

**Minutes of Oxford Section Committee meeting held at  
Duke of Marlborough, Woodstock on  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

**Those present:**

Steve Moxey, Geoff Clough, Rosemary Hicks, Ian Dobie (Ian D), David Hicks, Andy Lawson, Wendy Ottaway, David Shanks, Richard Powel, Clive Stevens, Martin Skennerton, Ian Hartley (Ian H)

**Action**

1. **Chairman's Address** – Steve thanked everyone for attending.
2. **Apologies for absence** – John Broad, Tim Read, Bob Mack, John Russ (John R) and Phil Carter.
3. **Minutes of last meeting** – on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2016 were agreed to be an accurate account of the meeting.
4. **Matters arising from Previous Meeting** - None
5. **Treasurer's report** – Geoff had previously circulated copies of the accounts for the period up to 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016. He stated that he had now received the capitation fee of £1800. This capitation is for 275 full and 76 associate members, which, because of the increase capitation fees puts us ahead of budget (£1500).

All the final payments for the Austria trip had been received from club members. The addition of one extra free room allocated to the club together with a more favourable exchange rate, placed us in a good position and has allowed for a small cash surplus. This surplus will be held as a contingency fund, pending anything unforeseen, the balance being refunded after the holiday.

The accounts currently show a surplus of £1000, with the section BBQ still to be funded. All other creditors had been settled, and with more capitations still to come, the section could be looking at a surplus for the year of approx. £800.

6. **Secretary's Report** – There are currently 290 full members, and 78 associates. This represents a decrease in membership of approximately 18% from the 354 full an 82 associate members from last year. It should be noted, that overall the club membership is down by 23% from the previous year (2015). We are following the trend downwards, but can gain some comfort from the fact that our membership stats are better than the club overall.

Rosemary said she had done everything possible in contacting lapsed members. Members who have not renewed have now been removed from the database.

A general discussion on membership took place with the following observations.

- There are probably only about 200 active members within the section.
- The NOG events have not added to the membership numbers, and only a few new members have turned up.
- Next year's Bike launches might help enhance recruitment.
- Important to continue recruitment, but overall the section benefits very little in comparison to the effort put in.
- Most of the members recruited at the NEC have not renewed this year, which appears to be a common trend.
- The need to reduce committee workload on recruitment by some form of no cost 'Trial before buy' scheme run at local level.
- Try to encourage members to be more Pro-active within the section.

<p>a. The Secretary asked if it would be possible to have the Committee meeting minutes uploaded to the section web site so they could be read by the general membership. It was agreed that this could be done.</p>	Steve
<p>b. Rosemary and David mentioned that other clubs have a banner or poster at events listing the advantages of club membership and suggested that we should do something similar. This was agreed and would be investigated.</p>	Committee
<p><b>7. Media -</b></p>	
<p>a. <b>Logos</b> – Steve stated that the recent survey and vote on the suggested new section logo was well received, and many of the suggestions were noted. It was agreed that the 'Motorman' image should be modified to remove what some had referred to as the 'ponytail' and 'exhaust'.</p>	
<p>The survey results showed that of the 4 initial designs, two came out as clear favourites, but no overall winner. It therefore fell to the committee to cast the final vote, which it did.</p>	
<p>Design 1 - Light blue = 4 Votes</p>	
<p>Design 2 - Light Blue fade. = 7 Votes.</p>	
<p>It was decided that Design 2 would be submitted to BMW for their approval.</p>	
<p>b. <b>Section Newsletter</b> – Steve said that he had contacted Rebecca Bricklebank with a view to editing a section specific newsletter. This newsletter would only be available electronically. It would cover all aspects of section activities such as Events, Ride outs, holidays etc, with the content and articles being supplied by section members.</p>	Steve
<p><b>8 Social Secretary</b> - As John was not in attendance he had submitted a written brief which was read out by Geoff.</p>	
<p><b>John stated that he was finding it increasingly difficult to fit his Social Secretarial work in between all the other things he wished to do and so would like to register his intention to stand down from this job at the next AGM.</b></p>	
<p>a. <b>Biker down Course</b> – Following on from the success of the biker down workshop. John stated that there is a provisional offer of another course exclusively to Section members, to be held at Thame on a Saturday morning sometime in July, no date as yet.</p>	John
<p>John stated that the ride organisers need to work out their details of start times and locations as soon as possible and let him know for inclusion in the Journal Diary and Section report. He is finding it very difficult to get this information before the 5th of each month deadline date for the Journal, for ride outs planned 3 months ahead, which is the Social Secretary's responsibility.</p>	
<p><b>9. Arrangements for forthcoming events -</b></p>	
<p>a. <b>Cassington Bike Night</b> – John had attended the planning meeting and lack of volunteer marshals was a major concern this year. Still no confirmation from NOG as to whether they will have a stand present this year. The Club Gazebo will be in the same position as last year; however, some Classic/Vintage bikes are needed to dress the stand.</p>	John
<p>Steve suggested that in view of the fact that a large number of club members are away for this event, then a targeted email needs to go out to those members who we know are going to be available and are most likely to assist.</p>	Rosemary

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <p><b>b. ACU Rally Control</b> – John wrote that he had put a plea in for help at this event in each of the Journal Section Reports.<br/>Andy said that he had not as yet received confirmation from the Rally organisers, but that he would be sending out a general request for volunteers soon.</p>   | <p>Andy</p>                        |
| <p><b>c. Ludgershall Bike Night.</b> - John wrote that nothing had been requested from him so far. Rosemary and David stated that it was a small event and that they would assist.</p>   | <p>John<br/>Rosemary<br/>David</p> |
| <p><b>d. West Hagbourne Bike night</b> – the event is on the 12<sup>th</sup> July and not the 19<sup>th</sup> as advertised in the Diary. Rob Allin is still investigating whether we can have the same pitch as previous years.</p>   | <p>John</p>                        |
| <p><b>e. Calne Town Bike Show</b> – John stated that he has no plans to take the Gazebo to this event, though anyone else is welcome to it if they wish.<br/>Awaiting further clarification from John Russ who usually leads on this event.</p>  | <p>John R</p>                      |
| <p><b>f. Oxford Section BBQ</b> – Bob and Ann Mack were coordinating this event. The section BBQ's and Gazebos will need transporting to this event. So far no information on the ride out to this event. The Start point, time and ride leader information all needed by John.</p>  | <p>Bob</p>                         |
| <p><b>g. Brackley FofM</b>– Space had been booked and the fee has been paid. More details will become available nearer the show date. The Stand will be erected from 08:30am and will need to be peopled by club members.</p>  | <p>John</p>                        |
| <p><b>h. Annual Skittles match</b> – John had checked with the pub the 'Wellesley Arms' and had set the date. But so far no confirmation from the Western Section. John still need to get food prices from the pub.</p>  | <p>John</p>                        |
| <p><b>i. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event 2017</b> – Geoff briefly went through the results from the first sub committee meeting with the following general observations.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The 50<sup>th</sup> theme should run throughout the year in all events.</li> <li>ii. There should be a main event such as a Gala/Dinner or Dinner/Dance.</li> <li>iii. The Main event should take place about mid May 2017</li> <li>iv. The Venue should be Central to our section area.</li> <li>v. A list of possible venues had been researched and prices varied.</li> <li>vi. Most of the venues have a limit of 100 people as maximum capacity.</li> <li>vii. The event would replace the annual dinner at Farringdon</li> <li>viii. Restricted to Oxford section members only and their guests.</li> <li>ix. The section should subsidise parts of the event such as room hire.</li> <li>x. Event special ride out with prizes.</li> <li>xi. Commemorative badges and stickers for all members</li> <li>xii. The purchasing of Anniversary merchandising.</li> </ol> |                                    |

Geoff stated, that this was very much work in progress, and that there are further subcommittee meetings planned.

Steve thanked everyone for their efforts and stated that if the restrictions on numbers were likely to be a problem, then we might look at splitting the event somehow.

- 10 NCM matters-** Ian D gave a brief run down on the recent NCM. The main concerns seem to be that Journal is losing money. The advertising revenue has dropped off, with at least 50% of the small business advertising disappearing.

August 2016 National Rally – so far there are 75 members booked to attend.

A general discussion followed on the possibility of reducing the cost of the Journal. It was suggested moving to a bi monthly or quarterly edition. Stripping out a lot of the non essential sections like diary of events and Calendars.

The Committee Generally agreed to proceed on a strategy of forging our own section identity alongside that of the club. Where we see no direct benefit to section members, such as publication in the journal of events and calendars, we will cease contributing. To write, edit and submit these articles to a tight deadline, takes a considerable amount of effort and time, mostly from the Social secretary. It is our aim to reduce the work load of committee members. At the same time providing members with more up to date information. It was felt that a local electronic newsletter could achieve this more effectively.

a. Steve suggested polling the section membership in a survey to ask about club structure, value for money, Journal content, suggested ways things could be improved and made more efficient and cheaper. How do members think the club is doing nationally etc.

Steve

b. We would be happy for Ian D to take this matter to the NCM and we would be willing to share the survey results with them.

Ian D

**11. Any Other Business-** Geoff ran through some of the ideas and progress so far on the rough plan of holidays for 2017.

a. **June 2017 – Wild Atlantic Way – Ireland Tour –** Geoff went through the draft flyer which had been circulated on this proposed trip. He stressed that the holiday would have to be booked through a tour operator. As the trip proposes multiple hotels. Martin said that he felt the single/double room ratios of 1 single per 5 doubles were not favourable. Geoff agreed, stating that as an example the Austria trip was roughly 1 single per 1 double. There was also a concern about the cost of the accommodation and that a lower standard might be cheaper and more practical. It was agreed that more information would be needed before a firm commitment on deposits.

Geoff

b. **Sicily Trip – 2017 -** Geoff stated that there will be a meeting in early June with Derek Spears to discuss the trip and to try to draft out some firm details. However, it would be run and booked through a tour company.

Geoff

c. **Sep 2017-** Isle of White or Belgium weekend – Just ideas at this stage so further thought and discussion needed.

Geoff stated that once the Irish and Sicily trips had been finalised, then the flyers would need to go out together for members to choose.

**12. Next meeting –** At Duke of Marlborough Public house on:-  
**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 7:00pm.**

Ian H