



The BMW Club

East Anglia Section

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 13th October 2012

Held at Fornham St Martin Village Hall

The Meeting Started at 11.01 A.M.

The secretary welcomed all members present.

1. Count of Attending Members

There were 28 full members, 2 associates and 1 guest. A copy of the attendance sheet is available here: [2012 AGM Attendance.png](#)

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies have been received from Dave Massey, Matt Butcher and Mark Handley.

3. Minutes of the Last AGM

The minutes for the 2011 AGM have been available online for all members to read and a copy was available for attendees to read.

4. Adopting Minutes of the Last AGM

The minutes for the 2011 AGM were adopted. A vote for adoption was taken that they were a true record of the proceeding.

Proposed to adopt the minutes:

Louise Ward

Seconded:

Andy Raggett

A show of hands for the adoption of the minutes was taken: Unanimously accepted.

5. Annual Reports

The Secretary

Thank you for coming along to the East Anglia Section 2012 AGM.

2012 has been a relatively good year considering the shakey start with the filling of the Social Secretary role being only saved only by Tim stepping in.

The year ahead however is already looking very busy and we will need plenty of volunteers to help us make it a success, particularly with the National Rally being held at Framlingham.

Due to the pressures of my business I will not be standing for this role next year but I am hoping to find a volunteer to step forward well enough in advance of the AGM to allow a reasonable hand-over.

Questions for the Secretary following his report:

Dave White asked why the committee had agreed to take on the running of the National Rally at Framlingham.

Mark (Dutton) was better placed to respond and reminded the floor that we had agreed to run Framlingham before even last year's AGM. As with every National Rally they have to be planned far in advance and at the time there was no reason to believe that East Anglia Section would face any difficulty in hosting it. In fact this is still the opinion of the committee, given that we have learnt from the original event. However there is already an agenda item to discuss this to the topic was rested for the moment.

Paul Scrase asked for clarification of the BMF membership/ association that comes with being a member of the BMW Club and related the story of having to pay full fee for the BMF rally with the booking agency having no apparent knowledge of the BMW Club and its association with the BMF

Mark (Dutton) and Cliff responded that there had been some changes at the BMF rally organisation this year which meant they had outsourced the rally booking to a third party who were not aware of the "associate" clubs such as the BMW Club. Mark suggested that this had been acknowledged by the BMF and anyone who paid full rates were welcome to claim the difference from the BMF directly. One of the big advantages of the association between the BMW Club and the BMF is the insurance cover that is available for all the BMW Club events as a result, reducing insurance costs greatly. The Journal used to print the BMF associate reference for the BMW Club, Mark will investigate with the Editor in the near future.

The Treasurer

Following a large deficit last year of over £800 I am pleased to say that we have made a surplus in the last year of £435. This is mainly due to the fact that events are mostly covering their own costs this year and the usual donation to the Essex Air Ambulance of surplus raffle funds etc were not made. A small increase in income from the adverts sold in our Year Card has helped. But mostly a reduction in expenses has been the reason. Spending on promotional items such as banners was limited to feather flags repaid to the National Committee. We had already last year we purchased several for the section for displays at Copdock. A sit down Christmas meal rather than the usual buffet also proved less costly with those attending making a donation of £10 to their meal.

Our bank balance, which includes our current and deposit accounts plus some cash held by me, has therefore increased by just over £500 to a total of £2,403.72.

Sadly capitation fees have reduced by approximately one quarter, down on last year by £500 a sign of the times.

A copy of the Section Accounts for 2012 is available here: [Accounts 2012.pdf](#)

No questions were asked of the Treasurer following their report.

The Social Secretary

This last year, my first and only year as Social Secretary was a real challenge for me, and it gave me a proper appreciation of the work & dedication that previous holders of this post have put into it.

Speaking to committee members from other sections and other clubs, I don't think that it has been an easy year to inspire people to take part. The weather, for most of the year has at best been unpredictable and at times just plain horrible, and I don't blame anyone for preferring to stay indoors and keep the bike in the garage. I also think that the financial constraints and uncertainty that a lot of people find themselves under at the moment doesn't help. The cost of fuel and servicing alone must make everyone think about twice about the miles that they do. Having said all this, I think that we have managed to have some very successful events throughout the year.

The standard Sunday pub and cafe meets were sprinkled with a few new venues. Some of them worked, some of them didn't. But it's always worth trying somewhere new. Overall though, they still prove as popular as ever and seem to be the most consistently well attended events on the calendar.

Banham rally in May, although down on the numbers attending last year, and run as a slightly less elaborate event managed to pull together members from several sections and despite the cold evenings provided the usual good company (some of it sober) and late nights, with plenty of muck & challenges for the off road contingent (there were a lot of freshly polished very shiny GS's etc. that got very, very dirty). My thanks go to Dave Massey who put the effort into putting it together

In July we ran a certificated riders 1st Aid course which seemed to go well. The course covered first response at the scene of an accident and I think that all who attended felt that they would be more confident now to get involved if they were to witness a road accident whilst out on their travels. Most of us travel a lot of miles on our bikes whether in company or alone and you just never know when knowledge like this could make all the difference.

The East Anglia trip to the Pyrenees in September seems to have been a great success. Unfortunately, despite being involved in the initial setup of the trip, at the last minute personal circumstances stopped me from actually going. Fortunately Mark Handley volunteered to step in and manage the event, which he did at very short notice. My thanks go to him and Will Spray, who organised and led the ride outs. Judging by the feedback and photos that I've seen, it was a great event, held amongst stunning scenery with some brilliant attractions, although maybe the weather was a bit dodgy at times.

If you're not already aware I'm stepping down from the committee and handing the post of Social Secretary over to someone new. Please give them all your support over the next year and I'm sure that the future will provide more exciting events and adventures.

No questions were asked of the Social Secretary following their report.

The Membership Secretary

As of this morning we have 397 members which is 323 full members and 74 associates.

To refresh your memories this compares to this time last year when the figures were 403 total comprising 333 full and 80 associates, so in fact we are only 6 members down, a fall of only 1.5% compared with a drop the previous year of approximately 4%.

I believe that the use of email to remind members who missed the renewal deadline was the biggest part I played in this although it has to be said that we have had a very successful Copdock show this year with 6 new members joining us on the day, a success reflected at other shows as well.

This coming year (if I am elected to retain the position) I intend to send out the renewal emails sooner with the aim of retaining even more of our existing membership.

National Committee Representative

I have very little to add to what you will all have read in the reports of the National Committee Meetings that are published in the journal, though I am increasingly of the opinion that our section members might want a more active role if they understood the National Committee better and so I aim to raise awareness in the coming year, again most likely by use of emailing those members who have provided their email addresses when they registered.

No questions were asked of the Membership Secretary nor National Committee Rep following their report.

6. Adoption of the Reports

*Proposed to accept the Secretary's report:
Seconded:*

*Jerry Douglas-Sherwood
Paul Round*

*Proposed to accept the Treasurer's report:
Seconded:*

*Roy Laithwaite
Stephen Thompson*

*Proposed to accept the Social Secretary's report:
Seconded:*

*Dave White
Mike Davies*

*Proposed to accept the Membership Secretary's report:
Seconded:*

*Paul Scrase
Roy Laithwaite*

The meeting voted to accept all the reports unopposed.

7. Election of Officers

The nomination for Secretary ~ Cliff Batley

Nominated by:

Dik Langan

Seconded:

Mark Dutton

The meeting voted to accept the nomination unopposed.

The nomination for National Committee Representative ~ Dik Langan

Nominated by:

Cliff Batley

Seconded:

Mark Dutton

The meeting voted to accept the nomination unopposed.

The nomination for Social Secretary ~ Bob Ibbetson

Nominated by:

Dik Langan

Seconded:

Jenny Batley

The meeting voted to accept the nomination unopposed.

The nomination for Treasurer ~ Jenny Batley

Nominated by:

Dik Langan

Seconded:

Mark Dutton

The meeting voted to accept the nomination unopposed.

The nomination for Assistant Social Secretary ~ Dave Massey

Nominated by:

Cliff Batley

Seconded:

Tim Robinson

The meeting voted to accept the nomination unopposed.

The nomination for Membership Processor ~ Dik Langan

Nominated by:

Cliff Batley

Seconded:

Mark Dutton

The meeting voted to accept the nomination unopposed.

The nomination for Committee Member ~ Mark Dutton

Nominated by:

Cliff Batley

Seconded:

Dik Langan

The meeting voted to accept the nomination unopposed.

The nomination for Committee Member ~ Mike Davies

Nominated by:
Seconded:

Mark Dutton
Cliff Batley

The meeting voted to accept the nomination unopposed.

The nomination for Committee Member ~ Peter Dutton

Nominated by:
Seconded:

Dik Langan
Tim Robinson

The meeting voted to accept the nomination unopposed.

The nomination for Committee Member ~ Paul Round

Paul regrettably had to withdraw his offer to stand this year but still hopes to be involved in the Framlingham organising.

During the voting there was a general discussion on how the process could be improved next year with the following actions:

- Clearer definitions of the roles on the committee (displaying these at the AGM even)
- Clearer description of the purpose of the committee itself

The following questions were also asked and answered during the voting:

Q) How many meetings per year do the committee attend?

A) Usually 2 formal meetings (one immediately following the AGM and one before December to finalise the following year's calendar), though there are many informal get togethers during the course of the usual events when most committee members are present

8. 2013 Events

(a) Framlingham 2013

Cliff explained that this will be held on August Bank Holiday 2013. The college will be doing most of the work and have expressed delight at having us back. We have learnt from our first attempt at this (which is still being hailed as one of the most successful national rallies in memory) and so believe that this time should be just as good if not better and certainly less stressful on the organisers. Some of the lessons learnt were:

- The free tea and coffee will be run by the college (removing the need to man it all day)
- there will be no motorcycle raffle
- more rooms will be made available
- camper vans will be restricted to the "upper" field and not permitted to park in the lower section (only motor vehicles allowed in the lower section will be motorcycles)

The floor asked the following questions:

Q) Has the college been booked?

A) yes

Q) Has the budget been decided?

A) yes, and will be put to the National Committee for approval at the next NCM

Q) Attendance at Ellesmere being only 277 of about 4,000 potential, are National Rallies worth while

A) Yes as they almost always cost very little to run and are the one main "fun" event in the National Calendar which most members would attend

Q) What events will be laid on?

A) Same as last year, certainly to include: Dealers, Rideouts, Sports Day (inc. skills test), School Disco. Bob offered his band for the Disco.

From the floor there were already volunteers to assist with the event: Tom Rogers, Roy and Pat Laithwaite and Trevor Smith.

(b) Copdock

Mark Dutton has agreed to run this again next year with the hope to improve the pre-event advertising to encourage more bikes and representatives to attend the stand and promote the club. Obviously the good weather of the last 2 year's events has been a boon.

Trevor Smith offered to help on the stand this year.

(b) Rideouts

There is really only the one ride out (the New Year 5 Counties rideout - which is on again this year) on the calendar. Dik would like to have some more added and offers to run the same route as the 5 Counties but in the warmer months.

This year there was a successful format run by Mike who arranged to gather at one of the cafe meets and then ride on to Walton tower. The same format was considered worth experimenting with and the floor offered the following suggestions:

- A run to the Tank Museum
- a run to the Chatham Rope "factory" (Mike Davies and Paul Round)
- a run to Bletchley Park

A suggestion was also made that a form could be added to the web site so that any member could arrange a ride out and garner interest. Dik agreed to investigate the possible ways in which this could be achieved.

9. East Anglia Trophy

Andy Raggett gave an update on the EA Trophy, there have been 4 completed entries already but we really do need to locate and contact the winner of last year's trophy, not least of all because we will need the Trophy itself to be returned in time for presenting at the Xmas meal. We do not believe the winner (embarrassingly we only recall his first name: Alan) has set a challenge for next year but Mike Davies does have one prepared just in case. Andy closed by reminding everyone that their entries have to be with him by the end of the month.

10. Any Other Business

Mike Davies mentioned the presence at the dealerships and how he has Cannons covered with a good working relationship with their staff but we need to repeat this success at Lind, SBW and even Balderstones. To help gauge the success of these endeavours it would be good if the membership forms left at the dealers could be marked in some way to track those

members joining as a result of this exposure, however the list on the online joining form does not allow indication and so will continue to be difficult to track.

Mark Dutton explained that there were some upcoming improvements in the National marketing strategy which we should start to see the benefits of soon.

Cliff recommended the Track Days to the floor for anyone who has not yet attended one.

Tom asked about the Banham Rally for 2013. Cliff explained that, to help focus on Framlingham and because all events such as this need a break every few years to help refresh them, there will be no Banham event this year.

11. Date of next AGM

The next AGM will be held at Fornham Village Hall on Sunday 13th October 2013 at 11.00 A.M.

Meeting close

There were no other items for discussion and the meeting closed at 12:25.

Signed:

Date:

Cliff Batley
East Anglia Section Secretary

Agreed:

Name:

Committee Position: