

# **Minutes of the Thames Valley Centre Annual General Meeting**

**Held at Tao Restaurant, Beaconsfield**

**21<sup>st</sup> November 2011**

## **Present**

Brian White, Chairman and Centre Director

Ian Foster, Treasurer

Nick Crocker, Secretary and Membership Liaison Officer

Rob Fenton, Webmaster

David Gray, Committee Member

Dennis Horner, Committee Member

Richard Kidson, Committee Member

Barry Marsh, Committee Member

Richard Winter, Committee Member

Peter Freeman, General Member

Peter Hickman, General Member

Stephen Huntington, General Member

Tim Kirby, General Member

Chris Tauchert, General Member

## **1. Apologies for Absence**

Mick Dwyer

## **2. 2010 AGM Minutes**

These were accepted and signed by Brian White. The AOB items still outstanding were to be dealt with under AOB of this meeting.

## **3. Chairman's Report**

This year your Committee decided to arrange for a more limited number of Events, but that those specific events should be of such a quality and interest

that we hoped our members would support us and turn out in greater numbers than had been the case in previous years.

We were disappointed!

The Committee members, as always, came along but only a few of the regular and supportive general members appeared. Disappointing – as this year's four events were varied, took a lot of organisation and were interesting, both for the cars and the attendees. Those who did come along – all said they had enjoyed their days – so our efforts were not wasted – BUT - we still cannot get our general members to support their Club.

It is now proposed that, as the response from The Thames Valley Centre's members has been so sparse, that for next year just one major event will be organised, whilst a few lesser events would be held, for which a smaller amount of organisation would be needed. It is hoped that for next year's main event that a return to Ham Polo Club can be arranged for a mutually suitable date. Lesser events could be the Kop Hill Climb around the third weekend of September, and also possibly an "Away Weekend" combining a tour in pleasant surroundings.

May I express my true and deep thanks to my Committee for their complete and enthusiastic support to our Centre during this year, and individually, to Barry for the great Bluebell Run, to David for all his organisation of the Castle Combe Track day, to Richard for the Henley weekend on The Thames and smiling through the rain and finally to Ian for a great and enjoyable day at Blenheim.

#### **4. Director's Report**

During this year Brian White undertook the Director's duties for Thames Valley to the National Executive Council ( NEC ) of the Club. The NEC meets every two months and during this year the following topics were addressed:-

- VAT – Reporting of all VAT activities in Centres was agreed to be reported through National. Centres have so far reported their various VAT levels for the period March to August 2011. NEC requires that VAT vouchers are retained by Centres for a 7 year period. VAT reporting has so far been variable by each Centre and VAT training can be offered to Centres.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> European Meeting 2013 – The UK AH Club is to organise the next European Meeting of the Club. This has already been booked to be held at The Crieff Hydro, Perthshire, Scotland (before the insects plague!). The week's anniversary is to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2013 and its web site has already been launched. Events for the week cover such activities as; Concours, Road Runs to local sites of interest, Possible Hill Climb, Long distance runs through The Trossachs into Glen Coe and Loch Lomond, Track day at Knockhill and a visit to The Famous Grouse distillery.
- NEC Treasurer reports that finances for the Club are basically in line with the Budgets. Final accounts for the NEC's year end to end of August will be presented at the Club's AGM on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2011.
- It is planned that the New Forest Centre will have a stand at the Spring Auto Jumble at Beaulieu next year.

- The 50th Anniversary of the Club held in this 2011 year was reported to have been a success and those that attended had enjoyed the arrangements. The weekend was successful but it had resulted in a Club deficit of £2171.
- The NEC had agreed that the levy to Centres for the next 2 years would be set at £5.00 per member, as this reduction was to offset costs incurred for the next 2 years would be set at £5.00 per member, as this reduction was to offset costs incurred for the 2013 European Meeting.

Discussions concerning format of Committee and number/type of events will be recorded under AOB.

### **5. Treasurer's Report**

Ian Foster reported that the bank balance was in a healthy state, but that we will need to reconsider whether or not we should continue to subsidise events in 2012. This is because the average attendee subsidy in 2011 of £12 will be unsustainable with the expected reduced sales this year of Christmas cards. A draft financial summary is attached.

### **6. Membership Secretary's Report**

Compared with 149 this time a year ago, Thames Valley Membership is at 157. As will be seen from the Secretary's report below, a very small proportion of these attend events.

### **7. Secretary's Report**

- We maintained the plan of running a few good events this year and, by and large, this was a successful ploy, although the numbers of Thames Valley non-Committee attendees was, as has sadly been the norm for years, disappointing, though there was a hard core of half a dozen non-Committee members who were frequently present. Events held during the year were:
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  - The season kick-off was originally entitled The Bluebell Run – however, this was overtaken by an unseasonably early flowering, so it became a well-attended pub meet including several non-Committee members, plus planned drive excellently organised by Barry Marsh, based on the Rose & Crown at Saunderton, where welcoming coffee and croissants were served. A bonus to the attractive run set up by Barry was that it was “open day” at Lord Carrington's garden nearby.
  - 
  - In June we attended the Castle Combe Classic week-end and were given a prime spot for our parking area, following productive negotiations by our organiser, David Gray, who had set up a very special event. This was the best-attended event of the year, with a total of 24 cars and 40 people including 15 of our Committee, 9 of our own members and 16 from other Austin-Healey Club centres. A number of cars enjoyed the circuit – sadly some were caught out by the noise level regulations! We have been invited by the organisers to return in 2012, so impressed were they at our turn-out. And the weather was kind to us during the day, though the Friday night and, for some, the journey home, were best forgotten.

- July was the Thames Traditional Boat Rally at Henley, a 2 day event over the weekend of 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. This time the weather was, sadly, thoroughly iffy throughout and we were grateful to be able to shelter under a gazebo. Our attendance of 19 cars was spread over the 2 days which, having been asked to and agreed to attend, we were committed to. Of the 36 people attending, 20 were from our own Committee and 10 were our own members. 2 Healey boats put in their appearance (which was a major reason why we were allowed in!) and we were given a wonderful pitch by the river for our display. Again we have been asked back for 2012. Richard Kidson put in tireless efforts to make the event a success and his work was much appreciated.
- August was our outing to Blenheim Palace, organized by Ian Foster. Of the 31 attendees (16 cars) 15 were Thames Valley non-Committee members, by far the highest proportion of the year. (16 cars). The day was a very enjoyable mixture of relaxed gatherings, coupled with fine hospitality from our starting venue of the Oxfordshire Golf Club followed by a scenic run through to the Palace, at which location, after we had managed to find the Blue Room, we had a pleasant lunch. We were treated to a very informal and chatty tour of the Palace by a lovely tour lady who brought its history and past events to life, and it was very easy to just imagine Winston Churchill running down any of the long corridors! After our Palace Tour - the gardens were hosting falconry, which was followed by medieval jousting, where the skill of fighting from horseback and wielding heavy arms could be well recognized. A walk in the grand gardens and tea at the Palace completed a fine day of history.

## **8. Election of Officers**

Mick Dwyer resigned from the Committee.

The following Candidates offered themselves for re-election to the Committee of the Austin-Healey Club Thames Valley Centre and were duly re-elected, having been proposed by Tim Kirby and seconded by Peter Freeman:

Brian White, Chairman

Ian Foster, Treasurer

Nick Crocker, Secretary and Membership Liaison Officer

Rob Fenton, Webmaster

David Gray, Committee Member

Dennis Horner, Committee Member

Richard Kidson, Committee Member

Barry Marsh, Committee Member

Richard Winter, Committee Member

Brian White resigned, for personal reasons, from the post of Director. Ian Foster offered himself as a candidate for the post and, proposed by Nick Crocker and seconded by Richard Kidson, was duly elected.

Brian White was thanked for having, against his real wishes, taken on the thankless role of Director some years ago and for the efforts he has put in since then.

Stephen Huntington offered himself as a General Committee Member and, proposed by Dennis Horner and seconded by Rob Fenton, was duly elected. He was asked to provide to Rob Fenton a photograph of himself for the web site.

9. AOB

- a. The signature form for Nationwide had been signed by Thames Valley necessary officers and passed to Centre (Peter Holland) for action. No action and the item is still outstanding.
- b. A new members' meeting was proposed by Peter Hickman and would be looked at as a part of the planning of 2012 events at the next Committee meeting.
- c. Ham Polo have agreed to have us back and will agree dates, coordinated by Chris Tauchert.
- d. Peter Freeman, as part of an effort to find out members' needs/wants (survey forms having failed in the past) offered to phone every Thames Valley member. This offer was accepted with alacrity. He needs to be provided with a list of names and numbers. Action Nick Crocker.
- e. The idea of "event sub-committees" was put forward by Peter Hickman. This would be discussed at the next Committee meeting.
- f. The feeling of the meeting was that we should persevere with the same number of quality events, rather than limit to one plus minor events. For discussion at the next Committee meeting.
- g. Web Matters:
  - The 2010 minutes asked Rob Fenton to explore the possibility of a Thames Valley Forum. He recommends that we stick to the existing National forum.
  - National has requested (via their web-master Alan Cross) that Thames Valley adopts [www.ahc-thamesvalley.org.uk](http://www.ahc-thamesvalley.org.uk) instead of [www.austin-healey-club.co.uk](http://www.austin-healey-club.co.uk) and that we give up the latter. Thames Valley has now purchased the former but intend to keep both addresses for the near future as it will take time to implement a changeover. Alan Cross has indicated his approval of the alternative web-address.

**DRAFT ACCOUNTS 2011**  
**Austin Healey – Thames Valley Centre**  
**BALANCE SHEET**

**Covering a 10 month period 5<sup>th</sup> November 2010 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011**

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
	31/8/2011	5/11/2010
<b><u>CURRENT ASSETS</u></b>		
Cash at Bank	7837.82	9284.60
Accounts Receivable		
VAT	44.18	
Levy Refund	740.00	
Events income	460.00	
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>9082.00</b>	<b>9284.60</b>
<b><u>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</u></b>		
Accrued Expenses	115.10	
 <b><u>EXPENDITURE &amp; INCOME</u></b>		
	<b>• INCOME</b>	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>
AH membership levy refund (148 members at £5/member)	740.00	
Bank Charges/Interest	0.73	
VAT	528.16	572.34
Sale of Christmas Card	891.10	1612.65
Amber Day Event (2010)		24.20
Blue Bell Event		73.65
Castle Combe Event	2320.60	1741.00
Henley Event	898.50	499.00
Blenheim Event	1178.25	929.00
NEC & TVC Committee Expenses		497.96
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£6094.72</b>
	<b>£6412.42</b>	
	<b>PROFIT/LOSS</b>	<b>£317.70</b>