

All,

I have drafted some notes on Sunday's AGM.

As per my recent e-mail I did attend the AGM on Sunday 1-May. The change was because Mike Wills the outgoing President chose to honour me with The President's Award for 2022, this was for my work organising the National Way Point Rally and the work on Section Secretary's Handbook. It would have been wrong of me not to attend and collect the award in person.

My views on the outcome of the AGM:

1/ The by-law changes removed any effective member led checks to balance the board power. Power now wholly sits with the board.

2/ We have a board with limited experience of the club, I am unclear on the number of directors it could be 6 or 9 either way. The board seem set on "marketing" their way out of our problems, I see no change following the election. The reserves would seem set to decline again, as we have to re-learn the mistakes of the past.

3/ As the Area Reps opinions are no longer sort by the board, their ability to call an EGM is removed and their role to be consulted on large (£25k) spending item is gone, their role is wholly about supporting their Area and not representing members/sections to the board.

4/ The Chair got himself, in a mess over trying to ignore the in-place by-laws, I think calls for him to resign will echo from beyond the meeting room, where it was very clearly said by some.

5/ We did get the resolution passed prohibiting club officers from creating salaried jobs for themselves within the VMCC, but given the track record of ignoring the rules, I am uncertain of its value.

AGM narrative:

The attendees gathered at the function building, we looked lower in numbers than the November GM. Cliff Harris declared we were quorate with 55 attendees. This was challenged from the floor with the speaker claiming the number as 48, two further members took their seats and the challenge was dropped.

The meeting then progressed with attendees standing in silence to remember those members who have died during the last year.

Scrutineers then come forward to introduce themselves and their roles in the voting process.

Proxy lists were then issued to those that had them.

A short discussion then took place on the method, show of hand versus walkaround, it concluded with the meeting being informed it was the only way - we would walk around proxy holders first then other meeting attendees.

We started voting clause by clause as per the journal web site.

When we got to directors two deviations occurred:

1/ MCS - introduced an additional motion, to seek permission to continue with the vote for directors and area reps, without having the correct documentation in place (i.e., proposer, second and 10 members). The Board had hoped to side step this requirement, but members had been calling for the paperwork to be in place (including myself), in discussion with the Boards Honorary Counsel, they concluded they had to seek permission from the AGM to allow the vote for Directors and Area Reps to continue. Clearly this cut out all

of those who voted on paper or on-line. This was complicated because we were told with only 2 in post directors so they could not ask members to stand-up as directors until the 2023 AGM. Requests for follow-up EGM were made, in the end the resolution went to the vote. It is a shame this was not called out in the recent e-mail, though I think the web-site agenda was changed to show it.

2/ John Holt - said he had concluded that to become a director was not appropriate for him, but he was willing to stand for President as a stand-alone role.

We then went on to vote for the three remaining directors and two Area Reps.

This was followed by the Articles as a single vote and By-laws again as a single vote.

We finished by voting on the members resolution to stop officers become salaried employees, having stood down from office.

Steve Allen and Mike Wills then moved to specific awards, handing out recognition to 50 years (and more) members, with time running out Steve Allen took a vote on those present to support the election of John Holt as President.

The meeting then shifted into lunch - some members had not ordered it and left, Steve Allen announced the recipients of Unsung Hero certificates, whilst everyone munched though their mains and puds.

MCS then returned, and announced above the noise that all motions/resolutions had been passed and did anyone have "any challenges to the results". No one present replied.

Comments on the meeting:

No opportunity to ask the board questions at any point (not even after the formal close as happened in November), this is a dis-incentive to attend.

No topics for open discussion, merely procedural arguments.

From what MCS told me only about 350 members had votes in all formats - this is a reflection on fatigue with all the e-mails and "marketing" comms, I think members have turned off.

The AGM was on the edge of being quorate - I think the problems are about location, location with time of the day, the closed nature of the agenda in effect we merely tallied votes and nothing else, and the date May is the riding season not the AGM season.

Ride safely

Neil Lewis