

The Royal Enfield Owners Club

45th Annual General Meeting

Saturday 16th September 2023

The Drum and Monkey, Newbridge Green, Upton-Upon-Severn, WR8 0QP

Committee Members present:

Robert Murdoch - Chairman, Archivist

John Dove - Machine Dating Officer

Sean Keogh - Website Manager (and temporary recording secretary)

John Barnard - Branch Coordinator

Tom Bray - Committee Member

Joe Cowley - Treasurer

Members attending:

(List attached)

1. Apologies: Graham Scarth, Teresa and David Langley, Gordon and Christine Gambrell, Les Carter, Mark Mumford

2. Meeting opened 11:09 am

The chairman opened the meeting by welcoming and thanking the members for attending.

Copies of the minutes from the 2022 AGM were distributed and the meeting was asked if there were any questions or matters arising from the previous year's AGM minutes.

3. Matters Arising:

A question was raised by a member regarding club trophies. A line in the 2022 minutes stating that there were "no trophies" was clarified to mean that there had been no trophies presented that year.

John Dove asked what difference, if any, the change of venue and incorporation of the rally into the event had made to members' decision to attend. 12 members indicated that the inclusion of the rally had made them decide to attend.

There being no more questions, approval of the minutes from the 2022 AGM was proposed and seconded and passed as accepted by the members present.

4. Chairman's Address:

The chairman talked about the need to recruit new committee members, as we have some standing down, and pointed out that we now have a new sales officer, branch coordinator and treasurer (although the latter appointment needed approval from the membership).

Club participation in various bike shows had been successful in the past year, although sadly not at the Bristol show.

The treasurer interjected to say that the South Wales branch had represented the club at the Cardiff show,

The International Rally in Greece in June was a huge success, with participants from many countries. The Greek branch, organisers of this year's event were inspired by the 70th Birthday rally at Stanford Hall a few years ago. Among much else, they had designed, got manufactured, and sold t-shirts for the rally, and managed to raise 1200 Euros in profit, which was donated to FLOGA, a childrens' cancer charity.

5. Treasurer's Report

The new treasurer introduced himself, then explained to the audience some of the problems that had arisen with getting new signatories approved by the bank, and the difficulties in arranging for new accounts to allow for easier online banking and moving club funds around to take advantage of better interest rates. This had delayed the new treasurer taking over his duties for several months.

A summary of accounts was presented to the members present and explained. (A copy of this summary is attached to these minutes)

The club accounts were healthy, but club expenditure had increased, and changes were being made in various areas to obtain better value for money.

A question was raised regarding the level of bank charges reported in the accounts summary, and it was pointed out that the majority of the reported bank charges figure was composed of credit card processing fees and PayPal fees. Alternative card processing options were being looked at as well as payments by direct bank transfer.

The lack of a balance sheet was questioned and the treasurer replied by providing balance figures, but pointed out that although a list of club assets is kept, things like trophies, while listed, have effectively no book value, as they have been written off over the years in accordance with normal accounting practice.

The figure attributed to "M/Cycle Organ" was queried, and it was explained that this referred to things like the club's subscription to MAG and the NABD organisations.

Another question was raised regarding the professional expenses figure, and it was explained that these were audit costs.

Member Rob Hall proposed that the accounts be accepted and this was seconded by Brian Jenner. The members present voted to accept the accounts.

6. Officer Reports

6a. Machine Dating Officer Report

Up to August 2023, 12 dating certificates had been produced in the past 12 months. In the last two to three months the amount of enquiries about machine dating had halved, and of those enquiries being received, the majority were for individual components rather than complete bikes. Most of the enquiries seemed to be for projects which began during the Covid Pandemic period. In the past year, NO enquiries had been received from European members, whereas the majority of enquiries used to be from Europe.

An example Machine Dating Certificate was passed around so that the members present could see what one looked like. A question was raised asking how and where the information for dating came from. It was explained that the club has access to the original factory ledgers detailing what bikes were produced, when, where they were delivered to and so on. Originally these ledgers were loaned to the club but some years ago they were purchased by the club for £850.

6b. Branch Coordinator

It was reported that new branches were potentially in the offing in Derbyshire and Cumbria.

A question was raised regarding meeting times between the Norfolk Branch in Norwich and the Suffolk branch as there seemed to be a clash, and some members wanted to attend both branch monthly meetings. There was a discussion about possibly making all branch organisers aware of potential clashes in meeting times and days. (It should be noted that for existing branches, this information is listed on the website and in the membership pack, for anyone to look up for themselves). The Branch Coordinator stated that he will not impose meeting times on specific branches. This is something that the branches have to work out between themselves if there are potential clashes.

A question was asked as to why the information on upcoming rally details were only available to members on the website. This should have been asked during the Website Manager's report, and the website manager pointed out that the majority of the rallies listed were not RE-specific, and that as such the details were easily available elsewhere online. As for why this information had been hidden at all, it was pointed out by members of the committee that, at least for RE-organised events, our insurance would not cover us for non-members, and so those details had been restricted to members only. It was agreed that something might be done to allow the full list of rally names, dates and approximate geographic locations (at county level) to be

publicly available on the website, but that full details, including full venue location, would still be restricted to members only.

6c. Mag Representative

Our MAG representative is John Budgen. The assembled members were asked if everyone had signed the MAG petition relating to potholed roads. A link to the petition is in the Mag Newsletter.

The South Midlands branch would be representing the club at the NEC show. There was a discount code in the magazine that would give members cheaper access to the show, but it was pointed out that the agreement with the NEC depended on the show being advertised in The Gun and on the Club website.

A question was asked regarding what fees the club pays to MAG for our affiliation, and it was stated that the fees are approximately £400 per year.

A copy of the MAG newsletter is sent out by Graham Scarth to each branch contact as soon as it is received.

6d. Club Sales

The incumbent officer had stepped down from the Club Sales position, and a new volunteer had started work in this role. The existing stock had been moved from Northern Ireland to Chard, Somerset. Potential new products were being investigated.

A question was asked about the possibility of more pictures of the club merchandise on the website, and the website manager agreed that as soon as such pictures were supplied to him, they would be added, and he also said that he had recently revamped the club sales page, with improved layout and up to date pricing and sizing information.

6e. Archivist

The archivist reported that all club archive material had now been digitised, and that the processing and uploading of this material to the website was ongoing.

He also stated that the outgoing general secretary had supplied him with a large box full of folders containing club documentation, minutes of Committee and AGM meetings, which will have to be scanned in the near future.

6f. Website Manager

The website manager reported that the addition of the various club archive material, including the Reg Thomas Archive that had been purchased by the club, was ongoing, and that approximately two thirds of the material was now available to members on the website.

The new section containing articles submitted by members, but viewable by non-members too (as examples of what the club gets up to) was starting to build up, with around ten articles

submitted for inclusion so far, and the membership was urged to copy anything interesting to the web site manager whenever they submitted material to the editor for The Gun, as the website could accommodate practically any size of article, and any number of pictures, whereas space in The Gun is limited.

Two new pieces of software had been installed on the website, a membership system and a discussion forum system. The membership system is intended to allow each club member to have their own identity and password on the website, rather than relying on a single password for all member-only areas, which has to be published in The Gun. Changing this password once a year is a major undertaking as each protected page has to be edited and the new password added, then the old password removed a month later. The new system would make this work unnecessary. A further development of the new membership system could allow memberships and renewals to be purchased and paid for on the website itself. This latter development will however require coordination and consultation with the membership secretary and the treasurer, and will have to wait until after the very busy Autumn renewals period.

The second piece of software, the discussion forums, will tie into the membership system, and allow members to log on, create discussions, ask questions, reply to other members, and all of the other things that modern online media tends to have, but with the ability to have multiple forums and multiple levels of sub-forums, for example social forums, machine-specific forums, technical discussions, and so on. This will only be available to members. Once the membership system is up and running in its first phase, this will also be introduced. It was pointed out that this will run on our own website and not be hosted or controlled by any of the major social media companies like Google, Facebook, Twitter etc.

7. Proposals

7a - with amendment. It had been proposed that any member, whether committee member, club officer or other, that had been doing work for the club for ten years, should be awarded honorary life membership of the club. This provoked much discussion with some members vehemently opposed to the idea, saying that working for the club was a honour and a privilege and that THAT should be reward enough. There was even some question over why committee members were able to claim expenses, with the suggestion that they should cover their own expenses (which in some cases could be considerable). After much heated debate, the proposal was withdrawn, pending clarification of the term "Honorary" and existing club rules, and the resolution of questions like if such a reward to a member would be extended to other family members if they were members of the club.

7b - A proposal relating to our club having affiliation with overseas Royal Enfield groups, such as the German Royal Enfield forum, and groups in the Americas, Australia and so on. This raised a question on how closely the club is affiliated with the RE factory and their own RCE club. It was pointed out that we have no official relationship, but that we have been invited to some events at Bruntingthorpe and other involvement from time to time, usually via our contact, Gordon May.

The proposal was seconded, and a vote taken which led to the proposal being passed unanimously.

8. Any Other Business

Mike Davis from the Wiltshire branch brought up the subject of club payments to branches for club events. This related to the unexpected additional costs incurred by the branch during the running of the Wiltshire rally, when £420 was needed to fund a toilet block for the event.

After much discussion, including questions on what the current "No receipts" £100 grant to branches could be used for, and what the correct procedure was for claiming additional costs, it was settled that although an extraordinary payment to Wiltshire had been made for the cost of the toilet block hire, AFTER the event had taken place, in future ALL potential costs for club/branch events over and above the general £100 grant MUST be costed, and the quote from the supplier submitted to the treasurer IN ADVANCE of the event, with sufficient notice to give the treasurer and the committee time to discuss, and if appropriate, approve the additional expense. This is not a new rule, but had not been followed in the case of the Wiltshire Rally's additional costs.

Wiltshire branch also complained that there had not been sufficient notice given for the submission of proposals for the AGM. Apologies were given, but it was explained that while, due to a mix up in communications, the proposal submission dates had not been published in The Gun until it was too late, the deadline HAD been extended and this extension had been published on the website and in the club's main facebook page. The chairman also explained that the committee was thinking of making proposals and voting available on the club website.

It was proposed that appreciation be shown to the Chairman for running the proceedings, and resulted in applause from the assembled members.

It was reiterated that the editor of The Gun has announced that he will be stepping down from the role in the near future, and volunteers for the post of editor of The Gun were invited.

The members were informed that Teresa Langley is stepping down as General Secretary, and David Langley and Graham Scarth stepping down as committee members, and volunteers were invited to fill those roles. Patrick Hurley had volunteered, was proposed and seconded for a committee role, and voted in by the assembled membership. Two other roles remain to be filled.

The chairman thanked Teresa and David Langley and Graham Scarth for their service to the club.

It had been pointed out that the appointment of the new treasurer had to be ratified and a vote was held and the new treasurer was approved unanimously.

The branch coordinator pointed out that the new Enfield Explorers initiative (promoting ride-outs by members) requires each branch to nominate three points of interest in their area, and that so far he had received very few submissions.

9. Presentation of Trophies

John Hamer presented the following awards:

The Jim Hayward trophy for outstanding contribution to The Gun - Lydia Hurley (no relation to Patrick)

The Roger Thompson Award for most extraordinary journey to an REOC event - Bob Murdoch, for his ride to the International Rally in Greece on his 250 Crusader.

10. Close of meeting

Members were reminded that a post-lunch ride-out around the local area was scheduled for 2:30PM and that riders taking part should assemble in the car park.

There being no further business, the meeting was concluded at **13:24**, and members retired to partake of the buffet lunch.