

**VMCC West Wiltshire Section, Minutes of the AGM for year 2023  
held at The Bell inn, Yatton Keynell on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023, 7:30pm.**

**Present:** Colin Smith (President), Derek Daniels (Chairman), Martin Hirst (Treasurer), Jon Hall (Secretary), and 22 members.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the members present.

Apologies had been received from Chris Wastell.

**Previous Minutes:** The minutes of the previous AGM held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at The Bell Inn were passed as a true record of the meeting, with no matters arising.

**President:** The election of Colin Smith as President, agreed at the Section meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023, was ratified unanimously.

**Chairman's Report:** Derek Daniels gave an overview of the previous year's activities, thanking officials and members for their work and participation in the years events, which had been well-attended, with around 20 members and visitors typically present. In particular thanks were due to Colin Smith, Kevin Phillips and Keith Johnston for organising the regular events, as well as other individuals who organised group rides and special events, not least Brian Newbury's quiz of the year. Derek noted that we sadly lost former Section President Bill Little during the year, who had contributed greatly to the Section and would be missed. Derek thanked Colin Smith for taking on the role, and expressed thanks also to Jeff Falkner and Peter Fielding for their work on the committee during the last year.

**Treasurer's Report:** Martin Hirst explained the detail of the accounts for 2023, which were provided in hard copy at the meeting. The Section's finances are in a healthy position. Donations from meetings and runs were up on the 2022 figure by £112 to £331. Receipts from the White Horse Trial were up on the 2022 figure by £146 to £583. Section charity donations were up on 2022 figure by £56 to £393. There was a slight reduction £10 in profit from the 2022 Christmas raffle, probably due to poor weather (it was noted that this has improved significantly for 2023 with the change in timing to lunchtime). There is an overall reduction in funds held by £302 but with the purchase of club assets of £527 (projector, laptop and software) there is an overall increase in assets with these included and no causes for concern. With no club holiday planned in 2023 the £1,335 allocated at September 2022 has been "ring fenced" into an interest-providing deposit account. A second interest-providing deposit account has been set up for surplus club funds, and at September 2023 this contained £1,665, with the intention of holding a minimum amount to support club activities in the current for the coming FY. A question was raised regarding the increase in costs relating to Trophies. Martin explained that this was driven by two years of engraving expenses falling within this FY (this having been carried out sooner this year than in 2022); however, the costs had also increased year on year. A subsequent discussion arising from this point is recorded later in these minutes.

**Secretary's Report:** Jon Hall echoed the Chairman's thanks to those who organised events during the year. Overall the Section was very active throughout 2023; and it was pleasing to have welcomed several new joiners over the course of the year. The average number of bikes to wanderings, coffee mornings and organised road runs was 14, with a peak of 23 which was for Reg Cox's run to The Tavern at Kemble in July. The White Horse Navigation Trial was again a success and thanks were due to Keith Johnston, Peter Fielding and others who made it happen. This year we stepped up the number of speakers for Section meetings across the Winter months, thanks were due to Martin Hirst and Rob Jones for their contribution to this; and to Matt Young for improving the heating. We have a good framework of regular and special events in place for 2024. The finalised 2024 events calendar will be issued in the coming weeks. Jon noted that work is in hand within VMCC to ensure that central membership records better inform Section secretaries of membership changes in and adjacent to their Sections, and thanked Peter Fielding for driving this in his role as Area Representative.

**Rider of the Year:** Derek Daniels congratulated John Bowler and Colin Smith as joint winners of the Section Rider of the Year Trophy for the greatest number of riding attendances at scheduled Section events.

**Election/confirmation of New Committee:**

Derek Daniels, Martin Hirst and Jon Hall each confirmed willingness to continue in their current roles for 2024 and each was approved in turn by the meeting.

A discussion took place regarding Holiday co-ordinator. It was agreed that, while the events are different in nature, for 2023 the John O'Groats-Land's End [JOGLE] run will take precedence. Tim James gave a brief and positive update on the JOGLE, which is pending final commitments in due course during 2024 but is supported by a good number of Section members intending to take part. Tim also confirmed his willingness to take up the vacant post of Holiday co-ordinator for 2025 in due course, once the 2024 JOGLE activity is complete. This proposal was agreed unanimously.

Martin Hirst stated his intention to stand down from the role of Trophy officer. Matt Young had indicated his willingness to take on the role. This was duly proposed and agreed. A discussion took place regarding Trophies, arising from questions regarding costs and practicalities of maintaining the current suite of Trophies. A number of points were under consideration, including discrepancies in Trophy titles that have arisen over time, condition of some Trophies, exceptional cases such as the Bill Little Memorial Trophy for which funds were expressly bequeathed, and availability of alternatives such as engraved glasses which can be retained.

The committee is as follows

President:	Colin Smith
Chairman:	Derek Daniels
Treasurer:	Martin Hirst
Secretary:	Jon Hall
Trophy officer:	Matt Young
Holiday co-ordinator:	Vacant (post in abeyance until mid-2024)

**Event donations:** The question of donations from members attending certain events was discussed. It was agreed to retain the voluntary donation of nominally £2 per person attending speaker events, and £1 for runs. It was noted that run organisers may choose to retain the donations as a small contribution towards their costs of planning rides, or pass the donations to the Section. The Treasurer noted that it was always hoped to come up with reasonable arrangements where necessary such that individuals would not be deterred from organising a run.

**Major events for 2024:** A number of major events are planned for 2024 and the organisers of each event briefly outlined the intent (The JOGLE had been discussed earlier as noted above).

- **West Wilts Scamper** – Keith Johnston noted that this “safety road run” for girder-forked or sub-250cc machines will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024, with routes of 40 and 75 miles, starting and ending at The Bell Inn. The test run this year had confirmed the terrain was ideal and informed the chosen route lengths. This is intended to be a National event.
- **White Horse Navigation Trial** – Keith Johnston noted that the event, on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023, will follow a similar format to this year’s – a scatter navigation event with a range of classes, and incorporating a special test and a tie-breaker quiz which will be arranged by John Bowler and Brian Newbury respectively. The principal organisers are Keith and Peter Fielding; volunteer/s are invited to shadow the 2024 event in order to take over from Peter at some future point.
- **Calne Bike Meet** – Martin Hirst will organise a stand for the Section in 2024.
- **Bristol Classic Bike Show** – 24/25<sup>th</sup> February 2024 - Kevin Phillips is organising a West Wilts Section stand and has nine machines currently organised to display from the Section.
- **Castle Combe Circuit** – Rob Jones confirmed that Combe bike nights are planned for 2024.
- **Ian Clarke BMW collection** - Colin Smith intends to organise a run to the open day in August 2024.
- **Christmas Lunch** – date to be finalised but it was agreed to repeat the lunchtime format, and again at the Old Royal Ship in Luckington.

**AOB:**

Colin Smith noted that a suggestion had been made ahead of the AGM that Section meetings be held in daytime rather than evenings. This point was discussed, considering various pros and cons in relation to meeting attendance, format and relative frequency of meetings vs. other regular events which are generally in daytime. After extended discussion without any clear consensus for change it was agreed to maintain current arrangements, and the Secretary would informally explore the background to the suggestion and look for possible options.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:50pm.

Jon Hall  
Secretary

Derek Daniels  
Chairman