

## Report on the Council meeting and AGM on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2008

### Council meeting

#### Report by the Club Chairman, John Day

The key points in his report were:

- **Club organisation**

Three committees have managed the key activities - the Editorial Subcommittee (which John has run with Andy Knott and John James), the Racing Subcommittee (with Ron Gammons and Dave Saunders) and the Silverstone Committee - have focused the planning and management of three vital parts of the Club's activities and they are producing good results.
- **Safety Fast!**

Real progress has been made in revitalising the magazine since the arrangement with the publishers of MG Enthusiast were terminated in 2007 so now the magazine is full of interesting articles and material and with 100 pages is seen as a good quality magazine. The production arrangement with Hine Publishing is working very well and they are enthusiastic about the magazine. The Editorial Subcommittee has made extraordinary progress with raising the quality and image of Safety Fast! in barely a year. Contributors have provided a good flow of articles and features. John Day stressed the space allocation for the CRB columns was a half page and this will be more tightly managed as the expansion of some CRB sections has squeezed the space for feature articles.
- **Racing Subcommittee**

The Club has run a successful programme of motor race events in 2008 managed by the Racing Subcommittee with the support of the Club Office team. Two day events have been introduced as a way of reducing the costs for competitors of travelling to the circuits. The motor racing programme has been very well managed both in terms of the operations and financial exposures. That is essential when the direct costs of the motor racing activities are around 40% of the Club's operational costs. Ron Gammons highlighted these risks by relating how the second day of the recent Snetterton race meeting had to be abandoned when sections of the track became flooded following heavy overnight rain and then refunds have had to be made to competitors for the events cancelled as a consequence. The Club's longstanding Chief Marshall, John Watson, has retired and the new post holder is Clive Wayland. Ron Gammons urged the registers to support the race meetings so one topic for the next V8 Committee meeting is to include at least one race meeting as a core V8 Event in our Rolling V8 Calendar for 2009.
- **Silverstone Committee**

This committee, chaired by John Day, has a structure which allocates the task of planning and managing the various areas of activity for the Club's major annual event to members of the committee. It was particularly successful in 2007 when a number of attractive innovations were introduced – for example an arena and a visit to Stowe House for the ladies. Bill Silcock joined the committee for Silverstone 2008 and Stewart Griffiths for Silverstone 2009. Paul Plummer will manage an expanded series of routes for Club members to drive to the Circuit on the Friday.
- **New Club website**

This is the fourth area where real progress has been made with the launch of the new Club website which I must say is good and has been designed with tremendous scope for development to create "a lively, interesting and topical website which will be seen as a valuable part of the membership benefits for members", particularly by younger members.
- **Windsor MG Parade**

This proposed event will see more than 300 MGs of all ages parading in the grounds of Windsor Castle before the Queen. I understand the MGs in the parade will be provided by members of the MG Car Club, MGOC, the Octagon Club and EMGS. Nine routes (one from Abingdon) will bring invited MGs from various parts of the UK to Windsor and it is planned that parking for 1,000 MGs along a drive in the Great Park will provide a spectacular sight. The date has yet to be settled but will depend on the Royal calendar but it is expected to be around 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> April 2009. All invited drivers will have to be vetted by the security services and any profits will go to the Prince Phillip Trust Fund.

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- **Resignation of Richard Jones (Club General Manager)**

A surprise announcement was that Richard has resigned and will be leaving later in October. John Dutton (who retired as Club Treasurer at the AGM) has offered to act as temporary office manager, with the support of John Watson, until a new general manager can be recruited. That process will clearly take several months.

### **Financial report**

A detailed report from the outgoing Treasurer John Dutton showed the Club will make a surplus this year, marginally ahead of budget. A copy of those figures is attached together with a copy of the report and accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007.

### **Proposed extension to the Club Office**

John Dutton, who heads up the Building Committee, reported that tenders had been received from building contractors for the modest scheme of works (estimated to cost £80,000) but to their surprise the bids were between £140,000 and over £300,000. The high price was clearly from a bidder not interested in the work but even the lowest figure was some 87% over budget so even with economies of scope and specification, the likelihood of getting a figure near £80,000 seems unlikely. So it appeared the project will be reconsidered. John Dutton said the extension was “not essential for the Club Office operations” but a much needed upgrade to the telephone system and internal reorganisation of the space was intended to be carried out when the extension had been completed.

### **Overseas report - EEOY 2009 in Norway**

As an addition to the report from Brian Woodhams (Overseas Director), Paul Smith reported the Club is liaising with the specialist classic car tour agent, Continental Car Tours, to arrange an attractive package for travelling from the UK to Norway for this event in June 2009.

### **New Club website**

Richard Jones provided a comprehensive report on the Club website from which the main point for the V8 Register is the site has been set up with a “content management system” (a Joomla environment) which enables individual CRBs to upload material. So clearly I shall be exploring that in the next few weeks so we can ensure the V8 Register section is well represented. Material was requested for the technical support section of the website so with the large amount of material we have in the two workshop notes series, we can contribute to that in a major way. Chris Seaward is the member of the Club Office team running the website. Website support is provided by PDL in Scotland who are specialists in the online commerce package Zencart which the Club website uses.

### **Silverstone 2009**

The possible dates for the Club’s International MG Meeting 2009 are 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> July but do note these are not settled. It is likely the event will have a new name – “MG Live”. It was suggested that the Austin Healey Club would be invited to MG Live as the model is so closely associated with Abingdon.

The meeting was a cheerful gathering with Council members pleased to hear news of real progress with the Club magazine and the organisation of the key areas of Club activities under the chairmanship of John Day, someone with both leadership qualities and an ability to engage with fellow members and focus on what really matters and is sensible when revitalising the Club.

### **Annual General Meeting**

It was relatively brief meeting dealing with the agenda items. The annual report and accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007 were approved by the meeting. With John Dutton and Ted Lawrence standing down, three nominations for the posts of Club Treasurer and Director were considered. In the event Bill Silcock withdrew his nomination so Colin Withers (a V8 member with an MGBGTV8, RV8, ZT260V8 and SV) was elected Club Treasurer and Stewart Griffiths was elected a director. John Day, Chris Hunt Cooke and Dave Saunders retired by rotation and their nominations for the post of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Director respectively were put to a vote and were unanimously re-elected.