



### **Cossack Owners Club. AGM 2014 – Agenda**

Held at the Wing Hall Estate campsite, 11am 24<sup>th</sup> August 2014.

#### **Committee :**

Honorary President/Technical Adviser	Peter J Ballard
Secretary	Tony Jones
Membership Secretary	Gina Inman
Treasurer/Regalia	Phil Inman
Rallies	Carl Booth
Editor	Peter Barker (Retiring)
Editor Elect	Charles Hancock
Dave Cox	Web master

1. Welcome and identification of AGM Chairperson (tba) and Secretary.
2. Apologies for absence.  
(Carl Booth cannot attend because he is in the Isle of Man. Mike Stevens thinks it might rain)
3. Approval of 2013 AGM minutes as published in Horizontal News
4. Committee reports
5. Proposal from members.\*
6. Election of Committee
7. 2015 AGM venue and date discussion.
8. Any other business.

Members were asked address the meeting please to identify themselves 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 members should want to examine them.

\*Proposals. It was agreed last year that advance notice of proposals need not be made so members may make any proposals now and they will be discussed and voted on.

#### **Cossack Owners Club. AGM 2014 – DRAFT Minutes**

Tony Jones as COC secretary opened the meeting.

Peter J Ballard agreed to take the minutes.

Those present also included:

Dave Cox – web master

Phil Inman – Treasurer and acting Regalia.

Gina Inman – Membership.

Peter Barker – Editor of Horizontal View.

Also introduced was Charles Hancock who will be proposed as new Editor of Horizontal View following handover from Peter Barker.

## **2. Apologies from Carl Booth and Mike Stevens.**

## **3. Approval of 2013 AGM Minutes.**

Proposed Phil Inman, Seconded Dave Cox.

## **4. Committee Reports.**

### **Secretary – Tony Jones**

As last year I have been the main contact point for the Club. I receive all emails directed to the Club and either answer them or forward them as appropriate. This system seems to be working so far. I seem to have had more enquires from members of the public than last year including from a pop group who have toured Afghanistan on a Ural and a Spanish motor museum. Most of the outside enquiries have been machine dating related and have been forwarded to Peter Ballard. My big news is that I have organised a venue for the 2016 East European Rally. The provisional date is 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at the Canberra Club, Salmesbury, Lancashire. This is an excellent venue and we were lucky to get it. I have been working with Krsz Platek to manufacture the prizes ourselves and the venue is free of charge provided we eat and drink a lot. The main outlay will be for rally badges and that will be about £500.

I am prepared to stand again as Club Secretary.

Comments from member's ref this report:

Peter Baker – said that he believed that the Grand Day Out was a great success, and should be repeated.

Phil & Gina, & PJB – agreed, and encouraged it to be repeated. Lots more interest in such rather than a wet camping weekend

### **Show Officer – Carl Booth.**

Apologies for being somewhere else. This year we have only done three shows but they are main ones the October 2013 & April 2014 at Stafford & the new one to us, Donnington Classic Racing Festival, & we have acquitted ourselves very well with a good selection of bikes on display, as we are the only club which deals in Russian & other obscure Eastern Block marques, the public are interested in what we stand for as a club & this gives us access hopefully to new members. As by doing this we keep the interest alive in our machines & try to get a younger generation involved to keep them for the future. I have a good base of members/friends who display but with over 250 members in the club it would be great for others to join the ranks as we would like to see some new faces around the "Fumegator" to swap stories with, we have a good bbq & some strong home brew which Gina can recommend heartily (sorry gina), so think about it, you are only helping your club get better & using your membership to its full use. So endeth the order of Comrade Carl....

## **Treasurer's Report for Year End 31 July 2014 (incorporating Regalia Secretary's Report)**

### **Phil Inman.**

Firstly, may I draw your attention to the attached Year-End Report, which gives a detailed breakdown of Income and Expenditure, by category.

Our bank balance at Year End was £3238.81, compared with £2991.76 for Year End 2013.

Income from member subscriptions shows a small increase over last year (£69.61) despite a drop in membership numbers. This has been brought about by the subscription increase agreed at last year's AGM, and despite the greater number of members paying the lower subscription rate for having their copy of the club magazine by email rather than as a mailed paper copy.

Regalia sales show an increase of £107.66 over last year, probably because regalia items were offered for sale at the Stafford Classic Bike Shows in October last year and in April this year. It is hoped to continue to do this on a regular basis. Regalia stock is replenished on an as-needed basis and steps are currently being taken to reduce the overall stock level, since re-ordering can be achieved quickly. Regalia sales (£432.06) exceeded Regalia costs (£398.94) by £33.12.

Expenditure amounted to £4667.48, compared with £3743.09 for last year. This increase of £924.39 is accounted for almost entirely by the purchase and maintenance of the franking machine. Since the machine is now owned by COC, next year's expenses will consist purely of maintenance costs. The machine will continue to gain the club significant savings in postage.

Printing costs have risen by £101.21, offset by a reduction in postage costs amounting to £277.65. Despite publishing a bigger and better magazine, moving to bi-monthly publication appears to be reducing overall costs. A clearer picture will emerge next year. Magazine costs will be further controlled by adjusting printing quantities as membership numbers fluctuate and, hopefully, more members take up the email option.

The Club's income has exceeded expenditure by £247.05, a small but significant figure bearing in mind our falling membership numbers. I make no recommendation in respect of an increase in subscription charges for the forthcoming year.

May I offer my thanks to all those who have made my first year as Treasurer such an easy one. I am willing to continue in post next year should that be the membership's wish.

Phil Inman - 18 August 2014

### **Cossack Owners Club – Year-End, 31 July 2014**

<b>Ledger</b>	<b>Account</b>	<b>Amount £</b>
Income	Advertising	50.00
	Donations to COC	21.55
	Membership Subscriptions	4382.74
	Regalia Sales	432.06
	Stationery	28.18
		+4914.53
Expenses	Equipment	936.33
	Postage	1314.80
	Printing	1633.21
	Rallies	40.02
	Regalia	398.94
	Stationery	214.18
	Sundry Expenses	82.00
	Website	48.00

		-4667.48
Total excess income over expenditure for the year		+247.05

Bank Balance as at Year-End = £3238.81

### **Membership Secretary Report – Gina Inman.**

Membership stands at 288 including 20 Honorary/Life/Media contacts.

There were 42 new members.

65 did not renew

65 have requested email Newsletters/Magazines. (Saves on postage)

Franking machine purchase cost is now paying for itself, reduces postage from 51 p to 33 p.

Free ‘sew-on’ badge for every new member.

Willing to continue the role.

Comments on this report:

Peter Barker had asked new members to write in to introduce themselves and their bikes, out of 9 invited, only 2 replied.

PJB pointed out that the ‘turn-around of members seems to be improving. In the past maybe 1/3 rd of members would drop out indicating the average (but not necessarily typical) time in the club was 3 years. Now around 15% drop out indicating 6 years is the average time in the club.

### **Technical Adviser – Peter J Ballard.**

As always my time is split between generating Date Certificates and Technical Advice.

I provide Date Certificates to enable owners to get Age Related Registration numbers for bikes brought into the country or older imported bikes that have lost their registrations, still 100% success rate with DVLA applications. I generate typically one per month. Many owners (non-members mainly) have been caught unawares by relatively recent HMRC requirements, with respect to NOVA (Notification Of Vehicle Arrival), that makes it a legal requirement to notify HMRC when a vehicle is imported. This is the responsibility of the importer, but then the importers sell the bikes on without the HRMC/NOVA application and not telling the unsuspecting new owner of the law, maybe the importers do not know or don't care! There is a £5.00 per day fine for not notifying HMRC after 14 days. Sadly many new owners buy/import the bike, sort it out, get a MoT then join the COC, then work out who pays the fine for late notification. We need to get these new owners to join COC before buying the bike. More advertising or what?

I offer Technical Advice on older bikes, typically the two strokes and the 650cc OHV and 750cc SV bikes, David Angel of ‘F2 Motorcycles’ supports all owners with parts and advice but takes all the enquiries on the 750cc OHV bikes that he knows and loves. The technical enquiries are around 50/50 email and telephone, but now mainly during restoration or rebuilds rather than running problems. Parts are easier each year to buy on the internet, though for the two strokes more of a

problem. Although the COC does not provide manuals, Dave Cox has a wide selection to cover most bikes. There are still owners trying to rebuild bikes with no manuals with the resulting problems with early repeat failures or poor performance. More advertising in the publications and website suggested.

I am still Marque Specialist with the VMCC despite not being a member, a unique situation for them.

I will be pleased to continue this role at Technical Adviser to the COC.

Comments on this report:

ACTION – PJB to write more complete document on how to import/register a motorcycle with no UK registration documents.

Paul Codling related that the DVLA & HRMC have problems with translating Cyrillic characters, but that it had not affected the obtaining of a UK registration, only concern is that the frame number on the Registration Doc does not exactly match the frame number on the frame.

### **President.**

I also hold the Honorary Position of President, for which I am truly humbled. I have run these bikes since 1972 so can help many owners with theirs. I have knowledge over many years of the history of our little club and the wider world of Soviet and ex-Soviet motorcycles. I have carried out few if any Presidential duties in recent years, but leave it entirely up to the membership if the COC needs a President & who it might be.

Comments on this report.

Tony Jones suggested that PJB was still the best man for the job due to his knowledge of the history of the club and his contributions over the years.

### **Editor – Peter Barker.**

Peter said that he was happy to be passing on the task of a bi-monthly publication, it was a natural stop. He was pleased that the new format was working well. As of this AGM is retiring but will help with any handover issues.

### **Web Master – Dave Cox.**

Dave reported that there had been a massive problem with the website, belief that the damage was due to it being hacked. He is now rebuilding the site, but it takes a lot of time. The photo gallery will be done last. Dave is willing to continue.

Comments included much appreciation and thanks for his efforts on writing and maintaining the website.

## **5. Proposals from Members.**

None.

**6. Election of the committee,** including the retirement of Peter Barker and support for Charles Hancock to stand as Editor.

Proposed Paul Codling. Seconded by Mike Pullen. Unanimous approval.

**7. 2015 AGM venue and date discussion.** Suggest 2<sup>nd</sup> Weekend of September to avoid other events.

Tony has investigated using the site of the <http://www.bubblecarmuseum.co.uk/> in Boston Lincs. It is only possible to book the whole site for a weekend. Fees would be £15 each for a weekend, need >30 to cover the cost, which is a risk.

Phil Inman suggested that the club should have a site more north, but would need suggestions. It was agreed that members should make suggestions into the secretary.

Attendees generally agreed that this site at Wing was quite central.

## **8. Any other business.**

**8.1 Alan Mottram Award.** [This is awarded annually to a member or committee member who has given far more time and effort to the club than would normally be expected, as Alan Mottram did, before he passed away]. Tony suggested that Peter Barker (retiring Editor) should receive the reward for his work. This covered generation of the informative and amusing monthly Horizontal News but also for proposing and implementing the well received new format of the bi-monthly Horizontal View to replace the monthly HN and the occasional HV. Proposed Dave Cox. Seconded Phil Inman. Unanimous approval.

## **8.2 Postage of the new HV publication – concerns raised by Gina Inman.**

Funding generally, one bumper issue per year should be able to be funded with respect to increased printing and increased postage costs.

There is a significant risk of producing a slightly larger publication and then going into the next more expensive postal rate. A slight increase in size will increase the postage from 33p to 65p. It is essential to keep the package under 5mm for the 24 pages, but currently it is very close. Any underpayment with the COC franking machine results in the underpayment charges coming back to the COC not to the recipient as with stamps.

Need to work with the printers, Ellison Print' to cost different paper thicknesses/qualities if the Editor wants to increase the size of the HV.

Charles then suggested that more publications could go out on email and not hardcopy, but this is increasing anyway.

Concerns were raised that by emailing the HV to members and putting the latest issue (not immediately it is true) on the website that one of the key benefits of being a member of the COC was being distributed free in the form of a digital HV. There was general concern over this and really does need to be considered. Tony suggested that the emailing of the publications did make the COC more attractive to members.

It was noted that the RMOA <https://sites.google.com/site/rmoawebsite/> Russian Motorcycle Owners Association (of Australia) [Aside – club covers all Soviet and ex-Soviet motorcycles not just Russian ones, but they got stuck with a name that is no longer accurate like the COC has] no longer sends its publications to the COC.

**8.3 Tony suggested that another service the COC could offer would be a Valuation Service,** this would enable owners to get an 'Agreed Valuation' with their insurance companies so that they would get a realistic payout if their motorcycle was damaged or 'lost'. Free to members and charged to non-members, in the same way the 'Date Certificates' are funded.

ACTION – add the facility to the website with contact either through the Secretary or the Technical Adviser.

**8.4 Dave Cox suggested that more use could be made of Social Media such as Facebook.** Many concerns over unwarranted ‘abuse’, considering our website does get hacked. Unknown if other bike clubs have Facebook pages. Much discussion around this subject, most members with views were not supportive. Charles suggested that with a COC presence on Facebook that will tempt younger owners who were enthusiastic and dynamic to join. It was acknowledged that membership age was increasing but could well be directly linked to age of owners increasing thus would we be targeting people with no intent of running a Soviet or ex-Soviet motorcycle. PJB pointed out that in the 1970’s and 1980’s many owners were in their 20’s and 30’s, but that is not typical now. Dave Cox has some knowledge of Facebook via a colleague at work who could help, but also to ensure that ability to add abuse was denied. Phil suggested that we should (all) look at other clubs and see what they do on this matter. It was pointed out that the Swedish Ural based club only have a Facebook account and no website. F2Motorcycles have a Facebook page in addition to their website.

ACTION – Dave Cox to investigate and report back to the committee.

Loss of members from a club – Gordon (also in Royal Enfield Club) points out that with an aging membership sadly a significant percentage of the loss of members is due to them passing away rather than just deciding to leave the club.

**8.5 COC keyring** for £1.00 was added to the regalia list.

**8.6 2016 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> July, ‘Redstar’ East European Rally**, this has been confirmed as taking place in Salmesbury Lancashire (less than 10 miles East of Preston). Due to the agreement this again is likely to be a profitable event. The COC are key organisers in this, with Tony Jones taking a leading role.

Gina suggested funding a talk by Austin Vince “... *best known for his long distance adventure motorcycle expeditions: twice round the world as part of the Mondo Enduro and Terra Circa trips...*” who also has ridden many miles on Ural outfits. Cost would be £400 free to attendees, charge visitors. Good support for this, Gina to make contact with Vince.

**8.7 European meet**, Gina proposed a rally in the German/France border region for members, a long weekend. There was concern over putting on such an even with respect to Public Liability Insurance, this needs looking into. But if it is just a meeting without recommended route or groups on the road together then maybe insurance will not be required. Events insurance for UK was about £250 but unclear if this would cover. Needs investigation.

Written by P.J.Ballard.

- END -