



The Pre 1940

MORRIS REGISTER

Limited

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

MINUTES OF THE 65TH PRESIDENT'S CONFERENCE

Held Saturday 2nd April 2011 at the King Edward School, Edgbaston, Birmingham

The meeting opened at 10.30am. The President welcomed members to the 65th President's Conference.

1. National Committee Members present:

Bob Beaumont, President; Dave Harris, Chairman; Tom Bourne, Secretary; Philip Butland, Treasurer; John Ford, Deputy Chairman; Ken Johnson, Vice President; John Nagle, Membership Secretary; Rob Symonds, Editor; Malcolm Dixon, National Rally Organiser; Tom Taylor, Spares Secretary; Jim Riglar, Webmaster/West Secretary; Gloria Harris, Shopkeeper; John Powell Chilterns Secretary; Terry Horn, East Midlands & Yorks Secretary; Neil Truslove, North West Secretary; Margaret Molyneux, Trans Pennine Secretary.

Other Members present:

Jo Nagle, Doug Townsend, Trevor Willsden, Paul James, Anne Riglar, Celia James, Colin Belcher, Hilda Johnson, Christine Truslove, David Molyneux, Gideon Booth, Pam Lee, Dave Lee, Tony Nathan, Paul Ollis, Chris Lambert (for part of meeting)

Apologies for Absence: received from Mike Brears, Assistant Secretary; Norma Cook, East Anglia Secretary; Caroline Harris, South East Secretary; John Howells, Wales Secretary; Peter Harrison, Russel Moore, Mark Smith, Val Brears, Tim Harris, Laurie Cook, Michael Taylor, Roger Clitheroe.

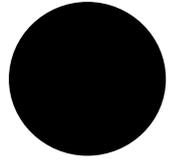
2. **Approval of the Minutes of conference of 2nd October 2010.** These were approved.
3. **Matters Arising.** A brief report had been received on the review of the 8mvs. Archiving is also in progress. A full report will be brought to the July meeting.
4. **Matters arising from the 2^{9th} January National Committee.** The North West Region has agreed to take over administrative responsibility for members in Northern Ireland. Recent experience with MSA event permits was reviewed. The details are now on the club website. It was asked whether access to MSA on-line applications be extended to regional events secretaries. It was agreed that the cost of permits/waivers should be funded by the regions, either by contributions by entrants, or from the regional funds. A VAT invoice should be obtained from the MSA and forwarded to the National Treasurer.
5. **Items for Discussion**
 - a. **Footman James.** Footman James had made a presentation to the January National Committee and members were asked to consider the proposal. Dave Harris led a discussion on the line we should take with regard to this proposal, and it was agreed that we should not pursue this proposal. Rather we seek to get up to 3 insurance companies to advertise.



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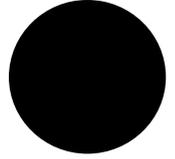
- b. **2013 Events** Progress on a possible run from John O'Groats to Lands End was outlined. It was suggested that the Club Van could take part, insured for any member to drive. More detail will follow in the Newsletter.
- c. There was then a brief discussion on issue of Mr Lionel Smith and Morris Register Ltd. This was followed by a discussion on the status of the Kingswinford Noggin.
- d. **Club lorry** The January National Committee agreed to the rebuild of the lorry engine. Dave Lee reported that the work should be complete within a month. Members then reported feedback and views from the regions on the future of the Lorry. Members considered in detail a report from the East Anglia Region. All were agreed that to be effective the Lorry would need to take a greater part in the life of the Club. A number of museums have expressed an interest. Finally, it was agreed unanimously that we should keep the Lorry until at least the end of the 2013 season so that it can take part in Centenary events. In the meantime a detailed review should be undertaken into options for its future for the best benefit of members; that if needed, a trailer should be hired rather than bought; and that both the Club Lorry and the Club Van should be registered in the name of the Pre 1940 Morris Register Ltd. An article on the Lorry was requested for the Newsletter.
- e. **Record Keeping and Filing.** The regulations of the Companies Act require that records of decisions be kept. *"The directors must ensure that the company keeps a record, in writing, for at least 10 years from the date of the decision recorded, of every unanimous or majority decision taken by the directors."* Currently it is the Secretary's duty to keep records of the National Committee, President's Conference, and of the minutes of Regional committees. This will meet the requirements of the Regulations. Currently all documentation that **supports** the decisions made, e.g. by the Regional Committee, or by other National Officers, is retained by them. The Conference discussed the ways in which this information should be retained. It was confirmed that all financial records should be kept for 7 years in addition to the current year. It was agreed that it is the responsibility of regional secretaries and national officers to keep files of correspondence, particularly documents that support financial decision-making. A distinction should be made between trivial and important documents and correspondence that is for the individual officer to determine. In the case of complaints, these should be forwarded on to the National Secretary, unless they are of a minor and local nature.
- f. **Historian duties, DVLA etc.** A member has volunteer for the role of honorary Historian, but will need some support and assistance. A full report will be brought to the next meeting. Gideon Booth reported that he has now applied to the DVLA for recognition as the Club's representative, and has already received a number of requests for assistance from members.



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- g. **Valuations.** The Chairman recounted a recent incident that reinforces the policy line that club officers should not give valuations of vehicles. People asking for valuations should be advised to contact members at the local Noggin for general support.
- h. **Pre War Minor Network** Chris Lambert of the Pre War Minor Network made a presentation on his proposal for closer working between the Network and the Morris Register, followed by a discussion. There was a view that closer bonds between all the Morris related clubs in the future would be of benefit and save money and effort. The Pre War Minor Network is largely web-based, and some form of affiliation would secure the future of the existing substantial resource. It was agreed that a small working group should look at the technical issues, and suggest a range of possible solutions. John Nagle, Chris Lambert, Jim Riglar, and possible also Mike Brears will undertake this and report to the July meeting.
- i. **President's Conferences format** The President referred to the paper that was presented to the January National Committee, and suggested that there were a number of options. The Conference has always been open to regional committee members and any other members with an interest in attending. In recent years the National Committee has become much more open, and now the distinction between the two has become blurred. At the President's Conferences, all present may vote, but a vote at the Conference is advisory only to the National Committee, whereas at the National Committee meetings, only members of the National Committee may vote. In discussions, it was felt that the open nature of the Conferences had a great advantage in enabling as many members as possible to have a part in formulating policy. The consensus of this discussion was to recommend that we should move from 2 Conferences and 2 National Committee meetings per year to all 4 being President's Conferences; that within the Conference format, if any decision needed to be endorsed by the National Committee, a separate vote should be taken at that point of National Committee members present; and that the current AGM format should continue. It was also suggested that the name for the Conference could be changed to make it more meaningful; "President's Forum" or "Club Forum" were suggested.
- j. **Rules** There was then a brief summary of the situation regarding the Rules for the Pre 1940 Morris Register Ltd. It was agreed that a more detailed note covering the structures and governance of the Club was needed, and this could then be included in the Club Handbook. A subgroup comprising John Ford, Philip Butland and Tom Bourne would oversee this, and circulate to all present for comments in time to meet the Mid May deadline for the Handbook.
- k. **On-line membership** There was a brief discussion regarding on-line membership applications and on-line advertising. This work is in progress with the Webmaster.

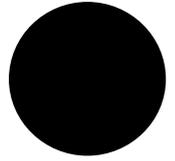
6. Executive Reports



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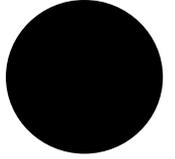
- **President.** The President said he was pleased with the way the club is going, which is due the efforts of all of us. He was pleased to have attended the Chilterns Region Dinner.
- **Chairman.** The Chairman welcomed the progress the club is making, and had nothing to add that was not covered in agenda items
- **Secretary.** The Secretary said that his activity was covered by the agenda items. He also pointed out that he would not be standing for re-election after the 2013 AGM.
- **Treasurer.** The treasurer reported that the end-of-year returns for both MoClub and the Pre 1940 Morris Register are almost ready. Two new bank accounts have been set up, one for the club in general, the other for the spares. Both of these offer free banking. He then encouraged regional treasurers to send in their returns. In discussions it was agreed that all regional bank accounts should be changed to reflect the new Company name, and that they should seek free banking for clubs.
- **Membership.** The Membership Secretary reported that membership at the end of March was 1,891, an increase of 7.9% over the previous year. To date he has received 1,615 renewals, and he expects that of the 276 not yet renewed up to 100 will renew, giving a "churn" of 6.9%. The take up of the change to direct debits has been encouragingly high, and in view of the very high savings in time and effort that resulted, more members should be encouraged to make this change. Looking ahead he thinks that a networked database should be introduced, but in the short term recommends that the club should purchase a computer and 'Microsoft Office Professional' to run the software he has developed for the job, so that there is no risk of anything going wrong during the change-over and the data is kept secure. A vote of thanks was given to John and Jo, and all were asked to seek volunteers to take over this role.
- **Newsletter.** The Editor made a plea for new material, and particularly for pictures of Drive-It Day
- **National Rally.** A full report will be in Morris Monthly. A deal has been struck with the management at Thoresby booking up to 2013 with no cost increase. There was a discussion resulting in agreement that plastic plaques would be preferred to brass. It was also agreed that consideration should be given to a change in layout so that the membership tent, refreshments trailer etc should all be corralled on 3 sides of the vehicle display area. The possible need for increased funding was also raised.
- **Spares Service.** The Spares Service report is at **Annex 1**.
- **Web Site.** The Webmaster reported that he is working on a revised log in procedure, using individual passwords. This will take up to another 2 months to complete. He agreed to set up a hyperlink from the on-line membership application form to the Club rules and articles.
- **FBHVC.** This report is at **Annex 2**



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7. **Regional Reports.** The Midlands region reported that the NEC stand had been confirmed. The East Anglia region reported a successful lunchtime Noggin. Also that member Jenny Brown was ill and awaiting heart surgery.
8. **Any Other Business.**
 - Dave Harris reported that the search is still on for a "Tow-a-Van" type trailer for the exhibition materials. Paul Ollis volunteered to take on the role of Events Equipment Manager.
 - John Nagle asked officers to notify him if they learned of the deaths of members, so that they can be removed from the renewal and direct debit system.
 - John also pointed out that there should be a separate post of "Events Coordinator" to provide the up-front presence that he and Jo had provided at Thoresby.
 - There was a request that the design of the headed notepaper be reviewed, to remove confusion that has been experienced with replies being sent to the registered office rather than the sender.
9. The next meeting will be the National Committee on 23 July
10. There being no further business, the Chairman thanked those present and closed the meeting at 4.15.



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ANNEX 1

THE PRE-1940 MORRIS REGISTER SPARES SERVICE

Presidents Conference – 2nd April 2011

Following on from the previous report to the Executive Committee on 29th January 2011, I can again advise Committee that there are no major problems or issues to report and the Register's Spares Service continues to operate satisfactorily. Final figures for the trading year Feb 2010 to Jan 2011 show gross sales of £21,928 and gross purchases of £20,430. VAT liability was £1399.

We continue to operate on a low-key basis knowing that many Register members are aware of, and use, alternative sources of spare parts, but that many also rely on the Service for guidance, information, and advice and make their purchases from the club as a matter of course. We do not set out to actively market the Service, we have enough on our plates dealing with existing levels of enquiries and orders, but we lose no opportunity when presented to promote the benefits to members of making purchases from fellow Register members who know and understand (most of the time!) what is required. We continue to liaise with others in the trade, on retail and wholesale terms, including several Register members in business, and we regularly refer to these contacts any enquiries for new or used parts that we cannot provide ourselves. Recent attempts to set up purchase arrangements with two suppliers have not materialised because of the quantities we were expected to buy.

All necessary changes to bank details and paperwork have been made in order to accommodate the change of Club name with effect from 1st April. None of these changes affect the way in which the Service operates, which continues to be substantially e-mail traffic based. We like it, and most members also seem to.

In the absence of anything further to report, let me relate two events that have recently occurred and which illustrate the sort of thing which crops up from time to time. Firstly, having given assurances of the quality and reliability of our goods, and quoted the current price, we went out of our way and pulled lots of strings (to be precise, Graham Naylor did!) to have a starter motor delivered within 24 hours to a member desperate to attend a prestigious meeting a few days hence. Feeling pleased with our rapid success against the odds, we were a little disconcerted when the member told us via an e-mail that he had found a slightly cheaper source of a starter motor nearer home and he was sending ours back! All part and parcel of the job?

The following week, Kate and I were about to leave for a weekend away in the Yorkshire Dales on the Friday, when the phone rang at 8-30 am. Knowing that a family friend was terminally ill in our local hospice, I feared the worst as I answered the phone. "My car won't start" said the voice of the complete stranger on the line, "have you any suggestions?" He went on to relate that petrol was



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there, spark was there, he had checked plugs and points, but it still would not start. At a complete loss as to what to suggest, never have I had to be so polite so early in the morning!

Tom Taylor
Spares Service Secretary
23rd March 2011.

ANNEX 2

FBHVC Report for the President's Conference 2nd April 2011

One of the main aims of the FBHVC is to ensure that we all continue to have the right to use our vehicles on the road – whatever their age. It does this by lobbying politicians and government officials but it can only be really effective if it is armed with accurate information about the interests it represents, such as the number of people involved and the number of vehicles they own as well as the value the movement brings to the economy. FBHVC's last survey was in 2006,

This now needs to be brought up to date, so a new survey has been started. All members are encouraged to take part and the more people who do, the more accurate the results will be, and the more accurate the results are, the better FBHVC will be able to protect all our interests. The simplest way to participate is to go to www.fbhvc.co.uk and click the link to the survey. The link will open early in May and remain open until the end of July. If you prefer to complete a paper questionnaire, please send a C5 stamped addressed envelope to FBHVC, Kernshill, Shute Street, Stogumber, Taunton. TA4 3TU.

A consultation is on-going regarding exempting some early small vehicles from the need for an MoT. Despite rumour and speculation at present, this would probably only apply to pre 1920 cars. It is possible that restrictions would be involved. There is no way that the FBHVC would bargain with or condone any such restriction. These processes take many months and it may well be well into 2012 before any decisions are made.

The FBHVC are still monitoring petrol and the percentage of ethanol included and I will keep members updated in the Morris Monthly.

Ken Johnson