

8<sup>th</sup> March, 2025

Dear Southern Section Member(s),

I am writing this letter to inform you of the unfortunate decision, after discussion with the Southern Section Committee and the National officers, that this year's National Rally, that was to be held at Sparsholt College, Winchester is now cancelled.

Negotiations with Sparsholt had stalled due to slow responses from the college on some aspects, with the main one being, the menu for the weekend. This resulted in such a short lead-in time in being able to publish the booking form in the Journal, and organise the rally itself, that the financial risk to the Club and the workload of the Committee had become just too great.

All of the Southern Section Committee are disappointed this has had to happen, but the decision was taken objectively and with the wider good of the whole Club in mind.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those members who had contacted me to offer their services on the Rally after sending out my calling notice. It was fantastic to see so many responses with people offering help in all sorts of ways. One member even offered to help who would have been 79 at the time, suffers from chronic cerebra hypoperfusion, which brings permanent fatigue, and couldn't do afternoons but was happy to help in any way in the morning. Fantastic.

With the planning of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary National for 2026 already in motion, we, as a committee, are happy to hold on and plan the National Rally for 2027. This will initially be planned to be held at Sparsholt again (negotiations already in place to avoid delays), but if any members have suggestions or ideas for a different location, please feel free to contact me. The more information you can offer, the better.

Yours regretfully,

Dean Carpenter  
Chairman  
Southern Section  
The BMW Club.

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