



The Pre 1940

MORRIS REGISTER

Limited



The World's largest Club for enthusiasts of Morris vehicles designed before 1st January 1940

MINUTES OF 66th PRESIDENT'S CONFERENCE

Held Saturday 1st October 2011

At the Blunsdon House Hotel, Blunsdon, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN26 7AS

The meeting opened at 11.30. The President welcomed members to the 66th President's Conference, and moved straight on to the Presentation of Awards. These were as follows:

- The Writer's Chalice – awarded to Simon Moffett for his cartoons and articles in the Morris Monthly
- The Mary Benfield Trophy – awarded to Margaret Molyneux for her work within the Trans-Pennine region
- The Calormeter Trophy – awarded to Ronnie Johnson for his enthusiasm and helpfulness to members and the Morris 8 Special Interest Group
- The President's Trophy - normally awarded at the National Rally, was Awarded to Paul James

1. Those Present:

Bob Beaumont, Ken Johnson, Dave Harris, Tom Bourne, Mike Brears, John Ford, Phil Butland, Mark Smith, Rob Symonds, Malcolm Dixon, Russel Moore, Jim Riglar, Gloria Harris, John Powell, Anne Riglar, Caroline Harris, Terry Horn, Neil Truslove, John Howells, Margaret Molyneux, Doug Townsend, Trevor Willsden, Paul James, Stephen Parkes, Hilda Johnson, Christine Truslove, Val Brears, David Molyneux, Tim Harris, Pam Lee, Dave Lee, Tony Nathan, John Nagle, Jo Nagle, Roger Clitheroe, Michael Taylor, Ann Moore, Paul Ollis, Ian Harris, Stephen Gant, Henry Pratt.

Apologies for Absence:

Tom Taylor, Norma Cook, Laurie Cook, Gideon Booth, Ken Martin, Michelle Smith, Roy Caddick

2. Approval of the Minutes of conference of 2nd April 2011 – these were approved.

3. Matters Arising - None

4. Approval of the Minutes of the 23rd July National Committee – These were approved.

The Secretary explained that both sets of minutes were being taken due to the proposed introduction for the coming year of new arrangements for the President's Conference.

5. Matters Arising –

The secretary reported a conversation with Alun Spilman concerning the review of the 8mvs. The review group has agreed a framework for a web based reference resource, and work will continue alongside work by Jim Riglar on the web site.

6. Chairman's Welcome Address.

John Ford welcomed members to the meeting and thanked them for their support leading up to his election as chairman. He said that it would be a tough act to follow Dave Harris, and he paid credit to the role that Gloria had taken in supporting Dave. He believes that the National Committee is very effective, and sees no



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need for change. He thinks there may be benefit in more national scale events in both the north and the south; the van-trailer is now available with material to support events. He then looked ahead to the Morris centenary year in 2013, and would like to set a target of 2,013 members by 2013. He thinks that can be achieved, but it will depend on members taking all available opportunities to recruit new members, for example by handing out our new leaflet at events and signing up new members on the spot. He then mentioned the importance of effective communication; emails are fine for routine matters, but he urged members to use the phone or face-to-face meetings where there is any problem or a complaint. In closing, he stressed the importance of teamwork in keeping the club running smoothly. In response, the President agreed and stated that his door is always open, and he also will do what he can to help resolve any issues.

7. Items for Discussion

- a. **Deputy and assistant posts.** John Ford and Tom Bourne presented their vision for the deputy chairman and assistant secretary roles; these should preferably be in post for at least a year before stepping into the main role in order to build up knowledge and experience. A three-year term was thought to be the optimum. At the end of their term, the retiring chairman and secretary would move into the deputy/assistant role for no more than a year, with the aim being to enable an effective handover, and complete any major projects. In discussion, the term “elect” was suggested for the incoming deputy or assistant. The three-year term should be flexible, and able to be extended to no more than 6 years. The Secretary confirmed that he did not intend to serve beyond 3 years. Some members wondered whether sufficient volunteers would come forward. The treasurer and editor will give consideration to how the assistant role will work in their cases, and a more detailed paper brought to the next meeting.
- b. **2013 Events.** Dave Harris gave an update on the proposed John O’Groats to Lands End run, and Phil Butland suggested that we could be the supplier of vehicles at the Goodwood Revival. Events with other Morris clubs include the NEC and a national Morris rally in the Oxford area, for which a venue is being sought. It was confirmed that the Morris Minor Owners Club are very keen to involve other clubs, and any fears about that at any event we might be overwhelmed by later Morris Minors were unfounded. The Treasurer suggested that charity support could also be included in the plans for 2013 events. The President then suggested that we should also aim for local events in the regions to celebrate the centenary.
- c. **“Harry’s Archives”.** John Powell reported that he has now scanned Harry’s register of Morris vehicles, and he handed over the files. He also has a quantity of membership cards from Rose & Arthur, and questions whether these are worth scanning. There are also some 6 or 7 files of information that Harry used for his book. This can’t be scanned as it is on foolscap. John Nagle offered to work with Roger Needle to investigate whether the facilities at the Oxford Bus Museum could be used as some sort of “Club Base”. There was then a discussion about how to ensure the secure long-term storage of the archives. Stephen Parkes reported that the Bullnose Morris Club now have on DVD all the factory production records up to 1930.



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- d. **Historian Role.** Tom Bourne presented a review of the current situation concerning the Historian role, and stressed that we should not try to produce a “clone” of Harry, but split up what he did into smaller components. Much of this is already in place. There are four main components:
- i. DVLA Authentication. This has been taken on by Gideon Booth, who reports good progress, but that he needs to set up a network with the regions to carry out vehicle inspections.
 - ii. The “Register of Vehicles”. We should now try to bring together the current database with the scanned archive register referred to in item c above.
 - iii. Technical and historical archives. As discussed above, it is intended that these go to the Oxford Bus Museum, and be accessible to researchers.
 - iv. Specialist historian role on Morris models and Morris related topics is now the area we need to develop. This would comprise historical research as needed, writing articles, and responding to queries. We need to distinguish between the historical role and the real time problem solving and support role of the Forum/8mvs. There are 3 volunteers so far for this role, Michael Taylor with extensive knowledge of Morris models, specifications, etc and the historical context of Morris in the 1950s; Ken Martin has offered to be a specialist on Morris Minors; and Roy Caddick, who offers to specialise in socio/economic/political aspects, and the Series E 8.

It was agreed that we should proceed on this basis with the secretary and chairman taking on the coordination and communication aspects.

- e. **NEC show.** John Ford urged members to volunteer for duty on the stand. Free entry and the use of a tee shirt will be given. This will be an important opportunity to promote the club and enrol members. A Morris Family Eight is still needed – it was suggested that a member in East Anglia has one. An extra run-on of the November magazine will be printed to hand out. John added that a flat screen monitor is still needed for the display – this was followed by an impromptu collection amongst members present that realised £270 for the purchase of a monitor.
- f. **Governance & Structures.** Tom Bourne set the scene by recalling that at the April President’s Conference, there was a detailed discussion on options for the future format for the President’s Conference, particularly in view of the way the formats for both the Conference and the National Committee have come together. That meeting concluded that we should move to having 4 Conferences per year, with National Committee votes, where relevant, being taken within the Conference. It was also proposed that the name for the Conference should be changed, with “President’s Forum” and “Club Forum” being suggested, but no conclusion being reached on names. At the same meeting, it was agreed that a detailed note on structures and governance should be prepared for inclusion in the new Handbook. At the July National Committee meeting it was reported that this had been done, but that lack of time had prevented a more detailed review of the Rules.



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He went on to state that he believes that the President's Conference format is still a very good model for enabling the regions and the National Committee to come together, but that he thought that the current name should be kept, at least for the time being. He then proposed that a short meeting of the Directors at the end of the Conference should consider possible alternatives for the structures around the Board of Directors.

- g. **Nuffield Place.** Bob Beaumont introduced this discussion by stressing that we need a good contact within the National Trust at a local level to determine how the Club can support the Trust in protecting and developing Nuffield Place. The possibility of a levy on subscriptions was raised, and whether this should be earmarked specifically for Nuffield Place.
- h. **Pre-War Minor Network.** Jim Riglar reported that there had been little progress with this, and that further work is needed by him and Chris Lambert to resolve system compatibility issues.
- i. **Insurance Valuation Service.** Dave Harris reported that the legal view was that we should not offer a valuation service. In discussion members agreed that we should offer such a service, due to the liabilities it may lead to. There are professional valuers in this field, and Classic Car dealers may also do valuations. Some companies state that they will accept a valuation from anyone in the motor trade. It was agreed that a short notice should be included in the new handbook.
- j. **Charity Support.** This was covered under item 7b above.
- k. **Membership Procedures following Bereavements.** Mark Smith outlined the procedure he follows following notification of bereavement. He expresses condolences, and offers the option of whether or not mailing of newsletters should continue for the remainder of the year. Regional secretaries were asked to notify Mark if they learn of the bereavement of any member.

8. Executive Reports

- President – Bob thanked members who have expressed concern over his health, and is happy to note that the club is in good health. 2013 will also be the 35th anniversary for the Netherlands branch of the club, and they are planning a special event.
- Secretary – reminded regional secretaries of the need to send reports of regional meetings
- Treasurer – there is just sufficient balance to last us to the end of the year. About half our income goes on the magazine.
- Membership – currently stands at 1,825, compared with an earlier forecast for the year of 1,830. This is an increase from 1,762 last year and 1,627 the year before.
- Newsletter – regional contributions have continued to improve. Rob aspires to the use of full colour. The President suggested we should use the term “Magazine” rather than “Newsletter” in recognition of the quality. The possibility of calendars for 2013 is being examined.
- National Rally – Thoresby was the best for many years! The possibility of autojumble stalls for members selling their own spares without separate insurance



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will be examined. The possibility of rally plates will be examined. The need for more local rallies could be met by having a club stand at larger rallies organised by others.

- Spares Service – a report of “business proceeds as usual” had been received.
- Website – time constraints have meant that only care and maintenance work had been done recently. Jim will now move ahead with work on the Pre War Minor Network, a new password system and on-line payments.
- FBHVC – much work has been done on the issue of ethanol in petrol. There is no immediate worry about increases from 5% to 10% and FBHVC continue in their efforts to protect the interests of owners of classic cars.

9. Regional Reports – the regions commented on the issue of finding volunteers to take on committee roles, which is much easier in some areas than others

10. Any Other Business. John Nagle suggested that we should consider changing either the financial year, or the AGM date, to allow a shorter interval between the two. This should go to the next meeting. Ian Harris suggested that he could contribute to the recruitment of new members by enclosing our leaflets in mailings to his customers. This was agreed.

11. Directors of the Pre 1940 Morris Register Ltd. There was then a short meeting of the Directors, at which it was resolved to appoint John Ford and Tom Bourne as directors, to elect John Ford as Chair of the directors, and that the formal post of Company Secretary would no longer be used.

12. Meeting Dates for the Coming Year. Dates are 28th January, 21st April 28th July, venues to be considered are the Navigation Inn, Gaydon, and King Edward School, and 6th October at the Blunsdon House Hotel

The meeting finished at 5 pm.