

# VETERAN CAR COMPANY Ltd



## SOUTH EAST SECTION

**The Minutes of the eleventh 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, 24th November 2013.**

**Chairman: Chris Loder  
Treasurer: David Gibbins  
Secretary: Ann Wait**

**Committee Members:** Sharon Bass, Denis Bass, Ron Clark, Mike Mutters, Paul Noon.

### **73 Members and their guests attended the Meeting**

The Chairman opened the meeting at 12:11pm.

#### **1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from 35 members, as listed for the Veteran Car Club of Great Britain, South East Section, AGM held immediately before.

#### **2 Minutes of the Tenth Annual General Meeting held at the Hickstead Hotel, Hickstead, on Sunday 25th November 2012**

The Minutes of the Meeting had been circulated at this meeting, by email newsletter and on the section website. It was proposed by John Morris and seconded by Graham Pilmore Bedford 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 – Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> December 2012, organised by Denis Bass  
We met at The Grasshopper, Westerham and it was enjoyed by all. Interestingly, we planned the meal in the east of the section, hoping to encourage more members from that area to attend, but only four attended.
- 4.2 Night at the Dogs – Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2013, organised by Paul Noon and Denis Bass  
21 members and guests attended the event held at the Hove Greyhound Stadium. A couple of our members had a winning streak but the rest of us left a little lighter in the pocket.
- 4.3 Spring Opener – Country Pub Lunch – Sunday, 21st April 2013, organised by Chris Loder.  
This is a popular event and there was a good turnout of veteran, vintage and modern cars. The Bolney Stage was a good venue and it was an enjoyable day.
- 4.4 Main Event – Hickstead Hotel, Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May to Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2013 – organised by Denis Bass  
This was organised by Denis and Sharon Bass with support from Paul Noon. Thanks to Dan Lehmann for the lovely routes to Shoreham Airport on Saturday and Sheffield Park on Sunday. We were also generously supported by Bonhams, who undertook all the printing for the weekend. The event was enjoyed by everyone who attended.
- 4.5 Best of West Kent – Wednesday, 24th July 2013, organised by John Kemsley, Michael Thompson and Graham Pilmore Bedford  
This is always a very popular event. The chairman had an interesting ride in the back of Malcolm Barber's Cadillac. Bonhams generously supported this event as well.

- 4.6 Ashdown Amble – Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> August 2013, organised by Guy Middleton.  
This was Guy's first event and it went very well. It was well attended with about 40 cars. It was nice to repeat one of the routes planned by Brian Middleton when he ran the event. Many thanks to Guy and to his family, who were all involved in the planning.
- 4.7 Picnic at the home of Michael and Bridget Doughty – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2013  
We were greeted as we arrived with a glass of wine and treated to Bridget's cakes later in the day. Everyone who attended appreciated the lovely views and were reluctant to leave.
- 4.8 Pimms and Paella – Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2013, organised by Chris Loder  
This had been re-arranged from earlier in the summer, as the weather had been poor. Fortunately, the day was warm and sunny. The event was popular and 60+ people attended, all with a good appetite. Mark Eichner was thanked for his help in organising the driving tests and Julien Slade for supporting Tania with the catering and serving.
- 4.9 Post Christmas Lunch – Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> December 2013.  
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.
- 4.10 Natter and Noggin  
This is held on the first Tuesday of each month at alternating venues, The Five Bells Chiddingly 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 thanked David Ralph for his hard work over the year as Section Scribe. He is doing a great job and we even had three pages of notes in one Gazette.  
When the Notice for the AGM was sent out we included a request to email Chris so that he could check his list for the newsletters. Only one person responded. The Chairman asked everyone to send him an email so that we can ensure that everyone is receiving the information.  
The Chairman concluded by thanking everyone for their help and for their support over the year.

## 5 **Secretary's Report** **Preview of Events for 2014**

- The Secretary reported on the events planned for 2014, but reminded members of the remaining event of the year to be held on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> December: the Post Christmas Lunch, organised by Denis Bass. He announced that it will cost £25 per person for the lunch. We already have 24 places booked. Arrival is from midday and we look forward to seeing members and friends there. Please complete the form and return it, with your cheque, as soon as possible.
- 5.1 **Film Show – Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2014**, organised by Ann Wait and David Smart  
There will be a supper of sausage and mash followed by films. David Smart told members that he had bought a video camera from John Lawson in the early 80s and had been filming ever since. He has planned to show films of events of interest to present members and perhaps something to bring back memories.
- 5.2 **Spring Opener, Bolney Stage - Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2014**, organised by Chris Loder  
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. There was a problem in selecting the date as there is so much happening during the month, including Easter. This is the provisional date and will be confirmed as soon as possible.
- 5.3 **Wander through Normandy - Mon 19<sup>th</sup> May –Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2014**, organised by Ann Wait  
The hotel is now fully booked and we are operating a reserve list. John and Gillian Newens are planning the routes for the three days. It will not be hard motoring and we hope people will take time to stop off for coffees etc en route and to take in the countryside as they pass through.
- 5.4 **Visit to Polesden Lacey – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2014**, organised by Paul Noon  
The morning will begin at Paul Noon's home with coffee and bacon butties. There will be a short run through the country lanes to Polesden Lacey, a National Trust property. It is Father's Day and there are many other activities planned there that we can join in.
- 5.5 **Main Event, Friday 4<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2014**– The Royal Hotel, Ventnor, organised by Paul Noon  
The hotel is family run and we have used it before. The event was so popular that we have been asked to return there for another Main Event. The Isle of Wight is perfect for our cars. A visit to Osborne house and the Isle of Wight Steam Railway is planned. There will be the option of staying on for a further night at the same price. Hotel rooms are limited and the list is filling fast.
- 5.6 **Best of West Kent, Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2014** - organised by John Kemsley, Michael Thompson and Graham Pilmore Bedford

Graham Pilmore Bedford Told the meeting that Bonhams would be sponsoring the event again this year. John Kemsley has set up a new website this year, as shown on the fliers distributed by Michael Thompson. Entry forms will be sent out by email mid-May, or by post to those who do not have this facility. If you are not on the present list, please send your details in so that you are assured of receiving the information.

- 5.7 Pimms and Picnic, Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2014** - 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. However, we would like to give Tania a year off so you are invited to bring your own picnic. There will be driving tests as usual and we are aiming to invite other like minded clubs.
- 5.8 Ashdown Amble, Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August, 2014** – organised by Guy Middleton  
The event will follow the same format as before, but Guy will plan the route to make sure that a difficult hill is not involved. We aim to increase the number of cars. Please encourage your friends to join us. Thanks to Guy Middleton for offering to organise this event again.
- 5.9 AGM, Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2014** Venue to be confirmed
- 5.10 Post-Christmas Lunch, Sunday 28th December, 2014** Venue to be confirmed.
- 5.11 Noggin and Natters** will continue as usual. The next one, on the first Tuesday of December will be held at Chiddingly.

## **6 Treasurer's Report**

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

David Gibbins reported that the income and costs for the Main Event were significantly higher than last year. This is because the section had sold a complete package, including hotel costs. We will revert to participants paying their own hotel costs next year.

The provision we had made for VAT prior to this year will not apply as we can be classed as tour organisers and will have no VAT to pay. HMRC seems to be satisfied with this but, if the problem does arise we will need to deal with it. However, the reserved sum of £327 is now written back into our account. There is a small surplus to carry forward. The carry forward from the Bonhams sponsorship is included in this sum and is not shown separately.

## **7 Adoption of Audited Accounts**

On the proposal of Richard Eastmead, seconded by Brian Cumming, 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 John Morris and carried unanimously.

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

The Committee proposed Mike Mutters for this office. It was seconded by John Wait and passed unanimously.

## **10 London to Brighton Run 2014 (see agenda for details.)**

**10.1** Michael Bradbrook made further comments to his letter. He offered the details of a 60 mile run organized the week before by BEN. The cost of £30 included dinner. How can they do this when Goose were charging over 10 times that for early entry?

**10.2/10.3** Alan Hancock also added to his letter and note. He felt that the value of the pack sent out, the medal etc. was approximately £2. Harrods provided the coffee at Crawley and Bonhams the Chili at the end of the run. He drew attention to the costs of other similar runs.

Pioneer Run                   £25.50

Jaguar Run                   £25

HCV Run                   £10

Mini Run                   £30

Land Rover Run           £30

If these clubs can keep their expenses in line why cannot Goose?

When he was on the reserve list in previous years, he had joined the run at no cost! Most cars are VCC cars so why doesn't the club organise it?

- 10.4** Clive Boothman, independent member of the Steering Group and the only South East Section member on it, responded. He was not there to be an apologist for the RAC but he would try and answer any questions as well as pass on the feelings of the Section to the next Steering Group meeting.

The cost of entry had been kept down in the recent years, although the cost of organizing the event had risen significantly. He could understand why members questioned how the revenue from sponsors and participants was spent. He agreed that we need more transparency to see these costs. Without this information it is hard to make a judgment about whether the money is well spent. The RAC and Goose have been rather shy about giving this information. However, it is known that participants' entry fees cover only about half the costs with sponsorship the other half.

#### Questions

Why isn't it run just for our benefit?

If it were, then the event wouldn't attract sponsors.

Why do we need the sponsors?

Because they make a very significant contribution to the costs of the Run, whilst acknowledging that they need promotion and publicity in return for their involvement.

There are essential expenses, e.g. the cost of marshalls, policing, Hyde Park and Madeira Drive etc. Without sponsorship some of these would not occur.

There would be a meeting of the Steering Group the following week and he would be willing to take forward the feeling from the AGM.

#### **10.3** Questions from the floor

**Michael Bradbrook** asked if Bonhams will continue with their sponsorship in the future.

**Clive Boothman** replied that they have agreed to sponsor the event for a further 3 years. There is more concern about the continuing sponsorship from Tindle Newspapers as Sir Ray is advancing in years. Goose has, however, succeeded in attracting further sponsorship this year from Hattingley Valley vineyards, Harrods and Honda Redhill. Goose continues actively to seek more sponsors.

**Robert Mansfield** asked for comments on the costs of Regent Street. He also noted that his entry number was usually about 320. This year it was 205, demonstrating that the early cars, so significant for the event, were missing. The overall numbers were about 100 cars fewer.

**Clive Boothman** replied that, despite the lower entry numbers, the revenue from participants was slightly higher through the higher entry fee; costs were a little lower due to the lower number of entries. Everyone wants to see the numbers go up.

The Regent Street Motor Show (RSMS) is considered a separate event by the RAC. It is not subsidised by other weekend events. There had been some debate as to whether it would be held at all this year as the Future Cars Challenge aspect did not occur, so the RAC/MSA sponsorship of £30,000 was lost. However, the Steering Group thought that participants would see this negatively and encouraged the RAC to proceed with the RSMS even if some costs needed to be cut. As it happened, following the decision to go ahead with this, more sponsorship arrived from the modern cars that were shown and increased sponsorship from the Regent Street Traders Association. It seems to be all right for next year. The RAC sees it as a stand-alone event that should run without loss.

**John Wilkins** asked if the £50,000 - £60,000 loss quoted by Michael Bradbrook was accurate and also how much value there is in the event. He asked how many of the cars this year were foreign owned compared to British owned? Will cars become too valuable to take part in the run?

**Clive Boothman** reiterated that, although he did not have final numbers from the organisers, this loss was incorrect and participant revenue was some £15,000 higher than last year. He did not have the figures for overseas entries but it might be a reasonable assumption that the entry fee was a smaller component of the overall costs for an overseas entrant. [Analysis since the meeting has shown that

overseas entries in fact remained about the same in proportional terms in 2013 compared to 2012 at about one sixth of total entries]

**Tam Large** gave an impassioned speech pointing out that, as many other enthusiasts, he loves the London to Brighton Run. It is the greatest and most historic car run in the world. However, with increasing costs, will it become a parade of rich men's cars rather than one for the true enthusiasts? It is vital that it should continue for both the old car movement and for the enthusiasts of the event.

**Michael Bradbrook** noted that there were 213 single cylinder cars and 112 twins, 2 three cylinder, 55 four cylinder cars and a couple of electric cars there.

**Ron Clark** noted that many of the participants are not members of the VCC.

**David Greaves** said that there is a value attached to pre-1905 cars. If there were no run then depreciation would be greater than the increased costs for the event.

**Paul Noon** reminded everyone that many cars have been with the same family for many years and owners wish to keep their cars in the family. We look on ourselves as custodians.

**Hazel Grossmark** reported that the high fees were a deterrent for younger people. Her grandsons had found it too expensive to participate this year.

**David Ralph** said that we need to see the accounts so that we can gain an understanding of the need to charge this high fee. Many would enter if they had this knowledge. We need to keep the numbers up to attract the sponsors.

- 11 Any Other Business**
- 11.1 Bernard Williamson, Chairman of the Veteran Car Club of Great Britain, spoke from the floor.** He thanked everyone for attending the AGM, saying that we had more apologies than some sections have members!

The Club now had 1354 members.

The number of events overall is increasing every year. There are 26 events during the year across the club so there is a vast choice for members. The South East has 10 of these, a number that has increased by two after this meeting.

He didn't enter the London to Brighton because of the cost and also because he got so wet the year before. The VCC try to keep their costs down for their weekend events.

The Headquarters Celtic event this year had been a great success. It had cost £3,500 for 21 days.

He welcomed Clive Boothman as the new Treasurer for the Club. This would mean that the accounts would be presented on a more regular basis.

Beaulieu – The club keeps its profile at this event thanks to John Blackford and his team. It is hoped to expand the club presence there.

NEC Classic Car Show – The club has a stand there and a number of cars will be displayed. The public love to see them and are on our side.

Nick Pellet's World War 1 event has proved very popular and is oversubscribed.

2015/2016 – Some events are already planned for the next two years.

Subscriptions - We have an excellent headquarters and are fortunate that we have revenue from other sources, e.g. Dating. The backlog is gradually being caught up. The volunteers put in hours of work at their own expense. The Library is excellent and we thank everyone for their efforts and for giving

their time freely.

Hagerty – We are paid a percentage of the business that comes to them through the club, so please make sure that you inform them that you are a club member. The Club also has a good insurance package from them.

Penrite Oils – we are offered these at a discounted price.

Carcoons – These will be offered shortly through the Club Shop and we will receive a discount.

London to Brighton – He had gathered how much it concerned South East Section members. Some enthusiasts had not helped the cause. Cars have been rescued at great expense. One lady asked the club to provide lunch and champagne on a coach for her mother, regardless of the cost.

David Smart asked if Bernard had had similar vibes from other sections.

Bernard replied that he had. It is a concern to us all. He knows that Clive Boothman will try to sort out the figures we ask for. However, we are up against some very wealthy people who have no need to consider the costs involved. It had cost him £750 over the weekend just to come down and follow the event. It is a crisis for young people. How can we help them? The club is looking at the rates of insurance for them.

### **11.2 Raffle**

Denis Bass reported that the South East Section had raised £625 for the raffle. In total £2,275 had been raised. After expenses, Headquarters will receive £650. This is a good profit for the first year that he has run it. He will be going to Ashwell soon to discuss next year's raffle.

**11.3 John Morris** thanked all the members of the committee for their hard work on behalf of the section

**11.5 Ann Wait** thanked everyone for coming to the meeting

Trophies were presented by Mrs Sue Clark.

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 1.20pm.