

Cossack Owners Club A.G.M Minutes & Reports 2018

Agenda

Committee :

Honorary President/Technical Adviser	Peter Ballard
Secretary	Tony Jones
Membership Secretary	Gina Inman
Treasurer/Regalia	Phil Inman
Rallies	Carl Booth
Editor	Paul Codling
Dave Cox	Web master

Welcome and identification of AGM Chairperson (tba) and Secretary.

1. Apologies for absence. (Carl Booth and Phil Whitney cannot attend)
2. Approval of 2017 AGM minutes as published in Horizontal News
3. Committee reports
4. Proposal from members. (There are no advance proposals from the membership)
5. Election of Committee
6. 2019 AGM venue and date discussion.
7. Any other business.

If you wish to address the meeting please identify yourself before speaking.

Copies of the Club's Constitution and Rules as well as a copy of last year's AGM minutes are held by the Secretary if you should want to examine them.

*Proposals. It was agreed in 2013 that advance notice of proposals need not be made so you may make any proposals now and they will be discussed and voted on.

Tony Jones

This year's AGM was held at the Greetham Campsite, Rutland at 10am 1st September 2018.
14 members attended.

The meeting was chaired by Peter Ballard Peter opened the meeting with an introduction to the committee members present and a welcome to other members. A special thankyou to Phil and Gina Inman who arranged the site.

1. Apologies for absence were given on behalf of Carl Booth, Phil Rushworth and Phil Whitney.
2. The minutes of the 2017 AGM had previously been circulated in Horizontal News. Dave Greenwood proposed that the previous year's minutes be approved. This was seconded by Mike Rowe. The meeting unanimously approved the minutes.
3. Committee member's reports. These were read out by the committee members present and copies of their reports are attached. Carl's report was read by Paul.
4. Proposals from members. There were no advance proposals from members.
5. Election of committee. All members of the committee volunteered to serve for another year. Mike Rowe proposed that the committee be returned en bloc. This was seconded by Dave Greenwood. The meeting unanimously approved this proposal.
6. Any other business. Peter proposed that the Cossack Owners Club join the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs. This Club monitors Government legislation and DVLA policies on behalf of all historical vehicle owners. They would be able to speak on our behalf in any consultations with the Government and DVLA. The cost would be about 47 pence per member. This was seconded by Phil Inman. The meeting unanimously agreed. Paul proposed advertising our events with the MZ and CZ clubs and any other like-minded clubs and vice versa. This is to encourage larger attendance at our events. Seconded by Tony Jones. The meeting unanimously agreed. Mike Rowe proposed that free dating certificates should only be made available to members in their second year of membership. This was to stop people joining for one year solely to get a dating certificate. Peter Ballard didn't see any wrong with the current arrangement and it did bring members into the Club. Also it would make administration of dating certificates more difficult. Mike Rowe asked if it was possible to cross reference dating certificate requests with members who only stayed for one year. Gina proposed a £10 charge to members. It was agreed that further analysis and discussion was needed before any change was made.
- 7.2019 AGM venue and date. All agreed that the Greetham Campsite was superb. Tony Jones proposed Greetham for next year's AGM. Seconded by Peter Ballard. The meeting unanimously agreed.

Peter presented Paul Codling, who was awarded last year's Alan Mottram award, with a handmade plaque as a thank you for his and Hazel's contributions to the Club.

There was a general discussion about how to encourage more members to get involved in the Club's activities.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 11.27am

Committee Reports

Tony Jones

~Club Secretary~

As last year I have been the main contact point for the Club. I receive all emails and correspondence directed to the Club and either answer them or forward them as appropriate. This system seems to be working so far. Most of the outside enquiries have been machine dating related and have been forwarded to Peter Ballard. I have also attended some shows, with the Clubs gazebo, to promote our Club.

It has been mentioned several times that we do not have insurance to cover events that we organise. After much research I have organised Public Liability insurance. The type of cover and the premiums varied wildly. £800 for membership of the BMF, which includes insurance to £68 for simple Public Liability. In consultation with the Committee we decided that straight forward Public Liability was sufficient without all the ad-ons that some insurers were trying to sell. A copy of the Insurance policy is available on request.

At last year's AGM I volunteered to organise a Red Start Rally for 2018. Unfortunately this fell through. For health and business reasons I was unable to commit the time needed. We will be arranging the 2020 Red Star Rally and suggestions for venues would be welcome. (Anyone offering to volunteer as organiser?)

TV appearance. Henry Cole came to buy an MT12 outfit from me and this will be featured in a programme about sidecar riding.

Peter J Ballard

~ President ~

I am pleased to hold this position, I treat it as an overseer role. What I see is a lot of owners, a dedicated core of real enthusiasts and within that members who volunteer their time, effort and house space to work for the club; without any of that there would be no club!

TV. We were approached by Henry Cole, as off TV 'Shed and Buried' to help put together stuff for an hour-long programme (minus ads) about our bikes, centred about the Dnepr MT12 Tony sold to them. I provided a lot of background stuff. They did feature David Angel in a previous programme, still on the internet. No news yet.

Books. I have been asked again to do a technical translation of a Swedish 'tongue in cheek' book on these bikes. Initial contact and a translation was made by me but I was concerned about putting my name to a book where some of the technical input was poor. Now that Veloce are publishing in the UK I have been asked to do a professional translation. I have

also acted as adviser to a book written by the author Colin Turbett about the history and social history of these bikes post WWII, to the printers now, again Veloce!

Federation of Historic Vehicles Club. I accept the club members have some motorcycles that are new but also some bikes that are from the 1950's and 1960's. It is getting more and more onerous to register such older bikes even though once done there is no road tax and no MoT, why not put more effort into an initial technical examination rather than the DVLA being so difficult to satisfy if a bike in 1955 or 1956, for example, what is the difference! We approached the FBHVC a few years ago when the last concerns about sidecars on the right arose, the expert at the FBHVC did seem to recall that there was a law that defined that, wasn't there? So we did not join. MZ Riders are members though the Jawa/CZ are not, but there are 540 clubs in the FBHVC and 250,00 owners plus individuals and companies. I have asked what they can do for us, but they do seem to have the ear of DVLA and DfT. Cost is £0.46 per member, so around £130 I guess.

~ Technical Adviser ~

Date Certificates. I have 38 done in the last year, all successful though more rejections, but all appeals successful. We also create Date Certs at £15 each for dealers, this is useful income, the buyers then get a Date Cert or an age related reg. The DVLA seem to be unofficially changing their requirements; a year ago success of over 75%, now down to 10%, but in all cases appeals are 100% successful. Examples include DVLA stating they will no longer treat an EU registration document as evidence for make, model and year, but if you do have one they will insist on it and unless fought for, will destroy it. Most rejects get a standard DVLA letter, I respond with a pretty well standard COC appeal letter stating we "comply with" all their concerns, we then win the appeal. I have submitted a complaint to DVLA after a telephone call to them as then my concerns go into the system, no reply yet. I have noted at least two Date Certs issued to members that I am pretty sure were done just to sell the bike again already registered. I have no problem if the buyer/owner restores/recommissions the bike with the intension of getting it sorted then sell it on and do the next, it is when the intention is to get a free Date Cert just to sell on an imported bike at an increased profit.

Technical Advice. I get very few enquiries for technical advice. Guess the supply of manuals or online resources provides the owners with what they want.

Online stuff. I am as ever concerned about the quality of the technical advice online on various forums and FaceBook. The knowledge and reputation of the responder is rarely known but can be given as much credibility as an experts, even if safe proclaimed. I hate political or nationalist rants on such. I no longer part take, done. I am however pleased that in David Cox we have a good steady hand.

Phil Inman

~Treasurer~

(Incorporating Regalia Secretary's Report)

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

Our bank balance at Year End was £7,090.80, compared with £6,570.55 for Year End 2017.

Income amounted to £4,861.69, coming as usual mainly from membership subscriptions. The provision of Dating Certificates generated income of £113.00, whilst Regalia Sales amounted to £347.93 which generated a small profit over the cost of purchases. Income from member subscriptions showed a small reduction compared with last year.

Expenditure amounted to £4,341.44, compared with £4,860.35 for last year. Postage costs were broadly similar to those last year. The largest item of expenditure was the printing of the Club magazine which, again, showed an increase over last year. Our printer has recently undertaken the despatch of the magazine to Club members, accounting for the bulk of the increased cost. In turn, this has enabled the Club to discontinue use of our mail franking machine, relieving us of a significant expense. On balance, it is expected that overall annual cost of the magazine and its despatch will be broadly in line with previous years. An additional item of expense this year has been the cost of the Club's attendance at various shows throughout the year, specifically the hire of transport for our display equipment. Previously, this expense had been met privately, but it is proper that the Club pays it's way in this regard.

The Club's income has exceeded expenditure by £520.25, a satisfactory figure. Once again, I make no recommendation for an increase in membership subscriptions.

Regalia sales have shown a reduction this year. Regalia items continue to be taken to the two Stafford Classic Shows during the year and sales there continue to be satisfactory. Total Regalia sales for the year (£347.93) exceeded cost of purchases (£311.84) by £36.09.

David Cox

~Webmaster~

The past year has seen quite a change in the club's website and Facebook page. Not quite the changes I was hoping for as normally I can sit back and keep any work to a minimum, but not this past year.

Website:

An email came one day from 'Serif' who held our previous site saying they will not be supporting our member's area log-in after a few months. This basically said that sorry you'll have to go, great. I looked around to see what was available for the club to use and the one site that stood out was Wix. This company is at the top (of course) on the Google list of free website providers and so I started to rebuild the club site with them. All was going well until I tried to make it a little different, that's when Wix say 'you can't do that unless you upgrade'. I suddenly realised this is how Wix make their money. They give you a free basic site but if you want anything slightly better than basic you need to pay for it. By the time I finished the website has cost the club £112.68. The club has gone along with this up to a point, and I hope the members are happy with the result.

Member's area:

We again have a secure 'Log-in' but this time I cannot keep passwords for anyone. The site does allow you to change your password if forgotten, like most sites also do. There have been many non-members who try to get into the area, but all attempts have been foiled by me, (I have the power).

The website still needs work but this time of year is not practical for me, even though I've retired – sort of anyway. If members have any suggestions as to the content of the website I would be happy to hear them.

Facebook:

This has also been a turbulent year for us, we were reported to Facebook as we were advertising the club as a person. That was entirely an issue made by myself. Facebook advised me the site will be deleted within a few months, but wow, it's still there. I am not using that page as it may all happen again. With that warning I used my own personal page and attached the club as a Group. It has worked reasonably well but we lost many people in the process. It's now gradually getting numbers up again and stands at 196 as of 28/08/18.

As moderator of the page I have rejected many people who want to join the group, but before I accept or decline them I always look at their own page to see what they have posted. Some are fine and I accept them if they are interested in Russian bikes or just bikes sometimes, but all the people I have rejected have no interest whatsoever in bikes or even have one on their own page at all. Also if they do not show their page content they are automatically declined. I reject at least 8 each week. I will also not accept anything that contains aggressive political statements, hatred, racism or just plain rubbish.

Gina Inman
~Membership~

Year 2017/18 294 Paid up Members
22 Honorary Members
314 Members in total

Year 2016/17: 287 Paid up Members
23 Honorary Members
310 Members in total

As you can see this is a small increase in numbers from the previous year.

Below is a table showing the monthly breakdown of new and renewed membership.

MONTH	NEW MEMBERS	RENEWALS	TOTAL
Sep 17	11	18	29
Oct-17	5	23	28
Nov-17	5	13	18
Dec-17	4	14	18
Jan-18	7	20	27
Feb-18	11	12	23
Mar-18	8	12	20
Apr-18	6	16	22
May-18	13	18	31
Jun-18	3	16	19
Jul-18	13	31	44
Aug-18	8	9	17
Totals	94	200	294

During the course of last year 94 people have joined the club compared to 83 in the year 2016/17. Less people have renewed their membership this year but, looking at the membership numbers of those failing to renew one third have been members for a single year. Overall we have an increase in membership of just 7 from the previous year.

GDPR General Data Protection Regulations

The introduction of these new regulations governing the collection and use of personal data gave all the committee a bit of a headache! For the Membership Secretary there have been major changes in security of the data and how long data is kept after resignation from the club. As far as security goes the club had already invested in a Laptop that is only used for club business and the database is backed up to a

memory stick as well as the cloud. It is also 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 technically we need to issue a new membership number and treat them as new members!

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. There have been changes here as well this year. Due to my work commitments, not having as much free time as in the past, we took the decision, as a committee, to ask the printers to distribute the magazine for us. This is costing 20p per magazine per person more than doing it ourselves. As a result of this we have cancelled the contract for the Franking Machine as it is no longer financially justifiable.

For those people who receive the magazine by email they won't have seen any changes with the introduction of GDPR as I have always done the mail shot as Blind Carbon Copy (bcc) to all recipients.

There continues to be an increase in the numbers of members receiving their copies of Horizontal View by email. 120 people have now taken this option, up from 113 last year. Some people are continuing to revert to the posted copy saying they have found they prefer to hold the copy and take it with them to read wherever they may be.

Carl Booth
~Showband Leader~

Apologies from Comrade Carl, for not attending the C.O.C. AGM. It's a long distance for me from B/pool & I have had a chance of a free travel to the classic & MGP races in the island so I said yes, Sorry!!.

Report of shows: In the 12 months of doing the shows we pulled out of the Donnington show in August due to the whole club scene has been shifted from undercover to outside & as we had no cover available at the time due to unforeseen circumstances of one of our helpers & the decline in interest from 7 bikes to 3 seemed not worth it. We had a very good involvement at the October Stafford with a nice selection of bikes & some new faces also this year's April show gave us our largest selection of bikes on display & I hope this continues as this is a major do, as with the Manchester & Peterborough shows I received application forms but was informed to display as a club we needed PLI insurance so decided to pass this on to a higher source (Phil & Tony) & pulled out till sorted. As with the stands we have a good turn of members willing to give time & energy to display their wares to promote the club as a whole but it is only a small part of the membership available & if more people got involved it would be greatly appreciated by me & the committee as we all have an interest in these bikes & want to pass it on & this is why you're a member so think about it? Life's too short so enjoy yourself.

Paul Codling
~Editor~

Most importantly I need to thank our contributors, many of whom regularly send stuff in and have become an essential part of our little magazine community. It's hard to find the time in a busy life to write so the effort is very much appreciated. Fortunately Chris Drucker has lifted too many heavy bags of post and he's having a rest from that and working his way through a mountain of old motorcycle papers and magazines providing shed loads, literally, of fantastic memories, Bynnzi gets out on his bike loads and seems happy to share his experiences, Mark Avis meddles with the dark side of expedient engineering, Phil Rushworth's sense of adventure is no less intrepid, John Tickell's discovery of Russian two strokes has been intriguing and also fortunately David Greenwood takes his camera everywhere. Many thanks too to Michael Wadsworth, Michael Gilbert, Chris Smith..... and everyone else.

In spite of this, I still have space to make the magazine a lot more personal and self-indulgent than owner's club magazines are, something I feel mildly guilty about. However, it's fun and I'm coping with the feeling that I shouldn't be doing it OK. I wondered whether letting Alison have a few pages was a good idea for example. You can complain, feel free too, any feedback at all is good. I'd like to avoid competing with Facebook and the website

and preserve whatever it is that makes people still want the paper copies. It's about us as much as it's about Russian motorcycles and for the greater part of our passive and casual membership it's all they ever see of the club. If anyone has been inspired to write who wouldn't have bothered usually it's been a success. I'd like to thank those people too.

This ancient lap top is still creaking along but the pressure of my real life has meant that although we agreed I could have a new COC computer, asking my local computer shop if I can have what I want is as far as much progress as I've made. Apparently I can. The magazine takes at least a week in working hours but the Ten Pin Racing Triumph is at present 70 points clear at the top of the CMRC F750 championship. Our TZ350, obtuse and capricious little bastard that it is, consumes as much head space as it does time up on the bench and is now regularly top five now we're beginning to understand each other. We're at Mallory Park next weekend for the first of the last two rounds and things are getting tense. I'll deal with the computer when the race season ends.

I've signed up for one more year of racing, after that I'll have more time and the opportunity to get creative (!!!). Watch this space, please?