

SALOPIAN DRIVERS CLUB

Minutes of 6th Annual General Meeting held at 2.00pm on Saturday, 14th September 2024 in the Moser Library.

Present:

Miles Preston (Chairman)

Alex Aldous

John Bannister

Mark Belcher

Malcolm Brewster

John Burrowes

Roger Carter

John Dornan

Andrew Humpish

Angus Jagger

James Lane

Jonathan Mawdsley

Nick Paterson

Nick Randall

Bertie Russell

Rod Spiby

Roselinda ver Elst

Philip Wood

Jack Wycherley

Tom Wycherley

1. The Chairman welcomed the members present to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

2. Apologies.

The Chairman felt that the proof that 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:

Nigel Edwards
Michel and Annalie Vanhoonacker
John and Sarah Blundell Hutchinson
Don Bradley
Martin and Helen Davies
Mark Gethin
John Gilbert
Francis Hollinshead
Duncan Hopkinson
Peter Hunter
David Kempton
Chris and Liz Kettle
Stephen Maynard
Nigel Price
Paul Price
John Richards
Martin Sandford
John Sutton
Mark Taylor
Sir James Vernon
Nicko Williams

3. The Minutes of the last AGM, held on Saturday, 30th September 2023, which had been circulated in advance to all members, were unanimously approved.

4. Matters arising.
There were none.

5. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman stated that membership now stood at 154 members. He said that he thought that we had reached 'critical mass' about three years ago and, although he still thought that we might reach 200, the number we currently have is a very satisfactory number in a club where people are getting to know one another better and where the atmosphere is very friendly.

This year several good events had taken place:

A) The Annual Dinner in February was held at the Turf Club again. This had been a sell out with 40 people attended.

It was an extremely good evening, greatly enhanced by Sir John Stuttard's pre-dinner account of the 1997 Peking to Paris Challenge Tour in which he had participated. As always, the Turf Club's food and service had been first class. After an excellent dinner there had been a fascinating video of the Tour.

B) Regional Tours

i) Cumbria Tour.

Michel Vanhoonacker and Chris Kettle, assisted by Chris Crewdson, kindly organised an excellent tour with an overnight stay for six cars and a dozen participants.

ii) Kent Tour.

The Chairman had organised this, third, tour in Kent for six cars and a dozen people. The group was based at the excellent B&B at Hever Castle and visited Penshurst Place, Down House and Chartwell as well, of course, as Hever Castle during this three day, two night, tour.

iii) Shropshire Tour.

Alex Aldous and Tom Wycherley organised this event. After meeting at the Aldous's for breakfast, ten cars drove to Pistyll Rhaedr waterfall for coffee and then on to Lake Vyrnwy for an excellent lunch. Although wet until lunch, it was much enjoyed.

iv) Combined SDC and Bentley Drivers' Club day.

Miles Preston and Joanna Way (BDC) worked together to organise this. About twenty cars (roughly forty people) met on Central and had coffee in the Barnes Theatre before embarking on an hour long drive which had been carefully worked out by Tom Wycherley and Alex Aldous, following a circuitous route to

the Fox and Hounds, Shawbury for an excellent lunch where they were joined by another six beautiful Derby Bentleys with 10/12 extra people. After lunch the group was privileged to be given a tour of the nearby Russell Hands Carriage Museum.

v) Sleep Aerodrome Day.

Grant Charlesworth-Jones organised a superb day with several BDC and SDC members enjoying flying displays, a tour of a Hurricane and excellent catering all day. Thanks go to Grant for his sterling efforts to make this happen.

Surrey Hills Tour.

There is still one more tour scheduled to take place this year, on 28th September. Stephen Heath is organising this with six cars and about 10 people signed up. This event has had to be postponed twice but is now lined up to go.

The Chairman thanked all the members of the committee for their support and enthusiasm and also Holly Fitzgerald who has attended all the Club's committee meetings. He also thanked Christine Stephens in the Salopian Club Office for all the assistance she has given the Club looking after the membership list and sending out personalised emails to our members.

6. Treasurer's Report.

Phil Wood stated that there is £950-21 in the coffers, net of the annual insurance premium which has already been paid for the coming year.

The sale of merchandise helps to build some reserves. The Chairman explained that the Club has very few outgoings, the principal regular one being the cost of insurance, but it is helpful to have a bit more in reserve to cover such things as sometimes providing speakers at our dinners with the cost of their meal.

7. Election of Committee members.

Nigel Edwards' term of office has come up for renewal. His election for a second term was proposed by Phil Wood and seconded by Alex Aldous and unanimously supported by everyone present.

8. Club Merchandise.

The Chairman reported that mugs and car stickers are still for sale. He thanked Angus Jagger for all the work he has done, including spending his own money, developing caps, badges, beanies, gilets and even an SDC cooking apron. Angus showed the items to those at the meeting and confirmed that they are now available for sale and he is happy to take orders.

9. Forthcoming events.

The Chairman confirmed that some members had suggested that although the three Turf Club dinners have been excellent, it might be good to have a change of venue and one that was not in London. He has, therefore, booked a dinner at Leander Club, Henley-on-Thames, one of the most successful single sport clubs in the world. The Dinner will take place on Friday, 21st February 2025. Twenty members have already booked, and five of the eleven bedrooms have, so far, been taken.

He confirmed that the committee is working on next year's other Club events. So far, the picture is as follows:

a) Grant Charlesworth-Jones is working on a trip to Aston Martin at Wallingford on 8th March 2025.

b) A Shropshire Tour, which will be organised by Alex Aldous and Phil Wood, has been set for Saturday, 7th June 2025, taking in Lake Bala and potentially having lunch at Palé Hall Hotel.

c) Grant Charlesworth-Jones is organising another event at Sleaford Aerodrome on 12th July 2025.

d) The Chairman is considering organising another Kent Tour, possibly visiting Leeds Castle, Knole Park and Ightham Mote. If it happens, it will potentially be in June.

e) It is hoped that Michel Vanhoonacker, Chris Kettle and Chris Crewdson may be able to put together another Yorkshire/Cumbria tour after their successes of previous years.

f) The Chairman confirmed that he will talk to Stephen Heath about the possibility of another Surrey Hills Tour.

g) He also mentioned that Grant Charlesworth-Jones had come up with the idea of the Club hiring one of the nationwide Everyman Cinemas, possibly in Birmingham, to show a suitable car-related film to our members and perhaps extend invitations to all Old Salopians.

h) He also added that Nick Jenkins' son-in-law has about 50 cars in storage near Bridgnorth, which members might be able to visit sometime in the future.

10. Club's Website.

The Chairman expressed the Club's gratitude to Michel Vanhoonacker for all his work on the Club's website. He hoped members were finding it useful and that prospective members could find out about the Club by looking at it.

He confirmed that he will be happy to ask Michel to add a new section on Club Merchandise once Angus Jagger has been able to supply photographs of our merchandise and has confirmed the cost of the various items.

11. Recruitment of new members.

The Club is still looking for new members, whether or not they own a classic car.

The Chairman confirmed that the Club is also always looking for volunteers to help organise events and/or serve on the committee. Anyone wishing to volunteer should feel free to contact him to discuss possibilities for helping.

12. Any other business.

Andrew Humpish reminded members that they can get a discount on their classic car insurance premia if they use Footman James.

12. Date of next AGM.

As usual, this will take place on next year's Salopian Day which is thought likely to be Saturday, 13th September 2025.

Alex Aldous

SDC, Hon.Secretary