

AGM, the meeting

Held at the Wing Hall
Estate campsite, 10am

12th August 2017.
Committee,

Honorary President/Technical Adviser, Peter Ballard. Secretary, Tony Jones. Membership Secretary, Gina Inman. Treasurer and Regalia, Phil Inman. Rallies Organiser, Carl Booth. Magazine Editor, Paul Codling. Web Master, Dave Cox.

Agenda. Welcome and identification of AGM Chairperson, PJB, and Secretary. Apologies for absence. Carl Booth cannot attend. Approval of 2014 AGM minutes as published in Horizontal View, committee reports, proposals from members, election of committee, 2018 AGM venue and date discussion, 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 years 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, club secretary.

Committee Reports, Peter J Ballard, President

Everything you have heard from the press is fake news, it is not true that I joined Putin swimming in the Siberian lakes. Fake news!

Otherwise I have been a bit quiet on the presidential duties. I did visit the Ural retailer in UK near 'Stowe on the Wold' recently, Watsonian Squire. A bit shocked by the new prices, guess all the exchange rates have gone against Stirling. Sorry not a lot else to report.

Peter J Ballard Technical Adviser and Date

Certificates

Required to obtain 'age related' registrations on imported Soviet motorcycles.

Since last AGM 59 Date Certs generated, just over 1 per week! 100% success rate, though a few appeals all successful. These are free to members on a non-commercial bases, but members who run importation businesses pay £15 each. Approx £105 raised since last AGM, check with Treasurer's report.

Many purchasers do not know what they have bought in terms of make, model and country. Trouble is when they submit a NOVA (Notification Of Vehicle Arrival) to HMRC that has a different make from the receipt, MOT, V55/5 and insurance (no longer needed for V55/5)! Lack of VIN plates very common, but DVLA have no problems with new VIN plates. Have done a WSK and a Zundapp 2 stroke successfully this year! Smoking!

Technical Advice

Not a lot of demand, often as a training process not really problem solving. Manuals from Dave Cox are recommended often. Many try to work with no manuals!

Prices and value analysis. Then,

I bought a new Cossack Dnepr MT9 outfit for £725 in 1976. I worked as a Cossack fitter for SATRA in 1977 for £1.00 per hour. I paid £25 per week for 7 days B&B and eve meal in Bridlington. I stayed at Kensington Close Hotel for the Earls Court M/C show for £14.40 per night.

Now. Minimum wage now £7 per hour thus x7 B&B eve meal about £40 per night = £280 per week, thus x11. Kensington Close Hotel now from £70, thus x5.

Ural 750 outfit Efi £14K OTR! Thus x18.

Tony Jones, Secretary

As last year I have been the main contact point for the Club. I receive emails/phone calls directed to the Club and either answer them myself or forward them as appropriate. This system seems to be working well so far. Year on year I seem to have had more enquiries from members of the public, mostly relating to dating enquiries and parts wanted/for sale.

Occasionally I receive information about a bike for sale or someone wanting a bike and I direct them to our web site. Sometimes I have been able to marry up someone wanting a bike with one that is for sale.

During the year I have attend rallies/shows to help promote the club. Everything seems to be running quite smoothly. I am prepared to stand again as secretary.

David Cox, Webmaster

The Facebook site has been very successful for the club, there are contestant posts to the site and as moderator I carefully monitor what is shared with other friends around the world who look at our page. Posts that show political, religious, sexual, violent views etc, are not shared, therefore keeping the site as close to the bikes as possible.

Friends worldwide: 402. UK 247, USA 26,
Australia 18, Germany 13, France 13,
Netherlands 7, Sweden 7, Canada 6, Poland 5,
Romania 5, Russia 4, Turkey 4, Belgium 3,
Finland 3, Italy 3, Macedonia 3, Czech Republic
3, Denmark 2, Estonia 2, Hungary 2, Ireland 2,
Malta 2, Norway 2, New Zealand 2, Portugal 2,
Ukraine 2, Bulgaria 1, Switzerland 1, Egypt 1,
Spain 1, Guernsey 1, Greece 1, Guam 1, Israel
1, India 1, Iran 1, Jersey 1, Lithuania 1, Latvia 1,
Marianas Islands 1, Vietnam 1.

Page Likes to Date, 404. People Banned this year, none.

Website.

The website is reasonably stable and without many problems in the past year. UK Servers who host our site has again moved to another more modern server. It doesn't make the site faster unfortunately but just can provide a more secure place. Not all members, new or old apply for the 'Members Only' area and requests for passwords are falling; I'm hoping these members are taking up the option of a hard copy of the magazine.

Adverts.

For Sale: sales on the advert pages are being sold reasonably quickly but there also a few bikes that have not moved at all. Cossackbay and wanted have items that do move but as most sites selling parts it can be slow.

I have not received any problems with the website from members, therefore I am willing to continue in the position as webmaster.

Phil Inman, Treasurer and Regalia

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

Our bank balance at Year End was £6570.55, compared with £6087.81 for Year End 2016.

Income amounted to £5343.09, coming as usual almost exclusively from membership subscriptions. The provision of Dating Certificates generated income of £139.00, whilst Regalia Sales amounted to £572.22, a 100% increase over last year. Income from member subscriptions was broadly on a par with last year.

Expenditure amounted to £4860.35, compared with £4856.10 for last year. Postage costs were similar to those last year. Major items of expenditure included printing of the Club magazine, which showed a small increase over last year, accounted for by the increase of magazine size from 28 to 32 pages, and the purchase of a COC-branded gazebo and flag banners for use at shows and rallies.

The Club's income has exceeded expenditure by £482.74, a satisfactory figure. Once again, I make no recommendation for an increase in membership subscriptions.

Regalia sales have shown an increase this year. However, re-stocking of the more popular items meant that cost of Regalia stock purchases has exceeded sales income. Regalia items continue to be taken to the two Stafford Classic Shows during the year and sales there continue to be satisfactory. Total Regalia purchases for the year (£653.10) exceeded income from sales (£572.22) by £80.88 – sustainable as a one-off result. Provision of Club Regalia items is considered to be a service to Club members and is therefore not regarded as a revenue-generating activity.

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

Income.

Advertising £4.63, Dating certificates £139.00, Membership subscriptions £4627.24, Regalia sales £572.22, Total income £5343.09.



Expenses.

Equipment £1621.66, Postage £699.10, Printing £1561.00, Regalia £653.10, Stationary £307.49, Website £48.00, Total expenses £4860.35.

Total excess of income over expenditure for the year, £482.74.

Bank Balance as at Year-End = **£6570.55**

Gina Inman, Membership Secretary

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

Year 2015/16: 282 Paid up Members
23 Honorary Members
305 members in total

As you can see this is a very slight increase in numbers from the previous year, the monthly breakdown of new and renewed membership looks like this.....

In September 2016 there were 7 new members and 18 renewals giving a total of 25. Subsequent numbers for the year were Oct 16, 12, 23 and 35, Nov 16, 6, 12 and 18, Dec 16, 6, 12, and 18, Jan 17, 7, 9 and 16, Feb 17, 9, 8 and 17, Mar 17, 6, 20 and 26, Apr 17, 8, 4 and 22, May 17, 3, 28 and 31, Jun 17, 5, 23 and 28, Jul 17, 12, 26 and 38, Aug 17, 2, 11 and 13 so far bringing the totals to 83, 204 and 287 respectively.

During the course of last year 83 people have joined the club compared to 74 in the year 2015/16. This year there has been a slight drop in the number of people failing to renew their membership, but, looking at the membership numbers of those failing to renew it appears some new members are joining for only a single year which suggests they are seeking dating certificates for registration and pay for a single years membership rather than a 1 off payment of the same amount to the club.

Overall we have an increase in membership of 5 from the previous year. At the moment we have only 2 new members in August because the AGM is so early in the month. Any other new members this month will appear in next years figures as joining in September.

In my role as Membership Secretary I am also responsible for the distribution of Horizontal View. There continues to be an increase in the

numbers of members receiving their copies of Horizontal View by email. 113 people have now taken this option, up from 92 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.

To follow on from the Treasurer, should it be the will of the membership I am happy to continue in the role of Membership Secretary for a further year despite no longer having a Russian bike in the family!

Paul Codling, Magazine Editor

I'm very, very sorry for the almost catastrophic loss of data and the consequent lateness of the May/June issue of Horizontal View. A memory stick failed. All members contributions are now backed up in on line storage on my email account and it should not happen again.

I would like to thank all our contributors for their efforts. I try to organise the content to make similar subjects flow as a theme through each issue to make reading some an incentive to read the rest. Has anyone noticed that?

Font size has standardised on Arial 12. Trimming pictures sometimes to alter their shape and rewriting a word or two of text is often necessary to fit the two together aesthetically and facilitate the use of some slightly bigger pictures.

Pictures are best sent as attachments separate from the emailed text because digging them out once they're embedded in an email is sometimes difficult. 500 to 1,000KB is an ideal file size for pictures. However, anything will do. Microsoft excel is particularly awkward in this respect.

The Caveat Emptor theme has rung a few alarm bells and we think I should be very careful not to appear to accuse innocent traders or tar them with the same brush as those who deserve exposure, hence the title!

Minutes of 2017 COC AGM

The AGM was held at the Wing Hall campsite, Wing, Rutland at 10am on 12th August 2017. Peter Ballard was the Chairperson for the meeting. Peter introduced those committee members present, namely himself, Tony Jones, Paul Codling, Phil Inman, Gina Inman and David Cox. Apologies for non attendance was given on

behalf of Carl Booth. Peter stated that the minutes for last years AGM were published in the Club's magazine. Mike Rowe proposed approval of the minutes and this was seconded by Dave Greenwood. The proposal was unanimously accepted. Peter Ballard, Tony Jones, Gina Inman, Phil Inman, Paul Codling and Dave Cox gave their reports for the last year.

About 11am we were treated to a fly past by a Spitfire and another old aeroplane, possibly a DeHaviland.

Mike Rowe suggested an increase in the charge for dating certificates. Possibly a two year membership before dating certificates are free to discourage people joining just for free dating certificates. Peter Ballard said that in his opinion free dating certificates were a positive as it encourages membership and some members then continue with their membership. Also it increases our income. We need to find other ways to retain members. No proposal for change in charges for dating certs was made.

Election of Committee

All Committee members present volunteered to serve for the next year. Mike Rowe proposed to accept all Committee members for another year. This was seconded by Phil Inman. The proposal was unanimously passed. The meeting was treated to a return of the DeHaviland plane.

Any other business

Mike Rowe said that he had been talking to Gary Carroll and found out that he was no longer a member. When asked why Gary said that the Club has no events. Mike suggested that we had regional social event organisers to organise at least one event in their area each year. Paul Codling said that this would raise public liability insurance issues. It was suggested that Mike find a suitable meeting place and then publish the fact that he would be there on a given date and we can see how many members turn up to meet him. If successful we could encourage similar methods of getting together.

Tony Jones said that he wanted to start a discussion on the future of AGM's. Firstly he stated that physical AGM's were no longer a legal requirement. We have 287 members and there were 20 in attendance at this AGM. This leaves 267 members who are not being represented. There could be many reasons why

members cannot attend. The fact that the AGM is at a campsite may put some people off attending. Not all COC members have tents. The cost of attending can be £100 or more. In total those present have probably spent over £1000 this year. This is a significant amount. Could the AGM be moved online? There are probably more members with internet access than members with tents. A camping weekend could still be arranged.

A general discussion followed and it was decided that the Agenda be published well in advance of the AGM. Members could then make their wishes known and these could be taken into account at a physical AGM. Dave Cox said that he would set up a folder on the website asking for feedback.

Tony Jones mentioned that at the last Red Star rally he suggested that the rally should be every two years instead of every four and he asked the meeting if they would like him to arrange a Red Start Rally for next year. The meeting decided that this was a good idea and Tony offered to try to arrange one.

Next years AGM will be held at the Greetham campsite, Rutland on a date to be arranged. There being no other business the meeting closed at 11.45am.

The future AGM?

It's worth explaining that instead of thinking about abandoning the AGM as ineffective and unrepresentative we could preserve its very real value as an excuse for a social gathering and make it more sensitive to club issues by giving those unable to attend in person a voice.

The editorial opinion is that this would generate a lot more interest in the AGM, provide something of an incentive to go and enhance the social aspect of being a club member.

Far from being the tedious grind through the formality of the unavoidable official business, the 2017 AGM was interesting, productive, informal, friendly and fun.



John Denny's much travelled BMW powered Dnepr, pictured above, became the AGM weekend's centre of attention for a while. David Greenwood apparently thinks a side stand might be a very poor substitute for a sidecar.



Happily no one complained about the occasional appearance in Horizontal View of the sort of thing pictured below. The two strokes are probably more relevant to the history of everyday life in the Soviet Union than the flat twins. It's an insight into that to consider how few were imported into the West compared to how prolific production was at home.

I have said before that I think the IZH Jupiter is an object of immense charm, particularly the early versions. (!!!)

