

VMCC WEST WILTS SECTION

Minutes of AGM 11th Dec. '25

1. The meeting was opened by Section President, Colin Smith, with 33 people signing in.
2. Several apologies had been received and a number of questions or points submitted in advance, which are recorded in Section 11 'AOB' below.
3. Minutes of previous AGM and matters arising; there were 2 actions from the last AGM:
 - i. Action ref. item 6.2 (change from Lloyds to Santander bank) was cancelled due to limitations found with Santander. The Section now has three accounts, two of which are interest-bearing to offset business banking charges introduced by Lloyds. It was noted that the Treasurer actively maximises the deposit account balance, with interest of approximately £140 earned over the past two years.
 - ii. Action ref. item 12.1 (future use of trophies) was completed, with agreement to continue the status quo following investigation of four alternative options and the good work of the Trophy officer in obtaining savings in engraving costs for 2025.

There being no further comments, the minutes of the 2024 AGM were approved.

4. Chairman's report – Derek Daniels thanked in turn those members who had organised and assisted with the Section's regular and special events during the past 12 months. Regular events through the year include Wanderings organised by Colin Smith and café/breakfast meetings organised by Kevin Phillips, plus Green lane runs organised by Keith Johnston. In addition key events in 2025 included the Wales holiday also organised by Keith, and the very successful White Horse Scatter with Keith as Clerk of the Course and new Event Secretaries Richard and Alison Sansom having taken over from Peter Fielding who took on a supporting role. He thanked the committee members for their continued efforts. In closing, he noted that above all it is the membership of the Section and their participation and enthusiasm for the Section's activities that keeps the Section thriving.
5. Secretary's report – Jon Hall echoed Derek's thanks including other members who had led particular runs during the year, and noting that the White Horse Scatter Clerk of the Course role was being handed over to Richard Bayliffe, with Keith Johnston stepping back after many years into a supporting role for 2026. In short summary of the Secretary's report 2025 [attached], Jon noted that attendance across all events had increased, and that in addition to funds raised for the Section from events, circa £500 had been contributed to good causes in the year, partly from White Horse proceeds and partly from generous donations by attendees at charity speaker/film nights. The Rider of the Year award 2025 was a tie between Colin Smith and Jeff Berning; both being present (and arriving by bike) at the AGM, the engraved Trophy was presented by the Chairman.
6. Treasurer's report – Martin Hirst gave an overview of income and expenditure in the year, with reference to the Financial summary for Y/E 30th Sept. 2025 [attached]. In summary the total bank balance stands at approx. £3,000. This is a £547 reduction from the 2024 year end balance, driven principally by the Section's purchase of a second Calor gas heater needed for the meeting venue and subsidised pricing of Section hi-viz vests, together with

£348 of deposit refunds that related to 2024 but actually left the account just past the 2024 year end. Bank charges had been fully offset in the year by interest earned, though charges would increase slightly to £60 in 2026. There are a large number of transactions each year and an attempt had been made to use Lloyd's free Business Finance software, but it was found to be unwieldy and not well suited to the Section's activities; so improvements to the previous spreadsheet-based approach are being implemented.

7. Q&A – Three points were raised on the above reports.

- i. Keith Johnston thanked the Treasurer and Secretary for producing and issuing the financial summary in good time; and noted that while the Section balances are in a healthy state, there has been a consistent reduction over the past three years totalling circa £1,000. At current run rate therefore, the Section funds would run out in 10 years; but it would be preferable to set out a financial forecast/plan for the year ahead to frame future financial actions on generating additional income or decisions on discretionary expenditure. Furthermore, the VMCC guidelines include useful notes on this. There was a good discussion around this point, noting among other things that the Section itself charges no membership fee, and in previous years the Section had agreed to increase donations on runs and at all meetings to a larger nominal amount to build reserves, which remains a simple option. It was noted that a preliminary projection from 2025 into 2026 suggests that, with similar Events running again per the Section calendar and with no significant equipment purchases anticipated (and no further hi-viz discounts), the Section would outturn a small increase in bank balance at Sept.'26. The consensus was that an annual forecast/plan would be useful and the Committee agreed to formalise one, developing its current extrapolation from the 2025 figures and involving the key Event organisers and others as appropriate. **Action 7.1: Prepare a financial forecast/plan for the Section for FY26.**
- ii. Jeff Falkner noted the number of new attendees at Section events during the year and asked how membership numbers stood. Jon Hall said that the distribution list for Newsletters and other information continued to increase overall but the most relevant data is that from the Rider of the Year records. This shows that average attendance and average number of riders at regular Section events in 2025 increased by circa 20% from 2024, and the largest turnout (48 at a Breakfast meeting at the Flying Monk) and largest number of riders (43 at the May Day mid-week run) were both over 20% higher than 2024.

8. Committee election: The Committee stood down and the Section President conducted election of the Section Officers for 2026. Positions to be voted on by those present at the AGM are as follows:

- i. Chairman
- ii. Treasurer
- iii. Secretary
- iv. Trophy officer
- v. Additional positions

Prior to the nominations, Derek Daniels stated that he had re-considered and decided that he wished to serve another year (until a 'significant birthday') as Chairman if elected. In pre-AGM discussion with Jeff Berning, Jeff had confirmed his willingness to stand as an additional committee member to give support to the Committee in 2026 and to provide continuity into 2027 when Derek stands down. Martin Hirst, Matt Young and Jon Hall confirmed their willingness to stand again as Treasurer, Trophy Secretary and Section Secretary respectively. Derek, Martin, Matt and Jon were each re-elected unopposed as Section Officers to their previous posts, and Jeff was duly elected as a further Section Officer. **Action 8.1: Secretary to add Jeff Berning to list of Section Officers in VMCC records.**

9. Section Events planned for 2026: Jon Hall noted the following principal Section Events in the Calendar;
- i. Section holiday (based in Kendal, Cumbria), 10-17th May
 - ii. White Horse Scatter, 12th July
 - iii. West Wilts Scamper, 23rd August

Richard Bayliffe noted that while attendance at the 2025 White Horse Scatter was a record high, only a small proportion were Section members, and the number of Section members is typically low each year, albeit of course several members kindly volunteer to assist with the event rather than taking part. In planning the 2026 event, the organisers will be asking the Section for suggestions on increasing its participation. It was agreed that this will be on the Section meeting agenda for Thursday 11th January 2026.

10. Other major events with Section presence:
- i. Bristol classic motorcycle show, 21st & 22nd February – call for additional machines to be exhibited on the VMCC West Wilts stand.
 - ii. Calne bike day, 25th July

Kevin Phillips noted that there were 4 spaces remaining for bikes to be exhibited on the VMCC West Wilts stand at the Bristol show, and anyone wishing to display a machine should contact him directly to discuss. Martin Hirst confirmed he is again organising a Section stand for Calne.

11. AOB

- i. Emergency contact numbers for participants in group rides [item raised by both Jeff Falkner and Elliott May.] After discussion it was agreed that individuals may wish to carry a card giving emergency contact details and other information (e.g. any special medical information). Three options were suggested during the discussion: Simply writing emergency contact information on the reverse of the VMCC membership card; obtaining a Medical Alert/Medical Identity Card or obtaining a "CRASH Card". [Thanks to Paula Cleverly and Keith Johnston for these additional suggestions]. Some arrangements put a soft card inside the crash helmet with a sticker on the helmet to alert emergency responders to its presence.

Where the card is carried in clothing, obviously a clear outside pocket/panel is needed to ensure the card can be easily found by others.

- ii. Provision of First Aid kit for White Horse Scatter [item raised by Richard Sansom] The risk assessment for the Scatter identifies the need for a kit at the event field. The cost is approximately £25 and it was agreed at the meeting that one be purchased using club funds and held by the event organisers.
- iii. Weekend runs/events – could these be introduced into the 2027 Calendar? [item submitted by Jon Wiggins] Typically there are only 1 or 2 events in the Section calendar (apart from the Scatter, Scamper, Christmas meal and attendance at the Bristol classic bike show), which limits participation of members working mid-week. A show of hands indicated there would be strong interest in Saturday or Sunday runs being added to the Calendar. In the first instance we will look at possible additions in 2026. **Action 11.1 Would any individual willing to organise a weekend run or event for the Section please contact Jon Hall to arrange for it to be added to the next issue of the 2026 Calendar.**
- iv. Promoting the VMCC and classic/vintage bikes at general biking events [item submitted by Jon Wiggins] It was noted and agreed that the Section will aim to support Combe bike nights again in 2026 with a Section stand, and will be at Calne bike day; and will consider supporting other similar events that may be identified.
- v. Combe track days [item raised by Rob Jones] Dates have now been confirmed for motorcycle track days, plus a Classic bike only track day event on 10th and 11th April 2026. Kevin Phillips proposed that additional café meetings be arranged to coincide with track days; these will not be formal additions to the Section calendar but will instead be decided upon and publicised near to each date according to weather forecast and other factors. This approach was agreed.

12. There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8:30pm.

Attachments: Financial Summary for Y/E 30th Sept. 2025; Secretary's Report 2025.