

Minutes of the Meeting of The Club

Alderson House, Warwick, 22nd September 2024

- 1) The Chairman opened by thanking organisers Tim Maccabee and Steve Callahan for an excellent Run (applause) despite the worry on seeing the weather forecast for the day.
- 2) **Apologies for Absence:** Apologies had been received from Peter Britton, Ian Kerr, Graham Goodman (whose Hon Sec role was being performed by Nick Jeffery), Bob Macmillan, Keith Davies, Michael Evans, Tim Albone (who had booked to attend but unfortunately had contracted Covid), Craig Carey-Clinch, Andrew Smith and David O'Neill.
- 3) **Approval of Minutes:** Annual Meeting at Ironbridge, 21st April 2024.

Subject to the deletion of the words in the last sentence of the Chairman's Report 'who had expressed some interest in trying to help' the Minutes were approved.

Proposed: Norman Hyde
Seconded: Steve Callahan

4) **Matters arising:**

Archives - Nick Jeffery said that the archives were safely housed by kind permission of Ben Matthews at the Watsonian-Squire premises. Nick Hopkins and he had weeded them for irrelevant material and they are now in two filing cabinets. Although an archivist was sought there was no job description and it was difficult to see what an archivist would do other than perhaps select and scan 'interesting' material from the historic minutes books for uploading to the website. As an example, Members were complaining that the cost of runs might exceed £25! The scanning could be done either by a volunteer archivist or a professional scanning company. Nick J offered to get a quotation from the latter. After discussion and concern about potential costs it was agreed to accept the Chairman's kind invitation to try to scan documents from an early minutes book as an experiment. He further offered to go to the Watsonian-Squire premises to collect this. Ben M also kindly offered the use of the company's scanner if wanted.

Action: Chairman to liaise with Ben Matthews to progress scanning of historic minutes.

Social Media - Dan Sager reported that he had, as agreed, investigated this. He recommended that the best option was to set up a private Facebook page. This would work by Members being invited to join and would be invisible to the outside world. In response to Nick J's question of how many Members were Facebook users, a straw poll indicated approximately half. Dan said there were no costs involved and it was hoped Members would post pictures which could subsequently be used by Geoff Selvidge when preparing Run Reports and subsequently go on the website. Dan confirmed there was no risk of Facebook claiming copyright of images posted. Ben M stressed that this was not an alternative to the Run Reports so anyone not using social media was not missing out. There was general agreement that this was a good idea and Dan was thanked for his work.

Action: Dan Sager to set up a private Facebook Group.

5) Chairman's Report

Classic Run organised by Ian Kerr and Nick Hopkins -The Chairman expressed disappointment at the relatively low take-up on this, particularly as some Members had indicated support for shorter day runs which were of course relatively inexpensive. It had been suggested that calling it a Classic Run might have dissuaded Members who did not have a Classic machine from participating but it had been made clear that it was open to all machines and in fact a number of Members were not riding Classic bikes. He invited comments as to whether it was a good idea and something we should pursue. Norman Hyde, who had participated, said it was a good day out and, certainly for those Members who were not keen to do long distance Runs like the Scottish one, organising a more local one day run would be welcome. Ben M speculated that perhaps a weekend run would receive more support from those who were working but it was pointed out that some participants on the Classic Run were still working. There was general agreement that the concept was good if a Member was prepared to devote time to organising a Run. The Members expressed their thanks to Ian and Nick H for arranging the Run and Geoff Selvidge was also thanked for his report on the Run which had been circulated.

Club President - The Chairman opened by stating that Keith Davies had been President since 2017 and had had some problems with his health but he had hoped that the recent fitment of a pacemaker had improved this. He was hoping that Keith would be able to attend the Run this weekend but sadly was not able to do this as his wife was now suffering from ill health and he was having to look after her. Accordingly Keith had expressed a wish to stand down as President. The Chairman wished to record the Members' gratitude to Keith for performing the role for many years and announced that Norman Hyde had agreed to succeed him. Norman said that this was a great honour and privilege, especially considering the eminent previous incumbents, and he looked forward to working with the Chairman with whom he had had a long relationship.

6) Treasurer's Report

Rick Parish said he had had a fantastically interesting year. Firstly he reported that the arrangement to alter the banking arrangements so that the Chairman/Webmaster had access had been effected. This would make the administration of Runs much easier, The current Run also was fantastic in terms of complexity and he expressed admiration for how Tim and Steve had put in place such intricate arrangements. He looked forward to preparing the final accounts for it.

He observed that the dynamics of Runs were changing in that the Members were generally drinking less and that the amount drunk was always the major element in the cost of Runs. The last two Runs had come in above budget because less alcohol was consumed but it could fluctuate by as much as £600. The Spring Run had made a surplus of £891 which was due to less alcohol consumption. We had funds in the bank of over £10,000 which he believed was sensible as a safety margin to allow for a calamity as this was about the cost of a Run. On early estimates this Run may result in a surplus of £300. He concluded that the finances were healthy with the future trend being hotel prices were going up but alcohol consumption costs going down. He hoped next year would be as exciting. The Chairman thanked Rick for all his hard work (applause).

7) Future Runs

Spring 2025 May 9th to 11th Tavistock -Andy Mayo reported that arrangements were in place for the Run to be based on the Bedford Hotel where we had stayed before. We will be passing through three counties - Devon, Somerset and Cornwall with lunch on Exmoor and with a Run of about 220 fast and flowing miles. 40 rooms were available. The Chairman thanked Andy for stepping in to organise the Run and for the arrangements.

Autumn 2025 September 19th to 21st Balachulish -The Chairman reported that neither Andrew Smith or Tim Albone were able to be present to report in person but he had been informed that arrangements were well in hand with only the staging hotel on the journey up to be finalised. He was confident that the experience of the organisers meant we were in safe hands.

Summer 2025 Cotswolds Day Run - Following the discussion on the Classic Run above, Dan Sager said that, given the distance of the Scottish Run in Autumn 2025, some Members might find this too onerous and he wondered if a day Run in the Cotswolds might be welcomed. Geoff Selvidge reminded Members that a 'Cotswold Canter' had been organised before and was very successful. The Chairman said that this was a good idea and thanked Dan for his offer.

Spring 2026 Rick Parish and Ian Kerr -Rick's initial thoughts were to have a Run in North Wales in the Llangollen area but he would be meeting up with Ian as he had indicated that he may have other plans. By default North Wales could be organised.

Autumn 2026 Paul Haskins and Nick Campolucci -In response to the Chairman's invitation for a volunteer, Paul Haskins offered to organise a Run in the Derbyshire area. This was welcomed by the meeting and Nick Campolucci offered to assist so that he could pass on the benefit of his experience in Run organisation.

8) Club Website

As Webmaster, the Chairman reported this was functioning well and this was echoed by supportive comments from the Members.

9) New Members

The Chairman indicated that Steve Lomas and Bill Taylor had attended two Runs and were on their third qualifying Run, their eligibility having been confirmed by the Committee.

Steve Lomas was proposed by Neil Tuxworth. Neil said that Steve, a former professional speedway rider, ran a very successful motorcycle wheel-building business.

Proposed: Neil Tuxworth

Seconded: Stephen Burgess

Bill Taylor was proposed by Nick Campolucci. Nick said that Bill was Sales and Marketing Director and part-owner of motorcycle security company Biketrac.

Proposed: Nick Campolucci

Seconded: Steve Callahan

Any objections to the above new Members must be notified to the Hon. Sec. within two weeks of the Minutes being published.

10) A.O.B.

Ben M asked if Geoff Selvidge felt he had enough support when producing Run Reports. Geoff said that he always welcomed photographs and that such actions as Rick listing 'machines ridden' was helpful. He was happy to continue - unless of course someone else came forward to take it off his hands! The Chairman thanked Geoff for his great work.

Gary Hartshorne asked whether it would be possible to produce a directory of Members. Nick J pointed out that there were some Member bios on the website although these were generally historic in nature. Martyn Roberts said that these were mainly of past Chairmen and it would be a good idea if Members produced brief CVs perhaps with a photograph. A discussion followed which concluded it might be useful to prepare a questionnaire for Members to complete. Nick offered to draft this in conjunction with the Chairman which then could be sent out via the web mailing list.

Nick J asked Tony Jakeman, as a non-riding Member attending for the first time after many years, if

he could give any insight into the reason for the limited take-up of the offer to such Members to attend. Simon Hill had raised this initially and this was the first Run it been implemented. Nick J was aware that Maurice Knight had said that, apart from the difficulty in travelling, he felt he knew few Members when he did attend. Tony responded that when he arrived he found he knew many Members and had had interesting discussions on industry matters. He said he would probably attend again. Neil Tuxworth suggested that if a Run went near a non-riding Member's house, he could be invited to meet up at the relevant stop. Norman advised this had been done in the past.

It was agreed that this should be kept as an option in future. Rick emphasised that if there were too many exceptions to the 'normal' weekend booking this would play havoc with budgeting and make the organisers' task very difficult but if problems did occur the situation could be reviewed. The Chairman concluded by saying that he had attempted to contact a number of non-riding Members and some who replied had indicated that they were not able to attend for various reasons. He regretted that Peter Britton, who had confirmed his attendance, then had had a fall and was unable to come. It was agreed that non-riding Members should continue to be offered the option to attend a Run and organisers should bear this in mind.

Action: Ensure this option was included on booking form for future Runs.

There being no further business the Chairman again thanked Tim and Nick C for an excellent weekend and wished all Members a safe journey home.

Meeting closed 09.42

Nick Jeffery

Acting Hon Sec