

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The BMW Motorcycle Club held on 27th April 2024 at the Canberra Club, Blackburn

1. President's Opening Address

Judy Lepley opened the meeting by commenting that it was grand to see everyone again and thanked them for attending. She thanked Pam, Bob and their Northern Section assistants for all the hard work they had put in, for the second year running, and for making us all feel so welcome. It is much appreciated.

Thanks were also expressed to Jim Bettley who had done a first-class job taking the lunch, dinner, camping bookings, liaising with the Canberra Club and pulling the weekend together.

Judy went on to say that this is the first year since 2010 that Stewart Lothian has not sat at this table and she for one misses him and his pedantic ways very much. As you would expect of Stewart, all the documentation relating to Club matters was completely up to date at the time of his death. This has made it much easier to take over temporary control of the Secretary's position.

Bruce, Colin, Jim B, Dik Langan, Nev Jones and Jim L were also thanked for their invaluable support after Stewart's death. They all stepped up to help take on the numerous tasks that Stewart quietly did putting together everything required to run the February NC Meeting and this AGM. Also, thanks to Sue Ross for volunteering to be our professional minute taker.

Socially 2023 was a very good year for the Club with numerous meets, events etc. Moving onto 2024, the Social Calendar is full. Several sections have been out and about already this year attending motorcycle shows promoting the Club. Thus, contributing to a steady increase in membership numbers. Looking at the Club Calendar other sections have plans to attend shows throughout the rest of the year.

Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control Club costs have risen and I know how concerned and worried Jim our Treasurer has been for some considerable time. However, if we all pull together, I am certain that we will overcome our financial problems. As I said in one of my President's waffles, if we were all to recruit one new member this would help. So, folks let's all get out there and promote our great club.

2. Apologies for Absence

Helen Beer, Chris Wright, Reg Moule, Margaret Moule, Cath Broughton, Pete Broughton, Barry Winter.

3. Appointment of Tellers

Denis and Angela Rushton, Les Butler and Steve Haworth were appointed.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting

Bruce Lepley explained concerning a slight mis-wording re the Proposal to amend Article 78 of the M&AA. The proposal to amend article 78 – instead of “removing the word *journal* from the cover of the magazine”, it should have read “Removing the word *Journal* from the articles and replaced by *The Magazine of the BMW Motorcycle Club Ltd*”. Ian Dobie, Oxford Section, raised queries in this connection. Bruce reiterated the explanation, the President thanked Ian for his comments.

It was confirmed by the President that the appropriate amendment would be made to the 2023 Minutes. The meeting was asked to vote on acceptance of the Minutes.

Proposed by: Jim Bettley
Seconded by: Dik Langan
See Appendix I for voting
Minutes Accepted

Colin Ross gave an explanation to the meeting how the Proxy voting would be working.

5. Matters Arising From the 2023 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Ian Dobie – Oxford Section – Proposal to amend Article 10 - Referring to the “resolution” to terminate the rolling membership year, which was agreed and is not a problem. However, there was nothing to say how the “resolution” would be amended in the M&AAs. That was raised at the time and Stewart Lothian said he would deal with that, no problem with that as it is basically removing a paragraph. The original Article was in two parts, the first paragraph deals with the normal subscription but the second paragraph “The subscription for a new member joining the club shall terminate at the end of the calendar month on the anniversary of their joining. By way of example, a subscription for a new member commencing on 10th of April shall terminate on the 30th April the following year.” That paragraph should have been deleted. Stewart said he would but he didn’t as it is still in there, so technically it still stands. I won’t be voting against it but it is still in the M&AAs. That is my point of order, no point of challenging it on the Minutes because it is a fact. Judy Lepley confirmed that this matter would be dealt with.

6. Count of Members Present by Section

Section	Number of Full Members	Members Present at AGM	Number of Proxy Votes
East Anglia	314	4	3
Irish	117	0	0
Mercia	108	5	4
Midland	230	5	13
North East	106	7	9
Northern	301	25	3
Oxford	225	2	59
Scottish	206	10	61
South East	184	1	5
South West	152	2	5
Southern	221	8	32
Ulster	188	1	35
Western	241	6	31
Yorkshire	238	15	2
HQ	17	1	0
Total	2848	92	262

7. Officers Reports

Written copies of all Officer’s Reports had been included in the 2024 AGM Booklet.

President: Members were asked if there were any questions relating to this report. No questions.

General Secretary: Members were asked if there were any questions.

Ian Dobie - Oxford Section – In the report it refers to BMW HQ where is “BMW Club HQ”? There was some discussion relating to the Club HQ, which has always existed for overseas members. Ian added that this is not disputed but the way it is referred to as though we had a BMW HQ which is part of the General Secretary’s report and would infer that he is running an HQ. Understand what is being said but need to appreciate need to be careful what is said.

Bruce Lepley gave a bit of a background as to how the BMW Club now runs. There are the 5 National Officers who live all over the UK and work solidly as a team – that is “BMW Club HQ” as far as management of this Club goes. It has nothing to do with the Headquarters Section and is probably at best cloud based! No further questions.

Editor: The Editor’s Report are there any questions.

Ian Dobie – Oxford Section – In the report you say, referring to the debate on the special resolution, Ian asked the Editor did he actually know what filibustering means. The Editor replied that he did know and that is exactly what

went on, as the discussion that took place was nothing to do with the actual proposal that was put forward. Ian went on to say that some people present today were there, as he was, and it was people speaking on behalf of the proposal and people speaking against it, which is what this AGM is all about. It is for the members to express their view. Ian gave his example of filibustering.

At this point the President thanked Ian and asked if there were any sensible questions for the Editor.

Social Secretary: Jim Bettley added his thanks to Northern Section for all their hard work for the second year in a row at this venue for the AGM. They have put in a phenomenal amount of work. He added that some members may have been following the possibility of a joint event with the BMW Car Club. This event has now been cancelled twice. Robert Bensley having put in a lot of hard work to try to put things in place but all his efforts regrettably came to nothing at the end of the day. With regard to the AGM for 2025, enquiries are currently in hand for a venue in the very South of the country, which may not break the bank. As you will hear later from the Treasurer, we are going to have to be very careful with money and the biggest reason we have not been in the South is to find somewhere with the facilities we have here without charging three or four times what we are being charged in the North. I have listened to legitimate complaints from some that we should try having it in the South. I am still waiting to hear from the lady who manages the premises. As soon as a venue is confirmed details will be in the Journal, which is why the date and location are not available today. Jim added that wherever we go this place is really difficult to beat! Members were asked if there were any questions.

Richard Robinson - Oxford Section - Advised he had made enquiries of a venue near Oxford with regard to a possible venue for our AGM and he was requested to forward the details to Jim Bettley. Jim added that there are people here today who have done that and there have been some near misses so we will keep looking. No further questions.

At this point Charlie Hall – Mercia Section – asked could members asking questions please state their name and Section and please use the microphone.

Membership Secretary: Colin wanted to expand on his written report based on latest information obtained from the Database. Slides were shown on the screen.

Fixed membership year – For you the members the change which was effective from 1st November last year was quite smooth, there weren't any hiccups from members, certainly not sent to me, but like that swan there was paddling underneath. There was a lot of work went into getting the fixture up and running and I would like to thank Dik Langan and Jim Lepley for their help in getting the Database up and running. From your point of view the transition was seamless.

Having looked at the Database earlier this week I made a check on how many of the members were now having an expiry date of 31st January and it was 68%. The other 32% during this coming year will effectively change over to a January expiry date. What I also looked at was one of the options that we introduced for the fixed year, which was the option to have an additional year's membership and 42 members decided take up that option. One benefit of that is that whatever subscription increase is agreed this year they do not pay it.

Colin went on to re-emphasise where the fault lay with the problems experienced with the January and February Journals. Details of which had been explained in his written report.

Colin went through some additional information starting with a slide showing new members recruited by month from April last to the end of March this year. Full members at 1st April 2023 was 2693 and at the 31st March 2024 the number was 2790. During that period we recruited 793 new members. How do those figures stack up. If you add 2693 plus new members you get the total of what we should have but the actual total was 2790. Which means in that period, we lost 696 members, which is 28% of the membership, there is clearly a need to continue recruiting.

Where do we get these members from, by far the biggest numbers are from Other Members and Former Members. Look at the Shows – Other shows 111, NEC alone produced 110 and then we get down to fairly small numbers. These are our main areas of recruitment. You have all seen in the Journal the graph which is the state of full members and what I considered was what happens if we did not do the NEC. If a decision had been made by the National Committee that the 2023 NEC was not to be supported, then you would get a falling membership. This does not include any other Shows. What this tells us is that it is very important to continue supporting Shows. I have to thank everyone who does actually put themselves out to support shows and cover Club stands and entice members into the Club because without that we would have a fall in membership.

Any questions. No questions.

GS Register Secretary: No questions.

Sporting Register Secretary: No questions.

DVLA Liaison Officers: Not present.

Tool Hire Secretary: No questions.

Technology Officer: Any questions. Dik is absolutely fantastic in this role.

Question from member – We all get a Journal every month. Can we have the Journal on line. The reply advised that the Journal is already on line through the Forum. John King posts it on the Members Only Forum. Further question – is there a way that it could be broken up a bit so that more potential members could see it and read and maybe we could attract more younger generation to the club? Dik replied that if we had volunteers to do that better then yes. We have asked for volunteers and they have not been forthcoming. Dik handed over to Bruce to answer in more detail.

Bruce Lepley replied that last year he had set up a Facebook group page which is the magazine every month. Any member is welcome to sign up to it. At a recent National Committee meeting Simon Johnstone and Bruce Lepley proposed that there was a need for a team to take this on. There are some 7,300 members on the Open Facebook page that we are not particularly engaging with. Simon and I engage with them and there are a few other people who put content on there and are engaging with them and trying to encourage them into the Club but we need a team of people to actually take that forward to run with it and make it bigger and better. This had already been suggested at the National Committee Meeting and it was shot down on the assumption that everyone on Facebook is a “bike thief”.

Further question: Why does it need a team of volunteers to put something that is a single post on a Facebook group. Dik Langan pointed out that the member had was talking about splitting it into different parts. The member understands that it is one Facebook group.

Bruce explained that he spends about two hours each month to publish the magazine on Facebook and to do more with the site would obviously take much longer and he does not have the time. The Editor’s job alone is very time consuming, and is almost a full-time job in itself, which is why we need others to break down content and put up snippets to attract more members. This had been put to the National Committee and the people who were involved in the Journal team had been asked for their views to see if they would be interested in taking this on. There are 7,000 people at £35 soon to be £40 a head (if you all agree) and that could be an awful lot of money coming into this club and a lot of members but the suggestion was shot down. Further comments were exchanged involving what should be available to non-members and what would attract new members. Bruce reiterated that we are looking for volunteers to take on so if you do know of anyone, please get them to get in touch and we will get it going, we will attract younger members. We will show that we are on the forefront not just using Facebook, using all the socials, we could have a massive Instagram following. All your bike rides, all your little snippets, Gerri with her pictures, we could have all that going on all the socials pulling people in. We are not doing it. It is up to you guys to come forward as the membership and take that on.

Rachel Hirst - East Anglia Section – I am a member of other motorcycle groups, not just this one. We should all take ownership of our own areas. When I see something in the Club magazine that all my other motorcycle friends might like to know, that are not in the club, I post it on our site. I give them just snippets of information about what the Club does, the good, the bad and the ugly, everything, all the positives and I try to sell it that way. Just give them snippets on my own personal Facebook page and that gets people involved in reading, then when they ask what is this all about, I tell them join the club we do this that and the other. So, if you see something in the magazine, that is part of your Club, and think my fellow riders would enjoy that, tell them about it but don’t give them all the little bits of information that you want to keep private, as we want them to join the club and we want them to join us. That is the way we should all take ownership ourselves, instead of blaming all these people at the front who do a fantastic job, do it ourselves and take ownership. Applause.

No further questions.

Treasurer: Jim Lepley had the following to add to his published report:

“I was elected as Treasurer 14 years ago in 2010. My remit from the National Committee was to reduce the National fund reserves to the equivalent of one-years turnover. Until Covid hit the reduction in funds was steady and controlled and at that stage there was just a sufficient reserve to continue producing the Journal for one year. At the NC meeting in February 2022, it was decided that, although an increase in capitation was clearly desirable, due to there being no Club activities during Covid the membership would not look favourably on an increase and at that

time the cash holding level was looking reasonably healthy. Hence it was not until the AGM in April 2023 that we were able to increase the subscription fee. This increase did not appear in Club funds until January 2024.

At the start of every single month since September 2010 I have downloaded the Bank statements, summarised the balances and offered to share this information with all NC members at every opportunity. In fact, I feel that members are bored with me offering. So far no one has taken up my offer. I have produced a monthly graph which shows the cash flow situation. This graph became a bit full and difficult to understand so we took an average figure for the years 2011-2021 and plotted that for comparison with current holdings. The main reasons for this month's drop are that £12,222 was to pay for a Track Day in May and £7,200 paid to sections in capitation payments. I have been reporting my concerns to the NC in respect of reserves since the June meeting in 2022.

At the NC meeting in February, Steve Halliday, on behalf of 2 Oxford Section Accountants demanded my immediate resignation on the grounds that I was "solely responsible" for the deficit in funds. After the NC meeting I received emails from Steve Halliday and John Elvidge stating that they were not aware of the state of Club finances. This statement has been repeated in the document that you will have found on your chair. For 2 NC reps to say they were not aware of the state of Club finances is absolutely mind boggling. In fact, when Steve Halliday read out his statement at the NC meeting, I was so outraged at the unjust distortion of the facts I was unable to respond coherently.

I am responsible for looking after the Club finances in accordance with the wishes of the NC and reporting the state of those finances to the NC. I carry out these duties diligently. Whilst I have a discretionary approval for expenditure up to £150, any major expenditure is always approved by the NC.

At the NC in February, Steve Halliday, on behalf of his two accountants made comments referring to Regalia purchases, book keeping and Accountants fees. In terms of regalia purchases, as agreed by the NC, I have purchased a small stock of some regalia items and magazine binders. These are on sale here today at a discounted price. I also purchased a quantity of tee shirts that were sold to members attending the National Rally in 2023 and the income from those sales were included in the Events Income.

In terms of book keeping and Accountants fees our current Accountant is still charging the Club less than the previous Accountants were charging before my tenure as Treasurer. In other words, we are still paying less than we were paying before 2010. What are they complaining about?

I am very concerned that funds will be so depleted by the end of this year that I am unsure whether the Club will be able to pay for Journal production and circulation. I am strongly recommending that subscription fees increase by, at least, £5 per member. You must bear in mind that this increase will not appear in Club funds until the beginning of 2025.

At the October 2023 NC meeting the Yorkshire section NC rep requested an increase of £1 to £6 per member in capitation, based on the fact it cost him £2.40 to send out a welcome pack to new members. The Oxford section also requested an increase in capitation. Their reason was the increased costs of their private IT system and hall hire. I made it clear that an increase in capitation would have to be an extra increase in membership fees. The NC narrowly voted for the increase in capitation. I stated that I would be taking the matter to the membership at the AGM.

At the February NC meeting I asked that the NC reps re-visit the request for an increase in capitation and I was told in NO uncertain terms NO. Once again, I stated I would take it to the membership at the AGM. This is contrary to Section 82 in the M&AA which give the National Committee the right to set the capitation rate. The accounts show an increase in section holdings from £64,324 to £67,986 which equals an increase of £3,662. A 5.7% increase. In the same period National funds dropped from £116,532.14 to £70,079.5s, a drop of just about 40%.

My argument is that as section holdings have increased, I do not see why Club members should pay an extra £1 for their membership when the welcome pack is a one-time, one-off mailing at £2.40. There is a free Club IT system available to all sections. Many sections hire halls and finance this from their section funds without any problems.

For many years the Oxford Committee have battered our heads about budgets, maybe they should listen to themselves."

Ian Dobie – Oxford Section – Commented that the national fund mentions money in the fund for Track Day and forthcoming National Rally which kind of inflates what appears to be Club money. A member interrupted saying that Jim had just explained that track Day and money for the Rally should not be included. He was showing what the Bank balance was not what the club's reserves was. Everyone here could understand that. Ian went on to say that

that is client money and what most organisations do is have a Client account. Bruce Lepley questioned – do Oxford section have a Client account? – answer we are trying to get one for that very reason. It is exactly the same reason when treasurer quotes section funds as being x amount of money. A lot of that money is not from your capitation it is actually what I call client money, as it is money taken in for events, hotels etc. It is not the Club's money in that respect, it is going out. It should not be included if money is due to be paid out it is not in the section's funds. Simon Johnstone – North East Section – asked Ian how many years he was President (answer was 5 years). Did he ever mention to Jim about clients account then. Did he ever have any issue with how Jim presented all the Accounts during his time as President (answer from Ian was no). Ian raised this as it was brought to his attention as he had no idea what a client account was or how it worked. When it was pointed out he saw where the risk was which is why they (Oxford section) are attempting to get their client account and why he brought it up. If I don't know I can't bring that sort of thing to your attention.

Marjorie Burnett – Scottish Section – National Committee Member - Commented that this is a purely an “example of what the National Committee has had to put up with time and time again. This committee does its very best, Jim is very clear with the financial situation within the Club and I think the fact that he has had to produce such a statement today is an absolute disgrace and reflects very badly on those people who want to destabilise our Club. We know who they are and we are fed up with it. So please let's get on with running our Club which is a friendly welcoming Club. Even those of us who are getting a bit old want to enjoy riding our bikes and I personally am absolutely sick of it and I think most of the National Committee feel the same. Applause.

Jim Lepley - displayed on the screen Bank accounts that the Club already has and explained the uses specifically the Track Day account showing income to and expenditure from that Account. He advised that there had been problems with Barclays which accounts had been closed. These details are available at any time for any NC member to review.

Ashley Boal - North Eastern Section - Asked in terms of the track day account and rally account, there is money coming in for those events. Is the money for those events going out of those accounts - Jim confirmed definitely paid out of those accounts. Ashley continued really that is what Ian was suggesting having a holding account. So, the point he was making creating an extra account is not needed. Jim emphasised that he has offered to share this information with the NC members ever since he took on the job in 2010.

Damon Howarth – Northern Section – Confused – we have local capitation people saying they want Client accounts but surely the money given by BMW central, the capitation fee is to pay for events, whatever you do so that surely that is their Client account from you. Why do you need a subsequent account. You are given spending money and it is up to you how you spend the money as a local group. Dik Langan replied that this is a misunderstanding of what Ian was heading for. A Client account, like the Track Day account or a hotel week-end, they will take the money into one account so it does not reflect on how the actual section is running for the rest of the members, the one's not involved in that event. That is just an accounting thing and suspect it could be reported that way if they wanted to.

Lynn Sumner – Northern Section & Capitation Officer – With reverting to a fixed membership year, payment of capitation this year is proving to be quite a challenge with amounts having to be worked out pro rata. The total paid in capitation to all 14 sections for the last financial year was £14,132.10. Surely putting up the capitation payment by a further £1 is not sensible. Lynn pointed out that postage cost for sending out new member packs 2nd class has gone down and is now £2.10. Lynn did not think that anyone should have another £1 capitation, they are getting quite enough. Lynn went through the breakdown of capitation payments for the 4 quarters of 2023 totally £14,132. Already paid out this year - the first quarter £1,625.75 and the second quarter £7,010. Do not feel another £1 increase is worth increasing membership.

Question from member – Do not understand why we have so many different Bank accounts, do we pay Bank charges on every one of them. Jim Lepley replied no, only pay for Bank charges for one new one which was opened to run events. We used to pay charges to Barclays for all of the Barclays accounts but they were closed a couple of months ago.

Robert Bensley – East Anglia Section & Sporting Register Secretary – Organising a track day involves a turnover of about £60,000 in the year. Jim sends a statement through and having a separate account enables him to know exactly where he is at any time.

No more questions for the Treasurer.

Confirmation of accounts: Voting took place on Acceptance of the Annual Accounts for the year ending 30th September 2023.

Proposed by: Jim Lepley
Seconded by: Cliff Batley
See Appendix I for voting numbers
Accounts Accepted

8. Appointment of Accountants

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

Proposed by: Jim Lepley
Seconded by: Bruce Lepley
See Appendix I for voting numbers
Proposal accepted

Jim Bettley advised the meeting that when we come to confirmation of subscriptions, in view of conversations we have had today we have actually ended up with a choice of whether we go for £40 to £41 or none of them, basically three options. I suggest we break for lunch whilst I have a word with the people that I work with and we will come back to you with a decision. We will probably vote for all of them.

1.00 pm – AT THIS POINT THE MEETING BROKE FOR LUNCH

1.50 pm – THE MEETING RECONVENED

9. Confirm the subscriptions from 1st October 2024 to Club Rule 10

The meeting was advised that there would be 2 separate votes:

- An increase of £5 to the membership fee.
- £1 to be added to the above to increase capitation.

There would be no change to the Associate Fee of £4.

Bob Ingram – Mercia Section – Requested that Jim Lepley re-confirm his opinion. Jim Lepley replied that his personal feeling was that Sections did not need any additional funds.

Proposal for an increase of £5 to £40 annual membership fee at next renewal

Proposed by: Bruce Lepley
Seconded by: Simon Johnstone
See Appendix I for voting numbers
Proposal carried

Proposal for an extra £1 to £41 annual membership fee at next renewal to be added to capitation.

Proposed by: Ian Dobie
Seconded by: Phil Sampson
Members present: In favour: 6 Against: 64 Abstain: 22
Proposal defeated

NB: This item arose from the Meeting, therefore no proxy voting included as it had not been specified prior to the meeting.

10. Election of Club Officers for 2024 to 2025

Colin Ross explained that it was not possible to have a vote en bloc for those officer positions which were uncontested, due to the differing number of proxy votes relating to each position. Therefore, independent voting for each position took place with the following results:
See Appendix I for voting numbers

This was followed by:

To elect Vice President:
2 Candidates: Jim Bettley
Ian Dobie
See Appendix I for voting numbers
Jim Bettley was elected

Cliff Batley – East Anglia Section – Explained the only reason he had voted the way he had was that we do not have a single independent Vice President, which he sees as a problem. It is not the job that the individuals are doing it is that they cannot completely step away. All the time I was a VP apart from a couple of times when I represented East Anglia because the Secretary couldn't attend. Other than that, I went there as a VP and listened to the arguments and tried to be unbiased. I think it is pretty difficult when like Jim is doing 3 jobs, he is there as VP, Social, Southern, Bruce is there as Editor and VP Neville is there as Western, VP and the GS Register. There is no total independence like when Alan was on the Committee and I was on the Committee as VPS, we were both independent. That is the only reason why I voted against Jim, otherwise I would have voted for Jim as I respect him and we get on very well. I think that in the long term by the next AGM we need to think about making at least one VP completely independent of all roles.
Applause.

Jim Bettley responded:

“The Vice President's role incorporates two main functions. Firstly, to stand in for the President should he or she be unavailable at meetings etc. Secondly, to deal with any complaints or disciplinary matters (as laid out in the discipline policy) leaving the President as an independent and final arbiter should that be required.

It is common for Vice Presidents to hold another position within the Club as you will see:

Bruce Lepley – Journal Editor and Vice President

Neville Jones – GS Register Secretary and Vice President

Jim Bettley – National Social Secretary and Vice President

There are two advantages to this. Firstly, National Officers are required to be well informed about all aspects of Club business and thus are aware of the bigger picture of events. Secondly, it saves the Club a huge amount of money.

A Vice President holding no other role should attend National Committee meetings but are not Directors of the Club and have no vote on the Committee. They are, understandably, entitled to travel expenses and accommodation (if they meet the travel requirement). As you can imagine, this can easily run into hundreds of pounds.

The only argument put forward against a Vice President also holding another role is that somehow this means they cannot be 'independent'. Tellingly, independent of exactly what is never explained.

Full National Committee members are Directors of the Club and Directors are required by law to vote for what is best for the Club. They are not allowed by law to be partisan towards their own section or even their own section's proposals. As for my own section I put forward a proposal they told me to take to the National Committee, I did and then I voted against it. How independent do you want a Vice President to be.

Any Vice President must be a member of a section but there is no legal requirement for them to offer opinions independent of their own section's wishes or to be independent on any other matter that they may have as a personal objective. Therefore, it is clear that serving National Officers (and thus Directors) are inevitably more constrained, objective and independent than a person holding just the post of Vice President. It should, therefore, not be a surprise to note that there has never been an allegation of partisan voting against any of the three current Vice Presidents.

That is my thinking and like Cliff we get on really well, I hold nothing against Cliff, we have always held opposite views on this and will no doubt continue that way for ever. I just wanted you to hear the other side of the position about independence and saving money for the Club. You have already seen how much it costs the Club. How much more would it cost if you were paying for 3 Vice Presidents to travel, to stay in accommodation for what kind of independence. That would be my point. Thank you very much. Applause.

Cynthia Milton – HQ Section – Cynthia commented that she had been a Vice President many years ago and that was one of the reasons why she joined the HQ section. Because that way she could never be accused of any partisanship of any sort if called upon to arbitrate any intersectional dispute or anything like that. Although she was entitled to claim expenses, she was forced to otherwise the Club would not know how much the VPs were costing. They were given back to the Club as a donation as she was in the fortunate position of being able to pay the expenses herself. She felt that the complete separation and complete demonstrable lack of partisanship and complete independence of the VPs is paramount. Applause.

Colin Ross – Membership Secretary – Just looking at the comments about the VPs, about which I do not have a bias one way or the other. What we have to do is look at the M&AA. Nothing in that precludes a VP holding any

other position. What would be required, if this is felt necessary, would be a Proposal for next year's AGM to have a vote to change the M&AA. If that was adopted then it would not be in place until the following year so two years hence for a vote on whoever wants to put their name forward.

11. To fix a date for the 2025 Annual General Meeting

Jim Bettley – Social Secretary – had explained earlier in the meeting that this was not possible at this moment in time. Details would be advertised when settled.

12. Any Other Business

Alan Orme – Mercia Section – Disappointed to see the April Journal contained attacks on the Oxford Section. It is not nice to do it. It has done the club some damage. A number of people have mentioned it and a dealer has questioned what is going on. Please do not put these arguments in the Journal.

John Elvidge – Yorkshire Section – One question as we have had the elections and following the sad demise of Stewart Lothian we are without a permanent Secretary. There was talk at the last National Committee that we were thinking about coopting someone into that role, could we be filled in on where we are with that, please.

Peter Dunn – Southern Section – In respect of the General Secretary position. I shall e-mail the President after this meeting and ask to be co-opted onto the Committee. After checking my workload and current job I think I can do a good job. I hope you will support me.

Liz Elvidge – Yorkshire Section – In light of what Peter has just said, in the past we have been in the position to coopt people at this meeting. Could this meeting not now coopt Peter into the role of Secretary.

Jim Bettley advised that it is the National Officers that have to coopt onto the team. Liz seemed to think that Simon had been coopted as Social Secretary at an AGM some years ago and coopted Jim Bettley at an AGM. Jim Bettley was coopted by the National Officers. Liz felt there was a vote at the AGM. Jim advised that he only put himself forward after the meeting in case someone else came forward. He only allowed himself to be coopted to make sure that we had someone in place to make sure we had an AGM the next year.

Richard Robinson – Oxford Section – Referred back to the 2023 Minutes relating to amendment to Article 78 where the vote was taken on the issue with the Journal. What was just brought up earlier was that he was actually voting on something in the M&AAs but the vote was actually taken on something slightly different in the actual vote last year. Could you clarify please.

Bruce – Editor – The vote was to remove the word Journal from Article 78 and replace it with the Magazine of The BMW Motorcycle Club. That's what the vote was there was nothing else in it. There was a good 10 to 15 minutes of filibustering went on concerning the size of the word "the" before BMW CLUB, which we are taking that on board for the next edition. As Richard understands it the membership voted for one thing but earlier in this meeting it was said that it was meant to be something else. Bruce added that in the Minutes it says "to remove Journal from the front cover" and that is not what the vote was. The vote was "to remove the word Journal from the Article". The actual vote was "to remove the word Journal from the Article" and votes did go for it but it did not reach the 75% majority required.

Richard also asked, the paperwork on all the seats which everyone had to read. We in the Oxford section have no right of reply!

Bruce said you have the complete right of reply. Richard – Where? Bruce – the formal complaint that came against me the Editor and other sort-of complaints from recommendations about our Treasurer were addressed and it was felt that the membership needed to know what was going on. That there are, by my own words, bullies and narcissists in this club trying to down the hard efforts of volunteers in this club. I am letting the membership know and if that has done the club damage I am very, very sorry to you the membership if that has done damage but I think you all need to know what goes on in the background, so that everybody knows how hard we are working and everybody knows the amount of pressure we are being put under to try and push us out of our jobs, bully us out of our jobs. I have dealt with bullies in the past and I will deal with them in the future. That is what this right of reply is about. The reply that went round the Oxford section was spurious at best, is based on misinformation, disinformation, complete lies and taking excerpts of the truth and not the entire truth. The word is specious - something that appears to be true but in fact is not. You can have a right to reply if you want to put something in the magazine, I am more than willing to put something in the magazine but it will be answered with fact.

Richard – As I understand it the vote for removing the word Journal didn't reach the 75%. Bruce – no it didn't reach the 75%. Richard – but you still tried to take it out. Bruce NO – every single cover of this last twelve months has had the word Journal in bigger letters covering more of the page than it has done in the previous 3 or 4 years which nobody complained about. It is not 'rubbish' it is fact you can look back through your front covers and you can see that the word Journal is smaller on every single cover. I do admit that in some cases the picture kind of faded out the word a little bit because of colouring when it went to print. On screen it is very, very different and it is quite hard to see that sometimes and it took us a couple of editions to get that in hand and I do apologise for that.

Alan Orme – Mercia Section – Asked his girlfriend Judy to look at the Journal front and asked if she could see the word Journal. She couldn't find it. I had to point it out to her. That is not acceptable.

Simon Johnstone – North East Section – Asked - Bruce how many complaints have you had in total from the 2,700 something members that we currently have? Bruce had not counted them but Simon asked roughly? Bruce – roughly probably 30 or so from Oxford section members and maybe a couple from Yorkshire but generally Oxford.

Cliff Batley – East Anglia Section – Forcibly commented that this has to stop. Between Oxford and the Committee, you have to grow up. Your bits in the Journal was awful and should never have been printed. We should not be airing our dirty laundry in public. We need to get some water under the bridge, make our peace. I, and other members do not want to be reading about what is going on at National Committee when people are fighting amongst themselves. It is one of the reasons why I decided I had had enough of being a VP. What with the South West and Robin Whale and then this I have had enough.

Jim Lepley pointed out that all those instances, every single one of those were the instigation of one man, pointing at Ian Dobie.

Cliff Batley continued - that he was talking to every single one of you and to the Oxford section. We have got to stop this bickering and backstabbing; it is not why I joined the club. I enjoyed Committee meetings for years but for the last few years it has been a nightmare.

Judy Lepley – President – Cliff we take your point, we really do take your point. When I was elected President, at my first National Committee meeting I made the statement that I would not allow bullying and that my remit was to be at the bottom and support those who were doing the work above me. I have had two years of almost constant sniping. The reason I wrote that piece, I thought about it long and hard, I knew it would probably upset some members. My reason for doing it was that it was obvious that people in the Oxford section, even on their committee were not being given the full facts by their NC rep. He was not giving them the full facts; it was becoming more and more obvious at each meeting and I got to the point that Oxford section members needed to know what is going on in their section and hopefully they would have enough nouse to stand up and say it can't continue. Ian obviously cannot accept that he was actually voted out. If he had listened to his National Committee back in October 2021, he would still be President but he didn't listen to them, he carried on going off in his own way, doing his own thing. What could they do about it. They were all standing down, nobody wanted to work with him. We all know how difficult it is to get volunteers to do things, he is impossible to work with.
Can we now close the meeting.

Frank Gough – Northern Section - Do we need a wood craft register? (*A gentle jibe at the wooden panniers he made for his R18*)

Judy thanked everyone for attending and apologised for it being such a bad type of meeting but hopefully we will be able to carry on.

The members showed their appreciation with applause.

The meeting closed at 2.40pm.

After the meeting:

The raffle was drawn, with proceeds going to the Air Ambulance.

Robert Bensley – Sporting Register Secretary – presented the Sporting Spirit Award:

Every time I pick this up it reminds me of the talented riders I've met through this club of ours. Some have done road racing, some long distance trials including the Land's End and Edinburgh endurance events with the Motor Cycling Club and a wide range of other motorcycling activities.

Dave Morris was a four times TT winner on an F650 engined Tigcraft, he proudly kept the BMW badge on the fairing. Jon Tollit was still doing the Battle of the Twins races when he was in his 60s. Kevin and Julia Sanders were awarded it for setting the round the world record. When Cynthia Milton rode round the world, she didn't set any records so I couldn't give it to her! Kevin and Julia did it in a couple of weeks, it took Cynthia four years!! Some of the long term members will remember Kidge Elder. Not every one's favourite person but he completed the 6 lap, senior Manx grand prix, on a standard K100.

This year it goes to another lady. She completed the Iron Butt ride for the third time, that's one thousand miles in twenty four hours. Starting at Squires Café near Leeds, she chose the Northern route. The 1250GS had just had its first service at two weeks old. To prove the ride there are 5 specific fuel stops: Berwick, Edinburgh, Wick, Fort William and I think Rivington is the last one. Up near Inverness there was a diesel spill on a roundabout. A van driver witnessed the catastrophe and must have been quite relieved to see a nod of the head and a smile. If 1,000 was not enough she diverted to John O'Groats just to get a souvenir, that is only 17 miles out of the way! Approaching Fort William, there was a road closure. Being good at directions she took a diversion and ended up on green lanes. It took the sat nav quite a while to catch up. It must have thought where the h*** are we going next. In her words and I quote – "Against all the odds en route, I never doubted that I would finish in time. For me I can't let it enter my head. It is not for the fainthearted. It is all about preparation and self-belief."

Please step forward Rachel Hirst. Applause.

Agenda Item	Topic	Voting From	Votes		
			For	Against	Abstain
4	Approve Minutes of 2023 AGM	Floor	77	0	15
		Proxy	245	2	15
		Total	322	2	30
	Acceptance of the 2022 / 2023 Accounts	Floor	66	0	26
		Proxy	246	1	14
		Total	312	1	40
8	Confirm Appointment of Ross McConnell Accountants	Floor	83	0	9
		Proxy	250	1	11
		Total	333	1	20
9	Confirmation of Full Member Subscriptions	Floor	70	1	21
		Proxy	251	0	11
		Total	321	1	32
9	Confirmation of Associate Member Subscriptions	Floor	No Vote as no change proposed		
		Proxy			
		Total			
10	To Elect Judy Lepley as President	Floor	65		27
		Proxy	199		63
		Total	264		90
10	To Elect Jim Bettley as Social Secretary	Floor	71		21
		Proxy	247		15
		Total	318		36
10	To Elect Bruce Lepley as Editor	Floor	69		23
		Proxy	201		61
		Total	270		84
10	To Elect Colin Ross as Membership Secretary	Floor	84		8
		Proxy	249		13
		Total	333		21
10	To Elect Jim Lepley as Treasurer	Floor	77		15
		Proxy	234		28
		Total	311		43
10	To Elect Neville Jones as GS Register Secretary	Floor	80		12
		Proxy	255		7
		Total	335		19

Agenda Item	Topic	Voting From	Votes		
			For	Against	Abstain
10	To Elect Keith Thomas as Sidecar Register Secretary	Floor	81		11
		Proxy	256		6
		Total	337		17
10	To Elect Robert Bensley as Sporting Register Secretary	Floor	83		9
		Proxy	257		5
		Total	340		14
10	To Elect Deneys Schreiner as Vintage & Classic Register Secretary	Floor	83		9
		Proxy	257		5
		Total	340		14
10	To Elect Jim Bettley as Vice President	Floor	66		26
		Proxy	194		10
		Total	260		36
10	To Elect Ian Dobie as Vice President	Floor	14		78
		Proxy	66		12
		Total	80		90

DRAFT