

VETERAN CAR COMPANY Ltd



SOUTH EAST SECTION

**The Minutes of the tenth Annual General Meeting of
the South East Section of Veteran Car Company Ltd.
held at The Reigate Manor Hotel, Reigate Hill, Reigate, Surrey
on Sunday, 25th November 2012.**

**Chairman: Chris Loder
Treasurer: position vacant
Secretary: Ann Wait**

Committee Members: Paul Noon, Ron Clark, Christopher Loder, Denis Bass, Mike Mutters, Amy Coke.

65 Members and their guests attended the Meeting

The Chairman opened the meeting at 11:59a.m.

- 1 Apologies for absence**
Apologies had been received from 34 members, as listed for the South East Section of the Veteran Car Club of Great Britain AGM held immediately previously.
- 2 Minutes of the Ninth Annual General Meeting held at the Hickstead Hotel, Hickstead, on Sunday 27th November 2011**
The Minutes of the Meeting had been circulated at this meeting, by email newsletter and on the section website. It was proposed by Mr. Nicholas Bacon and seconded by Mr. John Morris that these constituted a true record of the meeting. The minutes were accepted unanimously
- 3 Matters Arising**
There were no matters arising not dealt with elsewhere.
- 4 Chairman's Report**
 - 4.1 Post Christmas Lunch - 17th February 2012, organised by Jan van de Pol
We met at Tottington Manor in Edburton and had excellent food. A great social occasion though it rained!!
 - 4.2 Film Show – Friday, 17th February 2012, organised by Amy Coke
41 members and guests attended the event held at the Sussex County Cricket Ground. Thanks to Amy Coke for organising it and especially to David Smart for selecting films of section events to show us.
 - 4.3 Spring Opener – Country Pub Lunch – Sunday, 15th April 2012, organised by Amy Coke.
This is a popular event and there was a good turnout of veteran, vintage and modern cars. Members were not deterred by the weather, which was very cold! An enjoyable day.
 - 4.4 Main Event – Flackley Ash, Rye – 18/19/20 May 2012, organised by Dan Lehmann and Michael Sapsford.
This was our second visit to the Flackley Ash Hotel. Thanks to Dan Lehmann and Michael Sapsford for the lovely routes. We were also supported by Hagerty Insurance, who sponsored coffee stops. Thanks to Denis Bass and the team of marshals from Imperial College. It was enjoyed by everyone, other than those who were attending a special wedding. (Amy Clark married Tim Coke)
 - 4.5 Best of West Kent – Wednesday, 25th July 2012, organised by David Locket and Graham Pilmore-Bedford
This is always a very popular event. It was good to see Prince Michael of Kent, Patron of the VCC, attending, driving RAC 1.
 - 4.6 Ashdown Amble – Wednesday, 15th August 2012, organised by Allan White and Phil Johnson.
25 cars attended and drove around the lanes of the forest. Thanks to Allan White, who also sponsored the event, and Phil Johnson.

- 4.7 Pimms and Paella – Sunday, 12th August, 2012, organised by Chris Loder
This had been re-arranged from earlier in the summer, as the field had been waterlogged. The day was warm and sunny. The event was well attended. All the food was eaten but there was Pimms still available at the end! Tim and Amy Coke were thanked for their help in organising the driving tests and Chris Loder for organising support by the Southwater Dabblers and their boats on the pond.
- 4.8 Weekend in Dieppe, 1st – 5th September, 2012, organised by Ann Wait
This year the Retro was a three-day event to commemorate the third Grand Prix held in 1912. A small but elite group attended and the French made sure we were all spoiled with good routes and good food.
- 4.9 Quiz Night – 26th October 2012, organised by Henry Smith.
This was cancelled owing to lack of support.
- 4.10 Annual General Meeting – Sunday, 25th November, 2012, now being held at the Reigate Manor Hotel
The opinion on the venue was sought from the membership
- 4.11 Post Christmas Lunch – Wednesday, 28th December 2012.
This will be the final event in our calendar and will be held at The Grasshopper Inn, Westerham, Kent. We hope to see many members there.
- 4.12 Natter and Noggins
This is held on the first Tuesday of each month at alternating venues, Staplefield and The Bolney Stage. 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.

5 Secretary's Report

Preview of Events for 2013

The Secretary reported on the events planned for 2013, but reminded members of the remaining event this year on Wednesday, 28th December: the Post Christmas Lunch, organised by Denis Bass. 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.

- 5.1 **Night at the Dogs – Saturday, 16th February 2013**, organised by Paul Noon and Denis Bass
We have held this event a couple of times before and it has been a popular social evening. The entertainment of watching the races is enjoyable, accompanied by good food.
- 5.2 **Spring Opener, Bolney Stage – Sunday, 21st April 2013**, organised by Amy Coke
The Spring Opener is always a popular event and we are visiting the Bolney Stage, once on the busy A23 but now on a quiet side road behind the dual carriageway. It has proved a popular venue for the Noggin and Natter evenings.
- 5.3 **Main Event, 31st May/ 1st/2nd June, 2013** – Hickstead Hotel, Hickstead, organised by Denis Bass and Paul Noon
The hotel is centrally situated for the section. There is ample parking for cars, modern cars and trailers. Dan Lehmann has offered to plan the routes for us. On Friday evening we will eat at the hotel but on Saturday we will be taken in vintage coaches for a night out in Brighton, which Paul Noon is organising. Forms are available and a £25 deposit is requested to book your place at this event.
- 5.4 **Pimms, Paella and Picnic, Sunday, 8th July, 2013** - by kind invitation of Chris and Tania Loder
Once again, following the success of the event last year, we have been invited to the home of Christopher and Tania Loder. We will also be joined by the Southwater Dabblers with their model boats. There will be a short 'poddle' round the local lanes followed by food and games.
- 5.5 **Best of West Kent, Wednesday 24th July, 2013** - organised by Graham Pilmore Bedford, John Kemsley and Michael Thompson
Graham Pilmore Bedford expressed his and David Locket's thanks to all who entered last year. They had tried to limit entries to 80 but ended up with 94. David has reluctantly decided for health reasons that he can no longer be involved with the running of future Best of West Kent events. However both he and Graham would like it to continue with the same format and have recruited two well-known members to help next year, John Kemsley and Michael Thompson. Both live within 5 miles of the event so have useful local knowledge, and John has plenty of experience organising rallies with Renault Freres and is good with computers. The date for next year is the 24th July and, as usual, entry forms will be emailed early May. Again, we will try to limit entries to 80 to avoid congestion. John has set up a dedicated email address and this is on the flier he has distributed. If you do not receive an entry form please request one on this address. Postal entry forms will be available and should be requested from Michael by phone. They look forward to seeing you all next year.

- 5.6 **Ashdown Amble, Wednesday 14th August, 2013** – organised by Allan White, Phil Johnston and Guy Middleton
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 Guy Middleton for offering to organise this event again.
- 5.7 **AGM, Sunday 24th November, 2013** Venue to be confirmed
- 5.8 **Post-Christmas Lunch, 28th December, 2013** Venue to be confirmed.
- 5.9 **Noggins and Natters** will continue as usual. The next one, on the first Tuesday of December will be held at Chiddingly.
- 5.10 **2014**

The committee is hoping to arrange a five-day event near to Dieppe from 19th May – 23rd May 2014. It will be based at the Hotel de la Terrace, in Varengeville sur Mer, a 15-minute drive from Dieppe. There are only 21 rooms available so this will limit the number of entrants. We aim to leave Newhaven on Monday morning, leaving modern cars and trailers at the port. We will drive to Varengeville. There will be three days touring the coast and countryside of the area and a free day on the Friday before catching the evening boat back to Newhaven. The event is only in the first stage of planning and we need to know if the interest justifies the planning. You are only asked to register an interest in the event at this stage. If there are enough people wishing to come then we will go ahead with the planning and keep those members informed of progress.

6 Treasurer's Report

6.1 Veteran Car Company Ltd, South East Section, Accounts

Henry Smith had sent apologies as he would be out of the country on business.

David Budgeon, Section Auditor gave the report. He had separated the costs of the AGM between the Club (the social aspects) and the Company (administrative aspects) accounts. The costs of the website have been split in a similar way. There is a donation to the club of £200 as our contribution to the cost of the new bookshelves at Jessamine Court. Income and expenditure show that we have maintained a balance from last year. There were no questions from the floor.

7 Adoption of Audited Accounts

On the proposal of John Morris, seconded by David Locket, it was agreed unanimously that these accounts be adopted.

8 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 David Locket and carried unanimously.

9 Section Representative on the Events Committee and Board of Directors.

The Chairman explained that this position is vacant and asked for a volunteer from the Section to take on the position.

10 Any Other Business

10.1 Section Scribe

Ron Clark explained we have no Scribe at present on the committee. There is no-one on the committee who can take on this role and he appealed for a volunteer from the membership. If there is no scribe then there will be no Scribe notes in the Gazette, a shame for the Section

10.2 Main Event

Rodney de Little asked that a shorter route should be available on the Main Event as his daughter would be unable to complete the same distance as the more powerful cars. It was explained that there had been two routes last year and the smallest cars had been able to complete the short routes with no problem.

10.3 Thanks

John Morris thanked the committee for all their hard work that allowed members to enjoy their motor cars. He thanked David Locket and Graham Pilmore Bedford for the organisation of the Best of West Kent and the outgoing chairman for his work over the previous two years.

10.4 AA Commemoration Run

Nick Bacon asked Denis Bass if the AA would be organising the Commemoration Run in April next year. Denis Bass thanked him for his question and confirmed this is planned and will be supporting the Combat Stress charity. It is a growing event, though not organised by the VCC. It will start at Sevenoaks at 9:00am and finish on the seafront in Hastings where vehicles will be displayed. It commemorates the original 1909 first Guards Run from London to Hastings and now comprises old military vehicles and veteran cars. Derek Grossmark said he had completed the first rerun in 1979. They drove from London to Brighton and he had as passengers four guardsman complete with capes. It had been a great event.

10.5 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 agreed and reported 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.

10.6 AA London to Hastings Commemorative Guards Run

Denis Bass announced that this event will be run again on 1st 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.

10.7 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 own grandson is a member and receives his own Gazette and information from the club. The couple expressed an interest for their 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 congratulated Chris Loder on being the incoming chairman of the section.

He thanked the section for the Best of West Kent event. This had been excellent Public Relations especially as our Club Patron, Prince Michael of Kent had joined us with RAC 1. There had also been an event at Ashwell to which a number of other clubs with similar interests had been invited and this had been a great success in forging links.

On taking over the chairmanship of the Executive Committee he had identified four important aspects to be dealt with.

- 1 **Administration.** He was pleased to say that the Administration is now working well with Stephen Curry in the role of Office Manager, as well as looking after the Club day to day accounts. This aspect is now running efficiently.
- 2 **Finances** He was pleased to report that the problems with funding are behind us and the club now has a surplus in the bank. The important issues had been addressed. However, the Club really needs 2000 members for a reliable income. At the moment membership stands at 1300, so we need to attract more new members.
- 3 **Events** First the London to Brighton Run. We have to remember that the event is owned by the RAC. The previous year they had organised a separate Sunday evening Gala Dinner. However, this year the clubs had decided to hold a joint dinner, which was very successful. Both the Friday evening meal and the dinner at the RAC on Saturday evening had been oversubscribed and were very well received. The car delivery service, a new venture, was not fully subscribed but it went well and we hope there will be more entrants taking it up next year.

The Events Committee is hoping to organise a premier event each year. This year Daniel Ward organised the 16 day John o' Groats/Ireland/Wales event and has changed the planned date. It now clashes with the South East Main Event but Bernard felt that we would not be affected. There are now eight sections holding main events plus the Creepy Crawly and the Snail Trail. It is becoming more difficult to spread out these events across the season.

In 2014 Nick Pellett is organising an event to commemorate the start of World War 1. For this, the VCC has been accepted by the government as a main member for the organisation of events. It is anticipated that we will eventually organise an event in Europe, but 2015 should see us in Ireland.

- 4 **Dating** Toby Ward now has this established and it is running well. Bernard Williamson

thanked Richard Eastmead for his role on the committee. The RAC will now only accept cars dated by the club for the London to Brighton Run. The Club has acquired an X-ray Spectrometer. This enables members of the Dating Committee to date metals used on the cars accurately and will enable the club to identify replicas. This has been paid for by donation and we have almost raised the full amount. The use of the spectrometer will give credibility to the DAC, especially in disputed dates. The backlog of cars to be dated is gradually being overcome but it will take time.

- 5 The sections are the most important part of the club as they organise opportunities to use our cars. Sections put on excellent events over the year. One of the things he would like to see happen is for the profile of the club to be lifted 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 2013 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. 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 to 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.

Members have spoken about the cost of events and this can affect the level of entries. Fuel now costs £6 a gallon so it is a major cost to travel any distance to an event. Perhaps we should be looking to organise more day events such as picnics.

The Irish Section has applied to become a full section member and the decision will be taken at the AGM next year. It is a very active section.

The South East Section is in urgent need of a Section Representative. The views of the sections are needed to get consistent management of projects and advise what we want and where we are going. The DAC and the Events committee also need our input.

He felt that morale was better. The Club is about enjoying our cars.

The Chairman then invited questions from the floor.

Ron Clark asked him to speak about our stand at the Classic Car Show at the NEC. He was informed that it was well attended and won the award for the Best Club Stand again. He thanked Ron Clark for organising it and took the opportunity to thank the South East Section for their help in organising the marquee at Beaulieu.

Derek Grossmark asked if the Club had contacted FIFA about the Headquarters' Event to have it recognised as an official international event. It would attract a wider number of international entrants if it was classified as an A or B event. Bernard said this had not yet been done but Nick Pellett and Stephen Curry would be looking into it.

Rodney de Little asked how cars could enter the London to Brighton Run if they were still waiting to be dated. He had been waiting since before the reorganisation of the DAC for his tricycle to be dated. Bernard said he recognised there is a long backlog but 2 year passports would be available.

Michael Kent said that his Barre had just been submitted for dating. He recognised that it is a long drawn out process as the DAC are volunteers but this does affect the value of the car.

Nicholas Bacon asked about the ownership of the Dating Certificates when issued. He believed the Club rules state that they remain the property of the club. He was reassured that the certificates belong with the car.

There being no further questions, Chris Loder asked Sue Clark to present the trophies. After this he closed the meeting at 1.04pm