THE BMW CLUB - EAST ANGLIA SECTION

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 11 OCTOBER 2026

1... The meeting was opened by the Secretary at 10.40. He welcomed the members and reminded them to sign in which all had done bar one totalling 18.

2... Apologies for absence were received from Bob and Anne Townley

3... The Minutes of the 2025 AGM having been circulated after that meeting on the website, they were adopted by a vote after proposal by Mike Davies and seconded by Stephen Thomson.

4... No matters arose from those Minutes

5... The Officers then presented their reports.

The Secretary noted that he did not have anything to say as the other Officers reports would cover all of the Section activity. The secretary then informed the AGM that he would be standing down at the 2027 AGM and urged the members to begin the recruitment campaign as if no one came forward the section could face closure implemented by The BMW Club,

The Social Secretary then reported on the events held during the year, the camping event at Porlock was not as successful as anticipated. Only three East Anglian members attended whilst several came from other Sections. The Berlin trip was better attended and was successful and may occur again in the future. For 2027, he stated that he had an idea to run a long weekend at Verdun in the Vosges Mountains, he also thought he may run the Ypres trip again in Easter time. He urged members to come forward with their ideas. One idea floated was the Section Barbecue again which had been successful.

The Treasurer stated in his report that the account stood at £5426.83 at the time. The Section was in a healthy position. Nigel Burrows then stated that with a good balance that the Section should subsidise more events. The Treasurer agreed but said the problem was members not putting forward ideas for the Committee to see if they met the criteria required. Nigel Burrows then asked for the criteria to be explained. The Treasurer then replied that firstly the event idea was to be for the benefit of all members in the Section and not for a group of individuals. Secondly, it depended on the type of event being considered i.e.

visits to museums, bike factories etc obviously venues connected with biking. He explained that the Committee vetted each request for subsidy on its merits and that it was not a carte blanche that every idea would be subsidised. Nigel Burrows then said that the main problem, as outlined by the Porlock camping event, was the lack of publicity in letting everyone know. Dik Langan countered that events were displayed in The Journal, distributed via email and the WhatsApp and were included in the events section of the website. It was obviously for the members to read these to gain the benefit. Nigel Burrows then asked how the subsidy was discussed. Cliff Hoy then explained that the member would put forward the event, the Committee would discuss and see if subsidy was relevant and agree to what extent the subsidy would be. Graham Ward then added that perhaps prompt reaction to get the event advertised may cause members to join in. Nigel Burrows then asked if any East Anglia event has to be offered to the National Club. Cliff Batley said that if the event was intended to be open then it would be advertised in The Journal as such, but it wasn't compulsory for events to be offered out to other Sections. The Treasurer noted that the Oxford Section very rarely allow other Sections to join in their events. Graham Ward enquired if some events could be aimed at specific bike types. This was generally accepted by the members.

The Membership Secretary then reported that the Section stood at 348 members both full and social. This was down from 2024 when 369 were recorded. Nigel Burrows then asked if dealerships had been contacted to try and assist in the recruitment of new members by giving a year's subscription to the Club in their sales. Cliff Hoy replied that this had been tried in other Sections where some had been slightly successful, but others had met a wall. Some of the success in the other Sections had now been removed. Nigel Burrows then asked if there was a liaison person at Group1 in Norwich to Dik Langan replied that Mark Hamilton was involved. Nigel Burrows then asked if the other dealers in the Section had been contacted re this. The Secretary replied that he had been the Liaison at Cannons where this had happened and also where discounts were available, however when Sycamores had taken over he had been routed to the Head Office who were not interested obviously believing that the Club was not worth the worry. Nigel Burrows then asked if the Committee received any reports from the liaison person at Group1 and Dik Langan informed that Mark Hamilton

was informing the Committee of any events Group1 were intending to carry out. Cliff Hoy said he would talk to Mark Hamilton to see if reports were a good idea.

The National Committee Representative then reported on the National Committee. One major change was that meetings were now only once a year and the main Officers of the Club were empowered to run the Club at the 2026 AGM.

6… The reports were then adopted with Cliff Batley proposing and Dale Welch seconded.

7… The Treasurer and Secretary then signed a copy of the Accounts as true.

8… The Election of Officers of the Section followed with all remaining in Office for the coming year and including the two Committee members. Nick Franklin then asked, as a new member, how did the Committee operate? It was explained that Committee meetings were held approximately three or four times a year, depending on need, the Committee decided how the Section would run etc. He then stated that he was willing to join the Committee, Mike Davies proposed this with Dale Welch seconded and the vote was unanimous.

9… The Section award nominations were then announced.

The Hard Man Trophy would be awarded to Paul Marchant for his hard work in Blood Running and representing the Section in that area,

The Spirit of the Section was awarded to Jane Pauley for her help at events and for her catering expertise at them.

The Spanner in the Works was awarded to Michael Dignum for his heroic misadventures on the Berlin trip including losing a lens from his glasses, having his Sat Nav pack up followed by problems with his phone not aiding with maps and by dropping his bike in a car park and falling on the ground and having his air vest inflate which then decided not to deflate, a valve problem, for several hours allowing him to mimic the Michelin Man.

10… The Xmas Dinner was explained by Cliff Hoy with price to members being £15 with the rest subsidised by the Section. The date was the 6 December at The Bull in Long Melford for 12pm and sitting at 1pm. A request was made for raffle prize donations if possible. Dale Welch asked if the Dinner could be held at other places as some people came from a long way away to attend. Cliff stated that it

had been so in the distant past but was problematical to know what was available at other locations, including pricing and seating availability. It was noted that the Dinner was slowly leaking members being down to 45 last year. Dik Langan then stated that he had their Section's card machine and would be able to take member's payment for the Dinner at the end of the meeting.

11... Under any other business, Michael Dignum thanked the organiser of the Berlin trip and Mike Davies thanked the Committee for their work during the year.

To his embarrassment, Michael Dignum was presented with the Spanner in the Works award (usually presented at the Xmas Meal, but Mike would not be there this year).

12... The Secretary announced that the 2027 AGM would be held at the Village Hall in Fornham St Martin on 10 October. Details would be circulated later.

13... With no other business being offered the meeting was closed at 12.18pm

Minutes circulated 15 October 2026 by Ian Sparks, Secretary.