



The BMW Club

East Anglia Section

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 12th October 2014

Held at Fornham St Martin Village Hall

Secretary's Welcome

The meeting started at 11:02. The Secretary welcomed all members present.

The Secretary advised that four AOB items had been tabled before the meeting being: Facebook and Twitter, the Fakenham and/or Hunstanton Rally for 2015, the Fenman Classic Bike Show and next year's post AGM lunch.

Count of Attending Members

There were 29 full members present and one guest.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Gary & Charlie Funnell, Mark Handley, Peter Susmess and Chris Smith.

Minutes of the Last AGM

The Secretary apologised that the Minutes for the 2013 AGM were only made available on the Section website the night before the AGM, this being due to work pressures.

A copy of the Minutes was available at the meeting for anyone who had not seen them.

Matters Arising from the last AGM Minutes

There were no matters arising from the 2013 AGM Minutes.

Adoption of the Minutes

A vote for adoption was taken that they were a true record of the proceedings.

Proposed to adopt the minutes:

Mark Dutton

Seconded:

Peter Dutton

A show of hands for the adoption of the Minutes was taken: Accepted 26, Abstentions 3, Against 0.

Annual Reports

The Secretary

Dik began by apologising to Cliff. When he took over as Secretary during last year's AGM he neglected to thank him properly for his work on behalf of the Section. He was so excited/nervous that his manners temporarily abandoned him.

Dik advised that Cliff is staying on as National VP and on the EA committee as a general member.

Internet – emails from Dik positive feedback if anyone is not receiving then it is because we don't have your email address so just send Dik an email with your membership number and it will get sorted.

Mark Handley leaving committee – Fakenham successful and thanks to him for that.

Peter Dutton social secretary, stayed the course and did a fantastic job on behalf of the Section.

Treasurer – Jenny stepping down. This position is needed for the section to exist, AJL offered to stand, proposed by Dik seconded by Roy Laithwaite, accepted unanimously.

Membership - Total of 355 last year (291 full + 64 associates) as at 1st October, 350 this year (286 full + 64 associates), 21 members dropped previous year but this year only. Copdock successful 10 new members on the day, raised profile. 5 more new members through other channels eg Internet search & 1 via direct contact

Membership should be changing to a rolling membership scheme, not blanket 31st January renewal from now on. In effect won't impact on existing members but it will be a change for new joiners and Dik reports Bob Barker from National Committee had been emailing him regularly about this change as Dik is the Club's current IT Guru.

National Committee - Dik reported that the next meeting is on the 25th October, there are topics regarding the capitation and the current methods of keeping calendars up to date. No one had any topics they wanted to be brought up from our section.

Web site - Dik apologised for letting this slide in the last few months, this was due to the many other tasks he is involved in. Dik asked if there were any volunteers to help with this task but no one felt they had the right skills to do so. Dik mentioned the possibility of moving the web site to WordPress which would then mean less skilled people would be able to add content very easily, but the conversion of the site will take time which is in short supply at the moment.

Q: Is the A4 Journal cheaper than the A5 one?

A: No but the advertising space is slightly more expensive (as it is larger) so it largely balances out.

The Treasurer

Jenny took us through the company accounts, copies of which were available on each chair in the meeting, and are on the website for viewing.

No questions were asked of the Treasurer following their report.

Mark Dutton thanked Jenny on behalf of the Section for her 10 years of service overall in the role of Treasurer. The meeting concurred with a round of applause.

The Social Secretary

Peter Dutton delivered his report with the following highlights:

It has been an odd year but a good one. Oirschot had their final BMW rally which was well attended and will be missed as an annual event and great excuse to ride to Holland. The Porlock Rally was only attended by four guys but they had a great time despite the cold weather. The D-Day Rally was very well supported and a huge thanks goes to Mark Handley for organising that. The Fakenham Rally was a little more complicated than was planned but still worked well. Some of the ride-ins worked very well such as the Secret Bunker, we would welcome any ideas for the future along these lines. The Cafe meets were very hit and miss

with some attracting good turn outs but others only having one or two attend. Perhaps we should consider combining Cafe meets with a ride-in.

Next Year we already have a few events planned but we have handed over the organisation of the Black Bull rally entirely to the Yorkshire section with the 5th to 7th June being the likely date. This clashes with the already planned Castellane trip which already has 3 people signed up so changing the dates to cater for the clash is not likely. There are quite a few other ideas in the pot for the Calendar but we could really do with some suggestions for things to do in the northern area of the section please.

Another event that has proven to have mixed results is the Speaker's night which had Graham Field as the first guest speaker and was very successful but the second speaker (from the TRF) pulled out with 2 hour's notice. We shall try to run these evenings again next year but we really need some ideas and/or volunteers for speakers.

Q: Can we push the shows that we attend a bit more as they do attract new members?

A: Yes, using the section emails from Dik we do get better turn outs so we will continue to make use of them

Request from Dik: Are there any ideas for other events?

A: Cliff will run his open day event again, we managed to sign up 2 new members this time so we will attend again.

A: Malcolm & Val suggested the Fenman Classic bike show, Peter will coordinate with them and find out dates etc.

Mark D: We obviously need volunteers to run these events

A: Mark Handley said that Keiron and Sharon have volunteered to run the Fakenham rally next year, they may also consider Hunstanton with caravan options too.

Adoption of the Reports

In a change of format to reduce time the Secretary's, Treasurer's and Social Secretary's Reports were adopted together in one vote.

Proposed to accept the Officers' reports:

Cliff Batley

Seconded:

Kenneth Buchanan

The meeting voted to accept the presented reports unopposed.

Election of Officers

The nomination for Secretary, National Committee Representative, Membership Processor & Web Master ~ Dik Langan

Nominated by:

Peter Dutton

Seconded:

Mark Dutton

The meeting voted to accept the nominations unopposed.

The nomination for Social Secretary ~ Peter Dutton

Nominated by:

Dik Langan

Seconded:

Mark Dutton

The meeting voted to accept the nomination unopposed.

The nomination for Assistant Social Secretary ~ Mark Dutton

Nominated by:

Peter Dutton

Seconded:

Dik Langan

The meeting voted to accept the nomination unopposed.

The nomination for Committee Member ~ Kenneth Buchanan

Nominated by:

Dik Langan

Seconded:

Peter Dutton

The meeting voted to accept the nomination unopposed.

Kenneth asked to be considered for the National role of DVLA contact which Dik said he would bring to the attention of the National Committee at the meeting later this month.

The nomination for Committee Member ~ Cliff Batley

Nominated by:

Dik Langan

Seconded:

Dave Massey

The meeting voted to accept the nomination unopposed.

The nomination for Committee Member ~ Peter Charman

Nominated by:

Dik Langan

Seconded:

Mark Dutton

Peter responded to the Secretary's email appeal for volunteers and indicated that he would be willing to take on the new marketing role, subject to clarification of what is required.

The meeting voted to accept the nomination unopposed.

Note: Shortly after the AGM the Secretary was notified of Peter Charman's withdrawal from the committee, due to an assignment abroad.

The nomination for Committee Member ~ Gary Funnell

Nominated by:

Dik Langan

Seconded:

Peter Dutton

The Secretary advised that Gary had contacted him to offer to create a Facebook page after joining the Club this year. Gary is now running both the EA and National Facebook pages and his wife is running the Twitter account. He runs his own business as a chocolatier but was unable to arrange cover for the factory today and sent his apologies.

The meeting voted to accept the nomination unopposed.

The nomination for Treasurer ~ Amanda Langan

Nominated by:

Dik Langan

Seconded:

Jenny Batley

With Jenny stepping down as Treasurer the Secretary advised that his wife had offered to stand for nomination as Treasurer. Amanda's membership will be upgraded to a full member today.

The meeting voted to accept the nomination unopposed.

At this point a request was made for any other volunteers, none came forward.

A suggestion was made that the September speaker's night could be used to discuss items for the AGM and the following National Committee Meeting, these will be considered.

Abolishing the Year Card (DL)

The Secretary, with the backing of the current committee, is proposing the abolition of the printed year card, which is a calendar of Section events for the forthcoming year.

The Secretary advised that there had been significant problems in producing the year card for this year and that it was a stressful process to collate and publish events which may subsequently change. The year card is not flexible. The Secretary advised that alternative methods for communicating events and any change to details are The Journal, the Section website and Facebook. The Secretary advised that the print deadline of 6 weeks' notice for The Journal is better than the effective 13 months for the year card. Notification for cancellations will be easier to manage in the Journal and online if members get into the habit of looking there (and on the web site) rather than relying on the printed year card. We are also making much better use of Facebook and Twitter which reinforce the power of the Forum as a means to get word out of new or cancelled events. Should this proposal be accepted it will be in effect for the foreseeable future but will review this decision each year and should a future Social Secretary feel it would be wise to reintroduce the Year Card then the committee will support them.

Proposed by:

Dik Langan

Seconded:

Mark Weavers

Against: 0, Abstaining: 0, For: All, Carried.

Award Nominations

The Section presents 4 trophies at the Christmas meal. The East Anglia Trophy is a competition and is decided by the person setting that year's challenge but for the remaining 3 we always ask for nominations at the AGM then the committee make the final decision before the Christmas meal.

Hardman Trophy

Dik explained that this is generally presented to a member who has overcome adversity and carried on or something along those lines.

- Dik proposed Peter Wilson who also won it last year. This year he ran the Round Scotland ride and presented a great write-up of it in the Journal.
- The floor proposed Mark Handley for his work on the Fakenham Weekend and the D-Day rally

Spanner in the Works

Dik explained that this is usually presented as a tongue in cheek award to a member who has fluffed something up, faced a mechanical issue or conversely someone who has proven to be an essential part of the Club keeping things running (as it is in the form of a spanner and a rear drive cog).

- Dik proposed Cliff for the confusion with the Year Card
- Mike Davies was suggested for his new RT being off the road for 2 months

Spirit of the Section

Dik explained that this is presented to the member who embodies the very best of qualities that the rest of us should aspire to, putting in extra effort without desire for reward.

- Peter proposed Paul Scrase and Jim Moos

East Anglia Trophy

Dik explained this for members who were not fully aware of it: It is a year-long treasure hunt set around the 5 counties covered by the section with the clues being available online for printing off and following. The entries have to be presented to the person setting the challenge by the AGM (so should be in today) and can be in the form of Photo Albums or an electronic document. The idea is to prove you have visited the location you believe the clue is pointing to by taking a photograph of your bike with the landmark in the background. The person setting the challenge then picks the entry that they believe is the best and the Trophy is awarded at the Christmas meal.

Any Other Business

Facebook & Twitter

Dik wanted to bring these relatively new channels to the attention of the membership. Gary Funnell has very quickly set up the section's Facebook group and been coordinating with the National team who run the National Facebook Group to form guidelines for other sections (as only a few have started using this channel so far). It is a quicker way of getting messages out to members than Dik's emails and is less formal than the Forum appears to be though does require administering by one or more volunteer members.

Twitter is also being used by the section but there have been very few tweets (such that Dik actually removed the Twitter feed from the section web site earlier in the year as it was getting embarrassing that the tweets were so old). However some members have said it is useful, Dave mentioned it reminded him to attend the AGM. Charlie Funnel (Gary's wife) has taken on the task to post tweets regarding each upcoming event by just looking at the Calendar on the web site. Dik thanked both Gary and Charlie in their absence.

Fakenham/Hunstanton Rally

Keiron and Sharon Haines will be running this rally for us and Keiron just wanted to let everyone know that there are two sites being considered: Mark Handley has made a provisional booking at the Race Course following this year's rally but a Hunstanton camp site have been in touch and are offering special rates.

Mark Dutton suggested we might be able to run two rallies and make use of both sites.

Jenny confirmed that no deposit has been paid to the Fakenham site yet so our options are still open.

Keiron and Peter will discuss this further after the AGM and the committee will support them as they need.

Fenman Classic Bike Show

Malcolm and Val wondered if the Club could have a stand at this well attended show, they would be prepared to organise it if so. Unfortunately the show is on the August Bank Holiday weekend and so clashes with the National Rally so we cannot offer full support (as most of the committee will be at the National) but there is no reason we cannot offer it as an alternative meet (the Club rules say we cannot organise an "event" that clashes with a National event but we can have a "meet" - the difference being whether an overnight stay is involved).

At this point a general discussion regarding potential future events ensued, these are the salient points:

- We should consider running the Banham weekend again? Dave Massey ran it last year but is not able to do so again due to other commitments though he would be able to pass on his "lessons learnt". The general opinion was that a communal area for members to gather in would be a benefit and Dik mentioned we could use the section marquee (9m x 3m tent), but we must try to avoid clashing with the BMF rally.
- Who runs the Beddgelert rally? North West section so not in our control.
- Mark Weavers suggested we look at having a rally late October to end the year, perhaps somewhere like Hunstanton where there are caravan options.

Post-AGM Lunch

Because the local pub has become very popular it has become very difficult to get a table for lunch following these AGMs. Mike Davies has asked that the Club notifies the pub in advance and gives them an idea of how many people from section would like to go there for lunch, they may let us use the function room if enough people are booking. Dik agreed that this is a great idea and will ask for numbers when he emails ahead of next year's AGM and then contact the pub to let them know.

Cliff suggested we could cater for those attending by cooking up a chilli and serving it with rice or bread, this will also be considered by the committee and if we have volunteers able to do it they will just need numbers, the section would fund the food but obviously requires some preparation time.

Christmas Lunch

Mark Dutton would like to know what plans are for the Christmas Lunch (as usually people can book and pay at the AGM). Dik apologised as he is organising it but has not really got started. The Cock & Bell room is booked for the 14th December and the format will be much the same as last year as that worked very well. He is happy to take payments today and will contact everyone to get their food orders when he is a bit more organised. The cost will be the same as last year with an early booking discount.

Ad hoc items

There were some further ad-hoc items that were brought up at the end of the meeting but before it closed, these are the salient points:

- Mark Dutton has some Club / Section stickers which are available at 50p each
- Mike Davies wanted to remind everyone to make use of the Motorrad 20/20 deal
- He also wanted to remind everyone to support the Section when Motorrad run invite us to an event as this keeps us in the eye of the BMW riders who are not yet members
- Mark Dutton has cards available for members to take and hand out to non-members as marketing, they have the National contact details on but when they join they will be able to pick to be in our section.
- How can we promote more entrants to the East Anglia Trophy? There could be 20 clues but entrants only have to visit 15 of them, make it clear that entry can be physical folder as well as digital format to encourage less IT-literate members, and possibly have an unusual tie-breaker to help the judge decide.

Next AGM Meeting

The next meeting will be held at Fornham St Martin Village Hall on Sunday 11th October 2015 at 11.00 A.M.

Meeting close

There were no other items for discussion and the meeting closed at 12:18.

Signed:

Date:

Dik Langan
East Anglia Section Secretary