

Minutes of the AGM 2023

Held at the Greetham campsite, on 12th August 2023, the Meeting started at 3.10pm.

Peter Ballard chaired the meeting.

Welcome by Peter and introduction of the committee.

Peter Ballard: Honorary President/Technical Adviser.

Tony Jones: Club Secretary.

Gina Inman: Membership Secretary.

Phil Inman: Treasurer/Regalia. Shows :

Carl Booth Magazine Editor :

Paul Codling (retiring) Steve Thomas (elect)

Dave Cox: Webmaster.

Apologies for absence received from Carl Booth, Will Hawkes and Dave Greenwood.

Approval of 2022 Minutes. Dave Greenwood has sent a message to the effect that it was he who seconded the motion about Facebook, not Dave Angel. Tony Jones apologises for the error. Approval was proposed by Peter Ballard and seconded by Tony Jones. All agreed.

Committee reports.

No report was received from Carl Booth. Peter Ballard explained that Carl was responsible for organising the two displays at the Stafford Bike Shows. He had worked particularly hard organising the April display which was three times the normal display to celebrate the clubs 50th anniversary.

Matters Arising from Reports.

There were no questions for Peter and Tony.

Peter asked Gina to explain why some members stayed for only one year. This was thought to be that they had joined to get dating certificates and then didn't renew. Steve asked Gina about the possibility of standing orders for membership renewal.

Gina explained that this had been tried, but it led to a situation where some members renewed and also paid by direct debit. It was thought best to keep things simple.

Paul commented on Carl's work organising the Stafford displays, and he deserves our praise.

Proposals from members.

There was a general discussion about why some members were not renewing. It was generally thought that it was those members who received email magazines were the main

ones not renewing. It was suggested that members who took the mailed copy of the magazine were more likely to renew.

Adrian Strowger proposed that all members paid the same membership fee irrespective of whether they took the email or posted a magazine. This might encourage more people to take the posted magazine and possibly renew their membership. Seconded by Paul Hamlin. All agreed. This will take effect from 1st January 2024.

Peter proposed that Steve be formally approved as Magazine editor and that Glen Kapoor be invited to take on the post of rally/ camping coordinator and that both be invited onto the Committee. Seconded by Tony Jones. All agreed.

Any other business.

Paul said that he was happy to continue answering enquiries about mechanical issues from members.

East European rally. Gina had already made enquiries about booking the Greetham Community centre for a rally in 2024. The date to be formalised but will be in August 2024.

The 2024 AGM will be held on the same weekend.

Peter nominated Paul Codling for the Alan Mottram Award. This is an award given to a member who has made a significant contribution to running the club. Seconded by Tony Jones. All agreed. A round of applause was given to thank Paul.

Steve mentioned the 'fumigator'. To those who don't know, this is a fire pit used at the Stafford show. It was generally agreed that we no longer wanted to be smoked out by using old painted wood. Gina said she would buy suitable dried wood for the next show.

Paul mentioned the club's old MAC computer. Peter explained that the MAC computer used by Paul when he was the magazine editor was no longer required because of its age and that Paul was welcome to keep it.

Phil proposed a vote of thanks to Paul Codling for his work compiling the Clubs magazine. It was unanimously agreed that Paul had done an exceptional job for several years. Paul said that he would delete all member's details from the old computer to comply with data protection rules. Peter suggested putting any relevant data onto a memory stick to be passed on to Steve.

Steve said that Paul had set an extremely high bar and that the magazine was always entertaining, educational and never boring. There was a massive learning curve ahead of him, and he thanked Paul for coming over to his home to give guidance and inspiration. Things are rough and ready at the moment, but they will improve. He will endeavour to provide an entertaining magazine but written in the style of an amateur.

Paul asked Dave about photos on the website and if old ones were being archived to make room for newer ones. Dave explained that the current site only allowed limited storage, but there was an option for unlimited storage, but that would cost £60 per year...Dave Angel

proposed that the Club pay the £60 per year for unlimited storage. This was seconded by Phil. All agreed.

Reports

Membership Report

Membership Numbers: Year ending 2022/23 291 Paid up Members 20 Honorary Members 311 Members total.

Year ending 2021/22 300 Paid up Members 20 Honorary Members 320 Members total.

Sadly, the downward trend in membership is continuing. There were 12 more new members joined this year compared to last year, but many more failed to renew their subscriptions. 93, in fact. Horizontal View Distribution In my role as Membership Secretary, I am also responsible for the distribution of Horizontal View. I continue to send out the email copies, and although using Thistleprint to post paper copies does cost a little more per magazine than doing it ourselves, it is definitely a benefit to the club as it cuts the time between printing and posting. Emailed copies have remained static at 88. Ongoing Email problem.

We are currently experiencing a problem with Google Mail and Gmail when sending emails from website-connected email addresses. A bit of research showed that in their infinite wisdom, Google decided that emails from websites must be spam and, therefore, block them. Apparently, it is a very simple fix but has to be done by the website host, so Dave Cox, the Webmaster, has been looking into it. Until then, those of you with Google/Gmail email addresses will be receiving emails from horizontalnews@hotmail.co.uk

GDPR General Data Protection Regs GDPR primarily affects clubs in the area of security of data and how long that data is kept after resignation. The Membership Database is backed up to the Cloud and password protected. Data is only ever shared with trusted partners such as Thistleprint and Embroidery Unlimited in order to fulfil their commitments to us as a club. In accordance with the law, the Committee compiled a GDPR Statement that is on every membership welcome letter. If it is the will of the members, I am willing to continue in this role for a further year.

Gina Inman, Membership Secretary.

Show Organiser's Report

Well, it's been a good 12 months for me, as we started with the Stafford October show, which went extremely well with a very full area & this gave me an idea to do something special for the 50th year of the Club. So, after a quick chat with Morton's for the April show & I achieved the large area under the clock as I had thought of getting around 20 bikes on display, which is double what I usually get, but to my surprise, I ended up with 30 & another talk with Morton's got 4 stands on the balcony siding (our usual area). The April stand was a great success, with lots of interest & an award given. We all looked respectable in matching T-Shirts. Now comes October & again, I had a chat with Morton's & have achieved a double

stand for another late birthday bash (the October Revolution), so I hope our members will fill it. As with the organising of such things, I do get a bit carried away, but that's the fun of it as it's not just a stand but a camping weekend as well & then the report writing goes a bit cacka. Thanks to all the members who partake because it's your bikes that do the stand style & the weirder, the better. If you like what I've done, then I'll be happy to stand for another 12 months in this post.

Comrade Carl...

Secretary's Report

Not much has changed since last year. I have been the first point of contact for the Club, receiving emails and telephone calls from members and from the public. Where possible, I help them, and if I cannot assist directly, I pass the enquiry on to another Committee member. There is a steady trickle of enquiries, and they are mostly easily dealt with, without too much disruption to other activities. I have attended both of the Classic Motorcycle shows at Stafford to help man the Club's stand and have also attended a few Club camping weekends. Additionally, I have organised the Secretary's Rally near Southport. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me and ask about any other business. I am prepared to continue in the role of Club Secretary.

Tony Jones

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR YEAR-END 31 JULY 2023 (Incorporating the Regalia Secretary's Report).

Please see the attached Year-End Financial Report, which gives a detailed breakdown of Income and Expenditure, by category. Our bank balance at Year End was £7,128.17, compared with £7,855.09 for Year End 2022, a reduction of £726.92.

As usual, income amounted to £6,880.15, the bulk of which came from membership subscriptions.

Regalia sales amounted to £491.41. Income from member subscriptions showed an increase of £182.00 compared with last year.

Expenditure amounted to £7,607.07, compared with £7,348.84 for last year. Postage costs were £157.40.

The cost of rallies was £783.81, the majority of which was in respect of the East European Rally. The purchase of a computer for the new Horizontal View Editor amounted to £1,022.95. Significant costs associated with COC's 50th Anniversary were Anniversary T-shirts to be worn by club members assisting at the COC display at Stafford Classic Motorcycle Shows, and Anniversary Rally badges. T-shirts were £400.00; badges £220.74. The largest item of expenditure was, as usual, the printing and postage of the Club magazine, at £3,149.42, which was £220.53 less than last year, due to the reduction in page count. Once again, the Club's expenditure has exceeded income by £726.92. Taking into account the

purchase of the computer this year, I feel confident that this trend will reverse in the next Financial Year, reflecting this year's increase in membership subs. Regalia sales were lower than last year, at £491.41. The cost of new stock was £225.94, a positive result. Stock levels are satisfactory.

Cossack Owners Club – Year-End, 31 July 2023

Financial Report Ledger Account Amount £

Income Dating Certificates £23.97

Donations to COC £33.55

East European Rally 2022 £1,225.00

Membership Subscriptions £5,106.22

Regalia Sales £491.41

Total Income £6,880.15

Expenditure COC 50th Anniversary £748.33

Condolences £53.00

East European Rally 2022 £753.31

Equipment £10,22.95

Insurance £100.80

Membership – Clubs & Societies £142.41

Membership Subscriptions £20.00

Postage £157.40

Printing £3,149.42

Rallies £30.50

Regalia £225.94

Shows £685.00

Stationery £163.32

Travel £48.41

Website £306.28

Total Expenses £7,607.07

Total excess of expenditure over income for the year (Net Loss) £726.92

Bank Balance as of Year-End = £7,128.17.

I am happy to continue as COC Treasurer for our next Financial Year.

Phil Inman

Webmaster's Report

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 rallies and Events page is working quite well, enabling anyone looking at it to see at a glance all of the UK meetings for that year. This page has now replaced the Calendar, which has been removed. I have also introduced a photographic icon when pictures of each event are available. If no icon is shown, then no pictures have been submitted for that event. If I've missed anything, please let me know. I'm unable to place the full quantity of photos taken at every rally because our Flickr account is a free one limited to 900 images. To keep a free account and get around this restriction, I've been deleting the last images, and I expect that I'll eventually just retain photos from the year we are in. The only other option is to have a "Pro account", which is unlimited, but it does come at a cost of £5 per month, i.e. £60 per year. That drops to £4.66 per month or effectively £55.92 per year if I were to take out a fixed two-year contract.

Site Visitors

I am pleased with how the Club is growing through the website. For instance, from 2nd August 2021 to 2nd August 2022, the website visits comprised 92.47% of new visitors. From 11th July to 9th August, the website had 1,479 page views, 526 site sessions by 220 unique or new visitors, and the average website viewing time was 7 min 35 sec.

Facebook

Our Facebook page is running extremely well, with more people joining on a regular basis. To date (August 11th 2023), we have 1,040 members from around the world, and this is a large increase from last year.

I still reject some people wanting to join, mostly those, as usual, having nothing to do with bikes but wanting to join to show us their babies/cats/dogs/holiday snaps. These are mostly not participants and just want to be observers.

I'm getting more and more people requesting access and saying they are interested in our bikes and are looking to buy one. I usually allow these to join or direct them to Tony's Cossack Buy Sell Swap page. I've even written into the rules saying to go to his page and come back to us when they have a bike. Increasingly, new people completely ignore club rules, and when wanting to participate in our club, some never tick the box saying that they agree with those rules. David Angel suggested I try leaving them hanging for a few days; then, when they see that there's a problem, they may look again to see why they aren't allowed in. I did this and now leave them for a week, and if they don't adjust their response, I decline them. I've tried several ways to get people to read the club rules, but some still ignore them. As for making the Facebook site "COC Club Members only", it's not going to happen at the moment, but having said that, I'm in the process of preparing a simple post for our Facebook members asking via a simple yes or no if they'd join COC as paid-up

members. I'm going to request that ALL Facebook members answer the post. Of course, given the nature of people, some won't answer, but it will be interesting to see the result. I am willing to continue looking after the website (and the Facebook element).

David Cox