

# THE AUSTIN SEVEN CLUBS' ASSOCIATION

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



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## Austin Seven Clubs' Association Committee Meeting

held on Zoom

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 9am

### **Present**

Nick Turley  
David Cochrane  
Paul Lawrence  
Chris Heeley  
Peter Hales  
David Mawby  
Howard Annett  
Phil Baildon  
Stewart Robinson  
Dan Cole  
Harry Hales  
Andy Lowe  
John King  
Paul Maulden  
Roly Alcock  
Gill Davis  
Tim Griffiths  
Steve Clarke  
Roger Price  
David Rock-Evans  
Ian Clayton  
David Greer  
Mick Ward  
Derek Sheldon  
Jim Blacklock  
David Charles  
Charlie Plain-Jones  
Nigel Barfoot

Chairman  
Vice-Chairman / Pram Hood Register  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Registrar  
Insurance Officer  
Back Issues & A7OC  
Historian & PWA7C Midshires  
Pre-War Austin 7 Club  
Bristol Austin 7 Club  
South Wales Austin 7 Club  
Midlands Austin 7 Club  
Dorset Austin 7 Club  
Norfolk Austin 7 Club  
Hereford Austin 7 Club  
PWA7C North Herts / Cambridge A7& VCC  
On-line Austin 7 Club  
On-line Austin 7 Club  
On-Line Austin 7 Club  
VAR  
Irish Austin 7 Club  
South Australian Austin 7 Club  
Tickford Register  
Rosengart Register UK  
Arrow Register  
Specials Register  
750 Motor Club, Historic 750 Formula  
Austin Ex Apprentices Association

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Hugh Barnes  
Mike Costigan  
Adrian Payne  
David Aylmore  
Alan Billington  
David Aylmore

Archivist  
Editor  
Webmaster  
Devon Austin 7 Club  
On-line Austin 7 Club  
Devon Austin 7 Club

## 2. **Introductions**

A roll call was conducted, and attendees identified.

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

Agreed as accurate and unanimously agreed.

## 4. **Matters Arising**

Nigel Barfoot confirmed that the Pride of Longbridge Rally will be on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2022.

## 5. **Officer's Reports**

### **Chairman - Nick Turley**

The Centenary has been the focus recently with a lot of work being done by a huge team of people. So much work has gone into this it's been difficult to focus on anything else.

It was a surprise how it got fully booked so quickly and although I am disappointed that the entries had to close, I am overjoyed by the number of entries, which has been unprecedented.

The Communications by Nick Salmon have been very good. I suspect some people will be grumbling that they have been unable to attend but I am afraid that is the situation.

**Comments – None**

### **Secretary – Paul Lawrence**

The Austin Seven Cubs' Association Public Liability Insurance is being renewed and I will send the documentation to clubs when I have it in preparation for the 2022 Season.

Rally preparations have been taking precedence but later in the year I hope we can return to some of our focus to the Young Persons Action Plan. Embedding this was somewhat curtailed by the epidemic but it's valuable work and something I hope we can all get our teeth into over the next couple of years.

Likewise, the carbon-neutral agenda is something that a number of clubs embraced following Tim Griffiths' presentation to the Association Committee a couple of years ago, but it will be interesting to take stock of where we are with that and see what more we might be able to do.

We really are looking for some volunteers to take on some of the Association Officer rôles. The tenure system for Association Officers of three years in post, with an option to extend by another three if you wish, was introduced to keep new blood flowing through the veins of the Association, and it is incumbent on all of us to support this and do our bit for the good of the Austin Seven community.

At the AGM in April, which will be on us sooner than we realise, we are looking for:

A Treasurer as Chris Heeley has now performed two terms in the post.

A Webmaster as Adrian Payne will have completed his three-year term. As we go forward this role will become even more critical to communicate with potential audiences via modern means such as social media.

An Editor – the Editor need not actually take over until the 2023A edition as Mike has agreed to stay on to see out the Centenary year, although we really need to identify who will take this on so there can be a suitable hand-over period.

In the usual course of events the Archivist rôle would be up for grabs but Hugh Barnes will be staying in post for one extra year to see out the Centenary.

These really are great opportunities for people to get involved in the Austin Seven community so please do give it some serious consideration and contact me if you are interested.

**Comments** – Paul to circulate Officer Requirement to the clubs

### **Treasurer – Chris Heeley**

**The Report was not available at the time of the meeting but is now included below**

Period October to December 2021

This period is the busiest for me as I completed all of the invoicing of the magazines to the member clubs across the UK and the rest of the world in September, and so monies start to arrive. The immediate receipt of funds from the majority of clubs is very much appreciated.

Debtors: £1,652.00 – I will admit that I have not had any opportunity to chase up these few stragglers before the end of 2021. I named a few at the meeting, and have received one positive response so far.

The Archivist has been busy with some acquisitions. Some of these have been purchased and some have been generously donated. Certain items now require preservation to ensure their survival for which expenditure is being handled very carefully between myself and the Archivist. The budget for any purchases or preservation is limited and has been mostly achieved through donation and the sale of duplicate or non-core items.

Cash in Current Account (Lloyds) at 30th June 2021 is £37,950.35.

This is the high point – insurance and magazine costs will deplete this rapidly in 2022, but we are in a healthy end-of-year position. There is also provision for a sizeable amount to be transferred to the 2022 event.

Please note that the ‘Officers Expenses’ are not actually as alarmingly high as they appear. I was struggling to find a place on my cashbook in which to acknowledge the transfer of sponsorship funds from the normal account to the 2022 event account. The real ‘Officers Expenses’ are actually only £94.70.

The ‘Archive Sales’ amount includes an anonymous donation of £150 and a refund of £377.03 from SafeHold Storage following our early conclusion of the offsite storage provision for certain high-value archive pieces.

I must thank the Advertising Manager, Ruairidh Dunford, for completing the timely invoicing of all of the trade advertisers. I believe that there was just one past advertiser that failed to respond to any of his communications, with all of the others paying in full before the end of the year.

It is sad to report that one club, the British Austin Society, have taken to the decision to cease. Whilst the impact on our accounts is minimal as they were down to 10 members, it is still a shame that they could not reverse the decline.

My usual reminder: Please can you make sure that any cheques are addressed to **The Austin 7 Clubs Association**. Lloyds sometimes reject cheques that do not match this exactly.

The accounts for this period can be seen at Appendix A

**Comments** - None

### **Advertising Manager – Ruairidh Dunford**

Nothing significant to report

**Comments - None**

### **Archivist – Hugh Barnes**

Once again, I am afraid I am not able to be with you as I am in a time zone 6 hours behind you.

Work on the Archive has continued, but again at a somewhat reduced pace as a result of Centenary planning. I am aware that I have accumulated quite a bit of material over the past few months that has not yet been dealt with and, as well as my Centenary work, I have been trying to play catch-up on that. As a result, I am now working through the digitisation of a crop of outstanding Brochures, many of which were part of the Adli Halabi donation, plus others that have been acquired by purchase over the past few months. That should see at least a further 16 brochures added to the website and a whole slew of Ephemera items as well.

One thing that has become apparent of late is that some of the really important artefacts that the Archive has acquired are in need of conservation before they can be made available for viewing by visitors. Often, the sort of item I am talking about does not really lend itself to digitisation either due to physical size or volume. This does bring a cost element into play as this work does not come cheap. There are a number of examples of this. First, the conservation of the Military album was in the region of £400. A very generous donation by Tony Betts of much of the artwork used in the creation of the John Platts spares book will need significant conservation for which I have received (and authorised) a quote of nearly £500. The artwork for the cover of the December 1937 Austin Magazine has been conserved and framed by fellow Austin 7 owner and picture restorer, Lance Sheldrick. Lance very generously gave much of his time for free (perhaps some 20 hours work or more?) but inevitably there was some cost in materials. Suffice it to say, that if this had been done through more conventional professional routes, the cost would have been 3 or 4 times as much. I thank Lance for his efforts and generosity.

To offset some of these costs, I have started to rationalise the collection and have been passing on duplicate copies of brochures, etc and have managed to raise slightly in excess of £1000 since the last meeting. I have more items of value to dispose of and I am hopeful that a further £1000 can be raised from them.

This whole topic does raise the significant question of funding of the Archive in the future, something that the Association will have to address and probably quite soon. We have moved on now from a random collection of bits and pieces and are developing into a serious Archive, one that many motoring organisations would envy. As a result, we are getting a steady trickle of quite significant items passing into our care. If these are going to be conserved for future generations to be able to enjoy, handle and research, they must be properly cared for – and that will cost. I have had conversations with our Treasurer about current projected expenditure and we both feel comfortable that that can be supported, but we will have to seriously consider the funding model going forward. We should return to this subject after the dust has settled from the Centenary event.

**Comments - None**

### **Editor – Mike Costigan**

Nothing of any real importance to report from the Editorial chair – articles continue to arrive without solicitation and there is still a backlog in the Editorial postbag, so I am able to assemble each Magazine with consideration for the overall content; a very nice state of affairs!

2022A should now be with the clubs, or with Howard for onward distribution, and 2022B is already on the assembly line.

At the moment I plan to run 2022D, the last Magazine of my tenure, devoted largely, or even solely, to the Centenary Rally. My thoughts at the moment are to have a series of reports each focusing on a particular aspect of the Rally, such as the evening entertainment, the exhibition, the daily runs out, the Prescott event, the Thursday picnic, and of course the cars themselves. I would be delighted to receive offers of the written word and photographs – volunteer early and you can choose your topic!

**Comments** – Howard Annett clarified that he wasn't in possession of the 2022A edition yet but hopefully they will be with him in the coming week. A Centenary Window Sticker will be included with the Magazine.

### **Registrar – Peter Hales**

The Registrar's job seems to be getting busier as more people seem to be buying cars or finishing restorations and wanting to register or update cars.

Since the last Association meeting I have received 108 emails which has resulted in 19 new cars being added to the register and 19 significant updates.

Month (2021)	New Entries	Updates
October	9	5
November	5	8
December	5	6

I have tried to make the spreadsheets recently uploaded easier to use by removing many of the non-standard characters, please let me know if you would like me to make any changes.

It is approximately 7 months until the Centenary Rally. It would be helpful if you could send me any missing information about your car/s before the event I will be there helping people to complete any missing details about their car.

Again I would like to thank the people that are sending me updates or information about cars missing from the register.

**Comments** - *None*

### **Webmaster – Adrian Payne**

Not a great deal to report on the webmaster front. The website has been updated with the latest club details as there is the usual flurry of corrections ready for the 2022A Association Magazine directory.

There have been just 2 events to add to the events calendar, both from the South Wales Club.

Apart from that, just the usual email inquiries: 8 requesting the whereabouts or history of a Seven, 3 Centenary inquiries and 5 sales or wants.

Has anyone had any thoughts regarding my successor in April?

**Comments** - *None*

### **Insurance Liaison – David Mawby**

I have not had any calls or emails regarding insurance matters over the last few months, but I have recently been talking with Emma from RH insurance regarding the build-up to

the Centenary Rally. We would like to give the rally attendees some useful insurance information over the next few months covering items such as adding your car trailer to your policy, which as many of you will know, the trailer which some of us carry our Austins on for longer journeys is usually covered by our third party insurance when attached to our tow vehicle, but once uncoupled is not insured unless on its own policy.

Also once the Centenary road run routes are finalised, then it would be best for RH to know the intended routes so that the breakdown recovery people can be given warning, this is also the case for the Wednesday when a lot of the cars will be travelling to Prescott, not that we are expecting any breakdowns!

I will give further updates on what other items we think should be highlighted at the next meeting.

**Comments** – Nick Turley said that Emma Airey of RH had previously said she would be able to arrange a recovery vehicle for the Centenary and David said he would raise that again with Emma

David Mawby said he has his trailer insured with RH and it costs about £20.

David Cochrane said he has had his trailer insured with RH for about 5 years.

## 6. Centenary Rally – Nick Turley

I don't have a lot to add about the Centenary Rally that I haven't said already. It's being worked on a quite a pace by a lot of people and to be fair we have had quite a few obstacles that have popped up. There have been lots of visits that David Cochrane has been spearheading and David Charles has the big job of doing the final layout for the Rally which is a huge undertaking for which he has my support.

All of these things are moving forward in an extremely positive way and to just give you an idea of some of the simple things that need sorting out, like the right level of medical support, which we are nearly there with now. Medical support is something that we need to have so Paul has been working on this and we will have a team of medics and an ambulance on site. Hopefully we won't need them but you never know. There are still many things to complete in detail. I must admit that in a way I am very disappointed that we have had to close entries from a calendar point of view, but I am overjoyed about the level of entries we have had and the enthusiasm, which have exceeded anybody's expectations by a very long way.

**Comments** – **Charlie Plain-Jones** commented that all is not lost for those who couldn't get tickets as the Prescott Festival on the Wednesday of the week is now selling tickets for spectators on the Bugatti Owners Club website. Those who are attending the Centenary event have entry to the Festival with their Centenary tickets but those who haven't got a Centenary ticket can still get a ticket for the Festival. Those who want to demonstrate their sporting Austin Sevens should still apply directly to him. Nick Turkey asked if a link to the Festival could be added to the Centenary website and it was agreed this was a good idea and would be actioned.

**Roly Alcock** said that we have still got six months to go but in that time there will be a number who have bought tickets but won't be able to attend. Will there be a reserve list. Nick explained that we haven't discussed doing that but the administration has been a huge task and the team of people working on that have put in an inordinate amount of time. To resell or redistribute tickets after they have been booked would probably be a task too far, considering they are all volunteers and it's not a commercial operation. Whilst Nick likes the idea he knows it will be an extremely difficult thing to do.

**David Mawby** asked if the press would be coming to the event and Nick confirmed this would be the case.

**Phil Baidon** said he had a phone call from John Ward who was one of the founders of the Association and he was very disappointed he had missed it and didn't have a ticket. Nick said he understood what he said and had a lot of sympathy, but he had spoken to many others who were also disappointed at having missed the ticket sales. The event had been well publicised and people had been asked to book early.

**Andy Lowe** asked if it would be possible to advertise within clubs if some with a ticket is unable to attend. As we only have a piece of paper we could pass it on and the other person and the only issue would be with the names. Nick agreed it would be a good thing if tickets that were not used could be redistributed but he is loath to ask the team to manage this as the time they have put in already has been absolutely incredible. It's something the organising team are going to have to discuss

**David Rock-Evans** said the Fire Service College would have an issue with just passing tickets to someone else due to the security issues and a 'black market' for the tickets would have repercussions. Nick agreed that was correct.

**Mick Ward** asked if there was any likelihood of accommodation on site before the event and when are we likely to hear about it. Paul confirmed that a list is being compiled of people who will be staying on site to set up before the event and Mick is on the list.

**David Charles** said 1024 Austin Sevens are booked in but 100 of them don't know what Austin 7 they've got and another 100 have incorrect details so he has to go back to 20% of entries to analyse what they have and correct them. He said that is just the bit he has been doing and illustrates the enormity of the tasks. Others have done no end of stuff as well so please be patient.

## **7. Proposal to set up a working group to tackle the subject of filling stations due to the implications arising from the change to EVs - Tim Griffiths**

Tim proposed that we form a working group to monitor and investigate the petrol situation. Last year on the 10th January Tim gave a presentation about concerns of fuel supply for historic vehicles and shortly after the FBHVC appointed automotive fuel expert who has been focusing on the E10 issue and long-term availability of E5. The working group would look into this but there is the issue of whether we will be able to get hold of fuel at all.

Tim explained how the issue of not being able to get fuel readily which may happen sooner than we think.

Recent developments to support this include:

- There were more electric vehicles registered in the UK in 2021 than the previous five years combined
- By December 2012 electric vehicles accounted for 1 in every 4 cars sold, despite them being relatively expensive, and cheaper models are starting to appear
- There is a growing number of second-hand electric vehicles on the market, most of which have a battery life of 8 years, the same as the average lifespan of a modern car, and these numbers are growing exponentially
- The last petrol engines on the road will be the Hybrids which have the advantage of economy and can access the low emission zones when running on electricity. They don't come with the range anxiety yet, but the fuel shortage last year made it clear that range anxiety will also be felt by petrol car owners.

One argument (to support inaction) is that there are not many electric vehicles on the road, but many manufactures are advertising only EV vehicles. Toyota have recently released a complete across-the-range fleet of EVs. Charging networks are thought to be a barrier but charging networks are not required very often. Most people will charge their car at home over-night and every new building from this month is required by law to have an EV

charging point, so people can charge when at work, shopping, at the cinema or whatever, so it's only on the longer trips that rapid-charging points are required. Secondly there are more rapid-charging points than you may think with over 28,000, and that's going up hundreds a week and showing exponential growth like the rise in EVs.

What's this got to do with filling stations? Tim showed a graph which showed the number of filling stations dropping from 40,000 in the mid-1960s to 8,380 now. The graph has flattened off in recent years but now there is a sea-change in EVs the numbers of filling stations will start to fall again.

If filling stations lose a chunk of their market it becomes unviable to run filling stations selling just fuel, so they become convenience stores and supermarkets as well. If you then offer the opportunity to get rid of the petrol and have a row of chargers outside where people need to be there for length of time it takes to do a rapid charge, they have a captive market to sell convenience stuff or coffee and they will grab the market.

Filling stations will disappear, and rows of EV charging stations will start to appear with buildings that contain Costa coffee, Post Office and all sorts of other things. Superstores are rolling out free charging points.

It's not just superstores and filling stations putting in charging points, places such as Audi are providing bookable bays. Your car can identify a place locally and book it for you automatically.

It's obvious that it's only a matter of time before filling station numbers reduce which will make it difficult taking an old car of limited range on the road as it becomes unviable. I think it will happen faster than many people think. As a result this will bring into question the practicality of owning an old car and no one outside of the old car enthusiasts arena will care enough to do anything about it, but I could be wrong.

***I am going to need help to look at this and find out what the implications are, to monitor where we are going, to monitor what's going on and start to put together ideas as to how we can, as an old car movement, actually do something about it.***

The FBHVC should be doing this but they are showing little interest and are focusing on the E10 / E5 issue. They have done some serious research into that and have come to the conclusion there is an issue here that needs to be sorted out. Nobody knows what the long-term effects on the working parts of a car will be putting ethanol into them. They didn't show much interest in the Carbon Neutral issue either until we put our article in their Newsletter and then they proceeded to go in what I considered to be the wrong direction.

So it's up to us to take up some of the slack and I think there should be an Association working group formed so that we can find out what the future has in store for us, organise a timely response and then lobby the likes of the FHBVC to do something about it.

So that's that, what does everybody think.

### **Comments**

**David Charles** – We have a uphill task, I have considered this with my Special and put in a large fuel tank. I can't do much before the Centenary but will reach out and help you afterwards.

**David Cochrane** - A convincing presentation that we should be passing on to the FBHVC to get up the wider old car movement as it will affect everybody, and the FBHVC should take it on. We would be a lone voice in the wilderness if we try and do it just by ourselves but once we've got the FBHVC on board you've got some serious professional help available. We should be focusing our efforts actually trying to wake them up and act as a starter seed for their efforts.

*It was decided that Tim would put something together for inclusion in the Magazine to raise awareness and recruit volunteers to join the working group*

## 8. AOB

None

9. Date of Next Meeting – Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2022 – 9am - AGM

## Appendix A

### **Austin 7 Clubs' Association**

#### **Financial Report 1 January to 31 December 2021**

£

Balance 1 January 2021 Current A/C 30,454.99

#### **Receipts January-December 2021**

Magazine sales	23,233.91
Sale of back numbers	100.00
Subscriptions for 2021	345.00
Magazine distribution recharged to clubs	0.00
Receipts Warwick DVD	0.00
Advertising	2,129.50
Interest received	0.00
Receipts for Jack French Garage project	0.00
Sale of binders	0.00
Insurance pay-outs	0.00
Archive sales	1,903.25
Digital archive receipts	0.00
Other misc income	0.00
Production Changes book	10.00
Index booklet receipts	0.00
RH/A-plan adverts receipts	6,981.00
<u>Total receipts</u>	<u>34,702.66</u>

#### **Payments January-December 2021**

Magazine print and layout costs	10,375.26
Magazine distribution (postage)	2,291.99
Production Changes book	0.00
Index booklet costs	0.00
Subscriptions (ie FBHVC)	30.00
Jack French Garage project costs	0.00
Room hire for meetings	0.00
Binders costs	0.00
Insurance	2,419.24
Archive costs	4,806.90
Archive purchases	547.95
Digitisation of archives project	0.00
Website cost	170.26
RH/A-plan rebated payments	75.00
Officers expenses	5,654.70
A7CA contribution to Jack French Garage project	0.00

<u>Total payments</u>	<u>26,371.30</u>
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**Account balances at the end of December 2021**

Total Balance Lloyds Current Account	<u>37,950.35</u>
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**Payments October to December**

Editor Expenses Costigan	41.91
Jump D&P 2021D	296.00
Chairman reimburse RH	560.00
Rental of TSSC for Archive	3,360.00
Archive cost Barnes	360.00
Postage reimburse Howard Annett 2021D	351.68
Transfer to 2022 account RH sponsorship	5,000.00
Jump D&P 2021D	2,112.00
Treasurer costs postage CH	15.84
Archive cost Barnes	37.15
Archive cost Barnes	14.20
Archive cost Barnes	78.50
Archive cost Lance Sheldrick	150.00
Archive cost Baildon	11.05