MGCC South-East Annual General Meeting

Held on Saturday 18th February 2023 at 11.00

At St Nicholas Youth Centre Godstone RH9 8DT

Draft Minutes

18.2 1

Welcome to members

The chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

There were 23 members present and the meeting was recorded for the recording to be placed on the Centre’s YouTube channel.

It was noted that all the reports for this meeting had been published on the Centre’s website with the exception of the treasurer’s report and accounts which had been provided as hard copies.

18.2 2

Apologies for absence

Derek Edwards (President), William Opie, Paul Eldridge, Steve Clarke, Richard Clark, Ray Ruffels.

18.2 3

Welcome from the President

Derek Edwards had indicated that he was not well enough to attend the meeting in person but had asked the secretary to speak on his behalf.

The president added his welcome to members and wished them a successful meeting. He conveyed his appreciation for all the work and energy put into the Centre over the past year and extended his particular thanks to Tim Morris (Chairman) for his leadership and guidance. He wished the Centre well for the coming year.

18.2 4

Minutes of the AGM held on November 28th, 2021, at Lindfield.

The minutes were received. There were no corrections.

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Peter Calvert, seconded by Jon Glover and approved unanimously.

18.2 5

Matters arising from the minutes previously notified to the secretary.

There were none.

18.2 6

Chairman’s report

The chairman’s report had been published on the Centre’s website and he made the made the following comments.

This had been his first year in office and it had been the first full year of normal activity after the Covid pandemic.

He had many other commitments last year which had constrained him from involvement in as many activities as he would have liked with the Centre, and he looked forward to being more available in the coming year.

He noted that there are some innovative and unusual events scheduled for the coming year including a Taster Auto Solo at Filching Kart track and a wine tasting and awards presentation at Kingscote winery.

There will be two awards events in 2023 to compensate for the delay that had built up as a result of the pandemic.

There are now 11 means of communication to Centre members including our social media accounts, and YouTube channel. William Opie and Ray Ruffels continue to write the monthly column for “Safety Fast” which goes to all members of the Centre and the quarterly online newsletter. A more detailed account of the online presence of the Centre is in the Webmasters report.

He noted that the membership of the Centre had declined during 2022, in line with nearly all the other Centres and many other clubs. The committee will be attempting to attract more members in 2023. He noted that some new members had been attracted to the Centre via the YouTube channel.

2022 had seen the launch of the Centre’s online shop utilising Ace Embroidery. New style shirts are available, and he encouraged members to use the facility. Alex Lemon is the committee member responsible for this venture.

He reminded members that the Centre is supporting “The Brain Tumour Charity”. £500 was raised in 2022 and it has been decided to continue to support this charity in 2023.

He thanked John Morgan (competition secretary and vice chairman) who had been instrumental in delivering much of the Centre’s activity. He has been involved in liaison with other clubs and is organising an Auto solo day with Sevenoaks Motor club at Filching go kart track. He is also the Centre’s contact with MSUK.

He also thanked Andrew Mitchell for his work with John Morgan for organising our touring visits and noted that our first MG 100 anniversary event is now organised at the Bluebell Railway. The Centre’s main MG 100 event will be based at Brooklands in May 2024.

Natter and Wanderer groups are the lifeblood of the Centre and it is hoped that in 2023 attempts can be made to start new pub meets in areas where there is currently no provision.

A Coleman shelter had been purchased during 2022 which is easier to transport in a sports car than our Gazebo or Marquee and has already been very successfully used.

Three new large sail flags have been purchased and are ready to be used in the 2023 season.

The chairman also recorded his thanks to Ron Kemp (treasurer) and Austin Banner (secretary) for their work during the year.

18.2 7

Treasurer’s report and annual accounts to Y/E 31st December 2022

This was Ron Kemp’s first full year as treasurer of the Centre.

Ron Kemp presented the full Income and expenditure account and Balance sheet.

He presented the notes to the accounts via a PowerPoint presentation with illustrative pie charts and other graphics.

The accounts revealed a £271 operating surplus for the year. The liquid assets at the end of the year were £9448, plus fixed assets of £33,351 resulted in a total value of £42,048.

There was £8,697 cash at bank.

The Centre is in good financial health as it moves into 2023.

Ron Kemp suggested that the Centre should consider an award for Ian and Sue MacKenzie who are treasurer and secretary of Lincolnshire Centre who had provided considerable support as he had migrated the accounts from the system used by the previous treasurer to that required by MGCC. It was agreed that the committee would consider this suggestion.

Jon Glover noted that he and Ian Ailes had needed to subsidise speaker costs for some of the Fairmile events. It was noted that in general events should be self-financing but some events could attract support particularly if they had a wider appeal.

It was noted that the fixed assets were primarily the value of the trophies which were periodically re-valued.

Adrian Malthouse asked what the purpose is of holding 9K of liquid assets. It was pointed out that some events require prior investment and that that may be particularly so with the proposed Centenary events.

The treasurer agreed to investigate the possibility of holding some of the monies in an investment account now that interest rates have risen.

The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Jon Glover, seconded by Adrian Malthouse and passed nem con.

Jon Glover also proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman. This was seconded by Peter Begbey and unanimously passed.

8.2 8

Secretary’s report

The secretary had noted that his report is published online.

He drew attention to the fact that the Ashdown Adventurers leader Richard Clark had unfortunately needed to stand down when he moved out of the area. It had not been possible to find a willing replacement but thanks are due to David Oakenfold who has converted the group to an informal lunch club which is having good attendances.

The secretary reported that he had hosted 11 meetings of the committee, 6 meetings of the Natter and Wanderer Leaders and 3 meetings of the Centenary planning group during 2022.

8.2 9

Competition secretary’s report

This report had been published online and also reproduced in hard copy on the Centre’s display boards.

John Morgan noted that he had been concerned during 2022 to ensure that the Centre’s events had the appropriate certificates of exemption from MSUK and that members and organisers were properly covered for public liability. He noted that it is essential that members are properly signed in at events and that appropriate risk assessments have been performed and recorded.

MSUK have introduced a new category of taster event. This permits the event to opened to non-members who are treated as members for that event only.

The Auto Solo at Filching will be a taster event. It is a timed forward driving only event. Passengers are permitted and non-MGs may be used. He encouraged members to take part.

8.2 10

Events secretary’s report

This report has been published online but large parts of it have been reproduced on the Centre’s display boards.

Andrew Mitchell reported his pleasure that the Centre has now purchased the Coleman Shelter which is easier to transport.

He noted that there were many events now coming on stream for 2023 including Lullingstone Castle, Bluebell Railway, Hever Castle and Penshurst. He noted that all of these are independent venues in contrast to National Trust venues which no longer welcome Classic car groups.

Registration for events have now moved online which has removed the need to handle cash on the day.

Andrew noted that he always welcomed suggestions for new venues.

8.2 11

Safety Fast scribe and Newsletter editor report

Ray Ruffels and William Opie had both presented their apologies for the meeting but their report is available online.

Tim Morris pointed out that contributions are always needed and welcome.

8.2 12

Archive and history report

John Davies’ report is published online.

He had received a large collection of memorabilia from the late Graham White including service notes for the MGTD. The service notes have been passed on to Ian Ailes and items relating to motorcycles have been passed on to Brooklands to be archived.

He pointed out that the publication “The Superlative MG” was an excellent comprehensive account of the production of the MGB.

Whilst assisting Mick Breare to purchase an MGC GT he had become aware that those for sale around the country described as good restorations often were not very good or were very expensive. He counselled “buyer beware”.

8.2 13

Webmasters report

This is available online in some detail.

Tim Morris noted that he had originally come onto the committee to improve the Centre’s online presence. In the first instance he had been assisted by John Gallop from the Young Members branch particularly with the Centre’s Instagram account.

Tim Morris then drew the meetings attention to the following highlights.

**MGCC SE Website**

There were 12690 visits during 2022. He is expecting and looking for more growth. There had been more than 1000 visits to date in 2023. He is hoping to add articles this year.

Most of the referrals to the site were from Google, followed by Facebook and then MGCC site.

**ACE Clothing Ltd**

The Centre has set up a site with this company for the provision of regalia. Purchases have been slow to date but are expected to increase as the season gets underway.

A limited-edition centenary range is planned.

There are two SE Centre **Facebook** pages. The main page is open to all, and anyone may comment. There are 400 followers, and the hope is that they will increase to 500-600 by the ned of 2023. There is a 5,500 reach.

The chat page is limited to registered individuals and is used much less.

The audience is comprised of people aged 45+ with a peak age of 65+. 90% are male with only 10% female. The majority are located in the UK with the highest numbers located in London, Worthing and East Grinstead.

The **Instagram** account had 332 followers at the end of 2022 and has a reach of 650-700.

The demographic is very different with an age range of 24-30 but still 90% male. This may effect the postings on there with more emphasis on modded cars which seem popular.

51% are located in the UK, others are in the USA, France, Germany and Saudi Arabia.

The highest numbers are located in Croydon, Worthing and Jeddah.

The Centre’s **YouTube** account has been a particular success. It was launched in May 2022 and had had 11,018 views by the end of the year with 80 subscribers (now over 100), which represents over 600 hours of viewing time. There are 40 videos available, all original content mostly generated by Tim Morris and BrooklandsMembers.tv. Further videos are required from members.

**Mailchimp** provides access to 1,117 addresses. 62% of emails are opened and of those there is a 40% click through rate. There is a cost to this shortly to be imposed by Mailchimp.

**Twitter** has only 77 followers and seems to have doubtful usefulness to the Centre. Will continue for the moment but may be stopped.

In addition to the above MGCC also send out information, particularly via the publication of “Safety Fast”.

He reminded members that personal contact is still an important means of communication through natter and wanderer groups.

8.2 14

Programme for 2023

It was noted that this is available on the website and that a printed programme will be produced.

8.2 15

Programme for 2024

This item was withdrawn.

8.2 16

Confirmation of the election of Derek Edwards for a further year

Proposed by Tim Morris Seconded by Austin Banner

This was carried unanimously.

8.217 Election of officers

Chairman – Tim Morris Proposed Austin Banner Seconded Gwen Davies

This was carried unanimously.

Secretary – Austin J Banner Proposed John Davies Seconded Ron Kemp

This was carried unanimously.

Treasurer – Ron Kemp Proposed Tim Morris Seconded Gwen Davies

This was carried unanimously.

18. Election of committee members

Members for re-election

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

They have all been proposed by Tim Morris and seconded by Austin Banner.

Competition secretary – John Morgan

Events secretary – Andrew Mitchell

Membership secretary – Diana Calvert

History, Awards and trophies – John Davies

Safety Fast scribe and Newsletter editor – William Opie (assisted by Ray Ruffels)

Webmaster and social media – Tim Morris

Merchandise – Alex Lemon

Natter and Wanderer Leaders liaison – Ian Russell

Committee member – Gwen Davies

This was carried unanimously.

New member election

Peter Begbey Proposed by Ian Russell Seconded by Tim Morris

This was carried unanimously.

19. Any other business previously notified to the secretary

There was none.

20. Time, date and place of the next AGM

TBA

Austin J Banner

Secretary MGCC SE Centre

March 2023