

The Royal Enfield Owners club

46 Annual General Meeting

Saturday 21 September 2024

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

John Barnard-Branch Coordinator

Tom Bray-Committee Member

Gary McClure-Treasurer

Patrick Hurley

Jak Lemmon-Insurance liaison

(Minutes kindly taken by Kate Hurley)

Members Attending (see attached list)

- 1) **Apologies:** Neil Davis (social secretary), Graham Rich, Rob and Charles Notten, Tony Phelps and Charlie Mansell
- 2) **Meeting opened 11am**

Fifty seven members attended the meeting.

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

Copies of the minutes from the 2023 AGM were distributed, and the meeting was asked if there were any questions or matters arising from the AGM minutes: there were none, so the minutes were accepted. There is still no general secretary after one year, so Kate Hurley kindly volunteered to take the MOM today.

The chairman spoke of various comings and goings in personnel over the past year: Joe the treasurer left at Xmas and Gary McClure stepped up as treasurer.

Modernisation: progress made with online banking and thanked Sean: expressed hope that along with fewer cheques processes would be quicker and benefit the membership. The club had invested in a PA system to facilitate communication.

3) Matters Arising

None

4) Treasurer's Report

Gary thanked the meeting for its welcome and introduced himself and his background. He had replied to an ad in The Gun and been interim treasurer since April/May time. He thanked Graham Scarth who had prepared the accounts for the year ending April: these had been reviewed since May.

Income to April was £39,000 and subscriptions were slightly up on the year before.

There was a noticeable income increase based on bank interest and consolidation with Lloyds helped by over £1000 over a year. Of expenditure of £37,000 a significant amount went on the magazine (issue 295 to 300). . There was a surplus of £1.849 on the year.

There was a balance on the back of fixed assets sitting there and £90,000 cash in the bank. The main highlights were £60k on 30 day notice and £20k for payments in consolidated accounts.

Questions:

a) Should the fixed assets be valued over the years including value of archives?

Treasurer responded but chairman agreed this might have to be looked into including value of archives.

b) had the accounts been audited?

Not independently audited for a couple of years so it would form part of job now but there was a need to distinguish between audit and formal exam and he would use previous contacts to research which was the best process for a club: but the accounts had been reviewed.

5) Acceptance of accounts

Accepted by show of hands.

6) REOC Club Officer Reports

Editor: of magazine not available so the chair spoke on his behalf. Magazine was healthy and Dougie had produced a resurrected newsletter from 25 years ago. There was a digital PDF version for interim matters such as time sensitive ones, items too late for the current issue and events and ads. The chair thanked Teresa and Dave for their previous service.

Membership: Graham Scarth said use of online was making the job a lot easier. The role of membership secretary and Gun distribution had previously been together, then separated but now membership was simpler, the two posts were combined again. Asked if anyone was interested in secretary role?

Webmaster: Sean reported as website manager. He gave recent figures for the increase in renewals and new membership online, including from overseas on a site that only went live two weeks ago: it was proving a popular option.

The cost of the site was increasing because of the volume of storage being used. As per the last minutes, there had been a lot of work processing and uploading documents and photos, for example, 600 pictures from the rally in Greece so increased storage meant increased cost.

He has requested a new section where members could send in articles not suitable or subject to the restrictions of The Gun but had so far not seen many of these. Please could members make more use of the site. [websitemanager@royalenfield.org.uk]

A by-product of online membership was user accounts so there was room to set up forums for individuals' topics eg Redditch machines pre1940 and for technical discussions which would streamline current posts on Facebook. Called for ideas on discussion forums which had the advantage only club members could access, and data would be protected.

Question:

a) whether existing members should rejoin early online and ease pressure on treasurer?
Discussion emphasised eventually with new members the income would spread over the year and so pressure on the membership secretary would eventually ease as well and renewal reminders would auto generate so no need for existing members to do anything and no pressure to renew online

b) Sean reiterated assurance than manual renewals could still be processed by post or phone

c) In relation to another query about August renewals, Sean again reiterated that online and other dates were available if members wanted to use them, but they were not forced to. As part of his role, web manager role, Sean gets copied in on member emails and it looked a popular option, and he anticipated this kind of renewal would grow.

d) Is there a digital Gun? Yes, all current issues are downloadable.

e) On seeing Baskerville Hall advertised on website: lots of people join clubs because of rallies; are events hidden? Sean replied -the idea is to have an open list of events including club events but not exact details because of club insurance. Opened debate, whether the details should be on there or events on an open page and exact details after referral to a member. Chairman explained there was a change in club insurance and best option was for a 'contact us' option.

Branch: all were functioning well. The New Forest branch had closed but there was interest in a new one in the Southampton area, details released one confirmed. Explorers would be updated separately.

Merchandise: Barbara Harrison was up from Dorset. Supplier changed and emblem would now be embroidered. Feedback in terms of quality was excellent and orders should be supplied in 4 to 5 days. New lines and colours were available including vests and items were zipped not Velcro fastened. Bestselling items were pins, binders, T shirts, polos and hats. Suggestions about snoods for winter. Sales were via email and/or telephone. Huge variety of options in terms of colours and sizes, please enquire and meanwhile please purchase old stock.

Machine Dating: the secretary produced a range of figures, the gist of which was that out of 340 since he took over 5 years ago, the majority were for Hitchcock's. The DVLA had only rejected one due to the wrongful addressing to a department: Kits and Rebuild v First Registrations, send to former. 1 applicant had allowed their MDC to expire: limited lifespan for the certificate. Machines need to be MOT ready and can be inspected: because of COVID no inspections were done and at present can be done by digital photography, but he expects this to change. Engine and frame numbers need to match the factory legers to satisfy the V765 rules. In response to a query, he said that if you find the original engine once registered it can now be changed but Q Plate issue is there for life and can't be changed. He can be asked to adjudicate for other suppliers such as VMCC and John Harding. No Royal Enfield MDC certificate rejected in 5 years. Please read and follow exactly the MDC requirements set out in The Gun as inaccurate submission cause delays and more work. Has a hard drive but investigating how long old copies need to be retained.

Question: a) Confirmed Hitchcock's now paying.

b) On the question of charging, the chair referred the matter to AOB.

Social: Neil is just weeks into his post and has nothing. Apologies sent.

Archivist: Fairly slow in terms of requests. As an anecdote he offered that he'd had a request from a different club in Spain asking about a 1936 model J500 as dad rode one as a despatch rider in the civil war. Factory sold 1000 model J in 1937 to incumbent Spanish government via a French dealer as there was an embargo so there are no records.

7) Proposals

No proposals received by end of April deadline.

Club Insurance: renewed public liability insurance in January and insurance is now split into 2. First policy: Event Insurance for occasions like today 15-500 people up to £2million. Irrelevant for whether a club member or not, hence earlier references about events, it's based on the REOC organising. Requires a sign in. This and other policy are available in the gazebo. Second policy is for Sean and Dougie covering printed materials against plagiarism, libel etc.

Jak Lemon referred to Peter James Insurance: he cited years of positive relationship with the company over classic bike insurance and explained the classic policy now allowed for the addition of a modern Enfield. He was personally impressed with add ons which were offered such as European riding, tools and so on. He hoped that this new facility would attract new members; it was advertised on the website/Facebook/The Gun with a QR code. You need to contact the company for a modern bike. The club received a commission for this facility and had been given a large sum up front for 3 years.

Question:

a) any age limit on rider? Not known but someone aged 92 has an existing classic bike so he didn't think so but would check.

b) issue was raised where a no claims policy was not transferred to the classic policy and discussed about clarity of information to consumers and Jak agreed to check back with the company and ensure there was clarity for customers.

c) relating to its role in increasing membership it was first of all clarified that members of Royal Enfield Riders Club were not entitled to this offer and follow up with Peter James needs to clarify how membership will be checked for those confused by the two organisations. The summary result of the discussion was to deepen communication and relationship with Peter James about the monitoring and feedback of this offer led by members of the REOC feeding back about their experiences.

8) AOB

a) Baskerville Hall raised by chair: congratulated by floor on finding it and chair emphasised the value of speaking with other bike clubs in researching these locations. Described Hall and emphasised its familiarity with catering for bike groups and its facilities as well as the importance of booking as occupation cannot be blocked for next year's International Rally.

b) Charging for dating certificates raised by Steve Mayhew: raised in a letter to the chair the issue of charging and chair confirmed he had received a number of letters but not from Steve himself. Key objection was amount of £25. The discussion covered the history of the ledgers and Steve's early practice and how other organisations charged but this was a club. Key response was that the MDC added value as a legal document: that in earlier times the value of classic bikes was not as great and proportionate to the value of a classic Enfield today, it was not a great fee. Steve raised the issue that when it was discussed at a previous meeting, the minutes recorded a unanimous decision but there was one abstention, for which the chair apologised since he was taking minutes as well as chairing, so there could have been an error, but the minutes were accepted by those present. The question broadened to how the production of MDCs were offered as a member benefit and the point was stressed that the dating service is offered free but the certificate itself is charged for as this is what increases value. The discussion raised the question of the amount of charge as well as the principal and the committee agreed to review the matter.

c) The matter of unreceipted expenses was raised by Carl and why it hadn't increased from £100 with time and inflation. The discussion focussed on previous examples of unforeseen costs but when referred to treasurer the point was made that if a rally were being planned then requested contributions

could be made but the principal was around what was being paid for and it shouldn't be unforeseen, and receipts were easy to obtain. The amount has been increased over time and with 20 branches, payments must be justified to audit. No one need be out of pocket and receipts were needed.

d) John Budgen fed back on recent MAG news: the organisation was trying to fight ULEZ, bus lanes, resurfacing roads, HS2 etc He'd been unable to attend meetings recently but would do so as soon as personal circumstances allowed. He stressed that the REOC paid £510 for the whole membership and the organisation was trying to fight the club's causes. The committee explained the club got a physical copy of The Road but no digital copy to share with the membership. The fee was calculated on the size of membership. Jak asserted that membership of MAGs should be reviewed as it was anti-electric vehicle, held other views which did not necessarily tally with the interests of the club membership and was going in a management-led direction with which he disagreed. The chair agreed that membership should be reviewed at the next AGM.

e) Affiliations with other organisations: John D outlined deepening relationships with other Enfield organisations eg in Germany and invited feedback through The Gun and website about a rally at Satsung 27-29 June 2025.

9) Election of Officers

Treasurer was voted in overwhelmingly: Gary McClure

Volunteers were requested for post of General Secretary, especially as committee was currently 8 which led to possibility of tied vote.

Committee members Jak and Sean were elected unopposed.

10) Trophies

Enfield Explorers: John B - scheme explained (visit places around country and collect points) mugs were distributed to current leaders: Dan McKeand (current leader), Jak Lemon, Carl Lemon and Roy Easton (absent)

11) Close of Meeting Business

Chilli/curry lunch on offer: sign in requested and ride out due at 2.30 with drop off system. Route maps available. Sunday unveiling of Royal Enfield sculpture ride out planned to Redditch.

Meeting closed at 1.15