



# Austin Healey Club

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South Western

**MINUTES OF THE  
SOUTH WEST CENTRE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HELD AT  
THE COMPASS INN  
ON SATURDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2010**

**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:-**

Apologies were received from Rodney Manners, Paul Mead, Alister Rayner, Trish Morgan and Dick & Barbara Lambert.

Steve Jones opened the meeting at 17:30, and welcomed all those present.

The minutes of the 2009 AGM were accepted as correct and entered into the record.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:-**

Steve Jones told the meeting that the Committee had organised several new events this year, as well as the traditional SW favourites. Furthermore it was reported that most of the events in 2010 had been provided to the membership at NIL cost, the funds having been apportioned from the centre's reserves.

The season opener at Eastnor was a success with several of the Welsh members making the journey to Herefordshire. Similarly Drive it Day was also successful. The Bristol Classic Car Show was well attended and funding for this event was supported by the NEC through a grant of £500. The joint event with the Glavon TR club replaced the usual "Cotswold Tour & BBQ" and was also seen as a success, leading to suggestions that similar joint activities may take place next year too. Bredon Classic Car Show was bigger than ever this year, with the Centre showing 7 cars on the "Austin Healey Club" stand.

Steve advised the meeting that he had received feedback from the membership about hosting more "driving" style events in the future, similar in style to the popular "Cotswold Tour".

Steve stated that he was happy that the Autotest series had taken-off again this year, and that he hoped it would continue to receive growing support in 2011. Finally Steve told the meeting that he and the Committee had lots of exciting activities planned for the year ahead.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:-**

Rob Hudson stated that 2010 had been a relatively quiet year for the club at the National level, especially when compared to the busy 2009 diary associated with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 3000 celebrations.

The Club's national event this year had been "MG Live" held at Silverstone in early June. Although events outside of our control resulted in us occupying a marquee with cakes and cuddly toys, we did have a fantastic show of cars, including John Chatham's first car, SAL 75 and the legendary DD 300, which flanked John's desk for the signing of his biography.

Carrying on the Silverstone link, the Club organised attendance at the "Silverstone Classic" in late July, but support from members was extremely poor.

Finally Rob advised the meeting of the NEC's decision to operate the Centres on a full VAT and Corporation Tax footing. This change in accounting practice comes into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011, and members will then see VAT included on all future activities being provided by the SW Centre. Similarly the Centre's year-end accounts will all contribute toward the Austin Healey Club Ltd. overall corporation tax position.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:-**

On introducing David Morgan, the Chairman advised the meeting that David had decided after 6 years of service in the post, to stand down. On the behalf of the members, Steve thanked David for his many years of support for the club and added that he was pleased that David had decided to remain on the SW Committee as a General Member for 2011. Applause followed.

David started his report by advising the meeting of the discrepancy between the number of members in the SW Centre and the number of membership levies received. This is about people joining part-way through the year, and David explained that the centre would have to accept that this discrepancy was as a result of an accounting policy adopted by the National Treasurer in order to make accounting more straightforward and to minimise bank charges. David advised that a rough calculation suggests that the SW Centre would expect to receive an additional £35 to £40 if every penny was apportioned correctly. It was agreed that this amount was too small to worry about and as such was of no consequence to the SW accounts.

David advised the meeting of the National Executive's decision to reduce the levy in the next couple of years in support of the National Club's need to secure a "fighting fund" for the organisation of the European Meeting in 2013, which the UK Club were responsible for hosting. This would reduce the SW income over the next couple of years by approximately £200 per year.

David advised the meeting of this year's sponsorship of the SW Web-site by Retromarques, and stated that he had already spoken to Mark Knight about the continuation of this sponsorship for 2011. No decision had yet been made though.

David listed the Centre's income and expenditure for 2010, and it was agreed that these figures would not be published for general consumption, as Centre minutes are available via the SW Web-site. It was agreed however that a copy of the detailed accounts be made available to individual members upon request.

David mentioned the cost of running the Auto-test series, and advised that the Committee would need to look carefully in 2011 at mitigating this cost.

David suggested that the money in the bank was too much, and that his advice for the future was for the Committee to continue their policy of "overspending" the yearly income by approximately the same amount as this year, namely £400 - £500 in support of membership activities. Debate then ensued about the possibility of investing some of the money in a suitable high interest account. The Chairman agreed to take this suggestion on-board and include a discussion on the subject in a future Committee meeting.

### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT:-**

Mark outlined the process used for welcoming new members to the SW Centre, detailing the approach taken with welcome letters / e-mails and the inclusion of recent copies of Healey News South-Western.

Mark gave a breakdown on member numbers for the year, starting the year with 182 members. This number dipped to 173 at renewal time, rising steadily again throughout the year to a figure of 187 today... a "net" rise of 5 members for the 12 month period.

Mark suggested that the Centre needed to work a little harder at getting more of the membership involved in activities, and that our Communication channels were crucial in making this happen. Although Mark was able to communicate with many of the members via e-mail, the preferred channel, he was concerned that many of the members were still not providing him or Rob with e-mail addresses for this purpose, even after the SW membership mail-shot earlier in the year. Furthermore Mark suggested that the SW web-site could be used more effectively to communicate with members also.

Rob Hudson took an action to write to the Editor of Rev Counter requesting that as many members as possible allow the club to have their e-mail details for future communications.

**Action 1 – Rob Hudson to write to the Editor about the lack of e-mail addresses.**

### **COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT:-**

Mes Edwards advised the meeting that this year had seen an upturn in popularity of the Autotest series. A total of 10 new competitors had taken part this year as well as 4 who had returned to the competition after a break. Additionally the same regulars had yet again organised and taken part. In total 17 entrants took part in at least one of the events so far this season.

Mes provided the Secretary with the points tally to date, showing Mes himself leading, with Paul Mead in second place and Simon Hurd, one of the new competitors, in third. The last round of the series takes place on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October, and once completed the full results will be published on the SW Web-site.

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:-**

Steve Jones advised the meeting that all existing Officers had put themselves forward for re-election, taking account however that David Morgan had offered himself as a Working Member only, relinquishing his post as Treasurer. Tony Alden was the sole nomination for the resulting vacant Treasurer post. Steve Jones 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 process followed and Officers were duly elected as follows...

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

None of the 2010 Committee members stood down.

**MEMBER OF THE YEAR:-** The Chairman advised that Rob Hudson had been awarded the trophy for the second year. Rob thanked the Chairman and the meeting for the award.

#### **QUESTIONS FROM THE MEMBERS:-**

No questions were forthcoming.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:-**

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 18:37.

**END**