

ARDEN CLUB



Minutes – AGM 7th March 2023

The meeting opened at 20.17

Apologies for absence:

Tony & Glenys Barr, Andy Summerfield, Graham & Fiona Robson, Roger Jackson, Peter & Julia Grice

Chairman's Report:

As this will be my final report as Chairman and Trevor & David will be giving a rundown of the events and stats, I thought I would give a review of the last 12 years that I have been Chairman. Those who were at the AGM when I was elected, will remember that I was elected, by a secret ballot, the works!!

When I took over I followed some advice I was give by the organiser of another Club I used to be a member of, which was: "Organise Events You Want to Do, then if No One Turns Up at Least You Will Enjoy it" and that is what I have done for the last 12 years, with one exception which I will come to. I like to have reasons to use my MG, so I have organised events that include our MGs, therefore I started by introducing the 'Drive-it-Day' Run and the first one finished at the Fleece in Bretforton and I thought it was a success, so I organised more of them. The format was changed over the years to include booking lunch as most people preferred that. I also like going on visits, so that first year also included going to the Patrick Collection one evening, a good thing we did as it is now closed, we also have visited BMH a couple of times. The exception was a 'Concourse' which the 'Vice-Chair' (Anne-Marie was elected as my deputy but unfortunately she disappeared from the scene quite soon after) was keen to have, this became the 'Show Night' and still looks to be very popular. The static Car Shows have not been ignored and we continue to attend a selection each year.

In 2012 Alan C joined the team as the Events Secretary and soon had the March Madness Run going, this became a staple of the calendar until he moved house and passed the Event's Batton on to Trevor. Alan was instrumental in getting us back to Malvern with the bacon sandwiches on offer (sometimes twice a year) and with the help of Steve, The Badsey Flower Show has become a regular (great to see the BBMF Fly past each year). I'm always interested to hear peoples stories and knowledge, so once or twice a year we have had guest speakers to the Club Night the first was Brian Moylan (ex-Abingdon employee) who gave us a history of MG and Roy Locock who enthralled us with his round the world drive in Bridget the Midget, remarkable. Other guest speakers of note were: Warwickshire Police & Crime Commissioner, Horse Racing Jockey, Bentley History, Electric MGB, MGOC's Roger Parker and my favourite Stuart Turner.

With the funds we have generated over the years (from the now defunct Heritage Run and the monthly Raffle) we have purchased several pieces of equipment for the use of the Club, including 2 Storm Shelters, a new banner, Club Event Rally Plates and Club Clothing. We have also made a number of Charitable Donations

and where possible I have tried to organise a presentation of the funds so the recipient can also try and receive some publicity, these have included Alcester Day Care Centre, Stratford Hospital, GWR Toddington (the 'Retreat' building, worth a visit), Stratford Hospice and the MS Therapy Centre in Coventry, all good worthwhile causes.

Another thing I have tried to improve on is the Newsletter which is sent out every month (and I have not missed many) and was issued twice a month during the 'Lockdowns'. Hopefully it has got better and bigger over the years with something of interest for everyone. I didn't have the skills or the software to improve the layout, so was very pleased when Norman agreed to be the editor and he has done a great job. Those in the MGOC may have noticed in Enjoying MG that they have an annual Newsletter competition and I have sent an entry several times but having asked for copies of the winners, I realised that we needed Norman on board to compete and I have sent an entry again for last year, fingers crossed.

Each year I have tried to add in some new events or runs, so Shows like the BMC & Leyland Show, Pershore Plum Festival, Churchill Classic Car Show, Brailes was resurrected and Broughton Castle was tried before the Lockdowns. The runs featured the Chilly Willy (sometimes repeated), Heritage Run Re-visited, The Chairman's Picnic and a couple of my favourites, the Alscot Park to Henley Run in favour of the Air Ambulance and the 'Birthdays Run' to Nuffield Place. There was even 2 trips to Stratford Races. A weekend Away was also introduced (not by me I hasten to add) and continues with a small group of organisers. The Events I'm proudest of are the Social Distance Runs, which took place during the COVID Pandemic when normal meeting was not an option, in all there were 4 of them and it kept us going during those difficult event free days. The latest addition to the Events list has been the Breakfast Meeting at BMM (thanks to Steve for the push to introduce it) and this is slowly gaining a regular following.

The good thing about the future is that more people are getting involved with the organising of runs and events like Trevor with the Aunt Sally & Happy Herefords, David last year, Alan the previous year & Nick this year with the Drive-it-Day Run and Alan & Richard with the Warner's Holiday. This bodes well for the future, we just need more of you to come forward and participate with the organisation.

To close I would like to say a big thank you to all of you for making the last 12 years so enjoyable. It has been a great pleasure and a privilege to be the Chairman of our wonderful Club, which of course is as good as it is because of you the people in it.

Treasurer's Report

Roger was not able to attend, however copies of the accounts were circulated and Paul gave the report. The Club is in very good financial health with over £1,400 in funds. Most of the items are equal on the Receipts and Payments columns, I have always tried to run events to break-even, with the exception of the Show Night when the Club pays for the prizes and the Xmas Meal where the 'Free' raffle is partly covered by Club funds. As ever the raffle provides more income than we currently spend, however we do need to keep an amount to

cover any possible expenditure but there are sufficient funds to consider making a charitable donation, unless there is some equipment the Club needs to purchase.

Events Secretary Report

There were 13 events during the year, excluding club nights and show night.

5 of these events included a picnic. Of which only 1 of these included a run.

5 events included a cooked meal. 3 of which also included a run. Excluding Xmas meal.

We had the long weekend away at Cricket st Thomas.

Vital Spark was a visit only event. And Xmas meal

Best supported event was Drive it Day with 26 cars and 49 people. – April.

Least supported was Ragley hall with 8 cars.

The average number of cars for 10 events was 17 cars. Excluding Cricket st Thomas, skittles and Xmas meal.

5 different people organised regular events, excluding Alan and Richard.

Conclusions which may help my successor and the club going forward.

Events involving food and drink most popular. Interesting that the best attended, drive it day with a cooked meal was only 4 cars more than Badsey, which was a picnic.

Socializing and the ability for people to mingle easily, i.e., the picnic events, were the most popular. The weekend away, and the upcoming week away also shows how well the social scene is supported.

A bit disappointing that only 4 events included a run.

Becoming more difficult to find venues that can supply cooked food to 30 -40 people, in a timely way. Some of the more interesting venues we would like to do a run to, cannot.

As we have a core membership of 30 – 40 people who attend events on a regular basis, this will be an ongoing problem, I feel.

We have even tried to arrange picnics in interesting places, where we would pay a reasonable parking fee.

Dumbleton Hall, National trust, but they were quite expensive.

With inflation and what seems to be the cost of everything rising, is it worth looking at the club subsidising future events at the sort of quality places we may want to visit.

With the number of club members that we have, where only 5 organised events last year, I would encourage all members to think about organising events. With the high number of ladies in the club, their input to new events would be welcomed. Turn it into a fact-finding mission, with food and a pint along the way.

And finally, good luck to my successor, all members for supporting the events. Thanks to all of our close helpers, who helped us at our events.

Database Report

For those that remember and use to smoke Senior Service cigarettes umpteen years ago, WHO remembers them? There was the trick, where you asked someone to hold a cigarette packet to their ear and you would say “...1..2..3..4”, and then tell them to look at the side of the box, where it says. It’s the tobacco that counts. Well it is a little amusing.

In our case with the Arden MG Club, its the members that count. Did you like the link? A strong and active membership is important for the club and long may it continue.

It was nice, that in 2022, that it opened up, and we could get out a lot more. And with 22 events, we were a lot more active than in the previous 2 years.

As regards membership, we currently have 88 names on the list, of these 13 are honorary members we have lost 15 members and we have gained 14 members, however of all the members, 13 only attended one meeting in the last 15 months, which gives us an active membership of 57 members. But not being biased, these 57 are the best.

One other very interesting fact is: we have 12 Davids in the club

As I said earlier, it was good that we had many more events to attend and for those that have been members for some time, you will recall, that I usually give a bottle Champagne to the person who has attended the most

events! Well last year there was quite fierce competition but we do have an outright winner. And I'm pleased to say that this year the bottle of Champagne goes to.....PAUL

Election of Officers:

Chairman

Mike Green Proposed by: Norman Large Seconded by: David Rayner
Elected by Acclamation

Treasurer

Roger Jackson Proposed by: Paul Dunster Seconded by: Fred Bury
Elected by Acclamation

Events Secretary

Richard & Fiona Avery Proposed by: Steve Entwistle Seconded by: Lech
Elected by Acclamation

Database Secretary

David Rayner Proposed by: Alan Cleobury Seconded by: Trevor Smith
Elected by Acclamation

Any Other Business

Proposal to change the date for the AGM to be the March Club Night for all future years.

The attendance at this AGM is the highest for any in the past which must be a good enough reason to change the date but to retain the fiscal year to be the calendar year.

Proposed by: Paul Dunster Seconded by: David Rayner Proposal carried unanimously

Caroline Phipp raised the situation with the Club Website, which is now looked after by Mike Jones, however Mike is just the editor and he needs input from the members for items to be included in the website, so let's give Mike some support and send details of future events, event reports etc for him to up-load.

The meeting closed at 20.52

Paul Dunster

10th March 2023