

VMCC WEST WILTS SECTION

Minutes of AGM 12th December 2024 The Barn, Bell Inn, Yatton Keynell

1. The 2024 Annual General Meeting was opened by the President, Colin Smith.
2. Apologies had been received from Matt Young and Tim James.
3. The Secretary Jon Hall noted that Minutes of the previous AGM had been agreed and issued in December 2023 and there were no matters outstanding. There were no new matters arising at this meeting in relation to the previous AGM.
4. The Chairman Derek Daniels reported another good year for the West Wilts Section. He thanked those present and all in the Section for their strong engagement in Section activities through the year. He led a vote of thanks to those who had helped run the Section in 2024, and noted that the Secretary's report would contain further details in line with his own notes.
5. The Secretary gave his report: overall the West Wilts section has been very active throughout 2024 with a range of well-attended rides and meetings; and we were delighted to welcome a large number of new joiners through the year. We are grateful to have members including Colin Smith, Kevin Phillips and Keith Johnston who have organised regular events, and the committee would also like to thank other individuals who have led other group rides and special events, not least Brian Newbury's annual quiz. The average number of people coming to wanderings, coffee mornings and organised runs was 22, with a peak of 24 actually riding which – like last year - was for Reg Cox's run in July. The peak attendances in terms of people were 50 for the Christmas lunch and 45 for the inaugural breakfast meet at The Flying Monk. This year we have another good range of speakers for our section meetings across the Winter months, and thanks are due to Martin Hirst and others who have contributed to this. We've also introduced, at members' request, some Winter daytime meetings to allow people to ride in daylight. This year's end to end run was brilliantly organised by Tim and Sandy James. The secretary led a vote of thanks again for their hard work. Special mention to Jim Gaisford who popped home from Cumbria on the rest day to swap one ancient BSA for another one. For 2025 the Section holiday event will be to Wales, with bookings being coordinated by Keith Johnston and Martin Hirst. The White Horse Trial was again a successful event; thanks to Keith, Peter Fielding and a number of other members who made it all happen. For 2025, Peter is stepping back to an as-required supporting role.

At this point The President led a vote of thanks to Peter for his contribution as long standing clerk of the course and then secretary for the White Horse event, and presented a special award.

We are delighted that Richard Sansom is taking up the role of event secretary, with Keith continuing as Clerk of the Course. The White Horse Scatter is one of two section events in the VMCC Premier Events Calendar for 2025. The other is the West Wilts Scamper. For 2025 we have brought this forward to August, avoiding clashes with other nearby events and hopefully avoiding the epic floods and dire weather forecast we had this September. Finally, the Secretary noted that there is now a strong framework of regular and special events in place for next year. The calendar will be issued with the notes from the AGM. This will be covered further under item 11.

6. The Treasurer Martin Hirst gave his report, followed by a proposal regarding banking arrangements.

6.1 It had been a very busy year with over £40,000 going through the account. The attached summary income statement and balance sheet provided a bit more information this year than prior years, while leaving out specifics of particular events. The details can be provided if required. Club operating holdings remain roughly the same at just under £3,500. Club assets have been increased by £938 in FY23/24. The cost of Club speakers was reduced for FY23/24 to £110 despite an increased number of speakers. The holiday/insurance excess account was maintained at £1,336, as had been agreed at the 2023 AGM. Interest on held funds was up from £11.61 to £142 for FY23/24. All club events returned a profit especially the WHT which had its best ever year. The End to End run contributed to club funds but by careful planning returned £116 to each entrant.

The Section was able to subsidise Hi Viz vests at £5 each, so far 30 have been provided to members. Current account holdings in the statement are high due to holiday deposits and payments received for the Christmas lunch.

6.2 Banking arrangements: our current Bank, Lloyd's, had informed the Treasurer that a £50 annual charge would be introduced for banking services. Accordingly the Treasurer had investigated other options and reviewed these with the committee. As a result, the Treasurer proposed that the Section change to Santander bank, which had offered free banking for a period of 25 months. The proposal was agreed unanimously by the meeting.

7. Committee election: the Committee stepped down and the President conducted election of the Section officers for 2025. Positions to be voted on by those present at the AGM were as follows:

- i. Chairman
- ii. Treasurer
- iii. Trophy Officer
- iv. Secretary

The former committee had each indicated their willingness to continue in their respective roles in 2025 if elected. The President invited further nominations from the meeting. None were forthcoming, consequently Rob Jones proposed and Peter Fielding seconded the nominations of Derek Daniels as Chairman, Martin Hirst as Treasurer, Matt Young as Trophy Officer and Jon Hall as Secretary. These nominations were all approved by the meeting.

8. Contributions for meetings and runs were reviewed. In order to maintain Section funds whilst appropriately reimbursing speakers and covering incidental expenses, it was agreed that the contribution by each attendee at meetings with a speaker be £3 to Section funds. The exception would be where the speaker was collecting contributions to a recognised charity; in such cases it would be for each attendee to make whatever contribution they wished and all monies collected would be for that charity. At the meeting's suggestion, a sign to the above effect would be placed with the collection pot. A further suggestion was made by those present that a Zetl or similar terminal be purchased to enable direct electronic payment to the Section account as an alternative to cash. It was agreed that the Treasurer would take this suggestion into consideration.

9. The Secretary noted that the following major Section events are planned for 2025:

- i. Wales holiday (based in Llandrindod Wells), 10-17th May
- ii. White Horse Scatter, 13th July
- iii. West Wilts Scamper, 31st August

Keith Johnston noted that the White Horse Scatter is first and foremost a social event and many entrants choose to ride in groups rather than navigate and ride singly. Furthermore the number of locations visited is entirely at the entrant's discretion; the aim is an enjoyable day's riding around interesting locations. Jon Hall noted that for 2025 the West Wilts Scamper would hold to the original intention as an event for girder forked and/or rigid framed machines or VMCC-eligible machines of less than 250cc, the aim being to encourage active use of these lower-powered machines. The aim again is a very informal and simple format event with low running and entry costs.

10. Other major events with Section presence:

- i. Bristol classic bike show, 22 & 23 February
- ii. Calne bike meet, 26th July

Kevin Phillips is again organising the VMCC West Wilts Section stand at the Bristol show and has already identified the machines to be exhibited. Simon Hewitt is preparing display materials for the machines. Martin Hirst confirmed that he will again organise the Section stand at the Calne bike meet.

11. Section Calendar for 2025 – the Secretary noted that the 2025 Section Calendar (Diary of Events) is ready and will be issued with the AGM minutes. A number of points are arising however. First, two of the mid-week runs require a volunteer to organise and lead the runs. [Post-meeting note: Simon Hewitt and Rob MacNevin have provisionally volunteered to each lead a run; thank you both.] Second, volunteers would be welcomed to organise and lead one or more of the Gentle Green Lane Runs. Keith Johnston noted that he would be delighted to assist any volunteer with route planning if desired. Finally, Colin Smith explained that he did not wish to monopolise the regular Wanderings. He has a full set now in place for 2025 and will continue for 2026 but he would be very happy if anyone wished to take over this role for 2026. There was a discussion on this last item and the Secretary led a vote of thanks to Colin for these regular and very popular fixtures in the Section calendar. Anyone interested in taking over this role in 2026 should contact Colin or the Secretary.

12. AOB

- 12.1 Future use of Trophies for Section awards and Events: the Secretary noted that the arrangements for future trophies had been subject to some debate in 2024. Accordingly he had agreed a series of steps for the committee plus event secretaries to arrive at a single recommendation, to be presented for approval by the Section members at a future Section meeting.
- 12.2 Castle Combe Race Circuit: Rob Jones noted that the track days calendar has been issued; these will include classic bike track days incorporating led parade laps. There will also be a media day on 5th May at which the West Wilts Section is invited to have a stand for publicity purposes. In addition, bike night/s are anticipated during the Summer, which will be announced nearer the time. Martin Hirst confirmed that he would arrange the Section's presence at the media day and bike night/s.

There being no further business, the President closed the meeting.