in the minimum number of meetings from 3 to 2 (The above figures include the cost reduction due reduced mileage allowance). It was decided at the February 2014 NCM that the meeting normally held in June 2014 would be held via a conference call or Skype. At the National Committee Meeting held in October 2014 a decision was taken to re-introduce a "face to face" meeting in June with voting of 9 For, 2 Against and 5 Abstentions, as the motion was carried this will result in an increase in costs as three "face to face" meetings will be held.

In 2014 the number of full members was 3792 which results in a gross income of £27 x 3792 = £102,384. Normally tax must be paid on any profits made which would reduce the amount available, however in recent years no tax has been payable as the Club has effectively recorded a loss. As the cost of three "face to face" meetings costs in the order of £12,600 this represents >12% of the income from full members subscriptions. This is considered to be a very high cost taking into account the number of members in the Club and equivalent to a cost of almost £3.32 / member.

Since 2007 there has been a 49% reduction in full members which also means that overall Sections have seen a 49% reduction in the total funds available to them in the form of capitation. With the need to maintain a reasonable level of activities at Section level, the Western Section at the October 2014 meeting proposed an increase in capitation but was rejected by all other Sections. Given that the National Committee had agreed to reinstate the June "face to face" NCM the additional cost of this meeting would have been equivalent to an increase in capitation of £1.10 per full member.

It is with this background that it is believed there is a need to streamline the National Committee to reduce costs as the cost of these meetings is disproportionate to the level of income received and the size of the Club in general.

Proposals:

Article 35 to be deleted as the provisions of Article 34 should define only those entitled to attend NC Meetings without special invitation

The Club's National Officers shall be full members of the Club and shall be

- a) the National Officers stated in the preceding clause,
- b) ~~Assistants to National Committee Members~~
- c) ~~Three Vice Presidents~~
- d) ~~Register Secretaries~~
- e) ~~specialist function and liaison officers.~~

The three Vice Presidents generally attend the NC Meetings although they do not have any defined responsibilities within the Club and do not represent any specific Section yet are entitled to claim

expenses for attending the meetings. It is therefore proposed that this position be made redundant which, if accepted would require amendment to Articles 20, 45, 46 and 88 of the M&AA.

As the Vice Presidents are permitted to attend NC Meetings and claim expenses it can therefore be assumed that a person fulfilling the rolls defined in b), d) or e) above may also attend these meetings and claim expenses as permitted in Article 51.

To simplify administration and reduce costs National Officers should only be defined as the six National Officers plus the respective Section National Representatives. Any other person wishing to attend would be realised via special request and expenses paid accordingly

Apart from limiting the number of "face to face" NC Meetings the only other way of reducing meeting costs is to reduce the number of persons attending the meetings. If all proposed National Officers attended this would equal 21 persons based on what is outlined above. To reduce costs it is proposed to reduce the number of Section representatives attending NC Meetings to five with each being responsible for a Region. Based on previous discussions at NC Meetings on reducing the number of attendees the Sections want to ensure a level of representation at these meetings. The following is an example of how this request could be fulfilled yet achieve a significant reduction in costs: A Region Representative shall be responsible for three sections and shall liaise with the other two sections within the region before and after a NC Meeting

- The Regional Representative will be the nominated NC Member from one of the three sections within the Region - Diagram 1 illustrates a proposal as to how the Regions are defined.
- The Regional Representative will change annually so that each section within a Region will have the opportunity to represent the Region at NC Meetings.
- Should a Section within a Region wish to present a proposal at a NC Meeting this may be realised by either allowing the Regional Representative to present it on the Sections behalf, or alternatively the Section could request to attend the NC Meeting to present the proposal.

By following the above example the number of NC Meeting attendees will be reduced to a maximum of 11 resulting in a saving of approximately £1,850 per "face to face" meeting

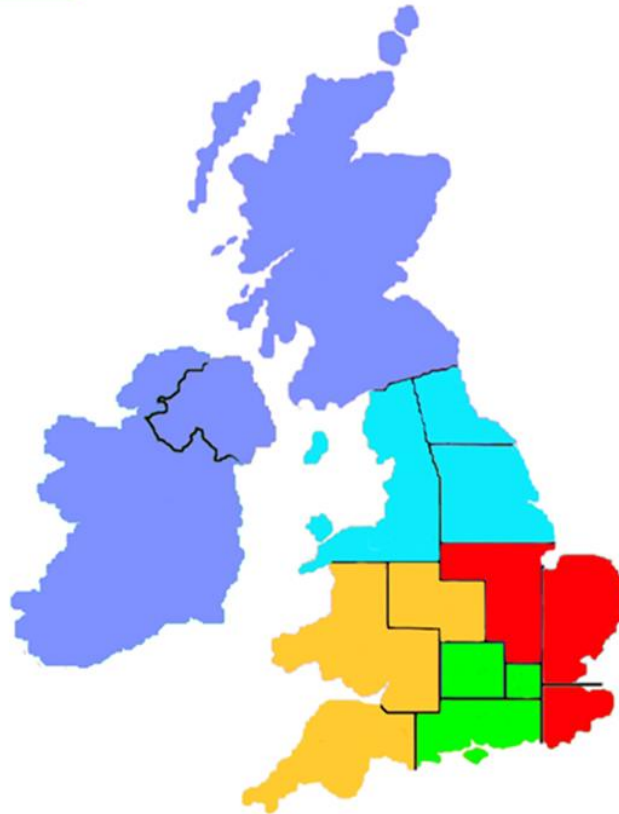
Resolution:

The Western Section submit to the AGM of The BMW Club the following:

- a) Acceptance of the proposal as outlined above
- b) If a) is accepted, request the National Officers to implement the necessary changes and to amend the Memorandum and Articles of Association accordingly

Diagram 1 - Example of the Regional Boundaries and Associated Sections

-  To include Irish, Ulster & Scottish Sections
-  To include North East, Northern & Yorkshire Sections
-  To include Mercia, Western & South West Sections
-  To include Midland, East Anglia & South East Sections
-  To include Oxford, London & Southern Sections



14 Five Year Plan proposal

GET WORDING FROM IAN DOBIE

15 To fix a date for 2015 AGM

The BMW Club

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

26 April 2014

1 President's Welcome/Report

Good morning everyone and welcome to this 63rd AGM. Thank you for making the effort to attend.

Over the past year I hope that you have all enjoyed club life and the camaraderie that brings, when participating in adventures alongside your fellow rider.

The AGM will allow you to meet and socialize with the volunteers and members that help to run this club and will also allow the transfer of ideas and thoughts as to which way the club might develop in the future.

The Club depends totally on the efforts of a large number of volunteers and I would like to extend both my and the thanks of the membership to all concerned. Whilst volunteers are pleased to receive constructive suggestions about how the Club is run, they are entitled to courtesy at all times.

Now, a few ground rules for the meeting today. If you wish to speak during the AGM please raise your hand to gain attention, then when you have the microphone please state your name and section and make sure that the Secretary has recorded this for the minutes.

2 Apologies for Absence:

Martin Padgett, Paul Nadin, Helen Beer, John Winn, Janet Winn, Mark Dutton, Mike Davies, Peter Dutton, Bob Townley, Ann Townley, Harvey Garton, Dorrie Garton, Bob Denman, John Elvidge, Marjorie Burnett, Eric Burnett, Bruce Lepley, John Brown, Colin Ainsworth, Reg Moule, Rob Allin, Marion Allin, Alan Orme, all members from the Isle of Man

At this point we realised that we needed to appoint the tellers for the vote approving the following minutes. Tellers appointed: John Brass, Graham Walker, Peter and Rob.

3 Approval of minutes of 2013 Annual General Meeting.

The minutes were approved, Proposed: Mick Williams, Seconded: John Chandler

In Favour – 121 Against – 0 Abstentions – 5

4 Matters arising from those minutes: None

5 Count of numbers present by Sections and appoint tellers:

East Anglia	10	Ireland	2	London	5
Mercia	4	Midland	12	North East	7
Northern	8	Oxford	61	Scotland	4
South East	2	Southern	21	South West	3
Ulster	1	Western	5	Yorkshire	5
HQ and Overseas	2				

Total including associates 152

6 Reports (in writing) from:

General Secretary: Report as published. No questions.

National Social Secretary: Report as published.

There are a few places left at the Spring National and the August Kelso event.

Achievements during the past 12 months have included turning up at meetings, Metzler have come on board and are supporting the club events, Moto-go-LoCo have supported the club and as such we have the opportunity to have a draw at the AGM and would like to invite you to put £5 in an envelope with your name on, the winner will then be drawn and will be able to choose a Moto-go-LoCo hotel event, the proceeds from the draw will be given to the Air Ambulance. Carrying on with my report the club is to attend the BMW Car Club event in Haydon and free entry is for those who bring their bikes to put on display in the marquee. The club's twitter account is up and running, most sections have their own as well, this is a new way forward and is working well. 2015 dates so far are the AGM in Harrogate, August National is planned for just outside Winchester at the Agricultural College, negotiations are ongoing for this event. A venue for the 2016 AGM is needed. Before I close can I just give a big thanks to everyone who has helped me through the past year.

Editor: Report as published.

Membership Secretary: No report published.

May I firstly apologise for there not being a report, I will now give some figures for membership.

23.1.14 – of 4220 members 2741 have renewed, 373 are new with 1106 still to renew

1.2.14 – 3297 have now renewed with 393 new, 916 have lapsed – 60 more members than this time in 2013

16.4.13 we had 3701 members, on 16.4.14 we had 3555, this is 146 less than the previous year, 799 have lapsed

Sporting Register Secretary: No report.

Vintage Register Secretary: At Stafford Bike Show

Merchandise Secretary: Report as published. A new T-shirt is now available priced at £8.50.

Tool Hire Secretary: Reports as published. Last year was the busiest to date, this year looking even busier. Currently the GS1100 diagnostic tool is the most popular.

7 Treasurer's Report and Accounts:

The Treasurer referred the meeting to his published report and that the clubs financial position is firmly under control. Having turned around 3 years of losses into a small profit this year. At the last 2 AGMs questions were raised concerning the Accountancy and Bookkeeping costs. The Treasurer has looked at previous years' figures and these show that we are paying less Accountant fees that we did in the period 2006 to 2009. The Book keeping fees have stayed very much the same for the last 10 years

The accounts were accepted, proposed: Dik Langan, seconded: Geoff Clough
In Favour – 146 Against – 0 Abstentions – 1

8 Appointment of accountants for the ensuing year: The present accountants to continue: there were no objections - carried.

9 Confirm Subscription fee for 2015/2016: The proposal was to leave the subscription unchanged this year. A further proposal to increase the subscription was received too late for considering at this AGM so may be tabled for next year. Everyone present at the AGM was for keeping the subscription the same for the coming year so this was carried.

10 Election of Club National Officers for 2014/2015.

President:	Mike Warrilow	134 votes Elected
General Secretary:	Anita Johnson	144 votes Elected
Treasurer:	Jim Lepley	135 votes Elected
Membership Secretary:	Bob Barker	0 votes Elected
National Social Secretary:	Jim Bettley	144 votes Elected
Editor:	Stewart Lowthian	144 votes Elected
Vintage Register Secretary:	John Winn	146 votes Elected
Sporting Register Secretary:	Robert Bensley	143 votes Elected
Sidecar Secretary:	no nomination	
GS Register Secretary:	no nomination	
Vice Presidents 3 years:	Cliff Batley	137 votes Elected

On returning to the chair, the president addressed the meeting, the Club is in need of someone to come forward as the National Membership Secretary and Bob Barker has agreed to take on the position, he will be assisted by Dick Boyd who is more than willing to pass on his vast knowledge of the duties having stood down at this AGM. At this point I would like to make a presentation to Dick in thanks for all the years of dedication and hard work he has put into the club. I would also like to thank all officers both concluding and continuing their terms, as well as the AGM venue organisers. We all look forward to the changes that the club has to go through to prosper.

11 Presentation of trophies:

BMW Sporting Spirit Trophy: Nigel Richardson

Max Deubel Trophy: Greg Smith

Mary Dudgon Trophy: Jenny Batley

Bill Woollin 'Spirit of the Club' Award: John Chandler

Val Joslyn Trophy: Mick Williams

An additional presentation of flowers was made to Cath Broughton in recognition of the work that she has put in looking after the Club regalia.

12 Special Resolutions proposed by the National Committee

a That Article 10 of the Articles of Association be updated to allow the National Committee to decide if and when the Club subscription could move to a rolling year model rather than the current fixed renewal date.

Discussions both for and against the proposal were put forward.

In favour – 116

Against – 12

Abstentions – 12

The proposal was carried with a 86.6% majority to allow the National Committee to amend the format for annual subscription to expire on the date 1 year after joining, existing members will be unaffected by this resolution.

b That the Journal format be changed from A5 to A4 from January 2015

Discussions both for and against the proposal were put forward.

In favour – 115

Against – 10

Abstentions – 8

The proposal was carried with a 86.5% majority to allow the Journal format to be changed from A5 to A4 from January 2015

13 AGM 2015: Saturday April 18 2015 at the Cairn Hotel in Harrogate.

14 Any other business:

The president closed the meeting at 3.00 pm.

Following the meeting an open discussion forum took place on the way forward document.

REPORTS TO 2015 AGM

President – Mike Warrilow

Hello to all who have made the effort to attend this the 64th AGM of The BMW Club. Thanks to the Yorkshire Section for organising it for us.

If you read my monthly report in The BMW Club Journal you will be up to speed with what the volunteers who run the Club on your behalf are trying to do and hopefully you will be taking part in the idea's to bring the Club up to date by changing the way we run it.

I knew when I suggested any changes to the way this Club is run it wouldn't happen over night and two years on we have started to move slowly but surely. The most noticeable being the Sections working closer with Motorrad and the Dealers. The 20/20 promotional deal on servicing was a big step forward and I hope members have taken advantage of this benefit. There are more member benefits to come.

Facebook and Twitter have been encouraged and more of us are getting involved with this media. I know it is strange if you don't use these social networks, but if we are to attract new blood into the Club we must use the modern ways of the world.

The format to A4 of The BMW Club Journal has been received well and we should thank the Editor and his team for doing this for us.

For me it has been an “up” and “down” year and I am still impressed with the enthusiasm the National Officers and Section Committees put into making the Club work. A mention should be made about the Changes Group and Members who have had the courage and conviction to get on with modernising our Club. For the first time in ages we have almost a full Register group, giving the GS, Vintage and Sidecar owners a bigger profile.

Today will see how much you the Members are willing to back the proposals put before you.

General Secretary – Anita Johnson

I would like to start my report by welcoming those who have made the journey to Yorkshire, my home county.

I always find that AGM's are a time to reflect over what we have achieved in the past year and to look forward to the future. The past 12 months have been very busy for the Club and myself. We have held 3 national committee meetings, and have been able to make decisions which will take the Club into the future. Had a stand at the BMF Show in May and a stand at the NEC in Birmingham, we sold out of tickets well in advance of the show. We have welcomed lots of new members to the Club. With the use of new technology we are now able to take memberships using cards and able to give instant membership numbers. We have welcomed 3 new register secretaries who are all enthusiastic and need your support.

Looking forward, we must all embrace technology, all do our bit to recruit new members and take the Club forward.

National Social Secretary – Jim Bettley

Piers Kurrein and the Yorkshire Section kindly stepped up to the plate to host this event for which I give them my warmest thanks. Piers and the team have worked hard to bring us a well organised AGM in beautiful surroundings. Well done one and all!

We also have an August National to look forward to as the Southern Section have overcome all the problems that presented themselves to pull together a deal with Sparsholt College (just outside Winchester in Hampshire) where we will find this year's August National for this year. I have already mentioned what a great venue this is as it has flat camping areas and hard standing for motor-homes and caravans, plenty of en-suite accommodation, social rooms for get-togethers, two separate dining areas and some fabulous views over the South Downs. The College is well away from any public roads and lends itself well to the 'family friendly' ethos and I know they are looking at options to provide bouncy castles and the like for the kids. A lively and fun band has been booked for the Saturday which is well in-line with the Hampshire Hoe-down theme.

I am also pleased to report that Metzeler UK have come forward and offered us sponsorship again for 2015 and have booked their accommodation and the space for their marquee so we can expect something special from them. I am currently working through the exact details with them.

I am also glad to say that the immediate issues with MotoGoLoco have been resolved and I must thank Jim Lepley for helping me to shake things up a little. I have no doubt that MotoGoLoco have been very busy developing their business but I will have to monitor things as I do not think, as a Club, we want to have to cope with the difficulties and embarrassment that severe delays in our responses can cause. They have been great supporters and I thank them for their generosity and look forward to our ongoing relationship.

As usual I would like to thank all of our members who contributed to the myriad of social events held on behalf of the Club in the last 12 months, most of whom would have done so unsung, and some even receiving abuse! On behalf of all of the Club members who appreciate all of the hard work that make these events happen I offer our heartiest thanks.

Lastly, we need volunteers to step forward for the AGM and the National in 2016. I have a Section exploring the issues around hosting the AGM and I hope I can encourage them into doing so - but what about the August National? Why not give it a go? It's more fun than you think and immensely satisfying. For a no-commitment chat either drop me an email or ring me up.

Membership Secretary – Bob Barker

I was co-opted into this position last May and it has been a steep learning curve since then. Virtually all duties are background tasks which 'oil the wheels' of the membership renewal / joining process. These include the printing of new application forms and the production of 'Maximise your Motorcycling' and membership cards. We also manage the relationship with the Mailing House to ensure your Journal gets to you on time. I use the term 'we' as I do not do these things alone. I must express my thanks to Dick for all the assistance he has given me as I learnt the ropes. Also to Piers Kurrein, our in-house graphic designer, who was responsible for all the designs we have needed.

The hunt for a new Club Database goes on. Nothing has yet been ruled out or in. The preferred option is to find a company which can maintain the existing application. It was developed as a bespoke system perfectly tailored to the Club's needs. To this end you will have seen an advert in the February Journal looking for someone to take on this support. This procurement exercise has only just started.

I would like to make two further mentions. Firstly for Greg Smith who developed the Membership System and has maintained it, largely singlehandedly, ever since. It has been the lifeblood of the Membership Administration process for a decade now. And secondly for Dik Langan who has agreed to take over the day-to-day running of the database for the time being. The target date for the new support arrangements is this summer. This will then allow us to enhance the system with features such as the rolling membership year. I will give a verbal update at the AGM as to where we are with this ongoing process.

Alongside this, as a backup plan, I am still looking for commercial products that can meet our needs but it is proving difficult to find a product that will map onto our existing procedures at a reasonable cost.

I would like to add that I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as your Membership Secretary, despite some fraught periods like the renewal month, and am happy to stand for another year and hopefully see through the future development of the Membership Administration System.

Editor – Stewart Lowthian

The decision taken at the 2014 meeting to change the page size of *The Journal* from A5 to A4 was, as is well known, implemented with the January 2015 edition. I would have preferred to make the change much earlier but selling members binders for a year's *Journals* then changing mid-year seemed like very poor practice. I'm pleased with what I've achieved: it's not perfect but neither is anything else in life. The initial response (this report being required by the end of January) seems mostly, but not universally, in favour, the objections appearing to be primarily about the size rather than the content, which is deliberately in the same style that I've been using for the last few years.

I have served as Editor for five years and have to ask the question: how long can I, or indeed any Club officer, carry on before running out of ideas? At the time of writing I'm equivocating about standing again. If I do, and subject to being elected, I can't see me continuing beyond April 2016. This raises the question of succession planning as the captains of business and industry put it. Editing *The Journal* requires a great deal of time and the acquisition of a variety of computer skills. To ensure the continued production of *The Journal*, the incoming Editor needs to have already acquired sufficient skills to hit the ground running. In a sense, this contradicts the democratic principle that any member is entitled to stand for election as a new Editor needs either an existing familiarity with InDesign or a lot of time with his predecessor to train for the position. The alternative, which I have mentioned before, is to subcontract the layout to a professional design house. This would cost, I understand, about £3 per member on the annual subscription but would go a long way to ensuring stability. Producing *The Journal* with our own resources is a well-established practice but, from time to time, asking ourselves whether we can find a better way is necessary for our future security.

Sporting Register - Robert Bensley

3 track days were held in 2014, one at Cadwell Park, the other two at the Secretary's local circuit Snetterton, the Cadwell day was well oversubscribed but the Snetterton days were nicely full, returning the Club a small surplus. It is the secretary's opinion that 2 days at Snetterton may be over optimistic for 2015, therefore it is planned to only have the August day and run another at Cadwell. The dates set are Mondays, 13th July at Cadwell and 19th August at Snetterton. The Club had members attending the Bike magazine road bike-only days at other circuits around the country, a few attended the Nurburgring bike-only event and a Belgian track day organiser's commercial day at Spa. At all the events it is not just a track event, Sunday evenings are a social occasion and the continental days are long weekend affairs.

Vintage Register Secretary – Peter Ardron

In the four months since I took on the role of VCR Secretary I have received enormous support and encouragement from both management and membership. Thanks to that support, I'm happy to report that there now seems every reason to be optimistic about the immediate future of the VCR. I have tried to restructure the Register with the aim of improving communications and involvement at all levels. This has meant much more use of I.T., with the development of the VCR website, our presence on Facebook, interrogation of the database and greatly increased use of email to make individual contact with the membership.

We now have fourteen area reps, covering eleven of the Sections, who are helping members get the most out of Section Activities. There seems in the past to have been a general lack of communication with VCR members not knowing which events were best suited to their needs and some Section Social Secretaries unaware of the concerns of some VCR members. The Area Reps will help communications at all levels and give feedback to both Section Secretaries and to me. Many are also organising local activities in co-ordination with their Section Social Secretaries. Additionally, the VCR now has a Facebook co-ordinator, several model specialists, a conversion specialists, a presence at more Shows and Displays than ever before, and is accumulating a much healthier-looking bank of Journal Articles. I have been delighted by this increasing level of involvement from members. Many across the Sections have volunteered to organise ride-outs this year, whilst others are helping to spread the word about events attractive to VCR members but organised by other bodies. We already have one airhead Workshop Day organised in Wales and at the time of writing we're searching for a suitable location to hold at least one more elsewhere in the country. Our Calendar of events is now pleasingly full, with the first of these events having begun in February.

All these events are being publicised in both the Journal and on the VCR website. The website itself has grown enormously – both in the scope of services and information it offers members and in the amount of hits it receives. I believe the website will gradually become the hub of all VCR activities but until all members are computer literate we cannot rely on this alone. My aim is that, by communicating through the web site, the forum, the area reps and the Journal, no-one shall miss an event through lack of knowledge.

Another new venture for us this year is the Remote Places Challenge which is the brainchild of Neville Jones, the GS Secretary, who has kindly allowed it to accommodate entries from both the VCR and the Sidecar Registry. Provided it proves popular, I would hope this will become an annual feature in the VCR year, alongside the Mileage Competition which has now been adapted slightly to accommodate our older machines in a category of their own.

I must also mention the successes of our DVLA rep, Robert Freeman. He has found his way through the red tape of the DVLA and is successfully acquiring dating certificates from BMW to allow members to get their bikes back on the roads. Even better, the service he offers has persuaded several non-members to see the error of their ways and they have now joined the Club. Although I am pleased with our successes – and extremely grateful to the many, many members who have offered their support in one way or another – I am wary of becoming complacent. We need to build on these successes and keep the momentum going. We have many times more activities organised for this summer than for many years past. We now need the support of the general membership in attending these events to enable us to develop these further in future years.

With the help of Mike Warrilow, Jim Lepley, Bob Barker, Greg Smith and others, many of the structural problems I faced when taking on this role have now been addressed. The National Officers have greatly facilitated my attempts and have enabled the Register to succeed once again: without the efforts made by these Officers there would have been little hope of the VCR revival we are now starting to experience.

To secure the VCR's continued success there are, in my view, three key areas that need addressing:

1. Communications

The relationship and communications between the VCR and the NCM will be vital to any future success. I am absolutely convinced that poor communication in the past has been a factor in the decline of the VCR. With no official, structural line of communication between us, it is almost impossible for NCM members to understand or take into full account the effect of their actions on the VCR membership.

2. Knowledge

We need to build a more accurate and comprehensive database of our members. Many email addresses that we hold are obsolete, for example, so we cannot communicate effectively when we need to. Additionally, details of machine ownership, though written on membership application forms, are often discarded at Section level. This is having a noticeable deleterious and frustrating impact on the service I am able to give the membership.

3. Marketing

The Club needs to address the fact that the VCR is not the youngest group in the Club. Many members who have been very active in the past now, understandably, feel the need to sit back and are generally less involved than they were. We need new blood to keep enthusiasm and momentum growing. I would like to organise a recruitment campaign through the Morton's magazine group. I believe there is a large market of non-members who represent untapped potential, offering both further profit for the Club and new vitality for the Register. Failure to invest in advertising in this way will, in the longer term, result in the almost certain demise of the VCR.

Sidecar Register Secretary – Keith Thomas

After a bit of a quiet period, the Sidecar Register is mobilising! A Register-wide email to members has revealed that there are many active riders of BMW sidecars and trikes out there, some of us doing huge annual mileages. I hope to act as a coordinator of Club and general three-wheeler information, to organise a few meetings and rallies country-wide, to ensure that the Sidecar Register has a presence in The Journal and on-line, and to ensure that Register members have access to someone with three-wheeler technical know-how. The revived Vintage & Classic Register, and the revived GS Register have further events to which three-wheelers are welcome,

so 2015 could see Sidecar Register members racking up more miles and attending more Club events than ever before!

GS Register Secretary

Early in January in conversation with Peter Ardron he suggested I volunteer to get a GS Register running. There was no evidence of what the GS Register might ever have been. In subsequent discussion with President Mike Warrilow he suggested that if I was prepared to give it a go I could be co-opted to the post until the AGM when I would have to stand for election. I agreed to be co-opted until the AGM.

Bob supplied me with the list of GS Register members and Stewart got the gs@bmwclubuk.net email address set up for me. I then emailed every member with an email (something like 500+ out of the total membership) asking what they wanted the Register to be and asking for ideas. They replied and some are still replying. A consolidation of replies revealed a major concern was that there were no GS Register web pages attached to the main Club website. Their impatience for something to happen was palpable. A second area of major concern was they wanted some sort of riding activity with a competitive element, long rides, solo rides, team events, group rides, no food/food. Also they were again very impatient for something to happen in this regard.

By 2nd February with the assistance of Peter Ardron, Greg Smith and Jim Lepley I managed to get a GS Register website setup and linked to the national website (thanks to Nick Fearn for the last part). In tandem with the website work I progressed the idea of a competition to meet the second set of requirements above. By the second week in January the outline for a long distance Photo competition was in place and work has continued until the 3rd February when a final version of the Rules and Regulations was completed. With the assistance of the Ulster and Irish sections plus The ACU, MSA, SACU, MUI, and MI we have an event which does not need costly authorisation yet covers Scotland, Ireland, Ulster, Wales and England.

The competition "The Remote Places Challenge" is being launched in the March Journal, then on the GS Register Website, The club Facebook Page, and The Journal. I agree with Stewart that if we are to keep The Journal as the main method of communication with Club members we cannot undermine its position by using the social media to announce new initiatives when only a small percentage of members regularly use the social networks. The event runs March to November in line with our Mileage competition, and also the Irish Photo Rally (run by The Boyne Riders). In Ireland and Ulster we have agreement to use their locations as our Challenge Points. This means that entrants in both events will not face a double cost. If this year's event is successful then an extension into France, Germany etc is possible with similar pan-European agreements with their organisers.

I stand for election at this year's AGM and hope to be successful. If anyone else stands and is elected I will assist them to pick up where I have got to, if that is their wish.

Should the response to my efforts be unenthusiastic over the next year I will stand down in time for others to stand for the position at next year's (2016) AGM.

Merchandise - Cath Broughton

No report provided prior to printing.

Tool Hire (Post/5) Secretary – Mike Delacoe

This has been the busiest year to date (again)!

My relationship with the staff at the local village post office can be entertaining at times, as they ask (for security) what I am sending. They will soon understand more about the tools than some of our members, and it brightens their day!

From Jan 2014 to Dec 2014, there were well over 200 hundred tools hired out to 79 members (up from 68 in 2013). As in 2013 the most hired tool in 2014 was the GS-911 Diagnostic device (EBM108) which has been out 24 times, with the next most popular being the Kit of tools for replacing the rear main seal on the Post 1969 Airhead boxers.

New Investment during 2014

The following tools/manuals were obtained during 2014:

- 1 11-5-704 - Adapter ring for KOP 11-5-700. This is for inserting the rear main seal in the R1200 Series Boxer (not the LC version).
- 2 23-4-600 – Gearbox shim measuring plate for the R850 - R1100 Series Boxer.
- 3 27-1-541 - Toothed belt tension measuring gauge for the rear belt driven models.
- 4 34-1-580 – Brake Bleeding KOP for the servo and later brake systems.
- 5 CW-02 – KOP for Pre /5 Gear box O/P Collar Nut. Two Collar sockets, retaining plate and nuts. Small socket for 1951 – 1967 and large socket for 1967 - 1969. Cycleworks tool.
- 6 M20 x 1.5mm Tap for use on the Earles fork.
- 7 Barrington Motor Works R50-R69US Restoration & Service Manual.
- 8 Numerous original manuals for the Pre /5 machines have also been donated to me for the club.

General

As can be seen from the list above, a few new items in support of the Pre /5 models have been purchased. While there were only three members who requested sets of tools in 2014, I fully expect that with the recent resurgence of the Club's Registers (Vintage, GS, and Sidecar) and the proposal for local 'Workshops' this may drive demand for tools as members realise what the Club can offer!

This year, after a little negotiation, Motorworks generously donated 75 tools to the Club. These were for the post 69 airheads, and K series, and while we already possessed the majority, they have provided valuable back up should any get lost or broken. It also saved them from being scrapped and therefore lost forever!

As we have some of the original engineering drawings, I have investigated the possibility of having some of the older worn out tools for the Pre /5 machines remade. There are also some modern alternative versions available from Cycleworks in the USA.

As well as the Club Forum, the full tool hire lists are available to view in the Vintage & Classic Register hosted on the main Club Website. On request, I can also email copies to any Club member.

If required, full details of all tool hire transactions for 2014 can be viewed at the AGM, just contact me.

Having completed 10 years in this role, I really enjoy providing this service for the benefit of Club members and am very willing to continue to do so.

The following simple steps outline the process for hiring any of the Club's tools:

- Phone, or email me to discuss your requirements, and hire fee, I also hold a variety of workshop manuals on paper, CD and in PDF format which identify the special tools required and their part numbers.
- Send a deposit cheque made out to 'The BMW Club' with a covering note referencing the tools as agreed. If preferred, the deposit can be paid via direct bank transfer.
- Once the deposit has been received, the tools will be posted (insured).
- The hirer is responsible for returning the tools, insured, back to me.
- On safe return of the tools, the deposit balance, less hire and postage charges, will be refunded either via a Club cheque or electronic bank transfer as requested.

The BMW Club
United Kingdom & Ireland



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