

# AUSTIN 7 CLUBS' ASSOCIATION



## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT THE HERITAGE MOTOR CENTRE, GAYDON

AT 1100 HOURS ON SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2013

<b>Present</b>	Andy Lowe	Chairman; MA7C
	Chris Garner	Vice Chairman; PWA7C
	Bob Wyatt	President
	Phil Baildon	A7CA Archivist
	John Wyett	Treasurer; and NA7C
	Jim Blacklock	A7CA Registrar; Cambs A7 & VCC; Arrow Register
	Hazel Gore	Advertising and MA7C
	Howard Annett	Magazine Distribution and Back Issues
	Brem Bremner-Smith	MA7C
	Arthur Davies	MA7C
	Nick Beck	Bristol A7C and Scottish A7C
	David Charles	A7 Special Register
	David Cochrane	Pram Hood Register
	Gill Davis	750 MC; Cambridge A7 & VCC
	John Cox	Online A7C
	Chris Cox	Online A7C
	Steve Hodgson	Worthing A7C
	Stuart Phillips	SWA7C
	Pat Phillips	SWA7C
	John Williams	SWA7C
	Dave Orange	EA7C
	Les Morley	EA7C
	Andy Stoner	PWA7C
	Bob Prophet	Secretary; MA7C; PWA7C
<b>Apologies</b>	Robin Boyce	Editor
	Bernard Griffiths	Events and Projects Co-ordinator
	Ilke Cochrane	Website Co-ordinator
	Graham Baldock	Public Relations
	Ian Mason Smith	Dorset A7C
	Bernard Cowley	Dorset A7C
	Den Huke	Cornwall A7C
	Mike Ward	Hereford A7C
	Paul Maulden	NorfolkA7C
	Tony Hartnall	Bristol A7C
	Hayden Morgan	Retiring Secretary; SWA7C

### **Action**

#### **Welcome**

1. The Chairman welcomed the meeting and made particular reference to the President, Bob Wyatt. He then asked all present to introduce themselves.

#### **Awards**

2. Having covered apologies, the Chairman apologised for skipping ahead on the Agenda to the item under AOB – Awards. He did this because Andy Storer had been awarded the Ray Morley Trophy for entry of the Ulster in the Mille Miglia but was supposed to be working on the Rover BRM in the Heritage Motor Centre workshops. The Chairman presented him with the (wrong) trophy with the promise



## Chairman's Report

8. The Chairman told the AGM of an e-mail received from a German about a PD Tourer which he had bought from South Africa and which the German had asked the Chairman to date: the Chairman elicited from the assembled company that PD tourers were built from 1934. He then mentioned The Classic Car Show: it appeared that two separate organisations were vying with each other to organise the Show at the NEC.

## Secretary's Report

9. No report.

## Treasurer's Report

10. The Treasurer reported to the AGM that the receipts and payments statement for the year had been circulated and had been reviewed independently. He said that, in summary, this showed that the Association started the year with liquid funds of £44,282.82 held in the Association's Lloyds Bank current and Scottish Widows deposit accounts; funds at the end of the year amounted to £26,581.65. Overall, the liquid funds had reduced by £17,701.17 during the year because:

- the net cost to the Association for staging the Warwick 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in July 2012, accounts for which had been given out at the January meeting.
- the cost of sponsoring the "Speedy" at the Le Mans event.
- the purchase of a stock of repro brochures for resale from the archives.
- the production of the DVD of A7CA magazines and replacement of the stock of "Chummy" prints.
- the insurance costs have increased because of the new Directors' and Officers' liability insurance but this is offset by changing the main insurer from Zurich to Markel.

11. The Treasurer continued that, on the plus side, the policy of re-charging magazine distribution costs to Clubs when magazines are not collected at the quarterly meetings means that there is now no net distribution cost to A7CA. He noted that Advertising and Archive sales revenue were both very healthy and continued to make very worthwhile contributions to A7CA funds and that thanks were due to Hazel Gore and Phil Baildon. He told the AGM that Investment income was slightly above that of previous years but that interest rates had reduced from January 2013 and, in any event, inflation meant that our liquid funds had decreased in real terms. He had concluded that there was no need to increase subscriptions for full member or associate clubs and that there was no need to increase the cover price of the "Grey Mag" at the moment although he suggested that, if magazine printing costs were to increase, the situation might have to be reviewed.

12. The Treasurer ended by noting that 2012 had been a very busy year for him and he expressed his thanks to all those who had helped with his many requests for information during the year.

13. The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for running the accounts so well during a difficult year.

## Information

14. Magazine. The Chairman explained that Robin would continue until the end of 2013 to assist Ed Waugh with production of the Magazine.

15. Webmistress's Report. In the absence of Ilke Cochrane, Dave Cochrane read out her report as follows:

- Ilke thanked all who had sent information to keep the site up to date; this was especially vital when it came to contact details, both of Committee

Editor

<p>Members and of Member Clubs. The <i>Recent Changes</i> page showed that, over the past year, several Clubs and officers' details had been added, amended or deleted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the main changes/additions recently had been the re-vamped Chassis Register. Jim Blacklock's mammoth achievement was reported as being available for download in a series of comprehensive Excel spreadsheets: these were the new .xlsx files which not everyone could open but these would be replaced with .xls files which most would be able to open. Unfortunately, it was not possible to convert these into .pdf files. Also, the form for members to use to update the Association of their car's particulars had been overhauled extensively to suit the new Registrar.</li> <li>• Last year, it was decided to take out the longest possible lease on the domain name (ie a7ca.org) securing it until 2021. Hosting (ie our place on the Web) now included unlimited traffic which meant that people could download as many Parts Lists and Chassis Registers as they liked without the site going over its limit. There was a Fair Use Policy but we would be unlikely to breach that.</li> <li>• Ilke reported that the site attracted around 30 visitors a day: they were mostly from UK, Europe, Australia and New Zealand but also from far-flung parts of civilisation as USA, Canada, India, China, Argentina and Russia.</li> <li>• The 2012 Events Calendar had been downloaded many hundreds of times and, surprisingly, it was still being downloaded. It was suggested that, perhaps, it should be replaced with a 2013 edition.</li> <li>• Many visitors had the site bookmarked or knew its address by heart and many others came to the site via the various Members Clubs' sites. Interestingly, over the past month, 20 people had found the site via Wikipedia and well over 80 came via search engines (predominantly Google).</li> </ul>	<p>Webmistress/ Jim Blacklock</p>
<p>16. The Webmistress's Report asked members to continue to send changes or announcements to the Chairman or Secretary rather than direct to her; Ilke reminded the AGM that she did not decide what went on the site and that the Association's officers needed to know what was there.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>17. Ilke concluded her Report with a request that a new Webmaster/mistress be found because of her increasing commitments. She offered to keep an eye on the site until a replacement had been found but warned that changes could take a little longer. She offered, also, to help the incoming person during the transfer as much as possible.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>18. <u>Advertising</u>. Hazel Gore reported that advertising had proved quite beneficial having produced more than in 2012 (£1,875.25). She understood from Advertisers that sales had been reasonable and that Austin Seven enthusiasts had had good results in obtaining parts and technical help. Generally speaking, advertising (both Display and Classified) took up some 11/12 pages in the magazine. Display Advertisers were sent Proforma Invoices in October so that most advertising was booked and paid for beforehand - ie before the January magazine went to print. She reported that free advertising was offered to Clubs taking a ½ page for Display Adverts to promote their club activities. However, a Club would be obliged to pay £36.00 if it wished to take a whole page advertisement. Classified ads were free to Austin Seven Club members but Trade/Services pay 12p per word as noted in the magazine. She said that 2013 advertisements had come in fast and furious - with new advertisers. She reported that advertising between January and April 2013 had brought in £1,442.40 and she expressed her thanks to all Advertisers and Clubs.</p>	
<p><b>Archive</b></p> <p>19. Phil Baildon told the AGM of the following items acquired recently for the Archives:</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>An Enamel Dealership Sign</u>. A general sign from Carey &amp; Lambert of Southampton was offered first to Hazel for a Grey Mag advertisement and this led to it being agreed that A7CA buy it for £350. For certain reasons, it had been offered to a Solent member and we could hear in due course whose garage wall it adorned.</li> <li>• <u>Dealership List 1937</u>. One of these turned up at a recent auction and was bought for A7CA for £2 by Wayne Rushin of Midshire Sevens (the above dealership was listed, of course).</li> <li>• <u>Twincam Engine Drawing</u>. Almost a year after Dave Wilcox died, Jen had found and handed to the Association the scan made by Dave when PWA7C was given the drawing about 5 years ago prior to its conservation and sealing in foil (after which photographs picked up reflections). The original was to be found hanging in the PWA7C room at Lubenham. It was understood that the Australians had drawn and built a twincam engine since; a copy would be sent to the Spollen family who now owned "No 1".</li> <li>• <u>Ben Nevis Rally Programme</u>. Phil showed a copy of the ScA7C 1978 Rally programme signed "<i>To: Mrs J Stoneham, with Best Wishes from Geo F Simpson</i>". This had been donated very generously by Jean via friends, Mr &amp; Mrs Yarney of Eastleigh. Mr &amp; Mrs Stoneham had both worked for the AA in Edinburgh so presumably met George when arranging signage for the 1978 Rally. Mrs Stoneham would be sent a letter of thanks.</li> <li>• <u>Two Pictures, Essex</u>. Two small pictures, one of an early 1932 RN, GX 704, and the other of a late 1928 Fabric saloon, were found in a car boot sale by Alan Harris (the owner of three Austin 7s). They would be sent to the Editor and Alan Harris would be sent a letter of thanks.</li> <li>• <u>Gaydon- 4 Ledgers</u>. Phil suggested that the time had come to request scanned copies of these. They had been useful over the years to help restorers, historians etc. Two specific cars thus helped were the 1929 Coupé chassis number 80138 and the 1930 Ulster chassis number 107963 (or 8!). They would be useful to future researchers; Archivist Gillian Bardsley would be contacted.</li> <li>• <u>CDs of Grey Mags</u>. Phil reported that about 80 had been sold so far. An "omissions" list was in 2013B on p18 and would soon be on the A7CA website. Phil proposed that A7CA send a complimentary copy to the 18 Overseas Clubs with their 2013C Grey Mags as single overseas postage was outweighing the cost of the disc. He gave 18 copies to Howard to send.</li> <li>• <u>Postage</u>. Phil told the AGM that the new Post Office parcel rates had doubled the cost of sending a single small poster in a tube to £5.20, again outweighing the cost of the poster. He offered to produce a new advertisement for 2013C when he had weighed the larger poster, or he would acquire a courier price comparison to be looked at.</li> <li>• <u>Lottery</u>. A publicity sheet suggested the availability of grants worth £3-10K for "sharing heritage". An initial tickbox enquiry met a dead end and a request to speak to a human being likewise. Phil promised to pursue this.</li> <li>• <u>Specials</u>. Phil suggested that, to help David and Chris Charles' Register, the archivist's A-Z lever arch file and a personal file on Super Accessories be used to make the Specials poster; he handed them over for scanning and asked for their return at the July meeting at Lubenham.</li> <li>• <u>Wiring Diagram 1931 by AMCo</u>. This had been received from Robert Leigh.</li> <li>• <u>Assorted AMCo drawings</u>. This unlisted folder had been received from Andy Lowe.</li> <li>• <u>Oiling Charts</u>. Phil reported that A7CA had three: one was expected to come from Eddie Loader via Hereford Club in July at Lubenham and one was expected from Chris Garner via PWA7C. He believed that at least 19 different versions of these were in the hands of various members: he estimated that, by the missing numbers, there were probably about 30 - 40 issues. Future reprints would therefore be prohibitive to choose and only a</li> </ul>	<p>Archivist</p> <p>Archivist</p> <p>Archivist</p> <p>Archivist</p> <p>Howard Annett</p> <p>Archivist</p> <p>Archivist</p> <p>David and Chris Charles</p>
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selected few might be scanned and produced digitally as the old flatbed plates were almost history as was found with our three posters now on their final stock. He recommended that this be looked at again in 2014/5.

Archivist

**Association Register**

20. The Chairman thanked Jim Blacklock for the hard work he was doing with the Association Register. Jim began by proposing a change of the name of the Register from the A7CA Surviving Chassis Register to the A7CA Surviving Austin 7 Register (A7CA SA7R). This was agreed. He continued by reporting that he had completed a review of the Surviving Austin Seven Register as at 14<sup>th</sup> March 2013 - an arbitrary date; he then showed on the screen that the Register had changed in the following ways:

- It was now in an Excel spreadsheet format rather than .pdf format so as to allow it to be updated easily and viewed more flexibly.
- The Register now consisted of 11 spreadsheets which, in turn, contained 154 tables. The detail of this is contained in the e-mail which was circulated to the A7CA Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> March.
- The Register now contained three new columns – one for Previous Registration Numbers (in order to overcome the problem of duplicating cars in the Register), one for Austin 7 Registers (in order to separate them from Clubs) and another column to indicate in which country the Austin 7 was located.
- All 19 A7CA Member Clubs were notified and e-mailed copies of the new Register on 25<sup>th</sup> March; Jim then realised too late that he might have overloaded some club members' computers – for which he apologised.
- On 26<sup>th</sup> March, he contacted all of the 45 Overseas Associate Member Clubs, Registers and UK Associate Member Clubs with details of the new Register and asked whether or not their computer could cope with a file of 17,400KB. If so, he would e-mail the Register and, if not, he offered to post the register on a CD. Some responded by saying that they were able to cope with the file size, some responded by saying they could not and asked for the CD to be posted, and some did not bother to respond at all! Those who responded were dealt with as they wished.
- Jim continued by reporting that he had received a response from Ralph Drage, the President of the Austin 7 Club of South Australia, who asked him to send the file to him via Dropbox, which Tim Griffiths talked about at the January Meeting. After some trial and error, he did so and it worked well so that he was able to replace the CD with the Dropbox option in some cases. He offered his thanks to Tim for introducing this means of sharing information and data.
- Of the 63 clubs/registers contacted, 38 had responded or acknowledged receipt and, of those, six had already returned their updated register – 25 clubs/registers had not responded or acknowledged receipt of the Surviving Austin 7 Register.
- A number of Clubs responded that some of their members did not bother to update their Austin 7 details when renewing their membership or were reluctant to divulge the details for whatever reason. To try to rectify this, Jim had circulated an article for inclusion in Club newsletters, explaining the importance of the A7CA Surviving Austin 7 Register and the importance of keeping it up to date in the hope that this would help to resolve the problem.

All

All

Club Secretaries/  
Newsletter Editors

21. Jim reported that Ilke had put the new Surviving Austin 7 Register on the A7CA Website on 13<sup>th</sup> April and that it was available for use. He had, also, altered the A7CA Website Register Notification Form to reflect the new Register and its layout. Ilke had updated this on 13<sup>th</sup> April. However, David Cochrane reported that Ilke had received a number of complaints that the new Register was not available to all viewers: this was because it was in the newer .xlsx format: Jim Blacklock promised to re-submit it in the older .xls format.

<p>22. Jim reported that Phil Baildon, the A7CA Archivist, had updated the Information Sheet "Always Quote this Number" which was also available on the A7CA Website in the Registrar's section.</p>	Archivist
<p>23. He then asked whether or not anyone knew who was looking after the Rosengart Register as he had failed to get any response.</p>	All
<p><b>Support</b></p>	
<p>24. Howard Annett reported that he had some high-visibility jackets and some 6 Volt batteries (at £65 each).</p>	
<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p>	
<p>25. <u>Free Bulletins and Books</u>. The Vice Chairman said that he had Bulletins and some books to give away to the first comer; he said that Geoff Roe's autobiography on Bert Hadley was delayed and would possibly be launched at the time of the NEC Classic Car Show in November. He said that PWA7C had secured funding of £2000 from the Michael Sedgewick Memorial Trust towards the book. He then said that an original Garage Chart was being passed to the Association archives as a result of a donation to the PWA7C.</p>	PWA7C/ Archivist
<p>26. <u>The Grey Mag</u>. Robin said that some Overseas Clubs had asked for a digital version of the Grey Mag. The Chairman responded that A7CA made a small amount of money from sales of the Grey Mag. Some discussion followed including the possibility of loading the Grey Mag onto the website and charging for its download; the Chairman asked Clubs to consider the question and report back.</p>	All
<p>27. <u>Public Liability Insurance</u>. Alan and Lorna Martin (VAR) noted that the Beds and Herts Vintage and Classic Car Club's name did not appear on the Policy document: the Chairman said that he had traced it back to their not having been a full member since January 2009; he asked them to look into when this might have changed. Clubs were asked to take a copy of the covering letter to go with the previously issued insurance. It was not proposed to send out the full schedule as it was 57 pages long and too bulky to post.</p>	Beds & Herts
<p>28. <u>A7CA Events Calendar</u>. The 2013 Events Calendar had been updated and the extra events had been included with the latest Grey Mag.</p>	All
<p>29. <u>Stolen Cars Update</u>. Howard Annett briefed on stolen cars. The Chairman told the AGM that he had received an e-mail from Peter Hennell giving details of a Tracker system costing £99 in which members might be interested. Jim Blacklock suggested that Insurance Companies might be persuaded to offer a reduction if a Tracker device was fitted. The Chairman questioned whether or not the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Club was covered under the Association scheme and was told by John Wyett that only Member Clubs were covered: the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Club was an Associate Member. Howard Annett then explained his involvement with Brokers and Insurance Companies and explained that the Austin 10 Drivers' Club was a member as it was the only other Pre-War Austin Club.</p>	
<p>30. <u>RH Insurance Article</u>. Hazel Gore explained that RH Insurance had written an article for the next Grey Mag in which they said, amongst other things, that they do not charge for adding or deleting a driver from their Policy.</p>	
<p>31. <u>Limited Liability</u>. The Chairman noted that a number of Clubs were Limited Clubs and wondered whether or not it would be a good idea for all Clubs to be of the same status. The Treasurer reminded the AGM that he had mentioned this at the last AGM and that many Clubs had felt that such a move would be difficult: he suggested that a tame lawyer be asked to investigate the pros and cons. The Bristol offered to ask Eric King, a retired Solicitor) to look into it.</p>	Bristol A7C
<p>32. <u>Production of Minutes</u>. The Vice Chairman asked that the Minutes be produced within "a reasonable time". The Chairman said that it was part of the</p>	

<p>Secretary's job specification. The Secretary said that he would do his best.</p> <p>33. Gill Davis mentioned that three Austin 7s were following the Coleman trail from Buenos Aires to New York and gave details of a two excellent websites, <a href="http://www.austinsinamerica.co.uk">www.austinsinamerica.co.uk</a> and <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5bV7EcaY">www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5bV7EcaY</a> for those who wished to follow their progress [<u>Secretary's Note</u>. Well worth looking at!]</p>	<p>Secretary</p>
<p>34. There was a short discussion of experiences of taxing cars on line.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p><b>Date of Next Annual General Meeting</b></p>	
<p>35. The next Annual General Meeting will be held at 1100 hrs on a date and at a location to be decided in April 2014.</p>	<p>Chairman/ Secretary</p>
<p>36. The next Committee Meeting will be held at 1100 hrs on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2013 at the Austin 7 Clubs' Association Archives at Lubenham.</p>	
<p>37. There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 1330 hours.</p>	<p>All</p>