

SALOPIAN DRIVERS CLUB

Minutes of 4th Annual General Meeting 2.00pm Saturday, 1st October 2022 in the Moser Library.

Present:

Miles Preston (Chairman)
Malcolm Brewster
John Burrowes
Roger Carter
William Combrinck
Martin Davies
Jeremy Edmondson
Mark Gethin
John Gilbert
Richard Harper
Chris Kettle
Nick Paterson
Nick Randall
John Richards
Bertie Russell
Michel Vanhoonacker
Tom Wycherley

1. The Chairman welcomed the members present to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

2. Apologies.

The Chairman reported that he had received apologies for absence from twenty members. He was most gratified that so many members, who had not been able to attend, had sent their apologies and expressed his gratitude to them for taking the time to get in touch.

Apologies for absence had been received from;

Alex Aldous (Hon.Secretary)
Phil Wood (Hon.Treasurer)
Rob Marshall (Committee member)
Nigel Edwards (Committee member)
Richard Blackburn
John Sutton
Michael Beswick
Teddy Shuttleworth
Will Gray
Jonty and Carol Pearce
Bill Dornan
Sir James Vernon
Jonathan Davies
Willi Verdon-Smith
James Mitchell
John Bannister
Peter Roberts
Angus Jagger

Francis Hollinshead

3. The Minutes of the last AGM held on Saturday, 9th October 2021, which had been circulated in advance to all members, were unanimously approved.

4. Matters arising.
There were none.

5. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman ran through the events of the year starting with last year's gathering at Shrewsbury over the Old Salopian Day weekend. As well as the AGM there had been a good gathering of members' cars on Central and at the dinner in Kingsland Hall. As has now been established for three years, the Club has its own table at the dinner so members and their guests can sit together. On the Sunday, there had been a long drive in beautiful conditions culminating in a fantastic lunch at Grant Charlesworth-Jones's home. This was provided at Grant's expense but members kindly made donations of £30 to help build some reserves for the Club.

Following that meeting, a few members had gone to the Classic Car Show at the NEC in Birmingham in November.

In January, the Chairman had lined up a dinner for about twenty members at the Turf Club in Carlton House Terrace. He had thought there might be the odd drop out because of Covid but, in fact, about three days before the dinner, he was contacted by the manager of the Turf Club saying that the whole of the kitchen staff had contracted Covid so the dinner could no longer take place there. The Chairman had to decide whether to cancel the dinner or move to another venue. After enquiring of various venues, his local, very civilised, pub, The Surprise in Christchurch Street, Chelsea, were able to take over and we had an excellent evening there instead.

A number of members had met at the Bicester Scramble in the Spring. This is proving to be a popular venue for Club members.

There were then three tours organised by members. Michel Vanhoonacker and Chris Kettle had had a small but very enjoyable tour in Yorkshire. Alex Aldous, Phil Wood and Grant Charlesworth-Jones organised a day tour in Shropshire with about twelve cars (24 participants) which included a very successful visit to the Morgan factory in Malvern and a lunch together afterwards.

The Kent and East Sussex tour of two days and nights, having been organised by the Chairman for six cars and twelve people, had taken place but without the Chairman and his wife (both of whom contracted Covid just before the start of the tour). The tour was based at the very comfortable Sissinghurst Farmhouse B&B. It included visits to Sissinghurst Gardens, Bodiam Castle, Rye, Smallhythe Place, Chapel Down Vineyard, Pashley Manor Gardens, Bateman's and two excellent pubs.

It had been hoped that some members might like to go to the Silverstone Classic at the end of July but little interest had been shown.

All in all, however, it had been an active and successful year.

The Chairman felt that some members were still reluctant to take part in events following the last two years of isolation and fears for their health. Hopefully, over the coming year they will venture forth again and enjoy participating in events.

6. Treasurer's Report.

Phil Wood had had to send apologies for absence at the last minute but had confirmed to the Chairman that the Club currently has £712. Against that, however, the Chairman was still owed £125 in respect of the club sticker badges he had had made up about three years ago. The Club's net funds, therefore, amount to £587. The Club's only anticipated expenditure over the coming twelve months will be some £310 for the Club's insurance policy, and this will be payable imminently.

7. Election of Committee members.

The Chairman reported that one member of the Committee, whose three year term of office was up, Rob Marshall, had decided not to stand for re-election. He thanked Rob very much for all the work he had done to get the Club running. Rob's contribution had been focussed on communications and, in particular, writing articles for the Salopian magazine and for the School's website and e-bulletins. Although not wanting to continue on the Committee, Rob had indicated that he will continue to support the Club in whatever way he can.

One member of the Committee, Nigel Edwards, has only been serving for two years so does not come up for re-election until next year. However, all the other members have served three years and had confirmed their willingness to serve another term, if elected. Miles Preston, Philip Wood, Alex Aldous and Grant Charlesworth-Jones were proposed and seconded (by John Gilbert and Tom Wycherley respectively) and unanimously voted to serve three more years in their existing roles. The Chairman also put forward the names of Michel Vanhoonacker and Robert Slomczynski to stand for the Committee. They were proposed by Nick Randall and Malcolm Brewster and unanimously voted to serve for three years.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to all the members of the Committee for all the work they have done over the last three years to establish the Club.

8. Club Merchandise.

There were Club mugs and sticker badges available for sale to members at £12 and £5 each respectively. Selling these is the Club's principal means of remaining solvent but also helps to publicise the Club's existent so members are encouraged to buy them. At the end of the meeting all the mugs on display were sold and a number of car stickers.

There was discussion about other merchandise we might produce for members. The discussion ranged from metal car badges to polo shirts and baseball caps. Chris Kettle volunteered to make enquiries about metal badges and Malcolm Brewster is going to investigate baseball caps and polo shirts.

9. The coming year's activities.

The Chairman said that a pattern of events was beginning to appear as successful. There were three keystone gatherings namely over the OS Day weekend, the winter dinner in January/February and the Club's own short tours in different locations around the country during the spring and early summer.

He confirmed that there will be a dinner at the Turf Club on 10th February.

He hoped that Michel Vanhoonacker will organise another Yorkshire tour, Nigel Edwards one in the Salisbury area, Alex Aldous, Phil Wood and Grant Charlesworth-Jones one in Shropshire and that he hoped to do a re-run of the Kent and East Sussex tour as he had been disappointed not to be able to take part this year. Whether any other tours might materialise would remain to be seen.

He said that of the other events at which we had encouraged attendance, the most successful was the Bicester Scramble in the Spring and it might well be worth trying to organise something there again.

The Chairman wanted to thank the organisers for all their hard work making these events so enjoyable and successful.

One of our members had suggested that we might organise a visit to either Bentley and/or Land Rover. All agreed that these would be interesting. The Chairman confirmed he would consider these with the Committee.

10. Recruitment of new members.

This time last year we had 97 members. We now have 113. The Chairman still thinks that 200 is realistic and will establish the Club for the long term. If anyone can think of anyone who is eligible for membership and might like to join us, they should encourage them to get in touch.

11. AOB.

There was none.

12. Date of next AGM.

As usual, this will take place on OS Day. The precise date for this will not be known until next Spring or early Summer. It is likely to be either 30th September or 7th October.