

Cossack Owners Club AGM Minutes

2021

Peter J Ballard: President.

This is very much an honorary position so I don't contribute much except to apply a bit of history and experience to the club, getting close to 50 years! I thank the committee members for their contribution of their valuable time, experience, advice and support to keep this wonderful club thriving. Technical Adviser. This role is split in two:-

1. Technical advising. In the last year I have had zero requests for such in letters and maybe two in emails. The bulk of cries for help go onto the COC or Cossack Buy and Sell Forums where many get answered by experts and some sadly get answered by well-meaning owners who often know less than the enquirer

2. UK age-related Historic registrations. I create typically two Date Certificates a month, all for members, all successful though still fighting one. These are predominantly for the KMZ K750 then a few KMZ M72, then IMZ M72 then a few 650cc bikes and two strokes. This year I also processed three modern Chinese 125cc bikes as the DVLA insisted on Date Certs before being given current registrations as they had been stored a few years.

I did such. COC received £25 each certificate. DVLA and dealer happy. DVLA will always register a bike with original non-UK registration documents, even if it needs a simple appeal. DVLA will now formally accept scans of the non-UK registration documents. In all but one ongoing case DVLA will also accept 'other proof of year of manufacture' including a few screen prints of internet sites. COC is working closely with FBHVC (Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs) which the COC is affiliated to. FBHVC is the sole official conduit between clubs and the DVLA. FBHVC itself has recently been caught out by DVLA's unilateral change of the type of date evidence they require as the FBHVC recommended content for a Club Dating Letter/Certificate included sources the DVLA no longer accept, for example comparison with exact same models of the same year where the year of the comparator had already even been accepted by DVLA. A formalised DVLA approved standard V55/5 Dating Letter/Certificate must be the way to go, I am supporting that. I have reviewed twenty Dating Letters/Certificates of motorcycle clubs supporting older bikes, and all contain less information and evidence than I submit yet seem to get a much higher first issue success rate than mine, thus the COC Date Cert content has been clarified and simplified. I hear from the FBHVC that there are a variety of fake Dating Letters/Certificates being sold by various sources being investigated by the DVLA, reading the warning on the V55/5 obviously does not work. I also understand that certain select clubs' Dating Letters/Certificates get fast tracked by the DVLA, eg VMCC, I do wonder if the COC is at the bottom of the list. I will continue fighting

Gina Inman: Membership Secretary.

Year on year there has been a large increase in membership this year. It appears that the rush of new members joining last year has remained and far fewer people have allowed their membership to lapse. Year ending 2020/21, 325 paid up members, 20 honorary members, 345 members in total. Year ending 2019/20, 272 paid up members, 19 honorary members, 281 members in total. There has been an addition to the Honorary Members List. A very long standing member (a two digit membership number!) resigned due to age and no longer owning a bike or being able to ride. The committee decided to offer him honorary membership in recognition of his loyalty to the club. This was accepted with thanks. Below is a table showing the monthly breakdown of new and renewed membership.

Month/year	New members	Renewals	Total
August 2020	9	15	24
September 2020	7	13	20
October 2020	13	26	39
November 2020	11	11	22
December 2020	11	12	23
January 2021	9	14	23
February 2021	19	14	30
March 2021	7	23	30
April 2021	7	20	27
May 2021	6	26	32
June 2021	12	16	28
July 2021	8	16	24
Totals	119	206	325

During the course of last year an astonishing 115 people have joined the club compared to 64 in the previous year. Along with a mere 51 resignations compared to 83 the previous year. In April of this year I was contacted by Mark Hastings of the Laverda Owner's Club. He did a survey of some of the clubs, asking about membership rise and fall during Covid. As a club we have rated 5th, with Women's IMAGB, of the 28 respondents for increased membership numbers. Percentage wise only Morini, Kettle, Moto Guzzi and Laverda clubs have attracted more members with some clubs showing a sharp decline in numbers. At that time we had a 10% overall increase in membership. This trend continued all year and we have ended with an increase of just over 20%

GDPR, General Data 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 after 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 which 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. Three years ago we contracted the printer to distribute the posted magazines while I continue to send out the email copies. Although using the printer to post copies out does cost a little more per magazine per person against doing it ourselves, it is definitely a benefit to the club, and to me personally! The number of people taking email copies has risen back up to over 100 again.

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 attached Year-End Financial Report, opposite, which gives a detailed breakdown of Income and Expenditure, by category. Financially speaking, this has been a quiet, profitable year for the Club. Our bank balance at Year End was £9,087.09, compared with £7,598.43 for Year End 2020. Income amounted to £6,041.21, coming as usual mainly from membership subscriptions. The provision of Dating Certificates generated income of £72.52, whilst Regalia Sales amounted to £353.44. Income from member subscriptions showed an increase of £1,488.66 over last year. Expenditure amounted to £4,552.55, compared with £4,331.57 for last year. Postage costs were £71.22 higher than last year, due mainly to the cost of despatching welcome packages to new members, of which there has been a significant increase this year. The largest item of expenditure was, as usual, the printing and postage of the Club magazine, at £3,065.98. This year, the Club's income has exceeded expenditure by £1,488.66, a very good result. Yet again, it will not be necessary to recommend an increase in membership fees. Regalia sales are significantly higher than last year, with Regalia sales for the year (£353.44) exceeding purchases (£203.08) by £150.36. Stock levels are good. Where members order items which are currently out of stock, our suppliers kindly produce the item and post it directly to the member, thus cutting down on delay.

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

Cossack Owners' Club – Year-End, 31 July 2021 Financial Report.

Income:	Amount £
COC Account	
Dating Certificates	72.52
Donations to COC	13.00
Membership subscriptions	5,602.25
Regalia Sales	353.44
Total Income	6,041.21

Expenditure:	Amount £
Equipment	84,99
Insurance	100.80
Membership, Clubs and Societies	152.75
Postage	181.54
Printing	3,065.98
Regalia	203.08
Shows	225.00
Stationery	144.20
Website	394.21
Total Expenses	4,552.55

Bank Balance as at Year-End = £9,087.09 (WooHoo!)

Tony Jones: Club Secretary.

The AGM for this year was cancelled yet again because of the Covid situation. Things have been quiet but ticking over and there are signs that things are returning to normal. Activity has mainly been restricted to answering emails and passing on emails to the other committee members where appropriate. I was able to attend two events recently, the excellent weekend with Charles Hancock and the Stafford motorcycle show. It made a nice change to meet up with other members.

Charles has volunteered to try to put some life into the flagging weekend meets and after discussion with the other committee members we have agreed to add Charles to the committee. We are already discussing the Red Star Rally for 2022. Everything has yet to be confirmed but we hope to hold it at the Greetham Community Hall in Rutland at the beginning of September. The AGM will be held whilst we are at the Red Star Rally. If any member has any comments to bring to the committee's attention then please email them to me at the club's general email cossackownersclub@gmail.com

I am willing to continue as the club's secretary.

Paul Codling: Magazine Editor.

Because Horizontal View is bi monthly it lags behind the action on the ground by a few months. The plague ensured there still wasn't much of that early in the year, consequently HV has been heavily internet based again. Remarkably no one has complained about that even though I've filled some of it with only vaguely Russian motorcycle related things I find personally interesting. Thank you very much if you've contributed, I'm sure the club appreciates the effort as much as I do. I'd like to point out that the whole club will be interested in the progress of your project or the adventures you have together. Don't keep it to yourself. The whole point of being in a club is sharing experience and doing that holds the club together. Don't leave it all to me, send stuff in. Believe it or not each magazine takes at least a week in man hours to produce, most of which is being distracted by the internet. As ever, please send pictures as attachments to emails instead of burying them in the email itself. This preserves the original file format. Some operating systems, particularly those sent from

phones, sometimes seem to deliberately obstruct the editing process. HV competes with Facebook to some degree, which is a lot better at keeping members, and non members, in daily contact with each other but the magazine has a permanence which Facebook doesn't, especially the paper version. Isn't it wonderful seeing yourself in print? I'm hoping that Charles Hancock, our new Rally Organiser will inspire more of us to get out and about and generate contact, camaraderie and a wealth of new content for the magazine, which will in turn inspire more people to risk adventure and get out too.

I'm looking forward to editing HV in 2022.

David Cox:Website/Facebook

During the lockdown in 2020 gave me the opportunity to take a look at the clubs website and update it in attempt to give the site a better look and possibly a little easier to use, I hope you like the result.

The website is being viewed all around the world with visitors increasing each month. Below is graph of new and returning visitors to our website this August/September, this trend has been rising through most of this year 2021.

The yellow section shows returning visitors and blue new visitors, this graph is encouraging.



There are a few updates on the website from the previous version, i.e. I have added a 'Notification' page, this can be useful for possible rally date changes/updates, important information the clubs needs to pass on, new events etc. so please take a look now and again, and if you have any new info please let me know.

The 'Membership' page is now much easier to use and is clearer on its options.

The 5 year 'Back Issues' is now available in separate full magazines instead of just a date list; this hopefully makes it easier to select a HV you want to find. If you need a particular HV magazine from before 2016 you can write to me and ask for one on dave@russianmotorcycles.co.uk I can then send you a PDF copy of that issue.

I am always open to suggestions from our members on the website content, if you have anything you would like to see please let me know.

Facebook

Our Facebook page is running well with more people joining on a regular basis. To date we have 588 members around the world, but I do still reject about 6 out of 10 people wanting to join, and most of those as usual have nothing to do with bikes but just want to join anyway and show us their 'other' bike manufactured motorcycles, babies/cats/dogs & holiday snaps, No Thanks!

Adverts

As in previous reports all adverts for sales, wanted etc. should not be posted on the Club's Facebook group. All such adverts must be posted on our sales group 'Cossack Sell Buy Swap'. You can find a link to it on the COC website at the bottom of the Home page. I think the word has been passed round that all adverts will be deleted after asking the seller to move it. It's not only our choice but to keep various sellers (some possibly rouge) from using the club as their shop front. The Facebook group is solely for discussion, help and photos etc. it's also in the rules for our group.

I look through the group as a daily routine and pleased reading most of the posts for help, advice and historic photos, its working well, let's keep it that way

Device Apps

An important issue arose at the beginning of July 2020 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 individual 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. The club cannot be held responsible if these apps are downloaded and you have problems.

I am willing to continue looking after the website.

Charles Hancock: Rally Organiser.

I'm Charles Hancock and I have been appointed as Rally Organiser. I have been organising rallies for over 20 years off and on. I'm also an MZ owning member of the Yorkshire Section of the MZRC and latterly have organised several rallies at the Batemans Brewery in Wainfleet. Each of those was attended by members of the COC. The Batemans rallies were put on because it had been said that riders of old East European motorcycles couldn't organise a piss up in a pub so we went one better and put on rallies at a real ale Brewery!

Most recently we organised the first post Covid rally for our Club here at North Owersby. I say we because we had input and help from almost all of the committee. To them I say thank you.

We decided to go back to the sort of rallies we used to hold. We decided that offering a rally which just consisted of a get together in a field next to a Pub and nothing else will attract only a small and decreasing number of the most ardent members. So our future rallies, and the future starts now, will be based on the Owersby model. So what will be offered?

1. A campsite that is very good value for money.

2. A badge.
3. Breakfast and an evening meal where no on-site catering is available.
4. A raffle.
5. Other activities such as a quiz with a prize for the winning team.
6. Awards for the furthest travelled outfit and other awards (Mike Rowe won the furthest travelled award at the Owersby Rally). The awards will be models of Soviet motorcycles, supplied by Konstantin Long.
7. An auction of spare parts and motorcycling gear.
8. A ride out to places of interest. Those wishing to take part in the ride-out will be required to sign an undertaking that the machine they intend using is in all respects roadworthy.
9. Regalia such as tee shirts for sale.
10. A half-litre of beer or lager or cider per person.
11. Free tea, coffee, snacks and cake.
12. A souvenir gift.

We don't care if you come in a car, a campervan or on foot, we just want you to turn up and have fun! Members of any club or no club will be welcome and most especially our comrades in the Yorkshire section of the MZRC. On this point let's hear it for Glen Kapoor (who won the prize for most original machine at the Owersby rally), Jo and Tony Simmonds, Phil "The Coleman lamp wizard" Plant and Binnzi who won the Mikhail Sholokov Award for creative writing. Binnzi is the Section Rep for the Yorkshire Section of the MZRC and he built the facilities block at Owersby. Where members want to use Bed and Breakfast we will provide details of nearby accommodation. Lastly what will it cost? Well at the Owersby Rally which included 2 breakfasts, two evening meals and everything else we charged £30 all in! Naturally the price of the individual Rally will vary according to the site and the availability of onsite catering but we will keep it as low as we can. Finally I've been a member of the COC off and on since the 1970's and I just want our little club to thrive and bring its members fun, fellowship and fulfilment