

THE BMW CLUB - EAST ANGLIA SECTION

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 12th OCTOBER 2025

Minuted by Dik Langan & published 8th November 2025

1. The start of the meeting

The meeting started at 10.50am when Dik Langan (standing in for the Secretary) welcomed the members. There were 17 attendees on the day.

2. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were noted from Harry Godwin, James Fisher, Mark Dutton, Bob & Anne Townley, Val Tuffin, Cliff Hoy and Ian Sparks. No other names were put forward.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 13th October 2024 had been made available on the web site and copies were available at this meeting.

4. Matters arising from those minutes.

The 2023 AGM minutes were updated as discussed at the 2024 AGM and published shortly thereafter.

As agreed the minutes for the 2025 AGM have the author and publishing date.

There were no other matters arising from the minutes. The acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Dale Welch and seconded by Paul Round with the members voting acceptance (Some members, who were not present in 2024, abstained).

5. Officers Reports.

a) Secretary's report (Provided in writing and presented by Dik)

As is usual, the Secretary doesn't have a lot to impart as the Officers reports will cover the activities of the Section.

The Section appears to be one of the healthiest in the Club with only a short loss of membership and a healthy financial account.

The social scene has also been very active with events, meetings and runs.

Your committee has met several times over the year and thankfully there have been no major issues to worry about. It would be nice if more members would come forward to join the Committee and help run the Section. It's one of the least arduous jobs you can undertake but very fulfilling. There are benefits which will be explained if you agree to join. Your chance will come up later in the AGM.

All I would like to say is that the events/meetings are reasonably well populated but not as good as they should be, so drag along a few more members to help.

"Ask not what can my Section do for me, butt what can I do for my Section" (apologies to JFK)

b) Social Secretary.

We continued to have a large turnout of club bikes at the main events we normally attend with new members joining.

The WhatsApp group continue to grow with 26 members as of now.

New members through the year continue to join our FB page.

We had a surprising large turnout of members at Three Tuns and Crossways over the last six months so much so that I placed photos on our FB and Journal entries just in case no one believed me.

At the beginning of the year we started looking for extra venues to visit when we had gaps in our calendar. 10 were visited. They were:

- The Ships Inn, Brandon Creek Durham Mkt
- Cafe 24 at Stonham Barns (Breakfast Meet)
- Browns Café, Mundford
- Riverside Tearooms Orford Quay
- Grumpy's Café, Earsham
- Triumph Factory (2nd visit) with a stop off at Super Sausage
- Stow Maries Airfield Event (very windy and only two members turned up)
- Route 11 Cafe (Bank holiday only two members)
- Club BBQ was held in June with a good turnout of members and bikes.

My thanks to Nigel Burrows for organising a ride out to Shuttleworth Collection with a meet up beforehand at the Officers Mess, Duxford. A good turnout of new / old members (8). The cafe would make an excellent long term meet in the future.

In August we had the Farewell to Robert Bensley at Snetterton which was well attended by members.

Franks bike nights have now finished for the year but are well worth going to in the future.

FYI – Museum Live event is in October (25-26) at the National Motorbike Museum and in November we have the NEC bike show.

I would like to add that I think we should open the FB page to the public to attract people to join the Club.

I also believe we should run another visit to the Triumph Factory and this time open it up to all sections to join us there.

Nigel Burrows took the opportunity to thank Mike Dignum for his efforts in the 3 years that he had been Social Secretary. Mike had arranged and encouraged a variety of activities, which had been much appreciated by the Section. Members present were asked to show their appreciation of Mike's efforts, which they did enthusiastically.

Nigel hoped this improvement would continue. He had been thinking of a possible 'bucket list' trip to the BMW Motorrad factory in Berlin. Cliff Batley suggested that this could also include a visit to BMW Welt and the Museum in Munich. Dik suggested that the trip could be opened up to the whole Club. Nigel suggested this 'would ruin a good idea' and, in his view, it should be limited to members of the East Anglia Section. Dik pointed out that we had to advertise it in the Journal for it to be covered by the club insurance.

c) Treasurers Report.

This was presented by the Treasurer Peter Wilson and copies of the accounts were circulated to members. It was noted that the Section was in a healthy state. The deficit shown this year is considered a good thing as it shows we are starting to spend some of the money we have on activities. The capitation is down due to the slight lowering of membership numbers but this is not worrying.

Trevor Smith asked about the National Rally supplement of £2/head. Peter explained that this was due to be deducted from the January capitation so will reflect in next year's accounts.

Mike Davies proposed acceptance of the accounts, Dale Welch seconded and the members voted acceptance.

d) Memberships Secretary.

Cliff Hoy had sent the committee his report as he was unable to attend the AGM due to family issues. This was presented by Dik Langan:

As of the 1st October 2025, the BMW Club nationally had 2780 Full Members and 602 Associate Members. The East Anglia Section had 318 Full Members (we had 332 last year) and 51 Associate members (56 last year) and we, currently, remain the section with the most full members.

If we look at the detail, the East Anglia Section has had 74 New Members join us and we've retained 244 Previous Year Members compared with 76 New Members and 238 Active/Pending Members, at the same time last year.

e) Webmaster & National Committee Rep.

I have at last introduced the new style web site. This is based on WordPress so will be easy for anyone to take on the support of in the future (it is a very common format for web sites). In fact it is so easy to manage that I will be granting members of the committee access to it so they can add features and pictures if they so wish.

What's next? Well I would like to transfer the historic reports from the old web site to the new one and also make it easier to add "Event Details" pages for the events the section organises (like the Christmas meal for example) – but that will take me time to get round to as my to-do list from the National Tech guy role is quite long.

As for the National Committee the next meeting is this coming weekend and there is nothing on the agenda that will impact us as a section greatly.

6. Adoption of reports.

Stephen Thomson proposed acceptance of the reports and Trevor Smith seconded this. The meeting voted unanimously to accept.

7. Signing of Accounts by the Treasurer and Secretary.

The Account sheet was signed by the Treasurer and then signed on behalf of the Secretary by Dik Langan.

8. Election of Officers for forthcoming year.

The Secretary asked the meeting if there were any members wishing to be considered for any of the Section Officer positions and no names were put forward from the floor.

Most of the incumbents were willing to stay in Office: **Secretary** Ian Sparks, **Treasurer** Peter Wilson, **Membership Secretary** Cliff Hoy, **National Committee Rep** Dik Langan, **General Committee members** Ken Buchanan and Dale Welch.

Mike Dignum stepped down from the role of **Social Secretary** and there was only one volunteer for the role which was Cliff Batley who has held the role before. He was proposed by Ian Sparks and seconded by Dik Langan. A show of hands for supporting Cliff was requested and he was unanimously supported for taking on the role.

Cliff was then asked to say a few words:

It is my intention that all events will be listed in the Diary Of Events section of the Journal so that members can plan ahead. This means they will need planning well in advance but that should not be an issue.

Some of my current ideas for events next year are:

- Long weekend in Ypres or Belgium as we haven't been for a couple of years
- Porlock weekend, camping focussed but with plenty of local rooms available should be suitable for all. I will approach the South West section to see if they would like to make it a joint event. Obviously will try to avoid school holidays and other club events
- A trip to the Munich BMW Museum but happy to also run this to Berlin as well. I will contact BMW to see if we can get discount as official BMW Club members
- Café meets with combined ride outs such as the Tilbury Fort, Dave Silver Bike Museum, Norfolk Bike Museum (which is closed on Sundays so may look to make this a Saturday run)
- Lake District Hotel weekend (John Woolmore pointed out that the Sidecar Section already has a camping weekend up there so maybe look to coordinate/combine with them)
- Fakenham Camping weekend as there are also bunkhouses and a few rooms available. Mick Laskey said he would get in touch with the race course and see what is involved in organising it
- Possibly also a camping weekend at the Swaffham Rugby Club as that has worked well in the past.

9. Any Other Business.

a) Nominations for Section Awards.

- i) Tough Nut Trophy.

Peter Wilson is arranging to collect the trophy from Robert Bensley's family (as he was presented it last year). No new nominations were forthcoming.

- ii) Spirit of the Section Award.

Mike Davies suggested Mike Dignum for the work he has put in as Social Secretary.

- iii) Spanner in the Works Trophy.

It was noted that Ian Sparks had recently come off his bike attempting to cross a ford. However, Graham Ward did exactly the same thing at the same ford a few weeks later, immediately after attending an event on his new (to him) KTM. As Graham had failed to learn from Ian's experience, it was agreed that he fully deserved the Trophy.

b) Update on the Xmas meal.

Dik Langan reported that the date was confirmed as the 7th December and was to be held at The Bull in Long Melford and being organised by Cliff Hoy again. The Section were subsidising members and the price was now £17 per person. This is a 50% discount as a one-off gesture by the section committee (the true cost of the meals is £34/head). If it proves to be successful then we may consider the discount again next year finances allowing. Cliff had paper forms with him if anyone wanted to order at the AGM but electronic versions of the form would be sent out by email and available on the web site shortly after the meeting.

c) Annual Social Calendar to be sent out

In the agenda this was incorrectly accredited as an idea by Dik Langan but no one from the floor took credit for it. There was a short discussion about the benefits but all agreed that the downsides of cost and effort outweighed the benefits so the idea will not be actioned. However, a side discussion did result in the suggestion that the Section News should be used to ask the section members to propose more ideas for social events.

d) A word from Mike Davies.

Mike stood up and asked the meeting to show a vote of thanks for the committee for their work in keeping the section running smoothly and maintaining it as one of the best in the Club. The attendees all applauded to show their thanks.

10. Date and location of the 2026 AGM.

The Secretary passed on via Dik that the AGM for 2025 will be booked to be held on 11th October 2026 at The Village Hall, Fornham St Martin and would start at 10.30am with doors open at 10am. The Woolpack will be pre-booked again closer to the time.

11. Meeting closure.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was formally closed at 12:13pm.