



The BMW Club Annual General Meeting

Saturday 27th April 2024

Registration from 10:00

Commencing @ 11:30

Venue

The Canberra Club,
1 Myerscough Smithy Rd,
Balderstone,
Myerscough Smithy,
Blackburn
BB2 7LE



The BMW Club
United Kingdom & Ireland



AGENDA

- 1: President's Welcome
- 2: Apologies for Absence
- 3: Appointment of Tellers
- 4: Approval of the minutes of the 2023 Annual General meeting. Page - 3
- 5: Matters arising from those Minutes
- 6: Count of members present by Section
- 7: Reports (in writing) from:
 - President - Page - 6
 - General Secretary - Page - 6
 - Editor - Page - 6
 - Social Secretary - Page - 7
 - Membership Secretary - Page - 8
 - GS Register Secretary - Page - 8
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 - Tool Hire Secretary - Page - 10
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 - Treasurer's Report - Page - 11
 - Accounts for year ending 30th September 2023 (in separate document)
- 8: Appointment of Accountants for the following year - Page - 12
- 9: Confirm the Subscriptions from 1st October 2024 according to Club Rule 10 - Page - 12
- 10: Election of Club Officers for 2024 to 2025

Position	Candidate	Proposer	Seconder
President	Judy Lepley	Ron Gow	Keith Walker
General Secretary			
Social Secretary	Jim Bettley	Erica Body	Gerri Chandler
Editor	Bruce Lepley	Piers Kurrein	Judith Jones
Membership Secretary	Colin Ross	Jim Lepley	Paul Rodriguez
Treasurer	Jim Lepley	Marjorie Burnett	Duncan Colburn
GS Register Secretary	Nev Jones	Bruce Lepley	Judith Jones
Sidecar Register Secretary	Keith Thomas	Paul Ennis	Martyn Aves
Sporting Register secretary	Robert Bensley	Stan Wood	Peter Jones
Vintage Register Secretary	Deneys Schreiner	Colin Ross	Sue Ross
Vice President	Jim Bettley	Erica Body	Gerri Chandler
	Ian Dobie	Geoff Clough	Steve Moxey

- 11: To fix a date for the 2025 Annual General Meeting
- 12: Any Other Business



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The BMW Motorcycle Club Limited held on 15th April 2023 at the Canberra Club, Blackburn

President's opening address

Judy Lepley welcomed members to the meeting and thanked them for attending. She thanked Lynn Sumner, Bob and Pam Harrison, the rest of the Northern Section and the Canberra Club staff for doing a superb job providing us with an excellent well organised weekend.

Apologies for Absence

Robert Freeman, Harvey and Dorrie Garton, Peter and Helen Fenner, Nigel MacDonald, Helen Beer, William Beacham, John Overton, Chris Carr, John Albone, David Shanks, Billy Chandler, Dave Adams Herbie Waser, Albert Connick, Bernie Skillen, Bryn Stanley, Paul Nash, John Dunne, Seamus Bourke, Mike Dignum, John Wright, Ray Cawte, Shaun & Brenda Mulligan, Nigel Selwood, Tim Balderston, Stuart Bradley, John King Deneys Schreiner, William Rodgers, Colin Strawn, Jillian Boreham, Andy and Jane Helsby, Mike and Peta Warrilow, Reg Moule, Bob Melvin and Barry Winter.

Appointment of Tellers

George Goldynek, Denis and Angela Rushton and Steve Haworth were appointed.

Approval of the Minutes of the 2022 AGM

On a proposal by Jim Bettley, seconded by Simon Johnston the minutes were accepted with 89 votes for and 1 against.

Matters arising from the Minutes

No matters were raised.

Count of Members present by section.

Section	Number of Full Members	Members Present at AGM	Number of Proxy Voters
East Anglia	306	4	0
HQ & Overseas	17	1	0
Irish	127	2	0
London	76	0	0
Mercia	113	3	0
Midland	203	3	2
North east	85	5	0
Northern	332	26	0
Oxford	204	3	9
Scottish	210	9	6
South East	147	0	0
South West	140	2	0
Southern	182	11	0
Ulster	172	1	0
Western	237	5	6
Yorkshire	201	9	1
TOTAL	2763	84	24



Officer's reports

President: Judy Lepley took questions from Ian Dobie regarding the shows we are planning to attend.

General Secretary: Stewart Lowthian added to his report that proxy voting suggested a caucus didn't want some of the national officers to remain in post but were not prepared to find candidates to supplant them. No questions were raised.

Editor: Bruce Lepley added to his report by stating that we need to use social media effectively which will require a team of volunteers. On a question from Charlie Hall regarding the frequency of publication Bruce stated that, as it would require a change to the Articles so it was down to the members. Robert Bensley questioned the wisdom of publishing less often, contending that it would impact on the success of social functions. Discussion regarding the use of social media followed with no conclusion being reached.

Social Secretary: Jim Bettley thanked the Northern Section for finding the venue. He gave an update on possible social events and asked for volunteers to lead ride-outs at the National Rally. He and the President need to meet with the Fire Service College to finalise details which will not stop the event taking place. The lack of support from BMW was commented on. He also stated that the 2024 National Rally was being organised and, on a question from the floor, stated that camping was available within walking distance. Difficulties with our relationships with dealers were raised, with the Northern Section's relationship with Bowker Motorrad being a welcome exception. Issues of member retention were raised with Dik Langan (East Anglia membership secretary) and Sue Ross (Western membership secretary) saying what actions they took when members didn't renew. Colin Ross gave the rough portion of new members that are retained after the first year as 30%.

Membership Secretary: Colin Ross thanked Dik Langan for his assistance with the membership database. He described how free memberships were to be processed. There were no questions on the subject. He continued to explain the change in the club's position on Journal insertions and that now they were simplified so that the cost of insertions in The Journal will be £0.78 per insertion, payable by the requesting section going forward. On a clarification from Ian Dobie, it was confirmed that the cost was £0.78 per member per insertion. Colin pointed out that this was still cheaper than the section independently posting such insertions by hand.

GS Register Secretary: Nev Jones's report was circulated with the agenda. No questions were raised.

Sporting Register Secretary: Robert Bensley's report was circulated with the agenda. Robert gave brief details of the current status of the track day bookings.

DVLA Liaison Officers: Robert Freeman's and Ken Buchanan's reports were circulated with the agenda. As neither was present, no questions could be asked.

Toolhire Officer: Mike Delacoe's report was circulated with the agenda. He noted that people were joining to access the toolhire scheme. He can make details of what has been hired available. No questions were raised.

Treasurer's report: Jim Lepley had nothing to add to his report except to say that nothing has improved. Ian Dobie questioned the 200% increase in the cost of the 2021 NEC show attended while he was President. Jim stated that this was during Covid and only a few members were signed up to offset the costs of attending. The 2022 show was much more successful. Dik Langan pointed out that the National Committee had voted to attend the event although numbers were expected to be low. It was suggested that we can't afford not to attend shows. On a proposal by Jim Lepley, seconded by Jim Bettley, it was agreed to accept the accounts with 97 votes in favour and 5 against.

Confirmation of accountants: Jim Lepley stated that the current cost of our accountancy and bookkeeping services is approximately two-thirds of the cost from our previous accountants 13 years ago. On a proposal by Jim Lepley, seconded by Dik Langan, it was agreed that Ross McConnell would be retained. Voting was 107 for and 2 against.



Confirmation of full member subscription: On a proposal from Jim Lepley, seconded by Jim Bettley, the proposal to raise the full member subscription from £32 to £35 was carried with 91 votes for and 8 against.

Confirmation of associate member subscription: On a proposal from Jim Lepley, seconded by Jim Bettley, the proposal to raise the associate member subscription from £3 to £4 was carried with 88 votes for and 10 against.

At this point Jim Bettley asked the members for their opinion on returning to the same venue in 2024. There was a consensus in favour.

Election of officers: As there were no contested posts Stewart Lowthian suggested that the meeting should follow the precedent set some years ago and save time by voting en bloc. This was accepted by 85 members with none against. All the candidates were thus duly elected.

Presentations:

After a short address detailing Cliff Batley's 18 years on the National Committee, five years as East Anglian rep then 13 years as a Vice-President missing only 2 or 3 meetings in all that time, Judy Lepley presented him with an engraved tankard as a token of the Club's appreciation for his time and dedication.

Robert Bensley accepted the Sporting Spirit trophy on behalf of Shaun Mulligan, who was not able to attend the meeting. Robert will present it to Shaun at the national rally in August.

Proposals to amend the MAA, each requiring a 75% majority to carry.

Stewart Lowthian explained the significance of a special resolution as the only way our Articles of Association could be changed. The two proposals were then discussed.

Proposal to amend Article 10: (Reverting to a fixed membership year) Colin Ross amplified his reasoning for proposing the change, adding that it was seconded by John Elvidge, his predecessor as National Membership Secretary. It was suggested from the floor that April would be a more appropriate time for renewals to take place. Colin responded by adding that approximately 50% of current members have an expiry date of 31st January making it the most effective choice. Questions of cost were raised and answered then a vote was taken. On a proposal from Colin Ross, seconded by John Elvidge, there were 82 votes for and 5 against the proposal. This is more than 75% for the proposal so it carried. Stewart Lowthian will amend the Articles of Association lodged with Companies House accordingly. The change in process will then be targeted for January 2024.

Proposal to amend Article 78: (Removing the word "Journal" from the cover of the magazine) Bruce Lepley explained his reasons for the proposal before inviting questions. Opinions for and against the proposal were raised by the members present. On a proposal by Bruce Lepley, seconded by Judy Lepley, there were 54 votes for and 41 against the proposal. As this is less than a 75% majority the proposal failed.

Date of next meeting: The 13th of April at the Canberra Club has been proposed.

Any Other Business:

Bob Ingram asked to make two points. His first was that Mike Delacoe is one of the Club's greatest assets and his second was to ask if it were possible to list the number of members in each section along with the count of those present.

The meeting closed at 14:50.



President's Report

It is now 2 years since Club Members elected a female President and despite dire predictions from a small number of people at the time The BMW Club is still alive and very much kicking. The Club has survived covid, the election of a female president and it will survive the increased costs caused by the economic situation after co-vid. However, I am concerned that there is a very small faction within the Club who seem hell bent on bringing the Club down.

Once again, this past year it has been a pleasure and a privilege to be part of the National Officers Team. Bruce, Colin, Jim B, Jim L and Stewart are a hardworking and diligent group who use their talents and knowledge to achieve the very best for our great Club.

The positive and forward looking feeling has continued throughout the Club. More activities and volunteers coming forward to organise them. Membership numbers steadily increasing over the past year.

As reported in the Journal the Club had a very successful presence at many Shows in 2023 and from reading reports and looking at the calendar many Sections plan to attend even more Shows in 2024. Attendance at these Shows and visits to Dealers brings our Club to the attention of the Motorcycling Fraternity and increases membership. Face to face contact with members and prospective members helps portray the positive image of our Club.

The Caledonia National Rally being held at Stirling University Venues in Scotland is well ahead in planning. It is unfortunate that, once again, we have not been able to find a venue that caters for both En-suite accommodation and camping. However, the lack of camping does not seem to be deterring members as bookings for the rally are dropping into Jim's in box and through the letter box daily.

I would remind Members that The BMW Motorcycle Club will be 75 years old in 2026 and if there is to be a rally which includes En-suite and camping a venue needs to be found and booked now.

The Club is very fortunate to have many volunteers who do a superb job for us without them there would be no Club and they all deserve a huge thank you from this AGM.

Our Club is moving forward and has a very bright future.

**Judy Lepley
Club President**

General Secretary's Report

It is with great sadness that we convey that our General Secretary, Stewart Lowthian, has lost his ongoing battle with cancer. He will be sorely missed by all and his phenomenal and invaluable work with the BMW Club will leave a near impossible hole to fill. Our thoughts are with his wife Gillian and family at this time.

However, we would like to assure the wider membership that behind-the-scenes workings at BMW Club HQ are running smoothly as possible and the club business will not suffer at this time.

As of the 1st of March 2024 the Club's Registered Address has changed to:

Registered Office: c/o BMF Head Office, Mallory Park Circuit, Church Road, Kirkby Mallory, Leicestershire LE9 7QE.

All official Club paperwork, email footers etc must show this address.

Editor's Report

A year in post as the official Editor and a Director, has not been without its trials and tribulations, but on the whole a very positive experience, and I'm sure most of the membership will agree, we're getting the job done well and to a high standard.

With the invaluable assistance of Judith Jones, Dik Langan, Judy Lepley and Piers Kurrien, we have produced a professional standard magazine each month on time, while also developing an actual digital version of it through a member only Facebook group page and managing all the pressures of our own private lives (saving lives for me!!).

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my apologies to the membership over the debacle of the FORMAL COMPLAINT brought against me by the Oxford Section Committee; This complaint originated from complete misunderstanding of the vote held at the 2023 AGM to remove from the MAA's the requirement for the magazine to be called the Journal and instead insert the wording 'Magazine of the B.M.W Motorcycle Club Ltd.', meaning it could still be called the Journal, just not be required to be. This misunderstanding in my opinion was further exacerbated by a select few attendees at the AGM filibustering during the discussion preceding the vote. This vote actually went in favour of removing the requirement but did not reach the required 75% to pass. The covers displayed on screen at the AGM were merely mock designs to show how it would look without the word 'Journal' on the cover, nothing more. The design of the front cover was set to change following the meeting in any case, and as you all will be aware, did change, however the word Journal was still emblazoned across the page, in a larger font size and taking up much

more of the page than it had been for the previous few years, albeit, with some backgrounds, a little obscured due to the colouring of the picture behind once printed (which is not something that is easily ascertained on a computer screen).

Steve Halliday on behalf of the Oxford Section Committee stating that my position as Editor was untenable, and requesting for me to step down immediately is a laughable situation, as every single point of their complaint was utterly incorrect and proven by our Vice Presidents as no complaint to answer. They then further pushed this and subverted the memberships wishes by ignoring the club's complaints procedure and tried to generate support for the insulting complaint by sending it out round the national committee and possibly further.

I hold no grudge; this complaint was fervently defeated; it was born of misunderstanding and misinformation. I would like to move forward from this near yearlong sorry situation and focus on making this club all it can be for its members, further build the membership, and display all your musings in a professional and innovative manner. The benefits of my Parents being members, and active officer bearers in this Club for a number of years are insurmountable, it keeps their brains ticking and their bodies moving, and I aim to support that as much as I am able, not only for them, but for every single one of you. This is a great club, a viable club, and from it there is so much positivity and friendship born.

We are still looking for a small working group to take forward the club's social media development, this is something that is and will become more essential as time moves on and future generations become interested in the club scene, the opportunities with this are endless and only limited by imagination. There are over 7000 people on the open social pages, that we are not engaging with effectively and therefore missing out on many more members, and importantly much more revenue to keep the club running.

7,300 members x £35 = £255,500

So far there have been a number of comments on the Club's new Facebook magazine page:

- Steve Moxey 'Thanks for adding me to the group. The December issue looks great, and I find I can read it easily on my iPad – well done'
- Ted Edwards 'Been a member for a few years now but still need to get out on an area ride. But that said, I enjoy receiving the magazine each month and I appreciate all the hard work that goes into creating it. Thanks to everyone that contributes to doing this. Happy New Year to everyone.'

• Peter Dunn 'Perfectly legible and easy to read on my phone.'

• Deneys Schreiner 'Looks Good.'

I would like to thank you all for having and entrusting me as the Editor for The BMW Club, and I look forward to the years and challenges to come.

Bruce Lepley

Editor - Vice President

Social Secretary's Report

Welcome to the Canberra Club, Samlesbury BB2 7LE. A great venue at a reasonable cost. I must thank Stephen and his team for another superb effort on our behalf in making sure we were made welcome and have everything in place.

My conversations with the BMW Car Club for their Sommerfest are ongoing but I am not making great progress. I had hoped to publish more details on how we can join them, but as I write this (at the end of January) there is very little to report. The event will be held at the Thruxton Race Circuit on the 15th and 16th of June 2024. It seems likely we will be given a display area for the weekend and invited to take part in several events such as parades and the like. I am also hoping to negotiate an opportunity for us to ride the circuit for a lap or two and this is now under consideration. Camping will be on offer with spaces for motorhomes and caravans. The entrance fee is published at £28 but I cannot see too many of members being prepared to pay this to help put on a display for the show. There has been talk of a reduced payment for our club members displaying, but nothing concrete as yet. I will keep you updated as things progress.

After that is the National Rally for 2024. This time we shall be at The University of Stirling in Scotland on the 16th to 19th August and as a result of our conversations regarding Sommerfest, it is possible that some of the car club members may want to come and join us. I welcome more interaction between the two clubs, especially as they are keen to form a larger pressure group with us to help with negotiations with BMW. The booking forms are already in the Journal. I would urge you to book early as this is already proving popular and room availability is not unlimited.

My thoughts are already on a venue for the next AGM as well as any suitable venues for another national rally in 2025. I would like to thank those that have already been in contact with me and ask if anyone has any ideas of possible venues please let me know. Finding one that meets all of our needs is no easy task.

Best wishes

Jim Bettley

National Social Secretary

National Membership Secretary's Report.

2023 / 2024 has been a very active period for me, not just in producing the monthly mailing list for the Journal but other activities as highlighted below. The number of emails I receive from members asking questions or requiring their data to be updated in the database is significant when in most cases the member is able to update their own details by logging on to their record or by contacting their section membership secretary.

Fixed Membership Year: As you should be aware it was agreed at the 2023 AGM that the Club reverts from the rolling membership year to a fixed membership year where all expiry dates will be 31st January of a given year. Obviously to make this happen required an update to the database which has gone relatively smoothly which is down to the assistance provided by Dik Langan and Jim Lepley by accessing a development version of the database. Officially the fixed membership year kicked in on 1st November 2023 where members would pay a fee which would take their membership through to 31st January 2025. There was significant number of references to the change to the fixed year in various copies of the Journal yet I received emails asking "why when I renewed, I did not get a full year's membership" even though they paid a reduced fee. One of the reasons to revert to the fixed year was the potential of a cost saving as a result of the reduced number of "splits" throughout the year by the mailing house. By the 2025 AGM we should hopefully be able to see this benefit come to fruition.

Complimentary Membership: In my report for the 2023 AGM I made reference to this subject and the need to make certain changes. Effectively, this year I have taken responsibility for renewing the membership of club officials who fulfil a role at national level (23) and those that are honorary members (12). By one person taking this responsibility it makes it much easier for changes to the respective positions to be updated as necessary. With respect to the sections, they are each entitled to 3 complimentary membership which usually go to the section social secretary, secretary and treasurer, in all cases it is the responsibility of the section to keep their records updated.

Renewal forms forwarded with the January Journal: It came to light in early January that the mailing house had forwarded renewal forms with this Journal that defined the incorrect renewal fee. The process of defining the respective splits that the mailing house carry out is defined in the mailing list forwarded to the mailing house. On receipt the

mailing house then produce sample proofs for me to check for errors and approve. The renewal notices that I checked defined the correct membership fees therefore it was the responsibility of the mailing house as the forms forwarded were different to those approved. It was considered inappropriate that members that use the renewal form and pay by cheque should have to resend the cost difference and the following was agreed:

The mailing house would forward corrected renewal forms to all those listed to receive the form plus a covering letter from myself advising members of the issue and that anyone using the form to renew via their membership processor would pay the fee defined on the original renewal form.

The mailing house agreed cover the cost difference so the club did not lose out financially.

In total the mailing house were advised that 142 members had taken advantage of the error which amounted to a deficit of £462 +VAT which was subsequently credited to the club.

Members renewing online were not affected by the error as the fees defined were correct.

Late Journal Delivery: Over the past year this is becoming more and more of an issue. In particular the forwarding of the February Journal for those members that had renewed and their new membership cards was forwarded with the above Journal. The number of emails received from members advising they had not received their Journal was significant some of which were very pointed expecting I was would able to resolve the issue. When the problem was first reported contact was made with the mailing house who advised that all Journals were despatched in a single box on 29th January, it was then in the hands of Royal Mail to expedite delivery. As a result of receiving so many emails the mailing house, as the sender, were requested on 14/2/24 to lodge a formal complaint with Royal Mail, which they have done but at the time of writing there has not been any response. As of 16/2/24 members continue to advise that Journals had not been received. This is not a localised problem as members from Southern to Scottish section have advised of non receipt.

Colin Ross

National Membership Secretary

GS Register Secretary's Report

I start my report by thanking all those who have helped and supported me during 2023 in the role of GS Register Secretary. I am standing for re-election for 2024-25.

Reports on 2023 Events

February 2023 BMW Club Rhino National Rally Beddgelert

This year one hotel was closed, and Hotel and B&B prices were high and availability low. Only about 25 members attended. The Register has again posted the event as a GS Register National Event for 2024. Should all go well the Register will continue to diarise the event year on year.

September 2023 The Sorebutts Rally (A Western Section nominated event)

Once again a good time was had by all despite the wet weather bits. A firm favourite with members.

Touring 2023

During late 2022 insufficient interest was expressed in a tour of Wallonia in early 2023. As a result this European tour was removed from 2023's diary of events.

Touring 2024

A decision has been made to run a Tour of the Ardennes in May of 2024. Details available on the member's Facebook page, The club's website diary and the GS Register Facebook Page.

The National Rallies

These comprise The Welsh National Rally, The English National Rally and The Scottish National Rally. Many GS Register members have competed in these events in the past. All three are said to be running again in 2024 and we encourage members to have a go as they are enjoyable.

GS Register website

A competent volunteer is needed to run the website. In the absence of a volunteer a decision will need to be made whether to delete the current site. Maintenance is difficult and requires too much time.

GS Register Facebook Page

We now have 2200 Facebook members on the GS Register Facebook page and more Facebook members joining every week.

GS Register Forum Posts

The Register continues to have its own section on the Forum in "Paid Up Members Only"

GS Register Membership

Once again BMW's sales of the GS and GSA have continued to increase year on year. As a result we look forward to welcoming yet more new GS Register members in the coming year.

Nev Jones
GS Register Secretary

Sporting Secretary's Report

The 3 track days held in 2023 were all successful, the May event at Cadwell had a few spare places but the other 2 were fully booked.

I looked into the possibility of a day at the drag race strip at Santa Pod but various complications put me off.

I consider other circuits around the country but

due to an enormous amount of reasons Cadwell and Snetterton are the only ones I can make the finances add up in our favour.

For this year again I have reserved 2 dates at Cadwell and one at Snetterton, at the time of writing the June day at Cadwell is 3/4 full, plenty of places at the other 2. Dates have been publicised regularly in the Journal.

I do know that several participants have joined the club due to the discount I give to club members.

I should be at the meeting to answer any questions.

Robert Bensley
Sporting Register Secretary

DVLA & Historic Vehicles Officer's Report

In the last year, now that Covid has to a degree, eased, that has enabled all of us to get out and about. Meaning that restoration projects under the bench, have resurfaced in the last 12 months. Between us, Ken & I have dealt with, or are still ongoing 93 new applications, that however does not include those outstanding from 2022, or even earlier!

Ken handles 1980 – last week, so to speak, while I attempt to cover 1923 – 1980. Everyone is different, some 'sail through' but others have simply no documentation, or the VIN Numbers have been eaten by a 'Steel' Moth. Documentation may be from zero, to 'Full Kit & Rifle'. However, a 'Number Plate' is NOT evidence on its own.

Obviously, a very low %age do fall into the 'iffy' bracket. Has the Owner been scammed or taken for a ride? Or perhaps, if not a Registered Club Member, attempting to 'Pull a Fast One'. But I feel between us, we are savvy now on these blatant attempted frauds.

Having said that however, the 'Arthur Daley' TV Minder show 'Ethos' still exists, (I used to Act in that show, portraying a multitude of Characters over a long time). Even in the alleged 'High End' Car Market today! They have say an R90s, & attempt to wheedle out the Build Date F.O.C, Then sell, without contributing to 'Our Funds'. But as 'The Who' sang, 'I won't Get Caught Again'.

Manufacturers Headed Build Date Letters. These are now, in BMW's case, a 'Thing of The Past'. These give a definitive Production / Build Date, and often delivery date to a Dealer. This enabled the Registration for say an import, or Barn Find, to satisfy the DVLA.

As an aside I do know of a 'Barn, not far from my Town, that entombs over 40 BSA's.

However, even at Euro 50.00, BMW felt Date Letters were uneconomic to produce. Then the DVLA

rejected these because they had a Computer-Generated Signature. Not personally 'hand signed'. It seems someone had been producing 'fake' documents to register vehicles using that Computer system. It Was Not BMW's.

However, The DVLA still give the occasional 'Gripe' because I / We, have NOT included a Manufacturers Date Letter. They are No More. But BMW will supply Ken and I with the 100% correct Build / Delivery. This we 'quote' with no problems.

I also have indexed the BMW Club Membership lists, 1951 – 73. These have proved invaluable, and they list Name, Address, Model of machine, and often Reg Number. Many Reg Numbers have been reclaimed this way. Recording these in Club Membership Records was discontinued in 1973 for the reason, which at the time was Sensible.

It took 'too long to type' every year'. But, of course, it could not be foreseen that 50 years on these would be 'Gold Dust'.

Finally, I do get, and welcome, enquiries BMW related, from an owner who wants a small part for a 19?? BMW. That usually requires a Dealer. Some I can recommend both in UK and Germany

Or, 'My Uncle Bill' had a BMW in 1948, his name was Etc.

So, I am happy to continue as I am. I do benefit from a Free Subscription. I do not, & never have, claimed any personal expenses. Though the club did fund £10.00 for 2 large Heavy Duty Plastic Storage containers to keep all the Clubs Book, Magazines etc safe and dry in my garage. They are clearly Marked, 'Property of The BMW Club'. My Family are aware. May I wish you all, many safe Happy Miles

Robert Freeman

We have had a busy year with lots of enquiries from owners of bikes built before the DVLA cutoff date for historic status that were registered months later, meaning that a support letter from us at the club proving the build date means they can save road tax and MOT. Luckily for this age of bike the German BMW archive in Munich is our go to place for confirmation of build date, and our contacts there are now very efficient, so we can turn these enquiries around in a matter of days - if all the photos of the bike, it's frame number and other documentation are in order of course.

The other type of enquiry we get is for often very new bikes that have been recently imported from abroad. While the owners of these usually have already got the required NOVA certificate, they come to us for help in getting it registered with the DVLA. Sometimes they have tried already and failed be-

cause they need DVLA approved proof of build date and have not been able to get it. This is the service we are trying hard to provide but are finding increasingly difficult. Recently a member has even had one of our support letters thrown out by the DVLA as not sufficient proof, even though this method was agreed between the DVLA first registration department and Robert Freeman only 18 months ago and has been working well since. As I write this in February, we are still trying to get an answer as to whether this is due to a breakdown in communication within the first registration department of the DVLA, or whether they are moving the goal posts once again.

To compound the problem of getting a new bike registered here, we have to go to BMW UK to get proof of build date, which can take a long time to get a reply, if at all. Talking to our local BMW dealer has unfortunately not helped, with them reporting a similar problem when dealing with head office.

Regards

Ken Buchanan

Tool Hire Secretary's Report

2023 was quite a busy year!

From Jan 2023 to Dec 2023, 56 members used the scheme. Between them they hired 269 tools, 105 more than in 2022. Ten members hired tools on more than one occasion.

2023 was a year some members decided their bikes were due a bit of in-depth work. Complete sets of tools for engine, gearbox and rear drive were sent out, giving our posties a bit of manual exercise when it came to the final delivery leg!

As in recent years the most hired tool in 2023 was again the GS-911 Diagnostic devices which were sent out 18 times.

Tools were requested for following range of models:

- Pre'69 era (R27, R50/2, R60/2, R69S),
- Post 1969 airhead models (R60/5, R75/6, R90/6, R80/7, R100RS/RT)
- K1200 (Brick)
- F700 & F800
- R1100 & R1150
- R1200/R1250

The club's toolbox has been topped up a little by getting some more old airhead tools and manuals, plus buying the correct cam alignment tools for the R1250 shift cam. A second GS-911 WiFi tool was bought from a member who won it in the National Rally raffle.

General Hire by model range 2023 (69 bikes):

- Pre 1969 Airheads: 7 (10%)
- Post 1969 Airheads: 24 (35%)

- K (Brick) Series: 1 (1%)
- K (Slant K4x 4 cylinder 1 (1%)
- F-Series 3 (5%)
- Oilhead Boxers 2 (3%)
- R1200 (not LC) 24 (35%)
- R1200 LC version 5 (7%)
- R1250 2 (3%)

If anyone wishes to hold a Workshop Day, then I would be willing to bring along some of the Club's specialist tools.

As well as the Club Forum, the full tool hire lists are available to view in the Vintage & Classic Register hosted on the main Club Website. On request, I can also email copies to any club member.

If anyone at this AGM wishes to view the full details of tool hire transactions for 2023, just contact me.

As always, it has been a pleasure to provide this service for our Club.

Mike Delacoe

Technology Officer's report

What a busy year with the Membership Database we have had and that has certainly taken the bulk of my attention this year. As you will be aware we have switched back to a fixed renewal date for all members. Whilst I am not the programmer who made the actual changes (we pay a separate company, Laser Red, for that) I am their main interface with the Club. Also because of my IT background I plan and carry out much of the testing before we let them install any changes on to the live system. On the whole it has gone well but has taken a lot of effort from myself and I have been very ably assisted by Jim Lepley and Colin Ross (who's roles mean they need to be involved in fundamental changes like this).

This has meant that I have been very glad of the Club email system behaving well with most club officers (national and sections) able to access their Club emails from their own computers and smart phones. Obviously with the change of officers around October (with all the section AGMs taking place) there were some new folk needing a helping hand getting it set up but most found it relatively intuitive.

The Forum has settled down after the big upgrade and appears to be behaving well under the assured administrations of John King and Andrew Hughes. We still get a lot of trouble makers trying to register (from abroad) but I implemented a system that blocks the majority of those and the rest are filtered out by John and Andrew.

The VCR site has not demanded attention other than the occasional new user needing approving,

it would be nice to spend some time getting that site a little more "active" but its very nature is one of reference source and to be honest we don't get a lot of new references to add to it.

This year I hope to follow up the online Mutual Aid form on the National site with a similar one for the DVLA requests which should save a bit of effort of the wonderful team (Robert, Ken and Cathy) who are just gathering a list of the questions they ask almost every requestor when it first comes in.

My philosophy is that the more we can automate the less time we spend doing menial tasks and the more time we can all spend riding our bikes, so if you think of a repetitive task you do as a volunteer for the club and think it might be done better by a computer just let me know.

Dik Langan

Treasurer's report

I attach a copy of the latest information duly updated on 1st March 2024.

The following was part of my report to the NC meeting in February

Our deficit for 2022/2023 increased from £23,241.00 to £36,015.00. The Club will not be able to continue if we do not halt this increase. The main reasons are that:

- In the previous year 2021/2022 we had no national rally and limited activities. In this year track days made a profit of approximately £650, other activities with a much larger turnover incurred costs to the Club, mainly £2,600.00 spent on the National Rally as allocated during the AGM of 2022 and unexpected expenses of almost £500 on our attendance at the Founders Day event.

- Journal printing increased by £5,000.00 and mailing and posting increased by about £2,000.00. I should explain that the increase in mailing includes a huge element of posting now. The decrease in posting costs is a result of transferring the activity of actually paying for posting of the Journals through a different system that means the mailing house is now paying for all of the postage as well. So, in future the posting costs will reduce to zero. Thanks to Colin Ross and his investigative skills that found this method of reducing overall cost.

- Database costs up from £3,000.00 to £11,000.00. These costs are related to database maintenance and modification to the fixed year again to reduce the mailing costs.

Looking forward the National Committee have decided to dispense with the June Meeting (we will hold a virtual meeting if needed) which means I expect a total cost saving of £6,000.00 to £7,000.00. The Database and maintenance costs should re-

duce to around £5,500.

In order to maintain our ongoing activities and continue to produce our monthly magazine I must request an increase of subscription this year of £5.

I note that Section Holdings have increased from £64,324 to £67,986, and despite this some sections have requested and with the agreement of a small majority of the NC obtained agreement of an increase in capitation of £1 per member. This means that the subscription rate from 1st October will be £41 for U.K. members and £46 for overseas to cover this 20% increase in income for the sections.

I ask for two votes to be cast in respect of the subscription increase.

Jim Lepley
Treasurer

Appointment of Accountants

It is proposed to retain the services of Ross McConnell, Chartered Accountant.

Determination of Subscription

It is proposed to raise full members subscriptions by £5 per annum.

If Section Capitation raise is agreed, then full members subscriptions will be raised by £6 per annum.

Presentation of Trophies

No nominations for trophies have been received.

