

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 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 Dudgon 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 dozing 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