**MGCC South- East Centre**

**AGM February 2023**

**Secretarial Report for 2022**

Introduction

2022 proved to be a more normal year than of late. Covid, whilst still lurking in the background failed to disrupt our activities to any significant degree.

Attendances were still a bit depressed from pre covid levels, but members’ confidence is returning.

The centre welcomed Tim Morris as our new chairman who is steering the Centre forwards into the internet and social media era.

We have sadly lost two of our members who have contributed so much to the Centre. Tony Atcheson our previous treasurer died suddenly and tragically when his garage was broken into and Dennis Webb – leader of the South Downs Natter also passed away.

Richard Clark moved to be nearer his daughter and as a result the Ashdown Adventurers were without a leader. Huge thanks are due to Richard for all the work, effort and enthusiasm he has put into AA over the years. Unfortunately, no one was found to take on the task of running AA as a SE Centre Wanderer group, but David Oakenfold stepped up and converted the group to a lunchtime club.

The Centre has lost three of its natters / wanderer groups in recent times. The committee in 2023 has already started to develop a strategy to address this issue and to identify those areas of the Centre that have no easy access to a natter with a view to starting new ones.

Committee Members Activity

The committee members have again worked extremely hard and cheerfully for the Centre.

Detail is available in each of the officer and committee members reports.

You will see from my brief comments below, the reasons that I am really grateful to members for making my job as secretary possible and good fun (most of the time!).

**Ron Kemp** our treasurer has brought us through 2022 with a healthy bank balance and a small surplus despite the committee being unaware of spending constraints!

**John Morgan** although designated competition secretary seems to find some 26 hours each day to not only organise and promote the Centre’s return to more active driving competition, run a natter, keep the Centre on track with MSUK requirements and regulations, organise our concourse and much of our PoO activity. He also provides the back up documentation for our events, liaises with the directors of main club and generally keeps an eye on the secretary to provide support when needed! Very appropriately, he is now our vice-chairman.

**Andrew Mitchell** our events secretary is one of just two of our number who not only works tirelessly for the Centre but also holds down a full- time job. He put together a full events programme for 2022 and is very persuasive with venues to deliver excellent value for money.

**William Opie** (with Ray Ruffels). The quarterly newsletter and “Safety Fast” notes speak for themselves. The Centre’s activities are recorded and promoted with enthusiasm, skill and flair.

William is also a natter leader.

**Diana Calvert** keeps a close eye on changes in our membership, contacts all our new members and puts them in contact with the appropriate members in their area.

**John and Gwen Davies** look after all the trophies and awards, ensure everyone gets their award and / or trophy properly engraved and presented at the appropriate time. They are also documenting the history of the Centre. John keeps the Centre in contact with Brooklands and oversees much of our displays.

**Alex Lemon** is our other member holding down a fulltime job. Among other things he has completely re-organised our merchandise and regalia during 2022 ready for the new season in 2023.

**Ian Russell** is the third of our committee members who also finds time to be a natter leader, and in Ian’s case also a wanderer leader. Ian has taken on the role of liaison between the natter and wanderer leaders and the Centre committee and has taken on the chairmanship of the Natter and Wanderer leaders’ meeting.

**Tim Morris** holds down two really weighty roles. I find just reading his webmaster report exhausting! As chairman he has steered the Centre with wise words and a light touch.

**Derek Edwards** although no longer able to take an active role within the Centre, remains our hugely respected president and members are always delighted when he is able to attend our events.

The annual lunch with trophy presentations returned very successfully to Hartsfield Manor in 2022 with 49 diners.

Our invited speaker Ian Pogson gave a very entertaining presentation on “Making cars in China” and Main Club was again represented by vice president Ian Quarrington.

Some figures

During 2022 the Centre put on 6 major events plus 3 Alternative Pride of Ownership competitions.

The Centre had a display at Brooklands British Marques Day and Brooklands Double Twelve Festival.

We held 11 Committee meetings, 6 Natter and Wanderer Leaders’ meetings and 3 Centenary sub-committee meetings all via the internet on Zoom.

Austin J Banner

Secretary MGCC SE Centre

February 2023