

# VETERAN CAR COMPANY Ltd



## SOUTH EAST SECTION

**The Minutes of the eighth Annual General Meeting of  
the South East Section of Veteran Car Company Ltd.  
held at The Hickstead Hotel, Jobs Lane, Hickstead, West Sussex  
on Sunday, 28th November 2010.**

**Chairman: Ron Clark  
Treasurer: Henry Smith  
Secretary: Ann Wait**

**Committee Members  
Amy Clark, Dan Lehmann, Paul Noon, Jan van de Pol DL.**

**82 Members and their guests attended the Meeting**

The Chairman opened the meeting at 11:46am.

### **Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from 28 members, as listed for the Veteran Car Club South East Section AGM held immediately previously.

### **1 Minutes of the Seventh Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 29th November 2009**

The Minutes of the Meeting had been circulated at this Meeting, by email newsletter and on the website. It was proposed by Mr. Michael Sapsford and seconded by Mr. Nicholas Bacon that these constituted a true record of the Meeting. The Minutes were accepted unanimously

### **2 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising not dealt with elsewhere.

### **3 Chairman's Report**

#### **3.1 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch - 21<sup>st</sup> March 2010**

The year started with our Anniversary Celebration Lunch at Barnsgate Manor. We must thank David Smart for providing films of section events for us. Most of the guests watched footage and enjoyed it very much.

#### **3.2 Spring Opener – Country Pub Lunch - Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

This is a popular event and will be organised again next year. Members turn up in veteran, vintage and modern cars to enjoy getting together after the winter. It is a relaxed event and a good start to the season.

#### **3.3 Driving Day, Leonardslee – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2010, organised by Dan Lehmann.**

This was, sadly, our last opportunity to see the wonderful gardens before they passed into private hands and closed to the public. It was a scorching hot day. Attendance was good, the flowers at their best and we had a wonderful day. Chris Loder was asked to pass on our thanks to both Robin and Jane Loder, not just for that day, but for all the other times over the years, when they have kindly hosted rallies and events which have always been popular and very well attended.

#### **3.4 Main Event – Buxted Park Hotel – 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2010 organised by Henry Smith.**

A superb rally, based in an excellent hotel. The routes and attractions were amazing and we would like to thank Henry Smith for organising such a good event. A new formula for entry was introduced for the event this year. There was a choice of options enabling participants to join in as much or as little as they wished. This proved very successful and we are going to offer a similar set of options next year.

#### **3.5 Best of West Kent Run – Wednesday 28th July 2010, organised by David Locket and Graham Pilmore-Bedford.**

Another very popular event with fantastic attendance. This has become an annual event for club members and many people make a special effort to attend.

- 3.6 Ashdown Amble – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2010, organised by Allan White, Phil Johnson and Derek Thorpe  
A very successful and well attended event, with interesting routes through the quiet lanes of Ashdown Forest, ending at Barnsgate Manor for an excellent buffet lunch. This is also becoming an annual event, increasing in popularity. Thanks to Allan White, who also sponsored the event, Phil Johnson and Derek Thorpe for planning the route.
- 3.7 Charity Event – Driving for the Disabled, Goodwood Park – Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> August 2010, organised by John Morris  
Sadly this had to be cancelled as the ground was waterlogged owing to the exceptionally bad weather. However, we raised £500 for the charity so good did come out of it.
- 3.8 Picnic and Drive- Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2010, organised by Michael and Bridget Doughty  
66 people in 18 interesting cars attended the event based at the home of Michael and Bridget Doughty. Michael had planned a pleasant route before lunch. The weather was a little doubtful but the event went very well and we thank Michael and Bridget for organising the day for us.
- 3.9 Annual General Meeting – Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> November 2010, now being held at the Hickstead Hotel,
- 3.10 Post Christmas Lunch – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> December 2010.  
This will be the final event in our calendar and will be held once again in the barn of Alistair and Mai Hacking. We hope to see many members there.

The Chairman concluded by saying that we had had a busy year and hoped that we would have more good motoring in the year to come.

#### 4 Secretary's Report

#### Preview of Events for 2011

The Secretary reported on the events planned for 2011

- 4.1 **Film Show - Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March** with supper at the Sussex County Cricket Ground. The record of Section events over past years, filmed and edited by David Smart and shown last year at Barnsgate Manor, had created a high level of interest. He has agreed to show further examples of his films at this social event and has been busy editing his collection. It will start at 6:30 pm in the Function Room at the Cricket Ground. There will be a three-course meal and the cost will be £22.50
- 4.2 **Spring Opener, Lurgeshall - Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April.** The Spring Opener is always a popular event and the Noah's Ark at Lurgeshall is a popular venue. Please let Amy Clark know in advance that you will be coming, if possible. If not, just turn up on the day. Come in any car, veteran, vintage, modern. It is the meeting with friends that is the most important part of this day.
- 4.3 **Main Event, 22/23/24 May** - Lythe Hill Hotel, Haslemere. A superb venue. The roads are particularly suited to our cars. Once again it is Sunday to Tuesday. This gives us a better deal with the hotel. There will be an Old Time Music Hall act on the Sunday evening. A luxurious hotel with a swimming pool and spa. Fliers are available. Eileen Lawson asked if period dress would be appropriate. We are limited to 35 rooms so please book early.
- 4.4 **Drive and Picnic, Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June** - Coffee at New Place Manor then drive to Petworth House for a picnic. We usually try to have an event in June where it is possible to drive other cars on private roads but this is becoming very difficult, either for Health and Safety issues or exorbitant costs. The National Trust, through the Federation, is now trying to reach out to car clubs and we have been invited to Petworth House for a Fathers' Day motoring event. Derek Grossmark added that the Trust now recognises the place of our cars in our heritage and hopes to extend our involvement in the future.
- 4.5 **Best of West Kent, Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July.** David Locket thanked all those who attended last year. We are welcomed back to the venues each year. The organisers would like two or three couples who could help by taking charge and running one of the venues visited on the day. It is the largest one-day event in the section Calendar. Hever Castle has asked us to provide a couple of cars each day between 20<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> July between 11:00am and 3:00pm. They are running a British week so only British cars, veteran, Edwardian or vintage, are required. You will probably receive tickets to visit with your family at another time.
- 4.6 **Ashdown Amble, Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August** This is becoming an annual event. We will start at Barnsgate Manor, where we can leave modern cars and trailers, take a gentle 20 – 25 mile drive around the forest lanes and then return to Barnsgate Manor for lunch. Thanks to Allan White, Phil Johnston and Derek Thorpe for offering to organise this event again.
- 4.7 **Weekend in Dieppe, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> September** We decided that we would organise an event in France, and as it would be in September, it seemed a good opportunity to include the option of joining in with the Dieppe Retro. We will go over on the Friday morning ferry. It is possible to leave modern cars and trailers at the port. It is only a very short drive to the seafront hotels from the harbour in

Dieppe. There will be a short run in the afternoon. On Saturday we will drive to the start point of the Retro and have lunch then those who wish to do so may join the Retro. Bryan Goodman explained that this will be a run between villages and small towns. The Saturday is a half-day run and Sunday starts with a gathering of cars in the High Street and breakfast, followed by a run to lunch. After the lunch there will be a run to the final venue. We will return on the Monday afternoon ferry. We wish to keep this a small event, probably about 12 cars. Participants will be given a list of hotels to choose from. There is a good car park opposite the Mercure Hotel. Details will be sent later.

- 4.8 **End of season picnic, Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September** Paul and Gail Noon have kindly invited us to join them at their home in Pulborough for an informal gathering and a picnic lunch.
- 4.9 **Quiz Night and Supper, Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October** Henry Smith is organising this as a fund raising event for the club. It will be held at Framfield Village Hall. We hope that member will form teams and we are inviting some other clubs to join us, adding to the competitive edge. Questions will not be technical. There will be food during the evening.
- 4.10 **AGM, Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November** To be held at the Hickstead Hotel
- 4.11 **Post-Christmas Lunch, Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> December** Venue to be confirmed.

## 5 **Treasurer's Report**

### 5.1 **Veteran Car Company Ltd, South East Section, Accounts**

Henry Smith reported that Veteran Car Services South East Section Ltd (now known as Veteran Car Company South East Section Ltd) account showed a loss of £678. This arose from a one-off charge of £545 to set up the website and £600 put aside for a possible VAT payment.

### 5.2 **Banking problems**

Whilst most of us have problems getting money out of the bank, we, as a division of Veteran Car Company Ltd, are having problems paying it in. Nationwide only allows 20 cheques per month. If there are more they will close the account. This has caused a backlog of cheques to be paid in so the treasurer has been paying them into the Veteran Car Club, South East Section account, thus repaying some of the loan made to the company. We are trying to open a new company account but this is not easy. Money laundering requirements demand that all the directors of the company should present themselves in person at the bank. This holds true for all banks. We are in discussion with Robert Corry to see if we can solve this problem. Cash presents no difficulty. We have thought of setting up a Pay Pal account as we have the website. Whichever route we go down there will be additional bank charges to be paid. Direct Debits and transfers are also a possibility.

## 6 **Adoption of Audited Accounts**

On the proposal of Michael Sapsford, seconded by Michael Banfield, it was agreed unanimously that these accounts be adopted.

## 7 **Appointment of Honorary Auditor**

The Chairman thanked David Budgeon for his hard work, especially in finalising our accounts quickly so that they could be presented at the AGM. The Committee proposed David Budgeon to continue as Honorary Auditor. It was seconded by Brian Cumming and carried unanimously.

## 8 **Section Representative on the Events Committee, Executive Committee and Board of Directors.**

The Committee proposed that Ron Clark should be appointed as the Section Representative. It was seconded by Michael Banfield and carried unanimously.

## 9 **Any Other Business**

- 9.1 Derek Grossmark announced that the website is now improved and offers services to members. Those not connected are missing something! There is a Stop Press section and today, prior to the AGM, the Calendar of Events was posted for members to refer to. Application forms are also found there. There is a For Sale section. Derek had put two items on himself to start this off and they have both been sold. There is no charge and it is all for the benefit of the members. Other sections link to us and we are about to be linked to the other sections websites, plus other sites of interest to us. Amy Clark thanked him for all his hard work and informed the meeting that the website could be viewed on the laptop at the front of the room.
- 9.2 David Locket asked for clarification of Veteran Car Club South East Section and Veteran Car Company Ltd South East Division. It was explained to the meeting that Veteran Car Club holds all the assets of the Club and covers everything that operates with no risk to members. However, in order to avoid risk to members in the case of any litigation, all events, dating and other activities involving risk, are organised under the company, Veteran Car Company Ltd. It is the company that bears the risks and

- members are protected.
- 9.3 Denis Bass invited members to participate in the AA/HMVA event to commemorate the 102<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Guards Run in 1909. In 1909, the government requested that the AA might trial the possibility of transporting troops to the coast in motor vehicles. It was so successful that, thereafter, troops were mobilized in this way. This will be a commemoration run from Sevenoaks to Hastings, as last year, and will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011. The AA is hoping that cars of this age, other veteran and Edwardian cars, and other interesting cars, will join the run.
- 9.4 John Lawson noted that we had asked for details of car ownership for our Directory. Would information from the present outdated handbook be used where no details had been received? He was assured that only details supplied by members through the form would be used. Those members who had not responded or given no details would have only their address as shown on the current postage labels included in the directory. We have received 158 forms with information on the current ownership of 260 cars. This is all new information and completely up to date. The Directory is at the printers and should be published before Christmas. Then, all forms and information received will be shredded. There are some spaces still for advertisements, full or half page. Malcolm Barber of Bonhams has told us that Bonhams will underwrite the costs of producing it.
- 9.5 Ron Clark reported that he is the club representative on the Steering Committee for the Brighton Run. It is very interesting and there are 6 – 8 people round the table. Last year the main concern on the run itself had been the poor standard of driving of some participants. The policy had been that those drivers last year would receive a warning letter that any further recurrence or adverse report year could result in being ruled out of future runs. The police had reported several names to the organisers. Eileen Lawson reported that she had seen several cars driving down the wrong side of the road in Croydon. One had been pursued by a policewoman who, although she had not caught it, had noted the number of the car. The first car arrived at Brighton at 9:20am and had been disqualified. Chris Cooper asked if the police have the right to prosecute and, if so, will they exercise it? Ron Clark replied that at present he believes that the numbers have been passed to the RAC only but prosecution is a possibility. However this is in the remit of the RAC. It will be decided on whether cars will be disqualified at the meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> December. 508 cars started and 403 finished.
- 9.6 John Wilkins asked if there was anyone from headquarters present and would they be addressing us. He was informed that both the President (Bob Smith) and the Chairman (Robert Hadfield) were present and they would be speaking to us at the end of the meeting.
- 9.7 David Ralph asked if there had been any movement on the proposal to move headquarters to Brooklands and was told not so far.

## 10 Presentation of Section Trophies

Sue Clark, wife of the Chairman, kindly presented the awards.

John Morris proposed a vote of thanks to Paul Noon for his hard work over the past two years.

Ron Clark invited Bob Smith, President of the Veteran Car Club, to speak.

He thanked us for inviting him to the AGM and lunch. He informed members that there had been changes in the office at Headquarters. Stephen Curry had taken over responsibility for managing it. June Cutchie is back and things have improved from Day 1. She is on a 6-month contract at the moment but it is hoped it will be extended. There is a deficit in Club finances at present. This could be cleared at a stroke by encouraging our lost members to come back. We have lost 25% of our membership in the last few years, coinciding with all the problems we have had since losing our Dating Panel. This was very sad but is now history. It was a sad episode for the Club and he hopes we see some of them back in the future. He also felt it was sad that Paul Noon had had to make a public apology for a slip of the pen by Ann Wait. We all work as volunteers, put in a lot of our time and money to this and we should all be allowed the odd mistake. In the last few years at Ashwell more time has been spent arguing amongst each other than trying to make this a better club. We should try to remember what we are here for. It is a super club. Most people join because they have a car and they would like to use them. Without the club there would be very little to be done with them. Brighton cars would go out on one day of the year and for the rest of the year would be at the back of the garage gathering dust. It is down to this club that we can use them and we must not lose sight of that. Equally important is the social side. He has friends around the country and the social side is as important to the ladies as the cars are to us. We must not forget why we are here. Too much time is spent arguing at Ashwell. The sections are in great heart. The sections run the events. He and Cora have done every main event this year and have been made welcome. They are all well run by volunteers, as are all the minor events. Nobody makes any profit out of them so costs are kept down and they are good value. You see in magazines the price you would pay for events organised by professional organisers and they would cost much more than we pay.

We may be selling seats ourselves for Brighton. Recently we have been providing seats for Motion Works, and they were not easy to obtain. That requirement has disappeared and along with it quite a chunk of income, which we need to replace. We may be asking you for seats. If we do they will benefit the club, not a commercial organisation.

Congratulations to Paul Noon. The section has been lucky to have had Paul as chairman for the past two years. He has been responsible for organising many events. The section is also lucky to have Ron Clark as the new Chairman. He really is a stalwart of the club and we could do with a few more like him.

Ron Clark then invited Robert Hadfield, Chairman of the Veteran Car Club to speak.

He thanked Derek Grossmark for his website and suggested it should be renamed 'VCC Bay'.

At Ashwell the staffing had been looked at and it was clear that the format of three part-time women was not working. They have all been made redundant and we are lucky that June has come back to us. Although it is a temporary contract it is very open and there will be negotiations around it continuing. Costs have been reduced as a result so there is a gain for us straight away. There had been problems with the Gazette. The costs of the last issue of the Gazette were reduced by £1500 and we are hoping to have a saving of £9000 next year without affecting the length or quality of it.

We have been quite a long time without a Vice-Chairman. Bernard Williamson has now taken up that post and will be the next Chairman from the AGM. Also Ron Clark has shown interest in becoming the next Vice-Chairman and this will introduce continuity and stability.

He thanked Bob and Cora for their work in organising our participation in the Brighton Run. One of their roles is to organise the Grand Hotel. This year, our 80<sup>th</sup> year, the hotel had been persuaded to produce a cake for us.

Straight after the London to Brighton was the Classic Motor Show. For the first time for many years we had a stand there that won a prize for the best display by a medium-sized club. We had a great deal of interest from the public and it was a good showcase for us.

There have been banking problems at headquarters also. We have changed our bank and subscription can now be paid by Direct Debit. There is a slight reduction in the price of the subscription for this.

A year ago he chaired the first meeting of the new Dating Committee. Two cars have been dated and nine are almost finished. Forty cars were checked for eligibility for the London to Brighton.

When Jessamine House was sold the money raised from the sale was reinvested in four residential properties. The income from those is greater than that which had been received from Jessamine House and the trustees should be thanked for that. (Tim Watson was thanked specifically). They have also been asked to look very carefully at the club's use of Jessamine Court to see if we can reduce costs. They are looking at the rates and the opportunities for hiring out spaces we are not using. The trustees do not favour a move to Brooklands. The Section car list is good for keeping in touch with each other. A new car list is being produced by Headquarters and the subscription renewal form will ask everyone to look at the website to check their entry. A significant number of new cars are there as well.

He praised the Section Committee, particularly the number of younger members. This is something we need to encourage. Our demographic of membership is a high age and we must encourage more members, especially young people, to take an active part.

The name of the company was changed at the last AGM. It was in the AGM Notice and in the Gazette. Section Secretaries had also been informed.

Questions from the floor were invited.

Rodney de Little Why is there such a prejudice against those of us who do not use computers? Direct Debits are also difficult for some of us.

Robert Hadfield We are looking at means of communication and it is cheaper and more efficient to send information in this way. Direct Debits are quite different

Derek Grossmark The Information Highway is exactly what it says and is cheaper and more efficient to use.

John Wilkins Why is Brooklands a non-starter? It is so approachable by all, including international members and very easy to get to.

Robert Hadfield It is also to do with the history of the club and the money we used to buy Jessamine House. He himself favours Gaydon but wherever we moved it would not be convenient for some members. However, there are a number of issues still to be resolved in the Club and moving headquarters is not one of them at the moment.

Bryan Goodman He did not favour Brooklands himself. Also, the Dating Committee has been sacked but we still have the sackers. There will not be an answer to this.

Robert Hadfield There are some issues that are still being worked at.

Chris Cooper

He felt that Elmbridge Council would be reluctant to allow any building at Brooklands.

**There being no further business from the floor, the Chairman of the Section closed the meeting at 1:20p.m**