



*The Pre 1940*

# **MORRIS REGISTER**

*Limited*

## **MINUTES OF 68<sup>th</sup> PRESIDENT'S CONFERENCE**

Held Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2013

At King Edward's School, Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham,

The meeting opened at 2.15.

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

**Members Present:** Bob Beaumont, John Ford, Tom Bourne, Stephen Gant, Mark Smith, Rob Symonds, Malcolm Dixon, Ken Johnson, Tom Taylor, Geoff Whitehouse, Jim Riglar, John Powell, Tony Nathan, Caroline Harris, Neil Truslove, John Howells, Anne Riglar, Trevor Willsden, Hilda Johnson, Mike Brears, Val Brears, Pam Lee, Dave Lee, Ray Frampton, John Nagle, Jo Nagle, Tim Harris, Rex Webb, Jane Nathan, Roger Clitheroe, Pat Farmer, Barbara Farmer, Julian Jankowski

**Apologies for absence received from:** Roger Needle, Phil Butland, Gideon Booth, Harry Good, Roy Pidgeon, Margaret Molyneux, Richard Hankinson, Ben Gadsby, Lindsay Smith

### **2. Approval of the Minutes of the President's Conference of 6 October 2012.** The minutes were unanimously agreed.

3. The President welcomed members to the 68<sup>th</sup> President's Conference, and reminded them of the advisory nature of the Conference. Any consensus views of the Conference would be referred to the National Committee. He then introduced the 2 discussion topics, which would be discussed by members breaking out into small groups for intensive brainstorming.

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

#### **A. Future of the Spares Service**

Tom Taylor summarised the history of the spares service, and the way it is now run by him and Graham. They have kept it going without subsidy, and with a regular turnover of about £20k. There are now 2 volunteers to take over, and decisions have to be made as to how the service can be run in future.

For the discussion the following guiding principles were proposed:

Guiding principles:

- a. Members have access to a wide range of spares at competitive prices
- b. Where possible and feasible spares that are not available are brought back into production
- c. That the Club does not compete with commercial suppliers
- d. That the demands on club officers' time is minimised
- e. That double handling is minimised
- f. That the club is protected from financial risks

5 possible options for the future were suggested:

1. Morris Register Trading Continue as at present, club continues to provide a spares service to members, buying in from our network of suppliers, and selling on to members at cost plus.
2. Morris Register Trading, but with a new company As above, but set up a new trading company so we come outside VAT
3. Sub-contracted Spares Service We do a deal with a trader, he takes over our stock, we channel all orders to him, and he supplies the goods. We receive the payments, and refund him the costs involved in supplying
4. Knowledge exchange For those spares that are commercially available, we provide members with knowledge about where they are available and what to ask for. Specialist suppliers, and what they specialise in.
5. Shared spares trading (with an administrator) Similar to option 1, the status quo, but with the work shared between a team of members each specialising in an area, such as a model range, or type of spare.

The discussion groups were unanimous in rejecting options 2, 4 and 5. Option 1 was the preferred option, depending on the ability of the new volunteers to continue as at present. Failing this, a variation of option 3 should be sought. Availability of spares is a very important component of membership benefits. Alternative variations of option 3 should enable the club to ensure that a quality and timely service continues to be available to members. We should avoid “all our eggs in one basket”, and should keep some form of control over the service provided for the club by any third party provider. We should evaluate carefully the risks involved.

## **B. National Rally**

Malcolm Dixon reported that he will step down at the AGM after 7 years of service as National Rally Organiser. Ben Gadsby and Mick Brownhill have already indicated that they are prepared to stand. We have reached the end of a 3-year contract with Thoresby and costs will go up. This session is an opportunity for members to review the past successes of the National, and to discuss options for the future, whether any changes in format or location should be considered.

In discussions the following points were made:

- This is the right sort of event we need.
- It's essential that we have a National Rally of some sort.
- Thoresby has many advantages, enables it to be a substantial event.
- Other venues could be Clumber Park, Stanford Hall, a site (name?) near Wolverhampton, Cornbury Park (too big?), Boughton House Northants.
- National Trust sites that are open to the public, could raise our public profile
- Needs to be fairly central.
- We could have a roving event, but this poses challenges for the organisers
- We could charge members £5/10

The Chairman added that, in working with the MMOC and the BNMC for this year's centenary events, the possibility of future shared events had been discussed, possibly a biennial event. This suggestion was welcomed by the meeting.

## **5. Officer Reports**

- FBHVC – Ken Johnson summarised further activity on ethanol in fuels, and additives.
- Editor – Rob Symonds reported that the centenary edition will be 48 pages, with colour, and he stressed the importance of the magazine as what all members will see.

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

- Southeast – reported a successful run for Drive-it-day, 37 cars took part.
- North West – Manchester Town Hall on 12 May, Successful Classic Car Show
- West – joint event with MMOC at Beaulieu,
- East Anglia – see written report on the Club Lorry in annex 1
- Midlands – Midlands Region Run 24 -29 June.
- Wales – Round Wales run in planning. Joint event with MMOC at St Fagans.

## **7. Any other Business**

## **8. Date of next meeting**

5<sup>th</sup> October at Blunsdon House Hotel, following the AGM

The President thanked all present for attending and closed the meeting at 4.25

## **Annex 1**

### **Report on Club Lorry**

Club Lorry. Laurie Cook reports that it has been transferred from its very nice winter quarters (Provided courtesy of Sally Dobbins) to summer residence, it has been serviced, the first outing was Drive it Day at the Colne Valley Railway event. During the service, Laurie fitted a new flexible fuel pipe as the old one showed signs of cracking. The Lorry is entered for the commercial vehicle London to Brighton event and will display Centenary Logos; it will also attend various Centenary events where practical, plus Cornbury, Thoresby, East Anglian Centenary displays at Maldon & Barleylands. Big thanks to Laurie Cook for taking such good care of the vehicle (and other members who lend a hand at times).