



MORRIS REGISTER

The Club for Morris vehicles designed before 1940

MINUTES OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Saturday 6th April 2019 at Magnolia Park Hotel, Golf & Country Club,
Boarstall, Buckinghamshire HP18 9XX.

The meeting opened at 10.38.

1. **Chairman's Welcome** – John Ford welcomed those present. He then covered a number of topics which would feature in the meeting agenda. In closing he offered thanks to club officers (national and regional) and to the management team for their contributions over the preceding months.

2. **Those Present & Apologies for Absence:**

a) **Those present:**

John Ford, Jim Riglar, Stephen Gant, Rob Symonds, Christine Haigh, Dave Lawton, John Powell, Pat Farmer, Barbara Farmer, Neil Truslove, Christine Truslove, Chris Lambert, Roger Clitheroe, Tom Taylor, Anne Riglar (*vice Jeremy Matthews*), Stuart King, Martin Roters, Keith Haigh, Ben Gadsby.

b) **Apologies:**

Malcolm Dixon, Tom Bourne, Roy Pidgeon, Jeremy Matthews, Chris Healey, Trevor Willsden, Phil Butland.

Session 1 - Business - chaired by John Ford

3. **Approval of the Minutes of the National Committee of 06 October 2018.** The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

4. **Matters Arising** – The National Committee agreed that actions from the 06 Oct 2018 National Committee Meeting were taken under the relevant agenda item:

- *Complete GDPR procedures and if necessary re-validate member's data consents. (Item 5 Governance)*
- *Produce member/vehicle directory in hard copy form. (Item 6 Management team proceedings)*
- *Webmaster, DVLA Vacancies. Recruit officers. (Item 14 Officer vacancies)*
- *Lorry repair progress report (Item 15 Club Vehicles)*
- *Van Insurance Changes (Item 15 Club Vehicles)*

ITEM	MINUTE	ACTION
5	Governance	
	GDPR Procedures / The Secretary advised that some work remains to complete some GDPR procedures. Member data consents are still progressing.	
	Action - Secretary to complete GDPR procedures and if necessary re-validate	JR (ongoing)

	members' data consents.	
6	Proceedings of the Management Team	
	<p>Management Team meetings/discussions, since the National Committee Meeting of 06 OCT 18 were noted.</p> <p>Members' Directory The National Committee agreed that publication of an updated members' directory should be deferred until all GDPR arrangements are in place and, if necessary consent of members has been re-validated.</p> <p>Action - Produce member/vehicle directory in hard copy form (on hold pending GDPR completion)</p>	Mgt Team (on hold)
7	Honorary Membership	
	The National Committee noted that there are currently no nominations under consideration.	
8	Finance	
	<p>Steve Gant presented the financial report on the draft 2018-19 accounts. These indicate a pre-tax profit of £7.5K and reflect a loss of £0,4K on the spares operation. The noted that the club's cost base was increasing and subscription increases would probably be required for next year. £90K was held in the bank, but some of this might be required for IT (e.g. new web-site contractor). Christine Truslove suggested that any new IT contract should be subject to an independent IT professional review. Ben Gadsby considered that the £90K bank holdings were large.</p> <p>The National Committee noted the financial report.</p>	
9	Membership Report	
	<p>Christine Haigh advised that membership continues to grow year on year. Some of the presented figures were queried, and Christine attributed these to variances occurring during the current annual membership renewal period. She noted that many members renewing by cheque used incorrect details resulting in a high rejection/return of cheques. Christine also advised of a potential card terminal payment facility. Steve Gant would investigate further and Christine would trial. A report would be given at the October meeting.</p> <p>Christine also reported an update for the Members Directory and for which regions 2, 3, 5 & 7 have responded.</p> <p>The National Committee noted the membership report.</p>	
10	Website/Membership Database/Data Management	
	<p>The Secretary advised that a new Webmaster would be required as Mike Rose was relinquishing the role.</p> <p>Twenty3design (T3D) development of the new website is progressing at a snail's pace. An attempt to go-live with the new website had to be aborted after a few days because of unforeseen problems. These would have had a detrimental impact over the membership renewal period, had the new site been left on-line. Projecting a revised go-live date is difficult until the causes of the last go-live problems are assessed and addressed.</p>	

	The National Committee noted the ongoing delays.	
11	Magazine	
	<p>Wrapping – The National Committee were invited to note that there was minimal cost difference of changing from paper envelope to an environmentally friendly potato starch based clear wrapping, for magazine postal distribution.</p> <p>The National Committee noted the report</p>	
12	Spares Report	
	<p>Dave Lawton reported that the annual turnover for the spares operation was about £50K. There had been a small loss in year, which he attributed to stocktake inaccuracies. Spares costs now include £3K for use of storage facilities.</p> <p>Bagging-up of spares is being trialled to ease item picking by the spares operation.</p> <p>Some new stock purchase is being pursued with the MG Octogan Club, noting that up to 80% of M8 parts are shared with MGs & Wolseleys. Identifying suppliers for M8 valves and for bonded engine mounts is currently an issue.</p>	
13	National Rally & MVA business	
	<p>Ben Gadsby reported a disappointing attendance at the rain impacted 2018 rally. 30 cars booked to attend, didn't show and attendance on the day was also down by 60-70% as well.</p> <p>The 2019 rally would also be an MVA event and all facilities for the rally are booked. The rally will feature a Mike Brears organised gymkhana .</p> <p>The 2018 rally raffle raised £400 for charity (British Legion) and this year's raffle will raise funds for MacMillan Cancer Support.</p> <p>Member rally application forms will be included in May's Morris Monthly and this should be replicated to provide on-line entry via the website.</p> <p>Action - Secretary – Website entry</p> <p>Other points raised: A bulletin board will be provided for members adverts. No rally gift (plaque etc) to be provided for 2019 but brass plaque, mug or similar to be provided for 2020 (club 60th Anniversary). Rally gear is now stored local to Thoresby.</p> <p>Only 1st & 2nd prizes (no 3rd) to be given. Entry cost as last year but £8 (with free programme, whilst stocks last) at the gate and caravan/camping £7/night.</p> <p>The National Committee agreed the prize arrangements and rally entry/camping rates.</p> <p>Thoresby is available beyond 2020 if we wish to hire the site.</p> <p>The National Committee noted the report.</p>	JR (new)
14	Officer Vacancies	

	<p>The secretary reported that Lindsay Smith has filled the Club Safeguarding Officer post.</p> <p>Current vacancies are for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webmaster (specialist officer/management team), on hold pending completion of website development • DVLA Officer (<i>Tom Bourne providing ad-hoc coverage</i>) <p>Action - Management Team, continue to seek candidates for vacant posts.</p>	Mgt Team (ongoing)
15	Club Vehicles	
	<p>Lorry - The lorry is currently hosted by the NE Region. It has an engine issue which is being addressed (see NE Region report Annex 4).</p> <p>Van - The Van has just transferred from the NW Region to the Midlands Region (Leics & Northants area). The engine bearing (knock) issue is being investigated and might be an oil pump issue.</p> <p>Action – JR to update Insurance to cover re-location of van.</p> <p>Loan Car - The car has been placed with David Allanson (Northants) for its second year loan period and he has already established a facebook page to advertise his exploits in the car. Lancaster Insurance is again providing insurance cover, free of charge.</p> <p>The National Committee noted the current placement of the vehicles.</p> <p>Minor Prototype – Chris Lambert outlined the history of the vehicle (Dec 1930 prototype) which the current owner (Devon theme park operator) purchased in a derelict state in 1986. Little has been done to the vehicle since. John Ford advised that he and Chris were going to view the vehicle to ascertain its condition, whether it might be for sale and at what price. Potentially the club could consider purchase, with the Pre War Minor Network leading on restoration. The committee debated the proposal but would not commit to purchase at this stage.</p> <p>The National Committee noted the potential to purchase the prototype.</p>	JR (outstanding)

Session 2 – Discussion - chaired by John Ford (in absence of Malcolm Dixon)

16. Discussion Items raised by Regions / Regional Reports

- North East (written report provided – Annex 4)
- East Anglia (written report provided – Annex 5). Steve Gant addressed the point in the report on regional levy and any plans to pull back finances from regional to national level. He advised there were no plans to pull finances back to a national level, but that regions need to make annual returns so that the correct level of regional grant can be paid.

17. National Rally future

The committee had a long debate on this issue, informed by the responses to the President's request to the regions for input on a number of key questions related to the rally (Annex 3). It was

recognised that attendances had been falling steadily over the past few years. However in the knowledge that Thoresby remains available for hire as a rally venue, certainly in the short term, the committee was of the view that the rally should continue as is but should be kept under continual review. Attendance is to be closely monitored, efforts should be made to encourage greater member attendance and other clubs should be invited to attend.

18. Officer Reports – NOTE These were limited by meeting time constraints following the comprehensive Rally debate (item 17) and brief reports of issues not covered elsewhere on the agenda were provided:

- a) Chairman – nothing to report, not covered by the agenda
- b) Secretary – nothing to report, not covered by the agenda
- c) Editor – Some regions are not reporting in either a co-ordinated and/or regular way, making production of coherent articles in Morris Monthly challenging!
- d) *Webmaster (vacant) – no report*
- e) FBHVC Representative – Stuart King reported that roadworthiness had been the 2018 issue. For 2019 the FBHVC focus is on environmental issues and insurance. Both of these may be impacted by Brexit as underlying rules may change. Stuart would update the committee if changes emerge.
- f) MSA Officer – nothing to report
- g) Spares – nothing to report, not covered by the agenda
- h) DVLA – Tom Bourne provided a written report on DVLA registration activity for the period Oct 2018 – March 2019/
- i) Historian -
- j) PWMN - nothing to report, not covered by the agenda
- k) Shopkeeper – Barbara Farmer reported that Drive it day plaques had sold well, and sales of second hand books were healthy.
- l) Archivist – nothing to report.
- m) Vehicle Registrar – nothing to report.
- n) Overseas Secretary – nothing to report.
- o) Information Centre – Pat Farmer reported that service continued to receive in excess of 20 e-mail enquiries /week.
- p) Club Safeguarding Officer – Lindsay Smith confirmed in post.

19. Any Other Business

Noting meeting time constraints, none raised.

20. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Date of Next meeting - 6th October 2019 at Blunsdon House Hotel, Blunsdon, Swindon (immediately following the AGM).

Post Meeting Note (11 MAY 2019) – Venue changed to Wychwood Park Hotel & Golf Club, Weston, Crewe. CW2 5GP.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 4.20 pm.

ANNEX 1
Actions

Subject	Action	By	Progress
Governance	GDPR Complete GDPR processes and Data Consents	JR	ONGOING –
National Rally & MVA business	Provide on-line rally entry via the website	JR	OUTSTANDING –
Officer Vacancies	Seek volunteers for Webmaster, DVLA Officer,	Mgt Team	ON GOING –
Club Vehicles	Provide lorry repair progress reports (monthly)	NE region (TW)	ON GOING –
	Update Van Insurance Details	PF / JR	OUTSTANDING - JR to update now van has transferred. PF to advise details.

ANNEX 2

Management Team Proceedings, October 2018 to April 2019

Skype Meetings (all with John Ford, Jim Riglar, Stephen Gant, Christine Haigh Rob Symonds & Dave Lawton, unless otherwise stated) have been held as follows:

20 DEC 2018

- New Website – should have been completed last Friday – 14 DEC (awaiting confirmation from T3D)
- National Rally future (progress / feedback from regions)
- Any Other business

11 FEB 2019 (+ Mike Rose)

- New Website – work is underway to complete the site. If the work completes, we will need to test the site and decide on acceptance off contract).
- Loan Car – Invitations for apply sent to 22 people. Returns have been requested by 15 FEB (a week earlier than last year). Currently 16 remain “live” as 4 e-mail addresses bounced, and 2 candidates have withdrawn
- Any Other business

22 FEB 19

- Loan Car – 2 returns worthy of consideration
- Honorary Membership – proposal from Mike Brears for award to Chilterns Region member
- New Website – Do we have any update on progress by T3D to complete the final work?
- Any Other business

14 Mar 2019 (+ Liam Faulkner T3D)

- New Website – with T3D input

14 Mar 2019 (without Liam Faulkner T3D)

- National Committee Meeting preps

ANNEX 3

FUTURE OF THE NATIONAL RALLY

At the President's conference held in October 2018 it was stated "Thoresby Estates (owners of Thoresby Park) would not confirm availability of the site in advance for more than 2 years i.e. 2019 and 2020." We have held our National Rally on this site since 1994 and, without a guarantee for 2021, it was suggested that alternative venues be investigated.

I thank all regional secretaries for their responses to my questionnaire of 8th October which are summarised below:-

Disadvantages expressed regarding Thoresby Park:

- A) The distance to travel in an old car and the time it takes to get there
- B) Old cars do tend to be unreliable
- C) The format of the event has not changed over the years
- D) Attendance is in decline
- E) Spares section not in attendance
- F) Expense of attending for the weekend with fuel and accommodation costs
- G) Most members live in the South of England a more southernly location is required following the demise of the Ardingly show

Advantages of Thoresby Park:

- A) Ample space for cars, caravans, motorhomes, camping, autojumble, entertainment etc
- B) It is currently the major event for Morris Register not only for cars but to socialise with other club members
- C) Hotel accommodation on-site or in local vicinity
- D) Low rental for a 22 acre site
- E) Relatively secure area
- F) Cheap entry for members
- G) Relatively central location

Suggested alternatives to holding the National Rally at Thoresby Park:

- A) All regions confirmed they would not be prepared to organise a National rally in their area as an alternative
- B) The idea of "piggy backing" our National on to another car club's rally ie Morris Minor Owners club at Kelmarsh Hall, M.S.A events, local events, etc
- C) Encourage regions to develop their own events within each region and invite neighbouring regions

D) Expand the official current National events programme.

In conclusion:

- A) Most members would be reluctant to see the National Rally moved elsewhere until it is confirmed that Thoresby Park was no longer available or affordable
- B) At no time have Thoresby Estates confirmed that the grounds would not be available to us after 2020.
- C) The cost to hold our own independent National Rally elsewhere is likely to be expensive.
- D) Sharing costs by joining other car club rallies should be investigated as an alternative if Thoresby were not available. However, we could lose our identity and we would need to find an organiser
- E) Establishing new friends in a relaxed social atmosphere encourages club cohesion and this needs to be an important factor in future actions
- F) The main reason for the decline in attendance in 2018 was the poor weather forecast and not a
- G) drop in the numbers of members who applied
- H) It was suggested a more informative advert be included in Morris Monthly at an early stage
- I) advising members of the programme of events.
- J) Encourage members of M.V.A. to join us at Thoresby.

Since drafting this report, I have discussed this again with Ben Gadsby who confirmed that at no time did Thoresby Estates say the grounds would not be available to us in the foreseeable future. In fact they would be happy for us to sign a longer agreement but would not be prepared to hold the rental charge for more than 2 years.

Should the Executive committee decide to locate the National Rally elsewhere Ben Gadsby would not be interested in organising.

Recommendation:

1. Continue holding the National Rally at Thoresby Park for 2019 and 2020 and continue inviting members of the M.V.A. to join us.
2. Seek a volunteer to organise and liaise with MMOC with a view to joining their National Rally at Kelmarsh Hall in 2020.
3. Evaluate the advantages/disadvantages in holding our National Rally at Thoresby or joining the M.M.O.C. at Kelmarsh Hall for 2021.

ANNEX 4

North East Region Report (Extracted from e-mail correspondence with National Secretary)

CLUB LORRY - The lorry engine is in pieces with a traditional vehicle repairer who has a good long standing reputation however I am led to believe that we have virtually all the parts to reassemble when the white metalling has been carried out by a separate specialist who apparently cannot be hurried or pushed, so we are in their hands and hoping to have it back to the repairer in the next two weeks or so, to put the vehicle back on the road if not for drive it day then at least for the summer season.

Trevor Willsden will update you of the technical details relating to this vehicle. I am quite sure that Trevor has been keeping Steve Gant informed with the repairer information on a regular basis.

EVENTS - The North East Region is currently planning and promoting our big events for the early part of the summer both the Netherlands Rally in May which has a very busy schedule for the week on the continent. This will be closely followed by the Beamish weekend in June which looks at this stage as if it is growing in numbers and seems to be getting more interest each year.

May I thank Rob the magazine editor for helping to promote both of these events.

Finally once again may I extend the invitation to all members everywhere to join us for the Beamish weekend.

Over the four years we have had members from Kent, Wiltshire, Essex, Wales, Cumbria, Scotland including as far north as Inverness coming for their third year, so it's not too far to come for a very busy and interesting weekend.

Kind regards

Roy

R Pidgeon

NE Region Secretary

05 Apr 2019

East Anglia Region - General Report April 2019

Noggins

The 3 monthly Cambridgeshire one organised by Dudley Hedge seems to be a successful event. The Essex monthly noggin is generally very well attended except when the Duck Inn decides not to be open but now the new owners are in attendance perhaps this will stabilise.

Regional AGM

This was proposed to be 19th May 2019 but as no premises to hold the event was available on this date it has been moved to a slightly later date of Sunday June 9th 2019 at the Great Leighs village hall from 2 pm to 5 pm.

Committee elections

The current committee looks like it will be re elected in June unless there are any members that wish to drop out or if there are any new candidates that come forward in time for the AGM. We do not have anybody officially dealing with events at the moment.

Finance

I understand From Tony Nathan (retired secretary) that some general questions have been asked about the lack of a financial report.

Due to our now retired treasurer David Illsley having been indisposed due to serious illness since before the current committee in 2018 was elected we have been unable to present any financial reports. This was not helped by David's house move as well as all club documentation is or was in a storage container and due to his health problems he could not access it. Fortunately David is now improving.

Neither could we access the Barclays bank account due to the above. As an interim measure David and Pam Lee (co signatory) were able to write a cheque for £100 made payable to me and I currently carry this in my personal bank account. I have recently emailed both Pam and David and asked them if they can get an up to date statement on the account and this is pending from Barclays (slowly) . I have spoken to David this week and he confirms that there should be approximately £600 in the account plus the £100 that I carry. When the statement arrives we will have an up to date picture.

I will shortly have to pay £60 for the AGM hall in June. As far as I know there is nothing else outstanding.

Due to the difficulty of changing the signatories on the regional bank account our treasurer Graham Baul has been trying to set up a new bank account but it appears no bank particularly wants to do this for small "fiddly" accounts so we may have to work out a way of transferring the existing account.

What has happened to the regional levy ? This was the original source of local regional funds. Is there a plan to pull all the finance back to national level and any regional bills would be paid from there ?

Events

Other than the AGM and the two noggins nothing else is currently planned.

The subject of Thoresby has been discussed and the suggestion that a regional event could take its place but this is not something that the region would have the necessary skills to take on the responsibility for. Further ideas on this subject would be welcomed and evaluated. The future of Thoresby is best decided at national level but perhaps we could look at joining in to another organised event with other Morris vehicles clubs on a permanent basis.

Chris Healey member 965
Anglia Region Secretary

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