

Dear Fellow Member,

As you will know, the Board is presently consulting on future options for the Club. While consultation is welcome, we believe that a much broader debate is necessary. Now coming up to 75 years old, the VMCC remains the biggest and most important club of its type, enhancing the pleasure of many thousands who love old motorcycles. Even though beset by technical, social, commercial, legal and demographic change on all sides, it has a bright future - but only if it confronts certain key challenges.

The first of these is to establish a very clear mission or overall statement of purpose for the Club which we believe is to promote and support the enjoyment which its members derive from owning, restoring, maintaining, riding and enthusing over older motorcycles. It has then to work in a united way to achieve that mission by focusing on the following core objectives:

- supporting the activities of our local and specialist Sections, including expanding communications and promoting opportunities for riding veteran, vintage and classic machines;
- delivering a monthly Journal, running a website and Forum and fully exploiting other communication opportunities;
- organising and delivering a national and/or regional events programme;
- preserving and ensuring access to our unique and precious archive and supporting our marque specialists and dating services;
- delivering otherwise-hard-to-access services as appropriate, curating the Club machines, running awards and so on; and
- maintaining links with like-minded organisations while scanning the scene for legislative and other potential threats and speaking up when necessary to defend our members' right to go on riding older machines.

Looking to the future, the Club also has to work imaginatively to draw upcoming generations into our pastime in order to pass on knowledge, skills and enthusiasm.

All this must be delivered with effective operational cost control within budget and reporting.

The current consultation as presently configured, while clearly aimed at stemming current and future financial losses, does not allow for a broad enough discussion to address the above objectives in the medium to longer term.

While the job of the Board is to employ headquarters staff and deploy volunteers in order to recruit and retain members, manage the membership database and ensure the quality and delivery of communications and services, their over-riding objective must now be to encourage and support activity within the Club's Sections. The Sections are the VMCC's cornerstone, providing a unique setting for the social enjoyment of motorcycles with other members. A full discussion is needed on the range of services that the Club should seek to deliver in future for members, including options for the future of the library and for delivering the Club's events programme. A proper debate is needed on how best to achieve all this with effective cost and IT expenditure within a budget that members can afford.

For this reason we suggest that the current consultation should be paused and as a matter of urgency, be reframed against this wider background, while creating new opportunities for members and officials to continue to share and compare ideas and experiences freely across the Club. It is imperative that future financial projections are subject to rigorous scrutiny before major decisions on the way forward are taken.

We believe the VMCC has a great future ahead of it but only if approached by the Board on the strategic basis we have set out here.

We would urge you to support this approach and to make your views known to the Board as soon as possible. We have also set up an on-line Poll to collect views at: <https://tinyurl.com/yykfpngw>

Signed:

Roger Bibbings MBE, Secretary Herefordshire and Mid-Wales Section (and Convenor of the Regulatory Advisory Group)

Countersigned by and presented alphabetically:

<b>Name</b>	<b>VMCC Background</b>
Daron Baker	KOBI and former Cotswold Section Secretary
Bette Barber	Past VMCC President
Ian Clarke	Past VMCC President
Tony Donithorne	Vice President since 2012
Peter Fielding	West Wilts Treasurer
David Giles	Past VMCC Director
John Goodall	Former Burton Section Chair
Rodney Hann	Past President & Area Rep
John Harding	ConcernedMember
John Holt	Past VMCC Director
John Kidd	ConcernedMember
Mike Larcombe	SW Area Rep
Geoff McGladdery	Chairman Herefordshire and Mid Wales Section.
Peter Miller	Past VMCC Chair
Ivan Rhodes	Past VMCC President
Roy Robinson	ConcernedMember
Pat Robotham	Past VMCC Chair
David Sellars	Sheffield Section Chair
Chris Wells	Concerned Member
Harry Wiles	Past President & Current Area Rep
Ian Young	Past President & Previous Editor