



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

Held at The Olde Bell, Hurley

2000 hours Tuesday 18th November 2014

1. PRESENT

Brian White (Chairman)
Richard Kidson (Vice-Chairman)
Rob Fenton (Events Notification and Webmaster)
Ian Foster (Director and Treasurer)
Nick Crocker (Secretary)
David Gray (Committee Member)
Barry Marsh (Committee Member)
Peter Freeman (Committee Member)
Stephen Huntington (Committee Member)
John Keener (AHC National Chairman)
Robert Slack
Juliet Constantine
Chris Tauchert
Kathie Blencowe
Ruth Huntington
Mary Freeman
Stewart Freebody
Sandra & Richard Moores
Tish & David Bass
Christine Crocker
Chris Bidgood

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

Anita Foster
Peter & Pam Gardner
Paul & Arlene Burton
Tony Heyworth
Neil & Nicky Roberts
Richard Winter

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Approval of the minutes of the previous AGM held on Tuesday 19 November 2013 was proposed by Nick Crocker and seconded by Bob Slack. Brian White signed them as a true record in his capacity of Chairman.

4. OFFICERS' REPORTS

Reports from all officers had been circulated to all those who had signified their intention to attend the AGM, so each officer summarised their report at the meeting, the full reports being shown below.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Thames Valley Centre of the Austin Healey Club has had a very enjoyable year. We explored a new concept this year, in that we had three Events where we had overnight stays. This allowed the days to cover a wider scope of interests so that each event was of a more relaxed nature. I feel that those who attended these overnight trips found them to be enjoyable and more fun as we could dine together in the evenings.

This year we also noted an increased participation in the Events by the general membership of the club – it was not just the committee that attended! I would also like to thank Richard for running the monthly Noggin and Natters so well that a good turnout, at each gathering, has been noted throughout the year. This all adds up to closer Centre activities. Thanks also must go to Rob Fenton for all his great work in selling Christmas cards, a solo effort, which has mightily enhanced our TV funds.

Finally, my thanks go out again to your Thames Valley Committee for their complete and enthusiastic support, during this past year, to the Club and our Centre. Their efforts makes our Centre function and this year's Events resulted. My thanks also go to Rob for his initial efforts in bringing our web site up to a more modern standard – work is still much in progress before our new site is fully launched.

6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

National Webmaster Report

The online membership joining system has been live since August and so far 18 new members have registered. The National web site generates an average of 100,000 'hits' per month with a corresponding 11,000 'visits' per month. New technical and historic articles have been added to the Members Archives area.

National Membership statistics

Since 2007 the membership has remained at a constant level of approximately 1660. Three centres have increased their membership and the remaining five have seen a reduction. Thames Valley has seen a reduction of 8% (14 members) since 2007.

2015 International Healey Weekend

Plans are at an advanced stage for a 3 day event in July 2015 at Farncombe Estate, Broadway, Worcestershire. The format will be similar to the International meetings organised in the 1980s and 1990s, which will include a planned drive through the Cotswolds, National Concourse, Gymkhana and a Technical Forum. The venue can accommodate 100 cars.

National Regalia

Club Accessories (a third party) are now responsible for the sales and distribution of all club regalia. The regalia will be advertised via Revcounter and the National Club web site, with a link to Club Accessories. AHC will receive a percentage of the annual sales which will be distributed to the appropriate centres.

2014 NEC Classic Car Show

The National Executive has agreed the continuing financial support to ensure that the club has the correct image on the exhibition stand. This year will celebrate the 1964 Liege Rally with the 3 works cars that took part in the race on show on the AHC stand.

Valuation Service

The car valuation service is now fully operational via the club web site with each centre having a minimum two approved contacts to provide valuations.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

Membership Levy

Confirmation that the 2011/2012 withheld member's levy of £475.50 was received and banked on 13th November 2013.

Events

The organised events during the year were more inclined to be self-funding gatherings, this resulted in a reduced event subsidy of £447, compared with last year's subsidy of £670. It is still the committee's policy to subsidise an event if it is felt it will attract members to join in the Centres activities.

Xmas Cards

The Xmas card sales organised by Rob Fenton continues to be a lucrative source of income with an increase in sales from £1016 to £1221, compared with 2012/2013.

Funds

The centre's funds continue to be healthy with an increase in the year end cash balance of £8045 compared with last year's balance of £7420. The average monthly balance during the year was £8170.

The Treasurer is pleased to draw the members attention to the fact that the monies earned on the interest on our monthly bank balance has increased by 325% (from £0.62 to £2.02). So much for quantitative easing.

8. MEMBERSHIP LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT

The Club currently has 158 members of which approximately 35 have been attending our Events and Noggin 'n' Natters thorough out the year. If you include wives/partners this gives a total of about 70 individuals being involved in our Club activities. This is a large improvement on the previous year.

14 new members have joined since January 2014. On average about two per month.

Taking into account those who have left or moved on to higher places the total membership is as at this time last year.

Our Noggin 'n' Natter in Hurley is still being well attended with 17/18 coming along in some of the summer months, many with their Healeys. At times it has been difficult to get them out of the car park and into the pub as they have been busy talking 'UTB'. The Noggin 'N' Natter in Kew continues to attract a hard core of about 10 members – this meeting is almost 40 years old.

Let's hope that the forthcoming year will be as equally rewarding.

It was requested that any member changing their email address or telephone number should inform the Membership Liaison Officer.

As our National Chairman says 'keep on OVERTAKING'.

9. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The events which were organised during the year were attended largely by Committee, and the regular non-committee members, and their partners; but this year other TV members did support some of our events – particularly the Freebody and Hendon days.

The season started in April with a visit to **Freebody's Boatyard** at Hurley, one of the longest established and highly regarded yards on the Thames. 17 cars assembled for coffee and croissants at The Red Lion Inn before travelling down the road to the Boatyard, for an enjoyable and informative tour of the boat buildings and restoration facilities. This was followed by a tasty sit down lunch at The Red Lion for 33 members. Classic cars and boats together again – What a great way to start this year.

The **Hendon Museum / St Albans Verulamium** trip, held on May 18, was designed to create some interest in the NW corner of our area. We initially had 13 cars committed but this dropped to 10 on the day. 3 of these were not regular entrants and 2 had actually never ventured out for an Austin Healey organised run. So they were all very welcome. The weather was perfect (perhaps a bit too hot for Healeys) and apart from a snarl up going through Potters Bar generally things ran well. This hold up together with a an enjoyable, but rather leisurely lunch, threw the rest of the day out of schedule. Coupled with the loss of reserved parking at St Albans, the latter part of the day became an individual challenge. However some cars got to the Verulamium museum and had a most informative visit to the site and its ancestry. The day's agenda was tight but the weather was great and the visits all very informative with a great gathering of cars and members – the lunch could have easily developed into a drinking session! Thanks to Peter for a day that was tricky to arrange.

Cambridge and the Fens – 22 people and 11 cars from Thames Valley visiting Cambridge and the Fens (Ely) area over a week-end in June, overnighing in St Neots. The weather did its best to dampen our day of sightseeing, but luckily we managed a chauffeured punt trip in the dry (just). The walking tour of the city was fascinating, but by then it was definitely damp. The homeward journey tested elderly wiper motors to the full.

For our trip to the National Trust property at **Chastleton** in August we had a total of 8 Healeys, with 18 people (2 in a Volvo!). Of those 10 were TV regulars, 2 new TV members, 4 from Southern and 2 guests of TV members. We met for coffee before driving in convoy for a private visit before general house opening. We had an excellent guided tour – all together. Adjournment for lunch – either picnic or pub lunch – then re-entry for visit to gardens and a game of coarse croquet. Except for a sharp shower, as we arrived for coffee, we had a bright dry day. All most enjoyable and interesting.

For the 3 day trip to **Cheddar** in September, we had 15 people, 8 cars, 11 committee (including wives), 4 non-committee. .

350 mile round trip, 17 gallons of fuel, 4 gallons of beer and 1 gallon of wine.

Visited Cheddar Gorge, Bourton-on-the-Water including the motor museum, and Donnington brewery – the oldest brewery in the country using water-wheel power and a gravity feed process. The sun shone and a very relaxed weekend resulted. Felt like being on holiday!

Prescott/Castle Combe in early October - This was a joint arrangement between Thames Valley and South West. Staying the evening at the hotel, ThamesValley had 8 people(4 cars) and the other centres 8 people (4 cars) . Total attendance at Castle Combe was estimated at least 30 cars. Prescott was very wet for the drive out but it dried up for the afternoon's Hill Climbs whose times were slower that for dry conditions and some interesting slides and spins followed for the competing cars. Sunday at Castle Combe was sunny and warm – great Healey races and much interest in the pits – even a steam driven 1907 car and a 16 litre Fiat racing monster!

The meeting thanked all those who had arranged events.

10. WEBMASTER'S REPORT

Web-site

It has been suggested that the Centre will consider rebuilding the Thames Valley Centre web-site to give it a more modern feel. At the same time, the intention is to migrate away from our current hosting organisation, NIP Ltd. NIP are a private company who many year's ago employed one of our Members, Graham Spratt. Somehow Graham persuaded his IT team to host our web-site and despite Graham leaving many years ago, NIP has continued to support us and provide technical help from time-to-time. I'm particularly thankful to Matt Hoskins in this regard, for the help he's personally given us, free of charge. However, for several reasons, the time has come to move to an official web-hosting company. To do this, I've asked a personal friend, Ken Joy to help, not only in the migration, but to produce a "starter for ten" web-site - we will be working on this over the next 6 months. Finally, we would encourage all members to let us know what features they'd like to see on the new web-site, and once it's up and running, what improvements they'd like us to make.

Christmas Cards

For a number of years now we've been selling our own Christmas Cards, the artwork being commissioned by a local artist, Sally Fisher. The number of cards sold were:

Christmas 2010 - 1372

Christmas 2011 – 530 (we only advertised in December)

Christmas 2012 - 1057

Christmas 2013 - 1202

To date we've added about £2,400 to our funds, over the four years. As part of the web-site rebuild, I'd like to see if we can sell the cards on-line next year, through our web-site. This would reduce our costs and increase profit. Also, it would be good to have suggestions on what we should spend this additional income on. One idea is that we should purchase some specialist tools we could "hire" out to members. Two things come to mind – a king-pin reamer (£500) and a Gunson G4133 Timing Light (£100) which allows you to do the dynamic

timing using the single TDC timing mark., Gunson Colortune (£30), Carb Balancer (£20). I for one would have used all of these, though they are often not worth buying as an individual as you only use them once or twice. Again, this could perhaps be managed on-line. (See AOB Item 2)

11. 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 Robert Slack, seconded by Chris Tauchert, accepted nem con.

Immediately subsequent to the meeting, a quorum of Committee members approached Robert Slack to ask if would join the Committee; he agreed and is hereby elected.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Following agreement in principle to it, an amount of payment for work done on the web site by a friend of Rob Fenton (Ken Joy) will be discussed and a sum agreed at the next Committee meeting. There had been a question raised as to why Thames Valley needed its own web site, but the meeting felt that, with it, we would get better communication with the membership and be able to build a Thames Valley community.
2. The proposal to buy for loan/hire to members a limited selection of specialist tools was discussed and agreed. Brian White volunteered to act as custodian. An email will be sent to all members asking them to register their requests. John Keener stated that a selection of Jensen-Healey special tools had been willed to the main club.
3. The question was raised as to the availability of technical assistance from within the Club. It was noted that both Rob Fenton and Barry Marsh had previously offered their services for the Thames Valley Centre and it was agreed this would be included on the new web site.
4. Possible 2015 Events

The meeting noted the following suggestions for the 2015 Events Programme:

- a. A further visit to Ham Polo Club, who would welcome us.
- b. Henley Traditional Boat Rally (subject to the state of the Thames). Again, we would be welcome.
- c. Kop Hillclimb, September 19th & 20th. Barry Marsh is on that Event's Committee and it is proposed that the Austin-Healey club should have a formal presence there, i.e. a stand.
- d. There was a request for technical days (as had been organised in the past) with more specific content than Rawles Open Days.
- e. As the events in 2014 which involved overnight stays had been successful, we should look at further such events.
- f. Barry Marsh, with Peter Freeman plan to organise a Spring Run.
- g. Barry, with Neil Roberts, is looking at a possible 3-5 day trip to Normandy.
- h. Ian Foster has an idea which will be detailed at the first Committee meeting.
- i. It was suggested that we should support the "Oval Ball Run", an event to Paris on August 10-14 2015, in support of the Dallaglio Foundation and Child Bereavement UK.
- j. It was suggested that we should look at a trip to Holland to visit both the Austin-Healey Museum and the Louwman Collection.
- k. After the formal close of the meeting, the suggestion was made that we run an event to Highclere Castle.
- l. Visit Donnington Circuit on 2/3/4 May.

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