

Karmann Ghia Owners Club (GB)

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 27th April 2025



- **Held at Severn Valley Railway, The Engine House Visitors Centre, Highley Station, Shropshire, WV16 6NP**

In attendance:

Committee: Mark Poulton **MP**, Guy Hartley **GH**, Gordon Balmer **GB**, Clive Richardson **CR**, John Nicholas **JN**, Nick van der Weyden **NV**

Members present: Stephen Metcalfe, Janet Richardson, Ellen Balmer, Amy Balmer, Tricia Poulton, Mike Shaw, Roger Jones, Christine Oxford, Andrew Oxford

Apologies: Bob Nightingale, Stephen Risi, Gail Kelly, Bill Gash **BG**

Meeting commenced at 11:30

AGM minutes 2024

No comments received to the previous minutes from 2024 so to be accepted as a true record.

Statement of Chair – Given by MP

As attached.

As of 1st April the clubs membership stood at 541 members

Changes to committee over the last 12 months in addition to the Lavenham Press switch:

- Club Shop – BG has collected club stock and has agreed to take over the running of the shop.

Charity supported for the last three years was the Alzheimer's Society. The club has requested members suggest the charity for club support for the next 3 years.

Steve Metcalfe noted that approximately only half of club members were part of the members Facebook group and asked if they were they missing out on communications. GH stated that members are contacted by news in the Karmann Komment club magazine, by emails sent out by Crossmember, as well as posts on social media. Typically responses to emails sent to members by the 'club' are very few in number unfortunately. The club also posts news and events on the club webpage, with details of this also in Karmann Komment.

CR noted that once members have signed up to an event, creating a WhatsApp group for the members involved has worked well and the best way to communicate to the audience that wants to know about the news / updates. This happens with the International club event.

Question from Roger Jones about member numbers being stable. MP stated that typically 70 members per year leave and join, basically, as cars are sold and bought.

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GH noted that there are more and more Karmann Ghias in the UK with approximately 5,000 cars at the last count. There should be scope to grow the community of members. Only 11% of the cars have owners who are club members. Each week GH spots a car in the UK that the club has not known about.

Financial statement – Given by GB

As published – copy attached.

GB ran through his financial statement. Some key points noted being:

- Costs to employ Lavenham Press to run the membership is £2.5K per year
- Membership Income – static at around £14,300.00
- Shop income down on last year, however, BG has collected stock as noted so hopefully this year will see an increase in income.
- Expenditure on events was down
- Expenditure on postage was considerably less than last year as this is part of the service paid for with Lavenham Press
- Website costs were up, as the club can now review statistics from website usage. Which pages are being viewed the most often etc.

Overall the spending was down last year by £2K

Current stock value of the shop is £1,800 however, there are a number of items that are not fit for purpose due to age, and these items will need writing off and thus reducing this figure.

Spares stock is currently valued at £22,230

Balances are detailed in the attached Statement of Accounts.

Club remains in a sound financial position. The total assets were confirmed as £72,575 which was up on the previous year by around £1,700

GB was pleased to share that our members have contributed to donations totalling £4910.73 to the Alzheimer's Society over the last 3 years. Unfortunately the local representative was unable to attend in person, but the meeting was shown a photo of the cheque being accepted, and GB read a piece from the charity thanking the club for their generous donations.

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Steve Metcalfe asked if the clubs spares account took into account depreciation. MP stated that it did not. Neither did it take into account price increases, and as such the actual value of stock would cost more to replace at today's values. The spares service is for members only and not run for profit, and therefore not liable for tax on profit.

Andrew Oxford asked if the club had a list of stocked spares. There are details in the Karmann Komment and MP confirmed this is in the process of being updated.

GH also pointed out details can be found on the club website. GH also noted that if there was enough interest in obtaining an obsolete part (a trunk liner was given as an example) there is potential for the club to look at manufacturing in small quantities for members to buy.

MP stated that RHD glove box liners for T34 and T14 Ghias were now available and the club spares now has stock of these for members.

Appointment of Officers for next 12 months

With the changes outlined above, the proposal to keep the current committee members was agreed.

Steve Metcalf offered to be a Regional Officer covering the vacant Central Area. This was agreed and details to be included in the next Karmann Komment.

As noted above Bill Gash has agreed to take over the club shop.

AOB:

Shop: Mike Shaw asked if the club shop would have a presence at shows where the club had a stand. It was pointed out that most club shows had stands for clubs to advertise for new members, and a separate stand for trading from. Therefore it is not always possible for the club to sell merchandise from a club stand. Pre-paid for orders can be collected however.

Ghias, Beers & BBQ'd Steers: Steve Metcalf confirmed the event planned for 26th and 27th June at Stow on the Wold rugby club has 24 members interested. The club is contributing to costs for the BBQ. The campsite can be booked via Pitch Up. SM will get final confirmation of numbers in the next few weeks. 15 members are confirmed as attending.

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2025 International Weekend: CR noted plans are coming together, and the final call for anyone to attend will be sent out via email.

Meeting closed at 12:30