



# MORRIS REGISTER

The Club for Morris vehicles designed before 1940

## MINUTES OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Held Saturday 18 January 2014 at the Heritage Motor Centre, Banbury Road, Gaydon,  
Warwickshire, CV35 0BJ

### The meeting opened at 10.38

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

**Vice President:** Ken Johnson

**Committee members Present:** John Ford, Tom Bourne, Stephen Gant, Jane Nathan, Pat Farmer, Richard Hankinson, Jim Riglar, Julian Jankowski, John Powell, John Nagle, Tom Taylor, Tony Nathan, Neil Truslove, John Howells

**Other members Attending:** Malcolm Dixon, Trevor Willsden, Anne Riglar, Hilda Johnson, Tim Harris, Mick Brownhill, Christine Truslove, Jo Nagle, Roger Clitheroe, Barbara Farmer, Paul Ollis, Ray Frampton, Chris Lambert

**Apologies for absence received from:** Bob Beaumont, Rob Symonds, Ben Gadsby, Gideon Booth, Geoff Whitehouse, Mike Brears, Harry Good, John Howells, Margaret Molyneux, Caroline Harris, Roy Pidgeon,

#### 2. Approval of the Minutes of the National Committee of 5 October 2013. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

#### 3. Matters Arising

ITEM	MINUTE	ACTION
4	<b><u>CO-OPTIONS</u></b>	
	<p>a. <b><u>Overseas Secretary.</u></b> Tom Taylor presented his view of the nature and scope of the role. See annex 1. <b>The National Committee agreed to the co-option of Tom Taylor to the National Committee as Overseas Secretary.</b></p> <p>b. <b><u>Public relations.</u></b> The committee noted that Geoff Whitehouse is still interested in this role, but unable to take it on at the moment. <b>The National Committee noted that we continue to look out for suitable candidates for the roles of PRO and advertising manager.</b></p> <p>c. <b><u>Vice President.</u></b> The National Committee agreed to the appointment of Malcolm Dixon as Vice President.</p>	TT
5	<b><u>STRAPLINE</u></b>	
	<p>In the absence of any alternative suggestions from the regions, <b>The National Committee agreed that the strapline "The club for Morris vehicles designed before 1940" should be adopted.</b></p>	TB
6	<b><u>INSURANCE &amp; RISK ASSESSMENT</u></b>	
	<p>Discussions are in hand with our insurers (Peter Best) on aspects of the public liability and all risks cover. <b>The National Committee agreed to delegate this issue to the management team.</b></p>	TB/SG

7	<b><u>FINANCE ISSUES</u></b>	
	<p>The treasurer introduced his budget for 2014/15, which was broadly the same as the draft budget he presented to the October meeting. He has increased his assumption of the number of members. He pointed out that a major item is the cost of meetings and travel. The major adjustment in fees will affect members in Europe most, and will be phased over 3 years. This has already been notified to the Holland group. He proposed a new ¼ year rate for new members joining at or after the NEC, and that the ½ year rate should apply to new members joining at or after Thoresby.</p> <p><b>The National Committee agreed to adopt the budget for 2014/15, and agreed to the recommended subscription rates to be published in the February Morris Monthly.</b></p>	SG/JN
8	<b><u>EVENTS</u></b>	
	<p>a. <b><u>Thoresby.</u></b> Mick Brownhill reported negotiations in place for a 4-year agreement with the estate, and negotiations on hire costs with the marquee supplier. It was suggested that we should look at options for 2, 3 or 4-year agreements. <b>These negotiations are to be finalised by end February and a report given to the April meeting.</b></p> <p><b>There was then a lively discussion that concluded with agreement to set up a sub group to look at the future of the National Rally.</b> The brief should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need for security of tenure;</li> <li>• Benefits of changing venue regularly, particularly looking at the feasibility of North and South rallies;</li> <li>• Linkages between the National and Regional Rallies;</li> <li>• Possible links with other Morris club events evolving from the Morris Clubs Affiliation agenda;</li> <li>• The possibility of using National Trust properties as a venue.</li> </ul> <p>The sub group will comprise Mick Brownhill, Roger Needle, John Powell, Julian Jankowski and John Ford. <b>Final report to be ready for the October President's Conference, with interim reports to the National Committee in April and July.</b></p> <p>On the financial side, Mick reported that the current budget is £4,000, but there have been savings of £2,300 paid back to the treasurer. Another discussion concluded that cost saving and fund raising could be by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sponsorship of mugs and programmes,</li> <li>• Reducing field hire to Thursday night to Sunday night inclusive,</li> <li>• Making a nominal £5/night charge for camping.</li> </ul> <p><b>A full report on cost issues to be brought to the April National Committee meeting.</b> Someone suggested a technical workshop at Thoresby.</p> <p>b. <b><u>Beaulieu.</u></b> It was agreed that we should have a Club stall at the September autojumble at Beaulieu, subject to a volunteer to run it. There are substantial PR benefits, and an opportunity to sign up new members. <b>An appeal for volunteers to be put in MoMo and on the website.</b></p> <p>c. <b><u>Events Manager/Coordinator.</u></b> The Committee agreed on the need for an events coordinator, with a role to coordinate national and regional events, and ensure maximum publicity within and outside the club. JF will talk to a potential volunteer. There is a need for a separate role to look after and account for all the exhibition kit.</p>	<p>MB</p> <p>MB and sub group</p> <p>MB/SG</p> <p>JR/MD</p> <p>JF</p>

9	<b><u>SPARES</u></b>	
	Richard Hankinson summarised his impressions after the first few weeks in operation. He acts as a first point of contact passing on enquiries we can service to David & Lindsay, and referring those we can't to other traders. He would appreciate input from specialists on various models that he is not familiar. We need a list of specialist suppliers, and need to consider investing in re-manufacture. We need to build on contacts with MG Clubs to identify those parts that are common to both marques. A stock take is planned for February. <b>The Committee agreed that a subgroup comprising Richard, Steve Gant, Roger Clitheroe and Tom Bourne should meet to examine the issues raised.</b>	<b>RH &amp; sub group</b>
10	<b><u>BOUNDARY REVIEW, TRANS-PENNINES REGION</u></b>	
	<b>The National Committee agreed to the proposal to close down the Trans-Pennines region and share out the members between the North West Region and a new North East Region that would include the existing East Midlands &amp; Yorkshire region. This to be effective as of end January</b>	<b>JN &amp; Regions</b>
11	<b><u>PWMN AFFILIATION AND WEBNEWS</u></b>	
	Chris Lambert reported on discussions concerning the next stages of affiliation. This will involve reciprocal arrangements between the 2 forums. Members were asked to submit items for Web News, which is intended to make the web site more lively, but not to duplicate the magazine content. Possibility of including photos of new members' cars to be referred to Mike Brears.	<b>All MB</b>
12	<b><u>WEBSITE FORUM</u></b>	
	Jim Riglar introduced a discussion on whether or not the Forum should be moved to the public area of the website. There would be some technical issues to be sorted. Views in favour were that it would stimulate more interest in the club, and encourage more to join. Views against were that by making benefits of membership free, we might lose members. <b>The Committee agreed that the Forum should be moved to the public area of the website, and the success of this move be reviewed at the October President's Conference.</b>	<b>JR</b>
13	<b><u>MEMBERSHIP</u></b>	
	Jane Nathan reported that she is quickly settling into the role, and enjoying it, although it is quite time consuming. She reports continuing high levels of new members joining, and the effect of the centenary year and the NEC event on growth. See annex 4 for stats. John Nagle then summarized the vehicle Registrar's report (see annex 2). Discussion on the role of regional membership secretary will be held over to the April meeting. <b>The national Committee agreed to the revised "Officers Book" to be sent out with the magazine.</b>	<b>JN</b>
14	<b><u>25 &amp; 50-YEAR BADGES</u></b>	
	The committee discussed various ways to organize the giving out of these badges, and agreed that an informal system whereby members apply for them was preferable to a rigid system. Bob Beaumont has this in hand.	<b>BB</b>

15	<b><u>OFFICER REPORTS</u></b>	
	<p><b><u>Chairman</u></b> – the Chairman thanked all members for their contribution to the success of the centenary year, and is looking forward to moving on to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Morris 8. We have so far raised £1,470 for the Motor Neuron Disease charity from donations and the sale of books. He proposed that we now top this up to £2,000 as a one off, as this represents the value of outstanding book sales, and will make administration easier. This was agreed to. He went on to say that we need to look at the size and frequency of meetings now that we have the Management Team in place, and suggested that the July meeting could be omitted, with any urgent business done at Thoresby.</p> <p><b><u>Secretary</u></b> – the Secretary summarised progress made against the goals set in 2011. Outstanding items mainly relate to completion of the work on governance, insurance and risks, and to redefine the residual parts of the historian role. He hopes to complete these before stepping down in October.</p> <p><b><u>Editor’s Report</u></b> – see Annex 3. The Chairman said he would like to see more technical articles coming forward.</p> <p><b><u>Archivist</u></b> – John Powell reported on the successful move of material from Ken Martin’s house to the MGCC archive facility at Abingdon. He has made good progress scanning archive photos.</p> <p><b><u>Shopkeeper</u></b> – Julian reported on the new display stand, and good progress on sales. The online shop is getting closer. He is investigating Christmas cards, and pin badges for 80 years of Morris 8.</p>	
16	<b><u>AOB</u></b>	
	<p><b><u>Towing Club Trailer</u></b> – after the meeting closed, it was confirmed that anyone towing the club trailer should comply with weight restrictions as follows:  <b>On the Trailer, there will be a plate that will state the ‘GROSS TRAILER WEIGHT’. The car will have a GROSS TRAIN WEIGHT and a KERB WEIGHT stated in the handbook. The weight of the combination (THE GROSS TRAILER WEIGHT plus the KERB WEIGHT of the car) must not exceed the GROSS TRAIN WEIGHT.</b></p> <p><b><u>Raffles</u></b> – after the meeting, it was also confirmed that groups of members can run a lottery or raffle for the benefit of members without an operating licence from the Gambling Commission. Tickets can only be sold to members of the club or guests</p>	
17	<p><b><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></b>  Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April at the Heritage Motor Centre, Banbury Road, Gaydon  The meeting closed at 3.35</p>	

**MORRIS REGISTER**

**Proposed Post of Overseas Secretary**

**Role Definition**

The Morris Register (UK) wishes to promote communication, cooperation and awareness between Morris motor clubs in other countries for the common purpose of pro-actively maintaining the profile of the Morris marquee. To this end the Morris Register (UK) will appoint an Overseas Secretary with responsibility for the following objectives;

To be the authorised first point of contact for Morris Register (UK) members living in overseas countries.

To provide a source of information and advice to those overseas members concerning all aspects of their Register membership.

To liaise with and promote communication and cooperation between the Morris Register (UK) and other Morris related motor clubs located overseas and encourage contact and communication between respective members.

To enable members of overseas Morris related motor clubs visiting the UK to contact Morris Register (UK) members and to facilitate their attendance at National, Regional and Area social events and meetings. Conversely, to assist Morris Register (UK) members wishing to contact overseas Morris related clubs whilst abroad.

To provide, where possible, technical information and support between members of Morris related clubs worldwide.

To promote the regular exchange, where possible, of Journals and Newsletters between clubs.

NB, The role of Overseas Secretary is intended to promote and oversee the above objectives and is enabled to represent the Morris Register (UK) in communication and interaction with other Morris related clubs overseas.

Tom Taylor  
10.01.2014.

**Vehicle Registrar**

**Report for Morris Register Committee Meeting – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

Firstly, my apologies for not being present at the meeting.

As you know my first task as Vehicle Registrar was to prepare a vehicle database for the website from spreadsheets provided by John Nagle. The publication of this information on the website resulted in just 6 responses – a little disappointing given the number of corrections I have made to vehicle data between then and now.

Since completing that exercise I have been concentrating on correcting some of the more obvious errors, sorting out a number of duplicate entries, two members apparently owning the same vehicle and applying some consistency in the descriptions of the various models. I

think I counted around 5 or 6 different ways of describing a 4-door saloon and a similar number of differing descriptions for an Eight Tourer. The ultimate goal is to have each vehicle recorded using the original Morris catalogue description, this exercise has been partly completed but there is still a long way to go.

Talking of errors since I started this job I've looked in detail at well over 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the total of approximately 3,200 records on the database. In addition to correcting the obvious I have issued 46 individual requests for information to members to attempt to clarify queries on the details we have recorded for their vehicle. The majority of requests have been by e-mail, so far I've had 22 responses.

Lastly, the first website database was published around September last year and with the amount of work that has been completed the time is approaching when a new one is possibly required. When it is ready for publication can I ask that directions to it's location be made clearer as a number of members commented to me that it was difficult to find.

Mike Brears  
11/01/2014

### **Annex 3**

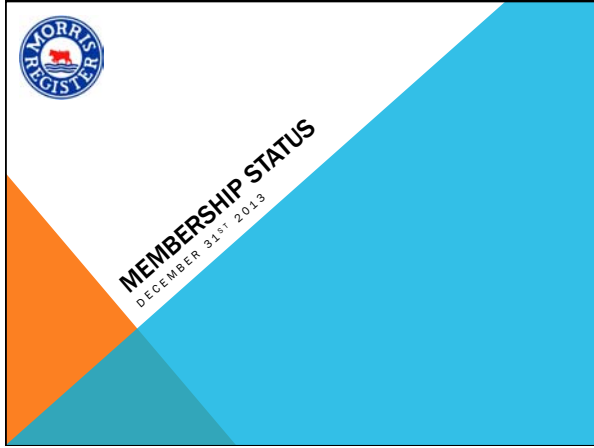
#### **Editor's Report for National Committee, 18 January**

Looking back over the centenary year, the 12 editions of Morris Monthly included 2 all colour editions, and ran to 516 pages in total, plus the 8-page Thoresby souvenir. For this impressive level of output, we must thank the intrepid team of regional editors and their sterling efforts to chase up copy from Noggins and elsewhere. I look forward to seeing this continue in the Eights 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. It is still true that some regions are less well represented than others in Regional Round-Up and I hope to see perhaps a bit more copy from them in the year ahead, although I know it is difficult. Individual contributions from members continue to be comparatively rare, so without the regular stalwart contributors the pickings would be pretty thin!

Now that the WRM serialised life story, courtesy of the author's son, has concluded, a wider range of material is needed to fill the gap and there will be more Member's Morris and Factory Photos (from Tom Bourne). Chris Lambert's Minor Musings have made a promising start and it is to be hoped that John Nagle's repeated plea for a regular Eights and/or Tens focused contributor will get a response. We are still, of course, light on the technical side of maintenance and restoration. My own series of articles centred on Morris Eight numbers begins in the February edition, with a further 2 or 3 to follow throughout the year. At some later stage this year, I hope to be including some rare technical drawings courtesy of Jack Morris, an old Morris employee, who has agreed to release some of his personal material for publication in Morris Monthly. Thanks are due to Roger Needle and Doug Townsend for initiating this.

I remain firmly of the opinion that a good magazine plays a pivotal role in keeping up membership numbers and hope that Morris Monthly can continue to fulfill this function for the club.

Rob Symonds



<b>Current Active Membership</b>	<b>1946</b>
<b>Complimentary</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>New in 2013</b>	<b>214</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (37 of which at the NEC)</li> </ul>	
<b>Returning Members</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Resigning Members</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Deceased</b>	<b>3?</b>

**CURRENT MEMBERSHIP**

