**MGCC South-East Centre**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 28th November 2021**

**At The Bent Arms Lindfield at 11.30**

28.11 1

Welcome to members

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and noted that this was the first face to face AGM for two years. He hoped the meeting would be a sociable one.

There were 25 members present.

*The meeting was video recorded and will be uploaded to the Centre You Tube channel.*

28.11 2

Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from 13 members.

John Clark, Ian Ailes, Diana Calvert, Ray Ruffels, Jo Ruffels, Dave Smith, Jerry Edwards, Roy Baker, Andrew Mitchell, Alex Lemon, Philip Bayne-Powell, Rosemary Bayne-Powell, John Bennett, Ian Ailes Freda and Roger Marlow.

28.11 3

A welcome from the President

Unfortunately, the president could not attend the AGM due to the difficulty of access to the venue but he had provided a written welcome which was read by the secretary.

It is reproduced here in full.

*I would like to extend a very warm welcome to you all to this long awaited non-virtual Southeast Centre AGM meeting.*

*Firstly, my thanks to Chris Leigh who so very ably stepped into my shoes as Chairman over two years ago and has held the fort for the Centre during totally unexpected and unprecedented times. I must also acknowledge the support he has received from the committee members, in particular Austin, our Secretary extraordinaire, and John Morgan for doggedly grappling with Covid restrictions to enable some events to take place.*

*Finally, I am sure you will join me in welcoming Tim Morris as our new Chairman and wish him well in his new role.*

*Along with my ‘First Lady’ I will be joining those of you staying for lunch after the meeting.*

*Best wishes for the festive season and a return to an active MG programme next year.*

28.11 4

Minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 30th January 2021 via Zoom.

These were approved unanimously.

28.11 5

Matter Arising from the minutes previously notified to the secretary.

There were none.

28.11 5a

Any other matters arising from the minutes

There were none.

**Reports**

Full text reports had been posted on the SE Centre website and hard copies were available in the room.

All reports were taken as read with just highlights and questions addressed in the meeting.

28.11.6

Chairman’s report

The chairman noted with regret that Grahame White had passed away since the last AGM. He was a true gentleman. Grahame was a long-standing Natter leader for the Centre, and it is proving difficult to find a replacement leader for the Tunbridge Wells area. There is a gap in the spread of our natters.

He noted that two other natters in the Kent area had moved their meeting place.

Ian Russell has moved his natter from the The George at Trottiscliffe, to The Rising Sun at Fawkham Green.

Will Opie has moved his natter from the Plough Inn at Stalisfield Green to the Dering Arms at Pluckley.

The chairman recorded his thanks to the natter and wanderer leaders as they have transitioned to actual from virtual events. He also thanked the whole committee for their dedication, patience, and support during this period of unprecedented upheaval.

28.11 7

Treasurer’s report

Ron Kemp had taken over from Tony Atcheson in May 2021.

This is an interim report. The final report will be provided after the financial year has ended and presents to a general meeting in the spring of 2022.

He noted that the current bank balance is £8166. This represents a small surplus of £140.00

This does not include regalia or rosettes.

There had been three charged events and that all had finished in surplus.

Drive it day £146, Spring run £300, Lullingstone £250.

Administration expenses. 20 Table flags have been purchased for the use of natter and wanderer leaders. The cost was £273 representing approximately £12/£13 each.

The MSUK permit cost for the cancelled autumn Naviscat will be transferred to a future event.

There was a cost of £61 for various trophies.

Ian Russell noted that there had already been some positive responses to the table flags.

28.11 8

Secretary’s report

The secretary wished to record his special thanks to Chris Leigh for his time as chairman.

Chris has not only steered the Centre through very difficult times he has also been a great support and source of wisdom to the secretary.

Richard Clark asked what the purpose was of the generic Southeast Centre Email addresses.

Tim Morris (Web master) replied on behalf of the secretary that they are forwarder addresses with the purpose of providing a degree of anonymity to the individual.

Richard Clark also noted that the Zoom meetings for natter and wanderer leaders had been a useful development.

28.11 9

Competition secretary’s report

It was noted that the Centre had started to re-introduce some competitive driving events into the programme and that he hoped to be able increase this activity in coming years.

28.11 10

Events secretary’s report

Andrew Mitchell had tendered his apologies for the meeting due to a close family bereavement.

His written report was accepted without comment.

28.11 11

Safety Fast Scribes and Newsletter production report.

William Opie drew attention to the fact that there is always a need for items for publication.

Articles with photographs and items for sale are welcome.

He noted with pleasure that Safety Fast had eventually published a full and proper obituary for Grahame White.

The chairman emphasised that all members should be receiving the newsletter and to let him or William know if they are not.

28.11 12

Archive and History report.

John Davies noted that this a new development for the Centre.

He drew members attention to the recent acquisition of the Carissima trophy, which was available to view. He noted that occasionally members die, while in possession of a trophy and it can get incorporated into their estate. We are marking all our annual trophies as property of MGCC SE Centre.

He noted that John Morgan had provided some interesting and early information on the Ranmore trophy.

John Davies’ son had also provided some early information about the Banana trophy.

He hopes to be able to obtain some face-to-face oral history from senior members. He noted that the Centre is based on its history and requested that members provide him with any material they may have.

It is intended that the Website may have an Historical section and that historical articles should appear in the centre Newsletter.

28.11 13

Webmaster’s report

Tim Morris presented an illustrated Power point presentation.

He titled his report “Southeast Centre – online”

We have social media, world wide web, Mailchimp newsletter.

The website places the latest information on the first page, Views per year since 2017 have been variable but have steadily increased over the long term.

He demonstrated the monthly changes with a graph.

We have 2 Facebook pages, the public facing one and a closed membership chat group.

The number of people using Facebook have increased from 152 at the beginning of the year to 266

now. The chat group has a relatively low number and is largely static.

Instagram usage is growing. Twitter is not used by many members.

The newsletter is now provided by Email through Mailchimp. This service provides activity numbers.

The number of people opening the newsletter is disappointingly low (ie under 400).

It was noted that the Centre uses 10 different ways to communicate with its members.

John Morgan pointed out that other clubs (in particular “The Octagon Club) use Facebook and have much more impact. He encouraged members to use the site more and to use the “like” posting on the page which will raise its significance. It will then get circulated to a wider public.

28.11 14

Other reports

There were none.

28.11 15

Draft Programme for 2022

Chris Leigh had photocopied the most recent version of the programme for 2022 and copies were distributed to members.

He is keen that a printed version of a final version is produced to provide for those members not using electronic communication systems and for use with the trade including the MG Motor franchises.

The chairman pointed out that there have been considerable difficulties producing the programme as a number of venues have become less welcoming to car events after the Covid restrictions.

The programme has been designed to cater for all types of member and to cover the whole of the geography of the Centre.

The chairman encouraged members to get involved with the organisation and marshalling of events.

Jenny Morgan commented that more prominence could be given to the date and title of events in Safety Fast. William Opie replied that whilst he agreed that more prominence for calendar would be valuable, he does have severe restrictions on the space available.

Richard Clark noted that of the 36 events listed only 14 were being organised by the Centre. He also noted that for instance the traditional Spring, Summer and Autumn meetings were absent.

He pointed out that it is important that events are attractive to both men and women.

John Morgan replied that there is a policy to increase the number of competitive events but that the Centre does not yet have the numbers of competitors to organise our own events. The Centre is therefore taking part in other club events as an MGCC entry. This is why we are invited by MMKMC.

The Centre is also trying to make its events more accessible by staging regional events in different parts of the Centre. This may mean that individual events have smaller attendances.

**Elections**

Voting was by show of hands.

14. Confirmation of the election of our President Derek Edwards for a further year.

 Proposed by Chris Leigh, Seconded by Austin J Banner

This was approved unanimously.

It was noted that Derek’s election as Centre president was ratified at the recent Main Club AGM.

15. Election of officers

 Chairman – Tim Morris, Proposed; Austin Banner, seconded Chris Leigh

This was approved unanimously

The chair was then taken by Tim Morris.

A vote of thanks to Chris Leigh for his excellent work as chairman was heartily approved.

 Secretary- Austin J Banner, Proposed; John Davies, seconded Tim Morris

This was approved unanimously

 Treasurer – Ron Kemp, Proposed; Austin Banner, seconded Chris Leigh

This was approved unanimously

Ron Kemp thanked Tony for his work as the previous work as previous treasurer and for the way that he had handed the records over in such good order.

16. Election of committee members.

 Members for re-election

 The following committee members have indicated their willingness to be re-elected.

 They have all and each been proposed by Chris leigh and seconded by Austin Banner

 Competition secretary-John Morgan.

 Events secretary- Andrew Mitchell

 Membership secretary- Diana Calvert.

 Awards and Trophies- John Davies.

 Joint Scribe – Ray Ruffles.

 Joint scribe- William Opie.

 Web Master- Tim Morris.

 Merchandise – Alex lemon.

 Committee member – Gwen Davies.

 Committee member – Ian Russell.

These were approved unanimously.

The chairman introduced himself with a short presentation.

He has been a member of SE Centre for 21 years.

He has served on the MGF committee since 2003. He was chairman of MGF register for 5 years.

He showed images of his previous and present MGs. He outlined the tasks he undertakes for the Car Club and Brooklands.

He looked to the future, bearing in mind the need to include items if interest to ladies and to promote motor sport within the Centre. He mentioned Auto tests and Naviscats in particular.

He wishes to develop the gathering of the history of the Centre.

He noted that the Natters and Wanderers are the backbone of the Centre and must be supported.

He wants to develop the Centre’s merchandising and particularly to promote online ordering.

He wants to develop the equipment available for Natter and Centre activity.

He will continue to develop the online presence of the Centre.

He hopes that the Centre will be able to move beyond the difficult issues that have been experienced at HQ, however he thinks we need to monitor HQ activity and make representations if difficulties or mistakes arise.

17. Any other business previously notified to the secretary

Two presentations were made.

a) A glass trophy was presented to Mick Breare in recognition of the distribution work he undertook to distribute the Newsletter in the years between Ben Hill (webmaster) relinquishing the responsibility and Tim Morris migrating the work to Mailchimp.

b) A glass trophy was presented to Tony Atcheson in recognition of his 6 years work for the Centre as the previous Treasurer.

18. Time, date, and place of the next AGM

 The time and date of the next AGM are to be determined.

Austin J Banner

Secretary MGCC SE Centre

November 2021