

## **MINUTES OF THE MGCC TRIPLE-M REGISTER ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD BY ZOOM CONFERENCE AT 8PM UK TIME ON SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022.**

**Committee members present:-** Jeremy Hawke (Chairman), Dick Morbey (Secretary), Digby Gibbs, Mike Linward, Duncan Potter, Cathelijne Spoelstra, Richard Stott, Elizabeth Taylor.

**Other Members** Mike Dalby, George Eagle, Nick Feakes, Jessica Kidd, Lorraine Noble-Thompson, Dr John Reid, Tim Sharp, Andrew Taylor, Reinout Vogt, Paul White.

The chairman opened the meeting by outlining how it would be conducted, reminding everybody that the meeting originally convened for 11<sup>th</sup> of September had been adjourned to today's date following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

### **Meeting and reports papers.**

The paperwork for the meeting, including the minutes of the adjournment meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> September had been made available to the MG Car Club members' area of the Register website. With the consent of those present the meeting was video recorded.

1. **Apologies for absence:-** Mike Allison (Register President), Terry Hartley, Bob Walker, Colin Withers.
2. **The Minutes of the 2021 AGM** were agreed to be a true record. 14 voted for, with no dissent and one abstention.
3. **Matters arising.**

The Secretary highlighted the following matters which were ongoing following last year's meeting:

  - a. Encouraging owners to join the MG Car Club if not already Members. This topic and related issues were discussed at length during the Q and A session later in the meeting.
  - b. In order to minimise pressure on key committee officers, there had been progress on delegating some activities to subcommittees or working groups; this had started with the registrar team but with the committee retaining overall control on policy and key decisions.
  - c. MGCC's digitisation of the 1930s factory service files. This was an ongoing matter.
4. **Chairman's Report.** Jeremy Hawke gave a verbal report, in which he highlighted the following:
  - a. This had been the first full year back to relatively normal activities following the pandemic restrictions.
  - b. There had been a full season's racing and social activities. The Summer Gathering had once again been an outstanding success. The much delayed Stilton and Pork Pie touring event had at last taken place; the organisers Tony Richards and Ron Warr had been recognised with the well-deserved award of the John Kidder memorial trophy.
  - c. Jeremy extended thanks to the many volunteers who assisted the Register's work, including Nick Feakes (webmaster), Koen Struijk (creator and maintainer of the database of cars and owners); Tim Sharp (who had given great assistance in the finalisation of the annual accounts for three

successive years); and Simon Johnston for his work on as editor of the Yearbook.

Jeremy was thanked for his report; no questions were raised.

#### 5. Treasurer's Report.

- a. The meeting considered the treasurer's report and financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2021 which had been prepared by the outgoing treasurer John Summers and signed off by the committee in April.
- b. Income for the year totalled £19.1k of which the bulk had been earned from Library and Bulletin activities. Expenditure for the year totalled £17.8k and the Register had generated a profit of £1,286 for the year. The balance sheet showed a healthy situation with no debtors of concern and a net worth of £42,372.99. Bank balances at the end of the year totalled £41,195 and remained at around that level at the date of the meeting.
- c. Duncan Potter initiated a discussion about how the Register's funds should best be deployed.
  - i. There was general acceptance that Register funds are those of the MGCC and should be utilised for the benefit of Club members.
  - ii. Although there was no suggestion that the Club might wish to take over the funds, it was important that they should be used for the benefit of Club Members with Triple-M cars and it was important to have clear plans in that regard.
  - iii. Tim Sharp noted that a great many owners did not appear to be Club members and he was concerned that the interests of Members were being compromised if those owners enjoyed largely the same facilities available to Club Members. However even if we introduced differential pricing for the Register's products and services, with Club Members being afforded allowed club members being afforded allowed a discount, this would not hugely diminish our substantial funds
  - iv. 2023 is a significant year for the Club and the Register: it sees the start of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of MG and the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the success of the K3s in the 1933 Mille Miglia. There was general agreement that these milestones were cause for celebration and that the Register should make an extra effort to commemorate them at MG100 (Silverstone), on the racetracks in the UK and France and through special celebratory publications, along the lines of what we had done for the Register's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2001.
- d. Thanks were recorded to John Summers who after 2½ as treasurer was unable to continue in the role. The position of Treasurer was currently vacant. An expression of interest had been received and in the meantime Dick Morbey was acting as treasurer and had completed the Q3 accounts. He proposed to complete the full year accounts, enabling a clean handover to the incoming Treasurer.

6. **Consideration of the 2021 financial statements.** After dealing with these questions, the accounts were accepted with 15 votes for, no votes against and no abstentions.
7. **Secretary's Report.** Dick Morbey's report had been circulated prior to the meeting.
  - a. He repeated that it was still his wish to hand over to a successor, although recent events had made that impossible at present.
  - b. He was grateful to Mike Long who had taken over as registrar for the PAs and PBs. We look to all members to keep us posted about their cars, which represent living history and it's important that this knowledge should be preserved, as well as the cars themselves!
  - c. It was important that we ensure the future of Register. To do this, we need enthusiastic volunteers with a determination to carry things forward in an ever changing world. We have a great committee and a host of others who help us keep the flame burning – huge thanks are due to them all – maybe others would like to join the team and 'do their bit'?

Dick was thanked for his report. There were no questions.

#### 8. Reports from other Committee members.

##### a. **Mike Linward, Competition Secretary.**

The report gave a summary of the competition year 2021 and was based largely on his information published in the Yearbook.

**Slade Trophy** 1<sup>st</sup> David Rushton, M type, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bill Bennett J2-PAs – only 3 trials were recorded in the year. This was in stark contrast with the enthusiastic trialling following enjoyed by VSCC.

**Speed Championship** 1<sup>st</sup> Tim Sharp PB/s, =2<sup>nd</sup> Mike Painter J2-PB/s and Harry Painter PA/s, 3<sup>rd</sup> Charlie McEvoy F1/s.

**Racing Challenge –Betty Haig cup.** 1<sup>st</sup> Harry Painter PA/s, 2<sup>nd</sup> Barry Foster C/s, 3<sup>rd</sup> Simon Jackson PB/s.

**Mary Harris Trophy** winner Nigel Stroud J2/s

**Kimber trophy** winner Oliver Sharp NA/s

**Don Moore trophy** not awarded.

**Robin Gordon Trophy 2021.** 1<sup>st</sup> Barry Foster C0280, 2<sup>nd</sup> Duncan Potter C0287, 3<sup>rd</sup> David Cooksey C0256

**COTY 2021.** 1<sup>st</sup> Barry Foster C0280, 2<sup>nd</sup> Duncan Potter C0287, 3<sup>rd</sup> David Cooksey C0256

#### 2022

As of August 2022, the Speed Championship leader is Steve McEvoy who has been competing with the supercharged, single seat NA 'Bellevue Special'. James Burmester, currently in second place, has only completed three so there is still some catching up to do.

The Racing Challenge has all but finished for 2022 so Charles Goddard's position at the top looks unchallengeable with Andrew Long in second and Duncan Potter third.

The second half of the Trials season is set to resume in September but Triple-M activity so far has been poor. David Rushton currently leads. The Car of the Year table is currently led by the PA of Ian and Charles Goddard with the Bellevue Special second but only by one point. Third is the NA of Andrew Long but there is still some way to go before the competition closes on the 31st December.

Mike indicated that because of ill health Bruce Weston was unlikely to be able to organise the Kimber event in 2023, although it was hoped that Alan Grassam might be able to arrange for a social event based at the Lanes Hotel on Saturday April 29, followed by an informal gymkhana the following day near Barry Foster's home.

b. **Duncan Potter** reported briefly on the racing season where this year some 28 or 29 Triple-M cars had taken part. For the past two years we had supported two MGCC race meetings and for 2023 it was hoped to take part in three such meetings. There would be a particular effort to support MG100 and there were the prospects of Triple-M racing at Angoulême in September.

c. **Elizabeth Taylor** gave a brief report on the advertising situation where we continue to be supported by many loyal advertisers.

d. **Digby Gibbs, Bulletin editor** gave a general update. There had been production issues with Lavenham Press and looking forward it was likely that printing and distribution costs would rise, although a detailed proposal was awaited. There had been no offers of a new editor for the bulletin, so for the time being he was plugging on.

e. **Cathelijne Spoelstra, Safety Fast correspondent** was thanked for her work in representing the Register in the Club magazine; Her contributions were popular and appreciated.

## 9 **Matters raised by Register members.**

**Our President Mike Allison** had sent in a submission in which he set out his concern on learning that some members are toying with the idea of "going independent". He observed that *"this was considered in 1968/69 when the club lost sponsorship from the MG Car Company, but the legal processes were far too difficult. Although the club is split into centres and registers, the finances belong to the members and any move to break the bond would result in court processes and the loss of a large part of any monies. In his view: the register is better off as a part of the MGCC. The register is a worldwide organisation, with no possessions or other assets apart from the Mary Harris trophy. Any records that we administer are operated on behalf of the MGCC."*

- a. The chairman advised that the committee had discussed this topic recently and recognised that the Register not in a position to become independent of the Club, as this would require any new organisation to make a completely fresh start and with no resources to support it.
- b. Many owners found the Club/Register situation difficult to understand, some people imagining that that the Register is a Club in its own right; however, the fact that people's cars may be listed in our records did not make the owner a members of the Register. Register membership was dependent on the owner first being a member of the MGCC.
- c. There was therefore a need to find ways of persuading owners to join the Club. "mutterings" were often heard from non-members who questioned the need or benefit of being a club member; they overlooked the benefits of the Club's MSUK affiliation which was a pre-requisite for participation in

some organised events and also the Club's role as an influencer of Government policy on historic transport through its membership of the FBHVC.

- d. By contrast many Members resented the fact that non- members appeared to enjoy unlimited access to the benefits and facilities that that the Register offers.
- e. This was a situation in which it was proving difficult to achieve a satisfactory balance between supporting owners in their enjoyment of their cars whilst not at the same time making the Register's "birthright" of knowledge and information freely available to all and sundry. It was however important to encourage new owners particularly to join the club and to ensure that they remain members. Experience also suggested that there was some fallout of membership through non-renewals, some unavoidable, but some either accidental or deliberate. Data protection rules appeared to constrain the main Club from following up lapsed members to ascertain that reasons for leaving.
- f. The Register itself was hampered by only having access to limited information from the club about owners' membership status and this was something which the committee was striving to overcome.
- g. There was a strong case for differentiating between the Register's services and resources to given to Club members and non-members and the price we charge for these. Rich Stott, librarian, made a valid observation that much of the library income was derived from customers who are not members.
- h. The meeting considered that we should reassess access to our Register facilities, especially those available online, so that verified Club members good have open gateway access whereas non-members should only enjoy limited facilities. It was pointed out that membership clubs such as the VSCC already have two-stage access to their facilities, although as mentioned earlier our register is not a membership organisation as such and therefore different considerations apply. Once again we are wholly dependent on the main Club on providing us with reliable membership information.
- i. One further way of reinforcing the relevance of the Club was ensuring that Centres shared more details of their events likely to be of interest to Triple-M motorists.

**George Eagle's points.**

- a. **Digitising the factory service records.** This had been addressed earlier in the meeting
- b. **Retention of the Registrars' paper files.** George Eagle had expressed concern about possible destruction of some of the paper records once they had been scanned and placed on Register's database of cars and owners. In addition he himself was continuing to print out more recent documents including correspondence and papers received by e-mail. He questioned whether these should also be retained in physical form. It was agreed that the committee should establish guidelines on this.

**Bob Walker** had asked whether there is anything to report on a **touring event for 2023**.

Dick Morbey was in touch with John Scott and others about a possible tour of Suffolk and surrounding areas and we hope to be able to say more shortly.

**10 Election of Officers.**

The Chairman reminded the meeting that under the Club's Articles all three offices are required to stand down annually. The position of treasurer was currently vacant therefore voting had been restricted to the chairman and secretary. Voting papers had been circulated and by the closing date the following votes had been received:-

**Voting:-**

Chairman, Jeremy Hawke:	15 for, none against and no abstentions
Secretary, Dick Morbey:	14 for, none against and 1 abstention.

The Chairman declared that both of these Officers had been re-elected.

**11. Election of Committee.**

Elizabeth Taylor and Digby Gibbs were the committee members retiring by rotation and both had agreed to stand for re-election.

**Voting:**

Elizabeth Taylor:	15 for, none against and no abstentions.
Digby Gibbs:	15 for, none against and no abstentions.

The Chairman declared that both of these members had been re-elected to the Committee.

**12 Other Business.**

No other matters were raised.

Jeremy thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.23pm.

Following the formal closure, attendees engaged in an informal natter.

**Dick Morbey**  
**18<sup>th</sup> October 2022.**