SALOPIAN DRIVERS CLUB

Minutes of 7th Annual General Meeting
2.00pm Saturday, 13th September 2025 in the Moser Library.

Present:
Miles Preston (Chairman)
Alex Aldous
Erin Beale (Guest)
Malcolm Brewster
Roger Carter
Chris Crewsden
Jonathan Davies
Martin Davies
James Gibbon
John & Charmian Gilbert
Angus Jagger
Richard Jebb
Chris Kettle
James Lane
Peter Moore-Dutton
Val Moore-Dutton
Nick Randall
John Richards
Bertie Russell
Rod Spiby
Jack Wycherley
Tom Wycherley

1.Welcome by the Chairman
Miles Preston welcomed the members present to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

2. Apologies
The Chairman felt that whether a club is flourishing can be measured by the number of apologies for absence it receives for the AGM and he was very gratified that 25 members had taken the time to send their apologies:

Rodney Baker-Bates
Mark Belcher
Bill Dornan
Nigel Edwards
John & Sarah Blundell Hutchinson
Don Bradley
Martin & Helen Davies
Jez Edmondson
Brent Gibbon
John Gilbert
Stephen Higgs
David Kempton
Colin Mackenzie
Nick Paterson

Jonathan Pearce
Nigel Price
Paul Price
Patrick Rusell-Jones
Richard Shropshire
Paul Taylor
Michel Vanhoonacker
Willi Verdon-Smith
Nicko Williams
Phil Wood

3. The Minutes of the last AGM held on Saturday, 14th September 2024.
These had been circulated in advance to all members and were unanimously approved.

4. Matters arising
There were none.

5. Chairman's Report
The Chairman stated that membership now stood at 161 members. Following an appeal to the school leavers at the end of the summer term, 35 had expressed an interest in cars and motoring. An email was sent to each of them, but no-one has responded thus far.
Miles reported that eight events had taken place this year so far with one more to come in two weeks' time.

1) Annual Dinner – 21st February at the Leander club in Henley. 30 people attended. A member of the Gold medal winning GB eight in the Paris Olympics, Jason Bowman, was the guest speaker. He talked about being in the squad and Leander's achievements in the rowing world. An excellent evening.
2) Astin Martin Heritage Centre – 8th March – Grant Charlesworth-Jones organised an excellent trip with a visit to a café and then to AM. 25-30 attended.
3) Yorkshire Tour – 31 May/1 June organised by the VanHoonackers. The Tour took them to first to a wonderful supper at the VanHoonackers. Then on Saturday to Scarborough, Filey, Bridlington and Flamborough Head for lunch. Then Victoria Hotel at Robin Hood's Bay for the night, and on the Sunday off to Beverley Minster via Matheson's (of Bangers and Cash TV fame) with lunch near the Minster. In total, 18 people and 8 cars. Many thanks for their organisation and hospitality.
4) Cinema Visit & lunch at The Golden Cross in Shrewsbury – 27th April. Grant Charlesworth-Jones organised an excellent trip. A good number of people attended and much enjoyed it. It is an event worth pursuing which just needs better timing to attract more people.
5) Shropshire Tour – 7th June. Phil Wood & Alex Aldous organised a Tour up to Caerau Gardens, Bala for coffee and then a lunch in Dolgellau. Excellent food, enjoyed by 30 people who attended with 13 cars.
6) Sleap Airfield – 12th July. Cars and vintage aircraft. Grant Charlesworth-Jones organised another excellent trip here with a tremendous picnic provided by Angus Jagger. A good number attended. It is intended that it should be repeated again next year (with an even bigger picnic!)
7) Surrey & Sussex Tour – 7th September Stephen Heath organised an excellent Tour, meeting at Newlands Corner, SE of Guildford then on to The Noah's Ark in Lurgashall near Petworth for lunch and then on to Denbie's winery. 5 cars and 8 people came.
8) Still to come on 28th September – Somerset Tour organised by Nigel Edwards. There are expected to be 7 cars and around 15 people, meeting near Taunton.

6. Treasurer's Report

In the absence of Phil Wood who has his attention divided this afternoon, Miles stated that the Club currently has reserves of £901-66. The main cost for the Club each year is an insurance premium, which was £319-20 this year.

7. Election of committee members

Nigel Edwards and Rob Slomczynski have both stood down from the committee. Miles expressed his gratitude and that of the committee to both: each have other commitments, and Rob is especially busy with work.

There is a need to re-elect 5 members since their 3-year term of office is ending: Miles, Phil, Michel, Grant and Alex. Miles asked if all present would agree to these people being re-elected en bloc and this was agreed. All were unanimously voted to serve another three years.

In addition, James Gibbon's name has been put forward for election to the committee. James stated that he had been on two Tours with his father over the past two years, has an Audi TT himself and is keen to represent younger Salopians. He was unanimously voted in and congratulated.

8. Forthcoming events

Miles reported that the Winter Dinner would be taking place on Friday 6th February at The George of Stamford, a well-known Coaching Inn on the old A1. 10 people have already expressed an interest. Because of inevitable rising costs the Dinner will cost £125 which includes pre-dinner drinks, a three-course meal and wine. There are rooms at The George and a number of other places available to stay overnight. people to stay overnight. Miles requests that if you would like to attend the dinner, they should contact him. There is a limit of 30 at the dinner and places will be reserved on a first-come first-served basis. Grant Charlesworth-Jones is organising a visit to the Triumph Sports Six Club at Market Harborough at 2pm on the day of the dinner and Miles is hoping to organise a walking tour around this historic town the following morning.

9. Merchandise

Angus Jagger displayed his wares: caps, beanies and Gillets. He was thanked for all his immense efforts: for the amount of time and personal money that he has invested in making this venture work. Orders were taken after the meeting. It is intended that the Club's merchandise will be advertised on the Club's website and quite possibly sold through the School Shop.

10. Club's Website

The Chairman expressed the Club's gratitude to Michel Vanhoonacker for his continued work on the Club's website. The website is deliberately straight forward but provides very helpful information. The addition of a merchandise section will further improve it.

11. Any other business

Miles stated that John Richards had approached him concerning the formation of a Salopian Coaching Club under the umbrella of the SDC. John spoke about the potential of such a club and the cudos it would carry. He assured everyone that he had organised and umpired many a coaching event and had won Prizes for various coaching events. He stated that he is the President and Charles Martell the Vice President. On 15th May 2026 there will be a coaching event at the Royal Windsor Horse Show in which the Salopian Coaching Club will be taking part.

13. Date of next AGM

As usual, this will take place on next year's Salopian Day, which is thought likely to be Saturday 12th September 2026.

Alex Aldous
SDC, Hon Secretary