

MINUTES OF THE AUSTIN HEALEY CLUB MIDLANDS & OVERSEAS CENTRE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SATURDAY 22nd OCTOBER 2016
THE BRITISH MOTOR MUSEUM GAYDON.

Apologies

Peter & Viv Dodson, Roy & Wendy Woodward, Josef Eckert.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Proposed by Charles Macnamara, seconded Robin Astle

Chairman's Report – Mike Ward:

This past year seems to have flown by. As we look back over the past year, we see another full diary. November; the NEC Classic car show was a great success which saw The Healey Association share a stand with us.

November; we had the sad news that Margot Healey had passed away.

March; another visit to the NEC for the restoration show.

March saw a new event a mid-week lunch which was enjoyed by many.

April; a tree was planted here at Gaydon in Memory of Margot.

April saw FBHVC drive it day, again an excellent day organized by David Broughton.

May; once again we attended Donnington Historic Festival, thanks to Robin Astle.

June; Concours was at Castle Bromwich Gardens where it poured all day.

July; many Midland Members travelled to The Black Forest in Germany for a weeklong event with members from other Austin Healey Clubs.

August; the ever-popular Planned Drive by Bob Kemp, Robin Astle & Team.

My sincere thanks to each and every one of you for your solid support.

I also would like to thank all the Committee Members for all their hard work and long hours they have given to Midland Centre this year.

Treasurers Report – Peter Dodson

Peter Dodson was unable to make the meeting. The accounts and notes were tabled and accepted Proposed Bob Kemp seconded Peter Holland.

Ian Snelling asked why we had £20K. Charles Macnamara explained should Midland Centre undertake a large event money was required should it fail. Also, events through the year were able to be sponsored.

Midland Centre members did not put in expenses when organising events.

Peter Holland explained that some centres still did a separate newsletter or magazine to rev counter with the levy they received from National.

Membership Report – Mell Ward:

Membership of the Midlands & Overseas Centre is now 321 (310 last year) with 52 of these being from Overseas. Our overseas members are Australia 6, Belgium 2, Denmark 3, France 3, Germany 10, Greece 2, Italy 1, Luxembourg 1, Norway 3, Spain 3, Sweden 1, Switzerland 7, Canada 1, Slovakia 1, Netherlands 2, United Arab Emirates 1, Wales 3 and Scotland 2.

Regalia Report – Viv Dodson:

Charles Macnamara outlined the Regalia system

NEC Report – David Broughton:

A brief summary of key issues from the NEC's activities during the course of the last year:

- Under John Tewson's stewardship (Healey Sport's representative on the NEC), I think we're finally getting to grips with a new 5 Year Plan. Although progress has been slow, an outline of key areas has been produced for consideration at regional level. The Midlands and Overseas Committee discussed this in June and fed back our views at the time (others have yet to respond) but there are some good initiatives and I believe that in the end, it will take the club forward and address some of the fundamental challenges it is facing, particularly the impact of the changes to membership demographics, and the consequences of the spiralling costs of ownership.
- The on-line Membership Survey that took place in June was a highly successful exercise and produced some very interesting and surprising results indeed. The section with feedback and

comments from members was particularly revealing and helpful and raised many issues to consider and discuss. The results will impact the 5 Year Plan, and there is absolutely no doubt that it will significantly influence the future initiatives, activities and the overall direction of the club. All credit to Webmaster Jim Palmer for proposing and organising this.

- It will come as no surprise to you to hear that Revcounter came in for quite a lot of criticism in this Survey, and I can report that due, in part, to the sad and unexpected death of long term editor Ron Fitton in June, circumstances have now significantly changed. We have a new (albeit temporary) editorial team, and whilst there is still much that could and should be done to improve matters, recent feedback from members has been refreshingly positive. At the moment, the editorship is being shared by John Keener and Jim Palmer, and I am filling the role of their chief sub-editor correcting typos, spellings, punctuation, grammar, and other sundry gaffes! This arrangement is by no means perfect, but it has produced noticeably better results, and will remain in force until we are able to appoint a new permanent replacement – hopefully sometime soon.
- The International Black Forest Event which took place in July was a great success – over 100 members from 11 countries participated and both the venue and organisation were excellent – as by and large, was the weather. Our congratulations and thanks go to Josef Eckert, (particularly for introducing me to the concept of taking a glass of champagne with my bacon and eggs at breakfast) who was the organiser and mastermind behind this, and also to his hardworking support team, all of whom did a great job behind the scenes.
- I'm sure you've all seen that next year's event will be based in the Midlands at the Woodland Grange and whilst it's still a 'work in progress', under the stewardship of Ian Foster (from Thames Valley Centre) the programme is coming together well.
- Regalia and associated products has become an issue of increasing concern as the year has gone by – sales are beginning to stagnate and, apart from a range of commemorative products for the Black Forest Event (which incidentally sold very well indeed) there has been a disappointing lack of innovation, either in terms of new product or in promotional activity and initiatives. As you will recall, the Board took the decision some two years ago to stop all Regional development of regalia and licence it centrally to an external source with a proven track record of success in this field – the rationale being that this would eradicate duplication, consolidate volume and thereby improve prices, value, quality and availability and also speed up the introduction of new lines. This all made, and indeed, still makes a lot of sense, but for various reasons (which I'm happy to discuss but won't go into now), it really hasn't worked as planned and at our last meeting the Board appointed a sub-committee to review the arrangement and come forward with proposals for either improvements or alternatives. I am on that sub-committee along with Mell and Charles, (I have some previous experience of licensed and replica product sourcing and development) and we had our first meeting with Paul Thomas of Club Accessories earlier this week, which I'm pleased to report was positive and constructive. There was, as they say, a frank exchange of views, but having cleared the air I believe that both sides now have a firm understanding of what needs to be done and how we intend to develop the whole regalia offer going forward. We will be reporting back to the NEC accordingly at the next meeting in December.
- The NEC continues to support the Classic Car Show at the National Exhibition Centre in November, arrangements for which have been predominantly organised by Peter Dodson and supported by members of the Midlands Centre, and for which we have an excellent track record of success. However, the NEC recently expressed a wish to be more involved in the initial planning process, and for the wider involvement of members from other regions. A subcommittee has been formed to work with Peter on the former for next year, but whilst we understand their wishes and have sought to accommodate the latter for this year, quite frankly, the response has been negligible, which is very disappointing, and I will be reporting back to the NEC accordingly.
- Following my appointment to the NEC in December last year, I have managed to attend 5 out of the 6 meetings held since then – Mell kindly deputised for me at the August Meeting.

Ian Snelling asked about the survey. The breakdown is to appear in Rev Counter in the near future.

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Rev counter – couldn't we make more use of rev counter as people still preferred a magazine to read. Years ago, Centres did have specific areas in the magazine. Peter Holland didn't think this was a god idea

We don't have a centre meeting anymore

We should build on events

Nomination Of New Committee For 2014/2015

All Committee Members stood down from their positions Mike Ward tabled the Nominations whilst the new Chairperson was elected

Post	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded
Chairperson	Mike Ward	Robin Astle	David Broughton
Secretary	Mell Ward	Charles Macnamara	Ian Thompson
NEC Director	David Broughton	Bob Kemp	Charles Macnamara
Membership	Mell Ward	Charles Macnamara	David Broughton
Treasurer	Peter Dodson	Ian Thompson	David Broughton
Regalia Liaison	Viv Dodson	Robin Astle	Charles Macnamara
Webmaster	Robin Astle	Bob Kemp	Charles Macnamara

Technical Advisors:

Big Healey	Robin Astle	Ian Snelling	Charles Macnamara
Sprite	Bob Kemp	Phil Brown	Vladan Gabrhel

General Committee: (Block Vote)

Vladan Gabrhel			
Charles Macnamara			
Linda Kemp		David Broughton	Bob Kemp

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Whilst a buffet was served whilst Members spoke of ways forward.

Using the Web - an explanation to be given on how to use the website.

Sub Centres were mentioned but these had fallen by the wayside.

Send members a Christmas card from Midland Centre with a list of events in for next year/an insert showing events in 2017

Mike Ward thanked all members for giving up their Saturday to attend the AGM & hoped they enjoyed the Museum afterwards.

The meeting closed at 2.00pm