

Cossack Owners Club AGM Minutes

2020

As you know, at least the COC has acted responsibly and avoided infecting anyone unnecessarily by attempting to deny humanity has a serious problem, and cancelled the AGM. Here are the committee's individual reports which you would have heard read out if there'd been one.

Paul Codling, magazine editor.

First, an expression of gratitude to our contributors. If you read Horizontal View regularly and savour it you'll know these people as friends, which is pretty much what our club is for. Thank you very much.

I like to include subjects related to members even though those might not be strictly about Russian motorcycles, thinking that if it's interesting to them, it's interesting to us and it's not been otherwise yet!

As ever I'd like to urge contributors to attach images to emails rather than embed them in the email itself. This is because doing that preserves the original file format rather than allowing your email provider's server to buggger about with it. It makes editing easy and does wonders for the quality of the images. It's a shame for someone to have spent ages creating an article when I have to take it apart to make it fit Horizontal View. Text in the email itself, pictures attached please. Baffled by technology? OK, never mind, send it how you like, I'll cope somehow!

Pictures are good, take lots. It's a fact of life that many people are inspired to read by something catching their eye and others just look at the images. Pictures make Horizontal View look shiny and sparkly.

I find some of the email streams I become involved in contain lots of interesting stuff and publishing edited highlights of these is often informative and fun, and allows the seamless introduction of detail into the magazine. Be wary then that your comments and observations might be enjoyed by the whole club.

Sometimes we get technical, not just because we have to but because there's art in the hidden beauty of the components our machines consist of. A balance is necessary of course. Personally I'd love it if, when you rebuild your engine, you took pictures of the gory details, of the trauma which made it necessary and the gleaming newness of your replacement parts, before they too become traumatised later.

I met Tarka on the field at Stafford once, ankle deep in rusting junk. "This is sex!" he said. It wasn't, it was the autojumble, but I knew exactly what he meant.

Sometimes I'm worried that Horizontal View might compete with the Club's Facebook page and we might lose out to the instant gratification available there, but then that seems to be a fleeting, momentary thing and HV a more substantial record of the Cossack Owner's Club's history. I think it's different enough to cope, I think we'll be OK.

Believe it or not this is my 35th issue of HV and I'm not bored yet. Is everybody happy?

David Cox, Webmaster, Website and Facebook.

Website. Now we have settled with Wix to run our website and the major issue we had with members not being able to log on or even find us in some cases has now been fixed. The website is as always an ongoing project and we do make changes now and again, hopefully for the better. This is done when someone has had difficulties with part of the site.

Recent changes: 1. On the membership page, the only form now available is the downloadable one for hand written applications. 2. The Membership Information form has been moved and is now only available in the COC Shop. This hopefully will prevent forms being filled in twice.

I have secured the site from any potential hacking as best I can after the incident some time back. I have asked our web providers, VitualNames, for help and they have transferred our entire site to a more secure server with changes in the passwords etc. I had to make a few changes to the website but nothing that would notice to any viewers.

Content for the website is still almost non existent and so I do ask people to send me anything they have of interest to other members. When new content is placed on the webpage, especially when the magazine is published the visits to our website increase dramatically. Not only on the magazine page but the site generally.

All photographs and videos are on the club's Flickr site where they are more secure and that makes our website a happier place without trying to store and sort through the pictures we do have. I am always in the process of improving the website and have changed a few pages when time allows, this is generally done in the winter months.

We are always open to suggestions from our members on the website content, if you have anything you would like to see please let us know.

Facebook. Our Facebook page is running well with more people joining on a regular basis. To date we have 378 members around the world, but I do still reject 8 out of 10 people wanting to join, but most as usual have nothing to do with bikes but just want to join anyway and show us their babies/cats/dogs and holiday snaps. If you are a regular to our page you will see we have joined a few interest groups.....

USA: 'Soviet Steeds' & Urals, Sidecars & Vintage Motorcycles (part of Soviet Steeds).

Russian: 'Wanders of the Eternal Summer'.

Canada: Canadian Cossack Riders Group,

Australia: 'ROMA' of course.

There of course many other groups out there doing the same thing but going through the content each day can take quite some time. I do look at most of the content when I can and have removed some that are potentially offensive these days. Unfortunately I have removed some posts again this last year for placing some very strong political views on it which is not what our site is about.

Device Apps: An important issue arose at the beginning of July when a post came in offering people a downloadable application to find information and parts etc, on the bikes. This immediately caused me to write a warning regarding this.

All downloads/apps from any individuals should be viewed with extreme caution, especially if you have banking information on your devices. I was assured by the man posting it that it is OK but personally I wouldn't download it. Of course it's up to anyone who wants it to go ahead and download the application.

Adverts: All adverts for sales, wanted etc should not be placed on the Club's Facebook page. There is another site especially setup for sales 'Cossack Sell Buy Swap'. You can find a shortcut on the club's website home page at the bottom. I think the word has been passed round that all adverts will be deleted after asking the seller to move it. It's not our choice but it's in the rules for our group

I am willing to continue looking after the websites.

Tony Jones, Club Secretary.

No doubt but that you all know by now that the AGM has had to be postponed for obvious reasons. The committee took the decision to postpone the AGM and to publish the committee reports in the club's magazine. Along with this report you should find reports from the other committee members. If you have any issues with these reports please let me know and we will try to resolve them.

So far none of the committee have decided to resign so I will take it as read that we will continue as is until next year. All the committee members are volunteers and offer their services for free. I would like to thank my fellow committee members for all the work they do.

On a personal note my duties have been much the same as previous years. I am the first point of contact and I either answer any enquiries or forward them on. Most enquiries seem to be about registering a motorcycle. We continue to offer a free dating certificate for members or to charge non members. What comments we have received from members and others seem to be positive.

As part of my duties I arranged the 2020 Red Star rally. That too has had to be postponed. I know that camping can be done in a socially distanced way but not so the social evening in the bar. Also we had to bear in mind that the last Red Star Rally made a financial loss. We want to avoid any more losses and the way things are we couldn't count on sufficient attendees to make it worth while. Hopefully the rally will be held on the same weekend next year.

If everyone is happy with the way things are going I am prepared to stand for another year. Keep safe.

Phil Inman, Treasurer and Regalia.

Please see the attached Year-End Financial Report, which gives a detailed breakdown of Income and Expenditure, by category.

Our bank balance at Year End was £7,598.43, compared with £6,935.33 for Year End 2019.

Income amounted to £4,994.67, coming as usual mainly from membership subscriptions. The provision of Dating Certificates generated income of £15.00, whilst Regalia Sales amounted to £268.20. Income from member subscriptions showed a decrease of £886.07 over last year.

Expenditure amounted to £4,331.57, compared with £6,287.91 for last year. Postage costs were £103.88 lower than last year. For clarity, it should be noted that the cost of mailing Horizontal View to members is subsumed into the overall cost of magazine printing. Since this service is provided to the club by the magazine printer, postage is included by the printer on his invoice. The largest item of expenditure was, as usual, the printing and postage of the Club magazine.

This year, the Club's income has exceeded expenditure by £663.10, a satisfactory outcome. Based upon last year's performance, I warned at last year's AGM that it might be necessary to consider an increase in membership fees. This year's figures clearly show that it is not necessary to take this step.

Income:	Amount £
COC Account	
Dating Certificates	10.00
Donations to COC	15.00
Equipment	80.00
Membership subscriptions	4,371.47
Rallies	250.00
Regalia Sales	268.20
Total Income	4,994.67

Expenditure:	Amount £
Equipment	235.88
Insurance	100.80
Membership, Clubs and Societies	135.83

Postage	110.32
Printing	2,793.34
Rallies	339.00
Red Star Rally 2020(21)	26.00
Regalia	230.06
Shows	200.00
Stationery	80.38
Website	79.96
Total Expenses	4,331.57

Total excess of income over expenditure for the year (Net Profit) £663.10

Bank Balance as at Year End £7,598.43

Regalia sales have shown a significant decrease this year, although total Regalia sales for the year (£268.20) exceeded purchases (£230.06) by £38.14. Stock levels remain good and should not need to be replenished for some time. Ordinarily, Regalia items are taken to the two Stafford Classic Shows (April and October). However, Covid-19 resulted in the cancellation of the April 20 show, and this is a factor in the decrease in total sales.

I am happy to continue as COC Treasurer for the next year, should that be the membership's wish.

Gina Inman, Membership Secretary.

Membership Numbers: Year 2019/20, 272 Paid up Members, 19 Honorary Members, 281 Members in Total. Year 2018/19 318, Paid up Members, 21 Honorary Members, 339 Members in Total.

As you can see this is quite a large decrease in numbers from previous years. In fact, not since 2015 have numbers been so low. During the Covid-19 lockdown we actually had an unexpectedly high number of people joining the Club. Unfortunately, this was balanced out by higher numbers than usual failing to renew their membership.

Month/year	New members	Renewals	Total
August 2019	5	8	13
September 2019	1	23	24
October 2019	8	11	19
November 2019	4	13	17
December 2019	1	12	13
January 2020	3	15	18
February 2020	1	17	18
March 2020	11	21	32
April 2020	6	24	30
May 2020	12	24	36
June 2020	9	20	29
July 2020	3	20	23
Totals	64	208	272

During the course of last year 64 people have joined the club compared to 84 in the previous year. Covid 19 and the Lockdown is probably to blame as many people are feeling the financial pinch. Plus, of course, we had problems with the website last year, which I am glad to say appears to be sorted, but undoubtedly put

some people off joining the Club. A few members who had left in frustration with website have since rejoined the club.

GDPR General Data Protection Regulations:

I want to reiterate what the introduction of GDPR has meant in the way the Club holds personal data. Primarily in security of the data and how long data is kept after resignation from the club.

The membership Database is backed up to the Cloud and password protected. As most people don't formally resign but simply fail to renew their membership this has proven to be a bit of an issue when someone forgets to renew until they realise they haven't had a magazine recently. We aren't permitted to keep data post resignation so if someone renews after simply forgetting for a couple of months we need to issue a new membership number and treat them as new members! Sometimes the original membership number is still available and can be reissued.

In accordance with the law the committee put together a GDPR Statement that is on every membership welcome letter. Horizontal View Distribution: In my role as Membership Secretary I am also responsible for the distribution of Horizontal View. Two years ago we contracted the Printer to distribute the posted magazines while I continue to send out the email copies. Postal copies cost about 20p per magazine per person more than doing it ourselves but it is definitely a benefit to the club, and me personally!

The number of people taking email copies has dropped to 77 from over 100. This primarily due to lapsed memberships but many more people are opting for the printed copy to be posted to them.

Should it be the will of the membership I am happy to continue in the role of Membership Secretary.

Peter Ballard, COC President and Technical Adviser.

Well this has not been a good year for getting out on the bikes and outfits. Shame also to have had to postpone the East European Rally and to run a virtual AGM. I wish to thank our tireless committee for their efforts in the last year supporting the club and its members, and sincerely welcome Dave Cox back into the fold, his knowledge is invaluable.

Technical Adviser role. Very few technical enquiries now, maybe one a month on email and phone. I still read some of the technical advice on the forums and am dismayed as always with the blind often leading the partially sighted. There are manuals available and various committee members with significant technical abilities to advise. Forums are good to keep owners and members in touch I accept, but fraught with problems to try to solve technical issues.

There have been only 26 'age related' registration applications with V55/5 this last year. I suspect down to the ever increasing unilateral demands for evidence by the DVLA. When the DVLA ask for a Club Date Certificate they assume the Club has access to factory records and thus the Club's Date Cert is expected to just authenticate those records. As we have no access to factory records the DVLA often takes little notice of our Date Certs. Unless there is significant amounts of documentary evidence as to the year of manufacture of a bike or an old or current foreign reg' doc' then the DVLA will reject a V55/5 application for an age related registration.

Sadly more and more owners come to the Club and myself with a bike they have spent huge amounts of time and money on only to find out that it cannot be registered as 'age related'. No owner has yet gone the 'Q' route of 'Motorcycle Single Vehicle Approval' nor an age related 'Reconstructed Classic' application, both are recognised ways of getting a bike on the road if the DVLA will not apply an age related reg'.

I am willing to do my bit again for another year.