



AUSTIN 7 CLUBS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD AT THE HERITAGE MOTOR CENTRE, GAYDON

AT 1100 HOURS ON SUNDAY 20th JULY 2014

Present	Phil Baidon	Archivist A7CA; Acting Chairman
	John Wyett	Treasurer A7CA; NA7C
	Howard Annett	Magazine Distribution and Back Issues; A7OC
	Graham Baldock	Public Relations A7CA; EA7C; HA7C
	Jim Blacklock	Registrar A7CA; Cambridge A7 & VCC; Arrow Register
	Hazel Gore	Advertising and MA7C
	Charlie Plain-Jones	PWA7C
	Gill Davis	750 MC; Cambridge A7 & VCC
	Tim Griffiths	Online A7C
	Harry Hales	SWA7C
	John Williams	SWA7C
	David Cochrane	Pram Hood Register
	Graham Smith	Solent A7C
	Steve Hodgson	Worthing Gp
	Bob Prophet	Secretary A7CA; MA7C; PWA7C
Apologies	Andy Lowe	Chairman A7CA; MA7C
	Chris Garner	Vice Chairman A7CA; PWA7C
	Bernard Griffiths	Events & Projects Co-ordinator A7CA
	Chris Charles	Website Co-ordinator A7CA
	David Charles	Special Register
	Ian Mason Smith	Dorset A7C
	Nick Beck	ScA7C
	David Lodge	ScA7C
	Ed Waugh	Editor The Grey Mag; PWA7C
	Chris Dickinson	Registrar PWA7C
	Brem Bremner-Smith	MA7C
	Arthur Davies	MA7C
	Mike Ward	Hereford A7C
	Gordon Phillips	A7CA Breakdown Scheme
	Ruairidh Dunford	Gordon England Register
	Mike Tebbett	Mulliner Register
	Lorna Mountford	Swallow Register

<p>Welcome</p> <p>1. The Acting Chairman explained that both the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman were unable to attend the meeting and had sent their apologies. He welcomed the meeting to The Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, and invited all present to identify themselves.</p> <p>Minutes of the previous Meeting</p> <p>2. The Minutes of the previous Meeting, held on 12th January 2014, having been previously circulated, were deemed to be a true record of proceedings, were proposed by Gill Davis, seconded by Graham Baldock and were duly signed.</p> <p>Matters Arising</p> <p>3. Graham Baldock asked whether or not the item on connections with Auction Houses had been communicated to Hereford A7C: the Secretary replied that, if nothing else, they had received a copy of the Minutes.</p> <p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>4. The Acting Chairman read out the following report from the Chairman:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He recommended checking that the air conditioning was not making too much noise as, last time, the background noise had made it difficult for some to hear what was being said: he suggested speaking up. • He reported that, so far, nobody had volunteered to take over the post of Treasurer: he asked that this be brought to members' attention [<u>Secretary's Note</u>. A volunteer has stepped forward since the Meeting]. • He reported that he had given the Ken Warren trophy to Hazel to be passed on to Geoff Roe; he had managed to get the trophy collected by Mark Powley to whom he was grateful for posting it on to him. He reported that Beatrice had been back in hospital with continuing problems with her leg but that she was back at home at present. • He said that John Barlow was at the 750 Beaulieu gathering with many of the "old faces". • He reminded the committee that Derek Sheldon had taken over as the Rosengart Registrar. He expressed his thanks to John Small, the previous incumbent. • He recounted the tale of an SWA7C member who had suffered an accident in his Ruby as a result of which the car had been written off; he had received a payout which would not cover the cost of rebuilding the car. The Chairman said that a number of underlying facts had still to be established but it needed mentioning that members were able to agree a value on his/her car with the A7CA insurers, RH. However, it was most unlikely that even that would cover the cost of having an A7 totally rebuilt by a professional restorer at today's charges. He suggested that owning an A7 was still going to be a "labour of love". • He noted that there had been some discussion on marking cars on the register if they were not roadworthy or if they were unsafe. He opined that this could open up a whole can of worms and was not the job of the register which is to 	<p>All Clubs</p> <p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>All</p>
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<p>record cars which survived in any state - only a chassis, perhaps or a pile of bits but, one day... The car in question had been slightly dubious anyway, so maybe it was good that nothing was added until the facts were established.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finally, he reminded the meeting that Charlie Plain-Jones was coming to talk about the garage which had stalled at Avonscroft who are introducing a number of conditions to which A7CA couldn't agree. 	All
<p>Secretary's Report</p>	
<p>5. The Secretary had nothing to report.</p>	
<p>Treasurer's Report</p>	
<p>6. The Treasurer explained that the account held some £37,098 plus some from Charlie Plain-Jones which brought the total to £38,004. He then explained the payments made since the last meeting and said that Lloyds Bank – for reasons unknown – had cancelled the A7CA cheques and that a couple of cheques had bounced as a result; no harm had been done and he had sorted it out. He emphasised that he would stand down at the 2015 AGM having been Treasurer for some 5 years. He reminded all that a volunteer Treasurer was sought [<u>Secretary's Note</u>. A volunteer has stepped forward since the Meeting].</p>	All Clubs
<p>Information</p>	
<p>7. <u>Magazine</u>. The Acting Chairman reminded the meeting that the Editor was unable to attend so the Secretary read out his report:</p>	
<p>Ed Waugh regretted his absence but distance precluded his making every meeting. He intended to attend two meetings a year - October and April. He expressed his willingness to chat about matters by e-mail, phone or even Skype. He noted that the 2014C issue contained two obituaries and, having mentioned this at the last meeting, he had been fortunate to receive two nice appreciations for the magazine. He said that he had been let down at the eleventh hour by the failure of an article to arrive but that, thankfully, another one had landed in his inbox at the right time. He asked for more articles especially if they were not date sensitive.</p>	All
<p>He then made a plea to ALL Clubs to send him a copy (hardcopy preferred) of their newsletter: a few Clubs are still not doing so. Finally, he asked for snippets which were always useful for filling corners of The Grey Mag.</p>	All Clubs
<p>8. <u>Website</u>. The Acting Chairman reminded the meeting that the Webmaster was unable to attend so the Secretary read out his report:</p>	
<p>Chris reported that there hadn't been many updates to the website over the past 3 months; Graham Baldock's updated Posters had gone online and a few contact details had been updated. The Chassis Register continued to be updated with Jim Blacklock.</p>	
<p>The renewal of the hosting was completed in June with an increase in the amount of disk space as the Association was on the limit: this had cost £29.99 for the year ending June 2015.</p>	

<p>Chris reported that he had been working on building an Online Chassis Register into the website; this would take the form of a page on which a Registration Number or Chassis Number could be entered: the system would look up the details and display them on one page. He hoped that this would reduce the time taken to check whether or not a car was present on the register and also reduce any issues people had with opening the Excel files. He promised to report further when it was online for the committee to test before putting it live to the public domain [<u>Secretary's Note</u>. This has now been completed and trials have proved successful: it should go public very soon].</p>	All
<p>He went on to report that first initial stages were underway with a website suitable for iPhones and iPads about which Graham Baldock would speak in due course.</p>	
<p>Finally, Chris asked that any errors on the web-site, especially with contact details and club meeting locations, be notified to himself and to the Secretary to ensure that all these details were kept up to date. He asked that any other inputs to the site be sent to him as completed items ready for posting onto the web site.</p>	All
<p>9. Graham Baldock reported that he had discovered that an app can be created for nothing and that he was working with Chris to do so. He believed that an app for the breakdown register would be useful.</p>	
<p>10. Jim Blacklock said that he understood that Chris had had to buy some software and suggested that Chris should be encouraged to claim a refund for it. This was agreed.</p>	Chris
<p>11. Discussion followed about putting The Grey Mag on the Website and it was agreed that Tim Griffiths and Chris would discuss the merits and technicalities of using a dropbox. Tim then said that spare copies of the Warwick DVD would be sent to Clubs free of charge.</p>	Tim Griffiths/ Chris
<p>12. <u>Advertising</u>. Hazel Gore reported that Advertising was going well but that Ed Waugh believed that The Grey Mag had too many advertisements. She reported that Ed was not happy with the Longstone advertisement: after some discussion, it was accepted for 2014. Hazel reported that advertising revenue for April – July 2014 had been £322 with the total for the year to date standing at £1064. Graham Baldock asked whether or not the members' free advertisements could be in larger print. David Cochrane suggested restricting the number of full page advertisements, pointing out that advertisements cost paper and space at the expense of articles on Austin 7s. A number of attendees commented on a number of errors and the apparent lack of proof-reading. It was noted that Ed's father was the proof-reader and that he had not been well recently. Graham Baldock volunteered to speak to Ed and offer his services.</p>	Ed Hazel/Ed Graham
<p>Archivist</p> <p>13. Phil Baidon mentioned that he had been approached by Townsweb Archiving who had quoted some £20k+ to digitise the Archives. After very little discussion,</p>	

<p>the Committee rejected the idea. Phil then showed an old photograph of an Austin 7 on the Fosse Way near Helford: this same car had been used for Austin handbooks and literature and he intended to recreate the photograph. He then reported that Dave Martin was working through the cards with the intention of issuing a new booklet of changes with relevant photographs: he proposed that this be given free to members next year but David Cochrane believed that members would be prepared to pay for it. Phil agreed to look into production costs. He told the Committee that a lady in Colchester had offered him a '31 Nicholson which she had found in a suitcase: he had accepted it gracefully and arranged for the Essex A7C to collect it in due course. He asked that the Committee agree to pay the donor £15 - £20 in exchange: this was agreed and Phil said that a copy would be available from the Archives in due course.</p>	<p>Phil Phil Phil Phil</p>
<p>14. Graham Baldock reminded the Committee that he was working on converting his A3 poster into a booklet with much more detail: it was due to be ready by the end of 2014. The Committee gave Graham their full approval and support.</p>	<p>Graham</p>
<p>15. Phil told the Committee that Bob Wyett would bring some Austin weekly despatches to the October meeting.</p>	
<p>Association Register</p>	
<p>16. Jim Blacklock told the meeting that the number of known cars of the different models totalled 11,357 worldwide.</p>	
<p>17. Jim went on to explain the e-mail which he had received from Brem Bremner-Smith about including notes in the Register about the condition of each vehicle; this had been precipitated by the sale by a dealer of a car to an individual who had subsequently discovered it to be unroadworthy. The dealer had taken the car back and all were happy. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Register was <u>not</u> the place to note the condition of any vehicle. He then mentioned the article in Practical Classics which claimed that a car could be dated by DVLA only if factory records were available. It was pointed out that factory records for Austin 7 do not exist and David Cochrane made the point that this stipulation referred to post-war cars only.</p>	
<p>18. Jim then asked how insurance was affected by the exemption from an MoT certificate. It was pointed out that it was still the responsibility of the owner/driver to ensure that the vehicle was roadworthy regardless of a current MoT certificate: if it was, the insurance was valid.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>19. Jim then announced that he intended to stand down as A7CA Registrar at the next AGM after some eighteen months in the post. The Acting Chairman thanked him for his hard work in keeping the Register going and improving it. He asked all Clubs to trawl their members for a suitable volunteer to take over.</p>	<p>All Clubs</p>
<p>Support</p>	
<p>20. <u>Spares and Suppliers</u>. Howard Annett mentioned a new front shock absorber mount which tended to break because it was not built to the original Austin specification (ie it was 4mm rather than 5mm steel). He advised all members to reject any new parts of the incorrect specification.</p>	<p>All</p>

<p>21. Gill Davis reported on a 750 Club run and visit to the Seven Workshop in North Walsham: they had been very friendly and she believed that their business was doing well.</p>	
<p>22. Graham said that he had put a note on the website asking all members to verify their car details on the A7CA Register on the A7CA website.</p>	All
<p>Any Other Business</p>	
<p>23. <u>Jack French's Garage</u>. Charlie Plain-Jones outlined the present situation. The garage had been dismantled, had been restored professionally using old materials and was now stored under cover and protected from the elements in Nick Allen's barn. He explained that the Trustees of Avoncroft Museum of Old Buildings had insisted that, if the garage was to be installed there, a sum of some £10k accompany it. He had discussed this with Andy Lowe who said that this was unacceptable and that A7CA should look elsewhere. He, Charlie Plain-Jones, however, believed that Avoncroft was the right place because of its proximity to Longbridge and Lickey Grange. The Avoncroft Trustees had insisted that someone should "own" the garage and that A7CA should accept this. He suggested, also, that the contents of the garage could be donated but should remain the property of A7CA: this was unacceptable to the Avoncroft Trustees. He proposed a screen in front of the chassis so that it could be used as a race game. He then unveiled a model of the garage. He said that Avoncroft were aware of the garage but not of the proposed contents which they would be unable to service and maintain. Much discussion followed about possible sites including Heritage Motor Centre at Gaydon. It was agreed that both Avoncroft and Gaydon attracted many schoolchildren which could only be to our advantage. Finally, Hazel Gore proposed that the Committee investigate the possibility of siting the garage at Gaydon where an indoor site would preclude much future maintenance. John Wyett suggested establishing a Jack French Charitable Trust and putting the garage into it. Tim Griffiths suggested setting up a TIO. This was agreed and Charlie Plain-Jones was asked to investigate all of these possibilities and report back in due course.</p>	Charlie Plain-Jones
<p>24. <u>Change of Insurer</u>. Howard Annett questioned why A7CA had changed to Routen Chaplin from Aston Scott for insurance as used by FBHVC. It was explained that the cover had been deemed as good and cheaper. He mentioned that his Club was planning a London to Brighton Run for Austins on Sunday 19th April 2015: he said that Bob Cross had contacted Routen Chaplin who had confirmed that the A7CA policy covered this event for Public Liability.</p>	All
<p>25. <u>Insurance Adviser</u>. The Acting Chairman then noted that nobody had yet volunteered to be the A7CA Insurance Adviser. He asked that all Clubs continue to trawl their membership.</p>	All
<p>26. <u>Motor Insurance</u>. Gill Davis noted that whilst modern cars, trailers and Classics could be covered by RH motor policies, it seemed that breakdown cover did not include a trailer and a classic car on it which was deemed to be in transit. It was suggested that those who were concerned about this contact Emma Airey at RH.</p>	All
<p>27. <u>Theft Register</u>. Gill suggested that a theft register be established. The Secretary replied that this had been agreed last year but that nobody had notified him of any</p>	

