



MORRIS REGISTER

The Club for Morris vehicles designed before 1940

MINUTES OF 70th PRESIDENT'S CONFERENCE

Held Saturday 4th October 2014

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

The meeting opened at 1.50.

1. Those Present & Apologies for Absence:

John Ford, Tom Bourne, Steve Gant, Jane Nathan, Rob Symonds, Pat Farmer, Jim Riglar, Julian Jankowski, John Powell, Tony Nathan, Neil Truslove, John Howells, Barbara Farmer, Tom Taylor, Trevor Willsden, Christine Truslove, Roger Clitheroe, Dave Lee, Pam Lee, Ian Harris, Ken Holden, Dean Everard, John Sargeant, June Sargeant, Geoff Salminen, Corinne Beaumont

Apologies for absence received from: Ben Gadsby, Roger Needle, Mike Brears, Roy Pidgeon, Gideon Booth, Harry Good, Chris Lambert, Ken Johnson, Hilda Johnson, Caroline Harris, Paul James, Celia James, Tony Hale,

2. Approval of the Minutes of the President's Conference of 5th October 2013. The minutes were unanimously agreed.

3. Introduction to the Conference. The President welcomed members to the 70th President's Conference, and thanked members for voting him to this post. He then gave a special welcome to Corinne Beaumont. By way of introduction, the President reminded members that the President's Conference is an opportunity for members, particularly those representing the regions, to take part in discussions about how the club is performing, and to help to formulate plans for the future. This takes place outside of the formal confines of the National Committee. All members present take part on an equal basis. The meeting should aim to reach a consensus on the matters discussed, and National Committee or the Management Team will be expected to implement them as the club moves forward.

4. Items for discussion.

a. Late Renewal Charge

The Membership Secretary presented a proposal that a charge is made for late renewals, to cover the additional costs, as well as extra work, that are incurred. To date this year there have been 158 late renewals, and processing these takes up much time and has so far incurred an extra cost of £323, a cost that is unfairly borne by the membership as a whole. She proposed that a £5 administration fee should be charged for late renewals. This would be in addition to measures to improve the reminders that renewals are due, for example by a printed message on the cover of Morris Monthly, and possibly by having the renewal form stapled into the magazine.

In the lively discussion that followed, it was thought that a £5 charge might deter members from renewing. Also agreed that it should not be for the membership secretary to send out reminders to those who do not renew within an agreed time, but that this should be done by the regional membership secretaries. Mid April is too soon for this, it should be done around mid May. It was agreed that the membership secretary should not sent back issues of the magazine to late renewers, rather the member should be simply put back into the system, and given the option of buying any back issues via the club shop.

In summary, it was agreed:

- **A list of non-renewals be sent to the regional membership secretaries mid May**
- **Late renewers are simply put back onto the system**
- **They can buy back issues via the club shop, or simply download from the web**
- **Monitor this for a year**
- **Renewal from should be stapled in, or as a tear-out from, the magazine**

b. National Rally

It was agreed that we need to book the Thoresby venue for at least 2015 and 2016 to ensure continuity.

John Ford then introduced a discussion on the need to make the National Rally self-funding. He confirmed that the budget and subscriptions proposed for next year has assumed that this will be the case.

In discussion, it was pointed out by a member that when we first went to Thoresby for the special “80 years of Morris” event in May 1993, it was agreed that that event only should be free to members, but that the Club then failed to revert to the previous arrangement for self-funding for the usual annual national rally.

In summary, it was agreed:

- **That a charge per car entered should be made.**
- **That a charge per unit per night for camping should be made**
- **This arrangement should be monitored**

The Conference then broke into discussion groups to generate views on the medium and long-term future of the National Rally. The views collected are tabulated at Annex 1

c. Morris Vehicles Association

John Ford outlined the current position. A meeting will be held at the NEC. Some funding will be needed to cover some basic costs, and it was agreed that we should contribute £50.

d. Regional Funding

Neil Truslove presented the conclusions of the subgroup. The subgroup agreed with the mechanism for calculating regional funding, which should be called a grant not a levy. The question the subgroup has addressed is what the grant should be spent on. In the early days, it was to cover the costs of regional newsletters, but that is of course no longer needed. There are different practices across the regions, and it is difficult to be precise. For example, some pay mileage for attending committee meetings, other don't. The bottom line is that the committee have to be able to agree, and to justify the use of the funds.

In discussion, it was agreed that the cost of refreshments for committee meetings should be included. The amended guidelines are at Annex 2

e. Spares subgroup

Tom Bourne and Steve Gant outlined progress with the Club Spares. Sales are averaging about £700 per month. The obsolete and unwanted stock has now been sold off. The aim is to provide sufficient detail to enable members to “self-diagnose” by finding for themselves the part numbers of the parts they need, as this will save the team much time. Many enquires do not progress into orders. Work is in progress on a web shop, which should help to solve this. The subgroup hopes to meet again in the autumn.

In discussion, it was pointed out that there might be benefit in the club spares linking up with other suppliers in commissioning new batches.

f. Plan for the year ahead

Tom Bourne presented a draft plan for the year ahead. In discussion, it was suggested that we should continue to have a presence at Beaulieu, and that responsibility for this could be offered around the regions. The plan is at Annex 3.

5. Officer Reports

- Membership – Jane presented her analysis of statistics for membership, and said she was surprised at the continued flow of new members. In summary she made 2 points:
 - Encourage our members to renew on time
 - Make website instructions on joining up clearer
- Secretary – the secretary welcomed the growth in membership and said that the club is in good condition and serving members well. We need to maintain our focus on making the club a nice place to be. We need to focus on 2 broad aims:
 - To recruit new members
 - To retain existing members

We also should continue to simplify our procedures and services.

- Editor – Rob reported continued good contributions from members.
- Webmaster – Jim reported that the 8mvs email system has now been closed down, and that there are 1,278 approved web accounts, of which 946 are active. The club shop is now active on line.
- Club shop – Julian said the shop is working well, and most orders are for manuals. He is keeping stock levels low.
- Archivist – John reported that the hand over of material from Ken Martin to the Archives was successful. He has scanned 19 box files of photos, and needs a slide copier to scan the slide collection.
- DVLA – Gideon has sent a report that the DVLA work is going well, continued demand, no real problems
- FBHVC – Pat has completed his first year, and summarised the main issues that the Federation has dealt with.
- Overseas – Tom Taylor said he has formed links with the clubs in Australia and New Zealand, which has lead to an exchange of magazines by email.

6. Highlights from the Regions

- North East – had the award for best stand at Otley Show
- North West – had a successful “Lake District Weekend”
- Midlands – had a good weekend event. Planning a tour to Rutland Water next June.
- West – planning a tour to West Sussex next year 4 – 10 May.

7. Any other Business

- The President reminded members of the 25 and 50-year badges that Bob had instigated, and asked to be informed of anyone in the regions who qualifies.
- There was a brief discussion on car valuations, and a request that this be put on the agenda for the next meeting

8. Date of next conference

25 April 2015 at Coventry Motor Museum

The President thanked all present for attending and closed the meeting at 4.45

National Rally Futures
Summary of discussion groups

1. Medium term:

- Is Thoresby becoming too complicated and costly?
- What is it about Thoresby that we value most and why?

Please assess the following components:

Activity/service	Not bothered	Nice to have	Essential
Camping		✓✓	✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
Catering			✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
Bar		✓✓✓	✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
Entertainment:			
Friday	✓✓✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
Saturday		✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓	✓✓✓✓✓
Sunday	✓✓✓✓✓	✓✓✓✓	
Archery	✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓	✓✓	
Bouncy castle	✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓	✓✓✓✓✓	
Children's entertainment	✓✓✓✓	✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓	✓✓
Driving games		✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓	✓✓✓
Road run		✓✓✓✓✓	✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
Autojumble			✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
Concours		✓✓✓✓✓✓	✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
Prize giving			✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
Programme	✓		✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
Souvenir mug/plaque/etc	✓✓✓	✓✓✓✓✓✓	✓✓✓

Suggest any other activities:

- Restoration workshop topics, engine maintenance, spares acquisition, bodywork repairs, car maintenance for women. Yes, as an alternative to road run. An information desk (disclaimer needed)
- Charge £1 for programme. Send programme out with rally information
- Period dress for the weekend.
- Driving games and road run on separate days
- Ladies corner for chat and sit down.
- Regions arrange entertainment item e.g. quiz.
- Mug etc only if ordered and paid for in advance.

2. Long term:

1. <i>What will be members' expectations in the future for a National Rally?</i>
To move south. Continue high standard, team of 4 or 5 to source new venue 2017. A big one! They will want one somewhere. Weekend to remember, good company. Must have a national event and a big one. Different. Continue economical format. Opportunity for members/regions to meet. National rally essential. Chance to meet members, the heart of the club. Autojumble, see other cars, excuse to use the car.
2. <i>There are increasingly popular "Tours" organised by the regions. Are these the new alternative to a National Rally?</i>
No – more regional events. No. No. No. None to have the appeal that the rally has. Too big to do nationally. No, but possibilities for a joint effort. No, additional. Not an alternative, but to be encouraged in regions. No, they complement. No. No.
3. <i>Will we still want a big static rally? If so, where?</i>
Move south. Yes. Yes. Thoresby Hall. Yes. Yes, Thoresby. North & south, alternate years. Yes, central. Yes, central like Thoresby. Yes, midlands, Leicester area.
4. <i>Do we know how many members attend Thoresby (in a dry year)?</i>
250 – 300. 150 – 200? 400? No. No. 400. No. 350 – 400. No. No. 200+.
5. <i>What % of members does Thoresby serve?</i>
20%. 10%. 10% 10 – 15%, but all have the chance. 10%. 10-15%. 10-20%. Could be 100% but down to members. 20%. Small. All if they bother. 12%.
6. <i>Will we continue to have enough volunteers to organise?</i>
Need to recruit younger members. Yes. Yes. Hopefully. An ongoing issue. Need to encourage via new members. Maybe not! Unlikely. Doubtful.
7. <i>If we do still want a big static rally, should we just piggyback onto a bigger event organised jointly by the MVA, that has the critical mass of members to organise?</i>
Will lose identity, just become the MVA. No. that would dilute our national event. Possibly, but Minors & Marinas can travel further faster. no. not really, lose identity. Would be the end of MR, become a unit within MVA. Possibly. A possibility. Yes.
8. <i>What is it about our National that is most important to members?</i>
Unity. Meeting fellow members. A meeting arena for Morris as a whole. Meeting place for members. Meeting fellow enthusiasts, good weekend. The "identity" of "their" national rally. Central point to meet and discuss cars. A chance for all regions to meet like-minded people. Ask members not us on committee. It's the heart of the club. Comradeship, chat.
9. <i>Is there any other way to meet that need?</i>
Not really. Other clubs have not found anything different. No. no, need to generate enthusiasm. Foreign tour? Club stand at organised Classic shows.

Regional Grant

Grants are provided annually by the National Committee to the UK Regional Committees based on the number of members in the Region. Any grant remaining unspent at the end of the year shall be recovered from the following year's grant. These grants are intended to support the administration of the Regional Committee and to cover the cost of organising social events and activities.

The Regional Committee shall approve all spend in advance, and may be asked by the National Committee to justify the use of the grant. Receipts must be provided where appropriate, and costs shall be kept to a reasonable minimum. For large individual purchases, the region should liaise with the national treasurer to ensure optimal VAT treatment.

There may be minor variations from region to region, but broadly, the grant shall be used as follows:

1. **Administration of the Regional Committee:** Cost of holding committee meetings including venue hire if necessary, mileage allowance to attend meetings if requested (at the Nationally agreed mileage rate), refreshments, postage, stationery, other office costs.
2. **Social events and activities for the Region:** exhibition and show equipment, publicity, the transport of show vehicles (in special cases), attendant costs in scoping and putting on the event, attendance plaques, cost of hire of venue where appropriate, MSA fees, hospitality related to promoting the club or attracting new members. The costs to members of participating in events shall not be eligible for funding by the regional grant, for example food and drink at social events, travel, hotel bills. Members taking part shall cover their own costs.

Plan for 2015

1. **Strategic Direction:**
 - Continue development of the MVA
 - Plan for 2016 MVA Rally
 - Continue National Rally Futures Working Group
 - Continue Spares Working Group
 - Next stage for PWMN Affiliation
2. **Management issues for the year:**
 - Market-test the printing contract
 - Complete work on disclaimers for literature, and put T&Cs on website
3. **Activities for the Year**
 - Joint MVA event at Thoresby
 - Regional events of national importance, eg Trafford Park, Bristol classic Show
 - NEC
 - Regional events, tours, etc
 - Beaulieu – give the regions a chance to lead on this?