



The BMW Club

East Anglia Section

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 10th October 2021

Held at Fornham St Martin Village Hall

1. **Secretary's Welcome**

The meeting started at 10:30. The Secretary welcomed all members present and checked that everyone had signed in.

Count of Attending Members

There were 9 members present with no guests.

Any new A.O.B. items to add

The following new items were added to the agenda:

- d) Clothing for the EA Section (t shirts, sweatshirts etc)
- e) Facebook – Applications for acceptance to the Facebook Group
- f) Tickets for the NEC
- g) Updating of Bank Mandate

2. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from

3. **Minutes of the Last AGM**

The minutes have been available on the web site for the members to view. A copy of the Minutes was available at the meeting for anyone who had not seen them.

4. **Adoption of the Minutes**

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

Proposed to adopt the minutes:

Dik Langan

Seconded:

Amanda Langan

The minutes were adopted by the members present.

5. **Matters Arising from the last AGM Minutes**

As there were a few items from last year (2019) each one was assigned a reference in the minutes. Here are the current status of each:

2016G (List of previous winners on website) Still ongoing

2021A (Book Hall & Woolpack for 2022 AGM)

2021B (Announce Trophies at the Xmas meal)

6. Annual Reports

a) The Secretary (Cliff Hoy)

The last two years have, to say the least, been very strange for all of us here. Dik was in place as Secretary from the last AGM held in October 2019 until July 2020 and I was co-opted as Secretary in July 2020. The 2020 AGM, although planned, was cancelled due to Covid.

Dik still remains as Membership Secretary and also our representative on the National Committee. I'd like to take the opportunity at this point to thank Dik, on behalf of the committee and the Section members, for the hard work he has put in over the years as secretary.

During the period from October 2019 to July 2020 there was little happening from the East Anglian Sections perspective, primarily due to Covid, so there is nothing to report on.

During the period from July 2020 until now, the committee have held three meetings, all by Zoom. The committee meetings held in the future are likely to return to face to face meetings, around the time of the National Committee Meetings, although Zoom will continue to be utilised where necessary.

Kieron Haines has advised the committee that he will be stepping down as Assistant Social Secretary, which is effective from the date of the AGM. I'd like to thank Kieron on behalf of the Section for the support he has provided in this role.

We do however, have a nominee for Assistant Social Secretary for the coming year.

That is the end of my report – are there any question relating to my report?

b) The Membership Secretary (Dik Langan)

Apologies:

Alan Gosling, Barry & Christine Cornish, Harry Godwin, Richard Hird, Chris Duvenhage, John Clark, David Young, Bob Anne Townley, Mark Dutton, Peter Read, Trevor Smith, Bill Beacham, Dave White & Ken Buchanan.

Membership

This year we have (as of the 1st of October) 309 full and 70 associate members. Last year we didn't record the figures (as there was no AGM) but in 2019 we had 306 full and 63 associate members. Admittedly this year we have already had the Copdock show, which incidentally resulted in 5 new members, but considering that the Club as a whole is reporting an overall decline in members over the past years, the fact that we are in fact increasing our numbers shows what a strong section we have.

National Committee

Over the past couple of years we have been using Zoom for the NCMs where we could not meet face-to-face (due to COVID of course) and these have, on the whole, worked very well. The face-to-face meetings have started up again and the October one is on the 30th. One thing you may have seen in the Journal is that I have been co-opted on to the National team of Club officers as Technology officer which is largely in recognition of the fact that I still run most of the Club's IT.

Webmaster

The web site is well overdue for a refresh, I know, but I have been putting this off as the whole Club now has a new logo and all the webmasters have to find a way to fit this new tall shape into our wide banners. I hope to discuss this with the other webmasters in the coming months and find a way forward. As part of this I also intend to see if we can resurrect the

George Saunders Shield (which used to be known as the East Anglia Trophy) Challenge. Let's see how that goes.

Xmas meal

Everything is pointing to this being a goer so we will start taking bookings. Numbers are limited to 120 but we don't anticipate filling the venue (though of course it would be nice). The committee have agreed to subsidise the meal so that it will be £18 per person and I am able to take your bookings today, the forms will be on the web site this week if you need time to think about it.

c) The Treasurer (Amanda Langan)

The last time I presented the Section accounts was at the October 2019 AGM, and then the world, and my personal circumstances, changed.

Although I produced a set of accounts for the year ending 30th September 2020 in the chaos that was the pandemic, and because I was undergoing treatment for breast cancer from June 2020 onwards, they weren't finalised and submitted to the National Treasurer for consolidation until February 2021 when I had got through chemotherapy, surgery and radiotherapy and I was starting to feel a bit more "normal" again.

This year I am, therefore, publishing both the 2020 and 2021 accounts.

Our accounts up to 30th September 2020 were, in the circumstances, quite normal for our Section. Christmas lunch expenditure always appear in arrears so the figures in this set of accounts were for the 2019 lunch, which was the last one held at The Bull in Long Melford. The subsequent donation to the East Anglian Air Ambulance from the raffle proceeds was rounded up to £200.

The drop in interest was due to the drop in the credit interest rate from 0.20% to 0.01% at the end of June 2020. This has meant that from July 2020 onwards we are only earning 1p per month in credit interest.

It is gratifying to see that, thanks to the sterling work by members who turn out to the regular bike shows where we have stands, our capitation income continues to rise.

Expenditure in the 2020 accounts is in line with previous years. Most of the expenditure is reflected in arrears so is up to the end of the 2019 calendar year, before everything changed. The accounts reflected a small surplus at year end of £341.81.

Turning to the 2021 accounts, and despite the pandemic, our capitation income increased again by a little over 20%, amazing in the circumstances.

Many of our usual expenditure categories are zero for this year's accounts, reflecting the national lockdowns and lack of many of our usual events.

The national club's 70th anniversary was celebrated in East Anglia at an event at the Mid Suffolk Light Railway, which was well received. In recognition of the efforts of the Railways' volunteers on the day the committee decided to make a one off donation to their funds in the sum of £250, and this is reflected in the accounts.

As a result of the much reduced activity during this period we have ended the year with a much larger surplus than normal of £1,152.23.

The balance sheet shows the Section has funds of £5,089.63 across our two bank accounts and in petty cash.

Finally I am giving notice that the 2021 - 2022 accounts period will be my last as East Anglia Section Treasurer. I took over from Jenny as Treasurer for the 2014 - 2015 year. Having

done 6 years in the role, and with two episodes of primary breast cancer under my belt, I feel it is time to hand over the reins to a new Treasurer.

I am pleased to be leaving the accounts in a very healthy state. I will work with the new Treasurer to help produce next year's accounts, so that they get a good handover period. I will be happy to answer questions on the accounts preparation after that but my formal involvement in the Section will cease after the 2022 AGM and I shall be stepping down from the committee as well.

I have enjoyed my time as Treasurer and I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for the support that I have received during my time in the role, particularly during the past couple of years whilst I saw off yet another episode of primary breast cancer.

Presented at AGM on Sun 10th October 2021. AJL

d) The Social Secretary (Ian Sparks)

It's been a long two years since the start of the first lockdown. We've had shut down, partial open, shut down, open, shut down etc etc and it's created havoc with trying to keep a Social Diary going. Our hosts at the meeting venues were unsure what to do and when, it frustrating. However, we managed some events and meetings and since the end of the last lockdown, we've started to get back to normal.

We managed to appear at the Stonham Barns Motorcycle Show, the Museum of Power Langford Classic Show and the Copdock Motorcycle Show. Thanks go to Bob and Ann for Langford and to Dik for Copdock organizing our stalls. We also ran the 70th Anniversary of the BMW Club at the Mid Suffolk Light Railway and have been invited back there for 2022, so we'll try and make it better and bigger. Over the last two years of Covid havoc, we've managed to hold or attend 40 events and meets and surprisingly they've been divided equally North and South.

Next year needs to be reinvented. We have a core of about 30 people who attend our meets, but these are turning into Sunday Lunch meets and the emphasis of this is causing some members to decline to turn out. The Section has about 350 members and there is a need for us to reach out to the missing majority to get them on board. The Anniversary was a classic example of this. We had 44 members turn out for the day, plus about another 30 bikers of different persuasions, yet some of our members still decided to go for a Sunday Lunch meet and pass nearby to the Anniversary. Personal decisions are correct and we should uphold those virtues, but we even had an extra meet at the Norfolk Motorcycle Museum and 3 members turned up...all from Essex riding 80 miles there!!!!!!

As I say, next year needs to be reinvented. Yes, there will be the moans and groans saying "we've been going there for umpteen years, why change?" Change is needed in a modern world. Not every member wants to go for a Sunday Lunch at every meet. We have members asking for rideouts and visits to places of interest and even drop in or using the new word Pop Up café meets.

Over the winter we shall be looking at ideas of how to find the middle ground in this. We'll see what can be achieved. Although it can and does work, having two events on one day, one North and one South, could have the inevitable problem of dividing the Section.

e) The VCR Section Rep (Vacant)

The VCR Section Rep is still vacant so no report was submitted

7. Adoption of the Reports

To reduce time the Secretary's, Treasurer's and Social Secretary's Reports were adopted together in one vote as is now our practice.

Proposed to accept the Officers' reports: **Cliff Batley**
Seconded: **Martin Parker**

The meeting voted to accept the presented reports unopposed and the Accounts were also officially signed.

8. Election of Officers

The nomination for Secretary ~ Cliff Hoy
Nominated by: **Dik Langan**
Seconded: **Ian Sparks**

The meeting voted to accept the nomination unopposed

The nomination for Social Secretary ~ Ian Sparks
Nominated by: **Cliff Hoy**
Seconded: **Dik Langan**

The meeting voted to accept the nomination unopposed

The nomination for Treasurer ~ Amanda Langan
Nominated by: **Dik Langan**
Seconded: **Ian Sparks**

The meeting voted to accept the nomination unopposed

The nomination for National Committee Representative, Membership Secretary & Web Master ~ Dik Langan
Nominated by: **Ian Sparks**
Seconded: **Amanda Langan**

The meeting voted to accept the nomination unopposed

The nomination for Assistant Social Secretary ~ Mike Dignum
Nominated by: **Cliff Hoy**
Seconded: **Ian Sparks**

The meeting voted to accept the nomination unopposed

The nomination for Quarter Master ~ Kenneth Buchanan
Nominated by: **Cliff Hoy**
Seconded: **Dik Langan**

The meeting voted to accept the nomination unopposed

9. Any Other Business

The secretary reminded the meeting that these items were for discussion rather than requiring a vote.

a) Replacement for Treasurer from October 2022

Amanda advised the members that, with effect from October 2022, she would be stepping down as Treasurer. She advised that section accounts were in a good position and that she would be willing to work with and support any member that wished to take on this role.

b) Nominations for Awards and Prizes

Hardman Trophy

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

- Dave White after continuing to ride home on his bike after a retina detached, whilst he was riding.

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.

- Ian Sparks for riding from the Copdock show to collect the refreshments for those section members that were attending the show, that had been left there (see Spanner in the Works, below).

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 Langan for leaving the refreshments at home that should have been taken to the Copdock show, for those section members that were attending the show (see Spirit of the Section, above).

As the George Saunders Trophy challenge was not run again this year there was no recipient.

c) Xmas lunch (Dik Langan)

This year's Xmas lunch follows the same format as last year. It will be noon on December 5th at The Bull at the slightly higher price of £18 per person which is still quite a saving on the published price of £24 per person. I have some forms here and they will be available online shortly after the meeting. We prefer payment by bank transfer but can take cash here or cheques by post.

d) Clothing for the EA Section (Ian Sparks)

Ian asked that consideration be given to the provision of clothing such as t-shirts, sweatshirts etc. adorned with the EA Section and BMW Club logos for use by members, generally, and at events. Ian said that this may help with advertising the club and section helping to attract new members.

A general discussion ensued with Cliff Batley advising that this had been raised previously as a National Initiative but that nothing had been ultimately finalised. Cliff Bastley suggested that Dik could raise this at the next National Committee meeting as an A.O.B. item and it was agreed that this would be actioned.

e) Facebook (Ian Sparks)

Ian advised that he was receiving requests to join the section Facebook group and that, on further investigation, it was found that, in some cases, the requests were from people believing that the group was for BMW Car Drivers and not BMW Motorcyclists. Ian asked if it was possible for the group name to be changed to reflect that it was a motorcycle group. Dik advised that the Facebook group required a series of questions to be answered before the applicant could be approved and that one of these questions asked the applicant to confirm that they understood the group was relevant to motorcyclists. Cliff Batley also advised that it would not be possible to change the group name due to the constraints placed by BMW corporate.

f) Tickets for the NEC (Dik Langan)

Dik will be attending the show to help man the Club stand. Please don't forget to buy your tickets through the club as they are available already.

g) Updating of Bank Mandate (Amanda Langan)

Amanda advised that it was necessary to update the bank mandate details, as this was a requirement of HSBC. Whilst there was no need to formally vote on this item, the members agreed on the proposals. The necessary forms were made available and signed by Cliff Hoy (secretary) and Ian Sparks (social secretary).

h) Ad-hoc discussions that followed

Mike Davies asked about the role of Ken Buchanan as Quartermaster. – Dik confirmed that, in addition to ken's role as Quartermaster he also held a position dealing with DVLA enquiries. Dik also advised that the club assets were safely stored.

10. Next AGM Date and Venue

We will book the hall for the second weekend in October (so Sunday 9th).

At that meeting we will need to check that the following actions have been completed:

Ref	Action	Who
2016G	(Carried from 2016 AGM) Publish list of previous Trophy winners	Dik Langan
2021A	Book hall and inform Woolpack of next AGM	Cliff Hoy
2021B	Announce winners of Section Awards at Christmas meal	Dik Langan

11. Meeting close

There were no other items for discussion and the meeting closed at 11:35 a.m.