

MINUTES OF THE AUSTIN HEALEY CLUB MIDLANDS & OVERSEAS CENTRE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SUNDAY 6th NOVEMBER 2022
STATFOLD BARN, TAMWORTH

Apologies: Peter & Jill Seaman and Roger Cutler

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Minutes of previous meeting had been circulated. There were no matters arising and were approved.

Proposed: Bob Kemp Seconded: Graham Morris

Chairman's Report: Charles Fraser-Macnamara

Charles welcomed members to the meeting and said it was good to see such a high turnout.

2022 was a more normal year for the club and with the lifting of the Covid restrictions we were able to hold a variety of events throughout the year.

This kicked off with our Christmas lunch being held in January and we had a great turnout with 42 members attending. Thanks to David Broughton for organising this and as it was so successful we have given him the job again for next year.

A visit to Jeremy Welch was organised in February by Bob & Linda Kemp. The tour was followed by an excellent lunch and we were fully booked for this event. Thanks to Bob & Linda for organising this.

March saw us exhibiting at the Restoration Show held at the NEC which as usual was organised by Peter Dodson.

April was National Drive it Day which was organised by Ian Partridge & Ian Snelling ably supported by Cindy. They came up with a great route which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part. Thanks to Ian, Ian & Cindy.

May saw another event organised by Bob & Linda Kemp this time to the Great British Car Journey. It was a great opportunity to remember some of the great cars that have been produced in this country.

July we held a Midsummer Midweek break at Dumbleton Hall. We sold our full allocation rooms and with the weather gods shining down on us a thoroughly good time was had by all. Thank you to David Broughton & Bernadette Bryan for organising this.

We ended the events calendar with a BBQ held in Charles's garden. Again the weather was kind to us and everyone enjoyed the good food and well stocked bar.

Charles said the Committee were now working on an events calendar for 2023 and welcomed any suggestions from members about what they would like to do. He went on to thank all of the

Midland Committee for their assistance and unwavering support during the last 12 months and he looked forward to getting together throughout 2023.

Treasurers Report: Peter Dodson

A copy of the accounts had been circulated. Current balance was £24,438. The accounts show a headline deficit of £1,950 for the 2021/22 FY. The Membership levy received from NEC was £64 lower than last year this is due to the centre membership numbers.

The costs of the Restoration Show come out of our accounts, and as we had resumed events this year there was expenditure to cover these.

There was a new item on the accounts this year, Committee expenses, which is the cost hiring a room at a hotel in Coleshill, for the Committee meetings.

The debtors and prepayments include a credit for VAT that still has to be processed.

The balance sheet for the centre remains very healthy.

Peter said that he was currently looking to change Banks due to ongoing issues with the current incumbent Barclays.

There were no questions re the accounts.

Proposed: Charles Fraser-Macnamara Seconded: Graham Morris

Membership Report: Bernadette Bryan

Membership of the Midlands & Overseas Centre currently stands at 282. During the year we had had 17 resignations for various reasons but we had also had welcomed 34 new members. Of the 282 members 245 are in the UK and 37 are Overseas.

Bernadette said that she had produced a form of heat map showing the distribution of Midlands members, copies of which were circulated. This will be used when we are looking at holding events so that we can ensure that we cover as much of the membership as possible.

Proposed: Vlady Gabrhel Seconded: Robert Kemp

NEC Report: David Broughton

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

COVID-19 gradually reduced its impact on NEC proceedings during the year, although our regular bi-monthly meetings continue with the hybrid formula that enables those who do not wish to attend in person, to do so on-line. Although there is much to be said for this arrangement in terms of the effective use of people's time and reducing unnecessary travel, for many of us the face to face contact and personal interaction with other directors is one of the more rewarding aspects of our roles, so this is not a universally popular solution and will therefore continue to be regularly reviewed.

The new 5 Year Plan that I mentioned in last year's report, continues to be developed and will drive the club towards focussing its activities and resources on the priorities of Events, Advice and Recruitment. However, on reflection I have to accept that over the past year, progress has been unaccountably slow; time has simply slipped by and we (the NEC) urgently need to get it back on track. I hope to be able to report accordingly this time next year!

The Marque Registers Project is now reaching its conclusion; Registers for the Sprites, 100s, 100/6s and 3000s are all up and running and the Jensen Healey version is virtually ready to go, so there's just the Historic Cars to do to complete the process.

As before, huge thanks are due to Linda and Bob Kemp (Sprites) Peter Dulieu (100s) Mell Ward (100/6 & 3000s) and Jim Palmer (Jensen Healeys) for all their dedication and hard work, and of course to Robert Thornburrow, the club's Webmaster whose IT brilliance has actually turned all the plans and theory into reality. I must also emphasise that whilst their formats and construction are all complete, their maintenance and continuing development and refinement is an ongoing process.

One final area concerning all the Registers is improving the general access to them beyond the register secretaries themselves, without compromising our data protection responsibilities. This will be a challenge, but we have to find workable solutions, otherwise the retention of all this information without reasonable access to it, is a completely pointless exercise.

Membership Nationally, matters remain in the experienced and capable hands of Caroline Curran, and overall membership numbers are comparable with last year's.

Membership by Centre is as follows:-

National 26
Eastern 202
Healeysport 72
Midlands 278 – this predates the number given in the membership report earlier in the meeting
Northern 340
New Forest 173
Southern Counties 238
Southwestern 213
Thames Valley 161
Overseas Members 65

Total 1703

There's nothing to get too excited about in any of these figures, other than the fact the decline in recent years seems to have stabilised, but clearly there's more to do – not surprisingly, improving recruitment is a major element in the new 5 Year Plan.

As I did in this section of my report last year, I make no apologies for once again using it as an opportunity to raise particular concerns for the Midlands region in respect to membership – not only do we want, need and would welcome new members to the club, in particular, we also desperately need new blood on the committee with fresh ideas, initiatives and energy!

If you have any doubts about how much commitment and time is involved, just ask any of us and we'll give you honest answers that I'm certain will reassure you in these respects. If you've any inclination at all, please don't hesitate, give it a try, it's not a life sentence and if it's not for you, you can just walk away – I can only repeat that we really do need your help and we need it NOW please!

NEC Committee - Whilst Mell retired as the NEC's 'Hon Sec' at the end of last year, she's since been tempted back (thanks goodness!) and Charles will also be continuing as Company Secretary. Other than Kath Everest having now firmly established as Maggi Byford's replacement representing Eastern Centre, there are no other developments or changes to report.

Revcounter - Despite significant improvements in quality and content, timely and consistent distribution at the start of each month continues to be disappointingly problematic. This is nothing to do with the printers and is entirely due to issues with the postal delivery service and staffing availability levels, and whilst discussions (!!) continue, I don't think we'll see an early resolution to these.

I wish I could be more positive – all I can say, both anecdotally and from personal experience, is that we're not alone; a number of other clubs are being similarly affected, which I accept is not much consolation, but it is an indisputable fact!

There were no questions on the NEC report.

Social Media Report – Graham Morris

Our social media exposure is still only through our WhatsApp group. The group continues to expand with some 63 members now registered. As new members join the Midlands Centre Region, I have a courtesy chat with them welcoming them to the club and at the same time ask if they would like to go on the WhatsApp group. Most say yes, and therefore a good percentage of the WhatsApp group are relatively new members. We also now have the facility on our Midlands website, for members to submit a form requesting inclusion onto the WhatsApp group. This then automatically comes through to me, another courtesy chat and then onto the group.

As hoped the WhatsApp group has encouraged the setting up of 'noggin and natter' groups. So far a Warks group has gathered together, started by John Vedy, and an East Mid group by Helen Acton. Both groups seem to be organising and enjoying monthly gatherings, so well done to John and Helen.

Your committee was keen that communication for these sub-groups was through our main WhatsApp group so that all members could participate. However, separate groups have been set up by the local groups to facilitate their monthly gatherings. We hope that any general chit chat/club matters/classic car chat still all come through the main Healeys Together site. Hopefully the WhatsApp group will continue to grow, to encourage communication, discussion and exchange of advice and experiences.

Charles thanked Graham for setting up the group and the ongoing moderation of it. He said that other centres have encountered some problems with WhatsApp groups but we have had no issues with our group.

Nomination Of New Committee For 2022/2023

There were no new nominations for the Committee:-

Post	Nominee
Chairperson	Charles Macnamara
Vice Chairman	David Broughton
Secretary	Bernadette Bryan
NEC Director	David Broughton
Membership	Bernadette Bryan
Treasurer	Peter Dodson
Webmaster	Robin Astle

Technical Advisors:

Big Healey	Robin Astle
Sprite	Bob Kemp

General Committee:

Graham Morris, Viv Dodson, and Linda Kemp

It was proposed that all of the above persons were appointed by a block vote.

Proposed: Mike Ward Seconded: Ian Snelling

All in favour.

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Events – BB said that the Committee had drawn up a draft events calendar for next year and went through some of proposals. She also asked if there were any members that had ideas for events that they would like us to organise or attend then please let the committee know.

For each of the events Robin Astle instigated a booking form on the website. The feedback from members was that whilst this was great they did not get an acknowledgement so were unsure if we had received their booking. Robin took the feedback and altered the site so that members now receive an acknowledgement of their booking by return. BB offered a vote of thanks to Robin for updating the site and making the booking process so easy and straightforward for members. This was endorsed by all.

Bob Kemp offered a vote of thanks to all members who had supported the events last year and said it was great to see so many attending.

Ian Snelling offered a vote of thanks from all members to the Committee for all the time and effort they put into the Midlands Centre.

Marque Registers – Following on from the update that David Broughton gave in his NEC report, Bob Kemp said that this project had enabled all registers to be on the same platform and in the

same format. The catalyst for this had been that previously the registers were run by individuals and if they then left the club they also took the information with them. The project had meant that the registers were getting much more promotion at events which has resulted in an uplift in registrations.

Charles Fraser-Macnamara thanked everyone for their input and attendance.

Meeting closed in harmony at 12.15 pm