

# **Minutes of the AGM of the Thames Valley Centre of the Austin Healey Club**

**Held at The Olde Bell, Hurley**

**2000 hours Tuesday 19th November 2012**

## **1. Present**

Brian White (Chairman)  
Richard Kidson (Vice-Chairman)  
Rob Fenton (Events Notification and Webmaster)  
Ian Foster (Director and Treasurer)  
David Gray (Committee Member)  
Barry Marsh (Committee Member)  
Peter Freeman (Committee Member)  
Stephen Huntington (Committee Member and minutes)  
John Keener (AHC National Chairman)  
Robert Slack  
Chris Tauchert  
Kathie Blencowe  
Ruth Huntington  
Mary Freeman  
Peter Hickman  
Joan Hickman  
Graeme Hulme

## **2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from the Secretary, Nick Crocker, who is recovering from a fall and to whom the meeting sent best wishes for a speedy recovery, and from Stephen King and Anita Foster.

## **3. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Approval of the minutes of the previous AGM held on Monday 19 November 2012 was proposed by Stephen Huntington and seconded by Barry Marsh. Brian White signed them as a true record in his capacity of Chairman.

## **4. Chairman's report**

The Chairman's Report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was taken as read:

*The Thames Valley Centre of the Austin Healey Club has had a good year! We arranged Events for each month from May to October – 7 great events through this year – and for each one the sun shone! (except for 2 dribbles !! ) How is that for organisation? Even Henley was shining this year! We tried to arrange events that spanned from touring runs to those of*

*more interests for the ladies, such as HMS Victory or a visit to a National Trust property. A broader range of interests were thus on offer during this year.*

*As was discussed at last year's AGM, the visits were planned based on what had been chosen by the TV Committee, as no suggestions for Events were forthcoming from the membership. Again participation came mainly from the Committee and from a small number of firm general member supporters. New attendees were sparse.*

*I wish to thank this Thames Valley Committee for their continued complete and enthusiastic support, during this year, to the Club and our Centre. Such support makes our Centre function and enjoyable Events result. I would like to especially thank Ian Foster for his dedication in undertaking both the Director's and Treasurer's duties, as well as spending much time and involvement in organising our 2 day weekend to Portsmouth and HMS Victory - which was a fantastic and good turnout event.*

**MANY THANKS TO ALL OF YOU.**

In introducing his report Brian emphasised his thanks to all the work put in by Ian. Also he recognised the effort spent by Richard Kidson in getting the Noggin & Natter held at the Olde Bell off the ground and the part that it has played in attracting new members. The meeting proposed a vote of thanks to Richard.

## **5. Director's Report**

The Director's report had also been circulated prior to the meeting:

### *(1) 4th European Meeting*

*The event was held at Crieff, Scotland during May and was an outstanding success with 267 Healey's attending from all over the world. After allowing for donations for various local Charities, the event broke even. All centres will receive the withheld member levy contributions, which for the Thames Valley amounts to approximately £460.*

### *(2) National Webmaster*

*Jim Palmer (New Forest member) is now responsible for the club web site. A new style web page will be launched in January 2014 with an increased web site space from 250Mb to 1.5GB. It is proposed that the web page will allow for online membership application/renewal, a members only area with a password log in giving access to back copies of Revcounter and technical reports/forum.*

### *(3) Austin Healey Club Membership*

*The UK membership shows an increase of 35 members to 1587 plus an increase in Overseas by 4 to 116, giving a total of 1703.*

*The programme of distributing free copies of the Revcounter, between July and September, attracted 180 enquiries of which 65 were from DVLA registered Healey owners. All the Centres are currently actively endeavouring to convert the 65 into members.*

*(4) Members Valuation Service*

*It is proposed to have an electronically generated form for issuing the Members Valuation Service. Each Centre will have two nominated valuation people who are authorized to issue the AHC Valuation Forms, which can be used for Insurances purposes.*

*(5) Honorary Secretary*

*Since Nigel Escolme retired the post of Honorary Secretary is still vacant.*

Questions regarding Revcounter were raised for consideration by the National Committee – namely the inclusion of technical articles, and availability of electronic versions to other AH clubs

## **6. Treasurer's report**

Similarly the Treasurer's report had been circulated:

*(1) Membership Levy*

*As reported in the Directors Report the NEC will be returning the withheld members levy for the 2011/12 years and the £475.5 refund has been included in the Balance Sheet.*

*(2) Xmas Card Sales*

*Cards were printed late in December 2012 due to the un-expected high level of requests. As a consequence we were left with a stock of 567 cards, as reported in Current Assets.*

*Sales in November 2013 have already indicated that most of the old stock will be sold.*

*(3) Events*

*The committee continued with the previously agreed policy of subsidising the various events as a means of attracting members to participate in the Centres events.*

*Within the financial year the reported figures do not reflect the pre-payment made last year to Premier Carting. If this cost is included then the overall subsidy amounted to £670.*

Ian Foster emphasised that the levy raised to cover any subsidies required for the Crieff meeting were not used and hence returned to the regions, giving a positive windfall. Ian also advised the meeting that the 'Cash at bank' figure for 2013 is £7420 against that for 2012 of £7737. He also advised that the total attendance at our 2013 events was 167 against 141 in the previous year. Rob Fenton observed this as a sign of healthy growth in interest in the club.

## **7. Membership Liaison Officer's Report**

This report had been written by Nick and pre-circulated:

*Compared with 158 this time a year ago, Thames Valley Membership has remained unchanged at 158, a level at which it seems to have settled over the last few years.*

*As will be seen from the Secretary's report below, a very small proportion of our members attended this year's events, though an encouraging feature was the success of the newly set*

*up “Noggin N Natter” at the Old Bell at Hurley, where the average attendance has been around the 13 mark and many of the attendees have become newly enthusiastic supporters of the Club’s activities. Many thanks to Richard Kidson for setting up and maintaining this.*

## **8. Secretary’s Report**

Similarly written by Nick and pre-circulated:

*Unfortunately the lack of widespread membership support continued in that the numbers of Thames Valley non-Committee attendees was, as has sadly been the norm for years, disappointing, though a hard core of half a dozen non-Committee members who were frequently present were a glimmer of light. Events held during the year were:*

- 1. The season kick-off on May 26<sup>th</sup> was a Spring Run set up in his usual hardworking and meticulous fashion by Barry Marsh. An excellent Day with good route, good breakfast, lunch, pub and tea, with reasonable attendance.*
- 2. June 30<sup>th</sup> was the Military Air Pageant at Shuttleworth and 18 cars representing 6 Thames Valley Committee members, 6 out-of-area members and 6 non-Committee members from Thames Valley enjoyed splendid weather at Old Warden Aerodrome, near Biggleswade. This replaced the event that we had booked for a year previously, but which had to be cancelled on the day, as a pilot had crashed on site that morning.*
- 3. July: Henley Traditional Boat Rally Sat 20<sup>th</sup> and Sun 21<sup>st</sup>. Saturday started with a good breakfast assembly at The Crown at Burchetts Green. Sadly we were unable to show a boat, as Tony Benn’s boat had been blocked inside its garage. However, we have been invited back next year and it is understood that Terry Sprosson( from Eastern) will have one of his wooden boats in the water and available then. 9 cars on Saturday and 7 cars on Sunday attended, largely from Thames Valley – all in fine weather and a good success was reported for both days.*
- 4. August 18<sup>th</sup>: Visit to the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. 20 cars attended, including 8 from TV Committee Members and 16 cars overnight at the hotel. Many thanks to Ian Foster for his thorough and enthusiastic organization of a long and extremely good day, starting with a meet at the Leather Bottle at Mattingley, then (the only part Ian was unable to organize!) a very wet drive to the hotel for Saturday night. During Sunday, attendees enjoyed the privilege of parking under the bulwarks of HMS Victory, a private Harbour Tour, timed entry to the Mary Rose Exhibition, a light lunch and the run of all the Dockyard exhibits, before the long run home (some in the dry!).*
- 5. September 8<sup>th</sup>: a visit to the National Trust estate at Polesden Lacey was arranged by Stephen Huntington. The day started around 9.30 hours with assembly for breakfast at The Crown, then most attendees (save for those who had trouble with the directions!) met at the property to park immediately outside the house. We were given an informative and humorous Garden Tour around noon and an excellent introductory talk on the house and its most interesting and notorious inhabitants and their goings-on. 9 cars attended, including 6 TV Committee members.*
- 6. The week-end of October 6th/7<sup>th</sup> saw us visiting Castle Combe for the AH 3000 Race Meeting, including Joe Cox’s final race organization and appearance . Unfortunately time ran out for a full weekend rally, but 5 cars with 8 people meet at a fine local hotel for the Saturday night where an excellent dinner was enjoyed. An early bright*

*start on the Sunday got us all to the track for practicing, where a further car joined us.*

The meeting thanked all those who had arranged events.

## **9. Webmaster's Report**

Rob Fenton advised the meeting that the Thames Valley website was hosted by a small company in Reading (originally having an AH member working there 20 years ago), but the website was looking tired and had limited capacity. He recommended a rewrite and move to a new commercial server/host. He advised that the cost of the rewrite should be no more than £1000 and the hosting about £10 per month. The Chairman thanked Rob for the information and said the issue would be a matter for decision at the next committee meeting and asked Rob to prepare a formal proposal. Payment by results for the development of the website was a suggestion made by Peter Hickman.

## **10. Election of Committee**

The following standing committee members have indicated that they offer themselves for re-election for the coming year of the Thames Valley Centre of the Austin Healey Club:

Chairman	Brian White
Director	Ian Foster
Treasurer	Ian Foster
Secretary	Nick Crocker
Webmaster	Rob Fenton
Committee members	David Gray
	Richard Kidson
	Barry Marsh
	Peter Freeman
	Stephen Huntington

Acceptance en-bloc was proposed by Bob Slack, seconded by Peter Hickman, accepted nem con.

Nick Crocker wishes to resign from the position of Membership Liaison Officer, and Richard Kidson has offered to undertake this position. A proposal for this was made by Bob Slack, seconded by Peter Hickman, and accepted by all.

Dennis Horner resigns from his Committee Member's position and Stephen King offers himself for election. This was proposed by Rob Fenton and seconded by David Gray and accepted by all.

## **11. Any Other Business**

1. Rob Fenton reported that he had introduced two new Christmas cards, a red Healey and a red froggye. The profit on sales this year to date is £400 on sales of £800. Stock held is worth £1000. Further sales are expected after the next advert in Revcounter in December. Sales are being made worldwide. The meeting thanked Rob for his efforts which gave great financial advantage to the Centre.
2. A request has been made from the national club for nominated technical support in each region. Barry Marsh and Rob Fenton volunteered to fulfil that role for TVAHC.

3. A discussion was encouraged regarding the types of event that we should consider organising in 2014. Peter Hickman asked if we could organise an event involving a longer drive – perhaps with an overnight stop. He suggested no need to arrange around a specific event, but to focus on an interesting drive – northern England, Wales, northern France? Barry Marsh agreed that such an event would be good – possibly also considering Ireland – and suggested he would give the idea consideration and develop an event. Peter offered to help. Preferred months for major events are May and September. David Gray suggested a track event, perhaps revisiting Castle Combe. Barry Marsh suggested considering a hill climb – Chanteloup Les Vignes, just north of Paris in June. All suggestions were warmly received but with a firm rider that event dates should be indicated as soon as possible – preferably before Christmas – and even before details of the event have been determined.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 2100 hours, thanked those present and all adjourned for drinks and buffet.