

THE LONDON DOUGLAS MOTOR CYCLE CLUB LIMITED

Minutes of the 20th Annual General Meeting held at Launton Parish Hall at 2pm on Sunday 2nd April 2017.

The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked those members present for attending. A minute silence was observed to remember those members who have sadly passed away over the past 12 months.

1. **Attendance.** There were 21 members present as per the attendance sheet.
2. **Apologies** for absence were received from: Margaret Turner, Eddie Turner, Peter Milla, Frank Morley, Robert Dix, Eric Carpenter, Dave Rodgers, Brian Denman, Gareth Budd, Jim Sharrod, Don Jardine, Rex Bigg.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting** held on 3rd April 2016 were agreed as correct by all those present and were signed off by the Chairman - Dave Richmond. There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report and Address - Dave Richmond

I am not going to give a lengthy overview of the Club's activities over the last year as this will be covered in the various reports to be presented by the Club's Officers during the course of this meeting. However, I would just like to say that the Club has continued to operate successfully and thanks to careful management of our finances by the Club's treasurer, we end the year in good financial health.

5. Treasurers Report & presentation of accounts - Peter Milla

In the absence of Peter Milla his report was read to the meeting.

The balance sheet of the Club's finances confirms that the Club remains financially healthy. Our current account is slightly less at the end of 2016 as a consequence of a fall in income in several areas.

Our General income, that is subscriptions, donations and machine registration are down by about £1000 for 2016 compared to 2015 due to a fall in subscriptions. Spares, Regalia and archives are all self-funding. Spares sales decreased over 2016 but remain healthy. Overall these 3 activities continue to generate a healthy surplus of over £4000.

Events, as in previous years were run at a loss, though during 2016 the Rally was in profit simply as a consequence of Stow RFC failing to invoice us for the use of the club. Auction of donated machines appeared not to make a large profit but in fact this item represents the sale by the club of a member's machines on his behalf. The expenditure represented the funds generated for the member with 12% of the total covering the club's expenses regarding the sale.

Total expenditure in running the Club and all its activities is little different from previous years and is approximately £25,000. Our fixed irreducible costs consist of the New Conrod, affiliation fees, insurance and accountancy; amounting to about £14000. The remaining costs are variable and are composed of the general administration, Management Committee expenses, running our various events and payment of management costs.

Our total administration costs for 2016 are very similar to 2015. Our general income and the surplus from the sale of spares, regalia, archives and machines easily accounts for this sum. In 2015 after deducting total admin costs from our total income we ended with a small deficit of £480.00.

The New Conrod is our largest fixed irreducible cost. Postage and printing in 2016 was little different from 2015. However, we anticipate an increase in postage this year. We will be buying our year's postage for NCR as in previous years in advance, prior, to the Royal Mail and NZ Post's postage review.

It is difficult to see where we might make further savings to reduce our expenses still further. The Management Committee member's individual expenses on Club business are included in the individual groups of activity as this allows a realistic valuation of the actual costs of the club's various activities. It should be remembered that all the Committee members are volunteers and indeed some never claim for their expenditure on Club business.

At the present time I do not think we need take any further steps regarding the variable expenditure other than keeping a vigilant eye on it and continuing to second guess Royal Mail. I would recommend that we keep our subscriptions rates at their present level for the coming year, but we will need to review the situation when the new postage rates come in as well as the subscription renewal rate.

6. Reports from other officials.

(a) **Spares Report – Dick Bradley** reported to the meeting that the majority of commonly requested consumables are in stock for both pre and post-war models. Seventeen items that are low on stock are already under manufacture and enquiries have also been made regarding two batches of crash bars for Mark and Dragonfly models, both in stainless steel. No prices are known yet. Over the past 12 months some 180 orders have been dealt with resulting in spares sales of almost £19,000. When manufacturing costs and postal charges are deducted spares sales made a profit of £2758.

(b) Membership Report – Reg Holmes

The Membership Report this year covers the period 1st January 2016 to the 31st December 2016. This year saw members not renewing exceeding that of new members joining the club resulting in the overall membership total falling by 21 equating to just under 2%. Total membership standing at 1st January this year was 1109 made up of 831 home members and 278 from overseas. New members joining during this period totalled 85, down from 106 last year with 56 from the UK and 29 overseas. Non-renewals in the same period were 106 compared with 107 last year.

During the period of this Report, fourteen members of the Club have sadly passed away, being Doug Sharp of West Yorkshire, Les Proctor of Kings Langley, Alan Nowell of Bristol, Don Chapman of Maidenhead, Rob Taylor of Bicester, Barry Batchelor of Essex, Roger Higginson of Surrey, Geoff Cray of Cambridge, Bryan O'Toole of Essex, Roger Martin of Maidenhead, John Caddick of Bristol, Gordon Hemms of Bath, Richard Trillwood of California and Ed Deak of Canada. Unfortunately, as mentioned all too often in previous Reports, the pattern of previous years repeats itself with general age related ill health, and terminal illness being the main reason for the number of resignations. On a brighter note however it is

always pleasing to see many long-term members renewing year after year. This year we are pleased to announce a further 19 members achieving 25 years continuous membership and a further 5 attaining the 50 year membership total. Long term membership, that is members who have already passed the 25 year mark accounts for an amazing 20% of our existing UK members and a figure of just over 13% for our overseas members. Similar figures exist for those in the 15 – 25 year bracket. One other notable feature as many of you may have noticed from the NCR, are the number of members re-joining the club, sometimes after a lengthy absence. Obviously, the average age of our membership seems to increase in line with the aging population, but it is very encouraging the club can still attract new and younger members and also to record Douglas motorcycles previously unknown. The vast majority of new members joining the club this year have again come through the club's web site, and I believe that with increased publicity and the availability of newly purchased spare parts, more new owners will still want to join especially as we approach our 90th anniversary next year.

Below are the Membership figures at the end of December 2016. Figures in brackets are for the same time last year.

Members Home 831 (843) including 38 Life, 38 Associate a decrease of -12 (7)

Overseas 278 (287) including 3 Life, 7 Associate a decrease of -9 (-8)

Total Membership 1109 (1130) a decrease of -21 (-1)

Non-renewals Home 69 (71) New members Home 56 (78)

Non-renewals Overseas 37 (36) New members O/Seas 29 (28)

Total non-renewals for the year **106** (107) Total new members for the year **85** (106)

In concluding my report Mr. Chairman, I am again willing to continue as Membership Secretary for a further twelve months if re-elected.

(c) Regalia Report – Eric Carpenter

In the absence of Eric Carpenter his report was read to the meeting.

First half year Regalia sales were better than the second half (£399) against (£277). I have adjusted prices for three items (2,3 and 23) to be more realistic. I intend to keep transfer prices as low as possible as they can easily be destroyed on application and will only raise prices when supplier prices rise, unless the Committee decides otherwise. As of today the following stock items are low and very low 1 = 4, 31 = 15, 33 = 1.

Item 31 – binders, I have inquired about the cost or re-ordering from the previous supplier. Item 33 – baseball caps, we will need to find a suitable supplier if the Committee decided these should still be a stock item. Sadly, I wish to make it known to this meeting that having undertaken the role of Regalia Secretary for a number of years I now wish to stand down and I hope a suitable replacement can be found to carry on the work.

(d) Archivist Report – Dave Lawrence has been looking after this role pending a suitable applicant

During the year, Len Boydell and I have continued to work through the archives from Lawford, we have now more or less emptied his attic and have passed much of the material on to Nigel Allen, who volunteered to take on the post at last year's AGM, but had asked for personal reasons not to be too involved for the year, this fitted in well as it gave Len and I more time to organise and thin out much of the duplicated material.

This has now been done and the second load has been delivered today! Hopefully the final odds and ends will be far less in volume.

I welcome Nigel to the fold and wish him the best of luck in settling into his new job as the year progresses. Regarding the production of manuals and spares lists, this has continued successfully through the past year, several new publications have been added to our stock and I am about to collect several more from the printers in the next two weeks. The 2 ¾ Parts list and the manual are here today and seem to be popular. I hope by this time next year to have a stock of reprints of all the required books that we have managed to track down. The trade over during 2016 has been good, and the expected drop off in demand does not appear to have materialised, I processed 53 invoices with a total income amounting to slightly over £1300. The profit from this has enabled us to extend the range and restock where necessary and still remain self financing.

I think that concludes what I have to say and thank those in particular that have come forward with material, advice and help, with a heartfelt thank you to Len Boydell without his time, patience, and organisation skills much of the work would not have been done.

(e) Publicity Report – Gareth Budd

In the absence of Gareth Budd his report was read to the meeting.

The adverts that I have been placing in the past 12 months on behalf of the club have been mainly in the Old Bike Mart, this is the classified section for 12 monthly issues January 2017 to December 2017, this using our approved text plus oval Douglas logo. Old Bike Mart also has a free club call section, this lists the club's web address plus Reg Holmes's contact details.

As we are member of Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs, we have an entry in their web site in the Membership Club Directory; this has the club logo plus a link to our club's web site.

Douglas motorbike featured:-

2016 April edition of Classic Bike Guide had a three page feature with the spotlight on a Dragonfly, and as we have done in the past a 1/4 page advert was placed to complement feature. In this I have used the approved text as the Old Bike Mart Classified advert, plus a picture of a Douglas Dragonfly.

Other adverts that have been placed where Douglas's have not been the feature of an article was in the Bristol Classic Bike Show in February 2017, Motorcycle Monthly produced a show guide special in this I had used a Mark V.

The publications that we advertise in mainly are Old Bike Mart, Classic Motorcycle, Classic Bike Guide and Motorcycle Monthly. All adverts have a publication code, so that if Reg Holmes receives any new enquiries then we would get some feedback on what is working and where to advertise. But as most new leads are from the web site it is difficult to find out just what works, is it the advert directing enquiries or just a web search.

We advertise to show that we are a strong one make club with an enthusiastic, supportive and loyal, national and international membership.

(f) Editors Report – Doug Frost

With the Douglas factory's forty years of production over a fifty-year period and our Club celebrating ninety years in existence next year, most of what went on is on printed record. Content of The New Conrod will obviously contain repeat items, together with new interest created by members. So, I want to thank contributors and those who could be called the TEAM, members who turn out six times a year to prepare your magazine for the post, together with hosts, Shirley, Ann and Roger who provide their homes and hospitality for bi-monthly meetings. Continuing the thanks, I lead on to the Lawrence Clan, Dave and Norman (Norm) as he likes to be called and his wife Iris, who handle the post side of distribution. The rising age of the population keeps being blamed for various rises in national expenditure, ignoring the fun and games that increase the head count anyway. Our ranks increase in age but far from blame, is the gratitude for the determination by them to keep going, showing that their interest is proving that The London Douglas MCC is still very active.

(g) Registrar's Report – Len Boydell

Good Afternoon Ladies & Gentlemen.

This is my fifth report as registrar for our club and covers the period from 1st January to 31st December 2016. The Register at this moment in time is fully updated with the exception of machines from members who have joined since mid-January 2017. The total number of machines on the Register at 31st December 2016 was 3909 of which 2019 are Pre-War and 1890 are Post- War. The numbers of new machines added over the 2016 period were 28 Pre-War and 20 Post- War. The figures for new additions to the machine register during the period that I have been registrar are listed below:

<u>Pre-War</u>	2012/13	51	<u>Post-w War</u>	19	<u>Total</u>	<u>70 per year</u>
	2014	27		18		45
	2015	23		18		41
	2016	28		20		48

Machines added since 2012 when the last register was published

Are Pre-War **129** Post War **75** **204** Total

During the past year I have assisted with the recovery of seven Age Related registrations and the recovery of two original registration applications and issued one dating certificate. The DVLA now appear to be inspecting all applications using the private contractor SGS. The feedback that I have so far received from members is that the inspection process has been organised and carried out smoothly, with so far no problems occurring, the contractors are only inspecting the serial numbers as they have little knowledge of individual machine specifications.

This concludes my report to the Club for the 2016 year. If there are any questions I will gladly answer them either now or after the meeting. I will only too pleased to continue as Registrar for another year should the members so wish.

(h) Events Report

The meeting was reminded that the date of the Annual Rally had been changed and was now to be held over the weekend of the 8th/9th July. As in recent years camping facilities from the Friday night until Sunday night will be available free of charge. Anyone wishing to stay after the Sunday night will have to pay the Stow Rugby Club standard site fee.

(i) Marque Specialist's Report - Frank Dolman

Members are still asking questions and there has been a big rush since the beginning of the year. I have dealt with 17 queries to date, most of these are not five minute wonders, they take some time. What annoys me, I never get any feedback, am I right or wrong in expecting this. Only once in all the years I have been doing this have I had a letter of appreciation of my help. This is an example of the sort of thing that annoys me. A member recently enquired about getting filler caps for his EW, that had been standing for many years without them. I was of the opinion that these caps were the same as the caps on the Austin Seven. I contacted a few Austin Seven owners, found the correct cap and a supplier. I asked the member to let me know how he got on getting the caps so I could make it known to other LDMCC members. To date no reply has been received.

7. Presidents remarks - Frank Dolman

Thank you all for coming, but I have to say that I am rather disappointed with the low number of members attending as it does show a level of disinterest in the running of our Club. On the other hand, I am very grateful to the Club's officials for all the work they do and I am happy with the way the Clubs' activities are being run.

8. Election of Club Officials

As the majority of the Clubs' Officials were standing for re-election a decision was taken to re-elect those Club Officials on block. This was carried unanimously by the meeting.

The positions of Archivist has been vacant for a number of years, but we now have a nomination – Nigel Allen - put forward by Dave Lawrence and seconded by Len Boydell. This was carried unanimously by the meeting.

We also need a new Vice President following the death of Don Chapman. Alan Coombes was nominated by Dave Lawrence and seconded by Roy Staunton. Again, this was carried unanimously by the meeting.

On a less positive note, sadly this year we have lost two of our Committee Members. Both John Turner and Eric Carpenter have decided to stand down and on behalf of the Committee and the membership I would like to thank them for all their past hard work and support. Without volunteers like this the Club will not exist.

President: Frank Dolman is our President for Life.

9. Election of Vice Presidents (2): Dave Lawrence and Alan Coombes

10. Election of Officers:-

- (a) **Chairman:** Dave Richmond
- (b) **Vice Chairman:** Alan Coombes
- (c) **Secretary:** Roy Staunton
- (d) **Treasurer:** Peter Milla.
- (e) **Spares Secretary:** Dick Bradley
- (f) **Membership Secretary:** Reg Holmes
- (g) **Regalia:** Vacant
- (h) **Archivist:** Nigel Allen
- (i) **Publicity Officer:** Gareth Budd
- (j) **Editor:** Doug Frost
- (k) **Registrar:** Len Boydell
- (l) **Events Secretary:** Dawn Whiteoak,
- (m) **Marque Specialist/Technical Officer:** Frank Dolman
- (n) **Committee Members without portfolio:** Dave Lawrence plus one vacancy

11 Election of Honorary Members

In accordance with Article 16 of our Articles of Association, Honorary Members should be re-elected annually at the AGM. Currently we have only 3 Honorary Members - Margaret Meinertzhagen, Shirley Brewer and Phyllis Shepherd. Re-election was proposed by Dave Richmond and this was carried unanimously by meeting.

12 Resolutions/Proposals:

- (a) **Appointment of Club's Accountants:** Maynard Heady have again been put forward to continue as our accountants. All present in favour.
- (b) **Internal Auditors:** Three members will be required to complete this task and the committee will make these appointments nearer to the end of the financial year.

13. Awards:

The AGM is also a time for the club to present awards to members who have achieved notable performance.

50 Year Award – was presented to both Len Boydell and Reg Holmes by our Chairman, Dave Richmond. John Maggs, Peter Manley and Wim Woermeijer also achieved 50 years continuous membership and their awards will be sent by post.

25 Year Award – this year 19 members have achieved 25 years continuous membership. Gerard Shannon was at the AGM to receive his certificate, but sadly none of the other members were at the meeting so their certificates will be posted.

Award for Meritorious Service to the Club - this award was presented to both Dave Lawrence and Reg Holmes who have provided invaluable work and support for the Club over many decades. This award was fully supported by the meeting.

Allan Phillips Cup – this award was made to Alan Coombes for the best performance by a club member riding a Douglas in the 2016 Pioneer Run – greatest combined age of rider and machine.

Eric Brockway Cup – this award was made to Ian Richardson one of our Australian Members for the best performance on a Vintage/Veteran Douglas machine throughout the year.

14. Any other business:

- (a) Alan Coombes raised the question of the very kind donation of parts the Club had received from the widow of Roger Higginson and how we should conduct the sale of these items. It was agreed by the meeting that they should be offered to members in the first place using a sealed bid approach. If the items do not sell they can then be advertised to the general public.

Alan also asked about the arrangements for the Club's Trophies to go on display at the Heritage Museum and whether a decision had been reached regarding the size of display cabinet. He was advised by the Secretary that Alan Bryant the Curator at the museum had requested details of the number of trophies we had to go on display and some idea of the shelf space these would require. John Turner and Alan will provide this information for the next Committee Meeting so that this matter can be discussed with Alan Bryant, who will be at the museum on the day of the Bristol Cavalcade, which is a couple of weeks after the Committee Meeting.

- (b) Reg Holmes asked what arrangements were being made to celebrate the Club's 90th Year in 2018. The Chairman said that no plans had as yet been made, but this will be considered by the Committee at their next meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 4pm and thanked all those present for attending.