Minutes of the Sunbeam Motorcycle Club Ltd

Annual General Meeting 13th April 2025

1. Chair of the meeting, John Culver
2. **Apologies for absence**: Tim Penn, Brian Empsall, Dan Towers, Liam Maggs, Ian McGill, John Waghorn, Katherine Hook, John & Graham Buckingham, Martin Staple, Marion Johnson, Gill Tarrant.
3. One minutes silence was held in memory of the following club members who had died in the past year: Elizabeth Walker, Debbie Sinclair, Peter Maddox, John Bonugli, Brain Knight, Ewart Baldwin, John Bramwell, Gordon Jackson, Ian Young.
4. **Minutes of previous meeting**. Proposed by George Smith, seconded Richard Bailey.
5. **Matters arising**: The previous Events secretary stood down and Baz Staple took over as acting Events Secretary, for which John Culver thanked him. Baz is to stand down and a new Events secretary is needed.
   A question had been asked as to whether the club should become unincorporated. Legal advice has been sourced by the Committee and the advice was to remain a public limited company.
   Trials. The club no longer runs trial event but there 2 events run by other clubs who use the Sunbeam MCC name and logo. Concern was expressed that should something untoward occur, a claim could be made against the Sunbeam MCC. It was reported that the Committee had sought advice from a solicitor and had been told that there could be no case against the Sunbeam MCC and it would be the club organising the event that would be liable. Nick Smith asked whether the clubs using the Sunbeam name and logo were aware that it can only be used for goodwill and reputation only and that no liability can be bestowed on the Sunbeam MCC. The chair of the meeting concluded that further advice from the solicitor is needed.
   The updated book on the Pioneer Run is now sold out.
6. **Ex Chairman's Report on the future of the Pioneer Run.** Paul Bullock's report was read in full. Comments from the floor were all positive. Carl Foulkes-Halbard spoke highly in favour of the event and said that it was excellent value for money for those entering. Julian East said the proposal for opening the event to post veteran up to 1930, was an excellent idea. Richard Mummery and Nick Smith said that they felt that 1925 would have been a better cut off date due to the significant technical advances from then while Nick Herriott said that 1930 was the better cut off because there were still flat tankers up to then. It was explained that at the steering group meeting a similar discussion had occurred and that while not unanimous, the 1930 date had won the vote of those in attendance.
   There was a discussion as to whether cycle cars would be eligible and if so encouraged. Paul Bullock said that the existing regulations for veterans is that they have to have handlebars but that as the Pioneer Plus is a new event, it would be for the committee to decide what the new regulations and eligibility will be.
   The entry fee for Pioneer Plus machines will be the same.

Publicity about the Pioneer Plus will be sent to all of the motorcycle press.
Nick Smith made the point that there is still a significant number of members who would like to go back to the Brighton sea front to finish. He suggested that there be a piece in Club News clearly explaining that it is too expensive and too dangerous to go back to the sea front. Paul Bullock reiterated this point, explaining that nearing Brighton the main roads join and there are vehicles travelling at 70mph mixing with Pioneer vehicles, some of which are travelling at 4mph. There have been incidents where the Pioneer vehicles have been nudged. This is dangerous and because we are aware of the danger, if the club did not take mitigating action – which it has in having a different route – the club's committee could be liable in the event of an accident.

7. **Treasurers Report.** The treasurer's report and figures were discussed by the outgoing Treasurer, Trevor Dadswell. There was a loss of £4,600.00, which was almost entirely incurred by the reduction in participation in the Pioneer Run since the Covid epidemic of 2020. Steps have been taken to prevent this loss continuing in 2025 by the introduction of the Pioneer Plus event on the same day. The more people that enter and ride, the more money will come into the club to pay for the overall Pioneer Run. For the Pioneer Run to break even with the current level of entries, there would need to be a doubly of the entrance fee and it was felt that this would have the effect of deterring entries, and is not a viable option. The reason for the reduction of entries post covid was discussed and it was agreed that there was no single factor, but a combination. The increasing age of the overall membership, the cost to get to and from the start and finish, the reduction in the number of foreign riders and the apparent overall national apathy to participate in club related activities. It was mentioned that the Northern Pioneer run had previously had an entry of 30 and last year was down to 18.
   A question was asked as to how much the club magazine, Club News, contributed to the loss. Printing and postage does take a considerable proportion of the membership fee, but not so much as to cause the loss. Once again the committee had taken action to try to reduce the cost of the magazine by the introduction of a reduced membership fee for members who wished to receive the magazine on line. Most people prefer to receive it by post.
   John Culver stressed that there is no need to panic. The bank balance is currently approximately £60,000.00. If the loss continued at it's present level it would take 12 years before the club was insolvent and this gives time to come up with further plans to sort this issue out.
   John Culver will be taking over as treasurer. Trevor Dadswell has wanted to step down for several years, but kindly continued to serve the club. A vote of thanks was given to Trevor by all at the meeting.
8. **To appoint 2 Honorary Auditors.** George Smith and Richard Bailey offered to stand and this was agreed unanimously by the meeting.
9. **Membership Secretary Report.** This was read by the membership secretary and points were raised and discussed. Membership cards. These are no longer issued. A member was concerned that he had not known whether he was a member or not.

The point was made that a person's membership number is printed on the envelope of their Club News. However, there may be a long gap between applying for membership and the magazine being issued. The Membership Secretary agreed to discuss the matter in committee and whether a confirmation email should be sent to each person when joining and upon renewal. It was mentioned that in Holland there is considerable support and interest from young members in Pioneer and pre 1939 machines and that perhaps an oversees representative could drive up interest in the Sunbeam MCC.

10. **Editors Report.** This was read and discussed. The next edition was reported to be with the printer. The cost of advertisements is to remain the same. Several people thanked the editor for the quality of the magazine.
11. **Events Secretary's Report.** This report was read by Baz Staple President, and the acting Events secretary for the year. Baz will not be fulfilling this role for the coming year and a new Events secretary is urgently needed. Baz was thanked for his work.
12. **Pioneer Registrar.** John Waghorn was unable to attend in person and his report was read out. While the number of new machines coming onto the Pioneer register is lower than in the past, it was mentioned that recent auction prices for Pioneer machines have become lower and if they become more affordable, more new people may buy them and ride in the Pioneer Run. The Pioneer Certificate and number goes with the machine and not the owner. All new owners can see if there machine is on the register, and if so, a new certificate can be sent to them, as has happened over the past year.
13. **Report of Pinhard Prize and Trust.** The report was read and Tony Lloyd, Pinhard officer, was thanked.
14. **Secretary's Report.** The secretary read his report. He informed the meeting that he will be standing down as secretary and that a new one is urgently required.
15. **Resolution to change the standing order of the Sunbeam MCC Ltd.** Proposed by Julie Diplock. In a further method of saving money and acceptance of the technology now available, future AGM agenda and minutes will be sent via email to members, unless a specific request is made by individual member/ members, to have them posted.
    This was agreed by all present and the resolution was passed.
16. **Election of Club Officers and Honorary Members.**
    Honorary Members:
    Dave Bettridge
    Nick Canfor
    Annice Collette
    Jim Conner
    Trevor Dadswell
    Katherine Hook
    Ian Kerr
    Neville Lewis
    Arnold Marshall
    Lord Montagu
    John Sapsard
    Gill Tarrant

Club Officers:		**Proposed**	**Seconded**
Chairman		Position vacant	
Treasurer	John Culver	Trevor Dadswell	Peter Ashlee
Archivist	Roy Plummer	Preparing to retire. Committee to discuss	
Editor	Julie Diplock	John Culver	Peter Ashlee
Membership Sec	Nick Hooper	"	"
Pinhard Officer	Tony Lloyd	"	"
Pioneer Register	John Waghorn	"	"
Publicity Officer	John Dudley	"	"
Quartermaster	Richard Bailey	"	"
Secretary (retiring)	Peter Ashlee	Position Vacant	
Events Secretary		Position Vacant	
Committee member	Dan Towers	John Culver	Nick Hooper
Pioneer Administrator	Paul Bullock	"	"
Pioneer register			
Dating committee	John Waghorn		
	Nick Smith		
	Geoff Morris		
	Paul Gander		
	Chris Ronalds		
	Baz Staple		

Awards

President's Cup Paul Bullock. Our Retired Chairman, thanks for his work over the past years as Chairman and prior to that, Club Secretary.

John Grondona Trevor Dadswell, our retiring Treasurer who continued to serve for many months after indicating his wish to retire.

John Olley Cup. John & Graham Buckingham, for their long standing Club Show organisation.

John Neave Cup Jenny Staple, who retired in 2024 as Secretary of the Meeting for the Warwickshire weekend after 31 years.

Ladies Award Katherine Hook, for her work in arranging the entries to the Pioneer Run and her involvement with the Brooklands 100 Years Club Celebration.

Editors Award Roel van Maarseveen, a member from the Netherlands who writes very interesting articles about the old bike world.

Steve Elston's Charlie Jenner Award, Karl Foulkes Halbard, for providing the facilities at Filching Manor for our regular test riding days and his general help.

General Discussion. Richard Mummery made a request that all members of 80 years plus who can no longer ride their machines, should talk to their grandchildren and friends to ask them to ride instead. He also reflected on the many awards that he has which are of no functional use and suggested that awards should be useful. For example mugs that can be drunk from.

Phil Clark asked how the forthcoming Pioneer Plus is to be advertised and is it open to non members? Paul Bullock, said that it is to be publicised in all of the usual motor cycle publications.

It was asked who is working on the web site? The answer was that Baz Staple and Nick Hooper will be working on this and updating it on a regular basis.

17. The Chairman closed the meeting at 4.15pm
    Date of 2026 AGM provisionally set for Sunday April 12th