

# VETERAN CAR COMPANY Ltd



## SOUTH EAST SECTION

**The Minutes of the ninth 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, 27th November 2011.**

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

**Committee Members: Amy Clark, Dan Lehmann, Paul Noon, Jan van de Pol DL, Christopher Loder,  
Denis Bass.**

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

The Chairman opened the meeting at 11:48a.m.

### **Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from 24 members, as listed for the South East Section of the Veteran Car Club of Great Britain AGM held immediately previously.

### **1 Minutes of the Eighth Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 28th November 2010**

The Minutes of the Meeting had been circulated at this Meeting, by email newsletter and on the website. It was proposed by Mr. David Gibbins and seconded by Mr. Michael Sapsford 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 Film Show – Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2011, organised by Amy Clark  
Fly on the Wall pictures of Section events. The Sussex County Cricket Ground was a good venue and the catering was excellent. David Smart was thanked for his hard work in compiling such an interesting collection of films from his archive.
- 3.2 Spring Opener – Country Pub Lunch – Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> April 2011, organised by Amy Clark  
This is a popular event and the day was beautiful as seems to be happening more and more in Spring. 75 Members turned up in 30 veteran, vintage and modern cars to enjoy getting together after the winter. An enjoyable day.
- 3.3 Main Event - Haslemere– 22/23/24 May 2011, organised by Paul Noon.  
Thanks to Paul Noon and Frank and Margaret Walton for the lovely routes. We were also supported by the Tindle Group of Newspapers who provided Dinner on the first evening and their team helped us by providing and placing the signage on the routes that day. Good visits over the weekend and interesting routes.
- 3.4 Drive and Picnic at Petworth – Sunday, 19th June 2011 organised by Dan Lehmann.  
Coffee was provided by Paul and Gail Noon at their home in Pulborough, followed by a run to Petworth House.
- 3.5 Best of West Kent Run – Wednesday, 27th July 2011, organised by David Locket and Graham Pilmore Bedford.  
A very good day, as we have come to expect of this event. Thanks to the organisers for this well-supported annual event.
- 3.6 Ashdown Amble – Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> August 2011, 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 Weekend in Dieppe, 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2011, organised by Ann Wait  
This was a new event. The group travelled a day early. John and Jill Newens planned the routes for the Friday, with a visit to a local chateau, lunch in Varengeville and afternoon tea in their garden. The group took part in the Dieppe Retro over the weekend and returned on Monday evening.
- 3.8 BBQ at New Place Manor- Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2011, organised by Paul and Gail Noon. 40 people attended the event based at their home. The barbecue, cooked by Paul and Gail Noon, was provided by the section as a thank you to our members who supported us during the motoring season. The weather was a little doubtful but held off to the last minute and the day was a good social event.
- 3.9 Quiz Night – 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2011, organised by Henry Smith. This was postponed to 2012.
- 3.10 Annual General Meeting – Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2011, now being held at the Hickstead Hotel,
- 3.11 Post Christmas Lunch – Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> December 2011.  
This will be the final event in our calendar and will be held at Tottington Manor, Edburton, West Sussex. We hope to see many members there.
- 3.12 Natter and Noggins  
Held on the first Tuesday of each month at alternating venues (Staplefield and Chiddingly). These are popular evenings. They are completely informal and you turn up when you can. Details of the monthly venues are on the website.

The Chairman concluded by thanking everyone for their help and for their support over the year.

#### 4 Secretary's Report

#### Preview of Events for 2012

The Secretary reported on the events planned for 2012, but reminded members of the remaining event this year on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> December, the Post Christmas Lunch, organised by Jan van de Pol. This has nearly always been held on the 27<sup>th</sup> December, but the committee has found it increasingly difficult to find venues for this date. It has, therefore, been decided that this annual event will now be held on the 28<sup>th</sup> December, as venues are more available on that date. This will be held at Tottington Manor. There will be no turkey on the menu! Please complete the form and return it as soon as possible. Fliers for all forthcoming events were available at the back of the room for people to take away.

- 4.1 **Film Show – Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> February** with supper at the Sussex County Cricket Ground. **(Amy Clark)**  
Once again we will delve into the film records of Section events over many years, filmed and edited by David Smart. 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. Parking and venue is in a different part of the Cricket ground from last year. Details are on the flier.
- 4.2 **Spring Opener, Lurgeshall – Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> April. (Paul Noon)** The Spring Opener is always a popular event and the Noah's Ark at Lurgeshall is a popular venue. Please let Paul Noon know in advance that you will be coming, if possible. It is a good opportunity to bring out the car, veteran, Edwardian or vintage, for the first time. If not, come in the modern.
- 4.3 **Main Event, 18/19/20<sup>th</sup> May** – Flackley Ash, Peasmarsh. It will be held from Friday to Sunday as Dan Lehmann and Michael Sapsford have been able to negotiate a package at this hotel. We will return to the venue we used five years ago. However, the routes will take in a completely different part of the area. There will be two routes offered, for small or more powerful cars. This means the smaller cars can enjoy the leisurely pace to lunch whilst the bigger cars can have a longer route and both will arrive at lunch together. The roads are particularly suited to our cars. Good visits are planned. The usual three options are available to choose from.
- 4.4 **Pimms, Paella and Picnic, Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> July** - The section has been invited to the home of Christopher and Tania Loder. We will also be joined by the Southwater Dabblers with their model boats. There may be other things happening but these are not yet finalised.
- 4.5 **Best of West Kent, Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July.** David Locket thanked all those who attended last year. It has always been fine weather and he hopes this will continue. Similar to last year but different routes. About 29 miles with no hurry. Just enjoy a drive in the Kent countryside. There were 75 cars last year and there is room for a few more. Come along and join us.
- 4.6 **Ashdown Amble, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August** We meet at Barnsgate Manor for coffee, 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. Allan White and his team always manage to find us different coffee stops each year. Plenty of room for trailers at Barnsgate Manor, to which we return for an excellent lunch. Thanks to Allan White, Phil Johnson and Derek Thorpe for offering to organise this

event again.

- 4.7 **Weekend in Dieppe, 30<sup>th</sup> August – 3<sup>rd</sup> September** This is an informal group. We travel over from Newhaven the day before the start of the Retro and join together for a meal that evening. The weekend is spent on the Dieppe Retro event. This year the Retro is much bigger. It is the centenary of the third Dieppe Grand Prix. There will be lunches and evening meals including a Gala Dinner on the Saturday.
- 4.8 **Quiz Night and Supper, Saturday, 20<sup>th</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 members 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. It would be nice to have some inter-club competition. Questions will not be confined to our cars!
- 4.9 **AGM, Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November** To be held at the Hickstead Hotel
- 4.10 **Post-Christmas Lunch, 28<sup>th</sup> December** Venue to be confirmed.

**Noggins and Natters** will continue as usual. The next one, on the first Tuesday of December will be held at Chiddingly.

## 5 **Treasurer's Report**

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

Henry Smith reported that these are quite complicated because of the change of bank and account. Event income is reduced but so are the costs incurred. Last year the deficit was £678 but this year is down to £265. Since the website was set up the cost of printing, postage etc has been much reduced, which is what we planned. The loan to the company is almost paid back to the Section. We have again set aside a sum for VAT. We still have no information from Headquarters as to our liability for VAT. Without this set aside amount the section would have been in profit. John Morris asked for an explanation of 'other Event Costs'. This covers venues, coffee stops, lunches etc. Michael Banfield asked for an explanation of 'Management Charges'. This is a charge by the section to the company to cover incidental costs incurred by event organisers. David Budgeon was thanked for his work, as this had been a complicated year with the change of accounts. He was presented with a bottle of wine.

## 6 **Adoption of Audited Accounts**

On the proposal of Brian Cumming, seconded by Michael Sapsford, 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 Michael Banfield and carried unanimously.

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

The Committee proposed that Paul Noon should be appointed as the Section Representative. It was seconded by David Locket and carried unanimously.

## 9 **Website**

- 9.1 Paul Noon reported that two years ago we had refreshed the Section Website and immediately handed over the role of Webmaster to Derek Grossmark. He performed this role meticulously and kept it in good order. However, Derek is now handing this role on to Christopher Loder who will continue with the good work begun by Derek.
- 9.2 Christopher Loder asked for more help, for example, more images, items for sale, invitation events etc. Information on our events and downloadable Pdfs of the fliers and application forms will be found there as well. Please send in anything you think will be of interest to all of us.
- 9.3 Ron Clark noted that the website brings people together and has worked well so far.

## 10 **Any Other Business**

### 10.1 **Section Scribe**

Ron Clark explained we have no Scribe at present on the committee. He has agreed to head the Section Scribe role but would like help from members. This would involve information on cars, who has what, minor events, anything of interest. Any volunteers would be welcomed. Eileen Lawson asked if this could come from the website and this was confirmed as a possibility if, of course, the information had appeared there!

## **10.2 Email List**

Previously existing email lists had been merged to produce the Section email list. Dan Lehmann asked that members should check the list available at the back of the room to ensure their own is correct or to note any changes. The email address is given three tries. If it bounces back for a third time it is removed from the list. Regular e-newsletters are sent out with links to the website for further information, so those on the list are always kept up to date with any information the committee might have. The cost of postage is rapidly increasing. This is the best way of saving money to keep rally costs from increasing. David Locket asked if there is a list of people without email addresses. The answer was No. The organiser at present trawls through the two lists and identifies those who need information by post. Ann Wait told members that email is free but each individual posting is about 70p per member. This is the level of saving we are looking at.

## **10.3 National Trust and FBHVC**

Derek Grossmark informed members that the South East area of the National Trust is encouraging links between themselves and FBHVC. It is beginning to work well and is worthwhile investigating different properties. Paul Noon responded by agreeing and that we had been warmly welcomed to Petworth House last year and they have encouraged us to return. David Locket, however, reported that we have always had good relations with Chartwell until there had been a change of personnel.

## **10.4 AA London to Hastings Commemorative Guards Run**

Denis Bass announced that this event will be run again on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012. He would welcome any members who would like to be involved and he will send details. As last year, it will not be the full run but will start at Sevenoaks and end at Hastings. Hastings Town Council will welcome the cars as they arrive. Derek Grossmark did this in 1959 with 4 guardsmen sitting upright in the back.

## **10.5 Young members**

Eileen Lawson reported that, at the Club Annual Dinner they had met a young couple with three children. She and John had explained that their grandson is a member and receives his own Gazette and information from the club. They expressed an interest for their own children and this could be three new young members for the club.

Ron Clark invited Bernard Williamson, Chairman of the Executive Committee Veteran Car Club of Great Britain, to speak.

He thanked us for inviting him to the AGM and lunch and for our excellent calendars for 2011 and 2012. On taking over the Chairmanship of the Executive Committee he had identified four important aspects to be dealt with: Administration, Finances, Events and the Dating Committee. He was pleased to say that he felt the Administration is now in order. Stephen Curry has taken over the job as secretary and, over the last nine months taken this in hand and we are now running efficiently. We are on track with the finances as well. He and Robert Corry hope that the finances will be balanced in the near future. The events are the most important part of the club as we are given opportunities to use our cars. Sections put on excellent events over the year. One of the things he would like to see happen is to lift the profile of the club in the eyes of the public. They enjoy seeing the cars and we must remember that we may need them in the future in order to continue using them. Hopefully, in 2012 we may have a Main Headquarters event, perhaps an international event. Perhaps, as this section is so close to France would we look into organising one? The Dating is the final point. The Dating Advisory Committee is functioning now. It is important that as much information as is available should be sent in with the application as it does take some time to process this. The Executive Committee agreed to have the Club website set up professionally, under the guidance of Paul Noon. There will be a place for each section to put in their information to share with the members and with the public. It would be nice if we could publicise the coffee and lunch stops (not the hotel!) so that the public are aware of where they will be and could go and see the cars. He made an apology for the lack of a Members' List and the list of cars. This was signed off 6 months ago and he has now realised that it has not yet come to fruition. His first job on Monday will be to organise that this comes through to members as soon as possible. The last was published in 2002.

The AGM will be at Ashwell. He read in the minutes for the foreseeable future. In the near future there will be no question of a move from Ashwell. Derek Grossmark asked if there would be a public and a members section on the website. This was confirmed. We had been very successful at the NEC. He thanked Peter Phillips for taking his car at such short notice. It was very clear how much they like to see us. He invited any further questions from the floor. There being none he thanked members for giving him the opportunity to explain the problems he had been facing.

Ron Clark then invited the President of the Veteran Car Club of Great Britain, Stewart Skilbeck, to speak.

He began by saying that he was very pleased to be with us and was impressed by the size of the committee. It is very unusual for the Club to have both senior members of the club from the North of England, albeit from opposite sides of the Pennines. Yorkshire men refer to Lancashire as Bandit Country and South of the River Thames is Overseas. He has actually been overseas in the South East four times this year. The Main Event was very memorable, Goodwood House and the gardens on the final day were wonderful and our thanks go to Sir Ray Tindle for hosting and sponsoring the excellent dinner on the first night. Sir Ray speaks very well and we did not really need the cabaret. It was a memorable night. As President he has attended eight Main Events, six Minor Events and represented the Club at three other events – a very busy year. The atmosphere at all events has been very happy. The Executive Committee is happy and united. It is now a pleasure to attend the meetings and it has not always been thus. Bernard is an extremely good leader. No-one can sit back and relax at the meetings. If you nod off you get a job. Bernard was thanked for all the work that he does. Two members of the South East Section should be thanked in particular for raising the profile of the club. Ron and Sue Clark were in Paris in February, Goodwood in June and September, at Beaulieu and other events with the club stand. He thanked the South East Section but Ron and Sue in particular. He reiterated what Bernard had said about raising the profile of our club on a very wide spectrum. We now have an active representative who takes an interest in the Federation of Historic British Vehicles Club. He would like to ensure that the VCC is represented on the committee of the FBHVC. We are unique. Our vehicles are veteran cars and we need our voice to be heard. Derek Grossmark said this would be a very difficult job as we are a very small minority in the FBHVC. We need to extend our international profile. We have made improved links with the German and Irish equivalent clubs. We need more members and he urged us to bring more people along with us to events. Please try to make sure that all our seats are filled. There is also a competition for the section that has enrolled the greatest number of new members. There is a prize of £500 for a Drinks Reception at the next Section Main Event. The Section has an energetic committee with two new members. In 2012 we have a Headquarters event based in the North of England and will be for larger cars, AX Renault and bigger. The North East Event will follow on immediately after. Congratulations to the South East Section for an orderly meeting.

## **11 Presentation of Section Trophies**

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

The Jimmy Downs Trophy for Meritorious Work and Contribution to the Section was awarded to Sir Ray Tindle. Derek Grossmark thanked him for his support of the old car movement over the years. He has been a staunch supporter of this section since he acquired his first car, a Speedwell, in the early 60s. He has done a tremendous amount for this section. We have had many events based in Farnham. One memory he has is of him and John Wilkins peeping out of his Berliet and talking to Jimmie Downs with the rain sheeting down, the most appalling weather in the middle of Farnham, and another of the Farnham Castle event where they met Princess Ann. Sir Ray has attended many of our events and has been a tremendous supporter of our section. He could not think of a worthier person to be awarded the Jimmie Downs trophy for the most meritorious attention to the section.

Sir Ray said that he could not remember how many events we have had but he knows that there are still seven or eight to come! When he first turned up at a South East Rally and saw Derek, Jimmie Downs, Bryan Goodman and others in their magnificent steeds he thought he would never last in this club. He thanked Ron and Derek for their kind words. He had brought along a couple of notes that he would read out.

Saved by the VCC

I begin with number eight  
Perhaps I'm past my sell-by date  
Face all wrinkled, shoulders bent  
My get-up-and-go has got up and went.  
On the Brighton Run the Speedwell broke its clutch  
My wife here has pushed me - 20 miles isn't much!  
Morale has fallen right down to the point  
Well below my universal joint  
Down among the brakes and the gears  
I sought solace in several beers

There came a letter from the Club  
Was it asking for my sub?  
Or have I erred in some direction  
Been chucked out from the South East Section  
But the gist of Ron Clark's letter  
Brought some news I could not better  
Ron's words dispersed my fears and frowns  
I don't deserve it in any way at all. Thank you everyone most sincerely for doing me this great honour, of  
awarding me the trophy that bears the name of my friend, Jimmie Downs.

Ron Clark thanked Sir Ray and Lady Tindle, the President and the Chairman of the club for joining us and  
closed the meeting at 1:05p.m.

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