

MINUTES OF AGM MEETING ON 8.10.2023

Held at Fornham St Martin Village Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

Starting at 10.35am, after a Health and Safety Notice to the 24 attendees there was a very respectable Minutes Silence for the loss of Section Members Kieran and Sharron Haines who lost their lives in a tragic accident whilst on a touring holiday in Spain.

1... The Secretary welcomed the members to the meeting, noted the attendance and asked for any other business matters to be cited, there were none.

2... Apologies for absence were received from: Ken Buchanan, Rob and Jane Pauley, John Albone, Malcolm and Val Tuffin and Bob Hunter.

3... The minutes of the previous year's AGM were distributed for perusal. Nigel Burrows asked for earlier presentation of the minutes next year and the Secretary agreed.

4... No matters were heard from the minutes, and they were proposed by Dale Welch seconded by Stephen Thomson and adopted by vote by the members.

5... Secretary: The Secretary then read his report of the year. He outlined decisions made by the Committee through the year, one of which was the re-iteration of the purpose of a possible subsidy for Section events and outlined the procedure for an organiser of an event to contact the Social Secretary only who would then take this to the Committee for a decision. A Member survey was outlined which would try and find out what members want from the Section. It as noted that the survey would encompass all types of members and different requirements as needed. The Secretary informed the meeting that six 'pop up' style stools had been bought for use at Shows etc, six Hi-Viz vests with Section details thereon had also been purchased for use at Shows, ride-outs etc. These were handed over to the Social Secretary for distribution as and when needed. The meeting was also told that newer 'leaf' flags were to be purchased for the Section use as the old ones had some outdated info on them.

No matters arose.

Social Secretary: Michael Dignum then outlined the events, meets and Shows that the Section had participated in over the past year. He carried on by

outlining some of the thoughts that he had for possible events/meets in the coming year including visits to Sammy Millers Museum in Hampshire with the possibility of a weekend stay, a meet at the American Diner in Marks Tey at the end of October, participation of several members in the Iron Butt Challenge 2024, a possible meet at the Acle Bridge PH in November and a visit to the Tank Museum at Bovington also including a possible weekend stay.

Stephen Thomson asked as to why we had not attended the Essex Ambulance Motorcycle Show in September. He was informed by the Secretary that we had tried to get a stall at the site, but for some reason emails had been missed and we were contacted with only two weeks of time available and there was no way that the Section could have arranged a display in time. We would try again next year. The Social Secretary informed the meeting that a number of members had attended the event under their own steam.

Membership Secretary: Dik Langan informed the meeting of the current number of members in the Section, 313 Full members and 62 Associate's for a total of 375. The National Club was to re-introduce membership renewals to occur at the start of the year and drop the renewals which fell during the year. There were plans in place to slowly implement this idea, but it would take a while for it to happen. Dik then outlined the National Committee member role he had stating that personal issues had caused him to miss a couple of meetings, but Cliff Batley was prepared to stand in when needed. He noted that the agenda for the forthcoming National Committee Meeting included items on the cost of the National Committee meetings, possible change to the National Rally format, he outlined the Global BMW awards and mentioned a possible change to the editor of The Journal.

No matters arose.

Treasurer: Peter Wilson outlined the Account sheet as presented which shows a very healthy balance held at the Bank. Graham Ward queried the cost of postage as being very high. Dik Langan explained that a lot of the cost was taken up by the requirement to send out a Welcome Pack to new members by mail. It was asked if another postal/courier service could affect this cheaper but again it was explained that their costs would exceed the Royal Mail due the small number sent out at one time. Peter outlined the reason for switching the Section Account to Lloyds Bank mainly because our previous bankers had decided to monthly charge the Section on holding our account.

No other matters arose.

As is normal, all the Officers reports were voted with Cliff Hoy proposing and Dale Welch seconding and a vote adopted those reports.

Trevor Smith then asked for a vote of thanks be given to the Committee for their work throughout the year. This was unanimously agreed by the meeting.

6... Election of Officers:

All the sitting Officers wished to continue in their role for the next year.

Secretary: Ian Sparks Proposed by Dik Langan and seconded by Dale Welch

Social Secretary: Michael Dignum Proposed by Ian Sparks and seconded by Dik Langan

Membership Secretary: Dik Langan Proposed by Cliff Hoy and seconded by Michael Dignum. Dik announced that would be his last year in this position.

Treasurer: Peter Wilson Proposed by Dik Langan and seconded by Ian Sparks.

Committee: At Present... Cliff Hoy and Ken Buchanan who both wished to continue. Cliff Batley was proposed to be added to the Committee by Dik Langan and seconded by Cliff Hoy

National Committee member: Dik Langan Proposed by Cliff Hoy and seconded by Cliff Batley

A proposal was then taken put forward by Stephen Thompson to adopt all those members into the positions and seconded by Mike Davies.

The vote was carried.

7... Ride-outs: Nigel Burrows then spoke about the Ride-outs that he and others had arranged during the past year namely:

Duxford Visit by Trevor Smith, Attleborough Café by Michael Dignum, Dave Silver Museum by Nigel Burrows, Triumph experience by Michael Dignum, Andy Tiernan Museum by Nigel Burrows, Munchies by Ian Sparks and Shuttleworth collection by Nigel Burrows.

He stated that he intends to try and run 3 more Ride-outs next year. He then spoke about the publicity for such events stating that Facebook was really no use and the Whatsapp only had a few members on the site at present. He asked for details to be put into The Journal but was informed that The Journal required any details for publication to be sent to the Editor by the 5th of the month previous to the event or it could not be entered. He criticised the Committee for failing to act on emails etc not being answered, but it was pointed out that sending emails etc to several members of the Committee was unhelpful as it caused confusion as to who was dealing. The Social Secretary was the main person to be contacted. He then asked if just one Committee member could be allocated the job of arranging the details of publicity, subsidies etc but Dik explained that they were a Committee decision and were discussed at Committee meetings or sent round via email for members views within a time limit.

Several members then joined in with suggestions of modest International trips. Cliff Batley noted this and said he may arrange one in the future as per he had in the past. Cliff Batley said that there were no weekend camps, hotels etc from the Section. Peter Wilson and Cliff Hoy then stated that Peter Wilson had run a ride with hotels which had lasted over a number of days in a Round Britain trip and it had been well used.

Dik noted the email problem and said that he would try sending out emails to members on a regular monthly timing with info instead of sending them out as and when. Michael Dignum stated that he would send out an email to members to try and get them to join the Whatsapp site as it was working well although it needed some tweaking to ensure that it was used correctly to publicise events/meets/ ride-outs instead of being used for other types of messages.

It was asked if a Yearly Calendar could be produced and sent around to members so that they could see what was available. It was noted that the Section Website had a Calendar already on it showing upcoming events etc.

8... Any other business: The Xmas dinner had been booked at The Bull in Long Melford for Sunday 10 October and details would be circulated later.

The date of the next AGM was agreed to be Sunday 13 October 2024 at the Fornham St Martin Village Hall.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 11.47am.