

The BMW Club Annual General Meeting

Saturday 13th April 2019

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

13th April 2019

AGENDA

1. President's Welcome and Report
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Appointment of Tellers
4. Approval of the minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting (presented on page 3)
5. Matters arising from those Minutes
6. Count of members present by Section

Reports (in writing) from

- General Secretary (presented on page 6)
- Editor (presented on page 6)
- Social Secretary (presented on page 6)
- Membership Secretary (presented on page 7)
- Sporting Register Secretary (presented on page 8)
- Sidecar Register Secretary (presented on page 8)
- GS Register Secretary (presented on page 8)
- Vintage Register Secretary (presented on page 8)
- Regalia Officer (presented on page 9)
- DVLA Liaison Officer (presented on page 9)
- Tool Hire Secretary (presented on page 10)
- Treasurer's Report and Accounts (in separate document)

7. Appointment of Accountants for the following year (detailed on page 11)
8. Confirm the Subscriptions from 1st October 2019 according to Club Rule 10 (detailed on page 11)
9. Election of Club National Officers for 2018 to 2019

Position	Candidate	Proposer	Seconder
President	Ian Dobie	Geoffrey Clough	Steve Halliday
General Secretary	Stewart Lowthian	Lynn Sumner	Alan Davies
Editor	Liz Elvidge	Jim Lepley	Judy Lepley
Membership Secretary	Bob Barker	Dik Langan	Paul Gregg
Social Secretary	Simon Johnston	Ashley Boal	Bradley Gane
Treasurer	Jim Lepley	John Elvidge	Liz Elvidge
Vice-Presidents	Jim Bettley	Cliff Batley	Simon Johnston
Vintage Register Secretary	Ashley Boal	Bradley Gane	Graham Walker
GS Register Secretary	Neville Jones	David Williamson	Gareth Baker
Sporting Register Secretary	Robert Bensley	Jim McCarter	Derek Killaspy
Sidecar Register Secretary	Keith Thomas	Paul Ennis	Martyn Ayres

10. Presentation of Trophies (recipients listed on page 11)
11. To fix a date for the 2020 Annual General Meeting
12. Any Other Business.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The BMW Motorcycle Club Limited held at the Dunchurch Park Hotel, Dunchurch on 14th April 2018.

- 1. President's Opening Address:** The President opened the meeting by thanking his colleagues in the South-West Section for their efforts in organising the previous year's meeting at a lower cost than usual and Amanda Langan and Debbie Sampson for the work in maximising our advertising income. He stated that it was the Club's intention to keep costs down. He continued by saying that the structure of the Club had served us well but now needed reviewing. He invited a new member to accept a welcome gift from Cath Broughton (Regalia Secretary).
- 2. The count of members attending was:**

East Anglia	8	Irish	2	London	4
Mercia	18	Midland	28	North East	7
Northern	11	Oxford	27	Scottish	5
South East	0	Southern	7	South West	4
Ulster	1	Western	17	Yorkshire	6
HQ	2	Proxies	61		
Total	208				

- 3. Appointment of tellers.:** To speed up the counting of votes of members present six tellers had been appointed in advance and the seating arranged to give each one a clearly defined area.
- 4. Apologies for absence** were received from Herbie Waser, Mark Dutton, Martin Pagett, Barry Smith, Paul Nadin, Lionel Watts, Piers Kurrein, Barry Winter, James Ingham, Bill Smithson, Chris Wallis, Peter Leach, Jon Fielding, Dave Wright, John Bell and Bruce Lepley.
- 5. Approval of the minutes of the 2017 meeting:** Proposed by Dik Langan and seconded by Reg Moule.
For: 185, Against: 2, Abstaining: 20.
- 6. Matters arising from the minutes:** None.
- 7. Officers Reports.**

General Secretary: Stewart Lowthian had nothing to add to his report circulated with the agenda. Anthony Wood observed that the report expressed serious concerns and asked for amplification of them. Stewart explained that they came from several sources: the need to comply with the Companies Act as we are a limited company, the need to comply with general legislation such as the General Data Protection Regulation and the difficulties caused when individuals or small groups see only their own narrow perspective rather than the well-being of the Club as a whole.

National Social Secretary: Ian Dobie said that he missed Jim Bettley's contribution. The meeting venue was down to him and we expect to be here for the next two years. John Elvidge proposed a vote of thanks to Jim, which was confirmed by universal applause.

Editor: Debbie Sampson had nothing to add to her report circulated with the agenda. Carl Flint observed that *The Journal* is posted in a plastic sleeve. He asked whether paper could be used for environmental; reasons or, if not, whether a recyclable plastic was available. As he liaises with our mailing house, Bob Barker answered to say that paper was more expensive than plastic but he will make enquiries. Stewart Thomas asked why *The Journal* was not sent electronically. Debbie stated that it had been discussed.

Anthony Wood said that *The Journal* might have to become bi-monthly due to lack of content, with a consequent impact on advertising revenue. He is writing an article on the subject. He contended that a bi-monthly magazine would have an impact on membership. Cath Broughton suggested that if the membership wanted a monthly *Journal* they should write articles for it. Debbie Sampson observed that everyone thinks that everyone else is doing that. She pointed out that she has only a few articles in the pipeline and that by halving the frequency of publication there should be more reading in each edition. Reg Moule asked if joiners could tick a box for an *e-Journal*. Alan Orme pointed out that *The Journal* is available on the club Forum every month in a downloadable form. Mike Dorking said that not everyone had a computer or printer and the skill to use them. Keith Jackson stated that articles are not the sole reason for *The Journal*. The calendar information is important although events have to be publicised well in advance and a bi-monthly *Journal* would require an emailed calendar. Debbie replied that each section has a website and it's up to the sections to keep them up-to-date. Keith indicated that it was when he wanted to attend another section's event that this was unhelpful. Jim Isherwood asked if two levels of membership, electronic and printed, could be considered. Eric Burnett noted that paper packaging can easily become soggy.

National Membership Secretary: Bob Barker's report was circulated with the agenda. He showed a slide illustrating the current membership and discussed trends in numbers. Anthony Wood observed that our peak was 7000 members 20 years ago. There are currently 80,000 BMW motorcycles in the country and BMW themselves estimate there are between 45,000 and 50,000 riders. He asked why people are not joining. Ian Dobie stated that most voluntary organisations in the U.K. are experiencing a similar trend, with Rotary International membership down 50% and only the Scouts and Guides gaining members. Jim Lepley stated that the matter had been discussed by the National Committee for the last 5 years and that concrete suggestions were welcome. Liz Elvidge said that we have over 3000 Facebook members and information is public on our website so what is the incentive to join?. Mike Dorking observed that he regularly visits popular biker venues in Yorkshire and has found that young riders feel that the Club has nothing to offer them. He also stated that there was no interest from BMW themselves. Brian Johnson said that he and Anita had bought two bikes recently. They had found that membership forms were hidden in dealers because there was no incentive to display them, unlike those for World of BMW. He asked how we incentivise dealers to promote us.

Bob Barker concluded by advising the meeting that the new membership database was not yet in use as it was proving a mammoth task to ensure that it was robust enough to be used.

Sporting Register Secretary: Robert Bensley was welcomed with applause. He invited questions and asked if the meeting agenda could be displayed on the screen over the top table. He stated that *The Journal* needed to come through people's letterboxes. He then talked about past

track days, reminding the meeting that they had made a small profit for the Club. He also advised that there were very few places left for this year's events.

GS Register Secretary: No report was presented as the position was unfilled.

Sidecar Register Secretary: Keith Thomas had nothing to add to his report. No questions were raised.

Vintage Register Secretary: Ashley Boal's report was circulated with the agenda. He had nothing to add to it. Charlie Hall asked if we would be exhibiting at the Stafford Show. Ashley said that we would be there in October but not this month. Robert Bensley said how good it is to see a young person in the Club, especially as a committee member. He added that he had seen what Ashley had done with metal and that he was an asset to the Club.

Regalia Secretary: Cath Broughton's report was circulated with the agenda and she had little to add to it. She referred to a sheet on the merchandise stall for members to make suggestions for future Club regalia. She had examples of Motorrad regalia which could be obtained at a discount. The BMW Dealership has offered to provide the same garments as worn by their staff but with the BMW Club logo added. Unfortunately they have stopped producing the braces which proved to be a good seller.

Toolhire Secretary: Mike Delacoe had nothing to add to his report except to observe that hirings in 2017 were down on those for 2016 but 2018 has so far been on a par with 2017. He asked that if anyone had surplus tools for pre 1969 motorcycles he would like to hear from them as many of the Club's tools are now well worn.

8. Treasurer's report and accounts.

Jim Lepley's address to the meeting is appended. David Thornton asked why there were separate costs for mailing and posting *The Journal*. Jim Lepley explained that mailing costs were the fees paid to the mailing house and postage was paid to the Royal Mail. The motion to accept the accounts was proposed by Simon Johnston and seconded by Reg Moule. For: 199, Against: 2, Abstaining: 4.

9. Appointment of Accountants.

The motion to retain Ross McConnell was proposed by Jim Lepley and seconded by Stewart Lowthian. For 204, Against 2, Abstaining 1.

10. Confirmation of subscription from October 2018.

It was proposed 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..

Paul Rodriguez asked if there would be any increase in capitation. Jim Lepley replied that the last increase in subscription increased the capitation and that section balances were increasing so there would be no increase in capitation this time.

Rob Allin asked what Overseas meant to us. Jim Lepley explained that the changes would help address the current imbalance of the Irish Section subscriptions that have resulted from the exchange rate changes.

Proposed Jim Lepley, seconded Ian Dobie. For 173, Against 17, Abstaining 6.

11. Election of Officers.

As no position was contested, Ian Dobie proposed taking

the election of officers en-bloc to save time. Jim Isherwood stated that if that were the case he wished to abstain. Paul Rodriguez asked if the Articles of Association covered the lack of a candidate for National Social Secretary. Ian Dobie indicated that the National Committee could co-opt someone and that Simon Johnston had volunteered for the position.

This was accepted by 185 votes with 12 abstaining. President: Ian Dobie was elected.

General Secretary: Stewart Lowthian was elected.

Editor: Debbie Sampson was elected.

Membership Secretary: Bob Barker was elected.

Treasurer: Jim Lepley was elected.

Vice-President: Alan Orme was elected.

Vintage Register Secretary: Ashley Boal was elected.

Sporting Register Secretary: Robert Bensley was elected.

Sidecar Register Secretary: Keith Thomas was elected.

GS Register Secretary: Neville Jones was elected.

12. Presentation of Awards.

Derek Killaspy was awarded the Sporting Spirit Trophy.

Dik Langan was awarded the Bill Woolin Trophy.

Rosemary Hicks was awarded the Mary Dudgton Trophy.

Phil Kingston was awarded the Val Joselyn trophy for the best air-cooled post /5 boxer.

Jim Bettley was awarded the Fred Secker Trophy.

Liz Elvidge was awarded the Max Deubel Trophy.

There was no /5 or earlier bike present at the AGM so the Ray Hall trophy was not presented this year.

13. Presentation of Honorary Life membership

Gerry Douglas-Sherwood and Bob Porecha, following proposals from members, were awarded honorary Life membership. As neither of them was present arrangements were made to send their commemorative certificates to them.

14. Special Resolutions (requiring 75% of votes cast to succeed).

The Secretary introduced the two Special Resolutions, explaining that the amendment to Article 55 was to allow the National Committee to deal with matters arising too late to meet the current criteria for inclusion. He also explained the amendments to Article 88 were proposed in the light of the experience of the Irish Section E.G.M. Keith Jackson expressed concern that amending Article 55 could lead to everything being done at the last minute and therefore not subject to proper scrutiny. He also questioned the wisdom of the Article 88 amendment to name the members requesting an E.G.M. Geoff Clough asked whether we could have a set of standard operating procedures rather than amending our Articles. Stewart Lowthian replied that that was our solicitor's advice but he questioned whether the membership would find it acceptable. Rob Allin asked "Mr. Chairman: what do you think?" Ian Dobie replied that we need to rationalise things as life changes rapidly. Colin Ross said that he accepted the principle of the Article 55 amendment but unanimity was needed for short notice items. Voting for the amendment to Article 55 was 117 for, 50 against and 24 abstaining. This is not the 75% majority required by the Companies Act so the motion failed. Voting for the amendment to Article 88 was 171 for, 9 against and 10 abstaining. This is a sufficient majority so the motion was carried and the Secretary will make the necessary arrangements to have our Articles updated and the amendment lodged with Companies House.

15. Ordinary resolution (requiring a simple majority to succeed)

Colin Ross made a presentation to the meeting on behalf of the Western Section then took questions from the floor. Jim Lepley said that the presentation suggested that the costs were not under control but he (as treasurer) believes they are. Geoff Clough said that he was an accountant and proud of it and that Colin was approaching the subject from the wrong angle. He continued that what we have to do is answer Ian's question: is the Club fit for purpose, adding that we need to get the offering of the Club right before we make changes and urged members to vote against the proposal. Marjorie Burnett stated that we hadn't made a loss this year and were in danger of throwing the baby out with the bath-water, we need to maintain democracy and focus on retaining members. Every section should be represented. Steve Neate stated that this proposal had been presented before and failed. He asked if we were going to have it over and over again until it succeeded. Liz Elvidge (earlier presented with the Max Deubel Trophy) said that if she hadn't attended the NC meetings as co-driver with her husband she wouldn't have seen what was done by so many. Stewart Lowthian stated that he had, for a long time, been a believer in small committees but a recent decision, taken after a vote of 17 directors, has convinced him that diversity was needed to ensure every perspective was represented. Jim Lepley stated that networking was invaluable and could not be quantified. Marjorie Burnett questioned the cost of £12,000 for NC meetings given in the presentation, stating that the figure was nearer to £8,000. She argued that proxy voters had been misled and the proposal should be rejected. Colin responded that the £8,000 figure was not available

Appendix: Treasurer's speech 2018

As usual I would like to personally thank the hoard of members who quietly, in the background, do so much work for the benefit of the BMW Club. Those that I come into contact with on a regular or occasional basis are Lynn Sumner who deals with capitation, Mike Delacoe Tool Hire Officer, Cath & Pete Broughton, Regalia, Robert Bensley, Sporting Secretary and Track day Impresario, Section Treasurers, Membership and the Register Secretaries. All these people do a grand job and give up a lot of time in order to keep the Club running. AND I must not forget my wife Judy without whose support and encouragement I would not be able to continue.

For the accounts I am very pleased to report that despite a large reduction in turnover we have controlled spending to the extent that we have not made a loss this year. Costs for the national committee meetings have steadily fallen over the past several years and were down again this year by £1,007 to £8,807. AGM expenses were also down by £2,100 and are expected to fall further in the next 2 years.

Advertising income has increased due to the efforts of Debbie Sampson (thank you Debbie) sorting out the hiatus caused by the

when the presentation was written and also pointed out that he was presenting this proposal on behalf of his section. Brian Johnson said that the proposal should be thrown out because it was badly worded. Richard Garner said that none of us object to saving money but he would like to see energy put into growing the Club rather than cutting it. Voting for the proposal was 35 for, 125 against with 24 abstaining. The motion therefore failed.

16. Date of next Meeting. The 2019 Annual General Meeting will be at the Dunchurch Park Hotel, Rugby on April 13th

17. Any Other Business.

a) Cliff Batley spoke about the growth of the East Anglia section, which has been helped by their relationship with the dealers in the area. He encouraged every section to form relationships with their local Motorrad outlets.

b) Robert Freeman described what was involved in his role as DVLA liaison officer, describing how he handles enquiries regarding machine registrations (approximately 100 per year). He said some people were clearly not aware that the DVLA processes some 80,000 requests per day and had unrealistic expectations of how quickly their requests would be responded to. He mentioned the Notice Of Vehicle Arrival (NOVA) certification from HMRC and dating letters from BMW. He will be visiting BMW in Munich (at his own expense) and will be asking questions of the team there. He also spoke of his work as Archivist to the Club and the resources he has to trace motorcycles.

c) Anita Johnson demanded to know what the Club was doing about the General Data protection regulation which comes into force on the 25th May 2018. She continually interrupted Stewart Lowthian's attempts to reply to her.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4:15 p.m.

unfortunate death of the previous advertising manager.

I note that the Sections spent significantly less.

It is significant that our book keeping and accountancies fees have remained the same for the past 7 years. I believe there will be a modest increase next year.

On page 12 subscriptions appear to have increased in fact they have not. They have fallen slightly. Mistakenly last year some of our subscription income (approx £10,000) was wrongly allocated to track days and other events. So the income from track days and other events should have been approx £10,000 less and subscription should have been approx £10,000 more than shown. This error was due to my use of a bank account that used to be named rally account 2 which the book keeper allocated as rally income. A simple mistake that was not picked up but it made no difference to the bottom line last year or this year.

The January capitation payment had not been made until this week mainly because of the delay in getting some section accounts and finalising VAT issues. I was finally able to make the first 2 quarters payments and VAT adjustments on Wednesday.

Reports to the 2019 AGM

General Secretary: Stewart Lowthian

I have said before, as have many of my colleagues, that it is very difficult to write a report in January for a meeting in April. A lot can happen in the intervening months to turn January's news into April's history. After the challenges of the beginning of 2018 I'm hoping that 2019 will be less fraught, allowing me perhaps the indulgence of actually riding my motorcycle rather than replying to acrimonious correspondence.

A part of January's problem, of course, is the significant amount of time needed to collate each part of the AGM paperwork then distribute it to every member. Last year, for the first time, distribution was on-line rather than by printing and posting with *The Journal*. This had two advantages. The first was a saving of approaching £1000 in printing and handling costs. The second was the relaxation of the timescale for completing the document that this report is part of. Both last year and this year, our AGM is in the middle of April. Our Articles of Association require that AGM documents are available to members at least 21 days before the meeting. As *The Journal* goes to press mid-month for posting out in time to (hopefully) arrive at the start of the month on the front cover, a mid-April meeting requires paperwork to be distributed with the March *Journal*, meaning that it might well have to be complete before the February National Committee Meeting which has to consider the previous year's accounts. This situation is clearly far from ideal and has, in past years, required producing the April *Journal* early, with all the inconvenience that caused to the volunteers who contribute to it.

Editor: Liz Elvidge

My first few months as editor have been interesting. I have learnt a lot about editorship, how *The Journal* process works and am a little more IT savvy. I must first thank the Editorial team of Bruce Lepley, Piers Kurrein, Dik Langan, Paul Nadin and Bob Barker for their contributions and support. Also Paul Rodriguez for amusing us with The Sorebutts.

For me, the best parts of these first few months have been in learning more about the club and having much more contact with many more members particularly those active in club life. We are very lucky to have so many people willing to put the effort into organising the many facets of our club life.

As for *The Journal*, it has been my pleasure to read the varied articles and reports which come through. I must admit to previously only reading the parts I thought that I would be interested in. The team and I have made some changes to the layout and working practices of producing *The Journal* in an attempt to make it easier for us to work with and hopefully more readable for members. For the future we will continue in this vein until I reach a point where I am happy with the revisions and/or we run out of ideas for

amendments.

I have now used most of the articles which were passed over to me by Debbie. As I write this there are more articles coming in. Thanks to those members who have contributed to the content of *The Journal*. The number and variety of articles and features submitted makes my role much easier and makes for an interesting read for club members.

In the longer term I have no doubt that *The Journal* will be available in an e-reading format for those who want it. Although that will need the work of someone far more knowledgeable about the technology than I am. However, many members, myself included, still like to turn the pages when reading. Also, there is pleasure to be had from receiving the post and finding something which is not junk mail. So as long as there is demand I envisage a paper copy being produced monthly and delivered to your letter box.

If you have any ideas on how we can further improve *The Journal* please email me.

National Social Secretary: Simon Johnston

To be honest it's a little hard to know what to put in this, as I try and put in most of the goings on from the social scene in my report in *The Journal*, but it's been somewhat of an interesting year, being co-opted into the role of Social secretary, we had a fantastic National Rally at the fire service college in Morton in the Marsh despite the typical English bank holiday weather we experienced at times over the weekend, but I must say everyone I spoke with really enjoyed it, for this we owe the team in the Midland section a great deal of gratitude for all the hard work that went into putting it altogether as we do for every section that has done in the past, now sadly there will be no National Rally this year which is a real shame and I do feel somewhat responsible for, as my own section were let down by a venue after a great deal of hard work and following this were not able to find another venue. Now since this there has been much debate on the future of the National Rally and whether it's format changes which for the time being hopefully it won't as decided at the NCM back in October last year.

So with only one other section that made me aware that they had enquired into a venue only to be knocked back it is my wish to put together a team to run the National Rally from 2020 and move the rally around the UK and Ireland, this is just in its early stages and I so far have 4 volunteers (I'm still looking for more) and also a possible venue for a the Rally which I will know much more later in the year. I have also visited a venue that could be an amazing site for a Garmish type event which I'm hoping to approach BMW regarding. Whilst I'm not sure where I will get with this, I think the UK deserves this with the bike sales being what they and you never know I just may get somewhere with it. I'm also keen over the rest of this year in preparation for 2020 is something to look into that

'THE SOREBUTTS'



Paul Rodriguez (Western Section) paul@pvrprod.force9.co.uk

PVR

was suggested recently, that the club used to have three national events per year and that two of these were Section events, I think this would be a great thing for the club to re-introduce if this is the wish of the sections /membership.

I've also had discussions over this last year with two other venues which are keen to host our AGM and these are both central, now whilst I see no reason to move from this great venue it's always good to have some competition to help get the best deal for the club. Finally with the ending of the clubs mileage competition which was decided at one of the NCMs last year I've been keen to put together a replacement. So following a suggestion from Mark Carlin of the Yorkshire section I have been through several drafts of one based on his suggestion and have hit many stumbling blocks on these, one most recently from an overseas member, now I haven't given up on this and do hope to have a workable competition for all members of the club to be able to participate and have a chance of winning something so please do bear with me on this.

So I have a lot on this coming year and hope to achieve most of it, giving back to the club all I get from it being a member of it now and hoping in the many years to come.

Membership Secretary: Bob Barker

As I have said before, this is a very bad time to prepare a report about membership numbers as we are starting our biggest renewal window. On the 31st of January 2019, the database had 3096 active records and 156 lapsed i.e. members who were past their renewal date of November or December 2018. A record equates to the details of one full member. Of those 3096, 2041 had been members for more than a year but their renewal date was 31 January. Of that 2041, 1605 had already renewed but 436 were still to renew. At the time of writing, 14/02/19, 361 of the January joiners have still to

renew, but it is early days in the renewal window. Some 40 of the lapsed members mentioned above have also renewed.

Current membership numbers (14/02/19) are 2763 Full members and 722 Associate members.

In terms of the rolling membership year, 998 have joined or renewed in-year (February to December 2018), and 57 joined in January 2019.

Some numbers are given below to show trends. On compiling these figures I realised that in each year, i.e. 17, 18 and 19, exactly 26% of the full members had an associate member again showing that the social nature of the Club is consistent.

This snapshot at 01/02/19 is a 'worst case' scenario as many lapsed members will renew as we move into the new biking year. Especially this month as those who lapsed on 31/01/19 got a January Journal but will not get a February one. This is a reminder for many.

Of the 2660 full members on 1st of February 2019, 1547, or 52% (51 % in 2017 and 2018), joined or renewed online.

So there is still a trend of falling numbers and I have no suggestions as to how we halt this decline. As stated above, membership numbers are very fluid so this is not a good time of year to do much analysis. Perhaps something to think about for the next meeting although I find it hard to think they will show us anything new. We know we have an aging membership profile and still have trouble retaining new members. The fact that one third of our membership joined in-year shows that, with churn, we are refreshing our membership population and, to be positive, have kept numbers fairly high.

I note numbers show an increase from 1/02/17 to 30/09/17 of +12.5% and from 1/02/18 to 30/09/18 of +10%. So if we get, say, an increase of 11% this year up to the year-end we could see numbers of approx. 2952 on 30/09/19 which is still a fall, but a slight one of

The usual annual Full Membership numbers at 30th September over the last few years.

2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
2980	3121	3345	3804	3792	3956	4069	4482	4930	5388	5879
-4.5%	-7%	-12%	+0.3	-4%	-2%	-9%	-9%	-8.5%	-8%	

Membership number comparison 1st February 2017 to 1st February 2019.

Section	Full	Assoc	Full	Assoc	Full	Assoc
	1st Feb 2017		1st Feb 2018		1st Feb 2019	
East Anglia	253	65	281	71	275	61
Irish	128	30	134	37	110	29
London	76	9	84	8	86	8
Mercia	153	40	117	32	117	33
Midland	198	46	216	53	216	52
North East	84	26	72	18	85	19
Northern	281	75	285	73	268	67
Oxford	279	81	229	63	222	64
Scottish	188	47	169	43	177	43
South East	141	43	146	43	143	43
South West	156	33	161	45	149	44
Southern	177	54	168	51	191	59
Ulster	165	50	163	36	143	44
Western	258	70	244	75	238	77
Yorkshire	207	47	215	49	223	47
HQ & Overseas	30	2	23	2	17	0
Totals	2774	718	2707	699	2660	690

around 1%. We live in hope.

The Club's new computerised Membership Administration System is still being tested I am afraid. The onus is on me to rattle through a batch of issues but I believe if they are OK we will have one round of User Acceptance Testing to complete and we will hopefully be ready for a launch. This is important as our obligations under GDPR and the new Data Protection Act (2018) have been built into the system.

Sporting Register: Robert Bensley

During 2018 the Sporting Register organised 2 track days at Snetterton and 1 at Cadwell Park, all 3 ran well, were fully subscribed and returned a very small profit to National funds. As Cadwell Park filled quicker than Snetterton I am organising 2 there, May 28th, July 29th, only 1 at Snetterton, August 27th for 2019. At the time of writing the July date is oversubscribed and the others 3/4 full. If there was a greater profit margin it would be advantageous to the club to promote more days, at present the work involved and the enjoyment gained is well balanced, I'm sorry to say we only gain a few members to the club through them, I do however constantly consider ways to encourage membership, either by discounting or surcharging etc.

Later in the spring I intend to talk to the management of Santa Pod drag race strip, more news as it happens, anyone interested in anything related to sporting activities should be on my mailing list, email address in *The Journal*.

Sidecar Register: Keith Thomas

Apologies for my absence from the AGM this year.

The Sidecar Register is ticking over fairly happily, I think membership is steady at around the 140 mark. May I extend a warm welcome to any new members and a warm hello to any 'old' members if we have not yet met.

Sidecars, trikes, & three-wheelers of all types, and enthusiasts thereof, are all welcome to join the Sidecar Register and to attend the Sidecar Register rally in late April at the same venue in the Lake District again in 2019 -- see the Sidecar Register web-page of the BMW Club website for details.

The Sidecar Register is a member of the Federation of Sidecar Clubs (FoSC) – see their 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 2019, and we hope to continue to support them in any way we can.

Don't forget to use the "Sidecar Technical Q&A's" in the "Bike Technical Q&A" section of the Club's Forum if you have any technical queries regarding sidecar set-up etc.

I am pleased that the Club's Max Deubel trophy has been allocated (/re-allocated ? Does anyone remember the origins of this trophy ?) to the Sidecar Register to award – I am just sorry that I will not be at the AGM to hand over the trophy personally but I have high hopes that fellow sidecar'ist and new *Journal* Editor Liz Elvidge will make the presentation. The recipient this year can only be described as 'Mr Sidecar' for his involvement with 3 wheelers and the BMW Club over many decades !

The Sidecar Register was 30 years old last year ! I only discovered that whilst reading through back numbers of '*The Journal*': at the Club AGM on 12th March 1988, Motion 16 stated "That a Sidecar Register should be inaugurated and that Phil Hawksley should be the Secretary of that Register for 1988/89". So, thank you and God bless you Phil Hawksley – a Club member sorely missed.

I am happy to stand again as Secretary of the Sidecar Register

for 2019, but I will be equally happy to support someone else in the Secretary's role should they be elected.

Looking forward to a good 2019.

GS Register: Nev Jones

I would like to begin my 2019 report by thanking all those who have helped and supported me this last year on my return to the role of GS Register Secretary. I am standing for re-election for 2019-2020 but would be equally happy to support anyone else who might be voted into the position.

GS Register Website

During my year away from the position as secretary substantial problems arose with the webpage. Support for the webpage software had ceased and the website had to be recreated from scratch, all 40 plus pages. This has taken a lot of my time this year and I am currently looking for a new webpage software package that is easier to use. Any suggestions will be gratefully received.

GS Register Facebook Page

Currently we have 640 members. This results in a reasonable number of interesting postings each week.

GS Register Forum Posts

John King has kindly given the Register its own section on the Forum in "Paid Up Members Only". After a year without much in the way of postings 2018 finally saw a rise in threads especially in the "Show us your bike" thread.

Events

Many thanks to those event organisers who agreed to allow us to nominate their events in 2018. After the success of the four nominated camping events we have been able to nominate five similar events for 2019. Details can be seen in the GS Register report in *The Journal* every month, or on the GS Register website. The first event this year was the BMW Rhino Rally in Beddgelert. At the time of writing this (Jan 2019) the level of bookings is very high promising a high level of attendance.

The New Engine

With BMW finally changing the boxer into a modern engine with variable valve timing to match the development of the frame and suspension it appears that "GS" sales are set to continue unabated. We look forward to welcoming more new GS Register members.

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 have in the last 12 months done my best to promote the club and the Vintage and Classic Register.

Working alongside a writer for 'The Classic Motorcycle' an article was produced for their October 2018 edition. About the club, myself and my role as VCR Secretary. This generated some interest, even from as far afield as Australia. If any interest turned into new members, I do not know.

October also seen the club attended the Stafford Classic Bike show. Where upon we had 6 bikes on display. Their owners all keen to chat to visitors to the stand about their bikes. My thanks go to Richard Garner, Pete Holt, Richard Evans & Darren Johnson who provided their bikes, alongside my R25, for display. I would also like to thank; Rob Bensley, Adrian Oldfield, Mike Delacoe

& Charlie Hall for helping man the stand over the weekend. Of course thanks to the club members who came along and shared a coffee with us. At the show we signed up 2 members, with many more taking away application forms/information with a view to sign up at home online. I had hoped we would could build on this success and attended this years April show. However a lack of support, soon enough from members wasn't forthcoming. So instead we will once again look to attend in October. 19th & 20th Put the date in your diaries. If you've got a bike your able to provide for the weekend, please get in touch!

August once again seen the National Rally take place. As part of that once again the VCR classic show was held. Despite the best efforts of the English weather Bill Rodgers, who organised the show, managed to muster a small number of bikes for the display. Regrettably we didn't have any pre 69 machines but post 69 yielded 4 bikes. First place went to Andrew Bell with his superb 1976 R60/7. Runner up was Albert Connick with his 1972 R75/5. The pre 93 "K" class had only two bikes with the best being David White's 1992 K75RT. Runner up was Shaun Mulligan's K100 sidecar outfit. By public vote Andrew Bell took Best in Show with Albert Connick taking reserve position."

My thanks go to Bill for organising the display and also to the membs who took part. A very well done to all. Although not as many members took part this year as last, I hope it is something we continue to do at future national rallies.

I tasked Piers Kurrein with designing a new logo for the VCR in the past 12 months. One which can be used within *The Journal*, club advertising etc. Also a design which can be produced as a sticker for members to purchase and stick on their bikes/luggage etc and help promote the club and the Vinatge & Classic Register. After a couple of designs, tweaks, changes and improvements I think he has come up with an excellent logo. This has now been produced as a sticker and is available to purchase from Cath from club Regaila. So my thanks to Piers for his hard work.

Throughout the summer I attended various shows with the North East Section, taking along my recently restored R25/3. Which generated great interest and also picked up a couple of trophies too. Including one presented by TT legend John McGuinness. Several club members also enjoyed seeing me take part in the Saltburn Hill Climb, on it in September. Alongside Nick Whitlock with his R50 & R100RS. By now you should have seen several *Journal* installments, on the restoration process of the bike. I hope you have enjoyed reading it so far.

At the time of writing this the register has just under 1000 members, which equates to about 1/3 of the total membership. That has remained pretty much the same over the previous 2 years I have been in the role.. That's 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 i'll see what can be done.

This is now my 3rd year as Secretary for the VCR, however I am giving notice now that it will be my last. I have greatly enjoyed my time in the role, meeting so many members and making many new friends along the way. I feel by the time the 2020 AGM comes round, it will be time for someone new to come along, put their mark on the role and continue to keep the VCR and active part of the club. I will still be remaining active within the club and helping promote it at whatever events I can.

So if you think you might be the next suitable candidate for the role and what to know more about what is involved, please don't hesitate to get in contact with me.

Regalia Officer: Cath Broughton

The Merchandise part of the Club continues to be available to our Members via Internet, Telephone and Postal Sales. In addition I aim for Merchandise to be available at the AGM, Peterborough Show in May and the NEC in November. Upon request, it is always available should any Section require it for their individual events.

However, year on year Sales are gradually falling and I would like to put this thought to The Membership:- Does the Membership want to continue producing Club Merchandise or has that idea now "Had its day"?

I took on the role of Merchandise Secretary in 2007. We are now in 2019 and I am hereby giving notice that this, my 12th Year, will be my final one in this capacity. During this time I feel that I have done my best to offer Members a variety of quality Products at reasonable prices. I have thoroughly enjoyed the role and playing a small part in the running of the Club. I really would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who have helped me along the way. Your support has been truly appreciated.

There is one person, though, whom I would not have been able to manage without. That person is my husband Pete Broughton.

He has always been willing to fetch, carry and transport everything, everywhere so that I was able to do something which I enjoyed. To him, rather an 'unsung hero', I owe an enormous amount of gratitude.

As the current Midland Section Social Secretary and NCM Rep, I hope to continue to be involved in Club life but at a more physically manageable level.

If anyone is interested in the role of Merchandise Secretary, please feel free to contact me to find out more. I will assist in any way that I can.

DVLA Liaison Officer: Robert Freeman

DVLA & Other Registration Matters ref BMW Motorcycles In the year 2018, I was able to successfully process just over 70 BMWs, enabling the owners to obtain taxation and ride them upon the public road. However the true figure would be into the eighties, in as much as some of the motorcycles cleared this year, had originally started documentation in 2017. Then again, a few of this year's applicants have naturally rolled on to 2019 and are still in the treadmill.

The first thing I will point out that may be a surprise to you is that the DVLA receive circa 80,000 applications every day. Once the paperwork has gone to the DVLA it is out of our hands. I have had people ring me as saying they sent the papers on Monday and its Friday afternoon, why have they not come back yet?

Many of these motorcycles are imports, perhaps by trader, or purchased by the owner from various sources. Ebay 'gem's often do not twinkle as brightly in daylight, or your own back yard. There is a saying beware Greeks bearing gifts, I substitute the word gifts for old BMWs, but this is not confined just to people of the Greek nation, who in general are as honourable as anyone else.

Of the main area of importation is the USA, South Africa, Europe, and it even the Arab Gulf States. Imports from Eastern Europe should be given special attention, prior to parting with money. I know of one BMW that on arrival with the new owner, he found that the Engine, Frame, and Typensheid, were totally different to those quoted on the documentation. By the time he had realized this, the money had gone, and so had the vendor. However what he had purchased did turn out OK and is now on the road. But that case was the exception.

Increasingly I have found in the last year that people are going for the single cylinder BMWs, the series R25, 26, 27. This I believe

is because, A; they are less expensive, but having said that prices are shooting up, and B; all the twins are now owned by someone or other. The R35, the 350 ccs model. None were imported or sold in G.B. Pre or Post War. Up to 1949 they are recognised as BMW's by the Factory, but after that, not. These are EMW's, of which many 1000's were manufactured. Giving them a Blue and White badge up's the value immediately, and catches the unwary.

With a reference to pre-war BMWs, these do not come up very often, and also need careful scrutiny. The value of them and the susceptibility of fitting parts other than BMW make, perhaps Russian or Chinese, as in the Ural, Dnieper, or ChangJing, enables the unscrupulous of to cobble together something that would fool the uninitiated.

There are two 'hooks' used as 'bait'. Matching numbers and the phrase in various forms "Believed to have been prepared by Jock West". These are easily dealt with, pre-war, BMWs did not have matching numbers, post war, yes, but only up to about 1969. There is currently offered for sale in the London area, an R4, 1936 boasting matching numbers, and you get all that for just shy of £15,000. When I see items such as this, on sale here I make enquiries with BMW historic archive, as to the true origin of this motorcycle because ultimately if it's purchased here in Great Britain, it will come to me to help sort out with the paperwork. I will say no more on that one.

The term Jock West, is a magnet to catch the unwary. He was sales manager for AFN Ltd. Up to 1939 but after the war went to work for AMC Ltd. Matchless / AJS. But he was a salesman out and out, also a very good rider, finishing second in the senior TT, 1939 on the supercharged BMW. His bike was a 1938 model, George Meier had the 1939 model, but they both averaged over 88 mph, on the plunger frame bike. The number of BMWs that are attributed to his hand must mean he never actually sold any or had time to ride, he was always preparing them for other people! Case in point, earlier this year, someone purchased what was basically a pre-war road going R51 series, described as 'Racing'. Enquiries suggest may be an element of truth, in as much as it was used by a 'privateer' in the 50's & 60's. The vendor linked it 'allegedly' to Jock West, and it sold for in excess of £35,000.

I also received about three applications each year which are obviously fraudulent. An e-mail that gives just mobile number, usually signed with the name such as 'Tiki Tacky' and a reads along the lines; 'Hi, I want papers for a BMW etc' and that is all.

My request for full name, address, documented evidence and photographs are never answered.

This year 2018 saw the rollout in May, of combined Road Fund Licence and MOT exempt. This takes effect from the 1st of April each year, and is a rolling number, so in a short space of time really all vehicles will fall into the exempt slot. One or two vehicles I have dealt with were registered in the period January- April 1978, they did not come within the remit, they will in 2019. some other members had vehicles that were registered 1978, but actually built the year prior. As the DVLA date from the year vehicle was built the year it to when it was registered, these did fall within the criteria, and obtain the above freedom.

I quote from a car based web site.

Classic cars more than 40 years old will no longer need an MoT...

This is the big one for classic car enthusiasts. Whereas before only cars first registered before 1960 were exempt from needing an MoT, the new rules apply to any car first registered more than 40 years ago – with some exceptions, which we'll go into below.

That means that most cars first registered before 20 May 1978 will no longer need an MoT once the new regulations come into effect. What's more, the '40 years' rule is a rolling date. So if your car was first registered on 1 June 1979, you won't need an MoT after

1 June 2019. And so on.

It is now the norm, to require a document entitled NOVA, notice of vehicle arrival, and this is by HMRC, it is about VAT Fraud and tax evasion. This applies even if the BMW but came to the UK in 1936, has been here all its life, but off the road for some time. Clearance by this document is free and must be applied for by the owner, it's fairly simple. You will then receive a Ref Number, and HMRC notify the DVLA, so that they know about the vehicles existence and it is OK.. You'll also most likely need a date letter, from BMW Historic Archive, which will tell you when the motorcycle was built, if it was in the 1970s you'll only get the month and the year, but prior to that you may well get the build and the delivery date to which dealer, be it the UK, or overseas. That will cost you €45.00 club discount, and you can pay by credit card over a secure link they will send you, valid for one week, about a week later you get a date letter through the post.

Whatever you send to the DVLA keep copies of absolutely everything, this last year a gentleman from Greece who has lived over here many years brought a bike over, it was his own actually and the DVLA lost all the paperwork including his documentation in Greek. Fortunately he had kept document copies, of these were obviously accepted. Generally speaking everything must be originals and not photo copies or scans.

I cannot put a time scale upon anything as everyone is different, but feel that perhaps six weeks from start to actually having the documentation in your hand, to be a fair estimate.

On occasions I have to have a vehicle inspected, perhaps three or four year, and for this I enquire with a member who lives in the area of the owner inviting them, to inspect the vehicle upon my behalf, at a time that suits both parties. There is no onus or liability upon the guy that does the inspection. I request anyone who visits to inspect a vehicle, to be offered a refreshments, toilet facilities, and out of pocket expenses. The first two are always taken up and no one has yet requested the latter. It also gives both of them a new friend. One cases last year the gentleman I asked, as it turned out, lived two streets away from the owner. They obviously did not know each other until then. I thank these people wholeheartedly in doing this.

One final thing to be wary of, I know of someone who purchased a motorcycle, on the Internet, in Sweden. All went well, the bike was dispatched to him by courier, he paid by bank as draught and all that went through. Of any had the message, the courier was involved in a road traffic accident, the ban recovered and the motorcycle stolen, or are so they said! The question one asks, did the motorcycle actually exist?

Do be very careful purchasing unseen.

Tool Hire: Mike Delacoe

In the 12 months to December 2018 there was a slight increase in members hiring tools compared to the previous year. From Jan 2018 to Dec 2018, there were 61 hirings for a total of 193 tools. The most hired tool in 2018 was again the GS-911 Diagnostic device which has been out 31 times.

New Investment during 2018

Only one purchase was made during the year and that was an adaptor cable for our GS-911wifi with 10-pin connector to be used on newer motorcycles featuring OBD-II diagnostic ports. We have however been very fortunate in having received a significant number of tools and manuals, predominately for the air cooled boxer models, from the late Phil Hawksley's estate. For those that don't know, club member Phil traded as 'The Boxerman' for many years and was a fountain of knowledge on the air cooled twins. Many thanks go to his family for the opportunity to acquire the

tools for which a donation to their nominated charity will be made. The tools are being catalogued for inclusion in the tool hire inventory list.

General

Hirings by model range:

Pre 1969 Airheads:	3%
Post 1969 Airheads:	33%
K (Brick) Series:	5%
K (Slant) Series:	8%
F-Series	8%
Oilhead Boxers	8%
R1200 (not LC)	16%
R1200 LC version	15%

Looking forward to 2018, and following on from a successful Workshop Day last year, we are again planning at least one for 2019, 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 2018 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.
- A deposit will be required. This can be paid via BACS transfer or by cheque (made out to 'The BMW Club').
- 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 BACS transfer or cheque 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

It is proposed to maintain subscription at the current level.

Presentation of Trophies

Sporting Spirit Trophy

No nomination has been received.

Max Deubel trophy

Colin Bembridge has been nominated by Keith Thomas (Sidecar Register Secretary).

National Member of the Year

Robert Freeman, on a nomination from Ashley Boal and endorsed by the National Committee.

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 13th April 2019 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 2018 Annual General Meeting (presented on agenda page 3)	For**	Against**
To accept the Treasurer's report and Accounts for 2017-2018 (presented in Accounts document)	For**	Against**
To confirm the appointment of Ross McConnell, Chartered Accountant (presented on agenda page 11)	For**	Against**
To confirm the Subscription (presented on agenda page 11)	For**	Against**
To elect Ian Dobie as President	For**	
To elect Stewart Lowthian as General Secretary	For**	
To elect Liz Elvidge as Editor	For**	
To elect Bob Barker as Membership Secretary	For**	
To elect Jim Lepley as Treasurer	For**	
To elect Jim Bettley 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**	

*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 11:30 am on Thursday 11th April 2019.