



The BMW Club

East Anglia Section

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 9th October 2022

Held at Fornham St Martin Village Hall

1. Secretary's Welcome

With the agreement of everyone present, the meeting started at 10:45. The Secretary welcomed all members present and checked that everyone had signed in.

Count of Attending Members

There were 25 members present, with no guests, including one late arrival

Any new A.O.B. items to add

The following new items were added to the agenda:

- Mike Davies asked for the opportunity to thank the committee

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Harry Godwin, Bill Beacham, Trevor Smith, Dave Young, Martyn & Veda Parker, Anne & Bob Townley, Dave White and Mike Dignum

3. Minutes of the Last AGM

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

A show of hands for the adoption of the Minutes was taken: Accepted 24, Abstentions none, Against none. The minutes were adopted.

4. Matters Arising from the last AGM Minutes

Ref	Action	Who
2016G	Publish list of previous Trophy winners on website	Dik Langan
2021A	Book Room & Woolpack for 2022 AGM	Cliff Hoy
2021B	Announce winners of Section Awards at Christmas meal	Dik Langan
2021C	Find a replacement treasurer	Committee

2016G – Dik apologised that this was still outstanding, but that this would be addressed as soon as possible.

2021A, B, C – all completed.

5. Annual Reports

a) The Secretary (Cliff Hoy)

Welcome and thank you all for coming along to the East Anglia Section 2022 AGM

This year, the committee have met 4 times, three by Zoom and one face to face meeting. The face-to-face meeting was very productive and enjoyable and I'm sure that moving forward face-to-face committee meetings will be the norm again.

Socially, with the regular weekday and weekend meets, as well as the additional and ad-hoc meets that have been organised, I feel that this year has been a good year for the section, for which we have Ian and Mike to thank. Ian will provide a more detailed update in his report.

This AGM is my last as Secretary but fortunately we have a very able nominee for the position. I'd like to personally thank all the committee members Dik, Amanda, Ian, Mike and Ken for their valued support during the two years that have I been the section secretary.

b) The Membership Secretary (Dik Langan)

Membership

As of September 30th, we have 394 member (323 full and 71 associates). This is the highest figure since 2012! This is also the trend for the club as a whole which is encouraging, in fact the Northern section (Lancashire, Cumbria, Isle of Man etc) are about to overtake us as the section with the most members. This is almost entirely due to a deal they have struck up with their local dealer where someone in the section runs a monthly ride-out starting and ending at the dealership, in return the dealer pays for a year of membership for anyone buying a bike there. As a committee we think we might, right now, have an opportunity to approach the new owners of the dealership that was Cannons, now known as Sycamore. All we need is a volunteer (or two) to lead some ride-out's starting in Braintree.

National Committee

With regards the NCM and Webmaster roles, well I am afraid there is not much to report: as always if there is something you wish me to mention at National level please contact me and I promise you will have it raised. If there is anyone prepared to take on the website then I would welcome a volunteer but I believe it is fulfilling its role at the moment even though it does not look great.

Xmas Meal

Finally I just want to remind everyone that I have the Christmas Meal menus with me and the card reader to take bookings and payments - it is £20 per head if you book before November 21st.

Motorcycle Live

And of course don't forget the Motorcycle Live show will be on in November, tickets will be on sale soon through the National Treasurer - they are cheaper than you can get from most outlets and by buying the tickets you are subsidising the cost of our stand from which we always, as a section, gain a lot of new members through.

c) The Treasurer (Amanda Langan)

After 8 years this is my final time presenting the accounts for the East Anglia Section.

I am indebted to Peter Wilson, the incoming Treasurer, for his assistance in dealing with the stock of Regalia in this year's accounts. It is not something that I'd dealt with before and I wasn't sure how to record it.

He has been kind enough to suggest some changes to the layout of the accounts, particularly with how the finances for our Christmas Lunch are recorded which makes the amount that we are subsidising it each year much easier to see.

I must apologise for the fact that I clean forgot to pay over last year's Christmas Lunch raffle proceeds to the East Anglian Air Ambulance. I have now done this and it will show in next year's accounts.

You will notice that one of Peter's suggestions is for the items in the statement of expenditure to be shown in decreasing cost order, making it more obvious where our funds are being spent.

Postage of new member packs is always going to be near the top because we continue to grow as a Section - which can only be good news.

The New Year's Day Ride Out costs increased this year because a decision was taken to pay for the riders' lunches this year.

We are due a refund shortly of the pitch charge for the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Run, after it was cancelled during the period of national mourning following the Queen's death, and that will show in next year's accounts.

The cost of our Freephone number has risen slightly this year after the cost was increased by 18p per month, which in this day and age is neither here nor there.

A decision was taken by the committee this year to purchase a SumUP debit and credit card reader. Dik has now configured it to pay the proceeds directly into the Section bank account. This means that you can pay for any regalia purchases, and for your Christmas Lunch deposits, using your card. If you'd prefer not to pay by card for these items, please pay directly into our Section bank account. The bank details are now given at the bottom of the Christmas menu form.

HSBC have introduced a £5 a month service charge for our current account and we will also be charged for any deposits made at the bank, so please avoid paying by cash or cheque as much as possible.

To be clear you will not be able to pay for your membership using the card reader, because those funds go to into a separate, national, bank account. We would ask you to renew your membership online please, because it makes the processing of your subs much more straightforward and less costly.

As you will see we have nearly £5,500 in the bank. This money is for the Section's benefit so please spend it!

I have enjoyed my time as Treasurer but life moves on and it's time for me to step down.

Questions for the Treasurer / Committee

Freephone Number

A question was asked from the floor concerning the continued requirement and use of the Freephone number. Dik advised the meeting that the number was currently published on section publicity material, however, the number of calls received on the number was low. It was agreed that it was now an appropriate time to phase out the Freephone number and that Dik would investigate this.

EHAA – Harwich Run Pitch Fee

A proposal was made from the floor that the fee the section paid to attend the Harwich run,

which was cancelled, should be donated to the EHHA. The purpose of the run was to raise funds for the EHAA and, with the EA Section bank account showing a healthy balance, did the section need the pitch fee of £150, to be returned to them?

It was agreed to include this in any AOB for a vote to be taken on the proposal

d) The Social Secretary (Ian Sparks)

This last year has seen a move toward more meets at interesting places with the fourth and fifth Sundays utilised to this effect. The move has been a success among a large section of members and more meets/events are being readied for next year. The normal Sunday/Wednesday pub meets have been running without too many problems.

We shall be looking towards adding more ride outs to the calendar as requested by many members. The only problem arising from this is the need for people to help to run the ride outs. Our Section is very large in area, and we need to localise ride outs to the three main Counties to make them viable. Finding members willing to help is always an issue, but we will carry on and see how things work out. If you are interested in helping run a ride out in your area, please contact the Social Secretary and chat about the details.

I ask that if a member has an idea for a visit to a place of interest etc, again contact the Social Secretary and it will be looked into to see if it is a good prospect. All ideas will be looked at.

The Section has been very active in attending several Bike Shows over the year which have resulted in enrolling a sizeable number of new members. My thanks go to the members who have helped at these.

I have been incredibly lucky to have an assistant this year in Michael Dignum who has worked hard to ensure that the Social Calendar is full, and the meets are worthwhile.

It is possible that at this AGM my 4-year tenure in this position may be ending, but I know that there is a very capable person in the wings to take over.

Questions for the Social Sec / Committee

Cliff Batley pointed out that previous hotel weekends had been very successful and still are for other sections so we should look to organise one. The committee agreed that this was a good idea and just need a volunteer to take it on. Nigel Burrows suggested looking to an organisation to arrange such events. Dale Welch suggested approaching the dealerships to see if they would be interested in helping organise one.

Malcolm asked if all dealerships in the section offered discount to club members as he had heard that Sycamore in Peterborough do not. Ian said that all dealers have agreed to provide discount on parts but not labour. It was agreed that getting this in writing to avoid confusion (if a member of staff is not aware for example) would be good.

6. 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.

The meeting voted to accept the presented reports unanimously

7. Signing of the Accounts

The accounts were signed off by Amanda Langan (Treasurer) and Cliff Hoy (Secretary).

8. Election of Officers

The nomination for Secretary ~ Ian Sparks
Nominated by:

Cliff Hoy

Seconded: **Dik Langan**

The meeting voted to accept the nomination unopposed.

The nomination for Social Secretary ~ Mike Dignum

Nominated by: **Ian Sparks**

Seconded: **Cliff Hoy**

The meeting voted to accept the nomination unopposed.

The nomination for Treasurer ~ Peter Wilson

Nominated by: **Amanda Langan**

Seconded: **Cliff Hoy**

The meeting voted to accept the nomination unopposed.

The nomination for Committee member ~ Ken Buchanan

Nominated by: **Cliff Hoy**

Seconded: **Dik Langan**

The meeting voted to accept the nomination unopposed

9. Election Proposal to make Heather Purcell an Honorary Section Member (Dik Langan)

Dik invited Malcolm Tuffin to explain the reasons for this proposal, which is primarily to do with the work that Heather and Hugh had put in to running the East Anglian VCR section. There was further discussion and recognition amongst the members and support for this proposal.

This was proposed by Malcolm and seconded by Dik. The meeting voted to accept the proposal unanimously

10. Any Other Business

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

a) Recognition of Committee (Mike Davies)

Mike Davies thanked the committee for the work that they have carried out in keeping the section running and asked that the members joined in him a vote of thanks.

b) Award Nominations (Dik Langan)

i Hardman Trophy – Dave Wright nominated

ii Spirit of the Section – Bob and Anne Townley nominated for the Langford Show

iii Spanner in the Works – Peter Wilson and Dik Langan nominated – EHA Harwich mix up

c) Christmas Meal (Dik Langan)

This year's Xmas lunch follows the same format as last year. It will be noon on 4th December at The Bull at the subsidised price of £20. I have some forms here and they will be available online shortly after the meeting. We prefer payment by bank transfer or credit card / debit card, which we can take today. You can also pay by cash today or cheques by post.

d) EHAAT Harwich Pitch Fee

Proposal for the pitch fee paid by the section for the cancelled EHAAT Harwich run to be returned to / kept by the EHAAT

Nominated by: **Stephen Thomson**

Seconded:

Amanda Langan

The meeting voted to accept the proposal

e) Ride outs etc (Nigel Burrows)

A healthy discussion around Ride outs and Camping / Hotel weekends, with contributions from members and particular contributions from Nigel Burrows and Cliff Batley, took place. Cliff raised the point that, unlike other sections, the EA section no longer organised camping or hotel weekends. Nigel also commented that, in the relatively short time that he had been a member, he had not seen any section ride outs organised, although he had seen there were regular section meets. Nigel raised concerns that there appeared to be no 'ride out code' for the club. Dik advised that there was an agreed and published code, on the website, for all club rides, but acknowledged that as Nigel had raised the concern that maybe the code wasn't visible enough.

The discussions confirmed that it was possible for any section member to organise a camping / hotel weekend away, or indeed, ride outs as long as club guidelines were followed. It was suggested that maybe a section events / ride out co-ordinator may be the way forward, however, this would require one or more volunteers.

Dean Coston advised that he was prepared to organise ride outs in the north i.e. Norfolk area.

Dik will investigate making the club ride out policy more visible on the website and will also write out to section members seeking views of what they would like re: ride outs etc.

Ian suggested we send out an email with a poll attached so the members could express their interest in the various options.

f) Round Britain Ride (Peter Wilson)

Peter provided a little summary of his background and why he was comfortable taking on the Treasurer role. He then went on to describe the Round Britain Ride that he has organised for next year (2023).

11. Next AGM Date and Venue

Same location, with a provisional date of the third Sunday in October, so 15th October 2023. The reason for the change from the second Sunday to the third Sunday was to allow time for the accounts to be reviewed before the date of the AGM.

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

Ref	Action	Who
2016G	Publish list of previous Trophy winners on the website	Dik Langan
2022A	Book hall and inform Woolpack of next AGM	Ian Sparks
2022B	Announce winners of Section Awards at Christmas meal	Dik Langan
2022C	Advise Heather that she has been made an honorary member	Dik Langan
2022D	Investigate the need for and remove the Freephone number	Dik Langan
2022E	Return Harwich pitch fee to EHAAT as donation from the section	Treasurer
2022F	Update website to ensure club ride out policy is visible	Dik Langan
2022G	Write to section members seeking their views on ride outs etc.	Ian Sparks

12. Meeting Close

There were no other items for discussion and the meeting closed at 12.00 p.m.