

AGM minutes

MINUTES TAKEN by Phil Benson on Sunday, March 21, 2010, of the Annual General Meeting held at the Holiday Inn Express Hotel, Walsall.

Present: Peter Benfield; Philip Benson; John Castle; Clive Lungmuss; Paul Norton; Howard Pryor; John Oaker and David Walton.

Apologies received from: Peter Burdge; Steve Coulman; Terry Gordon; John Gogay; Nigel Fitzmaurice Hawker; Fred Newman and Ian Ritchie.

Howard Pryor took the Chair as Vice Chairman and opened the meeting at 2.00 pm by welcoming everyone who was present.

Officers reports

Chairman's Report: Howard explained that as we had not had a Chairman this year there was no report.

Vice Chairman's report: Howard reported that the club had continued to operate throughout the year and despite the recession in the United Kingdom he felt a corner had been turned and new blood was once again coming into the club.

Mayflowers continue to turn up as 'barn finds' and he was sure the membership as a whole wanted us to continue to operate as a 'one make' club. Howard advised that he was willing to continue as an officer of the club until 2011 if re-elected today.

Secretary's report: John Oaker informed the meeting this was his 16th report as General and Membership Secretary. His initial statement from last years AGM that "I think this year I have written more letters and e-mails, and received more letters and e-mails than at any time in the last 15 years" has easily been beaten this year.

The main theme in all the correspondence was again "The state of the club and sharing ways forward". I was very pleased with the response from members and being able to share members ideas and offers of help.

Member support is still welcome and do please feel free to contact the club with any offers of help in matters Mayflower. As someone with two years of retirement under their belt I do understand the problems that many members have in attending rallies and

meetings and offering time. I have never been so busy! The membership numbers show cars new to the club continue to be found.

Three barn finds, where each car had been stored away for at least 35 years in various states of preservation were amongst the big surprises in my year. Cars bought in the UK seem to be turning up in Europe now so because of this trend our overseas numbers are now rising.

I have provided tables showing the number of members during each of the last 15 years, and also a breakdown by location for the past seven years. Hopefully these will be printed in *Flower Power* and members will find them of interest.

In 2010 we are once again back to a healthy number, 145. Of these as at March 31, 2010 102 renewed for another year; six former members have rejoined us; we have our six honorary members and 31 new members joined during the club year.

This figure of 31 compares very favourably with just 18 new joiners in the previous year. The figure also shows that 21 per cent of the current membership are new members which I consider to be quite a healthy and promising situation.

Treasurer's report: We did not receive any bank statements between July last year and March this year because the addressing at the bank was incorrectly amended. This has taken quite a lot of energies to resolve. However, by visiting the bank recently we were able to get the statements printed and have produced our accounts from them within the last week.

These figures show we continue to have a very healthy reserve and I do not believe that we have any need to amend the current subscription rates. I therefore propose these remain the same as last year. The motion was seconded by Phil Benson and was agreed unanimously.

New Spares Secretary's report: was given by Howard Pryor in John Gogay's absence. Some new parts have been manufactured during the year. The most important being the engine timing cover and sump gaskets. Demand for spares has fallen off this year, possibly due to the recession.

The account balance is healthy and no major problems to report. John offered to continue in his position. His offer was accepted by the meeting. The new spares accounts for the year were presented and accepted by the meeting.

Regalia Secretary/Secondhand Spares Secretary's report: Fred Newman advised in his report that sales of spares and regalia are infrequent at this time, a reflection of current membership perhaps. Stock of secondhand spares of real use is diminishing.

He further put in writing that he wished to be disassociated with role of Secondhand Spares Secretary (with Peter Benfield) as he was concerned as to the standard and quality of some of the secondhand spares held by himself. He asked the meeting to request the membership to advise any "spare" quality secondhand spares.

He requested the meeting authorise disposal of those items that in his position are poor quality bits recovered from scrap cars. He advised he would continue to store items fit for purpose.

Meeting advised him (in his absence) that his position of secondhand spares did indeed already give him the authority to review stock and dispose of anything which in his opinion was not worthy of sale to members. They asked him to reconsider his decision.

Peter Benfield volunteered to communicate with Fred and see if he would continue to operate as a secondhand spares secretary with those items in his stock that were fit for purpose. Regalia and Secondhand Spares accounts for the year were presented and accepted by the meeting.

Secondhand Spares Secretary's report: A variety of items have been requested during the recent winter months. Many of these were of smaller dimensions, particularly of body parts. Most requests were duly met but items such as overriders and bumpers still could not be catered for.

The present situation financially remains healthy. Cash in bank £143.78 and cash in hand £268.50, a total £412.28.

Election/re-election of Officers

Howard Pryor was nominated as Chairman by Phil Benson and seconded by Peter

Benfield. Howard accepted on the grounds that the Vice Chairman position was taken by someone who felt they could be a successor as Chairman in one or two years time.

John Castle stated that if nominated he would accept on that basis. Peter Benfield duly nominated and Paul Norton seconded him as Vice Chairman. There being no other nominations Howard Pryor was elected Chairman and John Castle Vice Chairman.

The other officers have all offered to continue in their posts. There being no opposing nominations they were all duly re-elected.

Officers for 2010-11 are therefore: John Oaker as General and Membership Secretary; Paul Norton as Treasurer; John Gogay as New Spares Secretary; Nico ten Wolde as *Flower Power* Editor; Fred Newman as Regalia Secretary; Peter Benfield as Secondhand Spares Secretary; Steve Coulman as Club Historian; Malcolm Barnsley, Peter Benfield Steve Coulman and Larry Spouler as Technical Officers; and Clive Lungmuss and Maurice Wilkes as Co-opted Members.

There being no nominations for Rally Secretary and no volunteers the position remains vacant this year.

Any other business

Item 1) Peter Benfield presented a letter from Robert Marshall, the *Triumph World Club* Correspondent advising he was keen to include details of events, his section of *Triumph World* being particularly focussed on the social side of club membership.

However, he went on to say he is keen to write a piece on the Mayflower Club and will be back in touch when he has space for a suitable article. Peter confirmed he will keep in touch with Robert and will let him have the dates for the Annual Rally and the Northern Section Rally at Ripon old cars.

Item 2) The club are displaying a Mayflower (Eddie Copson's) on the Triumph Roadster Club's stand at the NEC Classic Car Show on November 12, 13 and 14. Howard asked for volunteers to go along and support Eddie.

He also asked if we could enlarge some photographs to a larger size to display on the stand. As it happened Peter Benfield had five photographs with him that he had picked up at an autojumble recently, some were of the

apprentices at Coventry preparing the sectioned Mayflower for the launch Motor Show at Earls Court and some were of the Mayflower assembly line (which Howard advised was the only car ever to go along the line sideways-on). David Walton volunteered to take the photos and investigate scanning,

Digitising and reprinting at A2 size. The meeting authorised reimbursement of reasonable expenditure to cover this.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and wished everyone a safe journey home and closed the meeting at 3.50 pm.