



THE AUSTIN SEVEN CLUBS' ASSOCIATION



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

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

WI Hall, Mill House, Mill Yard, Southam Rd, Dunchurch, Rugby CV22 6NW

11am Sunday 14th July 2019

Present

Chris Garner	Chairman; VAR
Phil Baildon	Historian
Paul Lawrence	Secretary, CA7VCC
Mike Costigan	Editor
Howard Annette	Magazine Distribution / A7OC
Chris Blower	Bongtree Austin 7 Club
Gill Davis	750 MC / Cambridge A7&VCC
David Cochrane	Pram Hood Register
Stewart Robinson	PWA7C
Janet Edroff	750 MC
David Rock Evans	VAR
Roy Goodrum	Essex Austin 7 Club
Alan Billington	On-Line Austin 7 Club
Steve Clarke	On-Line Austin 7 Club
Peter Hales	South Wales Austin 7 Club
Harry Hales	South Wales Austin 7 Club
John Fromant	Essex Austin Seven Club
Les Morley	Essex Austin Seven Club

1. Apologies for Absence

Ruairidh Dunford	Advertising A7CA
Charlie Plain Jones	Jack French Garage / 750MC
Nick Turley	Vice Chairman, PWA7C
Chris Heeley	Treasurer / PWA7C
Hugh Barnes	Archivist / Cambridge Austin 7&VCC
Roger Brown	Registrar
Fenella Leigh	Registrar / CA7&VCC
Adrian Payne	Webmaster
Jeff Morgan	Solent Austin 7 Club
Andy Lowe	Midlands Austin 7 Club
Nick Beck	Bristol A7 Club / Scottish A7 Club

Chairman: Chris Garner
1 Westminster Close
Melton Mowbray
Leicestershire LE13 0PF
01664 852172
chairman@a7ca.org

Secretary: Paul Lawrence
3, Housman Ave
Royston
Herts SG8 5DN
01763 249210
secretary@a7ca.org

Treasurer: Chris Heeley
75 Desford Road
Newbold Verdon
Leicester LE9 9LG
07909 531341
treasurer@a7ca.org

Arthur Davies
John Ward
Roger Price
David Aylmore
Steve Hodgson
Bren Bremner- Smith
John King

Midlands Austin 7 Club
Midlands Austin 7 Club President
On-Line A7 Club
Devon Austin 7 Club
Worthing Austin Seven Club
Midlands Austin 7 Club
Dorset Austin 7 Club

2. Introductions

Everybody introduced themselves to the meeting

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as correct, Proposed by Gill Davis and Seconded by Phil Baildon

4. Matters Arising

No Matters were arising

5. Officer Reports

Chairman's Report – Chris Garner

Since our last meeting in April the Officers have instigated a series of conference call meetings to action decisions taken at these quarterly meetings. These have proved effective and concentrated essential points that need focusing on. I would like to thank Ruairidh for setting up a Google document file which has proved very effective.

Sadly Fenella Leigh, our Registrar, has had to step down. Fenella has had reoccurring health problems over the last year or so but now has developed age-related macular degeneration of the eye. As a result of this, Fenella reluctantly decided she could not continue. This has been very difficult for her as she was looking forward to the work and feels that she has let people down. Nothing could be further from the truth and we all thank her for her initial work and send our very best wishes.

Whilst at 750 Beaulieu last week I ran into Roger Brown our previous Registrar. After a short talk and explanation of the facts, Roger contacted me the following day offering his assistance and thus he has been reinstated. Our thanks go to him for his willingness to help the Association.

Finding a venue for the Centenary celebrations has occupied a few minds but I believe we are progressing and a report on progress will follow later.

I continue to be into touch with Bob Wyatt's son, Michael and am pleased to report that he is very focused on the Association and our requests for material. Hugh, our Archivist, will keep you informed of developments as they arise.

A few items I would like to highlight and dates for your diary. You will see an advert in the latest Magazine for the enamel Campbell signs we have produced. Collectors' items of the future I would ask that you consider buying one. Next Sunday sees the opening of the Jack French Garage display. It would be good to see as many people as possible. Roger French will be there and it promises to be an historic day. Finally, September 29th is the Archive Open Day. Please make every effort come along and see just what you have and what the team have achieved.

Finally, for my part I continue to play with my Sevens, acquiring yet another in the form of a genuine Ulster – well quite a lot of it is! – and I am really enjoying finding more about them.

Let's hope the weather continues to give us a good summer and have fun.

Comments:

Comment was made that enamel signs were notoriously difficult to enamel right to the edges and that a good way to protect them is to put varnish on the edges.

The question was raised as to why there were just 25 enamel signs being made available. Chris explained that this was partly due to cost and partly due to wanting to maintain the integrity of the signs being a 'special edition'.

It was asked if China had been considered as a supplier for enamel signs. This had not been considered but could be explored for future similar initiatives.

Secretary Report- Paul Lawrence

I have e-mailed all club Secretaries about the Centenary Rally in 2022 asking for the clubs to consider how they and their membership could assist with the event. We are looking for

volunteers to join the longer-term planning team, or simply helping with some necessary tasks over the weekend of the rally. It may even be that some clubs would like to take on responsibility for a specific aspect of the rally such as the evening entertainment or the road run. Due to the timing of the e-mail being sent out to clubs I am aware that not all club committees have had a chance to meet and discuss it properly. If clubs could make every effort to discuss it with their committees in time for the October meeting, then that would be very helpful as we could have a more meaningful discussion about the rally then.

I was recently made aware that Richard Hoskins Insurance offer (to a limited number of clubs) insurance cover for the cost of the restoration and not necessarily the final value (this is for when the restoration has cost more than the final value of the car). I have asked Emma Airey from Richard Hoskins if this could be offered to the Austin Seven Clubs' Association and she is looking into it on our behalf.

I would like to remind people about the Austin Seven Display and Parade organised by the 750 Motor Club at their 2019 Summer Festival at Donington Park on Sunday 8th September 2019. Austin Sevens will get an opportunity to do a few demonstration laps of the circuit and the hope is to get 80 Austin Sevens out on the track to celebrate 80 years of the 750 Motor Club; 80 years since the last Austin Seven was manufactured and 80 years since the last race won by an Austin factory Twin Cam Racer. It is also the 70th anniversary of the 750 Formula as drawn up by Holland Birkett and Jack French as well as the 25th anniversary of the Bert Hadley Sprint and Hill Climb Championship for Austin Sevens. An entry form for the event can be found on the 750 Motor Club Website. I have included a link at Appendix 1.

Please remember that the next Association meeting on Sunday 13th October 2019 will be held at the Atwell Wilson Museum which will provide us with a great opportunity to visit the Jack French garage. (See Date of Next Meeting).

Treasurer Report – Chris Heeley (Read by Paul Lawrence)

Firstly, my apologies for not attending. This meeting often clashes with our family holiday.

Period April to June 2019

A quieter period in the accounts with mainly magazine related costs and officer expenses going out. Coming in were some nice donations made on the back of presentations to two groups made by Nick Turley.

Significant payments:

£862.50 investment in clam shell boxes for the archive storage improvement

£562 annual cost of the external secure trophy storage

Cash in Current Account (Lloyds) at 30th June 2019 is £14,689.53

I have not had the chance to raise the 2019 invoices yet. I hope to do this soon and remind clubs that this will be at the new rate.

A copy of the Accounts can be found at Appendix 2.

Comments:

None

Advertising Manager Report – Ruairidh Dunford

Ruairidh has reported that there is nothing further to add following his report given at the April 2019 meeting (See Minutes of April 2019).

Comments:

None

Archivist- Hugh Barnes (Read by Chris Garner)

Since taking over as Archivist at the AGM, I have been slowly easing myself into the role and responsibilities of the position. I had a constructive handover meeting with Phil Baidon in early May where I was introduced to the TSSC staff at Lubenham and given a set of keys. I am now able to come and go as I please, within the working hours of the TSSC. I have made a couple of visits to Lubenham since then and have started taking in the collection as a whole. I have made a start on new cataloguing work and have now created a catalogue of the books we hold which will be made available on the Archive web site. We will not, of course, be digitising the books.

On new digitised material added to the web site, we have finally been able to add the Russell Curtis collection of brochures, The Gladys de Havilland album and associated photos and

newspaper cuttings along with an Oral History from Ken Cooke. We are hoping to release more material in the near future and are working on some technical issues to permit comments to be left on photographs, etc. That will add both more interesting material to the site and give added functionality allowing the community as a whole to be more involved.

There have been some more recent acquisitions to the collection. A number of Handbooks and Parts lists are awaiting digitisation and adding to the web site along with some new Brochures. I am introducing an acquisitions form that will be created every time a new item is purchased/donated to keep better control of the flow of items into the collection. Obviously, not every item will be digitised but we do need to keep a formal record of it.

We have also spent some £800 on clamshell boxes to store the Austin Press cutting binders we were donated a while back. This will help preserve them for the future. Again, these are not items that will be digitised (there is far too much) but they will be available for research.

Some material has left the collection and the papers from Stan Edge reflecting his work for the Military in the Second War have now been gifted to the REME Museum in Lyneham. They are steadily working their way through it but seem excited about what the collection contains. I am expecting some feedback from the Museum staff when that assessment has been completed.

Finally, we are starting to plan an Open Day for September 29th and look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible. I have extended an invitation to members of the VAR as I am sure they would also be interested in the collection and reflect the crossover of interests between the 2 bodies.

Comments:

Phil Baidon mentioned that some glass plates had been given to Nick Turley and he wondered if there was any update on progress on them. None was known.

Editor Report– Mike Costigan

There is not a great deal to report. Everything is in hand for the next few editions of the Association Magazine and I would be interested to hear any suggestions that people may have for future articles. They may not appear in the magazine straight away as some of the things that have to go in the magazine are time-bound but please do keep coming up with ideas and sending things in.

Comments:

Chris Garner mentioned that Jim Stringer from the VAR has written a new book called 'An Austin Anthology 11' which is available for £15.99. Chris will be writing a review of the book for future inclusion in the Magazine.

Registrar Report – Roger Brown (Read by Chris Garner)

I'm sorry that Fenella has been prevented from taking on the Register and would like to offer her my best wishes. I'm happy to help by taking it back until at least the next AGM, or two. However the Association cannot rely on me indefinitely, my car is only a couple of years older than me, and someone must be found to take on the Register long term.

It is used and supported by many owners. Additions and changes have continued to arrive since my term ended but are not yet on line. It will be a little while before I clear the backlog. If you have made a submission since April and cannot see that anything has changed, please bear with me, it should be there in the next month or so.

Then Chris I need guidance from the Committee on how long my paper records of submissions and actions taken should be retained. Maybe two years? The emails and Register files live on for ever (we hope), but reference back to older working papers is infrequent, whilst it accumulates quite quickly and makes a storage problem for the Registrar. A time limit would allow discards to keep up with additions.

Comments:

The question of how long the original paper records should be retained. There were various opinions which included:

- *Keeping the originals helps with provenance, this is certainly true of the Registers, although the numbers involved are significantly fewer*
- *Could the original documentation prove useful with DVLA requests i.e it will prove the car existed 30 years ago.*
- *The electronic register doesn't maintain the history so getting rid of the paperwork may lose some of the history*
- *The original documents really need to be kept*

The general feeling was that efforts should be made to keep the original documents. They could possibly be stored at the Archive at Lubenham. Chris Garner will speak to Roger to establish how many records there are and what space would be required to store them.

Webmaster Report – Read by Paul Lawrence

Since taking on the role there has been much to learn and the thought of being on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram at my age was amusing to say the least.

I think things have been going OK but Chris Charles may have a slightly different outlook on this.

As well as uploading the AGM minutes and the odd club detail changes there have been a few emails to answer. The usual one is how to contact the current owner of a given car.

It may be useful to add some directions on the website on how to search the register and then contact the corresponding club if all are agreeable.

Facebook has 831 likes up 44 since the last meeting.

My other observation which might be going over old ground, is the lack of club events sent in for inclusion on the site and on social media. Surely we should be reaching out to as wide an audience as possible. Been tried before??

Comments:

- *It was agreed that some guidance on the website about how to search the register and then contact the corresponding club would be useful*
- *It was agreed that Clubs should do more to pro-actively get the details of their events on the website*
- *It was questioned if an on-line form could be devised for the Website so clubs could enter the details of their events at any time. Paul Lawrence would contact Adrian Payne and Chris Charles to see if this might be possible.*

6. Centenary Celebrations

Chris Garner explained that Warwick School was now ‘dead in the water’ and a new venue was required. Chris Garner and Nick Turley had been exploring other potential venues such as the Newark Showground. The cost of Newark Showground would be about £22,000 although this would include a sitdown dinner for 350 people. Schools similar to Warwick had been contacted but to date there had been no response.

David Cochrane gave a short presentation on the Fire Service College at Morton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire. David had been in touch with the college and this did seem like a very good venue. They have had events there in the past where they have had up to 1000 cars, there were plenty of ‘undercover opportunities’ for inclement weather, they had 300 double en-suite rooms

and 100 single rooms for hire at reasonable prices, plenty of room for camping and a dining room capable of catering for 400 people. It was decided that this option was worth further exploration and a small group would go down soon to visit the site. A summary of the Fire Service College Facilities can be seen at Appendix 3.

The possibility of seeking sponsorship from companies such as Jaguar, BMW and Lotus was raised again. Once the long-term planning team is established this is the sort of thing they will be looking into.

It was also suggested that the weekend could be extended to include the Thursday where trips could be organised to relevant nearby venues.

It was also suggested that some financial support could be offered in order to secure the attendance of particularly iconic cars at the rally.

7. Jack French Garage Up-date from Charlie Plain- Jones (Read by Paul Lawrence)

Feverish activity on the Garage continues as the official opening ceremony on the Sunday 21st July draws ever closer.

The high point of this has been the delivery to the Garage last Tuesday of the Simplicity replica, or the "50:50 Car" as it has now been christened, by Graham Beckett and his team of enthusiastic volunteers from the Lincoln Centre.

As you probably already know Graham is the custodian and campaigner of the real 'Simplicity', Jack's famously successful and well documented racing special which encouraged so many enthusiasts to take up 750 Formula racing in the 1950s and 60s.

Over the past year or more he and his team have built a cut away replica of Simplicity on which one side is standard Austin 7 configuration painted in black and the offside as extensively modified for competition use by Jack painted in his signature bright yellow, hence the 50:50 title.

The car will be accessible for particularly young people to sit in (under parental supervision) and see how the steering, brakes etc work.

One of the ways that Jack helped aspiring competitors was to produce the Jack French Camshaft which transformed the power output of the Austin 7 engine and Graham's group have also produced a replica cam grinding machine based on a 1914 lathe so everyone can see how the magic was made.

The pictures below show Graham and his team successfully installing both the car as the centre piece of the exhibition and the lathe.

Hope to see you there at the Atwell Wilson Motor Museum, Calne, on Sunday 21st July.

8. AOB

- Janet Edroff gave a brief over-view of the Euro Tour provisionally planned between 24th May and 9th June 2022. The event is limited to 50 cars. All the spaces have been taken already and there is a waiting list should people drop out. The route will include Normandy, West France and the Pyrenees. People can then choose to drive back or get the ferry.
- Paul said that David Aylmore from Devon (not present) had asked for the following to be brought up at the meeting. On several occasions over the last couple of years, a member of the Devon Club has, by chance, come across a group of A7's visiting Devon from another Club. David also saw recently a 'post' on Facebook about the same situation occurring when the Herefordshire 7s were on holiday in Wales. It occurred to David that it would be a friendly gesture if clubs who are visiting another area where there is an active A7 club could email their secretary in advance, to let them know dates & venues so others could meet up, as we seem to be missing out on what is a great opportunity to meet up with fellow A7 owners. ***This was agreed by the meeting as a good idea and clubs are encouraged to let the local club know if they are visiting their area so opportunities to meet up can be explored.***
- The question was asked if the 750 Motor Club will be doing another JOGLE. There are currently no plans to do this.

- Howard Annett has binders for the Association magazine available to those that want them.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Sunday 13th October 2019 at 11am at the Atwell Wilson Museum

<https://atwellwilson.org.uk/index.html>

The Association Meeting on Sunday 13th October will be held at the Atwell Wilson Museum in Calne, Wiltshire, where the Jack French Garage has been located (See report from Charlie Plain-Jones). A reduced admission fee of £6 per person has been negotiated with the museum and it is very much hoped that as many people as possible that attend the meeting in October will support both the Jack French Garage project and museum and pay the reduced admission fee to look around the interesting exhibits.

Appendix 1

Link to the Donington Parade entry form

www.750mc.co.uk/ugc-1/1/52/0/summer_festival_parade_2.pdf.

Appendix 2 – Summary of Accounts

Austin 7 Clubs' Association

Financial Report 1 January to 30 June 2019

	£	£
Balance 1 January 2019		17,485.71
<u>Receipts January-June 2019</u>		
Magazine Sales	8,297.00	
Sale of back numbers	23.00	

Subscriptions for 2018/9	125.00
Magazine Distribution Recharged to Clubs	515.77
Receipts Identifying Austins Booklet	0.00
Receipts Warwick DVD	46.67
Advertising	75.00
Interest Received	0.00
Receipts for Jack French Garage Project	0.00
Sale of Binders	0.00
Insurance Payouts	0.00
Archive Sales	180.00
Digital Archive Receipts	0.00
Other Misc Income (Australia Donation)	3,015.26
Production Changes Book	37.50
Index Booklet Receipts	0.00
Hiscox Adverts Receipts	0.00
	<u>12,315.2</u>
<u>Total receipts</u>	<u>0</u>

Payments January-June 2019

Magazine Print and Layout Costs	8,508.66
Magazine Distribution (postage)	644.10
Identifying Austins Booklet Costs	0.00
Jack French Garage Project Costs	780.80
Subscriptions (ie FBHVC)	30.00
Room Hire for Meetings	146.00
Binders Costs	0.00
Insurance	2,365.59
Archive Costs	1,531.43
Archive Purchases	115.35
Digitisation of Archives Project	0.00
Website Cost	0.00
Officers Expenses	653.45
Production Changes Book	0.00
Index Booklet Costs	0.00
A7CA contribution to Jack French Garage project	0.00
Hiscox Rebated Payments	336.00
	<u>15,111.3</u>
<u>Total payments</u>	<u>8</u>

Balance Jun 2019 14,689.53

Analysis of Account balances at the end of June 2019

Lloyds: A7CA Funds	13,264.23
Lloyds: Jack French Garage project fund	425.30
2022 Accrual Fund	<u>1,000.00</u>
	<u>14,689.5</u>
	<u>3</u>

Payments Apr-June

Magazine Layout Brainstorm 2019B	360.00
Editor Expenses M Costigan	48.04
Meeting Room Dunchurch WI	50.00
Registrar Reimburse for Laptop	1.00

Chairman Expenses C Garner	142.14
Registrar Expenses R Brown	47.50
Archive Investment Preservation Eqpt	811.20
Archive Investment Preservation Eqpt	51.30
Registrar F Leigh Dropbox & Expenses	79.00
Archivist Dropbox & Expenses	94.00
Magazine Print Automedia 2019B	1,168.00
Archivist Postal Expenses H Barnes	7.37
Archive Purchase Reimb T Payne	49.82
Archive Safe Hold Storage	576.00
Post and Packing Automedia 2019B	132.12
Subs FBHVC	30.00

Appendix 3 – Summary of Fire Service College Facilities

AUSTIN 7 CENTENARY 2022

Fire Service College, Moreton-in-Marsh, GL56 0RH www.fireservicecollege.ac.uk

The site was originally the home station of 21 Operational Training Unit, Bomber Command responsible for the training of aircrew to fly Wellington bombers. The airbase remained operational until the late 1950s, then became a fire training centre.

The sports field will take 500+ cars easily (they have had 1000).

There is parking for 800 vehicles among 4 car parks (for moderns & trailers).

There are several under cover options for the autojumble and display of special cars: the Appliance Bay (like a large hangar) which houses their fire engines sounds the best; a sports hall/gym (with double fire doors for entry); the main mess building which has a large foyer.

Accommodation:

- 300 doubles (30 of which can be twins), all en suite £50+VAT / room.

- 100 singles, all en suite £47+VAT.

Plenty of space for camping & campervans (but no electric hook-ups).

The Dining room will seat 400 people.

Dinner & breakfast: £19+VAT per person.

Breakfast is £10+VAT per person.

Free use of sports complex facilities (including swimming pool) and free wi-fi.

It's a c.25 minute walk to the station for trains to London, Oxford (e.g for day trip).

1½ miles to the centre of Moreton-in-Marsh from the site.

Visits to the site during the week preferred (Sunday is possible by prior arrangement).

Each package fee is bespoke. The actual cost of parking space would be minimal (c.£2 per car if there was no other use of facilities).

For the BSA Owners' Club International Rally (10-17 August, 200-300 camping), the facility hire fee including showers in the sports complex, portaloos, etc is £8500 +VAT (mainly for the campsite) – NB it's a 7-day event so ours would be quite a bit less.

Arrival tea & coffee from urns/sachets unlimited: £250+VAT.

Rob Jones (BSAOC Membership Secretary) says they are holding an open day there on Sunday 11th August which we are most welcome to attend, as he thinks it will be the best way for us to see what the college has to offer. They did this with another club which helped them enormously.

They are being asked to provide accommodation for the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham 27 July – 7 August 2022, so our proposed dates of 15-17 July should be OK.

Journey times (not motorways) according to Google Maps:

Moreton Newark

Plymouth 3¾ 5½

London 2¼ 3¼

Bristol 1½ 3¾

Swansea <2½ 4

Oxford <1 2¾

Cambridge 2¼ 1½

Nottingham 1¾ <1

York 3¼ 2

Glasgow 5½ 4½

The BMW Club (motorcycle owners club) have been there 3 times; Jim Lepley (Treasurer) was very positive about it all; he & his wife were happy to come all the way from Fife. www.thebmwclub.org.uk/nationalrally.asp

Lotus 7 Club: 21/22 September. www.lotus7.club/whats-on/graham-nearn-memorial-blat21st-%E2%80%93-22nd-sept

Attractions nearby:

Towns:

- Moreton-in-Marsh
- Bourton-on-the-Water (Motor Museum, Model Village - 10 miles)
- Broadway
- Chipping Norton
- Chipping Campden
- Stratford-upon-Avon (18 miles)

Houses & Gardens, etc (within c.20 miles):

- British Motor Museum, Gaydon (23 miles)
- Chastleton House
- Compton Verney
- Batsford Aboretum
- Snowhill Manor
- Cotswold Farm Park (Adam Henson)
- Hidcote
- Charlecote Park
- Broughton Castle
- Chedworth Roman Villa
- Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway, Toddington

