



*The Pre 1940*

# **MORRIS REGISTER**

*Limited*

## **MINUTES OF 67<sup>th</sup> PRESIDENT'S CONFERENCE**

Held Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2012

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

The meeting opened at 2.05.

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

**Members Present:** Bob Beaumont, Ken Johnson, John Ford, Tom Bourne, Stephen Gant, Mark Smith, Rob Symonds, Malcolm Dixon, Tom Taylor, Jim Riglar, John Powell, Geoff Whitehouse, Tony Nathan, Neil Truslove, John Howells, Margaret Molyneux, Anne Riglar, Paul James, Celia James, Stephen Parkes, Hilda Johnson, Christine Truslove, Mike Brears, Val Brears, Dave Harris, Gloria Harris, David Molyneux, Pam Lee, Dave Lee, John Nagle, Jo Nagle, Ian Harris, Colin Belcher, Di Belcher, John Sargeant, Geoff Salminen, John Stevens, Ian Rayment, Paul Hudson, Mike Kent, Martin Redmond

**Apologies for absence received from:** Phil Butland, Roger Needle, Harry Good, Chris Lambert, Roger Clitheroe, Russell Moore, Ann Moore, Norma Cook, Laurie Cook, Gideon Booth, Michelle Smith, Dave Lawton.

2. **Approval of the Minutes of the President's Conference of 1 October 2011.** The President pointed out that those minutes had been approved by the National Committee of 12 January 2012.
3. The President welcomed members to the 67<sup>th</sup> President's Conference, making particular reference to the 7 "new faces". He explained that the discussions were open to all members, and that the conclusions would be non-binding, but where necessary passed on to the National Committee for action. He then welcomed Martin Redmond to the meeting. Martin gave a short presentation thanking Rob, Bob and John for their input and encouragement in the production of the booklet about his round the world trip. This will be on sale at the NEC, and the proceeds will go to Motor Neurone Disease Research. His Morris 25 has been shortlisted for the "Classic Car of the Year Award", and will be on a central display at the NEC.
4. **Items for discussion.**
  - **Review of Regional Funding**

Steve Gant presented an analysis of the review of Regional Funding. This indicated a proposal that the Regional Levy should be a rate of about £1 - £1.50 per member to cover the costs of regional administration, and that any other proposed expenditure on major projects that are to the benefit of the club as a whole should be budgeted for and then approved by the National Committee. In discussion, some members favoured the proposal; others thought it to be too complicated. Points raised included: the request for a budget should be justified; the per-capita approach is no longer relevant; some regions are more active than others, so need more funds; some regions are very well off already, so don't need more; regions should submit accounts to the National Committee; ensure that some regions don't subsidise others; agree that regions that need funds get it, and have to bid for it. The discussion then took the view that the proposal was too complicated, and we should

stay as we are. The President then proposed a compromise proposal that the levy should remain at £2 per member, and at the end of the year the regions should give an account for how they have spent this, and refund what is unspent. This should be tried for a year and then reviewed again. This proposal was agreed.

- **Review of Spares Service**

Tom Taylor summarised changes in the Spares Service over the past 8 years, and said he thought the present arrangement was the best. He thanked Graham Naylor for the role he has, and continues to play. Their policy is not to have extensive stock and a catalogue, but to procure to order. The prime object is to make sure that members get what they need. He then outlined the options that have previously been discussed (National Committee 25 April 2012) and concluded that the status quo should continue until such time as volunteers come forward to take over. A team of members fairly close together would work best. Could the stock be shared between 2 or 3 officers, with a central administration? It was agreed that we should continue to try to recruit volunteers.

- **Forum/8mvs/PWMN**

- **PWMN** - Tom Bourne reported recent discussion with Chris Lambert regarding an affiliation between the Register and the Pre War Minor Network (PWMN). Jim Riglar outlined that the technical aspects of sharing website facilities were easy and at a minimal cost. There are potential benefits in sharing resources. The meeting was strongly in favour of affiliation, and agreed that discussions should continue.
- **Forum & 8mvs** – Jim Riglar outlined the background to the 8mvs. It is very popular, but has the failing that information is lost. He has moved the forum to the public area of the web site, and changed the topic headings. The meeting agreed that the time is now right to move the 8mvs over to the Forum, but this should be done sensitively.

- **2013 Events**

John Ford summarised the list of national events, which were being planned in collaboration with other Morris clubs. Regions were encouraged to add their own events onto the calendar. He encouraged as many as possible to attend the International Morris Day on June 15/16.

## **5. Officer Reports**

- **FBHVC** – Ken Johnson summarised activity on ethanol in fuels, additives, voluntary MoTs and the possible link to insurance requirement
- **Editor** – Rob Symonds mentioned the improvements to the quality of the magazine, particularly the quality and diversity of contributions generally and by the regions.
- **Thoresby** – Malcolm Dixon said the team was already looking at ideas for 2013. The fixed price agreement with the Estate ends in 2013, and we need to agree whether we negotiate for a further period.
- **DVLA** – Gideon Booth in a written report said that the process was working well. He has reclaimed 12 registrations for members, a further 3 are in the pipeline, and 2 have been rejected for lack of proof

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

- **West Sussex** – planning a tour of the Recarro factory
- **North West** – special events for 2013 include Kelso weekend, Science Museum visit, Manchester Town Hall on 27 April, Isle of Man tour
- **West** – joint event with MMOC at Beaulieu, big display at Bristol Show, Torquay holiday in May.
- **East Anglia** – Enfield Show, Lorry to attend events where possible.
- **Midlands** – NEC, 5 day tour of places of interest
- **Wales** – possible repeat of Tour of Wales, places of interest

**7. Any other Business**

- Mike Brears reported that on a recent visit to the Oxford Bus Museum the Club's sectioned Morris 8 engine was not on display, and no-one seemed to know where it was
- Jim Riglar reported that volunteers are needed to man a display at Beaulieu in Autumn

**8. Date of next meeting**

- The date of the next meeting is to be fixed.
- The President asked for views of the afternoon. A half-day for the Conference was thought to be adequate; a mid-afternoon break was suggested.

The President thanked all present for attending and closed the meeting at 4.50