



Austin Healey Club

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■ South Western ■

**MINUTES OF THE
SOUTH WEST CENTRE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT
THE TEWKESBURY PARK HOTEL
ON SATURDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2009**

PRESENT:-

Steve Jones	Chairman
Rob Hudson	Director
David Morgan	Treasurer
Steve Trimble	Web Master / Working Officer
Mes Edwards	Competition Secretary
Mark Knight	Communications and Membership Secretary
Tony Alden	Working Officer
Jeremy Wells	Working Officer

APOLOGIES:-

No apologies necessary as all Committee members present.

Steve Jones opened the meeting at 15:07, and welcomed all those present. Committee members were introduced to the members.

The minutes of the 2008 AGM were accepted as correct and entered into the record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:-

Steve Jones advised the members that 2009 had been a very good year for the South West Centre, but it appeared to have flown by very quickly. He offered a vote of thanks to the Committee for the work done by all officers in arranging the 50th Anniversary "Action 3000" event, support being shown by the members through a round of applause.

The Chairman advised the meeting that he was looking for support in the forthcoming year, to establish a register of spare parts, both for sale and possibly for loan held by the membership, as well as a register of member's specialist tools and skills. This register to be used to aid the membership in the maintenance and repair of their vehicles and to keep costs down.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:-

Rob Hudson advised the membership that 2009 had also been a good year for the club nationally. A resume of the other "50th Anniversary" events was given.

National membership numbers were provided to the attendees. 1805 members renewed their memberships at the beginning of the year, and a net reduction in membership of 43 had resulted throughout the period. (220 members leaving and 177 new members joining) Detail of the South West numbers to be provided by Mark Knight later.

The situation regarding the drop in advertising revenue for Rev Counter was shared with the meeting, and possible options being considered by the NEC to remain cost-effective were briefed. Currently the members should see no change in their club magazine, however Rob Hudson did advise the meeting that the NEC were monitoring the situation and that cost cutting action would be taken if necessary. This would probably manifest itself through a reduction in the number of pages, as opposed to any reduction in quality.

Rob advised the meeting of the proposal to re-name HDI to “Healey Sport”, and that this change would be ratified at the National AGM, due to be held on 6th December in Stratford upon Avon. No objections were raised.

Josef Eckert’s confirmation as National Concourse Secretary was briefed, and Rob advised that the National Regalia Secretary’s post was still to be filled. Volunteers were asked to contact Rob Hudson directly.

Rob advised the meeting that the next large National Event was planned for 2011, when the club itself is due to celebrate it’s 50th anniversary. Rob advised that a working party was being set up within the NEC to plan this event, and volunteers who wished to get involved were asked to contact Rob Hudson directly.

The meeting was advised that the Committee intended to run a stand at the 2010 South West Classic Car Show, and that funding in support of this had been secured from the National budget. Again volunteers who wished to get involved were asked to contact Rob Hudson directly.

Finally Rob advised that the club did not have a Rev Counter archive, and that his intention was to compile one. Consequently an appeal was made for members who have old copies that they were prepared to donate, to advise Rob Hudson of the detail.

TREASURER’S REPORT:-

David Morgan provided the meeting with a summary of the 2009 financial year accounts, (1st Oct 2008 to 30th September 2009), and explained the detail. Items accounted for as follows...

- 2008 AGM Dinner
- Isle of Wight Weekend
- “Action 3000” Event
- Summer Tour & BBQ
- Kemble Auto-Gymkhanas
- Annual Subscriptions to MSA etc.
- Committee Meetings and Admin, and
- Replacement of members lost equipment

After all costs and income from membership levies were taken into account, the South West Centre ended the year at a net minus £609. This overspend in the budget was

deliberately engineered by the Committee in order to provide a more exciting season for the members and to reduce the amount held in the bank.

David asked the members present if anyone wished to ask any questions and Tony Alden asked for the £210 spend listed against “Committee Meetings and Admin” to be more fully explained. David advised that this amount included costs for stationary items, stamps and printer cartridges, as well as teas and coffees at the Committee meetings. It was suggested that, as the Committee gave up one Sunday morning every month to run the centre, that a couple of cups of coffee and a bacon roll was an acceptable expenditure. This was agreed by the meeting. No further questions were forthcoming, and the chairman asked for the accounts to be accepted into the record. This was proposed by Dick Lambert, and seconded by Steve Martin. The accounts were therefore duly accepted.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:-

Mark Knight provided the meeting with a summary of the position within the South West. Mark stated that the position was good, with a steady flow of new members being welcomed throughout the year. Mark stated that the process now being used by the club, where Mark and the National Membership Officer, Peter Holland, liaise to not only identify new members, but also to establish an early and effective communications channel, is working very well. Mark asked that the Membership recognise the good work done by Peter in this role, and that they support him in asking for a vote of thanks from the South West Centre for his efforts. This was whole-heartedly agreed, and Rob Hudson was asked to deliver this vote of thanks to Peter at the National AGM on December 6th. Rob Hudson duly took the action to do so.

Action 1 – Rob Hudson to thank Peter Holland for his support at the National AGM on 6th December.

COMPETITION SECRETARY’S REPORT:-

Mes Edwards told the meeting that the 2009 Auto-Gymkhana series had been a little disappointing, with very few members attending. Consequently the series overall had made a small financial loss, however it had been agreed by the Committee that continued support in 2010 would be forthcoming. Mes advised that as a result of this decision, plans were already in place to continue to run the Auto-Gymkhana series next year, and that three events would be organised. Dates for these 3 meetings were still to be agreed, and that the series would be scheduled to fit into the 2010 year planner, due to be agreed on 13th December by the new Committee and invited guests.

A general discussion then ensued, with several suggestions coming from the floor on how the series could be publicised for next year. Mes advised that he was compiling a report for Rev Counter which he hoped would help with this, and that he and Mark Knight, in his role as Communications Officer, were pulling together a “Communications plan” for the 2010 series as a whole.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:-

Steve Jones advised the meeting that all existing Officers had put themselves forward for re-election. He further advised that no other nominations had been received, despite the fact that nomination papers had been sent to all South West members well in advance of the meeting. The election commenced, starting with the post of ...

Chairman:- Steve Jones was the sole nomination, and was seconded by David Morgan. The meeting voted unanimously to elect Steve Jones and consequently **Steve Jones was duly elected to the post of Chairman.**

Director:- Rob Hudson was the sole nomination, being seconded by Jim Hutson. The meeting voted unanimously to elect Rob Hudson and consequently **Rob Hudson was duly elected to the post of Director.**

Secretary:- The role of Secretary encompassed the recognised Secretary role along with the Membership Secretary and the Communications Officer role in 2009, the post being held by Mark Knight. It was suggested that this role was too big, and the meeting agreed that the Secretary role (providing the Committee with minutes of meetings and progressing actions) would be split from the Membership and Communications parts of the role. There were no volunteers for the Secretary only role, and consequently Rob Hudson agreed to provide this service. The Chairman proposed the election of Rob Hudson to the post, and this was seconded by Tony Alden. The meeting voted unanimously to elect Rob to the post, and consequently **Rob Hudson was duly elected to the post of Secretary.**

Treasurer:- David Morgan was the sole nomination for the post, being seconded by Tony Alden. The meeting voted unanimously to elect David, and consequently **David Morgan was duly elected to the post of Treasurer.**

Membership Secretary:- This post is also new, created from splitting the old Secretary role as mentioned above. Mark Knight was the sole volunteer for this post, and he was seconded by Steve Jones. The meeting voted unanimously to elect Mark to the post and consequently **Mark Knight was duly elected to the post of Membership Secretary.** As explained above, this role also includes the responsibility to run membership communications.

Working Members:- 5 Working Member nominations were put before the meeting, two of which include specialised duties...

Firstly the post of "Web Master" was agreed and Steve Trimble was nominated for this specialised role. This role provides the South West Centre with construction, support and maintenance of its Web Site. This nomination was seconded by Mark Knight and voted for unanimously. Consequently **Steve Trimble was duly elected as a Working Member with special responsibilities as "Web Master".**

The second specialised post is that of "Competition Secretary". This post is currently held by Mes Edwards and his nomination for continued office in this post was seconded by David Morgan. The meeting voted unanimously to elect Mes to this role and consequently **Mes Edwards was duly elected as a Working Member with special responsibilities as "Competition Secretary".**

Finally the 3 remaining nominations for the post of “Working Members” were as follows... Tony Alden, seconded by David Morgan, Rodney Manners seconded by Mark Knight, and Jeremy Wells seconded by Steve Trimble. The meeting voted unanimously to elect all 3, and consequently **Tony Alden, Rodney Manners and Jeremy Wells were duly elected to the post of Working Members.**

The 2010 Committee was therefore elected as follows...

Chairman	Steve Jones
Director	Rob Hudson
Secretary	Rob Hudson
Treasurer	David Morgan
Membership Secretary	Mark Knight
Web Master	Steve Trimble
Competition Secretary	Mes Edwards
Working Member	Tony Alden
Working Member	Rodney Manners
Working Member	Jeremy Wells

As there were no changes to Committee personnel, there was no need for any member of the 2009 Committee to stand down.

MEMBER OF THE YEAR:- The Chairman advised the meeting that a decision had been made as to the first recipient of the newly created “Member of the Year” award, with the trophy being awarded to the member recognised as making a significant contribution in support of the South West Centre. This year the trophy was awarded to Rob Hudson.

QUESTIONS FROM THE MEMBERS:-

The Chairman opened the meeting to questions from the floor...

Dick Lambert asked if the Committee could consider a “Navigation Event” for inclusion in the 2010 event calendar. This was duly noted and the Chairman agreed to include the idea for discussion at the planning meeting of 13th December.

A change of “Season Opener” venue was proposed, with slightly more “southerly” venues being suggested. Two National Trust properties were suggested, Killerton and Tyntesfield. Mark Knight was asked if invitations to the season opener could be sent specifically to new members. This was duly noted and Mark agreed to look at doing so.

A general debate ensued about the way in which the Committee communicated with the membership. It was suggested that more “postal” communications would be beneficial, and the Committee agreed to consider the proposal. The high cost of this communication method was raised however, it was accepted that occasionally postal communication is the most effective method, depending on the material needing to be sent. The committee agreed to consider more carefully which medium would be used in the future.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:-

There was no other business.

FINALLY:-

Tricia Morgan proposed a vote of thanks from the Members, to the Committee for the work done in 2009. This was duly received with a round of applause from the floor.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 16:00.



MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR THE 2009 AGM

1. This is the first full year where the National Secretary has been managing membership (administration, payment etc). I believe that this is working well and the timely notification of new members and membership details being received is more than adequate. Peter Holland should be commended for his work in this area – no mean feat!

2. On receiving the new members details, there is a natural link to utilising the data to ensure that members are immediately entered into my own database so that those members start to receive South Western correspondence. For this reason, I do believe that linking the Membership and Comms & Media roles should be continued. Doing so does also mean that any membership enquiries which come direct to South Western are dealt with by our own membership sec.

3. Overall, in terms of membership performance, I believe that South Western is one of the best performing regions with a steady flow of new membership applications being received through the year. Inevitably, there is a dip in membership after the annual point of renewal but thereafter membership climbs again steadily and it is encouraging to see new Austin Healey owners coming into the Club. Pictorially, the membership looks like this:



4. The lack of data in the middle months is as a result of a change in the way the membership database is displayed such that actually understanding membership numbers is difficult to derive. The key point is the trend, namely that the latter part of the year sees membership climbing steadily.

5. Looking ahead, and again linking membership to the communications role, I believe that the Club (Region) should be looking to encourage better participation in events through better communication. To do so will entail more paper-based communication which will entail cost but I feel this will be money well spent.

//Signed// Mark Knight, Membership Secretary, AHC SW