



# THE AUSTIN SEVEN CLUBS' ASSOCIATION



**President:** Bob Wyatt  
Past Presidents: Donald Doughty, Stanley Edge, Bert Hadley and Freddie Henry

## MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD AT THE HERITAGE MOTOR CENTRE, GAYDON

AT 1100 HOURS ON SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2015

<b>Present</b>	Andy Lowe	Chairman A7CA; MA7C
	Bob Wyatt	President
	Chris Garner	Vice Chairman A7CA; PWA7C
	Howard Annett	Magazine Distribution and Back Issues; A7OC
	Phil Baidon	Archivist A7CA
	Graham Baldock	Public Relations A7CA; EA7C; HA7C
	Hazel Gore	Advertising A7CA and MA7C
	John Wyett	Treasurer A7CA (outgoing); NA7C
	Chris Heeley	Treasurer A7CA (incoming); PWA7C
	Brem Bremner-Smith	MA7C
	David Charles	A7 Special Register and Cornwall A7C Rep
	Gill Davis	750 MC; CA7VCC
	Arthur Davies	MA7C
	Nick Beck	SA7C; BA7C
	Tony Hartnell	BA7C
	Steve Hodgson	Worthing Gp
	Dave Martin	PWA7C
	Stuart Phillips	SWA7C
	Roger Price	OA7C
	John Williams	SWA7C
	Bob Prophet	Secretary A7CA; MA7C; PWA7C
<b>Apologies</b>	Jim Blacklock	Registrar A7CA; Cambridge A7 & VCC; Arrow Register
	Chris Charles	Website Co-ordinator A7CA
	Bernard Griffiths	Events & Projects Co-ordinator A7CA
	Ed Waugh	Editor The Grey Mag; PWA7C
	David Cochrane	Pram Hood Register
	Bernard Cowley	DA7C
	Ruairidh Dunford	Gordon England Register
	Ian Mason-Smith	DA7C
	Paul Maulden	Norfolk A7C
	Liz Mountford	Swallow Register
	Charlie Plain-Jones	PWA7C
	Derek Sheldon	Rosengart Register
	Graham Smith	Solent A7C
	Mike Ward	HA7C



- A map showing owners' home locations
- A Register of owners' addresses, telephone numbers, contact details and services offered
- A register of members' vehicles
- A list of local events close to owners
- A calendar of related national events throughout France
- Links to other Austin 7 websites

On the website, they hope to offer a forum, tips, advertisements, services/sales offered by members, a Gallery of cars and events, a library of books and technical information and a parts list. They hope, also, to encourage Austin 7 owners/visitors from other countries. Ian Wilson, the club founder, is, amongst other things, a motorsport photographer who runs Autograph Racing from 16490 Hiesse, Confolens, France.

6. After a brief discussion, the Committee offered all encouragement to this fledgling Club and looked forward to hearing of its full establishment in due course. The Secretary said that he would arrange for the Club details to be published in the Grey Mag and on the website [Done].

Secretary  
Ed  
Chris

### **Treasurer's Report**

7. John Wyett, having handed over the reins to Chris Heeley, introduced the new Treasurer again to the Committee and then explained the past year's income and expenditure saying that he would prepare the year's accounts for the Treasurer to present to the AGM in April. He said that the accounts stood at £33,321 in credit at the end of the year: this sum included £1712 for the Jack French project and £19822 on deposit with Scottish Widows [a copy of the accounts is attached to these Minutes]. He said that he had received all money due from the overseas clubs thus allowing the new Treasurer to start with a clean sheet. The Chairman thanked John for his work for and devotion to the finances of the Association and, on behalf of A7CA, presented him with a pair of tumblers and a bottle of nectar with which to test them.

### **Information**

8. Magazine. In the absence of the Editor, the Secretary told the meeting that the Editor intended to attend every other meeting because of the distance involved. He did not have much to report on this quarter but he had been lucky enough have a good amount to fill the 2015A issue. He regretted that he had had to delay publication of a couple of items from John Ward as he was still trying to secure some images. He reported that he had a couple of pieces for the 2015B issue but could always do with more. He expressed his disappointment at the lack of events from Clubs; he gave special thanks to BA7C for yet again being the only Club to provide dates for the A issue. He made a plea to all Club representatives/secretaries to take note. He observed that publishing event dates in the B issue was almost too late. He then reminded clubs that he wanted a hard copy of each Club's newsletter/magazine. He made particular mention of MA7C and Essex as being amongst the culprits.

All

Secretary..

9. Website. In the absence of the Webmaster, David Charles read out his report: over the past 3 months, the website had been idling along nicely with the new Online Chassis Register search proving very popular. Analysis of the website from the public launch in August to the end of 2014, 3040 searches had been completed, 2293 by Registration Number and 747 by Chassis Number: Jim Blacklock had updated the

<p>Chassis Register downloads on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014 and this had also updated the data for the Online Chassis Search. Graham Baldock's Reference Poster had been updated with the help of Dave Martin and the latest version was now available to download. He reported that he had recently met Tim Griffiths to discuss "The Wonderful Warwick" film. He noted that Tim had put a huge amount of work and effort into producing this to a very high quality. The film itself was around 40 minutes long and included a huge variety of shots and interviews to capture the weekend from the perspective of entrants, spectators and autojumbler; it included several interesting time lapses of the rally field. It was decided that it would be best to make it available both online and as a DVD. Firstly, the online format would be available to download by paying for a download link via Paypal or Googlewallet at £3.00 a download; this would involve minimal work and would be available to everyone around the world who wished to view the video especially those who hadn't been able to get to the event: also, it would save on postage. This online method would involve no cost and would use Dropbox. The second format would be a standard DVD with a full colour inlay. The cost would be £1.64 a unit plus postage and packing plus human resource and some profit for A7CA. This figure is based on 300 units. An initial limited run of these could be done to make sure that a huge stock wasn't created only to become bird scarers.</p> <p>10. The Committee agreed that this was the right approach and Hazel Gore suggested that clubs could place central orders for central collection: this was agreed and it was decided that the Secretary would advise clubs when the DVD was ready for ordering and at what cost. In the meantime, clubs were asked to estimate the DVD requirement and notify the Secretary [by the end of February].</p> <p>11. <u>Advertising</u>. Hazel Gore reported that advertising during 2014 had produced an income of £2396.12; since the end of the year and the closure of the accounts, she had received cheques totalling £246.50 making a total of £2642.62 to date. She had provided 11¼ pages of advertising for the 2015A issue and would be sending invoices with that issue to advertisers for a further £253.64.</p> <p><b>Association Archives</b></p> <p>12. Phil Baidon reminded the Committee that two projects were running for 2015 and handed over to Dave Martin who explained that he had gone through all of the 800 cards supplied by Bob Wyatt and that all the resulting information was with Ed Waugh who was forging ahead with production. Graham Baldock then reported that the booklet on Body Styles according to designated factory initials was complete after two years. He had incorporated all of the many changes which had been offered by many different people. He thanked those people, Phil Baidon for his reading of the proofs, Dave Martin for many amendments and a myriad others who had supplied photographs and drawings. He was grateful, particularly, to Nick Beck of BA7C who had effectively started the project by noting errors on the original poster. Graham noted that the Committee had voted at the last meeting to sell the booklet and that this had not been his original idea. He proposed issuing a free copy to each Grey Mag recipient and selling copies at £5 each to others. He then offered to pursue the question of which printer to use – Lavenham or Colchester who had offered quotes for printing quite a distance apart – and to accept the better value quote. After a very brief discussion, this was proposed by David Charles and seconded by Gill Davis. The Committee agreed unanimously. The Chairman thanked Graham for his persistence and devotion and looked forward to seeing the finished product.</p>	<p>All Clubs</p> <p>Graham</p>
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All

13. Graham then told the Committee of a company ([www.miniphernalia.co.uk](http://www.miniphernalia.co.uk)) producing reproduction tax discs back to 1932 which members might like to put on the windscreen to replace the now-defunct disc [the Secretary suggests, also, googling "reproduction tax discs for classic vehicles" for other companies which produce similar products at varying prices].

### Association Register

14. The Chairman reminded the meeting that Jim Blacklock had sent his apologies; the Secretary then read out Jim's report:

"The A7CA Online Surviving Austin 7 Register was updated as at 31<sup>st</sup> December (thanks to Chris) and the basic facts are as follows:

	Totals as at 31 Dec 14	New Entries Since 1 Jan 14
<b>Total Entries in All Registers</b>	<b>11,518</b>	
<b>Total in Austin 7 Register</b>	<b>10,559</b>	<b>318</b>
<b>Total in Big 7 Register</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total in Rosengart, Dixi &amp; Bantam Registers</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>4</b>

The A7CA Club Reference Number System has been updated recently by the addition of the "The Vintage Car Owner's Club of Sri Lanka" at number 85. A check of their website (<http://www.vintagecarownersclub.lk/>) reveals that their members own about 40 Austin 7s and Big 7s, which is more than the A7CA Surviving A7 Register currently has entered as being in Sri Lanka; an e-mail has been sent to obtain more details.

Back in mid-October, David Cochrane and Phil Baildon had helped to correct the Pram Hood Register entries in the A7CA Register. After converting the PH Register from a Word list format into an Excel spreadsheet, the two registers were integrated and cross checked. From the original 354 entries in the PHR, the total became 523 potential PHR entries. It will take some time for David and Phil to check through the revised listing, weed out those examples which are inappropriate for their rigorous specifications and add, where appropriate, the missing data but, given time, we should eventually have the definitive A7CA Pram Hood Register. In the meantime, those Austineers who study the A7CA Register will have to bear with us. I would like to express my thanks to those A7 Club Secretaries and Membership Secretaries and those A7 Model Registrars who have helped me to get and keep the A7CA Register up to date."

15. The Chairman thanked Jim in his absence for the excellent work he was continuing to do and told the meeting that he was delighted to be able to report that he and Chris Garner had persuaded Jim to stay on as Registrar rather than resign. The Committee echoed the Chairman's sentiments. Thanks were expressed to Chris Charles, also, for putting everything on the website so efficiently.

### Support

<p>16. <u>Spares and Suppliers</u>. Howard Annett reported that he was down to his last three magazine binders and sought the Committee's authority to order some more. The Committee approved.</p> <p>17. <u>Breakdown Scheme</u>. The Committee discussed briefly the need for a breakdown register on an app or on the website but decided that most people would simply call the AA, RAC or the RH Insurance recovery service. Gill Davis pointed out, however, that members would still like to have a list of volunteer repairers around the country for events such as LEJOG as drivers would probably prefer to complete the journey rather than be recovered.</p>	Howard
<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>18. <u>Insurance</u>. John Wyett reminded the Committee that he had produced a requirement for insurance and that he recommended that this line would be as good as any to use as a basis; his three basic headings were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Liability</li> <li>• Stock cover</li> <li>• Directors' cover</li> </ul>	
<p>After some discussion, it was agreed that Chris Heeley would contact the brokers (plus RH) suggested by FBHVC to discover what they were offering and how that would meet A7CA's requirements: it was decided that Chris would then liaise with the Chairman and the Secretary. Chris Garner suggested inviting Emma Airey to speak at the AGM. This was agreed [<u>Secretary's note</u>. The Chairman has since rescinded this as too much insider information would be revealed at the AGM when the accounts were presented.</p>	Treasurer  Dep Chairman
<p>19. <u>Jack French's Garage</u>. In the absence of Charlie Plain-Jones, Chris Garner said that Charlie would raise the level of his discussions with the management of various possible sites for the garage: to date, he had been dealing with Curators and equivalent but he would now deal with Director level. The Chairman then briefed that Charlie was in discussion with the Haynes Museum. Nick Beck and Tony Hartnell suggested that Bicester Heritage might be interested in hosting the garage. There was general agreement.</p>	Charlie P-J
<p>20. <u>Austin 7 Patterns</u>. The Chairman said that Tony Betts of 7 County Austins had purchased a number of patterns for Austin 7 parts.</p>	All
<p>21. <u>Accommodation Register</u>. Ian Mason-Smith suggested in absentia that the idea of an Association Holiday Accommodation register be abandoned as no suggestions had been made. It was agreed, however, that Clubs should continue to keep such details for the benefit of all members regardless of Club.</p>	All Clubs
<p>22. <u>Breakdown Register</u>. Ian Mason-Smith requested that the idea of maintaining a Breakdown Register of willing mechanics be abandoned as too difficult. This was agreed (but see para 17 above).</p>	All Clubs
<p>23. <u>Map of Clubs' Coverage</u>. Again, in absentia, Ian Mason-Smith asked that the subject of Club geographic coverage be aired again as he felt that it was a useful document to circulate. He suggested that Club Secretaries produce a map showing the</p>	

<p>spread of their own Club's membership. This was agreed. Club Secretaries are asked to send their maps to the A7CA Secretary as soon as possible.</p>	<p>All Clubs</p>
<p>24. <u>Vote of Thanks</u>. Finally, and still in absentia, Ian Mason-Smith wished to be recorded a great vote of thanks to Jim Blacklock for his magnificent work on the Association Register. This was agreed unanimously.</p>	
<p>25. <u>Grasshoppers</u>. Chris Garner offered for sale copies of the PWA7C book entitled "The Comprehensive History of the Grasshopper".</p>	
<p>26. <u>Rosengart Register</u>. The Secretary apologises for failing to present Derek Sheldon's first report submitted since taking over the register:</p> <p>"On taking the roll during late Spring 2014, 25 cars were listed on the register and I set about trying to find the present owners, a task that was to prove difficult to say the least. There are now 29 on the list, of which 9 are confirmed with 3 new owners. Five cars are with a dealer in Surrey all believed to be currently on the list but which ones is not known but I do have the promise of details in the future. Five of the cars are on the European mainland: 4 in the Netherlands and 1 in Poland.</p> <p>I have started a Pinterest page showing Rosengart models which I hope will help with identification and has actually brought forward questions on the marque which I do my best to answer.</p> <p>I now have direct contact with the Rosengart Club Français which is slowly bearing fruit and quite a list of Continental owners who are keen to help.</p> <p>I am keeping my fingers crossed that we shall get several Rosengarts at Beaulieu in July, the only obstacle being the geographical location of the owners but several have said that they will try."</p>	
<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p>	
<p>27. The next Committee Meeting will be held at 1100 hours on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2015 in Syndicate Room 7 at The Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>28. The AGM will be held on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2015 in Lecture Room 2 at The Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>29. The Committee Meeting planned for Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2015 will now take place on <b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2015</b> in Syndicate Room 7 at The Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>30. There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 1235 hours.</p>	

Chairman: .....

July 2015

Secretary: .....