



THE AUSTIN SEVEN CLUBS' ASSOCIATION

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



1

Committee Meeting

held on Zoom

Sunday 15th January 2023

Present

David Cochrane
Paul Lawrence
Chris Roberts
Howard Wright
Hugh Barnes
Peter Hales
Roger Brown
Ruairidh Dunford
Charlie Plain-Jones
Howard Wright
Harry Hales
Howard Annett
Stewart Robinson
Steve Clarke
Paul Maulden
Michael Tabcart
John King
Andy Lowe
Chris Blower
Sarah Mason
Roly Alcock
David Charles
Rick Bishop
Chris Roberts
David Rock-Evans
Nigel Barfoot
Nick Salmon
Gordon England
Heather Maitland

Vice Chairman / Pram Hood Register
Secretary / Cambridge A7&VCC
Treasurer / Bristol A7 Club
Editor / South Wales A7 Club
Archivist
Registrar
Webmaster
Advertising Co-ordinator / Scottish A7C / GE
Historic 750 Formula
Editor
South Wales Austin 7 Club
Austin 7 Owners Club / Magazine Distribution
Pre-War Austin 7 Club
On-Line Austin 7 Club
Norfolk Austin 7 Club
Devon Austin 7 Club
Dorset Austin 7 Club
Austin 7 Club
Bongtree Club / Van Register
Cornwall Austin 7 Club
Hereford Austin 7 Club
Special Register / Cornwall Austin 7 Club
Midlands Austin 7 Club
Bristol Austin 7 Club
Vintage Austin Register
Austin Ex Apprentice Association
Guest
Archive Team
Archive Team

1. Apologies for Absence

Nick Turley
David Mawby
Peter Lawson
Derek Sheldon
Allan Billington

Chairman
Insurance Liaison / Fabric Saloon Register
Essex Austin 7 Club
Rosengart Register
Online Austin 7 Club

2. Introductions

A roll call was conducted, and attendees identified.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

Agreed as accurate – unanimously agreed.

4. Matters Arising

1. Confirmation that Chris Roberts has taken over as Treasurer.
2. Confirmation from Howard Annett that he has not yet sent a magazine to all the overseas clubs. This will be done when Howard receives the 2023A edition of the magazine as this will contain all the overseas clubs' addresses.
3. Peter Hales confirmed there has not yet been any progress on the issue of the Chassis Register being accessible for updates by another if the current Registrar becomes incapacitated, and this is something they are still looking at.
4. Hugh Barnes and Nick Salmon confirmed that progress has been difficult on a Centenary photo album, as suggested at the last meeting. Nick Salmon has investigated the possibilities and can't find a cost-effective solution. When Tim Griffiths' work is complete with the Centenary photographs this is something we can revisit.

5. Officer's Reports

Vice Chairman – David Cochrane

David started by showing an amusing report commissioned by Hagerty's stating that the Austin 7 will celebrate its Centenary in 2023! He also commented that MG is celebrating its Centenary this year and six MG car clubs are marking this auspicious occasion with ... a day at the British Motor Museum, Gaydon.

Welcome to the first Association meeting of 2023. After the excitements of last year I suppose that many of us will be thinking 'follow that', but there are still many things that can be done to continue the work of the Association and our Officers are hard at work doing it.

However, there still has been news to report, in particular the prestigious awards:

- the Royal Automobile Club Historic Awards 2022: 'Motoring Spectacle';
- the Octane Magazine's 'Historic Motoring Awards 2022': 'Club of the Year';
- the Classic & Sports Car: 'Best Club Event (static) 2022'.

The Prescott Centenary Festival was a great success and a wonderful part of that special week. Through some serious fund-raising, it has succeeded in raising the magnificent sum of £10,000 for Parkinson's UK, £1,000 of which was contributed by the Association.

The Archivist held another well-attended and interesting Open Day which was much enjoyed by all. And starting this month, the Archive will also be open on a regular basis once a month. That is very good news, and a tribute to the hard work put in by Hugh and his successor. Donations continue to come in, for which we are very grateful.

To illustrate how the Association can get involved in all sorts of things, I was contacted by the Dutch Austin 7 Owners club and they are involved in a project run by their version of the FBHVC to enable their equivalent of the DVLA to recognise a standard set of model names. I'm sure we've all seen how our DVLA can have different names such as Austinruby (all as one), Austin Seven or just Austin. So, the Dutch version of the FBHVC and DVLA are working together to standardise the names and the Association are helping them with that.

Following on from the very successful Publicity work done by Nick Salmon for the Centenary event, I am proposing that the post of Publicity Officer for the Association should be created. We will be talking more about this later in the meeting.

The posts of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Advertising Co-ordinator will become available at the AGM in April, so Clubs are encouraged to put forward candidates for these important roles.

Comments:

None

Secretary – Paul Lawrence

Not a great deal to report today. To pick up on what David said about the awards I think we can all be proud of what we have achieved. Nick Salmon went to pick up the Octane Magazine Award and Charlie Plain-Jones went to collect the Practical Classic and Sports Car Magazine Award and I'm sure their experiences were very much like mine when I picked up the RAC Award, dressed up in black tie with champagne receptions. The highlight for me was that when I got there I didn't know anybody and by the time I left I was friends with Clive Chapman (Colin Chapman's son) and had eaten my dinner sitting next to Michael Quinn, the grandson of Sir William Lyons. It underlines the Austin Seven thread that runs through all of these other car events.

The Public Liability insurance will be renewed for full member clubs and we are looking at this with an eye towards our growing archive, which has increased in value.

Please can I ask you and your committees to think about any nominations you may have for the Ray Morley Sporting Endeavour trophy to be presented at the next AGM in April. Please let me know of anyone you think might be a candidate for the award.

I just wanted to spend a couple of minutes reiterating the process in relation to spending Association funds. I'm sure you are all aware that 'all of us' (club representatives) are the committee. We do have officers who take responsibility for certain roles but it is only right that when spending money this is decided upon by the committee and not the just the officers. You will see an example of the later in the meeting as one of the agenda items is about buying a Zoom account for the Association. This is a decision that is not to be taken by the officers alone but by the whole committee. The real point of telling you this is that if you felt there was something that money should be spent on, then all you need to do is give me a précis of your case and I can share that with the whole committee ahead of a meeting. Clubs can make representations and a debate can be had at the next meeting where a decision can be made.

Finally, my role as Secretary will end in 15 months at the AGM in 2024 so with future planning in mind I am just flagging that up now and am happy to talk about it to anyone that may be interested.

Comments

Ruairidh Dunford - Ruairidh said that he would be happy to work with Paul for a year from the next AGM with a view to taking over as Secretary which would help with a smooth transition process if he were elected. He would be happy to stand aside if anyone else wanted to do it but that would be an overlap of a year where they could work together and then move forward the following year.

David Cochrane – David thanked Ruairidh and said he felt it was a great idea and couldn't see any argument with it.

Treasurer – Chris Roberts

Period October to December 2022

Cash in Current Account (Lloyds) at 31st December 2022: £44,108.83 (and includes £4,712.37 in the 2022 event account which is managed separately by David Lucas). There is probably some money in the main account that is related to the Centenary event. The Centenary event account balance will be amalgamated back into the day-to-day account, hopefully before the AGM report.

Chris Heeley completed the annual invoicing of all member clubs at the end of September/start of October. The majority have paid but there are outstanding payments amounting to £1164 from the Clubs below:

Bongtree – *(this was a communication issue which has now been resolved)*

British Austin Society

Cornwall

North Hampshire

Solent

Surrey

Wanderers

If anyone from these clubs could chase the payment that would very useful (I believe the British Austin Society no longer operates). I understand that there are constitutional issues with not having paid by year end.

Details of the all the bank transactions in the accompanying documents

It is my plan going forward that I will be asking for confirmation from a Club Officer that any invoices I receive for payment are in fact correct and due for payment before making any payments.

There will hopefully be more useful content in the next report.

The Accounts can be seen at Appendix 1

Comments

David Cochrane – David said he has contacted the British Austin Society who have been disbanded: The North Hants Austin Enthusiast Group, Surrey Austin Owners and Wanderers are Associate members (it was later clarified they have been invoiced and should pay £5 per year for Associate membership).

Sarah Mason -Sarah clarified the Cornwall Austin Seven Club have had issues accessing their club funds after their Treasurer died, which has been made worse by the postal strike. All letters sent to the bank under recorded delivery have gone unanswered. The club chair will settle the bill himself and claim it back later. Chris Roberts and Sarah will liaise on this.

Hugh Barnes – Hugh said the last thing he remembered from the Centenary event is there was the question of VAT and he wasn't sure what the situation was regarding that. Chris Heeley has written to HMRC about it months ago but hasn't heard back. Chris Roberts confirmed this was the case.

David Cochrane – David suggested we could work out our potential VAT liability and sit on that money for 5 years so we have got the money if we had to settle the bill. The invoices have been kept by David Lucas.

Sarah Mason – Sarah suggested that if we were going to go down the road of ring-fencing some money we should have some evidence alongside that of how we had tried to get the advice from HMRC because they'd not be terribly forgiving if they thought that we have just tried to fly below the radar, so we should have an audit trail to show that we had tried.

Ruairidh Dunford – Ruairidh said the reason the VAT question has come up is because the VAT for the Centenary event went above the VAT threshold. We have paid a professional fee to Mark Rose, Secretary of the PWA7C, to act on our behalf to see if we were liable for VAT. It would be good to use some of the surplus money from the event to employ him to work out what our liability might be. That would be my suggestion. Using the money for this purpose doesn't need to go to the clubs for a decision as that is the Centenary money that has already been handed over to that separate group. Chris Roberts asked for further clarification, so Ruairidh explained there were two bank accounts, the Association bank account and the Centenary bank account set up specifically to run the budget for the Centenary event. David Lucas holds the purse strings on the Centenary account and Ruairidh can put Chris in touch with David.

Chris Roberts – Chris clarified that we are going to spend the Centenary surplus to employ a consultant to clear up the VAT. Ruairidh said his proposal would be that he approaches Mark Rose as he is familiar with the event and the communication we have had with HMRC and ask him if we can employ his professional services to work it what our VAT liability might be. It was established that this matter did not need to come back the committee.

Rick Bishop – Rick suggested that there should be a show of hands in relation to using the money in this way. Ruairidh explained to David Cochrane (Chair) that there was no reason to do so because the money in the Centenary account had already been allocated for us to use with anything we see fit for the Centenary, so there's no need to formalise it. If it was to be formalised, he would be asking him to formalise it at the next meeting, having taken it back to the clubs for a decision.

Advertising Manager – Ruairidh Dunford

Ruairidh explained that he had nothing to report but his tenure will be up at the AGM in April. So far no one had come forward so he urged people to go back to their clubs to help find a volunteer so it doesn't just end and the transition can be smooth

Comments

Sarah Mason expressed an interest in finding out more about the rôle and will speak to Ruairidh outside the meeting.

Archivist – Hugh Barnes

Hugh commented that he was pleased that we were now beginning to succession plan in line with the term limits and it was a delight to see.

Hugh said archive work is going really well with Gordon England and Heather Maitland, who are on the call, now being the archive team We should also mention Sarah Cox, the sister of Robert Foreman who has also said she is willing to help so we really have a solid team and are getting through a huge amount of work

Hugh explained how they are spending a lot of time creating the correct environment in which to keep archive material and stressed how they are raising the standards in terms of content, cataloguing, preservation and conservation.

Hugh explained they have had their first Research Day and will have the Archive open on the second Thursday of every month.

Hugh them showed the meeting the work done on the Gunnar Poppe album which cost £1800 which was well worth every penny. If it had not been done by Hugh's contact at Cambridge University it would probably have cost three times that.

Previously submitted report:

As reported at the last meeting, a candidate for Archivist to succeed me at the forthcoming AGM has been found and Gordon England and I have been working together for the past few months to effect a seamless handover. As also mentioned, a third member has joined the team, Heather Maitland a professional consultant in the heritage sector, who will bring a different level of experience and knowledge to the team.

With the three of us committed for the long term, Gordon upcoming Archivist, followed by Heather in the future and with me remaining as part of the team, we are in the process of drawing up a Ten Year plan that we will present at the AGM for agreement by the Committee the path that will be followed for the work of the Archive is clearly understood. That will require funding, of course, so it will contain details of proposed budget for work, conservation, acquisition etc, which I hope can be secured and ring fenced within the larger Association funds. We are planning on completing a draft of the plan in the next few weeks and will circulate amongst a small group of people for internal discussion prior to releasing it to all interested parties for discussion at the AGM. It would be appreciated if all members of the Committee took the time to read and consider the proposals and discuss them within their Clubs, so a supported decision can be taken at the AGM.

As far as those 2 new members of the Team are concerned, the last few weeks has been much about them understanding the contents of the Archive, the work that has already been done, where we are now and the work that needs to be done as a priority. They have also both attended the Workshop run by Hampshire County Council (the one that the Archive Team went on when the current project started) which they both found very useful.

At the last meeting an interim advance of funds was made to the Archive covering the costs of the course (which, frankly, are minimal!) We are acquiring some more shelving (desperately required with the influx of materials as a result of the significant number of donations over the past year) and conservation materials that will allow the construction of bespoke boxes to store such things as photo albums, etc giving better storage and preservation. We are also looking into adding 'Location Reference Data' to each item in the collection, so they can be found on which rack and shelf, etc. Again, required with the increasing size of the collection.

There have been one or two additions to the collection. Through the kind help of Tony Betts, who pointed out an item at auction and subsequently bid on it for us, we now have a very nice framed poster, an Austin Publication of a cutaway engine and gearbox for a Big 7. A nice photographic print, albeit modern, of Gunnar Poppe racing in Ireland and a 1933 fold-out brochure for Rosengart.

One important topic has come to my attention in that the last time a valuation of the collection was made for insurance purposes was in 2014. That is, of course, way out of date in terms of both values and items covered. I am working on an insurance re-valuation currently.

Finally, I am happy to report that beginning on Thursday 12th January, the Archive will be open to visitors on the 2nd Thursday of each month. This will be (by necessity) by appointment with requests made by email to the Archivist. Hours will be 10:30 – 14:30. Formal Open Days are also being considered with the first planned for the Spring. Dates and programme of topics will be announced in the coming weeks.

Comments: David Cochrane mentioned that he has heard the Archive talked about outside of the Austin Seven world and the quality, standard and professionalism that is shown is getting well known and is something else that we can be proud of. The pop-up museum was one of the many things that was noted as being excellent at the Centenary and the work of the Archive is something we can look forward to carrying on with. It has a lot of momentum and the idea of the 10-year plan is great.

Editor – Howard Wright

Howard said he had hoped his first magazine would have been with Howard Annett now and ready for distribution but it should be with us fairly soon.

Howard asked a question about publication dates following a query from Bristol. Howard Annett confirmed they are the meeting dates of 8th January, 9th April, 9th July and 8th October. Howard confirmed that Bristol, Scottish and Pre-War clubs are sent their magazines directly from the printers.

Previously submitted report:

My first report! At the time of writing (28/12/22) the 2023A Edition should have been printed and copies should soon be with Howard A for distribution. Putting the issue together was greatly helped by Mike Costigan providing pretty much ready to go contents, thanks Mike.

The next issue is taking shape and I have promises of articles but not knowing how quickly they will come to fruition I'm a little worried that things are a bit sparse at the moment. So if anyone can help? Just two please that Club representatives could take back. 1. Photos submitted are always welcome and historical ones provide a lot of interest. Some of these are unavoidably poor quality having been captured on less than ideal cameras and processed onto prints that have degraded with time. If you are submitting such images it is best to send in the original print rather than try to scan yourself. Nick Turley can work wonders on an original print but is very restricted working on a bad quality, low resolution scan. 2. Liz and I really enjoy visiting member club rallies. However I find it difficult to establish when and where events are taking place. Just three clubs had adverts in the 2023A issue (remember, 1/2 page ads are free for Member Clubs). If you do wish to advertise your Club rally / get together also remember that there is a substantial lead time for an ad to appear in print and through a members letterbox. For example an ad submitted now will, at best, appear in the April issue, one received after 1st March won't appear until July! Finally I'm still learning and would welcome any comments on the content, editorial style, etc

Comments:

Hugh Barnes mentioned that Mike Costigan always sent him a couple of copies of the magazine for the Archive and Howard agreed this would continue.

Hugh Barnes also said he intends to do an article about the Poppe album for the next edition.

Peter Hales mentioned the Events Calendar on the Association website and commented he is surprised how little is put on it. Howard said he will be putting something about this in the editorial in the 2023B edition to point this out. He said also that it's not always remembered to take the events off the calendar so there is an obligation on people asking Roger to put events on the calendar to remind Roger when they need to be taken off.

Registrar – Peter Hales

Firstly, thank you again to Roger Brown for keeping the Register going while I was unwell. It has been a very busy period for the Registrar(s) since the Centenary rally, the events to mark the 100th anniversary of the Austin Seven have certainly brought a lot of cars out of the woodwork.

It was the end of October that the Centenary committee produced a long list of cars that were entered into the Rally and not on the Register and asked people to send the Registrar the details. We have had 142 cars added to the Register as a result.

In the last half of 2022 the Registrar has received over 400 emails with information about cars, thank you to all those that have help increase the number of cars on the Register to 12488. A summary of the new cars added and updates made to the details of cars on the register are below.

	New Cars	Updates
July	0	0
August	9	32
September	6	8
October	19	0
November	104	8
December	4	18
	142	64

In addition to the work to add cars to the Register the work to standardise the nomenclature is progressing.

Once again thank you to all the people that have helped improve the information on the Register and please keep sending me the information.

Comments:

David Cochrane explained how he regularly finds the Register an excellent resource as people ring him who have no idea how old their cars are, and because of the Register he can usually date them to within a month.

Peter Hales explained that the downloadable databases on the website are update most months.

Ruairidh Dunford-Ruairidh commented how good it was to see Peter at the meeting following his recent illness.

Webmaster – Roger Brown

Maintenance and updating has continued and news items added, for example awards and following up cars at the Centenary event which were not on the Register of survivors.

Page visits over the last 3 months are shown this table:

Page	Oct	Nov	Dec
/home	523	743	543
/chassis-register/	526	699	472
/chassis-register/regresults/	284	489	296
/chassis-register/chassisresults	89	75	75
/chassis-register/tracking-down-my-old-car/	56	66	66

/chassis-register/notification-form/	28	79	23
/austin-seven/	67	56	40
/austin-seven/spares	205	174	101
/austin-seven-models/	71	87	87
/austin-seven/paints-and-colours/	57	81	62
/member-clubs/	191	168	170
/shop/	109	512	431
/news/	85	122	80

A few points I note:

- 1 - Chassis Register, one way or another is the most frequently visited page – as previously.
- 2 - Spares and Member Clubs are next most frequent – I don't know why, but I wasn't expecting that.
- 3 - Publicising cars known to exist after the Centenary event, but not on the Register resulted in a busy November for our Registrar.
- 4 - It looks like the shop could have done well in the run-up to Christmas.
- 5 - The site is in steady use for research on models, colours etc.

As far as events on the website there are 2 or 3 events on it at the moment . If clubs have open events on the Events Calendar, they should let me know and they will be put on in a day or two of being informed. We don't want routine club meetings on the events page as they are covered elsewhere, just open events that anyone can enter.

Comments:

Sarah Mason said that for the Centenary she did collate a list of Centenary events for the website, and she would be happy to collate a pdf of the Calendar that can be downloaded from the website and send it to Roger. She could then delete from the pdf the events that have passed.

Insurance Liaison officer – David Mawby

Nothing to Report

6. Centenary Website, Database & Facebook

A document written by Nick Salmon was circulated prior the meeting asking what should be done with the Centenary website, the database of email addresses gathered as a result of the Centenary event and the Facebook page. **The report can be seen at Appendix 2.**

Nick explained that we have a communication resource that has done a fantastic job for the Centenary and this could be something that we could carry forward and perhaps develop as a communications tool for the Association. The Facebook group has just under 1000 members, the database of people that attended the event contains about 1100 email addresses and there is a second database of 1900 who expressed an interest in receiving information about the Centenary year. There will be some duplication between the two lists but if these were de-duplicated, we could have 1500 or so addresses of people who are interested in Austin 7 matters and therefore his question to the committee is: do they have any views on what we might do with the list or do we just tell people that we've come to the end of the Centenary year and we are just stopping there?

Comments

Sarah Mason – highlighted that under data protection we are only able to hold and use the information for the purpose it has been given to us. We would have to go through the Information Commissioner website and do their test and it is likely we would have to

register and pay in order to process individuals' information. We would have a duty to keep it accurate and up to date. If we were going to keep an email list for one to one communication by direct email we need to go back and be specific about what we want to do with the information and it has to be an 'opt in' for those people, and we have to keep it up to date at least once a year. Sarah explained she is not sure what we would do with the information that we wouldn't expect individual clubs to do (assuming the people on the list are a member). If they are not a member or have lapsed their membership then the question is would we want to keep in contact with them outside of the normal Association or Committee group anyway?

Hugh Barnes made an observation that when he makes announcements about the Archive he only uses Austin 7 Friends and not Facebook as he has a slight concern about the relevancy of some of the people in those groups as there are people that join lots of groups who have no real interest.

Nick Salmon confirmed he is aware of the need for ICO Registration. (Paul Lawrence later confirmed that the A7CA were already registered with the ICO). If we wanted to use the database we could comply with the rules and give people the option to opt in. The question that is coming out of this conversation is what do we want to use the database for, if anything? In response to Hugh's point Nick said he didn't have any hang ups about the people on the group as long as they behave themselves and in the last 18 months he has only had to remove two people.

Peter Hales said that whilst it was a good resource that would be a shame to waste it does cross a threshold. The Officers will receive emails and respond back, but in so doing we are inadvertently collecting personal information, but there is a very clear reason for that. Once you've got a list of people and are sending out information, that is different. When Hugh announces the archive open days it is on a different platform (Austin 7 Friends), not the Association sending out advertising. We are not currently sending speculative information out to individuals so this would be different to what we are currently doing.

Paul Lawrence confirmed that we only send information out to clubs and that we are already registered with the Information Compliance Officer.

Chris Roberts asked if the database could be available to clubs and **Nick Salmon** explained that could not be done as that would be giving the database to a third party.

Nick added that some clubs may have events they would like to advertise wider and this could be done using the database via the Association. It would be a service to the member clubs of the Association.

Chris Roberts asked for clarification if the Association was an Association of the clubs or a distinct beast? Is this a place where the clubs chat, talk and organise or does it organise clubs? It was established it was the former. **David Cochrane** said it would be a service that the Association can offer to improve the work of the individual clubs. Chris Roberts said that as long as it was held in that way that's fine He said that the Bristol club are concerned about the GDPR side of it, which it sounds like everybody is on top of, but we do need to be careful as to how this is portrayed going forward to make sure the arrangement is that this is an Association of clubs, not a club itself.

Hugh Barnes commented that up until the last year the Association had a very clear remit to deliver the Centenary event. We created a huge amount of momentum for the Association and the Austin Seven ownership and we need to maintain that momentum. He

does believe the Association has a question to ask itself as to what its purpose is, going forward.

Sarah Mason said she was not clear what this committee, as a federation of individual Austin Seven owner's clubs, is there to do, but she is slightly uneasy with holding a database of any given number of individuals, who we will communicate directly with from time to time when we already have a number of existing channels that people can come to. If the list of events calendar and list of contacts is on the website people can come to us and look at what is going on and be diverted off with a link to the organising club. If we are talking about social media then there are plenty of other social media channels out there so we need to be sure that we're directing people into a single one rather than duplicating an enormous amount of effort with the risk that you repeat inaccurate information, because having three or four different versions out there isn't hugely helpful. We do need to understand what we are here to do and keep the momentum going but Sarah is not sure that having a mailing list of individual people who may or may not be members of a local club is the right way when the job of a national association is to encourage people to make contact locally with members and join in and use their cars and part of something rather than just signing up to the national organisation and getting the book. So we start to take ourselves off into a different place if we are seeking to establish ourselves as something more than the power of the branches or local clubs which are where the heartbeat is, Sarah is not completely convinced that seeking to add value by operating on top of that is where we want to go, we should be looking for something that's much more complimentary in terms of the information we hold. On the whole from a Cornwall perspective (although Sarah hasn't spoken to the committee) they'd probably say no to keeping the database of the people who were interested in the anniversary last year but yes to something that signposts people, puts the national calendar out there which encourages people to make local contact. The Cornwall club are taking a group of Austin Sevens up through the midlands and up to the lakes and the peaks and Sarah would like to speak to the local clubs to see how they can join up on that..... isn't that our role?

Rick Bishop agrees with Sarah and Hugh's point about maintaining momentum. The problem is that it needs to be maintained. Nick has done a wonderful job over the Centenary but it has to be managed. If you get people on there using bad language they have to be monitored as Nick has done. As far as the Association is concerned, the Midlands club and have got about 130 members and it's not growing as they would like. One or two people have said that in the next ten years will we have little individual clubs or will have one big club. One thing is for sure, as we get older there are very few younger people coming in and I can foresee that we become one big club rather than individual clubs. It's not what we want, that's for sure. As Sarah says we do need to be very careful with databases.

Hugh Barnes said he is keen that we open up an Association YouTube channel. It would have to be planned for and we would have to release things on a relatively regular basis. It would be able to advertise Austin 7 use and ownership. We've got some film from an Archive Open Day, we've got the Curborough Track Day and Beaulieu coming up and lots of opportunities to put out little videos about that sort of thing which says "look what fun we are having" "look how you can use your car". This could be really advantageous.

Howard Wright commented that this is a very big subject and isn't something that we can quickly cover as part of this meeting. It will need a lot more consultation with the clubs because not all the clubs are represented. Is it something we could put out to the member clubs for consultation and then come back. It would need somebody to put together a consultation document which would then go out to the clubs.

David Cochrane agreed that he was coming to the same conclusion, and it is not something we can decide on today. He asked Nick Salmon if he would be happy to take it forward.

Nick Salmon commented that he would except that he is slightly surprised by the turn of the conversation which seems to suggest that the Association doesn't quite know what it represents in a firm and very clear way and he would slightly uncomfortable taking this forward to the clubs without being very clear on that fundamental point. He's always looked at the association as being the talking shop for the clubs but really the association is there as a servant of the clubs and is there to promote membership of those clubs to individuals in whatever way. He thinks and hopes we've got a mission to bring as many people not the Austin 7 world as possible and to channel them to our member clubs to be members of those clubs. He is happy to create a document but would like to know what the association thinks it represents because that's fundamental to the communications.

Ruairidh Dunford commented that he had looked at Mailchimp's website (the software we have used to send out the emails) and there is a facility for us to send an email asking people to opt in and update their preferences if they wished to continue to receive the emails. If they no longer wished to receive the emails, they could just ignore the email and would then no longer be sent anything. Ruairidh suggested that this may address the concerns that people had raised.

Charlie Plain-Jones endorsed what has been said by Ruairidh and Nick. There are a lot of Austin Seven owners who are not members of clubs yet but might be encouraged to do so if they could see the ground swell of the larger movement. He thought the strength of the Austin Sevens is that we operate nationally and internationally but are strong at a local level.

David Cochrane suggested we draw it to a close and further discussion can be had between the Officers

Sarah Mason said she would be happy to be part of a smaller group to discuss this further and that we had strayed quite a lot from Nick's original question about the email addresses and the social media page, which was relatively easy to answer and we've probably not given him a steer on that at all.

7. Proposal for A7CA to Purchase Zoom Account

A proposal for the A7CA to purchase a Zoom account was circulated prior to the meeting by Paul Lawrence. The proposal can be seen at **Appendix 3**.

It was agreed that Option 2 should be perused.

Option 2 -Business

£159.90/year/user

Meetings up to 30 hours per meeting

300 Attendees per meeting

Whiteboard Unlimited

Team Chat

BETA Mail & Calendar Client

Cloud Storage 5GB

Extras SSO, managed domains & more

Comments

Howard Wright asked if individual clubs could use the facility for their own clubs.

Chris Roberts – says he believes you pay per user so if you want two people to host meetings two subscriptions are required. He said his club (Bristol) would be interested in having access to the Zoom account.

Ruairidh Dunford – Ruairidh said that the Scottish Austin 7 Club committee had advised him that they support option 2. In relation to some of the questions Ruairidh could give his personal experience and all we would need to do is share the email address and details that were set up with the Association Zoom account with the Secretary's of the member clubs. We would also have to make sure that no two clubs were logging on at the same time.

Rick Bishop Confirmed what Ruairidh had said the Midland club would support Option 2. It would be difficult to manage if all the clubs were using it.

Sarah Mason said given the previous discussion where there may be things we want to do on a larger basis we may be better going for the one that gives us the largest audience, particularly for the first year, so we can be a bit innovative with what else we do as an umbrella organisation such as presentations and talks. She thinks there are really big issues about saying to each club you can log in to the national one and that's probably not going to work, but she's happy to be part of a small group.

Michael Tabcart – said the Devon Club support the proposal

8. New Officers Required at Next AGM

Advertising Manager - Sarah has expressed an interest to take over from Ruairidh as Advertising officer so this might be a resolution

Chair – Nick Turley will stand down and David Cochrane is willing to stand for Chair.

Vice Chair – Required.

Archivist – Hugh Barnes will formally stand down as Archivist but there is a willing volunteer who is prepared to stand and take on the role.

9. A7CA Publicity Officer Proposal

David Cochrane explained that the position of Publicity Officer had been spoken about at the previous meeting and a proposal had now been put together which can be seen at Appendix 4.

It was agreed that a recommendation from the Committee would go to the AGM for this role to be adopted, along with a nomination if there were any. This is to be shared with the clubs prior to the AGM.

10. Timing of Meetings.

David Cochrane explained that we had moved the meeting to 9am on a Sunday to enable overseas Clubs to join but this hasn't been a great success. The questions are should 9am be maintained and moving on from that should we keep Sundays or move to a weekday.

A move to a weekday was largely supported and it was agreed that we would move the meeting to the 2nd Tuesday of April, July, October, January.

11. AOB

None mentioned at the meeting.

Nigel Barford of the Austin Ex-Apprentices Association (AEAA) had to leave before the end of meeting but sent the below for inclusion in AOB:

I will get the Pride of Longbridge Rally and an AEAA trip to the Great British Car Journey in April on the Calendar of Events and probably write separately to Rich Bishop as both are possibly of interest to Midlands members.

The AEAA celebrated the Centenary at their December Reunion and you may have noticed Chris Johns' immaculate A7 on my backdrop which was displayed in our dinner venue. Our after dinner speaker was Great British Car Journey founder Richard Usher who I know is well known to the A7 community and I believe a friend of Nick Turley. Thanks again for including me in your excellent meeting and I look forward to being involved in the future.

All the best.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The original date mentioned at the meeting was Tuesday 11th April although it has been realised many will be unavailable due to the proximity with Easter. Therefore the meeting will now be:

Wednesday 17th May 2023 at 7.30pm

Appendix 1

Austin 7 Clubs' Association Financial Report 1 January to 31 December 2022

£

Balance 1 January 2022 Current A/C 37,950.35

Receipts January-December 2022

Magazine Sales	24,318.22
Sale of back numbers	4.00
Subscriptions for 2021	375.00
Magazine Distribution Recharged to Clubs	0.00
Receipts Warwick DVD	0.00
Advertising	1,618.00
Interest Received	0.00
Receipts for Jack French Garage Project	0.00
Sale of Binders	220.00
Insurance Payouts	0.00
Archive Sales	-198.17
Digital Archive Receipts	0.00
Other Misc Income	5,896.83
Centenary Exhib Guide & Programme	516.44
Centenary Sticker Receipts	696.08
RH/A-Plan Adverts Receipts	0.00
<u>Total receipts</u>	<u>33,446.40</u>

Payments January-December 2022

Magazine Print and Layout Costs	10,901.76
Magazine Distribution (postage)	2,667.81
Centenary Exhib Guide & Programme	139.06
Centenary Sticker Costs	1,953.33
Subscriptions (ie FBHVC)	30.00
Jack French Garage Project Costs	660.00
Room Hire for Meetings	0.00
Binders Costs	0.00
Insurance	2,446.14
Archive Costs	4,356.58
Archive Purchases	426.34
Digitisation of Archives Project	0.00
Website Cost	230.20
RH/A-Plan Rebated Payments	911.00
Officers Expenses	7,571.97
A7CA contribution to Jack French Garage project	0.00
<u>Total payments</u>	<u>32,294.19</u>

Account balances at the end of December 2022

Total Balance Lloyds Current Account 39,396.46

Receipts & Payments October to December

	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Payments</u>
Archive Purchase reimburse Barnes		50.70
Archive preservation work Sheldrick		80.00
4506 Swallows	165.00	
4486 A7OC London	3,034.00	
Jump Magazine Print 2022D		2,662.00

4516 Ulster	89.00	
Jump Postage		325.00
4500 Online	180.00	
4510 Dutch (via A7C)	733.00	
4491 Cambridge	340.00	
4515 Switzerland	285.00	
4507 VAR	798.00	
4495 Essex	278.00	
4512 New Zealand	392.00	
4517 Victoria	205.00	
4511 Germany	137.47	
Adverts Alba	148.00	
Adverts Simon North	238.00	
Adverts A7C	148.00	
4496 Hereford	172.00	
Adverts Goodfellow	148.00	
Adverts Seven Workshop	148.00	
4497 Midlands	968.00	
4494 Dorset	1,044.00	
4493 Devon	210.00	
Editor Expenses Postage Costigan		13.80
Magazine postage reimburse Annett		330.44
4518 Western Australia	132.56	
Donation to charity re Prescott Centenary Event		1,000.00
4513 S Africa and 4509 Irish, via C Heeley	330.19	
4498 Norfolk	472.00	
4489 Bristol	1,275.00	
4514 South Australia	135.00	
Reimburse C Heeley		32.25
Reimburse C Heeley, envelopes for books		15.78
4504 S Wales	596.00	
Reimburse C Heeley, postage of books		42.40
Centenary Books	21.70	
Adverts Martin Prior	148.00	
Centenary Books	20.00	
Centenary Books	44.55	
Reimburse C Heeley, postage of books		5.50
Reimburse C Heeley Stamps		10.88
Adverts Wayne Styles	132.00	
Archive Rental TSSC		3,500.00
Centenary Books	400.09	
Adverts Nightingale	148.00	
Adverts Mouat	120.00	
Adverts Woodrow	120.00	
Reimburse C Heeley postage of books		30.10
Reimburse C Heeley, postage of books		2.15
Correction - repaid £30.10 as paid twice	30.10	
Chris Oliver (advertising)	120.00	
4502 Scottish Austin Seven	980.00	
4501 The Pre-war Austin 7 Club	9,788.00	
Heather Maitland Archive expenses		134.98
Brainstorm 4203 - 2023A Artwork and Simon North Ad Art		450.00
Hugh Barnes - £244.08 PEL inv 457144. poster purchase and sale to T		
Betts email to treasurer 23/12		94.08

Appendix 2

Centenary Website and Databases (Nick Salmon)

Centenary Database

I'd like A7CA to consider what it wants to do at the end of this year with the Centenary website and, more importantly, the email databases. One database is of 1100 Centenary event attendees, the other is about 1900 people who signed up to receive information about general Centenary year news. There will be some duplication between the two lists of course. The attendee list has not been used since last July.

At the moment I am using the larger one to send news of the various awards etc as I see that as part of my Centenary year 'job', but of course I have no remit to do anything else in respect of A7CA matters.

The databases are a valuable communications resource and it would seem a pity to let them go to waste. We could de-duplicate them into one list and maybe it could be used to communicate event news etc from any of the A7CA member clubs?

I think it would be necessary to tell the list recipients what the new purpose of the list would be and to say they can always unsubscribe if they don't wish to remain.

This is just an idea. Perhaps you can think of other/better uses.

Centenary Website

As for the Centenary Event website I suggest that it is retained for 2023 (so it can display some of the pics and videos when they eventually get published) and then archived to the Archive at the end of that year.

Centenary Facebook

The most popular thread on the Austin Seven Friends forum is 'What have you done today with your Austin Seven'. It has had over 4,600 posts and been viewed over 1.275 million times since October 2018.

The Centenary Facebook page could morph into a similar theme, with a stated purpose of showing the world the joys of A7 ownership and use.

Appendix 3

Proposal for A7CA to Purchase Zoom Account

Background

Since the Corona virus pandemic began in early 2020 all Austin Seven Clubs' Association quarterly meetings have been held on Zoom.

Although this change was brought about by necessity it has proved to be extremely beneficial for many reasons, which include:

- Eradication of travel time for attendees
- Eradication of travel expenses for attendees
- Greater inclusivity as representatives of all Clubs have been able to attend and contribute to meetings regardless of geography

In addition to the quarterly committee meetings, numerous Centenary planning meetings were also held on Zoom. This again proved to be extremely beneficial for the reasons mentioned above and was undoubtedly one of the many factors that helped the Centenary event to be such a success.

Proposal

To date the A7CA has relied upon on the goodwill of committee members making their personal Zoom accounts available for Association business. Whist the A7CA is extremely grateful for their generosity it is unfair to rely continually on those individuals to host Association meetings on their personal accounts. In addition, relying solely on those individuals does build an element of frailty into the system as meetings cannot be held if they are not available to host them.

It is therefore proposed that the A7CA should purchase its own Zoom account.

Options

The options available are shown below:

Option 1 - Pro

£119.90/year/user

Meetings up to 30 hours per meeting

100 Attendees per meeting

Whiteboard 3 include

Team Chat

BETA Mail & Calendar Client

Cloud Storage 5GB

Option 2 -Business

£159.90/year/user

Meetings up to 30 hours per meeting

300 Attendees per meeting

Whiteboard Unlimited

Team Chat

BETA Mail & Calendar Client

Cloud Storage 5GB

Extras SSO, managed domains & more

Option 3 – Business Plus

£185.00/year/user

Meetings up to 30 hours per meeting

300 Attendees per meeting

Whiteboard Unlimited

Team Chat

BETA Mail & Calendar Client

Cloud Storage 10GB

Extras SSO, managed domains & more

Phone Unlimited regional

Translated Captions

Workspace Reservations

Recommendation

Option 1 allows 100 attendees per meeting and whilst this is a significant number it is possible that on some occasions this number may not be sufficient. During the pandemic a talk was given on Zoom where individual members of the member clubs were invited to join and this number was nearly reached.

Options 2 & 3 are both likely to fulfil our needs

What is asked of Clubs

It is requested that the A7CA Committee sanction expenditure up to £185 to cover the cost of option 3 and a smaller group then research further to decide which of options 2 or 3 best suit the needs of the A7CA and purchase accordingly

Paul Lawrence

Secretary

Appendix 4

A7CA Publicity Officer

The Austin Seven Clubs' Association has identified a requirement for a Publicity Officer to join the other Officials of the Association (as listed in the Constitution: <https://a7ca.org/about-us/constitution/>).

Duties could include:

- In co-operation with the Chairman, to act as the focal point in promoting the Austin 7 movement and the Association for member clubs, other historic car movements (e.g. the FBHVC, VSCC, etc), the media and the general public
- To maintain and enhance a social media presence (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc as appropriate).
- To set up and maintain an Association YouTube channel to publish videos from time to time.
- To act as a Press Officer by keeping principal historic vehicle publications (e.g. The Automobile, Classic & Sportscar, etc) under review, and submitting press releases to them.
- In co-operation with the Secretary, to maintain contact with member clubs with respect to publicity affairs.
- To keep the General Committee and General Meetings informed of relevant publicity matters.
- To maintain an emailing list for purposes of disseminating news of Austin 7 interest to members of Austin 7 clubs.