

The Royal Enfield Owners Club

47th Annual General Meeting

Saturday 20th September 2025

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

Committee members present:

Robert Murdoch-Chairman, Archivist

John Dove, Committee, Machine Dating Officer

Patrick Hurley, Committee Member

Jak Lemon, Committee

Henry Price, Co-opted Committee

Barry Carson, Co-opted Committee.

Members attending (see attached list of 38)

1) Apologies

Sean Keogh, Gary McClure, Mark Munford, Charles Notton, Gordon Gambrell, Bill Grigg, John Budgen, Mary McKeand,

2) Minutes of the 2024 AGM

Meeting opened at 11am. Over 30 members attended the meeting. The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the 3rd meeting at Upton Upon Severn.

Copies of the minutes from the 2024 AGM were distributed and were accepted. There is still no General Secretary, so Kate Hurley volunteered to take the MOM.

3) Matters Arising

The chairman raised the issue of membership of MAG and their response to an REOC letter, which was ignored, and was deemed

unprofessional. The decision had therefore been taken to withdraw from MAG and join the BMF. This was confirmed by committee members. The Chairman contrasted MAG's response to queries with the response to a query directed to the BMF before the International Rally and reported how helpful the BMF had been in advising about insurance details. Membership comes with a quarterly magazine which the committee will try to distribute out to REOC members via emails. One issue covered in their magazine is with government policy towards promoting motorcycles as transport and their use in bus lanes.

4) Chairman's Address

- a) The Chairman pointed out it was the third year of the club having no General Secretary and explained the job role. He added that the club was running below par on committee members for much of the time and with 2,200 members all were needed to do their bit in supporting the club. He asked for volunteers as it increased the burden on other members. The expectation of roles was explained, and it was stressed that some roles, such as General Secretary, did not require daily input and new technology such as Whatsapp meant that attendance at meetings was not such a burden. Jak Lemmon added that with the International Rally and liaison with the Welsh branch there had recently been more meetings, but this had also increased the use of Zoom. Going forward attendance might not be required, except for maybe 3 times a year and the Chairman added that many meetings were more of an informal chat. The floor asked about the possibility of recording such meetings and downloading them. The committee explained there was the matter of connectivity sometimes and Jak Lemmon also added that sometimes Teams was used.
- b) The Chairman resumed by reviewing the International Rally in terms of the excellent weather, whilst likening the location to Fawlty Towers on occasion! Looking forward, he anticipated that 2027 would be the next International Rally, as they are usually held alternate years, and this next one would be the 50th anniversary of the club. He requested suggestions about future venues. The option of Germany was raised and the Chairman stressed that 95% of people would be from the UK and raised the possibility of 2 or joint/separate events.
- c) On the topic of AGMs, the Chairman stressed that at one point it looked as though there would be no quorum for the AGM. He

raised the issue of looking for new venues and emphasised he had spent time looking for possibilities, but venue requirements had to include facilities such as campsite with pub and function rooms, and these three together were hard to find. Various ideas were raised by the floor- such as moving the timing of the meeting, but this had raised clashes with other events: marquees were discussed but the issue of storage, lighting and power were discussed when an offer was made by Lincolnshire to have an unused marquee of theirs on a trailer. The contribution of the branch coordinator in providing a gazebo most rallies, which acted as a focus, was noted, but he was unwell at present. The Chairman noted that there were smaller marquees around the country, but issues of space, transport and location were all up consideration. The possibility of using rugby club premises was raised and Jak Lemmon suggested that ideas about venues were emailed to him, and the item was brought forward at the next committee meeting. He indicated the capacity for 100 people should be a consideration. In addition, a pub was needed for decent food, camping vans and caravans needed to be catered for and, if possible, glamping huts would be an advantage.

5) Treasurer's Report

The treasurer was unavailable but sent on a report. The club has a surplus of £7,500. Membership and advertising were accounting, broadly, for profits, and branch rallies and postage increases accounted for costs increasing. ACTION might the needed and the Treasurer was prepared for correspondence, with HMRC as bank income might attract tax interest. The Treasurer announced his intention to run until the following AGM so the post was offered to members with the explanation that a lot had been done to create a semi-automated account with Lloyd's whereby details were separated clearly under headings accounting for income and expense and it wasn't anticipated that a financial specialist would be required to hold the post. Members were invited to contact the current Treasurer with questions related to the role.

Questions from the floor were invited:

- one query related to an increased income deriving from Hitchcock's legacy. It was explained that the hadn't paid for any advertising in The Gun for about 5 years due to editorial changes and a contribution had been made to account for this.

- also raised was whether insurance covers public liability and so insurance was explained. There are two policies, one covers events and the other covers printed/published materials.

6) Acceptance of Accounts

The accounts were accepted without further query.

7) Officers' Reports

Website: in the absence of Sean Keough a report was read by John Dove, and the full report would be available on the website area. Usage was up by 67% and over 90% paid use. Over 50 different countries were accessing content, chiefly the UK, India and the USA but it was felt some of the US access was by BOTs. Online membership had increased with registrations and automated renewals running from August. Members were from 25 countries.

New Content: requested that it be sent to the website manager in easily converted format, ie not embedded. Word/email were the preferred formats. Space in the club magazine was limited but not on the website.

From the floor: a register of thanks for the hard work done over the year. The Chairman responded with a request that the thanks be translated into action.

Machine Dating: John Dove welcomed Henry as the new specialist on Indian machines and the DVLA had accepted him as a second signatory. The number of dating certificates was down on last year and had been requested by 8 members outside of the UK, including France. For the first time there had been more requests for Indian machines than Redditch ones. John Dove raised awareness that one machine had been cloned more than 4 times! He suggested that members checked with him before importing from India. He also noted that he was receiving more requests related to parts of machines rather than full Redditch bikes. He again stressed the importance of care when purchasing before importing comparing examples of research carried out by VMCC as opposed to that of the REOC, because the REOC had access to the ledgers.

Social secretary: was on holiday and has submitted no report.

Branch coordinator: John Barnard had stepped down for health reasons. John Dove said he had had website queries directed to him and he had

received an enquiry to start a new branch in Essex. The Chairman raised the point this was another post available.

Membership: Graham said it had been a year for changing memberships as the trial became permanent. The website was sending automated renewal membership reminders, and this was reflected in over double the number of fixed year renewals. At 79% these had never been so high. Graham explained the website would send everyone who paid via the website an automated renewal but not everyone who paid on the website renewed that way. The website sent only 1 reminder at a month, so Graham said he would also send an email reminder if he had an email address.

Questions from the floor:

- It was hard to analyse loss of membership because he worked in line with the Treasurer's financial year, so disappearances might be August renewals.
- Online renewals couldn't be done for wives, and this was explained as being a payment matter which Sean had said he would try to sort out but the system had initially been rolled out in the simplest manner possible. It might be ongoing, so if there were family members involved then the simplest solution was to call him or to renew over the year.
- Manners of payment: cheques- were banked in May. Now the club was charged £1 for each cheque as it was classed as a small business. The snag with Paypal was that by clicking on friends and family link, no email address was identified to go with the payment. With a goods and services payment, there was a 74p charge per transaction. If a card payment was made then there was a charge of 38p. The club could have 100 free bank transfers a month and then it was required to pay 20p, *so the bank transfer option was the cheapest*. However, only the Treasurer would be aware the payment had been made so could members take a screenshot of the payment and send it to the membership secretary. On the question of Direct Debit, Graham refused to keep bank details on his computer because of the GDPR issues involved. A postal order payment was treated in the same way as a cheque payment.

Archivist: a quieter year in terms of providing information. He had received a voluntary donation form the daughter of Anne Bradford who had written a book on being on the Redditch factory workforce. The club

now had the original manuscript in its possession and full, unedited notes and the whole was waiting to be scanned. In a recent request about a 1930 model D, outside help had been requested as the club was struggling for specialist help with prewar machines. So anyone wanting to volunteer as a specialist was directed to the pre1940 Facebook group.

BMF Rep: John Budgen the MAG rep had stood down and a rep to liaise with the BMF and contribute to the magazine was requested.

Editor: Doug and Paula submitted a written report which was distributed with the previous minutes and encouraged further member contributions. It reminded members about the interim online newsletter for the months between issues of The Gun, and which allowed for more detailed branch reports. A comment from the floor reflected that the new system was working well.

Insurance: Jak Lemmon reflected on the insurance scheme with Peter James which provided good value classic insurance but wasn't providing a good deal for modern machines. A payment of £2,500 had been made to the club in anticipation of business but he felt this was unlikely to be repeated. Jak invited feedback on the leaflets which had been distributed via branches.

- On the Greek rally, Jak thanked those who had given him background materials for his rally talk.
- On the International Rally: most thought it was a success, and it had been the biggest in the country for a long while. He thanked the Welsh branch for their work. He accepted there was room for improvement but stressed his highpoint was the faces of those who had ridden older machines, and the display of bikes in front of the hall as well as listening to the harpist. He thanked all those involved and stressed the need for greater volunteer involvement even of only for an hour.

8) Proposals

Only one proposal received: the one-year trial period of the new online membership, which commenced at the 2024 AGM, is adopted as the preferred method of joining/renewal. This rolling-year permits new members to join at any time of the year instead of the previous August fixed renewal date. Seconded by Graham Scarth.

Not voted on last year because of the membership secretary situation. Retrospectively have had one year period of online membership as a

trial period. This has broken the fixed deadline system and now there is a rolling-year system, capturing email addressed for automatic reminders.

Q: is a fixed August to August still ok? It was emphasised the new system affects new members only.

Q: if old membership lapses? Then would be a rolling membership.

Q: what to expect next year? A slip with the August magazine.

Graham emphasised that renewals come at the end of the month form the database system as that is what the system allows, so when join in September, renewal would be at the end of September.

The motion was carried unanimously.

9) AOB

- a) John Dove: last year it was carried to reach out beyond the UK to other RE clubs. Next year RE Forum DE (German) have a rally at Kaiserhauten (?spelling) near Worms. It would be a long day ride via Calai/Hook of Holland. The dates discussed so far are 26-28 June 2026. They'll have a 100 mile rideout split between slower and faster Enfield models. Members from mid-Shires are going again.
- b) Jackie Furnaux was publishing a second book about her ongoing experiences. It was reported to be engaging and had been reviewed in The Gun. In response to enquiries about the book, the meeting was informed it was purchasable on Amazon and if permission was granted, the ISBN would be published in The Gun. The Chairman informed the meeting that Jackie received just £1 per book copy sold.
- c) 2026: 125 years of Royal Enfield. It was proposed that there was a National Rally celebrating the anniversary. Chairman was going to speak to Dean Coxson (NPole/SPole traveller). Suggestions included a Founders Day rally, perhaps on the back of the VMCC rally. He was awaiting a reply about a possible rideout to the tech centre as a focus for an event.
- d) Graham Scarth reported a lot of new members from Italy. The Chairman raised the hope that there might be an Italian rally and Jack Lemmon commented to would be excellent of they were to liaise with the Greek rally timing.

10) Elections

Chairman

The Chairman explained there was a staggered 3-year rotation system and his position expired today.

Bob Murdoch offered to be Chairman once again. This was seconded by Graham. Elected unopposed.

Machine Dating Officer

John Dove had completed two terms. He was elected unopposed.

Committee Member Vacancies

Sean Keough was stepping down from the committee although continuing with website development. Proposals for new members were invited. Steve from Midshires was elected unopposed.

The Chairman proposed Barry Carson as a coopted member, and he was seconded by Graham. Elected unopposed.

Henry Price was proposed to the committee and seconded by Barry. He was elected unopposed.

Simon Woods was proposed by John Dove as a committee member at the end of the meeting. It was after a brief discussion about travel expenses from the Isle of Wight which it was agreed would be reasonable to cover as expenses from Scotland has previously been covered.

General Secretary

The Chairman said he would stop all his activity acting as General Secretary by Christmas. The position would be advertised in The Gun. There were no volunteers at the meeting. *[The writer of these minutes believes a volunteer, Carl Gittus, came forward after the meeting]*

Vacant Officer Positions

Branch Secretary: John Barnard was relinquishing the position as coordinator and details were given about the role.

Treasurer: this was one year notice. Enquiries were invited about specific details. It was stressed there was no need to be a professional expert.

Sales: Barbara was finishing her role in April at the financial year. This was an appointed officer post. The Chairman praised the job she had

done, which was reflected in a lift in sales. She has already established a list of contacts. She only sells and posts smaller items, clothing orders go direct to the supplier.

The Chairman announced she still had shirts left from the International Rally at a reduced rate.

11) Presentation of Trophies

The Chairman voiced his discontent that no trophies were available, due to some missed homework by the Social Secretary. The Enfield Explorer Trophy: Dan McKeand by about 20 points from Jack Lemmon with Carl Lemmon third.

Roger Thompson Trophy for most meritorious ride went to Jack Lemmon for the distances covered on his journey(s) to the Greek Rally.

12) Close of Meeting

2.30 A rideout of 65 miles using the drop-off system followed the Curry and Chilli available for lunch in the pub.

After a brief discussion about covering expenses from the Isle of Wight, Simon Woods was elected *(post meeting; it was realised that we were in the unusual position of accepting one Committee volunteer too many. Simon was politely informed that his offer would be declined, being the last to volunteer).*

The meeting closed at 12:42.