

VETERAN CAR COMPANY Ltd



SOUTH EAST SECTION

**The Minutes of the Thirteenth Annual General Meeting
of Veteran Car Company Ltd., South East Section
held at Hurtwood Park Polo and Country Club, Ewhurst Green, Horsham
on Sunday, 22nd November 2015.**

Chairman: Denis Bass
Vice Chairman: Chris Loder
Treasurer: David Gibbins
Secretary: Ann Wait

Committee Members: Sharon Bass, Cressida de Little, Mark Eichner, Mike Mutters.

80 Members and their guests attended the Meeting

Denis Bass opened the meeting at 11:25am.

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from 34 members, as listed for the Veteran Car Club of Great Britain, South East Section, AGM held immediately before.

2 Minutes of the Twelfth Annual General Meeting held at the Hurtwood Park Polo and Country Club Ewhurst Green, Horsham on Sunday 23rd November 2014

The Minutes of the Meeting had been circulated by email and on the section website. It was proposed by Adrian Goding and seconded by Richard Eastmead 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

My report will summarise the events we held during the past year.

The first meet to acknowledge is the Noggins and Natters, or otherwise an excuse for a beer and a chat at either the Bolney Stage or the Yew Tree at Chalvington. The meetings are monthly; we meet on the first Tuesday of each month, alternating each month between Bolney and Chalvington. Watch the website for the dates and do come along for a chat.

Our first event this year was the annual Spring Opener that was organised by Chris Loder, it was held at the Bolney Stage and coincided as planned with the national 'Drive it day'. The event attracted quite a few Veteran, vintage and modern cars.

May this year was the chosen month for our Main Event, this time a five-day event in the beautiful French town of Montreuil in the Pas de Calais region of France. This event was organised by yours truly and my wife Sharon. We had a final number of 44 attending; sadly Dean and Collette Ash had to withdraw due to illness at the last minute. I can report however that everyone attending enjoyed their visit immensely, with some superb feedback on the hotel and the beautiful French countryside. So much so, watch this space for 2017!!

Our next organised event was the Pimms and Picnic at Chris Loder's in Lower Beeding, the weather was kind to us and we enjoyed Chris's driving tests, for those who were brave enough to participate and of course the Pimms flowed, which probably helped the Driving tests. Thanks must go to Tania and Chris for their hospitality and allowing the use of their home to entertain us.

The next event is the ever-popular Best of West Kent. If you haven't experienced this one-day event, you really must do it. Thanks especially to John Kemsley, Michael Thompson and Graham Pilmore Bedford for making it happen, long may it continue.

In August we had the Ashdown Amble, a one-day event based on Ashdown Forest using the Barnsgate Manor as our venue. A very enjoyable day thanks to Guy Middleton for supporting this event and providing the coffee stop at Ardingly.

Many of us have a busy November with the Brighton Run; this year was no exception for Ann and John Wait. It was a team effort that included David Gibbins. The result was that Ann and John successfully completed the Run to Brighton in their CDO, well done to them and to David for his technical support, but now that brings us to today the final meeting for this year. However, to finish, by way of explanation, for a number of years we have held a Post-Christmas lunch on 28 December, as a committee following varying degrees of feedback and diminishing numbers we decided to test a fresh approach, so now we are moving this event to February next year and giving the event a new title, it will be our "Winter Warmer". Details of this event and the entire 2016 programme are in your information flyers, so please come along and support us on February 7th, at The Hickstead Hotel where David Smart will be showing some classic film archive.

5 Secretary's Report

Preview of Events for 2016

- 5.1 Coach trip to Holland: 15th – 18th April, 2016** organised by Denis Bass
Denis Bass explained that it would all be down to numbers. The final organisation will be according to numbers coming. It might be a 17-seater minibus or, if numbers justify, a larger coach. Pick up will probably be at Hickstead, through the tunnel to Belgium. We will visit the bulbfields and spend a day at the Louwmann Museum. The cost will be approximately £220 per person, excluding dinners. Please put your name down as soon as possible so that we can organise (or not) the transport.
- 5.2 Winter Warmer and Film Show: Sunday 7th February, 2016** organised by Denis Bass and David Smart
This will replace the Post Christmas lunch and incorporate the Film show. There will be a set lunch at the Hickstead Hotel, followed by David Smart showing some of his films, in particular the Meander through Normandy, held in 2013.
- 5.3 Spring Opener, Bolney Stage: Sunday 24th April 2016**, organised by Denis Bass
Next year it will be held at the Bolney Stage as before. We are hoping to include a short route round the area, which Cressida is planning. We are also inviting veteran motorcycles to join us, hoping to interest them in our cars. This year there will be a £10 charge for each car taking part in the drive. This will be £5 for the section and £5 for Age Concern, (Hassocks Day Centre) our chosen charity for the next two years.
- 5.4 Main Event, Maidstone Holiday Inn, Wrotham Heath: Thurs 19th May – Mon 23rd May 2016**, organised by Denis and Sharon Bass with Peter and Wendy Boulding
There is plenty to do in the area and the hotel has all the facilities we require. We realise that travelling on Friday can be very busy so we have planned to arrive on Thursday. We hope to visit the Shepherd and Neame brewery and a coach has been organised to take us there. On Friday we plan to visit Fairbourne Carriages for coffee then drive to Sissinghurst Castle for lunch. On Saturday we will be joining the local Morgan Club for breakfast at the local Morgan Dealership. There will then be a route for both clubs to a local pub for lunch and hopefully some Morgan members will ride on our cars and vice versa. Sunday is still being planned, but on Monday there will be a short route to a lunch stop and return for people to leave in the afternoon. We are aware that not everyone will be able or want to do a long rally in England and it will be possible to join us for the days you choose. Thanks to Peter and Wendy Boulding for all their help on the route and venue planning.
- 5.5 Teddy Bears Picnic, Devonia Farm, Ripley: Sunday, 26th June, 2016** - by kind invitation of Emil and Diane Snapper
Emil and Diane have not attended many club events, as there has been nothing suitable for the family. They have offered their farm and home for a Teddy Bears Picnic. This will be a low cost event, with things for the children to play on plus a field for driving tests. There is also the possibility of a short route. There will be plenty to do for everyone and we hope that we will see families there.
- 5.6 Best of West Kent: Wednesday, 27th July 2016** - organised by John Kemsley, Michael Thompson and Graham Pilmore Bedford
This will follow a similar route to previous years.
- 5.7 Ashdown Amble: Wednesday 17th August 2016** – organised by Denis Bass
A friendly event with good routes around the forest. Guy Middleton has had to stand down from the organisation due to his business commitments. We will start as usual at Barnsgate Manor, drive around the Ashdown Forest, including a stop for coffee, and return to Barnsgate for lunch
- 5.8 AGM: Sunday 27th November, 2016** Venue to be confirmed
- 5.9 Noggin and Natters** will continue as usual. We look forward to seeing more people there. The next

one, on the first Tuesday of December will be held at The Yew Tree, Chalvington

5.10 Summer Saunter tba

At some point in the summer we hope to organise a drive round the area of Hurtwood Park and return for lunch. It will be along the lines of the Ashdown Amble and the Best of West Kent but at the weekend rather than mid-week.

6 Treasurer's Report

6.1 Veteran Car Company Ltd, South East Section, Accounts

David Budgeon took this item. He reported that these accounts reflected the driving events that are organised under the company for insurance and liability purposes. There was one event fewer in 2015 than in 2014 and the Main Event did not include accommodation costs. So the turnover is lower, reflecting that both income and expenditure are down on last year. The profits are at about the same level as last year.

There were no questions on the accounts. Denis thanked David Gibbins in his absence for his work on the accounts throughout the year.

7 Adoption of Audited Accounts

On the proposal of Richard Eastmead, seconded by Michael Sapsford, 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 Clive Boothman 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 Adrian Goding and passed unanimously.

10 Designation of South East Section trophies

A paper was circulated on the proposed changes to the award of section trophies. It has become increasingly difficult to award them so we hope to have the changes passed at the meeting for awarding next year.

Richard Eastmead pointed out that the first four trophies are awarded for much the same thing. He proposed that the first two should be awarded for **all** South East Section events and the second two for **any** Section event.

David Ralph asked why we were opening awards to all VCC members when they might not pick them up. It was pointed out that some section members did not pick their trophies up either and we hope that we might encourage other members to come to our events. We have thought about that but we want to encourage others to enjoy it.

The Percy Tulley Cup must be awarded for South East events

The Langton trophy should state it must be a designated Section event (Richard Eastmead)

The Ebbe Rowe Cup should omit nominated (Richard Eastmead)

The Derek Grossmark Napier Trophy was passed

The John Hampton Trophy will be changed to the best performance by a younger person in a South East event

The Bell and Colville Victor Ludorum Trophy. Richard Eastmead proposed that it should be awarded for the best performance on a South East Section event to encourage members.

The Crips Challenge Trophy and the Jimmy Downs Trophy will remain unchanged.

Comments from the floor were invited. It was asked if all the trophies had to be allocated. The reply was no. Not all had been awarded this year.

The new citations were read through to the meeting.

John Lawson suggested that citations should be shortened to 'a VCC member'. This was agreed.

Tim Pipkin asked that the citations for the Welham and the Mrs S F Edge trophies should read 'up to and including 1904'.

Eileen Lawson said that, by awarding trophies to members from other sections, we might encourage them to return to another event, if only to return the trophy!

David Ralph noted that the Derek Grossmark Trophy was still down as for a South East member. Should it not be also 'a VCC member'? This was agreed.

Richard Eastmead said that there is a trophy at Headquarters for a Napier car and we must be careful that the same person is not awarded the two trophies for the same citation. However, the Derek Grossmark trophy is awarded only for those participating in South East Section events so this should not occur.

On the proposal of Nicholas Bacon and seconded by John Morris the meeting unanimously agreed that the new citations should be adopted.

11 Any Other Business

11.1 VCC Raffle

Denis Bass manages the VCC Raffle, which benefits the club and the sections. This year it had raised £128 for our section. As had been agreed before, this would be donated to this year's nominated charity, The Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance. The Club had benefitted by £1100. They are looking for more and different prizes for 2016.

11.2 AA Commemoration Run

This is an annual event to commemorate the 1909 Guardsmen Run. It runs from Sevenoaks to Hastings and will be held on 3rd April next year (2016). Please speak to Denis if you are interested in taking part. Any age car is welcome, usually post 1909 but earlier cars are welcome.

11.3 Invitation to Motor Cycle Clubs.

The Executive Committee discussed inviting veteran motorcycles to events and it was left to individual sections to decide what to do. We decided to participate, as there are benefits to both sectors as it gives the public an insight into two wheel motorcycles of the era alongside the veteran and Edwardian cars. We have asked the Vintage Motor Cycle Club whether or not they will be interested and are awaiting their response.

11.4 South East Section Car List

Chris Loder had circulated a copy of a list of cars now on our website. There are a number of places on the web where one can find details of our cars and he felt it was a shame that we do not have information about the cars in the section. Most of us have already supplied these details for other events that we do. If members would be happy to have their car included on the section list he would be happy to add it on receipt of the information, preferably by email/electronically. Sue Banfield asked about the photographs and accompanying information. Chris explained that he wanted photos of the car only (square format preferred) and he would not be disclosing any information about the owners of the cars. There are a number of fields on the form but any area left blank will not show up as blank on the list. The field would just be omitted.

11.5 Thanks

John Morris thanked the Chairman, Secretary and the committee for all their hard work on behalf of the section.

11.6 Ron Clark

Ron Clark explained how he had become involved with the club when he had met Sue. He first met Derek when he was invited to her home and saw the cars in the garages. When he was about 22 Derek suggested that he might become involved with the VCC. A lot of people present had been around at the time and given him huge support. Jimmy Downs took Ron under his wing and taught him how to put a route together and the essential parts of organising an event, such as going out the day before a run with a pair of shears to cut back hedges that had grown over a sign and obscured it. Over the years there have been good times and some not so good times but he thanked everyone for their friendship and support. Denis thanked Ron for his work and recognised how difficult it was bringing his present association with the committee to an end.

11.7 Adrian Goding, Chairman of the Veteran Car Club

Adrian opened by bringing good wishes from the South West Section, whose AGM he had attended the day before. As a section he felt we were lucky to have a vibrant committee who had organised such a full programme for next year.

There have been a number of changes evolving from the DVLA but these do seem to have calmed down now. Stephen Curry had recently attended a meeting there and had found that the VCC will be largely untouched by the process of change. Other clubs that have been operating on the edge of their authority will not be so fortunate and some will see some of their cars removed from the road because they will be unable to pass the new tests. This year the club has assisted a host of members in getting age related numbers for their cars. Over recent years we have not done this because there have been other agencies that could be approached to help. That stopped when the DVLA announced the changes. We now understand exactly what the DVLA require of us and we are able to assist

members in getting their car registered quickly. This works well. For example Robert Hadfield had received a registration number three days after submitting his application. This is ongoing. The club will continue to monitor it. There will be a report in the Gazette but all out hard work has now paid dividends and we find that the DVLA is fairly relaxed about our cars and what they expect from us. Adrian has become more involved with the DAC to try to push the process forward. When the RAC issued the dictat that all cars needed to be dated for the VCR this caused a huge backlog for the club and the passport system could not accommodate it. Last week the DAC put forward a record number of reports that equated to 10% of the current backlog. For the South East Section Mark Eichner had his first report put forward and accepted – great kudos to him. The process takes some time. The passport system is now acceptable for the VCR and, for those who wish to have their car dated in the future the club now offers ongoing passports. This means that you can have your car dated later but use your car on the VCR during that period. There is more flexibility now and the backlog is reducing

The Club AGM is being organised this year by the South East Section. It will be in Reading. The AGM is now moving around. Last year it was organised by Wendy Moore and there were a number of new attendees present. The club does not take all the silver, only the silver that is going to be presented.

LBVCR. There were a number of changes including going back to driving through the High Street at Crawley. This was a popular move with both the onlookers and the drivers. There were 390 entries and the weather was good. Overall it was a great day. It continues on a budgetary side to be hard work. Clive Boothman and he sit on the Steering Group and this year the Royal Parks came to them two weeks before the event and said they had realised we would be on the Serpentine before dawn, so they now required the whole length floodlit at a charge of £8000. For Health and Safety they insisted on additional marshalls on surrounding roads to ensure that people parked where they were supposed to. It costs £100 for each car for the venue. The RAC and the Steering Group are looking very carefully at these costs, recognising that they are very high for entrants. However, they are trying not to undermine the special features of the event, which are The Serpentine with the mist swirling around as we set out at first light, Madeira Drive and everything that holds in people's memories. They do not want to see the event watered down from the elements that make it as special as it is. It is an ongoing process. Clive works hard on the Steering Group to keep everything balanced but it is a balancing act.

He thanked Denis again for running the raffle that benefits all the sections. Also he thanked those members of the section who strive to make Beaulieu such a success.

11.8 Questions were taken.

Nick Bacon noted that we need new members and suggested that anyone buying a car from Bonhams should be given, by them, free membership, even if this were only to receive the Gazettes for a year. Adrian agreed this could be a possibility and said he would look into it.

Jane Wilton said she had sent copies of the local Crawley papers with reports of the VCR to the committee. These were on the table for people to see.

11.9 Photographs

Ron Clark had a wide library of photographs that he had collected over the years. He had mounted many of them and these were on the table for people to see,

11.10 Club AGM

Denis Bass reminded members that the Club AGM would be held on Saturday 12th March 2016 at the Reading Moat House Hotel. He had also negotiated a favourable rate for over night stays if anyone required this. He looked forward to seeing many of the section members there.

12 Trophies were presented by Mrs Sharon Bass

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 12.41 pm.