



# MORRIS REGISTER

The Club for Morris vehicles designed before 1940

## MINUTES OF 69<sup>th</sup> PRESIDENT'S CONFERENCE

Held Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2013

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

The meeting opened at 2.00.

### **1. Those Present & Apologies for Absence:**

**Members Present:** Bob Beaumont, Ken Johnson, John Ford, Tom Bourne, Stephen Gant, Jane Nathan, Rob Symonds, Pat Farmer, Richard Hankinson, Geoff Whitehouse, Jim Riglar, Julian Jankowski, John Powell, Mike Brears, John Nagle, Geoff Whitehouse, Tony Nathan, Caroline Harris, Roy Pidgeon, John Howells, Malcolm Dixon, Trevor Willsden, Anne Riglar, Hilda Johnson, Val Brears, Tim Harris, Pam Lee, Dave Lee, Jo Nagle, Roger Clitheroe, John Sargeant, June Sargeant, Geoff Salminen, Alec Elliot, Barbara Farmer, Alma Humphries, John Humphries

**Apologies for absence received from:** Michael Taylor, Tom Taylor, Neil Truslove, Christine Truslove, Ben Gadsby, Ken Martin, Margaret Molyneux, David Molyneux, Paul James, Celia James, Harry Good, Phil Butland, Gideon Booth, Doug Townsend, Roger Needle, Derek & Pearl Ayres, Ray Frampton

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the President's Conference of 27<sup>th</sup> April 2013.** The minutes were unanimously agreed.

**3. Introduction to the Conference.** The President welcomed members to the 69<sup>th</sup> President's Conference. He then announced his intention to step down this time next year. The club has gone through many changes over the past few years, and the role of President is still needed. The Chairman thanked Bob for all he has done for the club over many years, and members present expressed their appreciation. In introducing the discussion topics, the President reminded members that the Conference is intended as an opportunity for all members to have a say in the future of the club.

### **4. Items for discussion.**

#### **a. Morris Clubs Affiliation**

John Ford outlined discussions that have taken place between the various Morris clubs over the past year with a view to some form of affiliation. Clubs will retain their own identity, finance, etc, but will become part of a bigger picture. There will be costs as well as benefits, and more detailed proposals will follow early next year. In discussion, there was full agreement that John should continue representing the Morris Register at these discussions, and report back to the committee. The joint centenary events have provided a good springboard for this to go ahead.

#### **b. National Rally**

John Ford summarised the success of this year's National Rally, and although costs will increase next year, the site is still cheap compared with other similar sites. We need to always keep a view to alternative venues. In discussion, it was agreed that Thoresby is a very good site, but ideally the rally should move around the country. If Affiliation does go ahead, we may be able to share facilities with the wider group of affiliated clubs. There was then a good discussion on what could be done to improve the event at Thoresby (not intended to be criticism of the performance of the team): market it more dynamically to members, the location, it's free to members, use a colour leaflet insert to MoMo; have "pay on the day" to encourage members to book; change the format, e.g. more serious driving games (Gymkhana) possibly in the afternoon rather than the morning on Saturday; car workshops, shared skills; non-mechanical activities for wives and guests, e.g. make-up artiste in 1930s style, wartime hair styles; dress to period of car; serve cream teas; all these need to be on both Saturday and Sunday; get families more involved on Sunday; special event for 80 years of Morris 8.

### **c. New Strap line**

Tom Bourne recapped on the presentation given to the July National Committee on the potential for confusion between the Club and the Company, and the recent trend to call the club "the pre 1940 Morris Register", rather than just "Morris Register". It was agreed that we should revert to just "Morris Register". It was also agreed that we should shorten the strap line to "The club for (enthusiasts of) Morris vehicles designed before 1940". Regional committees will discuss this and other options.

### **d. New Posts**

- i. Overseas Secretary.** Tom Bourne summarised recent discussions and correspondence on the need for and benefits of an Overseas Secretary. This would provide a first point of contact for overseas members needing help, and establish relationships with overseas Morris Registers and Clubs, particularly in Australia, and New Zealand. The meeting welcomed Tom Taylor's expression of interest in this post. The next National Committee will be asked to ratify this as a co-option.
- ii. Public Relations.** It was agreed that a PRO was needed, and that as a separate post we need someone to market advertising space in Morris Monthly. Geoff Whitehouse is prepared to be considered for the PRO role, as he has professional experience in this area. He would be available from March 2014. The next National Committee will be asked to ratify this as a co-option.

### **e. 50 year badges**

The President reminded the meeting of the special lapel badges that used to be presented to members who had completed 25 years continuous membership. He suggested that we now consider a similar approach for members completing 50 years. Julian will investigate costs and report to the next National Committee.

## **5. Officer Reports**

- Membership – John Nagle introduced the new team of Jane Nathan, Mike Brears and Steve Gant, who have now formally taken over from him. John will now be in the background, and will develop proposals for new software systems.
- Secretary – the secretary announced his wish to step down at the next AGM. By then all the outstanding tasks connected with governance should be complete, making his successor's job much easier. It was suggested that the need for a replacement should be well publicised.

- Spares – Richard reported that the spares move was now programmed for 19<sup>th</sup> October. Local volunteers would be welcome to help with unloading.
- Editor – Rob Symonds reported a very active year, with many months going to 48 pages. He thanked the regional editors, and reported that Sir Stirling Moss will attend our stand at the NEC on Saturday morning.
- Webmaster – Jim reported that the new web site was now nearing completion after a protracted effort. Some regional archives remain to be moved, and next task is to activate the club shop.
- Club shop – Julian said he intends to reduce the range of clothing items to 8 good sellers. He proposes a new tie, needs to sell at least 40. Pens for the membership sec to give away. It was agreed that we should give away the remaining Jubilee car badges.
- Archivist – John reported that a date is now being fixed for the handover of items in Ken Martin's custody to the new archive.
- 2013 Events Secretary – Tom reported on discussions with Roger Needle. Once his work on 2013 events is complete, Roger would be interested in taking up a new role of local liaison with interests in Cowley, Oxford, and the Oxford Bus Museum. The conference welcomed this, which will have to be formalised by the next National Committee.

## **6. Highlights from the Regions**

- Chilterns – running fine
- Midlands – Tour went well, noggins doing well
- West – 2 new noggins. Tour planned for May 2014 to Black Country
- East Anglia – events have been reported in Morris Monthly. Region is in good health
- Southeast – a successful year, Box Hill run, Broadlands, Ricardo's.
- EM & Yorks – events went well
- Wales – Around Wales tour went well. Tredegar Park suffered from heavy rain.

## **7. Any other Business**

- The chairman gave an update on plans for the centenary stand at the NEC
- The President asked regions to let him know if there were any events they would like him to attend

## **8. Date of next conference**

26 April 2014

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