

MINUTES OF THE AUSTIN HEALEY CLUB MIDLANDS & OVERSEAS CENTRE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SUNDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2024

RAF COSFORD, COSFORD, TF11 8UP

Apologies: Bob & Linda Kemp, Lawrence Dooley, Richard & Cath Hall, Paul & Judith Fennell & Vladan Gabrhel

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

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

Proposed: Ian Snelling

Seconded: Robert Youdell

Chairman's Report: Charles Fraser-Macnamara

The year started with a late Christmas Lunch on the 17th January 2024 at the Joiner's Arms, Bruntingthorpe, organised by David Broughton and B.

The Centre arranged a trip on the 28th February 2024 to Aldridge Trim in Wolverhampton, which was organised by Graham Morris, and allowed the participants to see the very high standard of restoration work and retrimming at Aldridge Trim; which has been going for over 50 years, made available to the classic car fraternity. Cars ranged from the turn of the last century, right the way up to date, i.e. cars spanning over 100 years.

In March 2024, organised by the Centre Treasurer, Peter Dodson, the Centre took part, as usual, in the Restoration Show at the NEC from the 22nd to the 24th March 2024. Members cars were on display and the various Register Secretaries were in attendance for part, if not the whole, of the show.

Drive It Day, on the 21st April 2024, was organised by Ian Thomas, and involved a trip from the Lickey Hills Visitor Centre, through to Ironbridge and a very convivial lunch was had by all. We were able to extend an invitation to Australian members, who were travelling north at the appropriate time, and they joined us for lunch.

On the 8th May 2024 the Mid-Summer Lunch, in Leicestershire, was organised by Simon Leese and it was thoroughly enjoyed by all who participated. It included a trip in an ancient bus (open topped) around the village.

The Midland Centre Concours competition took place at Elford Hall Gardens, and was ably administered and organised by Mel Ward, Vladen Gabrhel and Mike Ward and his team of judges.

The competition was won by Andy Birch in his modified big Healey, and it is anticipated that this annual event will continue in the same format for 2025, although

it will probably take place on the 13th July at the Gaydon Motor Heritage Centre, at the invitation of both the Centre and the organisers of the BMC/Leyland Weekend. On the 9th – 12th July 2024, the Midland Midweek Break took place at Bets-y-coed and the surrounding area, including Anglesey, and was very well organised by David Broughton and B. All who took part thoroughly enjoyed it, and whilst it was a little damper than we would have liked, it certainly didn't live up to the reputation of "Wet Wales" earned from the previous years' trip!

The Chairman's BBQ on the 15th September 2024 had to be cancelled due to lack of attendance, and this was not for any one particular reason, but more the fact that, since COVID, there are a lot of competing events, and also there were many family matters that members had of course, to prioritise.

The Mid-Week Lunch in October 2024 was organised by Linda and Bob Kemp at The Lakeside Bistro, Shortheath.

Your committee are always looking for new members and I would extend an invitation to all members to consider whether they wish to undertake committee duties. They can be an onerous or light as you would wish to make them!

The draft calendar of events for 2025 includes another post-Christmas lunch at the Joiner's Arms, as before, a visit to CMC Bridgnorth, with lunch, the Restoration Show as usual, Drive It Day on the 27th April 2025, Mid-Week Break, programmed for May/June 2025, the venue to be confirmed. Llanerchindda Farm on the 7th to 10th July 2025 and the BBQ; which will be a "New Members" BBQ, on the 7th September 2025.

Next year's AGM will take place on the 2nd November 2025, at a venue to be agreed.

Your committee will shortly be in a position, following this AGM, to confirm a number of those events, and the dates of the same, and Robin Astle, our ever-present Web Master, will ensure that the website is fully up-to-date.

Can I extend my thanks to all members of the committee and officers for the work they have carried out in the last 12-months, and for the work they are going to do in the next 12-months! It is only with the dedication, enthusiasm and commitment from your committee members that ensure the Centre has a full calendar of events.

In addition, we have now, effectively, got 4 WhatsApp groups, and Graham Morris, as Moderator, keeps them all "in check". They are very successful and my understanding is that we have nearly 100 members of the overall Healeys Together WhatsApp group, this reflects well on the Centre and is nearly 50% of the membership of the Centre.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all the best for Christmas and New Year, and to ensure that you have your Healey "up and running" for the events next year.

Treasurers Report; Peter Dodson

A copy of the accounts for year ended 31st August 2024 has been circulated. There is a balance of £23,521

This year's Centre accounts have been drawn up as required by Austin Healey Club Ltd, as the Centre's accounts are now combined with the National Accounts. The Centres account shows a headline deficit of £812. Last year, the figure was a deficit of £105. All the figures are exclusive of VAT.

The levy for the Centre was paid in August. The figure was £32 higher than previous year, which means that our Centre membership number has increased slightly from last year.

Your Centre organised the stand at the NEC Restoration Show, which was held in March. The cost of putting on a stand is shown in the accounts. The cost of the Show was refunded by National. The overall cost for the Show was higher than the previous year this was due to the Treasurer who attended the event.

The AGM was organised at Cosford Aerospace Museum. The cost of which is shown in the accounts. The Planned Drive was a great success in very dry and hot weather and it again supported Childline. The Centre covered the cost of the starting tea/coffee and sandwiches.

The concours event was held at Elford Gardens on a very warm day and attracted a good number of cars, The Concours cost included a donation to the Gardens Trust, plus this year the cost of trophies, and refreshments. The cost is very similar to the previous years, £376

The Centre organised a midweek break at the very good the Royal Oak Hotel, in Betws-y-Coed, which 37 people attended. Generally, the weather was very good, and we had some very interesting runs and visits.

The Committee continued to meet on a need to meet basis with some meetings taking place at social gatherings,

The Centre has been looking into taking out a bond with some of the reserves it holds.

The balance sheet for the Centre remains very healthy.

The following questions were raised:

1. Robert Youdell asked if the club could be run as a charity?
Charles Macnamara said no as it is members club.
2. Ian Snelling asked what sums are held by National?
Charles Macnamara /David Broughton said it was circa £170k - £180k but this figure included all the centres monies. National separately were holding circa £100k.
3. Andy Birch asked if we would have to pay Corporation Tax?

Charles Macnamara – said we would not have to pay this tax, the only element we will be taxed on is the income earned on the interest from the bond.

Acceptance of the balance sheet was:

Proposed: Andy Birch Seconded: Mike Ward

Membership Report: Bernadette Bryan

At this time last year membership stood at 279 (240 UK, 39 Overseas). We welcomed 21 brand new members and one that transferred from another centre in 2024 and unfortunately lost 19 members bringing the membership numbers to 282 (244 UK, 38 Overseas).

We always lose members at renewal time, so this year the Committee made the decision to email those members that had not renewed, this was done in April. We emailed 63 members who had not renewed their membership and following this 44 (70%) of those contacted went on to renew. It has been decided that was worthwhile and will be the approach going forward.

The following question was raised:

1. Andy Birch said that he had attended quite a lot of events where you would often see Healeys there on their own and was there anyway we could encourage them to join the club?

Charles Macnamara responded that we he had leaflets about joining the club and would send these out to members that wanted them to have in their cars and hand out if they saw another Healey out and about. All agreed this was a good idea and would be willing to do this.

Acceptance of the Membership Report was:

Proposed: Jane Leese Seconded: Jill Seaman

NEC Report: David Broughton

It's been a relatively busy and successful year for the NEC – the latest 5 Year Plan has now been completed and virtually all the key recommendations have been either executed or adopted in future plans and programmes.

As far as individual Centres are concerned:-

New Forest have still to find a permanent Director to replace Paul Pavely who had to resign on health grounds late last year, although Jim Palmer has taken on the position on a temporary basis – a solution that everyone on the NEC is more than happy with and would be even happier if this turned out to be a permanent appointment!

A surprise development from Southern Counties late last month was the resignation of Dave Colwell from his positions as both Chairman and NEC Director – Dave had been an active, popular and increasingly well respected member of the NEC since taking over from Derek Edwards in 2019, and will be sorely missed. Other than ‘policy disagreements’ with some members of the Southern Counties committee, he has been very circumspect about the reasons for his decision, so we are left to speculate, but we’re all absolutely certain that there are no underlying reasons for concern about this situation, indeed, so reluctant were we to lose the benefit of his knowledge and experience that we’ve offered him the position of Club Vice Chairman – this role is not affiliated to any specific region, and I’m pleased to say that he’s since accepted, so a bit of a win win for both parties!

We understand that their new chairman is Nick Varlow and we wish him well and every success – as many of you know, we have a long history of excellent relationships with Southern Counties members and we’ll be doing our very best to ensure that these continue uninterrupted.

Operationally, 2023/4 was a very successful year, primarily due to the increasingly professional composition, competence and conduct of the NEC members and Officers.

Highlights were the overall financial performance and a significant reduction in the level of debtors.

A forecast operating deficit of £1,518 was turned round into a net surplus of £8,335 which included some £5,714 of interest on our reserves – almost an ‘embarrassment of riches’ and the NEC are urgently looking at how this can best be used to the benefit of the club and its members.

It should be born in mind that with membership subscriptions unchanged since 2016, since when the Consumer Price Index has risen by some 33%, this performance is the result of tight cost controls and increasing operational efficiencies directed by prudent professional management at all levels.

Even so, during this period there has been continuing program of investment:- Our stand and presence at the November Classic Show at the NEC has been transformed

A completely revised and updated website has been developed and successfully launched

Membership administration has been streamlined and digitised resulting in major cost savings

Our regalia product offer and fulfilment processes have been significantly enhanced with all redundant stock cleared

The marque registers project was initiated and finally brought to complete fruition Revcounter has been substantially revised and improved, and this is an ongoing process.

So, these savings have not been at the expense of investment and development over this period, and our task now is to find ways of ensuring that you the membership are the primary beneficiaries of this success as well as underwriting and securing the future of the club as a whole for the long term.

The following question was raised:

1. Ian Snelling asked is there anything or anyone on the debtors list that we as a club should be aware of?

David Broughton said no there was nothing major that we needed to be concerned about and that the debtors list was being very well managed.

Acceptance of the NEC Report was:

Proposed: Peter Seaman

Seconded: Ian Snelling

Social Media Report: Graham Morris

Our main WhatsApp group, Healeys Together, now has 88 members, slightly up on last year. The site seems to be operating successfully with little need for intervention of the group admin controller. To the credit of all on the group, virtually all posts and comments relate to club and classic car matters.

Members can access the group via the Midlands website and new members to the club are invited to join on their initial contact.

We still have four subgroups which have been initiated from the main group and all seem to be flourishing. These groups, Staffs Healeys, Warks Crusaders, E.M.Healeys and Northampton Healeys organise their own local N and N meetings.

It is heartening to see many more people keeping in touch with fellow enthusiasts. However, your committee hopes that general chit chat etc. comes through the main Healeys Together site as all members from the subgroups should be on the main site, thus a wider audience.

Whilst a lot of members are on the WhatsApp groups, other means of communication are still used, emailing of all events go to all members and notifications are in the Revcounter magazine.

Andy Birch said that the WhatsApp group was great for help when solving problems and he had had some great advice.

Simon Leese said the WhatsApp group was very re-assuring and that they offered a good level of support.

Acceptance of the Social Media Report was:

Proposed: Richard Statham

Seconded: John Northwood

Nomination of New Committee For 2024/25

There were no new nominations for the Committee: -

Post	Nominee
Chairperson	Charles Fraser-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, Linda Kemp, Simon Leese and Ian Thomas

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

Proposed: Mike Ward

Seconded: Peter Seaman

All were in favour

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Mel Ward told the meeting that 2000 cars had been added to the 100 & 3000 marque registers.

David Broughton raised the issue of insurance; it was something that the Club had not really got to grips with. What tends to happen is that members will get a quote from the Club's "preferred supplier" and then take that to their own broker. He said that he had been looking at how this works with other clubs and had a good experience through Jaguar Owners Club (JEC). He will talk to JEC to understand how they set up the deal and then take a proposal to the NEC.

Mike Ward asked if there is still a list of the trophies that are held at the Healey Museum in Holland. Charles Macnamara said yes, they were but the current agreement is now past its 5-year duration. He is trying to get a response from the museum. There is always the option to bring them back from the museum. He confirmed that the trophies are still insured.

Ian Snelling offered a vote of thanks to the Committee for all that they do for the Club and said that their efforts are really appreciated.

Meeting closed in harmony at 12.05pm