



# THE AUSTIN SEVEN CLUBS' ASSOCIATION

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



## GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

### COMMITTEE MEETING

### HELD IN THE W.I. HALL

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

11am Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2020

#### **Present**

Chris Garner	Chairman; VAR
Nick Turley	Vice Chairman, PWA7C
Paul Lawrence	Secretary, Cambridge A7&VCC
Mike Costigan	Editor
Hugh Barnes	Archivist, Cambridge A7& VCC
Roger Brown	Registrar
Chris Heeley	Treasurer / PWA7C
Phil Baildon	Historian
Howard Annett	A7OC & Magazine Distribution
David Cochrane	Pram Hood Register
Charlie Plain-Jones	Jack French Garage / 750MC
Nick Beck	Scottish and Bristol Austin Sevens Clubs
Caroline Beck	Scottish and Bristol Austin Seven Clubs
David Charles	Norfolk & Cornwall A7 Clubs & A7 Special Register
Janet Edroff	750 MC
Andy Lowe	Midlands Austin 7 Club
Gill Davis	750 MC / Cambridge A7&VCC
Alan Billingham	On-Line A7 Club
Steve Clarke	On-Line A7 Club
Stewart Robinson	PWA7C
Harry Hales	South Wales Austin Seven Club
Peter Hales	South Wales Austin Seven Club
Stuart Phillips	South Wales Austin Seven Club
David Rock Evans	VAR
Arthur Davies	Midlands Austin 7 Club
Terry Bonner	Essex Austin 7 Club
Roy Goodrum	Essex Austin 7 Club
Richard Bohannan	Essex Austin 7 Club
Robin Taylor	Austin Big 7 Register

**Chairman:** Chris Garner  
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Tim Griffiths  
Liane Kate  
Ray Kate

On-line Austin Seven Clu  
Involving Young People Project  
Involving Young People Project

## **1. Apologies for Absence**

Ruairidh Dunford  
Adrian Payne  
Chris Blower  
Steve Hodgson  
Jeff Morgan  
Bob Garrett  
Paul Maulden  
Chris Charles  
Roger Price  
Brem Bremner- Smith  
John King  
David Aylemore

Advertising A7CA  
Webmaster  
Bongtree Austin 7 Club / Van Register  
Worthing Austin Seven Club  
Solent Austin Seven Club  
Hereford A7 Club  
Norfolk Austin 7 Club  
IT Consultant  
On- Line Austin Seven Club  
Midlands Austin Seven Club  
Dorset Austin 7 Club  
Devon A7 Club

## **2. Introductions**

Everybody introduced themselves to the meeting

## **3. Minutes of Last Meeting**

Minutes agreed as accurate.

Proposed by David Charles and seconded by Gill Davis

## **4. Matters Arising**

No Matters were arising

## **5. Officer Reports**

**Chairman – Chris Garner**

A Happy New Year to you all, and to all Austin Seven Club and Register members both here and across the world.

I would particularly like to mention our friends in Australia and trust they and their cars are safe from the devastating fires. Our thoughts are with you.

The latest 2020A Magazine has been produced by new printers, Automedia, having been sold to a new company – Jump, based in Hertfordshire but with production facilities in Sheffield and Loughborough. As I write they appear to have seamlessly handled the production of the Magazine with only a small increase in price and we look forward to continuing to work with them.

I am delighted we have started to look at the 2020 Celebrations with our first Planning Meeting last November at our proposed site, the Fire Service College, Moreton in Marsh. This was very successful with lots of ideas and suggestions leading us to formulate an outline for the event. The event will be big and we need the support of all member Clubs and volunteers. One hundred years is one off, can never be repeated and we look to you all to make it success.

This brings me to our proposed rewrite of the Motor for the Million. I have given this a lot thought and have come to the conclusion that it is not a viable proposition. Austin Seven book sales appear to be on the decline and the cost of a rewrite and holding of stock I believe cannot be born by the Association, especially in the light of our Celebration week. I am sorry to disappoint some people. A suggestion has been made that we produce a booklet for 2022 on Stanley Edge who was instrumental in assisting with the Seven's inception in 1922. Much has been written by and about Edge, mainly in several edition of our Magazine, but I believe a booklet would bring this altogether coupled with new information which has come to light in our Archives. I am sure this would be of considerable interest and pertinent to the event.

I am always heartened by the generosity of Seven people. Some years ago Bob Wyatt gifted the Association the copyright to his book and now Vince Leek, whom you will all know, has now offered us, as a gift, the copyright to his book "*Austin over the Andes*". Although the book is now out of print Vince is sounding our Clubs and people to see whether a reprint is viable. I'm sure it will be as it is a "good read". I would like to say – very many thanks Vince, most generous and we would like to accept.

Finally, may I wish all our members, Good Motoring in 2020.

*Comments – David Cochrane supported the view of not re-writing and publishing Motor for the Millions as he said that he does sell Austin Seven books, but they do not 'fly of the shelves'.*

**Secretary – Paul Lawrence**

The Austin Seven Clubs' Insurance for the coming year for full member clubs is in the process of being finalised and you will be sent the 'To whom it may concern' letter as soon as I have it.

We are still looking for volunteers to take over the role of Treasurer and Registrar. These posts are currently being held by Chris Heeley and Roger Brown respectively.

Looking ahead to the AGM which will be held on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020 at the Fire Service College, Moreton - in - Marsh, Gloucestershire we have three other posts up for appointment (Chairman, Vice Chairman & Advertising Manager). The Advertising Manager is currently held by Ruairidh Dunford who is happy to stand for another three-year term, unless there is anyone who would desperately like to take on the role. Chris Garner will stand down as Chairman and Nick Turley will step into this role. This leaves the post of Vice Chairman vacant.

To summarise the position, at the AGM in April we are looking for people to come forward to volunteer for the roles of Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Registrar. Please remember that the purpose of the new constitution is to get a good turn-over of Association Officers to keep things fresh and vibrant. Please do consider taking a role yourself or 'head-hunting' in your clubs to encourage others to come forward.

There are some interesting and exciting items on today's Agenda where we will be tackling some big issues. These include presentations by Tim Griffiths from the On-line Austin Seven Club on how they have made their club 'Carbon Neutral' and Liane Kate on her work to get young people involved with the Austin Seven.

Nest Week is the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs (FBHVC) 'Club Expo 2020' at Gaydon which me and Hugh Barnes will be attending on your behalf. There are some interesting topics to be discussed at the conference which include DVLA issues, Planning for the Future, Archiving and the Birth of Youth Groups. Their agenda at a national level is reflective of the conversations we are currently having within the Association so I feel reassured that, as an Association, we are concentrating our efforts in the right areas.

Please may I conclude by making a final plea for you to support the process of filling the Officer vacancies, either by volunteering yourself or helping to find suitable volunteers within the membership of your club.

**Comments** – No Comments

**Treasurer – Chris Heeley**

***Period January to December 2019***

The increases in magazine price and advertising rates have had a positive effect on the Association finances following a few years of steady decline. My thanks to Ruairidh for his organised and effective invoicing of advertising, which made my side of things easy to administrate.

The mobile banking ‘app’ which allows me to deposit cheques up to £500 has been a revelation and has cut down my trips into town hugely.

Cash in Current Account (Lloyds) at 31st December 2019 is £28,396.35.

Outstanding invoices total £390.86. Three clubs/registers have not paid their 2019 bill and one paid £20.86 short for some reason that remains unexplained.

Archive Costs shown are high, but include the costs incurred in producing repro enamel signs. We have banked deposits for these in 2019, but the remaining income will show in 2020. The other archive cost are made up of £3,360 for Lubenham, £576 for offsite safe storage of trophies etc and roughly £1,100 spent on archive boxes/folders/shelving.

The venue for the 2022 centenary celebrations is now set. We all therefore need to think about how this event will be funded.

Please can everyone make sure that any cheques are addressed to The Austin 7 Clubs Association. Lloyds will reject any payments that are not correctly addressed.

**The Accounts can be seen at Appendix 1**

**Comments** – The question of the deposit of £1500 for the Fire Service College to host the Centenary Rally was raised. David Cochrane confirmed that he had been chasing them for some time to send an invoice and he will continue to pursue this.

## **Advertising Manager – Ruairidh Dunford**

There is nothing to report since the last meeting

**Comments** – No Comments

## **Archivist – Hugh Barnes**

### **Acquisitions:**

A little to report from the last quarter.

I managed to buy a copy of ‘Whatever became of the Baby Austin’ by John Underwood, 1965. This is the only known book written specifically about the American Austins and Bantams. This is a new copy, the last few copies being sold by the family of the author in the US. I was able to limit postage costs by having it sent to my wife’s house in Minnesota and then brought it home when I visited at Christmas.

The Magneto drive to suit an Austin powered generator set donated by John Ward has been shot blasted and painted in primer (thanks to Phil Baildon). I would be pleased to hear from anyone who might have a copy of the handbook/parts list for the Generator. I would also be very interested to hear from anyone who knows of the whereabouts of the real thing.

We have had the very kind donation of 2 photographs of workshops in Longbridge showing manufacture of halfshafts and flywheels. My thanks go to Ian Moorcroft for these.

I have also recently purchased a series of 4 photos of an English registered American Bantam.

As a general comment about acquisitions, I have now instigated a formal record of items acquired by the Archive which has started from the 1st January this year. Something I’ve been meaning to put in place for a while.

Not quite an acquisition, but I am delighted to say that the Archive funding pot to the tune of £250. For one of the smaller Clubs in the Association, this is a remarkable donation to which go my grateful thanks.

Archive Web site:

Most recently there has been a new set of Handbooks, Parts lists and Handbooks digitised and added to the web site. This required some new processes to be put in place which have been documented.

Chris Charles, who still takes responsibility for the Archive Web site, and I spent a day together recently going through the outstanding items to publish. As the nature of items we are displaying change (eg, Photo albums and individual photos) the demands on the system, as built, change accordingly. One of the main additions we are dealing with at the moment is the ability to allow comments to be posted relating to an image. I'm hoping by the time this report is received, many more handbooks, parts lists and Brochures will have been added to the site.

### **Archive collection:**

I have been spending time at the Archive of late dealing with 2 main topics.

I have purchased more appropriate storage materials of Archive quality to store the Show Brochures. This gave me an opportunity to cross reference the collection against those published on the web site to ensure accuracy.

I spent a day just going through the contents of the Archive in general, getting a better understanding of what it comprises. This is detailed in a following section. It has given me a much better understanding of what work needs to be undertaken over the next year or so to improve the collection where possible.

### **Review of Archive contents:**

There follows an outline of what that review revealed.

There is a considerable collection of what might be called 'Ephemera'. This might be magazine articles, brochures and handbooks that are Austin 7 related but not published by the Austin Motor Company. In general, this collection will not be digitised apart from some specific items of interest.

**Oiling/lubrication Charts.** Again, not a collection to be digitised, save notable exceptions (eg, the earliest one etc) This is an area where the collection could/should be enhanced with a more 'aggressive' acquisition policy.

**Engineering Drawings.** Many of these are actually already digitised and published on A7CA.org (ie, not the Archive site) Those already digitised need to be rehomed on a new Archive collection page, with others found in a recent review that are yet to be digitised and added to the published collection. This is work in progress.

**Posters.** Many of you will be aware of the purchase we made a couple of years ago of some rather nice Austin publicity posters. These are digitised but are not yet published on the Archive web site. This is an area where again, the collection could be enhanced, but they are highly prized by collectors and a 'value for money' view needs to be considered.

**Press cuttings.** Currently, the collection of Press cutting binders we acquired from the VAR/Bob Wyatt a couple of years ago are kindly housed by Stuart Ulph, there not being room for them at Lubenham as things stand. The binders have been placed in 'Archive quality' Clamshell boxes and are stored on racking specially purchased for the job. There are no plans to any digitisation of these and they need a huge amount of review work to assess their contents. This should be considered a project in itself and would need the help of many people to get it completed in any decent time scale. I would like to recommend a small ex-gratia payment to the team that have dealt with this so they can all have a well deserved beer!

**The Bob Glenister collection** of cars that have passed through his hands. Bob was a some time dealer in Austin 7s and kept records of all cars he sold, I don't see this as part of the Archive per se and it would be nice to pass the files onto current owners of the cars. I am aware that Phil Baildon and Dave Martin have carried out a review of the contents.

**Stan Edge files.** We still have a couple of large boxes of Stan Edge materials. Chris Garner has kindly offered to review the contents and report back. This he did over the Christmas break, but the work is still awaiting review.

**2012 reproduction brochures.** These were printed for the Warwick rally but we have several hundred (not counted) left over. My suggestion is that we should use these as part of the Centenary event, perhaps adding the to goody bags for entrants.

**Handbooks and Parts Lists.** Now all digitised and published. We do still have some gaps in the collection and I would like to see these filled as part of an acquisition policy. I will publish a list of those items we would like to acquire. We also hold a few copies of the 'Charges for Work' booklets, similar to the Handbook/Parts lists. These are not seen as a priority to either digitise or increase the collection.

**A file of papers related to the saving of Lickey Grange c1989.** Not to be digitised but to be catalogued as a single item in the collection.

**Ray Morley collection.** A varied collection of such things as a photo album, an RAC Jubilee book (1897-1947) with photos of Austin 7 RAC vans etc. Not to be digitised but kept and catalogued as a single collection at this time.

**Science Museum Prototype.** A file of papers related to the Association aided restoration of the car.

**Publicity/Show Brochures.** These are now all rehoused in Archive Quality sleeves, digitised and published. Part of an ongoing acquisition policy to bolster the collection.

**David Morgan collection of ephemera.** Shortly before his death, David donated a collection of papers that he had accumulated to aid his research for his writings. To be kept and catalogued as a single collection at this time.

**The Gladys de Havilland collection.** This comprises of the photo album plus a couple of files of press cutting that relate to her journey. The latter are in a fragile state and will need conservation if they are to be made available for viewing/research.

**750 Motor Club magazines.** I think possibly a complete run of these. However, I do question the merit of these in the collection

**PWA7C Magazines.** I think possibly a complete run of these as well. Again, I do question the merits of these in the collection. I would value views on whether they should be kept or not from member Clubs.

**‘The Mechanician’** A large book awarded to Herbert Austin as 3rd prize in a completion in 1885.

**A collection of Austin 7 related books** (catalogued separately) not to be digitised

Other books – eg Gumdrop series etc

**A collection of Automobile Magazines, all with Austin 7 content.**

1980s DVLA correspondence on various individual car registration issues.

1982 Rally papers. William Lyons funeral details

Bryan Purves ‘Source Book’ Box of original research materials

A-Z of Specials. A file of papers donated by David and Chris Charles.

This may not be a complete inventory of the collection as I still have more work to do, but I have embarked upon this to inform myself better of the composition of the Archive and form plans for work over the next year.

### **Areas to improve:**

One area I think the Archive is particularly lacking in is good quality photos of historical importance and this is an area I would like to concentrate on over the next year or so. To that end, I have been in discussions with the LAT Archive regarding the possibility of using their images to bolster the Archive collection of period photos. 10 x 8 prints are likely to cost £10 each.

If anyone has any other ideas of materials the Archive should hold, I would be pleased to consider them.

### ***Comments***

The question was asked if purchase of pictures from the LAT Archive includes copywrite to publish on-line? Hugh confirmed that it did, but they insisted on giving a physical copy only so their copywrite can be written on the back of it.

A conversation took place about the fact that Stuart Ulph was storing the press releases in a storage facility that he rents and what was the long-term plan for them? It was agreed that in the long term we need to consider what to do with the press cuttings but in the meantime maybe a contribution could be made to Stuart towards the costs of storage. During conversation it was agreed that £100 a year seemed an appropriate amount. This was formally proposed by Gill Davis and David Charles simultaneously, seconded by David Cochrane and carried by the meeting. Hugh will write to Stuart to formalise this.

The question if insurance of the press cuttings was raised and it was believed there was little point in having them insured as they could not be replaced in any case.

The question was asked if there was a process in place for people to access the press cuttings if they wished to do some research. Hugh confirmed there was no process in place at the moment and access would have to be negotiated with Stuart Ulph on a case by case basis. Hugh said that the cuttings were difficult to use for that purpose as they have not been catalogued. At some point they need to be gone through to see what is relevant for the archive and what is not.

## **Editor – Mike Costigan**

The next issue (2020B) is complete and I have material for the magazine after that. This means I am not desperate for articles but always welcome them so I can keep the magazines interesting and balanced.

We have been approached by Amberley Publishing who want to print book on the Austin 7 for their new classic car series. I responded to their request and they tell me they have been trying to track down an author for a book on the Austin Seven for some time. The author would receive 8% of net receipts and 10 free copies of the book and would have a 50% author discount on any additional copies. The book would be between 8000 and 18000 words with between 70 and 200 illustrations. If anyone is interested they can contact Alexander Stilwell at Amberley Publishing, The Hill, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 4EP Tel 01453 847800.

### ***Comments***

**Howard Annett asked that if clubs change the number of magazines they require please could they let him know three weeks in advance of the next Association meeting. The ‘notify by dates’ for the next three magazines are listed below:**

**2020B - Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**2020C – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June**

**2020D – Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September**

Howard also said that he had two boxes of binders and if anybody wanted some they could contact him. They will be sold to clubs at £4 each so they can sell them on to their members at £5 each. He also has some Brakedown Registers available.

David Charles proposed a vote of thanks to Howard who has stored copies of the magazines on our behalf for many years.

## Registrar– Roger Brown

Updates and new entries from members, clubs and model registers have kept coming, well done and thank you. If you have a car not yet on the Register I would be pleased to hear, and add the car, amend or correct existing entries.

Chassis, car and body numbers are sometimes recorded in the wrong columns. When this is pointed out, or if I spot it myself, I now ‘correct’ it to improve quality of the record.

Submissions 2019 Apr – Dec (2018 whole year)	
eform	email
166 (231)	140 (84)

It has been suggested that an extra column would be useful for details of a car, such as construction or history. To date I have not agreed, saying that careful use of existing model and comment fields should suffice. But on consideration I think that my use of the ‘comments and notes’ field for a record’s origin and changes can make it hard to find comments about the car. Therefore, I am considering adding a column for the history of the record as distinct from details of the car. I think I can move record history details in the existing ‘comments and notes’ field to a new ‘record history’ field and make it easier to follow. I’d welcome feedback on this proposal.

A7CA all marques Register 2019 (2018)			
	all	new	change
<b>Apr</b>	10 (16)	5 (08)	5 (08)
<b>May</b>	(12)	(05)	(07)
<b>Jun</b>	(11)	(06)	(05)
<b>Jul</b>	86 (27)	34 (12)	52 (15)
<b>Aug</b>	71 (20)	16 (08)	55 (12)
<b>Sep</b>	26 (24)	21 (09)	5 (15)
<b>Oct</b>	12 (10)	6 (08)	6 (02)
<b>Nov</b>	31 (17)	23 (11)	7 (07)
<b>Dec</b>	14 (11)	6 (04)	8 (08)
<b>Jan</b>	(24)	(13)	(11)
<b>Feb</b>	(31)	(09)	(22)
<b>Mar</b>	(29)	(12)	(17)
<b>year</b>	248 (232)	134 (105)	114 (127)

For security reasons, the Register does not hold contact or location details. Club and model registers are recorded if the details are offered, and this is the only way owners might be contacted. Some owners do not want their cars included, so I don’t personally check every Austin 7 that I come across.

I try to respond to submissions within a week, but not all result in a change to the Register. It is **your** data which I accept at face value unless there is an obvious problem, for example with the format of chassis or engine numbers. Also, your submission may suggest that a vehicle no longer exists, and it is a register of **surviving** cars. Sometimes I am right, sometimes wrong. Accuracy is my aim and no offence is intended when I seek clarification.

Register entries, especially new entries, often omit club or model register details. If the A7CA record of your car has no club or model register information, it would be helpful to add it. I also ask club and model registrars to check their records against the Association Register, appropriately sorted spreadsheets are available to download. Please let me know what needs to be added or changed. I believe the information held by club and model registrars is the best

record since they should be in regular contact with their members. Maybe **Club Chairmen** can from time to time check that their end is working as intended? The on-line submission form makes it easy to submit a few records, but if there are a large number of please get in touch to agree a better way. And whilst on the subject of clubs, I've seen a few clubs' websites which contain reference to the number of surviving cars. Most are now wrong (even ours) and ought to be revised – **Webmasters** please note.

The list of associate clubs and clubs recognised by the Association has not changed during my term in office. I am occasionally aware of other clubs to which owners belong. When they appear operate as a club - ie. formal membership, meetings, events, publications etc. I want to add them to the Club Record Number list so they can be referenced like clubs already on the list. Maybe they could also be approached and sold the benefits of joining the Association. More members should be good for everyone.

*Comments* – No Comments

### **Webmaster- Adrian Payne**

There is not much to report this time. The Website has been running smoothly and the new page with instructions on how to contact a current car owner seems to have done the trick. I have only received 2 enquiries for this information tis quarter.

I still wish I had more events I could post on social media to encourage fresh blood.

*Comments* – No Comments

## **6. Process for Appointment of New President**

Paul reminded people that at the last meeting the question of appointing a new Association President had been discussed. It had been agreed that all full member clubs would be contacted and asked two questions:

1. Should the Role be filled?
2. If so, who would you like to nominate?

Paul had received 13 response although there was no overwhelming sense of agreement. Some clubs felt that the role should not be filled, whilst others felt it should be (although many of those were unable to suggest a candidate). In the absence of the 'Austin Sevens Legends' that had previously occupied the role, it was clear that there were several differing opinions as to what a 'suitable person' might be. Some clubs felt it should be someone from the Austin Seven fraternity whilst others felt a person of celebrity status should be sought (names suggested included Rowan Atkinson, Fuzz Townsend, Mike Brewer and Ant Anstead).

Paul explained that in view of the above it was felt by the Officer group that appointing the 'wrong' person would be more harmful and divisive than not appointing at all, and therefore at this time, there would be no moves made to appoint a new President. This motion was proposed by David Charles, seconded by Gill Davis and agreed by the meeting.

A conversation then took place about looking for Ambassadors for the movement, as opposed to a President. These could be people of celebrity status with an interest in classic cars and with the motivational skills to stir the interest of others. This may well be something we could look at for the 2020 Centenary. It would be important for both Ambassadors or a future President to have a defined role and clearly set out what it is we would want them to do.

## **7. Making Your Club Carbon Neutral**

Tim Griffiths from the On-Line Austin 7 Club gave a presentation on how his club is probably the first car club to become carbon neutral. Tim explained that the idea had been formed when he and his wife went on a trip around the world and calculated the carbon footprint of their trip. They covered 43,157 miles which produced 21.65 Tonnes of Carbon Dioxide. They decided they would like to offset the carbon footprint of their trip which required the planting of 48 trees.

In the UK it costs £15 to have a tree planted by the Forestry Commission and £30 if you plant it yourself (strangely, planting it yourself costs more!). However, planting trees in other parts of the world to offset your carbon footprint is much cheaper. In Madagascar, where Tim decided to have his trees planted by The Eden Project, ([www.edenprojects.org](http://www.edenprojects.org)), it only costs 10 cents a tree. Madagascar has a population of 23 million people, many of whom live in extreme poverty. They burn a lot of trees there to make charcoal so planting trees there has an amazing effect on the environment and wildlife population.

Tim and his wife donated £100 to the Eden Project which resulted in 1000 trees being planted in Madagascar. In the UK this would only have paid for the planting of 6.7 trees.

The On-line Austin 7 Club have now decided to donate £100 each year to the Eden Project to offset the motoring activities of the club. This £100 donation will result in the planting of 1000 trees a year which is enough to offset 4 million miles of motor travel.

***Chris Garner asked clubs to discuss this with their committees with a view to considering doing something similar themselves. Feedback from clubs at the next Association meeting in April would be most welcome and it would be a good aim for the Austin Seven Clubs' Association to lead the way by becoming carbon neutral.***

### ***Comments***

The question was asked if you could specify which country where you would like to have the trees planted. Tim explained that you could have a choice between Nepal, Madagascar, Haiti, Indonesia, Mozambique and Kenya.

It was asked if it was the same Eden Project as the one in Cornwall and Tim explained that it was not.

It was asked if it mattered what type of tree was planted and Tim explained that the choice of tree is very important to have maximum effect. The Mangrove tree is a very popular tree for this purpose.

The question was asked how many trees would be required to offset the average household emissions per year and Tim said that it was about 48.

It was suggested that this was just a way of people clearing their consciences and they may be better to not take the flights in the first place. It was also suggested that really the major polluters around the world had to change to make a real difference. Tim explained that he believed it was better to have made the trip otherwise we wouldn't do anything and offsetting your carbon footprint was an appropriate response. He agreed that the polluters around the world had to make changes and planting trees in this way is not enough by itself to solve the problem and should be done in addition to other measures being taken globally.

The point that this initiative also gave employment locally in poverty stricken areas was also an additional benefit.

## 8. Getting Young People Involved – (Project Update) combined with

## 9. Agenda item 9, Launch of ‘Local’ Youth Involvement Toolkit for Clubs

Liane Kate, who has a background in journalism and media, introduced herself and explained how she has been doing work get young people involved in the Austin Seven. Liane explained how she and her partner Ray purchased a Ruby last year which really sparked an interest for her, not only in the car but also how it links to our heritage, history and culture. Liane embarked on a Master’s degree, writing a dissertation named ‘The People and the Austin 7 – Encouraging the next generation of classic car owners’. Following a Post she put on Austin Seven Friends she has ben introduced to many people from the Austin Seven fraternity to help with her research. Liane’s research has led her to talk to people as far afield as Australia, Canada, America and Germany and everyone is talking about the next generation. Liane has been working with Paul Lawrence to compile a toolkit fir clubs, giving them some practical advice on what clubs can do to encourage younger people to get involved. **Paul Lawrence introduced the toolkit which has been attached at Appendix 2.**

Chris Garner asked that club committees talk about the Toolkit with a view to implementing some of the recommendations. It would be good to hear back from clubs at the July meeting about how they have got on with the Toolkit

### *Comments*

A concern was raised about point 3 in the Toolkit as people may not be covered by their insurance to offer rides to people in their Austin Sevens. The consensus was that this would be fine with most insurance companies, and there were many examples where this is already done, for example the Sporting Bears. It was agreed that this point in the Toolkit would be amended to advise people that if they were in any doubt about their insurance cover, they should check with their own insurance provider.

The point was made that a really good way to encourage others is to get out in our cars and use them, so they are seen.

It was noted that the Austin Seven Friends Forum often had threads from people who had bought an Austin 7 but didn’t know anything about them, which is evidence that some new people are getting involved.

The point was made that when new people did show an interest, either on a forum or at a club we have a responsibility to encourage them.

It was noted that the Scottish National Rally was very much a family friendly event which was a great way to help safeguard the future.

It was pointed out that people can be put off by the maintenance. In the past people regularly worked on their cars on their driveway which helped spark an interest, but this happens less nowadays. It was therefore important to do more to highlight the availability of people that can help with the mechanical side of owning an Austin Seven. This 'fettlers list' could be compiled and put on the A7CA Website.

It was pointed out that the VAR had done some maintenance videos which were available to buy.

Some clubs, such as the Essex Austin 7 Club, hold workshops on Saturday mornings where people can come and see a job being tackled. The last one they did covered overhaul of the suspension.

Some club have taken their cars to schools to show children, often when they are doing a project on transport.

The question of seat belts was raised it was agreed that the lack of seatbelts is a safety concern for many and may put some people off.

## **10. Centenary Rally**

David Cochrane explained how there had been a successful initial planning meeting at the Fire Service College last November and there would be a follow up meeting of a smaller sub-group in February with Nick Akerman to pin down some of the detail on site. The AGM in April will be held at the Fire Service college (*after the meeting David negotiated this with the college at a cost of £300*), after which a second Centenary planning meeting would take place. David Re-iterated that the venue was very good indeed and that they have had a 'can do' attitude.

### ***Comments***

The question was asked if it would be open to the Public. David explained that they have a public 'Park Run' on the site every Saturday morning so they were used to managing public access, therefore it is very likely that public access can be arranged for the day of the rally.

A vehicle share scheme was discussed where people with more than one car could make a car available for other people to drive who hadn't been able to bring one, particularly over-seas visitors.

It was mentioned that the Austin Seven Owners Club would be organising a London to Brighton run in the Centenary year, 2020.

## **11. AOB**

**Jack French Garage** - Charlie Plain Jones explained that he had recently visited the Jack French Garage and despite some minor water ingress the building remained sound and the exhibits were unaffected. CCTCV has been installed in the building by the museum so the garage is now part of their overall security. An agreement in writing is being prepared between the museum and the Association. There is a nominal charge of £1 a year tent so the museum maintains the rights to the ground it stands on. This effectively prevents the Association claiming Squatters Rights. The contents of the museum however do belong to the Association. The museum had been down t two Directors but have now increased that number to nine and they are all engaged and talking about ideas for the future. An advert is being prepared to be given to the Editors of club magazines to encourage people to go and visit.

**Austin Sevens Back to the Track Event** – will be held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020 at the Curborough Sprint Circuit. A maximum of 40 cars are allowed to enter and 30 of those spaces have already been taken so make sure you book as soon as possible if you wish to attend.

**Ken Warren Trophy** - Chris Garner said that this trophy had been awarded to Stuart Ulph for his article on the Craigantlet Hill Climb.

**Ray Morley Trophy** - Chris Garner said that this trophy had been award to Charlie Plain-Jones for is work on the Jack French Garage coupled with his own Austin Seven Racing exploits.

**Chris Chubb** sadly passed away on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019

**PWA7C Calendars** are available from Stewart Robinson for £2 each

**Identifying Austin Sevens** (3<sup>RD</sup> Edition) booklet is now available from Graham Baldock. Phil Baildon also has some copies available

**Non-transferrable Registration Numbers** – Hugh Barnes clarified that the proposal he raised at the last meeting in relation to making registration numbers non transferrable was meant as an option for people to pursue and not intended to be mandatory for all number (*Since the meeting Hugh has spoken to the DVLA liaison at the FHBVC who has stated that the proposal was unlikely to be taken up by DVLA and would therefore not be pursued in any case*).

## **12. Date of Next Meeting (s)**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020 - Fire Service College (Note this is 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday to avoid Easter)**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2020 - Dunchurch**

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2020 - Dunchurch**

## **Appendix1**

### **Austin 7 Clubs' Association Financial Report 1 January to 31 December 2019**

	£
Balance 1 January 2019	17,485.71
<b><u>Receipts January-September 2019</u></b>	
Magazine Sales	26,669.37
Sale of back numbers	23.00

Subscriptions for 2018/9	350.00
Magazine Distribution Recharged to Clubs	515.77
Receipts Warwick DVD	46.67
Advertising	2,095.00
Interest Received	0.00
Receipts for Jack French Garage Project	0.00
Sale of Binders	40.00
Insurance Payouts	0.00
Archive Sales	2,004.50
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	1,617.00
<u>Total receipts</u>	<u>36,414.07</u>

**Payments January-December 2019**

Magazine Print and Layout Costs	11,974.78
Magazine Distribution (postage)	1,179.99
Production Changes Book	0.00
Index Booklet Costs	0.00
Subscriptions (ie FBHVC)	30.00
Jack French Garage Project Costs	780.80
Room Hire for Meetings	196.00
Binders Costs	0.00
Insurance	2,365.59
Archive Costs	7,489.02
Archive Purchases	169.47
Digitisation of Archives Project	0.00
Website Cost	59.99
Hiscox Rebated Payments	811.00
Officers Expenses	1,257.79
A7CA contribution to Jack French Garage project	0.00
<u>Total payments</u>	<u>26,314.43</u>

**Analysis of Account balances at the end of December 2019**

Lloyds: A7CA Funds	26,971.05
Lloyds: Jack French Garage project fund	425.30
2022 Accrual Fund	<u>1,000.00</u>
	<u>28,396.35</u>

**Payments Oct-Dec**

Automedia Invoice	132.12
Automedia Invoice	1,168.00
Bra--instorm 2019D	360.00
Purchase of Mannequin	30.00
Treasurer Expenses Stamps	14.64
Editor Expenses M Costigan	

	49.90
Archivist Expenses Barnes	85.92
Archive Cost - Presevation Eqpt files	231.25
Archive Room Rental TSSC	3,360.00
Chairman Expenses Garner	148.00
Enamel signs	2,322.00
Automedica Invoice	1,157.00
Archive Cost - Presevation Eqpt files	44.34

## Appendix 2

### Toolkit to Help A7 Clubs Engage with Younger People

1. Focus on generation in their 40s/50s who will have a direct link to family members who had an A7. Younger generations are less likely to engage as they have no memory of the A7 and will gravitate towards cars built in the 1960s and 1970s
2. Share articles and stories from your club magazines with editors of local papers, Parish Newsletters or community magazines. Human-interest stories about people's journeys and adventures in their A7 may motivate others to get involved (Consider tweaking the articles to include some of the points given in point 7 below).
3. Raise awareness of your Austin 7 club by attending local family friendly events in towns and villages, having posters inviting families to come along to meetings and have a ride in an A7 (*if you are in any doubt about your insurance cover then please enquire with your own Insurance provider*).
4. Consider a 'Bring a friend to a meeting' scheme, where members invite friends and neighbours who have already shown an interest in the A7 motorcar. Members who invite a friend could receive club vouchers for dinners out for example.
5. Consider gaining celebrity endorsement. You may have a celebrity living locally who you could give access to an A7 and encourage them to talk about it with the public
6. Encourage club members to set up a Twitter campaign. i.e. one already exists where people are encouraged to tweet to say when they have seen 'Burt' an Austin 7 Ruby. This fun activity raises the profile and may encourage younger people to get involved

7. Make use of digital platforms like facebook, Instagram & Twitter. Make posts fun and interesting and use the opportunity to engage people in a 'conversation' about:
- The pleasure of owning an A7 and the fun things your club has been doing
  - How being in a club can lead to family days out, holidays and friendships
  - How owning an A7 is not a requirement to joining a club and getting involved
  - How to join your club
  - Facts about cost of purchase, running, maintenance, accessibility of parts etc.
  - Promote other benefits i.e. no tax, cheap insurance.
  - Support available from forums, clubs, local experts and specialist firms
  - How good for the environment it is to own an existing car, rather than the carbon footprint that is created by building a brand new one.
  - The historical and cultural aspects of keeping the cars for future generations and being a guardian of our heritage

