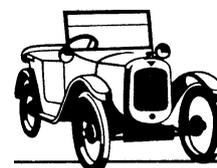


Midlands Austin 7 Club Ltd



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT OLD SILHILLIANS

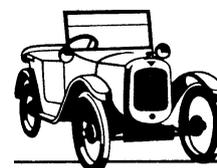
AT 8 PM ON WEDNESDAY 27th SEPTEMBER 2017

Present

Brem Bremner-Smith	Director and Club Chairman
John Ward	Club President
Ian Devey	Director, Company Secretary and Club Treasurer
Arthur Davies	Spares
Elaine Devey	Social Secretary
John Roberts	Member without portfolio
Ron Rudge	DVLA Secretary
Dave Trickett	Membership Secretary
Sheila Turner	Regalia
John Anderson	
Mike Benson	
Rick Bishop	
Jenny Bremner-Smith	
Keith Brown	
Richard Chorley	
Greg Daniel	
Rikk Harrison	
Cyril Johnson	
Charlie Plain-Jones	
John Plant	
Hazell Purcell	
Bill Robinson	
Norman Smith	
Ken Turner	
Peter Walsh	
Mary Walsh	
Ray Warrington	
Gail Warrington	
Bob Prophet	Club Secretary
Andy Lowe	Events
Lesley Marriner	Editor
Keith Marriner	
Clive Danks	
Sue Danks	
Bob Wimmer	

Apologies





Welcome

1. The Chairman welcomed members to the Annual General Meeting in the somewhat lifeless Conference Room at Old Silhillians.

Minutes of last Meeting

2. The Minutes of the last meeting dated 28 Sep 16, despite having been distributed last year, were read to the AGM by the Secretary, were agreed to be a true record of proceedings, were proposed by Rikk Harrison, seconded by Rick Bishop, were agreed by all present and were duly signed.

Matters Arising

3. There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report

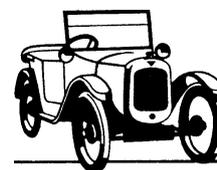
4. The Chairman reminded members that his report was a diary of events of the year and of thanks to a number of members. He then listed the many Club activities:

- Autumn Leaves. 23 Oct was the start of another busy year with an Autumn Leaves Run. He gave thanks to Andy and Sheila Attridge for hosting the start yet again and to Ken and Sheila Turner for sponsoring the finish venue in Blackwell. Thanks, too, to the Cake makers for the cakes and to the washing up and tidying teams for their help. Finally, he thanked his CM for her note taking and questionnaire recording during the various route recesses to sort out the route. He then broke the news to the members that, after a number of years flouting the law, there would be no quiz in the 2017 Autumn Leaves Run. After consultation with those who knew, the Run had been deemed to be a competition on The Queen's Highway. He decreed that The Law was a bore.
- Restoration Show. He said that Andy Lowe had masterminded the MA7C representation at the Restoration Show again at the NAC, but in the cattle sheds rather than in the halls. He expressed thanks to Andy and his team.
- The Club Night. Bring and Buy this time was managed by John Roberts with runners Andy, Ken and Arthur ably assisted by number crunchers Elaine, Norma and Ian. He thanked all.
- Classic Car Show. MA7C was back in the NEC for the Classic Car Show in November organised yet again by Andy Lowe. He congratulated Andy once more and thanked all who helped.
- The Christmas meal. The Christmas Meal in December was hot but, apart from that, the less said the better. He reminded members that the decision had been made to enjoy the 2017 Christmas Meal at the Bull's Head, Wootton Wawen, after a very successful meal there in June.

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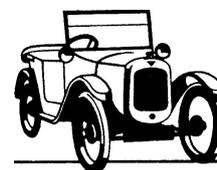
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- The Alternative Bring and Buy. The evening had been saved by the sterling efforts of Sandra Francis and Lesley Marriner: a profitable and amusing evening for which The Chairman expressed gratitude.
- Film Night. Once again, Andy Lowe came to the rescue with a film night in February.
- Bring and Buy. The Chairman noted that, according to the Newsletter, another Bring and Buy (oily bits) was run by John Roberts with the familiar runners and bean counters, all of whom he thanked.
- Cotswold Run. April was Cotswold Run time again. The Chairman admitted that he hadn't a clue where the Run went - the result of grey cell problems - but he did recollect that we met a large number of hounds at the Broadway Kennels of the North Cotswold Hunt and that, once again, the Attridges treated us all to an excellent afternoon tea. He thanked all of them and his CM for the route checking and questionnaire sorting.
- Stanford Hall. The Club's annual visit to Stanford Hall would have taken place in May if the pedestrian voting by members had not encouraged the Club to move to pastures new. Club night was a Noggin and Natter.
- Evening Meal. At the request of Adam Crowe, the evening meal and the Ashted Party swapped dates so 30 members visited the Bull's Head at Wootton Wawen for a good, hot meal at a fair price and, judging by the noise generated, those members enjoyed it, too.
- National Trust Visit. The Club should have been enjoying a Sunday with the National Trust but, for some undisclosed reason, motor clubs were not welcome. So much, he said, for helping out Upton House the previous year on three occasions... However, MA7C will be at a Trust property in 2018 with or without their car parking space. Andy Lowe spent some time phoning all our previously visited Trust sites to no avail. Again, the Chairman thanked him for his efforts. The Club visited Ashted Classics at Truggist Farm for an excellent barbecue. The weather forecast might have put some numbers off but it stayed dry. He expressed thanks to Adam and sundry Crowes.
- Middle Tysoe Flower Show. MA7C members appeared at The Middle Tysoe Flower Show and the Tewkesbury Classic Car Show and, on Wed 23rd, Rosie Robbins led a convoy of nine 7s on a run from Bidford to the Jinny Ring and back. All enjoyed the trip, the weather and the three (!) food stops. What was even better to report, Rosie had declared her willingness to run another one; the Chairman encouraged members to watch for info in the Newsletter. The Club was well represented at the Ilmington show, the entry having been organised by Ken Turner. The Chairman confessed to having attended in a larger Austin with number one grandson on August Bank Holiday.
- Madresfield. The VSCC driving tests event at Madresfield was usually good for a few Austins but the Chairman regretted that, having not made it this year, he didn't know how many MA7C members attended.
- Beoley Village Hall. A trial evening at Beoley Village Hall in September was very well attended: 32 members and 2 non-members gave an almost



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unanimous vote in favour of moving there in the future. Even the no voter noted that the atmosphere was great. 17 cars turned up at Hatton Country Park, 88% of them Austin 7s: a generally dry day despite the forecast which could have discouraged some.

- Annual General Meeting. Finally, the Chairman heaved a sigh of relief and, with great pride, reminded all that, unscathed, MA7C had reached AGM time again.

5. The Chairman noted that many events were being organised by the same people. He reminded members that this was not the prerogative of those few and he encouraged more volunteer organisers to arrange some new events. The Chairman went on to thank his long-suffering committee for their devotion and hard work:

- Ian Devey, his co-Director and Club Treasurer
- Bob Prophet, Club Secretary, for doing his secretarial thing and taking the Minutes and answering many questions from above
- Arthur Davies for looking after the spares division and for answering many calls from the Chairman on technical, historical and wider club matters
- Lesley Marriner, the Editor, for her efforts on the newsletter; she had issued a plea to members to keep the articles coming, preferably by e-mail and in Word
- John Roberts for keeping the Chairman up to the mark and for completing 22 years in the post. He noted with pride and not a little smugness that he had already completed and handed in his membership renewal application for 2017/8 (to Dave Trickett, John's successor) and he reminded committee and members alike to submit theirs
- Sheila Turner who turns up everywhere with a display of regalia and who persuades people to part with their money for the sake of the Club
- Andy Lowe for running at least 4 events and 2 film shows
- David Trickett for his prompt distribution of the electronic version of the Newsletter and for masterminding the brilliant new website
- Ron Rudge, the Club's DVLA king, who was in the middle of sorting out some 19 registrations predominantly regaining original registration numbers with a few age-related numbers and who gave good advice to those people making their own submissions
- John and Jill Philips for the distribution by snail mail of the Newsletter and Grey Mags and, finally,
- the many number crunchers and cake makers.

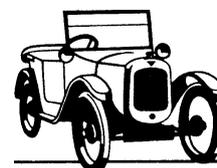
6. The Chairman concluded by reminding members

- To submit their entries for the Autumn Leaves Run which was taking place on Sunday 15th October
- That Field Marshal Montgomery would be addressing members at the Clubnight at Old Silhillians on Wednesday 25th October
- To attend the Bring and Buy with lots of goodies for sale and determination to spend, spend, spend on Wednesday 29th November
- To enter into the Festive Spirit by booking in for the Christmas Meal at

ALL



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Wootton Wawen on Wednesday 6th December.

Secretary's Report

7. The Secretary reported that he had little of consequence to report except for the steady trickle of cars for sale including a barn find 1933 RP Saloon which had been sitting on a trailer in Shropshire awaiting restoration for some 20 years. A potential buyer had decided against it and the combination of car and trailer was now for sale. Although in bits, the car seemed to be complete. He went on to reiterate what he had said in 2016 by seeking non-committee members to organise and run the raffle at each Club evening.

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Treasurer's Report

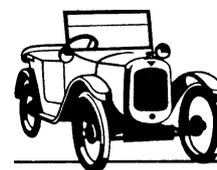
8. The Treasurer started by mentioning that his house had been destroyed almost entirely by fire and that, in effect, he had lost everything - except his cars. No life had been lost or injuries suffered but some Club property and records had been lost: he reported that he was slowly rebuilding the Club files. He then gave a very fluent and comprehensive summary of the accounts (attached) for the year ending 31st January 2017. The Club had spent £540 more than it had taken in during the year and he announced that, as a result, subscriptions would have to be raised. He explained that almost all of the income came from subscriptions, regalia, spares and raffles. Membership was down slightly and members were not rushing to buy regalia or to restore their cars and buy spares for that purpose; turnout on Club evenings was very low with the result that raffle income – though welcome – was minimal. Expenditure was in the form of printing, postage and packing of the Newsletter, postage and packing of The Grey Mag and the hire of The Old Silhillians (£60 per evening). A fair amount of Club cash was invested in regalia and spares. The Treasurer mentioned that one member had written to object to the proposed 25% increase in subscriptions which the Treasurer countered by saying that subscriptions had not increased in at least 10 years and that the cost of everything in that time had risen by some 24%.

9. The Treasurer continued by saying that, if the Club were to sell all of its stock, it would raise about £11k – if members could be persuaded to buy. A question was asked from the floor whether or not the Club had any reserves to which the Treasurer replied that the Club had no reserves. He continued by saying that, recently, he had been unable to issue four cheques because of insufficient funds in the bank. He then read the statement from the recent Newsletter of the Essex Austin 7 Club whose committee had decided only a few weeks ago to raise their members' subscriptions to £30 – and their membership stands at about 300.

10. Rikk Harrison questioned the cost of postage and was told that the committee was looking at ways of reducing it but that the suggestion to post the Grey Mag with the nearest Newsletter was actually more expensive than posting them separately. About fifty members had opted to receive the Newsletter by post (despite owning a



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computer). Mike Benson questioned receiving two copies of The Grey Mag – one from each of his Clubs. The Chairman said that he had been in touch with A7CA and suggested that they could organise despatch of The Grey Mag direct from their Printer to a declared list of members of each Club at a reduced rate of postage and packing (and effort!). He reported that A7CA would look at this. Norman Smith went on to suggest that members be asked to opt for The Grey Mag and the suggestion was made that The Grey Mag could be digitised. The Secretary said that digitisation had been considered by the Association but that could allow anyone to access it free of charge; however, consideration had been given to publishing The Grey Mag three years in arrears on the Association website. A further suggestion from the meeting was to invite each member via a questionnaire to decide on the level of membership (Newsletter by e-mail/by post, Grey Mag/no Grey Mag etc) thus enabling the committee to charge each member accordingly; this system would streamline membership and avoid waste and unnecessary expense. The Committee agreed to look into this idea.

Committee

11. The Treasurer continued by saying that further economy was being made with effect from the end of November 2017 when the Club ceased using Old Silhillians and moved to Beoley Village Hall in January 2018 at a saving of £28 per month - some £300 annually; the raising of the subscription would bring in about an extra £600. The Chairman said that members would henceforth be invited to pay a sum - perhaps £4 per car per Rally - (Cotswold Rally, Autumn Leaves, NT Rally etc each of which often cost the Club up to £150); because the Club had made no charge for a few years, members and non-members alike had benefitted. The Treasurer continued by explaining that, because MA7C was a Limited Company, we were liable to bank charges if the bank balance dropped below £800.

All

12. The Treasurer concluded by saying that the Committee had approved the Accounts and, therefore, he sought the approval of the members. The Chairman asked for a proposer (Rikk Harrison) and a seconder (Rick Bishop); the Accounts were approved unanimously by those present. The Chairman then explained that the committee would investigate a possible two- or even multi-tier system for the subscription. However, although the Committee had decided already to raise the subscription to £30, he sought approval from the members for this: it was approved by all present.

13. Restoration Show. The Treasurer then put on his other hat (saved from the fire) and explained that he and Rick Bishop were organising the Practical Classics Restoration Show at NEC between 23 and 25 Mar 18: the Show would last for three days and he sought three cars from members – a model before restoration, a similar model after restoration and something completely different. The Chairman reminded members of the scheme whereby presentation of the ticket stub to the MA7C Stand would result in a rebate from the organisers of £1 per stub: he encouraged members to ensure that the stub was retained on entry and not kept by the bouncer.

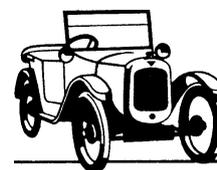
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Editor's Report



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14. The Editor was unable to attend but the Chairman begged the members for articles and reminded everyone that the copy date was now the 12th of each month.

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Membership Secretary

15. The Membership Secretary reported that membership in 2015 had been 147, in 2016 it was 140 and in 2017 members numbered 131. He asked members to pay for this year's membership soonest and to complete the renewal form.

All

DVLA Rep

16. The DVLA Rep, Ron Rudge, reported that, since taking over the DVLA responsibility, he had logged 19 requests. He noted that it had been a time of change with DVLA acting very much in accordance with the book and also changing their stance on some requirements. The current position was very much wanting cars to be ready for the road in the next few days! This had not been the case in days of old. Under the current rules, most cars which lacked some documentary evidence were being inspected by the DVLA Swiss inspection Team. He reported that, on one occasion, a Club Ruby was inspected by them and they, in turn, were inspected by an Inspector; he claimed that he was carrying out up to 17 inspections per day. The Club Ruby passed with flying colours.

17. Ron Rudge said that the biggest problems recently had been the thorny question of replacement bodies and that, at last, DVLA had revised their stance and were accepting replacement bodies as long as they were in keeping with the marque. All applications involving replacement bodies would be subject to the scrutiny of a second inspection. Ron Rudge recommended that it was best to get the car MoT'd and that he was surprised that the likes of Practical Classics were saying otherwise, showing their ignorance of the current DVLA requirements. Ron said that he was fortunate to be able to speak direct to his contacts at Swansea and that they were very helpful. He was sure that members were aware that all age-related numbers issued by DVLA were nothing of the sort as they were in the format of 123 ABC which is nowhere near the registration numbers on most Sevens. Discussion ensued about the new DVLA system and rules. The question was raised about whether or not the Committee charged a fee for providing a valuation. The Committee did not charge a fee but would discuss it at a future Committee Meeting.

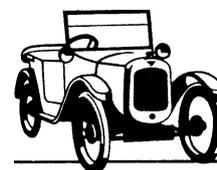
Committee

Election of Officers

18. The Chairman told the meeting that the entire Committee had stood down in accordance with the Constitution and that volunteers were sought to replace them. He remarked that John Roberts had resigned his post during the year having been Membership Secretary for some twenty two years; the Chairman thanked John for his perseverance and looked forward to a new voice telling him that yet another member had renewed his membership on a fag packet. He then announced that Dave Trickett had been appointed to replace him. Members shuffled uneasily in



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their seats and studied their hands until the Chairman announced with a wry smile that the outgoing Committee had, to a man and a woman, offered themselves for re-election. An audible sigh was heard and the Chairman asked for a proposer (Mike Benson) and a seconder (John Philips) to confirm the committee in post for another year. Those present concurred with the re-election and thanks were expressed by the members to the Committee for their hard work.

Committee

Awards

19. The Chairman announced that the annual awards had been decided as follows:
- Chairman's Award: Rosie Robbins for organising her road run which was well supported
 - Editor's Award:
 - Enthusiast's Award: Dave Trickett for the enthusiastic approach to his work as Membership Secretary and as Webmaster (the Chairman encouraged members to look at the revamped website).

Any Other Business

20. Jack French's Shed. Charlie Plain-Jones explained that the site at the Attwell-Wilson Museum was now and that the shed was about to be moved. He sought volunteers to help at any or all of the phases – loading, unloading and re-building.

All

21. Beoley Village Hall. The Chairman reminded members of the very successful recent trial run in Beoley Village Hall during which 32 of 33 members present (plus two non-members) approved the move there from The Old Silhillians. He sought approval from the AGM to make the move with effect from 1 Jan 18, reminding members that the Club evening henceforth would be the last Tuesday of the month because of other bookings for the Hall. The members present voted unanimously in favour of the move.

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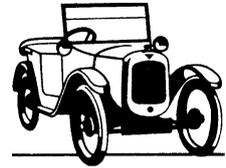
Forthcoming Events

22. The Events planned provisionally for the next twelve months were outlined:
- Sun 15 Oct 17: Autumn Leaves
 - Wed 25 Oct 17: Talk by Alan Oliver about Viscount Montgomery of Alamein (apparently, he looks and dresses and speaks like Monty...)
 - Wed 29 Nov 17: Bring and Buy
 - Wed 6 Dec 17: Christmas Meal at The Bull, Wootton Wawen (Members were encouraged to declare an intent to the Chairman to attend in order to receive a copy of the menu)
 - **Tues 30 Jan 18: First Club Night at Beoley Village Hall**
 - Tues 30 Jan 18. Alternative Bring and Buy (those unwanted Christmas presents?)
 - Tues 27 Feb 18. Film/Talk (tbd)
 - Tues 27 Mar 18. Bring and Buy

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- Wed 24 Apr 18. Noggin 'n Natter
- Sun 22 Apr 18. Cotswold Rally (tbc)
- Tues 29 May 18. Bring an interesting item
- Tues 26 Jun 18. Tbd
- Tues 31 Jul 18. Evening Rally and/or meal: The Bull's Head, Wootton Wawen.
- Tues 28 Aug 18. Noggin 'n Natter
- Tues 25 Sep 18. Annual General Meeting
- Tues 30 Oct 18. Noggin 'n Natter
- Sun 28 Oct 18. Autumn Leaves (tbc)

Date of next Annual General Meeting

23. The next Annual General Meeting will be held in **Beoley Village Hall at 8 pm on Tuesday 25th September 2018.**

All

24. There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.42 pm.

Chairman:

September 2018

Secretary:

