
	<p>THE AUSTIN SEVEN CLUBS' ASSOCIATION</p> <p><i>Past Presidents: Donald Doughty, Stanley Edge, Bert Hadley, Freddie Henry, Bob Wyatt</i></p>	
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Agenda Call Quarterly Business Meeting

held on Zoom

Tuesday 8th October 2024 @ 7pm

Committee Attendees

- *Austin Seven Owners Club (London) – Howard Annett*
- *Bongtree Austin Seven Club - no rep in attendance.*
- *Bristol Austin Seven Club – Chris Roberts*
- *Cambridge Austin Seven Club – Paul Lawrence*
- *Cornwall Austin Seven Club – Sarah Mason*
- *Devon Austin Seven Club – Michael Tabeart*
- *Dorset Austin Seven Club – Roger Ballard*
- *Essex Austin Seven Club – no rep in attendance*
- *Hereford Austin Seven Club – Roly Alcock*
- *Midlands Austin Seven Club – Andy Lowe*
- *Norfolk Austin Seven Club – Paul Maulden*
- *Online Austin Seven Club – Roger Price*
- *Pre-War Austin Seven Club – Nick Turley*
- *Scottish Austin Seven Club – Ruairidh Dunford*
- *Solent Austin Seven Club - no rep in attendance.*
- *South Wales Austin Seven Club – Peter Hales*
- *Vintage Austin Register - Ian Brough*

Officer Attendees

- *Chairman – David Cochrane*
- *Vice Chairman – Nick Salmon*
- *Secretary – Ruairidh Dunford*
- *Treasurer – Chris Roberts*
- *Archivist – Gordon England*
- *Registrar – Peter Hales*
- *Magazine Editor – Howard Wright*
- *Advertising – Sarah Mason*
- *Publicity Officer – Steve Earl*
- *Webmaster – Roger Brown*
- *Insurance Liaison Officer – not in attendance*
- *Magazine Distribution - Howard Annett*

Associate Club/Register/Other Attendees

- *Minute Secretary – Hugh Barnes*
- *Austin 7 Specials Register – David Charles*
 - *Chris Garner - SHE Memorial Stone*

Apologies

- *Bongtree A7 Club*
- *Solent A7 Club*
- *David Mawby – Insurance Rep*

Chairman's Welcome

Action points from previous Meeting

- *RD suggested that we might ask Clubs if they had a volunteer to take on the task of **Events Secretary**.*
 - o *No one in the BtA7C able to help with the proposals*
 - o *Expression of Interest from a Pre-War member who is discussing role with Officers. In progress..*
- *Through RD, Emma Airey has clarified position over questions around 'Modifications' requests from RH and these will be published in the A7CA Mag.*
 - o *Update: This has appeared in 2024D.*
- *Stanley Edge Memorial Stone: RD asked AL if he could look into the costs of moving the stone. AL agreed and will report back for the October meeting.*



- *Update: Correspondence from Andy Lowe (AL) is shown in Appendix 1. Clubs need to decide if they want to pursue this action and, if so, put forward volunteer/s to oversee it. (Time sensitive due to Church contact retiring)*
 - *No one in the BtA7C is able to volunteer*
 - *Chris Garner has kindly agreed to take on looking after the next stage of trying to relocate Stanley Edge's memorial to the churchyard.*
 - *Question mark over whether the existing stone would be acceptable to the Church authorities.*
 - *CG reports that communication from Vicar of church indicating a form is available to locate a memorial in churchyard. CG needs information on Stan's date of death and funeral. Many other details are required (size etc) Returned to payment to clerk of Diocesan Registrar of Birmingham the requires non-refundable payment. CG will attempt to progress this without incurring further costs. Secretary pointed out that any costs would have to be voted by Club reps*
 - *David Charles pointed out that John Stubbs of the Austin Motor Company had raised £250 to go towards this. David Cochrane agreed to contact him to see if this was available to us.*
 - *Sarah Mason said that the Clubs had already agreed to this. Also pointed out that these are standard forms for the Diocese and a gentle approach would probably go down well. CG will present a 'neutral' approach*
 - *Andy Lowe will provide stone measurements*
 - *Proposal to release total of up to £350 to fund this. All but Bristol in favour. Bristol had not supported the move in the first place.*
- *Sarah Mason raised point of order about adherence to figures stated in the minutes and that Club reps have been granted a degree of flexibility to allow movement from stated amounts. Nick Turley suggested that flexibility should be built into any proposals.*

1. Minutes of Last Business Meeting (25th June 2024) - See here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dyRmguAo1_57X5HQ0rBfoFZ11ZAYK8D VW6yW_QHTcQY/edit?usp=sharing

Proposed: Nick Turley

Seconded: Roger Price

2. Officer's Reports

a) Chairman – David Cochrane

The rally season is now behind us, and reports in various Club magazines show that all were pretty successful and well-attended. I went to the PWA7C Stonehurst rally which was a more ambitious event this year, with evening activities and several runs including a visit to the Archive at Lubenham. I also spent a couple of days at the Beaulieu rally, as usual ably organised by Ian Nelson and his team. Both events were blessed with fine weather, and the very sociable gatherings were much enjoyed by all. One of our younger members, Joe Faulkner, had a sponsored run down with his father in his Box: he was raising money for Kidney Care UK who had a stand on the rally field and raised a useful amount for their charity. It's a sign of how long the modern Austin 7 movement has been going, in that the Beaulieu rally has been held for over 60 years, and we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the London to Monte Carlo Run which was organised by the Brooklands Centre of the 750 Motor Club in May 1972; there was a splendid cake and a reunion of 8 of the surviving participants. Unfortunately the repro Ulster I had been lent for the trip developed an alarming oil loss on the way home, which meant that I had to make use of RH's get-you-home service – this went very smoothly with a fairly short wait to be picked up.

Austin Sevens were very much in evidence at the VSCC's 90th anniversary celebrations in August on the various runs, rallies and speed events. I was able to join in some of these with my GE Cup Special, which is at last running well.

We are very pleased that David Trickett of the Midlands A7C has volunteered to take over as Van Registrar, after many years of sterling service by Christopher Blower. Christopher has passed on an excellent set of records which will help David get started on his new role.

Action: Update Magazine, Website and Sec lists of communication with DT's email etc.

Our Archivist, Gordon England, is continuing to get to grips with the various tasks associated with the position, which has included looking after and selling reprints of some of the original advertising brochures. These can be purchased from clubs such as the PWA7C.

The Editorial cupboard is at a worryingly low ebb, so I would like to reiterate the call for more copy which has been widely circulated on Facebook. This has produced a good response, but more articles would be very welcome!

Comments: None

b) Secretary – Ruairidh Dunford

As expected, I have had very little correspondence over the summer, everyone has been out and about having fun.

Alan Billington recently volunteered to review our Public Liability Insurance document and compare it to the one on offer through the FBHVC. He considers what we have to be good, with a caveat that he is not a professional, just an interested party. I want to thank him for taking the time to look over these policies and let us know his thoughts, it was a very useful exercise.

Our Treasurer has raised a concern with me that requires some further investigation from a professional.

Chris is concerned that the Association sells a small number of items to people and Clubs each year, these are mainly surplus archive items and reproduction prints. By continuing to sell in this way, he considers that we may incur a tax charge. None of the officers are experts in this area - David, Nick and I feel that it would be a very good idea for the A7CA to pay for a professional to advise us on the best way forward.

Mark Rose has helped us very successfully in the past and I have spoken to him very recently about helping Chris in getting an answer to this issue, he has agreed a very reasonable fixed fee of £200 + Vat.

To this end we are looking for a Club to propose this course of action so that a vote can be taken and instruction given to Chris along with an agreed budget.

n.b. The Cornwall Club is happy to propose this for a Club vote at the Meeting - please see point 2 in AOCB

Comments: None

c) Treasurer - Chris Roberts

Account Balances as at 5/9/24

Main £26,588.71

Centenary £5086.95

PayPal £117.86

Payments & Receipts 1/1/24 to 5/9/24

Row Labels	Q124	Q224	Q324	Grand Total
Admin				
admin		-£ 30.00	-£ 190.88	-£ 220.88
Ins	-£ 2,504.08			-£ 2,504.08
Ads				
Sale	£ 45.00			£ 45.00
binder				
Sale			£ 60.00	£ 60.00
Web				
P&P			-£ 22.70	-£ 22.70
Archive				
IT		-£ 95.88		-£ 95.88
resto	-£ 798.26	-£ 155.57		-£ 953.83
stock	-£ 900.00			-£ 900.00
Magazine				
IT	-£ 29.97		-£ 59.94	-£ 89.91
layout	-£ 360.00	-£ 360.00	-£ 360.00	-£ 1,080.00
P&P	-£ 694.24	-£ 713.07	-£ 687.20	-£ 2,094.51
print		-£2,642.00	-£2,630.00	-£ 5,272.00
Error			-£ 0.06	-£ 0.06
Centenary				
Sale	£ 16.28		£ 16.63	£ 32.91
Grand Total	-£ 5,225.27	-£3,996.52	-£3,874.15	-£13,095.94

Budget

Spend is currently below the budgeted amounts

Comments: CR reported he had found £250 in a Paypal account left over from Centenary. Q4 will also see invoices to be sent out to Clubs.

Rent for the Archive premises.

Annual rent had been increased from budgeted amount and Archivist is in discussions. Archivist has been in discussions with TSSC staff who are looking into the rent increase. Archivist expects increase will be less than suggested but that there will be an annual increase in future. Existing agreement with TSSC is somewhat out of date and needs review. Treasurer working on a 5% increase but that is slightly less than the requested amount (£4000 as opposed to £4200)

d) Archivist – Gordon England

Activities at the Archive have been quieter over the summer but we are now getting back to regular meetings and progress. The work remains focussed on cataloguing and conservation.

Cataloguing is still our biggest task and we continue to make progress. The Master Catalogue now has 1765 entries and adding the two photo collections recently scanned will bring this up to over 2400 items.

Hugh Barnes now has all the photos in the Hargreaves and Fairlie collections scanned. We are starting to catalogue them. This is going to need additional help identifying cars, locations and people and we will be asking for help in the near future. The photos in the Fairlie collection will need some care to get them flattened for storage, we are investigating the best way to do this. They have curled due to the way they were dried at the end of the print process and this will likely not respond to the techniques used so far on (older) Archive photos. Now that these two collections are scanned, Hugh will be starting to scan the other photos held in the Archive but not in single collections.

The initial sort of the Brian Purves collection has been completed by Anna Edgoose-Zagorsky and Phil Baidon, we are now working out how best to catalogue the items. This will be a significant task and will take some time.

Box making with Sarah Cox has taken a back seat for the summer but we will be back at it in October. In July, we made conservation folders for some of the service journals which were showing signs of deterioration - more to do.

Donations have been a bit quieter but do continue, for which I am very grateful. Phil Baidon donated a marked up copy of the Source Book with a fascinating range of additional information and corrections.

There has been no more expenditure since the last report. It seems that there was some confusion at the last meeting over Archive budgets and spending. For clarity, the budget agreed in the Financial Addendum to the Archive ten year plan – which was agreed at the committee meeting last October – states that the budget is for £20,000 over ten years. There was no commitment to an annual budget as this is almost impossible to predict for two main reasons:

- There will be considerable expenditure on conservation and storage at the beginning of the plan, which will tail off. What was made clear was that if one year the spend is over £2000, then for the remaining years the budget will be reduced accordingly. The addendum also spelled out the approval process for Archive spending.*
- It is impossible to predict what items may be offered to the Archive or become available to purchase.*

The addendum is attached for clarity.

We will need to purchase more storage materials before the end of the Financial Year and I will request appropriate approvals for the purchases as they become necessary,

Finances for the Archive for the Quarter are as follows:

Austin 7 Clubs Association Archive Ten year plan

Financial Management addendum

This addendum to the Ten year plan clarifies the detail of what funding is available when during the lifetime of the plan.

- 1. The AGM approved the ten year plan and confirmed the allocation of £20,000 to be spent over 10 years from April 2023.*
- 2. This budget is additional to the building rent, IT costs and insurance.*
- 3. The nominal spend for each year is £2000. However, this may be adjusted up or down to accommodate significant opportunities to acquire material for the Archive or to conserve significant items already in the collection or offered to us.*
- 4. The Archivist will report on how this money is being spent through the year and at the AGM. Decisions on routine spending within the budget will be made by the Archivist, with consultation / approval as needed.*
 - 4.1. Routine spending is less than £250 per spend.*
 - 4.2. Up to £500 spend would require the prior agreement of the Chairman and Treasurer.*
 - 4.3. Any items over that amount would require prior agreement of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary.*
- 5. It is important that the Archivist can respond quickly to a potential purchase for the Archive so that opportunities are not going to be missed. For this reason, it needs to be agreed by the Committee that the Officers can make these decisions as and when needed.*

(An example of this is the purchase of the Harding collection of photos earlier this year which was completed by the agreement of the Officers - £1000 spent)

- 6. In the event of overspending the annual allowance, the remaining funds will be adjusted so that the fund is split over the remaining years. This avoids an expensive year being followed by having no money.*
- 7. The Archivist and Team will include a budget proposal for the following year to be part of the report to the AGM and subject to approval.*
- 8. Any fundraising activities by the Archive team will be added to the remaining funding.*
- 9. This addendum to be confirmed by the full committee.*

Gordon England - Archivist

Comments: None

e) Editor – Howard Wright

A slightly thinner 2024D Association magazine should be with you by the time of the meeting, or in the very near future afterwards. I was aware that contributions were rather thin on the ground for this issue but valiant attempts by some loyal contributors pushed the content up to what I thought was a just passable level. It is difficult to judge the finished product until the page artist has worked his magic. In 2024D's case it ended up as 44 rather than 48 pages.

It is the first time in my tenure that this has happened. Normally I have too much copy and have to cut articles at proof stage and put them in reserve for the next issue. I am now in a situation when any reserve articles I had, have been used up. So you know what is coming next.

Copy please!!

The scanning committee has been rather quiet during the summer (well inactive actually). My fault entirely. But it has now been re-activated and we will shortly be approaching suppliers for quotes to bring back to this committee.

Comments: Howard has had an influx of articles after recent appeal. There is some small concern over some of the articles having been printed elsewhere. Also doubts over technical articles from other web sites that might be rather lengthy anyway. Perhaps a future Association web page that had all technical articles - either original or pointers to club web site resources. DC suggested that some smaller club articles might get better exposure in the Association Magazine. Archivist agreed with Howard as to how Tech articles could be used. Webmaster pointed out that a list of links to other web sites was not complex.

f) Registrar – Peter Hales

Comments:

A7CA Registrar report for Committee Meeting 08/10/2024

Thank you to all the contributors to the Register, there has been a steady flow of requests and new cars.

In keeping with previous periods the most common request received is to help track down old cars. There have been a number of successes in the last few months and I would like to thank the secretaries and registrars of the member clubs for helping to connect old and new owners of cars.

2024

	New Cars	Updates	Inquiries	Log books
January	4	8	18	
February	7	1	21	

March	4	0	15	
April	3	1	16	
May	3	0	11	
June	2	8	15	
July	7	20	35	
August	5	5	15	1

Peter is helping a chap trying to record all Birmingham registered cars

g) Webmaster – Roger Brown

A7CA Webmaster report for Committee Meeting 08/10/2024

Figures for website use updated to the end of August 2024 are attached. The Chassis Register is easily the most used part of the website, followed by Austin Seven details such as models and colours. I have added a row to show the number of hits on the 'contact' form which mostly come to me, almost daily. Many are concerned with tracing or re-commissioning old cars and I try to respond promptly. Sometimes I can help, sometimes I pass an enquiry to other officers who should be able to be of more help.

I continue updating club contact and meeting details as they are received, but only a small number have been notified since the general push for updates last year. I occasionally come across one that's not right, clarify and update. It is important that clubs do occasionally check that their details are shown accurately both in the list of clubs and on the interactive map.

R G Brown - 08.09.2024

Comments:

Comments: DC noted that there is still an entry on the web site for Centenary events which can be removed. Roger said he would action that. - **post meeting note, this has now been done.**

h) Insurance Liaison officer – David Mawby

It has been a quiet summer regarding my role, which is great news, hopefully everyone has been enjoying their Austin sevens without insurance incidents or issues, long may it continue.

Comments: None

i) Publicity Officer - Steve Earl

I have used my time since our last meeting to get 2 videos on the YouTube Channel @thea7ca . I know from my personal business that simple video content is a great way to get in front of new people.

Both videos have just over 1000 views each at the moment. Primarily from UK viewers with 97% of those not subscribed to the channel. We have almost 100 subscribers to the channel.

Both videos were shot at the Pre-War Beaulieu meeting in the summer. They are an example of how we can put together more short videos from around the country and clubs. Member clubs can send me video footage, I can make a video from it and the association channel can host it. I would happily talk with anyone wishing to get their club on the channel to provide tips and overcome any issues.

With more content we can drive viewer numbers up and promote our member clubs. With greater subscriber levels and viewing numbers we can put more clickable links to member clubs and drive up membership enquiries if this is something we wish to do.

Comments: Rick Bishop asked what length of video would be best. Youtube works really well. As long as engaging 5-10 minutes is good and Steve is happy to help with editing.

j) Advertising Manager - Sarah Mason

- *Sarah reported that it is now time to start invoicing of advertisers including annual percentage increase. She also reminded Clubs that they are entitled to one free half page advert a year.*

Comments: None

3. AOCB

1. Following the huge success of the Centenary celebration at Moreton-in-Marsh in 2022 the Cambridge Austin 7 & Vintage Car Club are very keen to ensure that the Austin 7 Community do all they can to prevent the legacy of this landmark event gently fading from memory over time.

We feel that an accurate, comprehensive and accessible record of what happened is essential, for the benefit of those who could not attend; those who attended and wish to remember and re-visit the event; and most importantly, future generations

Many photos and videos of the event were created and we feel that a record of all aspects of the event really should be created - preferably on-line - so the event can be shared with many thousands of people worldwide now and in the future.

A digital record is important as it becomes part of the history of the car as reflected in every other aspect of the Archive"

The item we would request to be added to the Agenda is:

"The Cambridge Club wish to know what is happening to record the Centenary event in a more permanent manner"

Please see supporting document under Appendix 2

Comments:

- *BtA7C cannot offer any volunteers*
- *Paul Lawrence has volunteered to take on the task of supervising the digital record of the Centenary event.*
- *Hugh gave presentation of animated introduction*
- *Steve Clarke will talk to Tim Griffiths re photos*

2. Proposal from Cornwall Austin Seven Club.

Allocate £250 from Association reserves to allow the Treasurer to obtain professional services concerning an HMRC query.

Seconded: Midlands Austin 7 Club

Vote: All in favour

Nick Salmon requested that questions should be asked through Assoc Secretary for relevant record keeping, this was agreed and CR will send these to RD.

- *Bongtree A7C (BtA7C) agree to the spend as proposed by the CA7C.*
- *Solent A7C (SoA7C) agree to the spend as proposed by the CA7C*

Date of next meeting: 7pm, 14th January 2025

Meeting closed at 20:00

Appendix 1

Begin forwarded message:

*From: Andy Lowe <>
Subject: Fwd: Stanley Edge Memorial
Date: 28 July 2024 at 16:01:42 BST
To: Ruairidh Dunford <secretary@a7ca.org>*

Hi Ruairidh,

I have attached the email from the Vicar at St Lawrence at the bottom of the hill from Frankly Beeches. As you will read it is not certain we can move the stone to the church yard. It needs someone to apply using the form attached. There seems little point in me asking about the masons to move the stone until we know we can actually do it.

The masons are Bellamy & Waterhouse, 3, Porters Way, Birmingham B9 5RR; 0121 772 0747 sales@bellamyandwaterhouse.co.uk

They were the firm that supplied the original stone and I have spoken with them and they would be able to quote to carry out the work. I spoke with "David" , the son who remembered the service and the original work. Maybe they could give a ballpark figure for that kind of work, without actually quoting.

I think that's about as far as I can go. I will not be at the next Association meeting.

Regards,

Andy

----- Forwarded message -----

*From: Jane Platt <janeplatt@onetel.com>
Date: Mon, 22 July 2024 at 13:23
Subject: Re: Stanley Edge Memorial
To: Andy Lowe <lowespeed07@gmail.com>*

Hi Andy

Apologies for not responding sooner.

It would not have been sensible to look for the ashes. The plastic bag containing the ashes may have been intact but it is unlikely. Nothing else would have survived. You have made a wise decision.

You will find the faculty form that will need filling in on the churchofenglandbirmingham site under churchyards. This will need filling in and sending to the chancellor.

Cremation plaques that are usually allowed at St Leonards are very plain. I have attached what we usually allow.

When you read the Churchyard Regulations, also found on the diocesan site you will see that this is what is prescribed by law.

However you are looking to move an existing stone. When you fill in the faculty form for the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee) you need to give clear dimensions and describe what the refurbished stone will look like.

I suggest you do that before any more costs are incurred. It is unlikely that you will get the faculty if the monument is ornate.

The costs at St Leonard's are the following. Again they are given to us by the Church of England.

Churchyard service including the burial of cremated remains £316.00 (made up of diocese £124.00, PCC £142) and £50.00 to sexton

As we are not burying anything we will not need to pay the sexton so the cost will be £266.00

The cost for an authorised monument is

Authorised Monument for Cremated Remains £84.00

Diocese £16 PCC £68

This will mean the total cost will be £350.00

I am retiring on the 31st December. After that date you will need to discuss what you are doing with the Archdeacon of Birmingham.

Every Blessing

Jane

Appendix 2

Recording the Centenary Event

We are now 2 years past the extraordinary event celebrating the Centenary of our Cars at Moreton-in-Marsh. A number of individuals have posted films on YouTube, which are

informative and entertaining. I am absolutely of the opinion that the Association itself should produce a record of the event in all its aspects. This not only will become an historical record (take a look back at the films etc we have for the '72 Longbridge and 2012 Warwick events) but also give the many thousands of people who weren't able to attend or even weren't Austin 7 owners at the time, a real flavour of what was laid on and how incredibly successful it was in every respect.

Very kindly, through the auspices of Nick Salmon, his son Ben and an equally talented group he works with, have produced an animation that will permit people to browse a number of different strands on the centenary story.. Those strands are as follows:

The origin of the car and the event

The vehicles attending

On site attractions

the venue

the organising committee

Media coverage

Awards

Prescott

Other centenary celebrating events

Image and video library

There may be others that I have missed.

I am looking for volunteers to help in providing resources for each of those headings. Clearly I am not in a position to do it all myself and the only way to get this done is to share the load. I have limited bandwidth as I am also deeply involved in the Archive team. I have no preconceived ideas as to how each of these should be presented, save the cars attending where we would publish the list of cars (model, year, registration number) with the registration number also being a link to an image of the car, should we have one.

Question: who would like to help and how might they be able to provide input?