

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The BMW Motorcycle Club Limited held on 15th April 2023 at the Canberra Club, Blackburn

President's opening address

Judy Lepley welcomed members to the meeting and thanked them for attending. She thanked Lynn Sumner, Bob and Pam Harrison, the rest of the Northern Section and the Canberra Club staff for doing a superb job providing us with an excellent well organised weekend.

Apologies for Absence

Robert Freeman, Harvey and Dorrie Garton, Peter and Helen Fenner, Nigel MacDonald, Helen Beer, William Beacham, John Overton, Chris Carr, John Albone, David Shanks, Billy Chandler, Dave Adams Herbie Waser, Albert Connick, Bernie Skillen, Bryn Stanley, Paul Nash, John Dunne, Seamus Bourke, Mike Dignum, John Wright, Ray Cawte, Shaun & Brenda Mulligan, Nigel Selwood, Tim Balderston, Stuart Bradley, John King Deneys Schreiner, William Rodgers, Colin Strawn, Jillian Boreham, Andy and Jane Helsby, Mike and Peta Warrilow, Reg Moule, Bob Melvin and Barry Winter.

Appointment of Tellers

George Goldyne, Denis and Angela Rushton and Steve Haworth were appointed.

Approval of the Minutes of the 2022 AGM

On a proposal by Jim Bettley, seconded by Simon Johnston the minutes were accepted with 89 votes for and 1 against.

Matters arising from the Minutes

No matters were raised.

Count of Members present by section.

Section	Number of Full Members	Members Present at AGM	Number of Proxy Voters
East Anglia	306	4	0
HQ & Overseas	17	1	0
Irish	127	2	0
London	76	0	0
Mercia	113	3	0
Midland	203	3	2
North east	85	5	0
Northern	332	26	0
Oxford	204	3	9
Scottish	210	9	6
South East	147	0	0
South West	140	2	0
Southern	182	11	0
Ulster	172	1	0
Western	237	5	6
Yorkshire	201	9	1
TOTAL	2763	84	24

Officer's reports

President: Judy Lepley took questions from Ian Dobie regarding the shows we are planning to attend.

General Secretary: Stewart Lowthian added to his report that proxy voting suggested a caucus didn't want some of the national officers to remain in post but were not prepared to find candidates to supplant them. No questions were raised.

Editor: Bruce Lepley added to his report by stating that we need to use social media effectively which will require a team of volunteers. On a question from Charlie Hall regarding the frequency of publication Bruce stated that, as it would require a change to the Articles so it was down to the members. Robert Bensley questioned the wisdom of publishing less often, contending that it would impact on the success of social functions. Discussion regarding the use of social media followed with no conclusion being reached.

Social Secretary: Jim Bettley thanked the Northern Section for finding the venue. He gave an update on possible social events and asked for volunteers to lead ride-outs at the National Rally. He and the President need to meet with the Fire Service College to finalise details which will not stop the event taking place. The lack of support from BMW was commented on. He also stated that the 2024 National Rally was being organised and, on a question from the floor, stated that camping was available within walking distance. Difficulties with our relationships with dealers were raised, with the Northern Section's relationship with Bowker Motorrad being a welcome exception. Issues of member retention were raised with Dik Langan (East Anglia membership secretary) and Sue Ross (Western membership secretary) saying what actions they took when members didn't renew. Colin Ross gave the rough portion of new members that are retained after the first year as 30%.

Membership Secretary: Colin Ross thanked Dik Langan for his assistance with the membership database. He described how free memberships were to be processed. There were no questions on the subject. He continued to explain the change in the club's position on Journal insertions and that now they were simplified so that the cost of insertions in The Journal will be £0.78 per insertion, payable by the requesting section going forward. On a clarification from Ian Dobie, it was confirmed that the cost was £0.78 per member per insertion. Colin pointed out that this was still cheaper than the section independently posting such insertions by hand.

GS Register Secretary: Nev Jones's report was circulated with the agenda. No questions were raised.

Sporting Register Secretary: Robert Bensley's report was circulated with the agenda. Robert gave brief details of the current status of the track day bookings.

DVLA Liaison Officers: Robert Freeman's and Ken Buchanan's reports were circulated with the agenda. As neither was present, no questions could be asked.

Toolhire Officer: Mike Delacoe's report was circulated with the agenda. He noted that people were joining to access the toolhire scheme. He can make details of what has been hired available. No questions were raised.

Treasurer's report: Jim Lepley had nothing to add to his report except to say that nothing has improved. Ian Dobie questioned the 200% increase in the cost of the 2021 NEC show attended while he was President. Jim stated that this was during Covid and only a few members were signed up to offset the costs of attending. The 2022 show was much more successful. Dik Langan pointed out that the National Committee had voted to attend the event although numbers were expected to be low. It was suggested that we can't afford not to attend shows. On a proposal by Jim Lepley, seconded by Jim Bettley, it was agreed to accept the accounts with 97 votes in favour and 5 against.

Confirmation of accountants: Jim Lepley stated that the current cost of our accountancy and bookkeeping services is approximately two-thirds of the cost from our previous accountants 13 years ago. On a proposal by Jim Lepley, seconded by Dik Langan, it was agreed that Ross McConnell would be retained. Voting was 107 for and 2 against.

Confirmation of full member subscription: On a proposal from Jim Lepley, seconded by Jim Bettley, the proposal to raise the full member subscription from £32 to £35 was carried with 91 votes for and 8 against.

Confirmation of associate member subscription: On a proposal from Jim Lepley, seconded by Jim Bettley, the proposal to raise the associate member subscription from £3 to £4 was carried with 88 votes for and 10 against.

At this point Jim Bettley asked the members for their opinion on returning to the same venue in 2024. There was a consensus in favour.

Election of officers: As there were no contested posts Stewart Lowthian suggested that the meeting should follow the precedent set some years ago and save time by voting en bloc. This was accepted by 85 members with none against. All the candidates were thus duly elected.

Presentations:

After a short address detailing Cliff Batley's 18 years on the National Committee, five years as East Anglian rep then 13 years as a Vice-President missing only 2 or 3 meetings in all that time, Judy Lepley presented him with an engraved tankard as a token of the Club's appreciation for his time and dedication.

Robert Bensley accepted the Sporting Spirit trophy on behalf of Shaun Mulligan, who was not able to attend the meeting. Robert will present it to Shaun at the national rally in August.

Proposals to amend the MAA, each requiring a 75% majority to carry.

Stewart Lowthian explained the significance of a special resolution as the only way our Articles of Association could be changed. The two proposals were then discussed.

Proposal to amend Article 10: (Reverting to a fixed membership year) Colin Ross amplified his reasoning for proposing the change, adding that it was seconded by John Elvidge, his predecessor as National Membership Secretary. It was suggested from the floor that April would be a more appropriate time for renewals to take place. Colin responded by adding that approximately 50% of current members have an expiry date of 31st January making it the most effective choice. Questions of cost were raised and answered then a vote was taken. On a proposal from Colin Ross, seconded by John Elvidge, there were 82 votes for and 5 against the proposal. This is more than 75% for the proposal so it carried. Stewart Lowthian will amend the Articles of Association lodged with Companies House accordingly. The change in process will then be targeted for January 2024.

Proposal to amend Article 78: (Removing the word "Journal" from the cover of the magazine) Bruce Lepley explained his reasons for the proposal before inviting questions. Opinions for and against the proposal were raised by the members present. On a proposal by Bruce Lepley, seconded by Judy Lepley, there were 54 votes for and 41 against the proposal. As this is less than a 75% majority the proposal failed.

Date of next meeting: The 13th of April at the Canberra Club has been proposed.

Any Other Business:

Bob Ingram asked to make two points. His first was that Mike Delacoe is one of the Club's greatest assets and his second was to ask if it were possible to list the number of members in each section along with the count of those present.

The meeting closed at 14:50.