



THE AUSTIN SEVEN CLUBS' ASSOCIATION



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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD IN THE MEETING ROOM

THE GREEN MAN PH, 14 DAVENTRY Rd. DUNCHURH CV22 6NS

11 AM, SUNDAY 9th APRIL 2017

Present	Andy Lowe	Chairman; MA7C
	Bob Wyatt	President
	Chris Garner	Vice Chairman; PWA7C
	Howard Annett	Grey Mag Distribution and Back Issues; A7OC
	Phil Baildon	A7CA Archivist
	Alan Billington	OA7C
	Nick Beck	Bristol A7C and Scottish A7C
	David Charles	Cornwall A7C; A7 Special Register; Norfolk A7C
	Roger Brown	A7CA Registrar; A7OC; 750 MC
	David Cochrane	Pram Hood Register 1922 - 26
	Chris Heeley	Treasurer A7CA; PWA7C
	Ruairidh Dunford	Gordon England Register (Skype)
	Janet Edroff	750 MC
	Arthur Davies	MA7C
	Gill Davis	750 MC; Cambridge A7 & VCC
	Dave Martin	PWA7C
	Ian Mason-Smith	Dorset A7C
	Charlie Plain-Jones	PWA7C and Jack French Garage Project
	Steve Hodgson	Worthing A7C
	Dave Orange	EA7C
	Hugh Barnes	Secretary, Cambridge A7 & VCC
	John Williams	South Wales A7C
	Harry Hales	South Wales A7C
	Stuart Phillip	South Eales A7C
	Gerald Mullord	PWA7C
	John Ward	
	Paul Lawrence	Cambridge A7 & VCC
	Richard Bohannan	EA7C

1. Apologies

Graham Baldock
Hazel Gore

Advertising and MA7C

Chris Charles
Ed Waugh
Bernard Griffiths
Brem Bremner-Smith
Angie Smith
Peter Winney
Robin Taylor
Michael Ward
David Aylmore
Jim Blacklock

Webmaster A7CA
Editor the Grey Mag; PWA7C

MA7C
Solent A7C
ATDC
Big 7 Register
Hereford A7C
Devon A7C
Arrow Register

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Chairman asked for comments on the Minutes of the previous AGM held on Sunday 10th April 2016: the Minutes were accepted by all as a true record of proceedings, were proposed by Gill Davis, seconded by Ian Mason-Smith and were duly signed.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Officer Reports

a. Chairman

The Chairman gave a brief resume of his year during 2016. He had attended event starting with the Donington Classic meeting. Then he'd entered an event at Laon in France, where they celebrated the "World of Austin" They had 1025 entries which they sent half clockwise round a road route and the other half the other way, and they all met in a small village. They fed everyone, turned out the town band and Marie. The also gave out guides to the village's brick and cob houses. Wonderfully French organisation.

Next he when to the Bristol rally where it rained he seemed to remember. Then the 750MC Beaulieu Rally where the sun shone and there was a good turn out of cars and A7 stalls. He was pleased to the Association returned to the Dun Cow for its meeting; a return to its old home. The Scottish rally was enjoyed together with their usual hospitality. A visit to VSCC Prescott produced a variety of competing 7's

The Archive open day was a first, and enjoyed by a range of visitors and the success has encouraged another open day. The NEC Classic Car Show featured the MA7C & PWA7C and continues to bring the A7 world to the greater public.

The flood and the aftermath brought improvements to Archive and digitalization and resulted in a much improved website. There is much of interest to see; latterly the Indexes of the Grey mag have been added, thanks to Ron Hayhurst and one of his regrets was not getting the Grey mags on website. But he felt they would appear in the future.

He then gave thanks the Secretaries, Hayden Morgan, Bob Prophet, who stepped in at the last minute, and Hugh Barnes who has put in much work to update the constitution. He thanked the magazine editors for sending him their club magazines, which he had enjoyed. He made a plea to continue sending them as he acted as co-ordinator for the MA7C and took them to their meetings. He thanked the other officers for all their support and efforts. The Archive group for their work and the improvements to the Archive and additions to the website. And finally the

webmaster, Chris Charles for his tremendous hard work to improve the website to the useful and interesting state it is now.

b. Secretary

In the last year the Secretary had spent quite a bit of time creating a new 'administrative' environment for the Secretary's post and had created a new email account that can be handed on from one incumbent to the next and an allied Contacts list that is used to distribute Association matters. There are some concerns of the accuracy of that list as, although there is no returned, undelivered mail, he had heard very little from some bodies – particularly the overseas Clubs.

You will all know that some time was spent revising and discussing the Constitution, the outcome of that to be decided later in this meeting. That is seen as an important step in changing the way the Association works for the good and will see the organisation become a more 'vibrant' body.

Getting to grips with the Public Liability Insurance for the Association took a major chunk of time between December and February. We are in a better, more clearly defined place now. Kim Eaton, from Routen Chaplin, our Brokers, will explain more in the following business meeting..

Plans for the coming year are to support Chris Garner in his vision for the Association, which he will expand upon in greater detail but he is hoping to see an expansion into the use of new technologies that will give a greater 'connection' to the Austin 7 owner. The use of audio-visual aids perhaps – videos etc is an area to be explored. It is his hope that the Association can improve its 'relevance' to the Austin 7 owner.

He is hoping to foster a more 'team' based approach from the Officers of the Association and greater participation in Association affairs by the full committee – ie, all the people in this room.. For the 3 Officer posts that will fall vacant at the 2018 AGM, making sure candidates are identified well in advance so as to give them the best opportunity for an ease in transition between the old post holder and the new.

c. Treasurer

The Treasurer presented his Financial statement and reported the major outgoings for the year had been Expenditure on the Archive Digitisation Project and rent for the Archive premises. The Full statement are circulated with these minutes

d. Advertising Manager

Andy Lowe read an email from Hazel Gore, who was unable to attend the meeting. The text was as follows:

Dear All, hope you are all ok. Unfortunately I will not be able to attend AGM Meeting on Sunday, I am making a good recovery after my operation, few problems which I will overcome in time. I am being held back for the weekend because I have a chest infection and horrendous cough. Attended hospital appointment today they were very pleased but I still have to have some more treatment in near future.

Anyhow I attach Advertising report herewith. I wish to advise you all that Advertising (Display wise) is up-to-date, with payments for year and I have sent Ed all Display Advertising for year 2016 and part year 2017, so he and new

Advertising Manager will be aware and up-to-date from my end. Obviously Classified Ads are ongoing and should I receive any of these e-mail or post I will re-direct them to new Advertising Manager (when known) and I will also forward copy to Ed. At least everything is mostly sorted. We will have to 'play by ear' at the moment.

THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN – for the lovely 'get well' message and flowers which A7CA sent to me on my return from hospital. I have put a letter in magazine. (unfortunately Ed didn't manage to get my letter in) – he has been very busy and hectic, but assures me it will be in next mag. Thanks Ed.

I wish you all the very best with the AGM, will miss you all, was looking forward to perhaps being able to make the meeting, but anyhow if I can make the next meeting and you don't mind I will do my best. I have enjoyed my many years serving on the Committee as Advertising Manager, and of course organising and helping with events etc. All the best, love to you all, sincerely Hazel

e. Archivist

First, some great new literature and drawings have been donated or purchased.

An 11kg parcel came in January from Mike Stewart in Co Mayo with his lifetime collection of 10 textbooks, 44 AMCo handbooks and 1970A-81D a7ca greymags (these to be offered to the VSCC library if they do not already have them)

John Ward exchanged his Paris dealers brochure for two of the Stewart handbooks. David Cochrane paid direct for two Stewart handbooks. Some better ones have replaced grubbier ones on our shelves.

Some photographs have resulted from the Birmingham newspaper article by Andy Lowe, sent to Ed our editor for future greymags.

A REMAX spares box has been purchased from Barrie Pook and re-populated with some new spares alongside the pre-1931 originals.

The major effort has been the 3 tranches of scanning and digitising after collating and sorting.

The first tranche was our run of ORIGINAL handbooks and parts lists by Hants CC.

The second tranche was our SHOW BROCHURES again done by Hants CC

Neither of these included photocopies as we expect future discoveries to provide better material.

The third tranche was a collection of drawings starting with Stanley Edge's original c1972 ten drawings then a great deal more culminating in the Twin-Cam Engine by Tom Murray-Jamieson. All these were done by Leics CC being closer and safer to take and deliver than Hants and they had previously worked on our drawings vey capably.

The start of oral history has been made with Nick Turley interviewing Bob Wyatt...watch out...your name will be on my list.

Films are being looked into and we hope to overcome copyright where applicable.

On August 23rd a 10 year agreement with Kevin Wheatcroft at Donington ends the loan of Hadley overalls, helmet and other items. Geoff Roe will be collecting these to add to our archive.

Our tenancy at Lubenham also reaches 10 years very soon and a 2nd internal move is imminent to the nearby board-room, about 1/8 less floor space but we will need to think seriously that in ANOTHER 10 years we might need to think about long-term future.

Our Open Days of last August and last week were a pleasant way of showing our glorious silverware and the now handle-able paperwork and its digitisation for all the world to see. Our website has just been highly commended....arise Chris Charles.

WHAT NEXT? apart from a room move it will be PHOTOS yes we know there are a lot to go through. Its slowly slowly but certainly.

f. Editor (read by Hugh Barnes)

The past year has produced some great articles for the Grey Mag and I hope to build on that during my final year, I believe I am due to stand down at the next AGM, as editor of the Grey Mag.

People are sometimes quick to judge or criticise the lack of items within the magazine but people have to remember that not only are the positions of the 'committee' voluntary but also so are the people I ask to put articles together. Production of the magazine is not a business and therefore we are at the mercy of people having the time to put things together.

The C issue was, I admit, maybe not have been my best due to fitting the mag in between juggling work and hospital visits etc. However this said we had two wonderful articles on the Seven in Japan and the Pram Hood Register.

D had some great photos from the Archive open day. Being able to get nice, high quality images is such a plus for a magazine like ours. Being able to enlarge them up so you can see the information and dimensions on the likes of the bacon slicer housing is a treat not only for me working on the mag but the readers. We also had the gearbox overhaul article which first appeared in the Cornwall Clubs mag first. This was well received and I had a few people comment on how useful it was...this is exactly why it is great to get other Clubs magazines...sharing the knowledge. The other exciting thing that appeared was the recently discovered unknown Coupe drawing...what can I say apart from fascinating! The big change in the D issue was that all the adverts were now located towards the rear of the magazine rather than as had been the case since day dot to having them scattered throughout.

The main article in the 2017A issue was about Bertie Fowler's Beaulieu adventure. Having been at Beaulieu and seeing Bertie with his Nippy it was great to be able to publish this Gent's article from someone who is so passionate about the Seven. Another technical article on the oil button repair this time and again was well received.

Finally for the year we have the current B issue. Sadly I was unable to secure an article I had hoped for in time for the press date so had to drop 4 pages from the

magazine as there was insufficient material to bulk it out. All being well I should be able to get the C issue up to the maximum (for postage costs for some Clubs) 36pp. Despite the number of pages going down a bit there are some great articles in this issue but I think the star of this issue is the centre spread picture...I hope you'll agree.

When you have an abundance of items to go in the magazine it can make things so much easier but sadly this is not always the case and this is why ALL Clubs can do their part by ensuring that they send a copy of their Club magazine into the Editor. This allows some great articles to be reproduced within the Grey Mag and I have done so on a few occasions now. Yes some people will say that they have seen the article in two magazines before the Grey Mag but only being produced quarterly you will quite possibly get an overlap with some articles.

g. Registrar

In 2013 there were 11331 entries in the Register and it was estimated then that there were at least 2000 more surviving Austin 7s yet to be included. 1061 have been added since then, and the total now stands at 11882. So I think there may still be some to be added. I think the derivative marques may be under represented and I intend contacting their registrars to try and include more.

At the end of my second year in office, my activity is summarised in these tables which will be included with this report attached to the AGM minutes. The steady stream of information from members, clubs and model registers has continued, but may have slowed recently – so please keep it coming.

Submissions 2016-17 (2015-16)	
eform	email
267 (274)	167 (121)

It may be that for their own reasons some owners do not want their cars included so I don't personally check Austin 7s that I come across and add them regardless. So I mention again that it is in the interest of security that the Register does not hold contact or location details. Only club and model registers are recorded if the details are volunteered, and this is the only way owners might be contacted.

A7CA all marques Register 2016-17 (2015-16)			
	all	new	change
Apr	31 (30)	12 (05)	19 (25)
May	20 (44)	10 (13)	10 (31)
Jun	28 (30)	15 (13)	13 (17)
Jul	83 (29)	18 (10)	65 (19)
Aug	62 (34)	15 (07)	47 (27)
Sep	14 (23)	4 (10)	10 (13)
Oct	21 (36)	18(10)	3 (26)
Nov	40 (26)	11 (10)	29 (16)
Dec	14 (34)	5 (08)	9 (26)
Jan	27 (37)	7 (12)	20 (25)
Feb	15 (21)	5 (05)	10 (16)
Mar	12 (38)	6 (15)	6 (23)
year	367 (382)	126 (118)	241 (264)

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 survivors register. Sometimes I am right, sometimes I am wrong. Accuracy is my aim and no offence is intended when I seek clarification.

I have been cautiously working towards a database rather than spreadsheet master

version. I'm not there yet and trials to date have shown that whilst it is feasible, there are also technical issues in reproducing output sorted in the same order as Excel. However the uploaded spreadsheets available from the beginning of January have been produced more quickly and with less manual effort than previously using a database for part of the process. The on-line query facility is unchanged and individual marque data is still available for download as spreadsheets. You may have noticed that the download spreadsheets are in a simpler format, and if this causes anyone a problem please let me know and I will try to find a solution.

Register entries, especially new entries these days, often do not include club or model register details. If the A7CA record of your car has no club or model register information, I would be very pleased to add it. I would also ask club and model registrars to check their records against the Association Register and 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 very easy to submit a few records, but if there are a large number of please get in touch to agree the best way.

Please keep the information coming.

h. Webmaster (read by David Charles)

Over the last 12 months there has been significant work with our online presence, namely the launch of the Online Austin Seven Archive whilst continuing to maintain the main A7CA website.

Since launch in August the online archive has attracted 2578 visitors over 20.9k page views each on average spending 5 minutes on the site. Most visitors browse at 8pm on Friday, with peaks of interest when new releases of archived material is published. 999 of the 2578 visitors have visited the site via Tablet or Mobile. The continued developments with the Archive Project will allow the website to expand hopefully with an increased amount of traffic.

The work of the project and website has also been recognised by the National Car Club Awards with 'Highly commended' certificate for 'Outstanding Website of the Year'.

The most popular collection is the Show Brochures (2106 page views) shortly followed by the Handbooks/Parts Lists then Index Cards. I believe with greater promotion to members will see an increase in traffic to the online archive which in turn growth of its contents. The newsletter has proved a useful tool to inform A7 owners of the developments now with 177 individuals signed up holding a very strong 74% open rate on average from the last 3 newsletters.

Social media continues to be growing with 526 likes on Facebook (33% increase in the last year), and 106 followers on Twitter. An increased number of clubs are using social media as an effective platform to promote their activities. If Member Clubs have content they would like to be posted to our followers please send it over.

The main A7CA website continues to be maintained as an information platform for owners and enthusiasts to find out more about the Austin 7 movement. Although

overall there has been a drop compared to the previous year with only 9.6k visitors to the site, our positions in search engines has dramatically increased. We have a 31% increase of traffic finding us through the likes of Google and Yahoo. There is a significant increase in the users visiting using a tablet or mobile phone.

The online chassis search continues to be the most popular area with an increase of 734 searches on last year, bringing over 7000 searches in total. It is essential that clubs report any changes to meeting locations as this is 2nd most popular page of the site.

5. New Constitution

The Chairman introduced the revised Constitution and outlined the reasons behind its overhaul. The current Constitution was largely unchanged from the initial version first drafted some 48 years ago and the revision had been worded to reflect the way the Association worked now and to introduce the concept of term limits for the 9 Officer posts. The Secretary had circulated the draft to all Member Clubs for comment and had answered many questions at that time, before the Clubs made their decision on how they would vote on the proposal. The Chairman then opened the topic up for general discussion.

A number of questions were raised from the floor, which were answered in the main by the Chairman and Secretary. There were questions on some detail of wording (such as the original version talked of a Register of Members and their cars – this is now just a register of cars) questions on the difference between a General Vote and Members vote (a general vote is a vote of all people attending the meeting, 1 per organisation, whereas a Members vote is a vote of the 18 Clubs. This is because all Registers etc are deemed to be made up by existing Members of Austin 7 Clubs so a vote from all bodies would ‘double up’ at individual member level.

There was a discussion around the adoption of term limits, some people reflecting the view that there would be a loss to the Association of experienced people. The Secretary replied that inevitably, people would eventually vacate their posts, so it was much better to handle that in a planned, orderly manner and to bring new ideas and talents into the organisation at a regular rate for the good of the Association..

A minor change was suggested to the wording to add clarity to the posts affected by Term Limits. The Secretary undertook to do this.

A vote was called for by the Chair. Taking into account votes already received by email, the new Constitution was adopted with 15 votes for, 2 against and 1 abstention.

The new Constitution is circulated with these minutes.

6. Election of Officers

The Vice-Chairman had confirmed that Bob Wyatt was happy to continue as President of the Association.

Under the terms of the new Constitution, 3 posts would fall vacant at this AGM. Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Advertising Manager. Nominations had been received for Chairman and Vice-chair (Chris Garner and Nick Turley respectively)

but as yet, no nomination had been received for the post of Advertising Manager. A vote was held for the 2 posts and the nominations were duly carried. After a brief discussion with the Secretary, Ruairidh Dunford volunteered to stand for the position of Advertising Manager and was voted in. These posts, under the terms of the new constitution, will be held for a period of 3 years.

At this point, Chris Garner took the chair

7. Presentation of Awards

Editor's Trophy. In the absence of the Editor, the Chairman presented the Ken Warren Editor's Trophy to Bertie Fowler for his excellent article on his Beaulieu adventures.

Ray Morley Tankard. The Chairman presented The Ray Morley Trophy (he used to drive a Grasshopper and a single-door van) for sporting endeavour to Andrew Goodfellow for his heroic drive in his Ulster in the Monte Carlo classic.

At this point, the new Chairman thanked the retiring Chairman for his hard work over the previous 5 years and presented him with a handsome decanter in thanks. He also told the meeting that Hazel Gore had been sent a gift voucher to the value of £50 in recognition of all her work for the Association over many years.

8. Date of Next Annual General Meeting

The next Annual General Meeting will be held at 11 am on Sunday 8th April 2018 (location tbc)

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 12.45.

Chairman:

April 2017

Secretary:

THE PRE WAR AUSTIN SEVEN LUB LIMITED – 2016 REPORT

Another successful year for the Club. Our revamped monthly Magazine, compiled by a newly appointed editorial co-ordinator and printers, has been very well received, together with a published list of members and their cars. – the first since 2012. Our website is being updated with the appointment of a new website manager.

Our regional Groups have been very active and regularly attract large gatherings at Club nights and events. The newly formed Yorkshire Group especially has gone from strength to strength.

The Club's reputation as a publisher of Austin Seven books was further enhanced by the revised Grasshopper book and several other publications are in the pipeline, including the Source Book, due in 2017.

Our stand at the NEC Classic Car show was once again well received and enjoyed by the many visitors. The Dave Wilcox Memorial Trial moved to a new venue and was perhaps our best yet, attracting entrants from all over the UK. A similar Summer Trial is being looked at for 2018.

The Club continues to give support to the Jack French Garage project as well as the 7s Back to the Track event. In fact our sporting members contribute much to track and hillclimb events throughout the year organised by other clubs.

Membership has continued to climb and we look forward to another bumper year in 2017. My thanks go to both my fellow Committee members and to our membership in general.

Chris Garner - Chairman