

# Cossack Owners Club A.G.M Minutes & Reports 2022

One of the first items on the agenda of the 2023 AGM will be a motion to establish the minutes of this AGM as printed here as true and accurate. Tony Jones, as club secretary took the minutes.

Meeting opened at 3pm. Meeting opened by Peter Ballard who introduce the committee members. The meeting was chaired by Paul Codling. Apologies for absence had been received from Carl Booth and Phil Rushworth.

No physical AGM was held last year. Committee reports were published in Horizontal News and no comments had been received about those reports. Approval of those reports proposed by Paul Codling and seconded by David Cox. There were no objections.

Committee reports. Copies separately attached. Peter Ballard gave his report. David Angel asked questions about the Facebook policy. David Cox responded on Peter's behalf. David Cox maintains a careful check on those applying to join the Facebook page. Facebook has an open access policy and anyone can join. David vets each new application and he blocks those that he feels are unsuitable. Steve Thomas doesn't use Facebook and feels disadvantaged. There followed a general discussion about Facebook pros and cons.

Tony Jones gave his report. There were no comments.

Gina gave her report. Steve Thomas commented on auto renewal. Gina said that it had been tried and that it didn't work. Phil gave his report. He recommended an increase in membership fees of £2. Gina commented on how rally badges cost £300 and that money was not recoverable. There was a general discussion on rally badges.

Paul gave his report. He stated that he would like to retire by next year's AGM and that he was happy to continue for the next twelve months but only if he had to.

Carl Booths' report was read out. There were no comments.

Proposals. There were no advance proposals from members and Tony invited the floor to make proposals Mike Rowe proposed abolishing rally badges. Tony Jones seconded. The vote was 13 for and 5 against and the proposal was carried.

David Angel proposed an increase of £2 to membership fees. Seconded by Paul Codling. Unanimously approved. Phil Inman suggested increases should start on 1st January 2023. This was agreed.

Steve Thomas proposed that Facebook be restricted to members only. Seconded by David Angel. The vote was for 3 against 14 with 3 abstentions. The proposal was rejected.

Tony Jones proposed that the Red Star Rally be held every two years. Seconded by Mike Rowe. This was unanimously agreed. Tony stated that he would liaise with the other Clubs.

Election of committee. All the committee members volunteered to stand for another 12 months. There were no objections and the committee was re-elected en bloc. 2023 AGM venue and date discussion. It was suggested by Gina that the AGM be held at the Greetham camp site, next door to

the Community Centre, as it was central and had all the necessary facilities. Gina also suggested a discount on camping fees for members. No vote was taken but this was generally agreed.

Any other business. Paul Codling repeated that he would like to retire in twelve months, or earlier and asked the floor for suggestions for a new editor for Horizontal News. Paul also commented on the vacant committee post of rally organiser or coordinator. Recent events have shown that it needs someone to coordinate and to pull together all the information about rallies. They wouldn't need to attend each rally. Paul commented on magazine content going directly onto Facebook instead of to him for the magazine. There followed a discussion on Facebook versus magazine content.

There was a discussion about online privacy. Tony Jones would like to assure all members that their online privacy was taken seriously. There followed a discussion on online privacy. A former member had asked Tony Jones if it was a good idea that events are published online rather than only to members. He thought that this would result in fewer members joining the club because they could get all the information they wanted online for free. It was generally agreed that publishing events online brought the Club to a wider audience and therefore would attract new members.

The meeting closed at 5pm and Peter Ballard thanked all present for attending.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Peter J. Ballard. President of the Cossack Owners Club.**

This is an honorary position, a position that I take seriously. It is not a committee position. I feel that my main role is to oversee the workings of this club and offer advice on its direction without actually managing or directing anything. Maintaining its long standing reputation as a professional organisation is important, both for members and external bodies such as DVLA, FBHVC and other clubs that we are involved with. Within the last few months there have indeed been some difficulties related to committee roles and responsibilities. Pleased to say that this is now settled. I note that there has been some occasional confusion between membership of the Cossack Owners Club and being a member of the club Facebook page for which membership of the club is not required. For example a member of the FB page resigned in quite dramatic style as if resigning from the club but he was not a club member and hadn't been for years. That inevitably gave the impression to some others that his upset was enough for him to resign from the club, rather than deciding not to post anything on the FB page again. This maybe needs clarifying. Peter J. Ballard. Identification and Dating. During the last year I have changed my committee responsibility from Technical Adviser to adviser on motorcycle Identification and Registration. There are committee members, non-members and a service agent that have far wider and deeper technical experience than me; also much of my committee work was identifying motorcycles and helping owners get a GB age related Historic registration. Typically I have twelve Date Certificates in progress during a year. I work closely with the VMCC (Vintage Motor Cycle Club) with respect to Historic registrations and also with FBHVC (Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs). I have been accepted by DVLA to work with the FBHVC to help establish an agreed process of registering an imported Soviet motorcycle with or without original historic documentation and the use of factory frame plates that the DVLA do not consider as evidence. DVLA clerks are currently very inconsistent in how they process or reject 'our' V55/5 applications and often do not follow their own procedures or documented agreements between DVLA and FBHVC. I look forward to those meetings and continuing in my role on the committee.

**Tony Jones. Club Secretary.**

Whilst the Covid outbreak has been going on we have not been able to have an AGM. The Committee members have made their reports and they have been published in Horizontal News. Its a pleasure to actually have a proper AGM again. Things have been ticking over during the crisis and we have continued to run the club online. I have been the main contact point for the Club, answering emails, helping members with advice and forwarding enquiries to the other committee members. The amount of Dating request have slowed down probably because of Brexit making it harder to import motorcycles. Along with the other Committee members we have organised this event and AGM. You will probably have heard of the resignation of a member from the Club. The member had been invited onto the Committee to organise camping events throughout the country. He was also asked to run 'regalia' as this would have been a good fit in with attending rallies. A situation had arisen where there was a disagreement over the extent of that members handling of regalia. He wanted to rename it 'Merchandising' and he had plans to extend the range of products for sale. Other Committee members saw 'regalia' as a service to members and not as a money making exercise. Also there was a disagreement over the point at which merchandising and finance overlapped.

As most of the Committee where in attendance at The Three Magpies rally we held a Committee meeting. The disagreements were thrashed out and it was agreed that the member be given his own budget to spend as he saw fit. This was agreed by all including the member and the meeting ended quite amicably. However shortly after that a comment was made about that members methods between two other Committee members in an email. The email discussed several subjects and was circulated between Committee members and was therefore seen by the member. He took exception to this comment and resigned immediately. The member also banned any future mention of his name on threat of legal action. We will respect his request. During the last year I have been able to attend The Classic motorcycle show and a few camping weekends. I am prepared to continue as Club

**Secretary. Gina Inman. Membership Secretary.**

Membership Numbers: Year ending 2021/22, 300 paid up members, 20 honorary members, 320 members in total. Year ending 2020/21, 320 paid up members, 20 honorary members, 345 members in total. The table opposite top shows the monthly breakdown of new and renewed membership. In 2020/1 we had an unprecedented increase in membership, probably due to the second year of Covid and associated lockdowns. Lots of people buying and starting a project bike? Now as life returns to some semblance of normality (and some of these projects return to the back burner) numbers have gone down to approximately the same level as preCovid. It must be said though with 102 members failing to renew their membership this is the biggest number in a single year that I can recall. Also only 70 new members joined the club which is the third lowest since 2014. Horizontal View distribution. In my role as Membership Secretary I am also responsible for the distribution of Horizontal View. Some years ago we contracted the Printer to distribute the posted magazines while I continue to send out the email copies. Although using Thistleprint to post copies does cost a little more per magazine per person against doing it ourselves, it is definitely a benefit to the club as it cuts the time between printing and posting. Emailed copies have dropped from just over 100 to 88. GDPR General Data

MONTH	NEW MEMBERS	RENEWALS	TOTAL
Aug-21	5	9	14
Sep-21	3	13	16
Oct-21	6	26	32
Nov-21	9	15	24
Dec-21	9	15	24
Jan-22	3	14	17
Feb-22	2	20	22
Mar-22	7	21	28
Apr-22	6	19	25
May-22	8	31	39
Jun-22	4	27	31
Jul-22	8	20	28
Totals	70	230	300

Protection Regulations. For the benefit of new members, I want to reiterate the way the Club holds personal data. GDPR primarily affects clubs in the area of security of data and how long data is kept after resignation. 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. It has been a difficult year for me personally this year and although there were times when I felt it was time to step down I realised how much I enjoy serving the club in this way and therefore decided that, should it be the will of the membership, I am happy to continue in the role of Membership Secretary.

### Phil Inman. Treasurer and Regalia secretary.

Please see the Year-End Financial Report opposite, which gives a detailed breakdown of Income and Expenditure, by category. Our bank balance at Year End was £7,855.09, compared with £9,087.09 for Year End 2021, a reduction of £1,499.00. Income amounted to £6,116.84, the bulk of which came, as usual, from membership subscriptions. Regalia sales amounted to £1,146.62, a good result. Income from member subscriptions showed a reduction of £678.03 compared with last year. Expenditure amounted to £7,348.84, compared with £4,552.55 for last year. Postage costs were £124.82 higher than last year, due partly to increased postage charges and partly to a greater number of Regalia purchases requiring postal despatch. Cost of rallies, including the East European Rally, was £880.08, the bulk of which was the purchase of rally badges. The largest item of expenditure was, as usual, the printing

Expenditure	Cash Float	50.00
	East European Rally 2022	384.40
	Equipment	110.96
	Insurance	100.80
	Membership – Clubs & Societies	143.35
	Membership Subscriptions (refund)	18.00
	Postage	306.36
	Printing	3,369.95
	Rallies	495.68
	Regalia	1,435.85
	Shows	520.00
	Stationery	86.68
	Travel	90.87
	Website	235.94
	Total Expenses	<b>7,348.84</b>
<b>Ledger</b>	<b>Account</b>	<b>Amount £</b>
Income	Donations to COC	3.00
	Membership Subscriptions	4,924.22
	Postage	5.00
	Raffle Ticket Sales	38.00
	Regalia Sales	1,146.62
	Total Income	<b>6,116.84</b>
Total excess of expenditure over income for the year (Net Loss)		<b>1,232.84</b>

and postage of the Club magazine, at £3,369.95, which was £303.97 higher than last year. This year, the Club's expenditure has exceeded income by £1,232.00. Taking into account this increased expenditure, together with the reduction in membership numbers, I feel justified in recommending an increase in membership fees of £2 across the board. This would be the first increase for perhaps 10 years or more. Certainly, there has been no increase during my time as Treasurer. Regalia sales are significantly higher than last year, although sales for the year amounting to £1,146.62 were exceeded by the cost of stock purchases at £1,435.85. Stock levels are slightly high in some areas. I am happy to continue as COC Treasurer for our next Financial Year, should that be the membership's wish

## **Paul Codling. Horizontal View Editor.**

First, thank you very much to those who send stuff in. In the past I'd have said I couldn't have built a magazine every two months without you but these days I do. These days Facebook takes most of the content I would have been sent, where it's buried within a few weeks by more content piling in on top of it and therefore lost as a reference source for the future. Oh well. Facebook is a new thing, it's the future and it's different. I'm taking the view that many people post things on Facebook because it's quick, easy gratification, they don't need to write much and they're not the sort of people who'd want to anyway. In that way it's added to the COC experience and of course that's a good thing. What are we going to do with Horizontal View? I've thought for a few years that Facebook might render HV obsolete, but there are some things which the magazine can do which Facebook can't. One of those is to provide a reference source. Does anyone ever remember an article about their particular problem and rummage through their back issues to find it? Sometimes I do it for them and answer email enquiries by pointing him who wants to know at the club website and issue number whatever. A lot of the magazine content these days is me making articles out of email streams between the HV office and some exasperated soul with a recalcitrant K750, usually, in his shed. This takes lots of time, carefully knitting confused and desperate messages into a fun and seamless read. Our rallies are a big thing too. I love it when Dave Cox goes. The COC through his camera lens looks gorgeous. I'm a keen supporter of making the most of rally opportunities while we can still buy petrol, not just because I love the social aspect of it, but because it fills HV with content too. I'll point out that if Dave doesn't go, I take the pictures, I write the rally report and I edit it all into the magazine. I also spend many hours on line, trawling the internet for artistic or interesting pictures and researching subjects to expand the content I have been sent peripherally. I've been worried for years about making HV too personal and no one has objected so far but as I'm losing out to Facebook for content, making HV personal has become more and more necessary. I've almost written entire issues myself lately. Peter Barker told me when I started "You're the editor, not the author." encouraging me not to worry about apathy. I don't agree with that. I do this because for me, Horizontal View is what most of the club gets for its subscription fee. One punter recently asked me to send him a copy before he joined, to see if doing so would be worth it. I'm pleased to say he thought it was. Most of the club is completely passive. They pay the subscription each year and look forward to being entertained by us and Horizontal View is how we achieve it. I think of it as the instrument through which we can at least try to encourage them to take part. I love the art in writing. I find it profoundly satisfying to have written a magazine which reads like fun. I speak to other editors of other owner's club magazines and they all struggle to fill them. I smile when they have to resort to full page reproductions of often boring old adverts or posters, just to use up the space with something, anything at all. I pack HV too full for that. I'm sure most of the club doesn't love the art in writing, that's why Facebook works so well. I'm sure they spill coffee over HV, leave it to curl and go mouldy in their damp sheds or let the missus chuck it out when she's tidying the sitting room. I value mine. I value yours as well. Would you like to be the next HV editor? The trouble is I can only stay at my post, here at the computer, for the morning before it sucks out my intelligence by lunch time. My digital days are only six hours long and I'm going to need every minute of that to concentrate on other things I want to do with my life.

In case you're interested, I have four novels in progress as well as a hundred short stories, well over a million words of text so far. It takes days to get into it. I need a run at it to begin to flow artistically and our beautiful magazine is a distraction I can no longer afford. You don't have to do it like I do. You can make HV anything you want. You can make it your own personal idea of fun. But, you'll have to keep in mind that it gives value to the club and for some, that's all the value the club has, it's very

important. You will need to be creative and accept that most of the time, you'll need to make it all up yourself. OK, that's a responsibility but it's shed loads of fun too.

**Carl Booth. Show organiser.**

Ready? OK, deep breath, go..... As with the stand scene we seem to be back to normal with the shows of July, October and April. I have managed to put together the stands that I hope the committee and club members are proud of and think that this is a good representation of our club goals to promote the ownership and preservation of USSR bikes for the future, the internet is a good place to look at nice pictures of our bikes or talk, but to see them in the metal (as to say) at a show with other classics I think this promotes what we are about in our dedication of these up coming marques, I know this might sound funny, but just look at the Japanese classic market and think how we laughed back then, also as we become old and knackered (not like our bikes) we need to get a younger generation involved to take our places and I think showing is a good way to interact with potential members. As to the future the shows are still lucrative for the selling of regalia which puts money in the purse and a free meeting place for a sort of social rally with no camping fees and good ablutions (not mixed) if you display a bike. I think this is a good way forward for the club as we can all benefit from this arrangement. Also I'm thinking about doing something in the off road/trails scene as this is on the up and some of our bikes can really be classed as off road and there should be at least a few machines we could cobble together for a stand. As I always mention I need you the members to supply bikes for the stand as it's really your stand and I only put it together and hope for the best. If this has not offended anyone I will be glad to stand for re-election of this post for another term.

**David Cox. Webmaster and Facebook moderator.**

Website.

As per normal the website is running very well this year and again, I have made a few smallish changes and updates to it. The 'Notifications' page I have changed to 'Rallies and Events', this enables anyone looking at it can see at first glance all the meetings available for that year, with the exception of any European meetings. The actual dates of the rallies are still shown on the 'Calendar' page but I'm in two minds at the moment whether to keep or discard it. I can place all dates and information on each event page making the Calendar obsolete. Perhaps the Committee and members have a view on this? Deleting the Calendar will also save the club a few pennies each year. In the 'Library' tab you may have noticed there is once again links to both of our old Flickr accounts which we lost when Flickr changed hands several years ago. I decided to contact Flickr and asked where they had gone, and to make a long story very short and giving them just about everything about me including height and weight, they let me have access to them again. The 'Makes and Model's hyperlink to one account is untouched and is mostly up-to-date? The 'Rallies and Events' hyperlink below goes to the 2nd account and now shows a few photos taken at each event we had that year. I'm unable to place the full quantity of photos taken as both accounts are free ones and we are limited to 700 images. Hopefully one day we As you may have seen I have also placed hyperlinks above each rally to the photos on the 'Rallies and Events' page, anything to make it easier to use. Site Visitors. I am pleased with how the club is growing through the website, From 1 year ago 2nd August 2021 to 2nd August 2022 the website received 92.47% of New Visitors. So, we are being looked at. Facebook.

Our Facebook page is running very well with more people joining on a regular basis. To date (2nd Aug) we have 685 members around the world, and is the same as last year. I do still reject about 6

out of 10 people wanting to join, most of those as usual have nothing to do with bikes but just want to join anyway and show us their babies/ cats/dogs and holiday snaps. I do send a message to some that this is an 'Owners' club, as in the title but it doesn't seem to be taken any notice of. I'm getting more and more people requesting access and say they are very interested in our bikes and are looking for one. I usually allow these to join. Looking at the monthly information, from the 1st July to 31st July 2022 there were 234 members who posted and commented and 7,044 people viewed our site. I am willing to continue looking after the website and Facebook.