

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The BMW Motorcycle Club Limited held on 14th April 2009 at the Dunchurch Park Hotel

President's opening address

Ian Dobie opened the meeting by welcoming Kim Pederson, the President of both BMW MC Klub Danmark and BMW Club European Federation. He spoke about his attendance at a recent BCEF meeting in Malmo where reservations about the relationships between the BCEF constituent clubs and BMW AG were discussed.

He thanked colleagues for pulling together, particularly Dik Langan for his I.T. expertise and Stewart Lowthian for his grasp of procedure. He thanked Liz Elvidge, to applause from the meeting, for taking over the position of Editor at short notice. He referred to the Members Working Party, which he had written about in The Journal, and told the meeting that it was Nick Dingwall's 83rd birthday. He concluded by apologising for being incommunicado due to illness in the week before the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Keith Thomas, Robert Bensley, Martin Pagett, Nev Jones, Helen Beer, William Beacham, John Dillon, Colin and Susan Ross, Paul Nadin, Bill Smithson, Nev Agnew, Val Smith, Ashley Boal, Chris and Ann Smith, Roy and Pat Laithewaite, Sylvia Delacoe, Mike and Peta Warrilow, Nick Baker, Cliff Batley, Bruce Lepley, John and Freda Taylor, Graham Parker, Rob Allin, John Hillier, Phil Oughtred, Bradley Gane, James Seller, Tim Balderston.

Appointment of Tellers

Debbie and Phil Sampson, Graham Walker and Bob Denman were appointed as Tellers.

Approval of the Minutes of the 2018 AGM

On a proposal by Dik Langan, seconded by Reg Moule the minutes were accepted with 101 votes for, non against and three abstentions.

Matters arising from the Minutes.

No matters arising were brought to the meeting.

Count of members by section

East Anglia	3	Irish	3	London	3
Mercia	11	Midland	12	North East	4
Northern	13	Oxford	29	Scottish	5
South East	1	Southern	13	South West	4
Ulster	1	Western	3	Yorkshire	4
HQ	1	Proxies	3		
Total	113				

Officer's reports

General Secretary: Stewart Lowthian had nothing to add to his report circulated with the agenda. No questions were raised.

Editor: Liz Elvidge added to her report circulated with the agenda by saying that she was still learning and always would be. Steve Moxey thanked her then asked what might happen next and what would she need to achieve it. Liz replied that an e-reader version of The Journal would be desirable as the file sent to the printers was not ideal for this purpose. She added that this would require a great deal of research but would be good to implement.

Social Secretary: Simon Johnson added to his report by apologising for the lack of a national rally in 2019. He hopes that next year's event will be in Moffat with both hotels and camping. He hopes to run a Garmisch-style event in the UK. There were no questions for him.

Membership Secretary: Bob Barker's report was circulated with the agenda. He apologised for having been out of action for the best part of a year due to health problems. He continued by saying that the trend in membership numbers overall is flat but section sizes are changing, with smaller sections reducing in size and larger sections growing. He expressed concern that long-term members were leaving but noted that new members are staying for longer. He advised the meeting that Dik Langan had been dealing with the membership database since November 2018. He considered that it was impossible to give an implementation date for it. Geoff Clough asked about membership numbers, with Dik Langan replying that we had 3166 members (including associates) in January 2018 and 3601 (2858 full and 743 associates) in January 2019. Geoff then asked whether any other section had the same experience of recruiting as the Oxford section, referring to the "Test Ride" scheme discussed at the February NCM. Bob Barker observed that with the rolling year membership it was difficult to offer joining incentives. Geoff said that their initiative included three editions of The Journal delivered electronically.

Hugh Johnson commented on difficulties with retention, noting that members often no longer owned BMWs but enjoyed the social side of membership. He asked what the "armchair" members got from the Club. Dik Langan replied that experience at the NEC show was that people renewed there saying it was their own fault they hadn't taken an active part. Bob Barker added that the sections with the most associates, implying an active social life, did best.

Bob Melvin asked about Direct Debits. Bob replied that they were planned but would take a significant effort to achieve.

Richard Garner said that in 2015 or 2016 he attended the Stafford Show as part of the VCR presence. He said that they ran out of application forms at the event, but that subsequent shows were less successful. The availability of knowledge was considered to be valuable. He argued that promoting the club to owners of older bikes would be beneficial to membership numbers. Bob Barker noted that membership incentives were fruitful but difficult with rolling year membership.

Ian Dobie referred to attending motorcycling events and giving advertising space in The Journal in lieu of attendance fees.

Sporting Register Secretary: Robert Bensley's report was circulated with the agenda. As he was not present no questions could be asked.

Sidecar Register Secretary: Keith Thomas's report was circulated with the agenda. As he was not present no questions could be asked.

GS Register Secretary: Nev Jones's report was circulated with the agenda. As he was not present no questions could be asked.

Vintage Register Secretary: Ashley Boal's report was circulated with the agenda. As he was not present no questions could be asked.

Regalia Officer: Cath Broughton's report was circulated with the agenda. As she was not present no questions could be asked.

DVLA Liaison Officer: Robert Freeman amplified on his report presented in The Journal, describing the process for examining and documenting motorcycles. He referred to past difficulties in dealing with BMW and a recent breakthrough in the relationship. He described an hour-long telephone conversation with a BMW colleague when dating certificates and who needs them were discussed. The cost of dating certificates was discussed, with the normal fee being £120 but, as a result of this conversation, it will now be free for BMW Club members. The details are still being discussed but this is considered to be a triumph.

Reg Moule thanked Robert for his address. He referred to a caution expressed by Robert regarding electronic documents, pointing out that DVLA accept them from insurance companies. Dik Langan

asked about non-member requests for dating certificates. Robert referred to an enquiry from Finland, saying that he has the original AFN records. He went on to explain how AFN became the importer for BMW motorcycles. He then answered Dik's question, advising that non-members pay the Club £50 plus the cost of the certificate. Steve Moxey suggested that the Club should write to BMW to express appreciation of this improvement in relationship. Ian Dobie will do this.

Toolhire Officer: Mike Delacoe's report was circulated with the agenda. He noted that the GS911 was the most-requested tool we hold. Bob Ingram commented that Mike was a great source of information.

Treasurer's report: Jim Lepley gave a brief address (appended), thanking the colleagues who handle money on the Club's behalf and explaining some of the terminology in the accounts document. Richard Garner referred to the increased revenue from 2017-2018 due to the number of track days. He asked what the cost of running a track day was. Jim replied that it was in the order of £12,000. Barry Last asked about the cost of section websites, speculating that the costs were hidden in the section accounts. Geoff Clough asked why the Irish Section reserves had not changed from 2017 to 2018. It was stated that this was because the Irish Section had not filed their accounts. Steve Moxey observed that gross turnover had gone up but the profit had gone down. He asked that a closer look be taken to find out why. John Elvidge observed that we are a social club rather than a business. Ian Dobie replied that we should at least be cost-neutral.

On a proposal by Jim Lepley, seconded by Reg Moule, it was agreed to accept the accounts with 112 votes for, none against and two abstentions.

Confirmation of subscription: it was agreed on a show of hands that the subscription would be unchanged.

The lunch break was taken. On return Ian Dobie apologised for taking an item out of sequence in the agenda.

Confirmation of accountants: On a proposal by Jim Lepley, seconded by Reg Moule, it was agreed that Ross McConnell would be retained. Voting was 106 for, none against and one abstention.

Election of Officers: Ian Dobie proposed that, as no position was contested, it would be sensible to vote en-bloc. This was accepted by the meeting. The candidates were elected with 105 votes for and four abstentions.

Presentation of awards: Ian Dobie presented Robert Freeman with the National Member of the Year plaque. Liz Elvidge (the retiring holder) presented Colin Bembridge with the Max Deubel award.

Date of next meeting: This has not yet been decided as we are still waiting to find out the date of the Stafford Show, which we do not want to clash with.

Any Other Business:

- a) **Members Working Party:** Ian Dobie spoke about the Working Party which he had written about in The Journal. Anthony Wood gave a brief address, saying that five members had expressed interest, with three of them holding a meeting chaired by Ian Dobie in February 2019. He had 20 copies of the group's report with him and expressed the hope that he would be taking none of them home with him. Simon Johnston queried Anthony's statement that we are the most expensive one-make club, citing the Harley-Davidson and Gold Wing clubs as costing more. Reg Moule suggested that The Journal should be offered to a wider audience. Steve Moxey suggested that it was great to have suggestions from the bottom of the Club but they should come from the top, the National Committee. Liz Elvidge said that she was looking for change and was aware of the cost of The Journal and that it is an important means of communication within the Club. Marjorie Burnett took exception to Steve Moxey's comment, stating that the National Committee wasn't idle. Bob Melvin invited anyone interested to attend the Section Webmaster's meeting following the formal business. He felt it unfair to criticise the main committee. Anthony Wood recognised that the NC was important and didn't sit on its' hands but creativity was needed. Stewart Lowthian stated that the AGM

ruled the Club and had in the past rejected change. Anthony Wood contended that 150 members shouldn't run the Club. Ian Dobie pointed out that proxy voting gave every member their say. He encouraged members to read the report.

- b) **Section Webmaster's Meeting:** Dik Langan advised the meeting that this would take place immediately after the close of formal business.
- c) Thirty neckerchiefs from BMW MC Klub Danmark were distributed at random.
- d) Lynn Sumner (Capitation Officer) asked anyone involved with capitation to see her so she could put faces to names.

The meeting closed at 2:45 p.m.