

# **The BMW Club Annual General Meeting**

## **Saturday 14th April 2018**

**Registration from 10.00 a.m.**  
**Commencing promptly 11.30 a.m.**

**Venue**  
**The Dunchurch Park Hotel**  
**Rugby Road**  
**Dunchurch**  
**CV22 6QW**



# The BMW Club Annual General Meeting 14th April 2018

## AGENDA

1. President's Welcome and Report
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Appointment of Tellers
4. Approval of the minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting (presented on page 3)
5. Matters arising from those Minutes
6. Count of members present by Section
7. Reports (in writing) from
  - General Secretary (presented on page 5)
  - Social Secretary (presented on page 5)
  - Membership Secretary (presented on page 5)
  - Editor (presented on page 6)
  - Sporting Register Secretary (presented on page 7)
  - Sidecar Register Secretary (presented on page 7)
  - Vintage Register Secretary (presented on page 7)
  - Regalia Officer (presented on page 7)
  - Tool Hire Secretary (presented on page 8)
8. Treasurer's Report and Accounts (in separate document)
9. Appointment of Accountants for the following year (detailed on page 8)
10. Confirm the Subscriptions from 1st October 2018 according to Club Rule 10 (detailed on page 8)
11. Election of Club National Officers for 2018 to 2019

Position	Candidate	Proposer	Seconder
President	Ian Dobie	Geoffrey Clough	Helen Beer
Secretary	Stewart Lowthian	Lynn Sumner	Alan Davies
Editor	Debbie Sampson	Donald Rabson	Alistair Magor
Membership Secretary	Bob Barker	Paul Gregg	Dik Langan
Social Secretary	No nomination received		
Treasurer	Jim Lepley	Duncan Colburn	Marjorie Burnett
Vice-Presidents	Alan Orme	Colin Tetley	Reg Moule
Vintage Register Secretary	Ashley Boal	Brian Price	Robert Powell
GS Register Secretary	Neville Jones	Denis Bradbeer	Haydn Rees
Sporting Register Secretary	Robert Bensley	Stan Wood	Barry Warner
Sidecar Register Secretary	Keith Thomas	Paul Ennis	Neville Jones

12. Presentation of Trophies (recipients listed on page 8)
13. Presentation of Honorary Life Memberships (recipients listed on page 8)
14. Special Resolutions to alter the Articles of Association of The BMW Motorcycle Club Limited, incorporated under the Companies Act 1985 with Registration Number 4261129. (presented on page 9)
15. Ordinary Resolution (presented on page 10).
16. To fix a date for the 2019 Annual General Meeting
17. Any Other Business.

# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The BMW Motorcycle Club Limited held at the Bedford Hotel, Tavistock on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2017.

1. Following welcomes by the Town Crier and Phil Sampson of the organising section the President opened the meeting. In his opening address he thanked the South West section for organising the AGM and the National team for their support during his presidency.
2. The count of members attending by section was:

East Anglia	7	Irish	0	London	1
Mercia	8	Midland	7	North East	9
Northern	11	Oxford	21	Scottish	2
South East	1	Southern	11	South West	32
Ulster	1	Western	14	Yorkshire	2
HQ	1				
Total	128				

3. Appointment of tellers. This was taken out of sequence to allow voting to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Paul Burnett, Alistair Magor, Don Rabson and Malcolm Palmer were appointed.
4. Apologies for absence were received from Keith Thomas, Colin Ainsworth, Paul Nadin, Piers Kurrein, Martin Pagett, Harvey and Dorrie Garton, Graham Parker, Chris Wallis, Dick Boyd, Denis Bradbeer, John Henshaw and Nev Jones.
5. Approval of the minutes of the 2016 meeting. Proposed by Dik Langan, seconded by Jim Bettley For: 96, Against: 0, Abstaining: 2.
6. Matters arising from the minutes. None.
7. Officers Reports.

**General Secretary:** Stewart Lowthian had nothing to add to his report. Charlie Hall asked why he wanted to investigate disincorporation. Stewart explained that the regulatory burden was both onerous and expensive.

**National Social Secretary:** Jim Bettley added to his report by thanking everyone who has arranged any social event on behalf of the Club as it is such events that retain Club members. He then spoke about National Rallies and AGM venues. He explained that National Rallies were optional but the AGM was a legal requirement. A centralised location for the next AGM is being sort and a National team will be formed to organise it, the same team being responsible each year removing the pressure on any individual section. Jim Isherwood asked if he was considering AGM venues other than big posh hotels. Jim said that he was.

**National Membership Secretary:** Bob Barker added to his report by giving an update on membership numbers stating that we currently have 3,279 full members, 639 of which are lapsed and will be deleted at the end of April. We had 232 new joiners in the previous year but he saw a pattern of 50% of new joiners not renewing. He also stated that we see about 50% of new joiners signing up online so this is definitely a strong channel for the Club. Jim Isherwood asked if Direct Debit payments would be available. Bob said that they would once the new membership system is fully operational. Lynn Sumner asked what was happening with Standing Orders. Standing Orders will continue until the new system is in use.

**Editor:** Debbie Sampson's report was given without questions. She added that Amanda Langan will take on the work of invoicing advertisers, including Small Business Adverts. She explained that family circumstances were limiting the time she had available for The Journal. Bob Harrison volunteered to assist with sub-editing particularly with the proof reading. There will be more changes to come to the Journal. Debbie thanked Piers Kurrein and Bruce Lepley for their substantial contributions.

**Sporting Register Secretary:** Robert Bensley advised the meeting that the Cadwell Park track day was fully subscribed and Snetterton nearly full with only 15 – 20 spaces. Robert said that spectators were welcomed at these events. Dik Langan asked if admittance was free for spectators and Robert said it was but the Club does not (yet) provide refreshments. He was asked about insurance and said that entrants could buy cover for their motorcycles for a few hundred pounds but he considered the event safer if riders took part uninsured.

**GS Register Secretary:** Neville Jones's report was as the agenda booklet. As he was unable to be present no questions were asked or points raised.

**Sidecar Register Secretary:** Keith Thomas's report was as the agenda booklet. As he was unable to be present no questions were asked or points raised.

**Vintage Register Secretary:** Ashley Boal's report was accepted. John Bell asked when a motorcycle was classed as vintage. Ashley said it was at 25 years old. Brian Price added that it was a very loose definition. Mike asked if there had been any progress on targeting custom and chopped bike owners and Ashley said he had not had the opportunity to work on that yet but it was in his mind to do so.

**Toolhire Secretary:** Mike Delacoe had nothing to add to his report which was accepted without questions.

**Regalia Secretary:** Cath Broughton's report was given verbally. Sales were not as good as the £10,000 of previous years. The withdrawal of the Freefone number had caused problems by making some items obsolete. Members who joined at the NEC Show were given a welcome gift of the obsolete items, which gained a very positive response. Cath stated that packaging and the like is re-used to keep costs down, with parcel tape the only expense incurred. The introduction of P&P charge is working well although the costs have increased and need updating on the web site. All the officer's reports were accepted on a show of hands.

## 8. Treasurer's report and accounts.

Jim Lepley gave a verbal report. He started by thanking Cath Broughton, Mike Delacoe, Lynn Sumner and the section treasurers and membership secretaries for their contributions. He also thanked Debbie Sampson for her work in ensuring that advertising revenue was collected. He said that the accounts showed that we had spent more than we received but he believed that our expenditure was under control He explained that a change in our arrangement for VAT with HMRC has cost us £8575 in reclaimed VAT and we had incurred the one-off cost of the new membership database. Apart from these two items of expenditure, one planned and one unexpected, our administrative expenses were £150 less than the previous year. He also said that this year all the section accounts had been included. The

variability in section accounts is because some were holding members payments for future events and this was shown as reserves rather than debt.

Geoff Clough thanks Jim for his sterling work and just wanted to point out a minor issue with the report: the depreciation for the database was presented as 25% but should be 20%. Jim agreed and said he would correct that. Colin Ross stated that the heading "Section Bank Balances" was incorrect as it included both reserves and debts as previously mentioned. Brian Price asked whether the difficulties regarding the Irish Section discussed the previous year had been resolved. Jim stated that they had. Lynn Sumner asked how much the discontinued 0800 number cost. It was in the order of £40/month. She then asked how much an ordinary BT line would cost. The cost was not known.

The motion to accept the accounts was proposed by Colin Ross and seconded by Dean Carpenter. For: 132, Against: 0, Abstaining: 1. The question was raised that more members voted than were recorded at the start of the meeting. It was assumed that members had arrived late and missed the count.

9. Appointment of Accountants.

The motion to retain Ross McConnell was proposed by Jim Lepley and seconded by Dik Langan. For 129, Against 0, Abstain 1.

10. Confirmation of subscription for 2018/2019.

The subscription will be kept to its current level of £30 for United Kingdom members.

11. Election of Officers.

President: Mike Warrilow (retiring President) held the chair for the election of the President after a short speech of thanks from Jim Bettley thanking Mike for his 4 years service and presenting him with an open-face helmet as a token of our appreciation. Prior to the election, each candidate made a small presentation of themselves and answered questions. The votes cast were 54 for Cliff Batley and 63 for Ian Dobie. Ian was therefore elected. Ian resigned as Vice-President

The lunch break was taken at this point. When the meeting resumed Ian Dobie took the chair for the subsequent elections.

General Secretary: Stewart Lowthian was elected unopposed on a show of hands.

Editor: Debbie Sampson was elected unopposed on a show of hands.

Membership Secretary: Bob Barker was elected unopposed on a show of hands.

Social Secretary: Jim Bettley was elected unopposed on a show of hands.

Treasurer: Jim Lepley was elected unopposed on a show of hands.

Vice-Presidents: The Secretary explained why there were now three vacancies for the position. Alan Orme said that he would stand for the one-year position then Simon Johnston said that he would stand for the two-year position. This was considered acceptable by the meeting and on

a show of hands Cliff Batley was elected for three years, Simon Johnston for two years and Alan Orme for one year.

Vintage Register Secretary: Ashley Boal was elected unopposed on a show of hands.

Sporting Register Secretary: Robert Bensley was elected unopposed on a show of hands.

Sidecar Register Secretary: Keith Thomas was elected unopposed on a show of hands.

GS Register Secretary: No candidates were nominated and there were no volunteers at the meeting. The post therefore remains vacant.

12. Presentation of Awards.

Debbie Sampson was awarded the Bill Woolin Trophy.

Cath Broughton was awarded the Mary Dudgeon Trophy.

Phil Townsend was awarded the Val Joselyn trophy for the best aircooled post /5 boxer.

Albert Connick was awarded the Ray Hall Memorial Trophy for the best /5 or earlier.

The Sporting Spirit, Fred Secker and Max Deubel trophies had no candidates this year so were not awarded.

13. Special Resolution (requiring 75% of votes cast to succeed).

The Secretary explained why motions voted on at previous meetings had to be repeated. It was asked whether, to save time, all seven motions could be taken together. There being no objection the motions were carried with 108 votes for, none against and no abstentions. The Secretary had already made an appointment to see the Club's Solicitors to arrange for the MAA to be updated accordingly.

14. Date of next Meeting.

The venue for the 2018 meeting has not been determined so no date can be set. Jim Bettley is negotiating a central venue and will be aiming for a date toward the end of April but will try not to clash with the Stafford Vintage & Classic Show.

15. Any Other Business.

a) Mike Warrilow, on behalf of the Midland Section, spoke about the Section's difficulty in appointing a National Committee representative. Cath Broughton read out an email from Graham Parker on the subject, the content being similar to that published in the March Journal.

b) Following a question from Ian McNaughton, the Secretary apologised for his dozziness and confirmed that Colin Ainsworth was awarded Honorary Life Membership, which should have been covered with the presentation of awards earlier.

c) Brian Johnson said that thirty years organising show stands for the BMF and BMW Club was enough and that he and Anita were standing down from organising the Club's presence at major shows. Ian asked all those present to show their appreciation and join a round of applause for the pair and all they have done for the Club over the years.

d) Bob Denman suggested that the Club should examine postal and online voting for the position of President. Stewart answered that this would not be an easy thing to organise.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3pm

# Reports to the 2018 AGM

## General Secretary: Stewart Lowthian

The need to produce this report well in advance of the meeting it is intended for means that it is inevitably historical rather than contemporary. Some years ago, in an early Editor's report I observed that the Club was over-fond of recreational fratricide. I regret to say that we are now worse rather than better at self-destruction. We are, in principle, a Club with rules which guide and constrain our activities. Instead we seem to be becoming, in a reflection of the greater society in which we exist, a collection of small groups who believe that by shouting and sulking they can demand their own way. Some of the questions that these groups have shouted about are serious and needed dealing with although when our Articles don't explicitly cover the matter in hand it would be better to step back and think rather than simply close ranks. Two unprecedented situations have been dealt with by using the Articles as a guide. The first, under Article 4, was the revocation of a membership following complaints that members didn't care to be part of an organisation that accepted an individual newly out of prison following three convictions for offences against a teenage girl. The second, under Article 88, was a section requesting an Extraordinary General Meeting, which was demanding of officer's time and Club funds at both National and Section level. We hope that the experience we have of dealing with these situations will never be needed again.

There seems to be a general reluctance to accept the reality that we are an organisation that exists within a larger community. Regrettably, we are not "just a motorcycle club", desirable though that would be. The section EGM was called, in part, because it was believed that the laws regarding data protection, which carry heavy penalties, were being widely flouted. This is nothing to do with the Club being a limited company: it is simply a consequence of us existing within the community as a whole. I would, in many respects, prefer that we were not a limited company, partly because the regulatory burden is at times onerous but also because it would remove the opportunity for members to erroneously remind me that we're not a business. Those who've been members for longer than me will, however, remember the urgency which accompanied our incorporation. My understanding is that the National Committee felt, following the threat of litigation against a similar organisation, that the protection of a limited company was needed.

The Club seems to have become a very tense, factional place. The situations I referred to in my opening paragraph were, as far as I'm aware, unprecedented. The vitriol thrown at me for attempting, as best a volunteer can in his free time, to keep the Club's administration in reasonable, if inevitably not perfect, order (and if anyone would like the job of sorting out our Statutory Records, which appear to be conspicuous only by their absence, then please say so) is a regrettable expression of the modern fashion for strident mobs demanding their own narrow interest rather than considering the whole Club. Countless emails claiming the "true facts" regarding the convictions I mentioned earlier weren't known (but never made public as far as I could tell) have been issued. Likewise, allegations of negativity (whatever that actually means) because I believe that the formal business our Articles of Association (in other words the rules we as a club have imposed on ourselves) should be uninterrupted and therefore over and done with as quickly as possible.

Our new solicitors have pointed out things that we should have been doing, hence the provision of proxy voting. The burden of law on a limited company is high but it brings the benefit of protecting the Club's unpaid volunteer officers against claims of negligence,

whether genuine or specious. There are other regulatory burdens that are nothing to do with being a limited company and the biggest of them all, at the moment, is the impending General Data Protection Regulation, with potential fines of up to €20,000,000 (yes that is twenty million Euros) for serious breaches. Whilst I do not seriously expect us to do anything justifying such a sanction, it would not take a major misdemeanour to embarrass our reputation and bank balance.

## National Social Secretary: Jim Bettley

Firstly let me say that it was a privilege to serve as a National Officer and to work alongside some very talented and hard working people who do so much to ensure our Club is run properly and well.

For some, the news of my standing down may have seemed rather sudden, but it was not a decision I made quickly or lightly. For quite some time I had been finding managing the competing time pressures of a full time job, giving appropriate time to my family and domestic matters and meeting the demands of being a BMW Club National Officer more and more difficult to do and I realised something had to give.

The situation became more focussed for me on the run up to Christmas and I realised the time had come to make some changes and I should delay no more.

At that time I knew the AGM had been set for 2018, and dates arranged for 2019 and 2020, the National Rally for 2018 was well in hand with the Midland Section and we had a provisional offer for 2019. There were no immediate National Social issues that needed to be addressed and in any case I intended to remain the National Committee Member for the Southern Section so I would still be available to help with any issues that may arise and need my input. Clearly there was no reason for me to procrastinate and longer, so I stood down.

Although it may seem to some I could have remained in post until the AGM in April, this would not have been the right decision for my family so the decision was certainly clear for me.

A number of people have picked up some of the tasks that the post generates and in particular I understand that Reg Moule has stepped forward from his position as my deputy. Thank you Reg.

Lastly let me say how much I enjoyed my time as a National Officer and how rewarding the role can be. Having served for nearly 5 years I feel I have given back much to the Club, and I will continue to enjoy all the benefits that come with being a member. I wish my successor well and am certain they will find the job sometimes challenging, often frustrating but ultimately very rewarding.

Best wishes to all

## Membership Secretary: Bob Barker

I am afraid I will have to repeat myself from last year a little. This is a very bad time, early February, to write a report for the AGM in April. We are in the middle of our largest renewal window and numbers are always fluid at this time. As a baseline I have included totals as at the end of September over the last ten years. These are the numbers reported at the various AGMs and match the subscription income paid to the Club during the financial year. Unfortunately they show another fall in membership numbers.

I have no suggestions as to how we can halt this decline. The Club membership profile isn't getting any younger and many stalwart members are getting older. I worry whether the aims of The Club match the aspirations of many younger BMW motorcyclists today.

Below I have included some membership numbers from our

### Annual Full Membership numbers at 30th September over the last 10 years

2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
3121	3345	3804	3792	3956	4069	4482	4930	5388	5879
-7%	-12%	+0.3	-4%	-2%	-9%	-9%	-8.5%	-8%	

renewal at the end of January recorded at section level with a comparison with last year. They show that numbers may be heading for another dip. I will provide more up to date numbers at the AGM.

#### Membership number comparison February 2017 and February 2018.

Section	1st February 2017		1st February 2018	
	Full	Assoc	Full	Assoc
East Anglia	253	65	281	71
Irish	128	30	134	37
London	76	9	84	8
Mercia	153	40	117	32
Midland	198	46	216	53
North East	84	26	72	18
Northern	281	75	285	73
Oxford	279	81	229	63
Scottish	188	47	169	43
South East	141	43	146	43
South West	156	33	161	45
Southern	177	54	168	51
Ulster	165	50	163	36
Western	258	70	244	75
Yorkshire	207	47	215	49
HQ & Overseas	30	2	23	2
Totals	2774	718	2707	699

This is a worst case scenario as I would hope many members will renew as we move into the new biking year. Last year I tried to record new and renewed members as well but the rolling year, and the way the club database handles that, makes the numbers extremely difficult to track. So I have omitted them rather than give incorrect figures.

Associate Membership shows the strong social nature of the Club but that has also declined. The associate numbers at 30th September 2017 fell below 800 for the first time in my memory.

Of the 2707 full members on 1st of February 2018 1395, or 51% (same % as in 2017), joined or renewed online.

Our 'rolling year' membership process is now well embedded, but it does make comparing numbers more difficult. I am very open to any suggestions as to how the process can be improved particularly the chosen method of membership card. It is quite expensive to process but was the only one I could find that met the requirements of the Club as voted for by the membership at a reasonable cost.

603 members joined during the 'rolling' membership year i.e. between the 1st of February 2017 and 31st of January 2018 (636 in 2016-17). That is around 22% of current members. 362 of these new members paid online (60%). These figures are similar to last year.

I will now repeat myself again. "The Club's new computerised Membership Administration System is still being tested." This has

become a bit of a nightmare for me. I had thought we would launch last year but issues, and the time taken to correct them, have just been never-ending. I will give an up-to-date report at the AGM stating exactly where we are with this.

I have tried to look more deeply at the members who have not yet renewed as at 31/01/18. Several will have renewed by now. We had 115 'Lapsed' members who were due to renew in November or December 2017 none of whom had been a member for more than a year. 64 of these had joined at the NEC in 2016. 502 memberships actually lapsed on the 31/01/18 of which 454 (90%) had been members for more than one year. This is unfortunate as these are our core membership, which we must retain, but I am sure a number of these will renew once they realise.

I am happy to stand for re-election as the co-ordinator of the membership processor team. I have to see through the final deployment of the new Membership Administration System before it kills me.

On a separate note, I am reporting a consistent fall in membership numbers. Jim I am sure will report falling revenues. The Club is getting to a point where we will have to consider the organisational model we are going to take forward into the future. Our current direction appears, to me, to be unsustainable and I think we need to act more creatively. For example, Journal production and processing costs are not far below our subscription income.

Please let me know if there is anything else you want further information on.

#### Editor: Debbie Sampson

The year 2017 was not a particularly good one for myself, both at home having lost three close family relatives, then dealing with the fall out of one's mother who now needs some of my help and attention, and during the past few weeks of my time volunteering for the club with ongoing political and personal issues that have escalated, this has led to unsettlement not only to myself but also other friends and colleagues that I have been happy to have met since my husband and I became further involved with the running of The BMW Club. After both meetings of the NCM and AGM those persons who will be in attendance shall be fully aware of what grievances my section had put forward to the National committee, with I hope, some satisfactory resolution for a brighter future ahead.

Just over a week ago, I made a decision to stand down as editor of The Journal at the AGM after two years in office and gave my intended notice to the General Secretary. I have since retracted that notice as I realised how much I would be letting down some good people who help me enormously in publishing your monthly magazine and between us I confidently think we do a great job as others have commented on in the past. Thank you to all concerned - enormously!

So I am happy to continue for a further year as your managing editor and subject to your support of contributing articles and news that would make interesting reading for other members, as well as advertising businesses and section events, The Journal shall be delivered on a monthly basis as it always has done, otherwise a bi monthly alternative could be on the cards pending...

## Sporting Register: Robert Bensley

Last year the sporting register organised 2 track days, one at Cadwell park and one at Snetterton, they were fully booked 2 months in advance and returned a small surplus to club funds. For those unaware, we cannot fill these days with club members so it's open to non members who are recommended and willing to join in the relaxed atmosphere of the day, some participants join the club making the ratio of about 25% club members to visitors.

On the forms there is a question box, which is compulsory to fill in, asking "how did you hear about this event" it's always answered in the following fashion "previous participant" or "recommended by a friend" newcomers are being attracted every year, hence this years plans to hold 2 at Snetterton, (May 8th and August 8th) and 1 at Cadwell (July 23rd) at the time of writing Cadwell has promises to fill it and both Snetterton days are 75% supported.

Cadwell is our favourite circuit but due to the hire costs related to the number of participants allowed, it only covers costs at best. I'm constantly asked about other circuits but the financial risks are far too great, also too far from my main supporters to travel.

A few members and friends attended Sachsenring, Bilsterburg, Spa, Mugello and the Nurburgring, anyone wanting info on these trips must contact the sporting register secretary.

## Sidecar Register: Keith Thomas

Apologies for my absence from the AGM this year.

The Sidecar Register is ticking over fairly happily, I think: we had our own Lake District rally in May last year, then went to Ballater in June courtesy of the Scottish Section, and in September we went to Devizes in Wiltshire for a Sidecar Register 'southern' rally – thanks to all involved. In 2018 the Sidecar Register will organise our own rally in the Lake District again in April; unfortunately the Scottish Section's Ballater rally falls on my 60th birthday so I'll have to stay at home and earn some Brownie points that w'end; and we'll probably leave a repeat of the southern rally to 2019.

Sidecars, trikes, & three-wheelers of all types, and enthusiasts thereof, are all welcome at Sidecar Register rallies. See the Sidecar Register web-page of the BMW Club website for details of all rallies that we are invited to.....and see the Federation of Sidecar Clubs website for sidecar rallies happening up and down the country on most weekends of the year.

The Sidecar Register has re-affiliated to the National Association for Bikers with a Disability (NABD) for 2018, and we hope to continue to support them in any way we can.

My thanks to the BMW Club Forum Administrator for creating a section for "Sidecar Technical Q&A's" in the "Bike Technical Q&A" – please use it if you have any technical queries regarding sidecar set-up etc.

I am happy to stand again as Secretary of the Sidecar Register for 2018, but I will be equally happy to support someone else in the Secretary's role should they be elected.

Looking forward to a good 2018.

## Vintage Register: Ashley Boal

I would like to start this years report in much the same manner as last years, by taking the opportunity to thank all members who have helped support me in the role of VCR secretary.

I would like to thank Hugh & Heather Thompson, of the East Anglia section, for their efforts in organising the classic bike show at the Framlingham national rally last year. The event was well recieved by participants and visitors alike. I hope this success can be built on by the Midland section at this years national rally, and subsequent sections in future events.

I also think Robert Freeman (DVLA liason officer) deserves a note of recognition for all the wonderfull work he has done for members in the last 12 months. I know his role helped him get through what was a tough year on a personal level. Long may he continue.

The will be no VCR rally this year, due to poor attendance of the event last year. Instead, as mentioned above, there will be VCR activites taking place as part of the national rally. Details of which will be published in the journal once they are finalised.

Unfortunately the club wont be at the Stafford show at the end of the April. We will instead be attending the October show (Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th). I already have a couple of 'Airheads' organised for display but I would like to balance things out with the inclusion of a couple of 'K' series models. So if you have a classic 'brick' you would be interested in displaying please get in touch. I would also like to hear from owners of R24, 25, 26 & 27 models, as I would like to get a display of singles together for the show too.

At the time of writing this the register has just under 1000 members, which equates to about 1/3 of the total membership. Which is pretty much the same as last year. Thats a lot of people to try and please, so if any of you have any ideas of what you would like to see the register do, shows you would like to see attended, events you would like held etc then please get in touch with me and ill see what can be done.

## Regalia Officer: Cath Broughton

The Merchandise Arm of the Club continues with peaks and troughs in Sales, as with most Retail establishments.

We attended both the Peterborough Show in May and The NEC in November, which always helps to promote The BMW Club and in turn our Merchandise.

Whilst continuing to look for new ideas for Merchandise I am also mindful of costs to our Members.

I am always grateful if people want to suggest items they would like to see in our range.

As I have said on previous occasions, I endeavour to source suitable and attractive items which Members will want to purchase.

I continue in my Role with these three Aims:

- 1 Attractive products
- 2 Attractive prices
- 3 Make some money for the Club in the process.

If we are to continue to produce Merchandise to reflect our Club, we do have to continually evolve with the Items which we produce.

## Tool Hire: Mike Delacoe

In the 12 months to December 2017 fewer members hired tools. Maybe this is a reflection in the falling membership or are members buying newer bikes still in warranty? From Jan 2017 to Dec 2017, fifty six members hired a total of 190 tools. The most hired tool in 2017 was again the GS-911 Diagnostic device which has been out 21 times

### New Investment during 2017

Only one tool was purchased during 2017 and that was a puller for the older oil breather valve on the airhead twins. Having said that I would be interested to hear if anyone has tools for the pre 1969 models as some of the ones we have are showing their age!

### General

Tools hired by model range:

Pre 1969 Airheads:	4%
Post 1969 Airheads:	40%
K (Brick) Series:	7%
K (Slant) Series:	7%
K1600	2%
F-Series	2%
Oilheads	5%
Hexheads (not LC)	26%
Hexheads LC version	7%

Looking forward to 2018, in conjunction with the Vintage & Classic Register we are planning another 'Workshop' Day where maintenance tasks and the use of some of the many specialist BMW tools will be demonstrated.

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 2017 can be viewed here at the AGM, just contact me.

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 numerous 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.

As always, it has been a pleasure to provide this service for the Club.

## Appointment of Accountants

It is proposed to retain the services of Ross McConnell, Chartered Accountant.

## Determination of Subscription

The National Committee propose to change the subscription as follows:

To raise the subscription of a UK Full member to £32

To raise the subscription of a UK Associate Member to £3

To raise the subscription of an Overseas Member to £38

To offer Section membership to an Overseas Member at £5

These changes, if accepted, will be implemented on 1st October.

## Presentation of Trophies

### Sporting Spirit Trophy

Derek Killaspy, proposed by Robert Bensley and seconded by Jim McCarter.

### Max Deubel trophy

Liz Elvidge, proposed by Dik Langan and seconded by Jim Bettley.

### Mary Dudgon trophy

Rosemary Hicks, proposed by Ian Dobie and seconded by Dik Langan.

### Fred Secker trophy

Jim Bettley, proposed by Dik Langan and seconded by Cath Broughton.

### Bill Woolin trophy

Dik Langan, proposed by Simon Johnston and seconded by Stewart Lowthian.

## Presentation of Honorary Life Memberships

Bob Porecha has been nominated for Honorary Life Membership, proposed by Pat Laithwaite and seconded by Alan Orme.

Gerry Douglas-Sherwood has been nominated for Honorary Life Membership, proposed by Cliff Batley and seconded by Dik Langan.



# Special Resolutions to alter the Articles of Association of The B.M.W Motorcycle Club Limited (Company Number: 04261129) requiring a majority of at least 75% to carry

## Amendments to Article 55

The current wording is:-

55. *Items for discussion, including all reports, shall be submitted in writing to the General Secretary on or before the twenty-eighth day prior to the date of the meeting. The General Secretary shall include such items on an agenda, which, together with the minutes of the previous meeting (if not previously circulated) shall be circulated on or before the tenth day prior to the date of the meeting. Each meeting shall decide the date of the next meeting. The date will be published in the next available issue of the Journal.*

### The reasons for the proposed change

Adding the words “where reasonably possible” recognises that a situation requiring consideration may arise within 28 days of the meeting. It also accommodates the situation of a delegate taking a long holiday who considers that a report produced perhaps six weeks in advance will be out of date when the meeting takes place. Many other similar situations could easily be envisaged. Adding the sentence “Items not circulated in advance may be tabled, discussed and voted on subject to the agreement of a majority of voting delegates present” formalised something that has happened many times over the years. It is not for a moment suggested that this should be a regular working practice, with the right of the meeting to reject a late motion being essential. It simply allows for a motion, either new or previously circulated and amended after discussion, to be proposed and voted on immediately rather than having to refer it to the next meeting. The change to the sentence requiring the meeting to decide the date of the next meeting has been changed to recognise that National Committee Meetings are booked up to a year ahead to ensure the availability of the venue.

### The formal proposition

Article 55 of the existing Articles of Association be altered by the deletion of Article 55 and the adoption of the following article in substitute.

55. *Items for discussion, including all reports, shall where reasonably possible be submitted in writing to the General Secretary on or before the twenty-eighth day prior to the date of the meeting. The General Secretary shall include such items on an agenda, which, together with the minutes of the previous meeting (if not previously circulated) shall be circulated on or before the tenth day prior to the date of the meeting. Items not circulated in advance may be tabled, discussed and voted on subject to the agreement of a majority of voting delegates present. Each meeting shall decide the date of the next meeting unless already decided in advance. The date will be published in the next available issue of The Journal.*

## Amendments to Article 88

The current wording is:-

88. *A Section Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be called by written notice to the General Secretary, signed by at least ten members of that Section (at least half the signatories must be Full Members of that Section) stating the reason. The General Secretary shall arrange notification of the venue, and date and summary of the reason for the EGM to be in the next available issue of the Club Journal. The meeting date shall not be more than four weeks after the Journal publication date. The General Secretary shall arrange for a Vice-President to chair the EGM and arrange for minutes to be taken. Only items related to the reason stated for calling the EGM may be on the agenda, which must be proposed and seconded by members of that Section, and received by the General Secretary on or before the seventh day prior to the date of the meeting.*

### The reasons for the proposed change

In the light of experience it is believed that Article 88 requires amendment in four places. Firstly, it was not possible to organise the date of the Irish Section AGM in strict compliance with the four week deadline specified so it is proposed to change this to eight weeks. This gives more time to arrange a venue and for section members to plan their attendance. Secondly, it is believed that an explicit disclosure of the names of those requesting the meeting is needed. As a club, we do things openly and requesting such a meeting anonymously is incompatible with our ethos. Thirdly, in conjunction with the first point, it is believed that better notice of the agenda is required. Finally, as the Secretary will inevitably be concerned with the detail of an inherently fraught situation, it is believed that the President should be fully informed and involved.

### The formal proposition

Article 88 of the existing Articles of Association be altered by the deletion of Article 88 and the adoption of the following article in substitute.

88. *A Section Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be called by written notice to both the General Secretary and the Section Secretary, signed by at least ten members of that Section (at least half the signatories must be Full Members of that Section) stating the reason. The General Secretary, in consultation with the President, shall arrange notification of the venue, and date and summary of the reason for the EGM to be in the next available issue of the Club Journal. The meeting date shall not be more than eight weeks after the Journal publication date. The General Secretary shall arrange for a Vice-President to chair the EGM and arrange for minutes to be taken. Only items related to the reason stated for calling the EGM may be on the agenda, which must be proposed and seconded by members of that Section, and received by the General Secretary on or before the twenty-first day prior to the date of the meeting.*

# Ordinary Resolutions requiring a simple majority to carry

## From the Western Section

To action the National Officers to introduce a series of cost reductions over the next 12 months and report back to the 2019 AGM what has been implemented to include at least the following:

- Abolish the National Committee in its present form with the Club being run by the six National Officers however where a topic has a direct impact on Sections this will be the subject of an E Vote.
- The only role defined for the Vice Presidents is to act as stand in for the President as and when required. It is proposed that the number should not change but to increase their responsibility to be “the voice of the Sections”, with each Vice president responsible for 5 Sections and therefore have a vote on subjects associated with the running of The Club.
- To reduce the number of complimentary memberships.
- Ensure events supported from National Funds are budgeted correctly and approved before go ahead to run the event is granted. The objective in all cases being for the event to at least break even.
- No free lunch offered at the National AGM.
- Amend the MA&A where necessary to accommodate the above and any other changes.

A supporting document is presented on page 11

# The BMW Club – 2018 AGM

## Proposal to Reduce National Expenditure

At the 2015 AGM the Western Section made a presentation associated with reducing the cost of holding National Committee Meetings by reducing the number of attendees by:

- Abolish the position of Vice President (currently there are three such positions).
- Reduce the number of Section Representatives from the current 15 to 5 by the appointment of Regional Representatives.

When the proposals were subject to a vote by attendees the outcome was that the Sections wished to retain a say at National level on the decision making process of running The Club.

Since 2015 there have been a number of changes following which it is considered appropriate to revisit the subject of reducing bank balance, reductions in membership, number of complimentary members, cost of National Committee, and the cost of National Events.

Bank Balance: In 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011 the National Account balance was £217,270 which at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017 had fallen to £119,981

Membership: In 30<sup>th</sup> September 2007 the number of full members was 6182 which at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017 had fallen to 3156 which equates to a loss of 275 full members per year over 11 years. However the number of Associate members has remained reasonably constant since 2013 with 867 and in 2017 this was 793. On average we lose in the order of 25% of full members per year who do not renew which then have to be recovered to maintain the status quo.

Complimentary Membership: This is not to be confused with Honorary Membership as free membership is available to certain Club members that fulfil an active role for the benefit of the Club. There are approximately 90 positions that are eligible for complimentary membership although some of the positions are actually taken up by the same person. Potentially this is a cost to The Club of £2700.

National Committee Costs: The National Committee is made up of 6 National Officers, 15 Section Representatives and 3 Vice Presidents which totals a possible 24 persons although there National Officers that are also National Section Representatives. There are three meetings per year at a total cost of approximately £12,000 or £4.00 per full member.

National Events: generally there are two National Events per year, the AGM, which is legal requirement for a Limited Company, and the August National Rally although there have been cases when a Spring National Rally has been organised. The 2017 National Rally at Framlingham made a loss in the order of £4,000. If the National Rally is to continue in its present format of hiring private schools that are able to offer camping, hard accommodation, restaurant etc then a closer look at charges will be necessary. With respect to the AGM there is an agreement to hold the meeting at the Dunchurch Hotel until 2020. This arrangement has the advantage of being centrally located and offers a cost reduction on previous AGM's.

# Form of proxy

## The BMW Motorcycle Club Limited (Company Number: 04261129)

I, (name) \_\_\_\_\_

of (address) \_\_\_\_\_

hereby appoint (name of person)\* \_\_\_\_\_

of (their address) \_\_\_\_\_

and failing him/her, (name of person)\* \_\_\_\_\_

of (their address) \_\_\_\_\_

to vote for me and on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting of The BMW Motorcycle Club Limited to be held at 11.30 on the 14th April 2018 and at every adjournment thereof.

This form is to be used in respect of the resolutions mentioned below as follows:

To approve the minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting (presented on agenda page 3)	For**	Against**
To accept the Treasurer's report and Accounts for 2016-2017 (presented in Accounts document)	For**	Against**
To confirm the appointment of Ross McConnell, Chartered Accountant (presented on agenda page 8)	For**	Against**
To confirm the Subscription from 1st October 2018 (presented on agenda page 8)	For**	Against**
To elect Ian Dobie as president	For**	
To elect Stewart Lowthian as General Secretary	For**	
To elect Debbie Sampson as Editor	For**	
To elect Bob Barker as Membership Secretary	For**	
To elect Jim Lepley as Treasurer	For**	
To elect Alan Orme as Vice-President	For**	
To elect Ashley Boal as Vintage Register Secretary	For**	
To elect Neville Jones as GS Register Secretary	For**	
To elect Robert Bensley as Sporting Register Secretary	For**	
To elect Keith Thomas as Sidecar Register Secretary	For**	
To accept the Special Resolution to amend Article 55 (presented on agenda page 9)	For**	Against**
To accept the Special Resolution to amend Article 88 (presented on agenda page 9)	For**	Against**
To accept the Western Section Ordinary Resolution (presented on agenda page 10)	For**	Against**

\*This person must be present at the AGM – if appointing the Chairman, please put CHAIRMAN following “hereby appoint” and leave the address line blank.

\*\* Strike out whichever is not desired (if not used, the person holding the proxy will vote at their discretion. If both are struck out, an abstention will be recorded). Please note that, in accordance with Article 23 it is not possible to vote against a candidate.

As witness my hand this day of (date) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_

This completed form must be sent to: Stewart Lowthian, 29 Wagg Street Congleton CW12 4BA to arrive no later than 12.00pm on Thursday 12th April 2018.