

## Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2005 @ Gaydon

<b>Present</b>	Simon Lacey	Chairman
	Tony Vile	Treasurer
	Carol Folkard	Secretary
	Derek Smith	Editor
	Bernie Hartnett	Trackday Co-ordinator
	Pietro Abate	RO Co-ordinator
	Jeremy Blandford	Events Manager
	Christine Blandford	Deputy Events Manager
	Richard Sails	Archivist
	Alison Brown	Club Administrator

**Apologies** Ralph Dodds , Georgina Baker, Grant Crouch

### **1. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.**

Acceptance proposed by Pietro Abate. Seconded by Jeremy Blandford.

Vote Unan.

### **2. Points arising from previous minutes.**

- i. Editor stated sponsorship for a competition page could be forthcoming, therefore the possibility of a permanent competition page is being considered
- ii. The contract for Online Design was now decided & agreed upon ( further detail in Editors report)
- iii. Pietro stated that the adherence to deadlines for RO reports was improving considerably.
- iv. Simon L. had dealt with advertising for Polo event.
- v. J.&C. Blandford were satisfied that event co-ordination was running smoothly
- vi. Bernie has supplied track day organisers with advice & guidelines as required.
- vii. Further advertising of the club MBNA credit card still under investigation
- viii. Committee email addresses & home tel nos. now appearing in Sprint
- ix. An event co-ordinators meeting to be held in October.

### **3. Financial Report**

The Profit & Loss figures and Year End Accounts to be presented at the EGM were examined

Tony Vile stated that the prudence being exercised by the Directors, Treasurer & the Committee has resulted in a considerable improvement in the financial health of the club. Continued prudence would result in the balance sheet deficit being 'wiped out' by the financial year end (Sept. 2005 ) Le Mans and magazine advertising have helped with this improvement.

#### **Actions**

- i. Tony Vile requested that ideas for events need to be discussed in Sept/Oct. 2005 and a budget set for 2006
- ii. Discussions to take place with accountants Lewis Brownlee with regard to the costs of outsourcing book keeping and management accounting. The figures being quoted by them at present are felt to be too high. It may be necessary to investigate other accountancy firms.
- iii. Housekeeping expenses of committee members need to be submitted on a monthly basis in future to fall into line with current book keeping practice.
- iv. Simon Lacey to produce copy for Sprint explaining the current financial situation and Tony Vile to inform the ROs

#### 4. Chairman's Report

Simon Lacey reported the content of his meeting with Nikolai Smolenski which took place last year on Nikolai's acquisition of TVR. N.S. was not aware of the club's aims & purpose but had seen Sprint magazine. He approved of the magazine but not of the independent style of trade advertising. He stated that he would prefer a more corporate image for dealer advertising. N.S. had also met with Steve Lewis to discuss a race series and a TVR Drivers Club. Following this meeting Simon felt it prudent to put in place an application for registration of the Club's logo to protect this in the future. The registration process was then set in motion, however 2 days before the deadline for any opposition TVR registered their opposition citing 'bad faith on the part of the club' as one of their reasons. Trademark lawyers advised both sides that this reason was a serious accusation and TVR would need to provide considerable proof of 'bad faith'. During this period there have been many changes at management level at TVR, this has made it difficult to discuss this matter. The situation now is that the club has until 7<sup>th</sup> September to

- a. withdraw it's application
- b. defend the application or
- c. agree a 'cooling off/negotiation period with TVR.

Simon reported some discussions with Ian Law who had suggested that a 'licence' might be granted by TVR to the club for use of the logo. The committee felt that careful consideration would be needed of the terms and conditions of such a licence.

A proposal was put forward that Simon Lacey would attempt to negotiate a 'cooling off period with TVR to allow discussions to take place. In the event of this not being agreed to the club would defend its' application for registration of the club logo.

Proposed by Jeremy Blandford      Seconded by Richard Sails      Vote Unan.

Simon also reported that he had attended a meeting at the London showroom of TVR where discussions with Yves Oppliger & Olivier ? (TVR Merchandising Ltd) had taken place with regard to cooperation between the club and TVR, on a number of plans for future events. These discussions did not result in firm plans as all major decisions are taken by Nikolai Smolenski, who was not present at the meeting. The committee felt that until the structure of TVR management has been formalised further discussions will be limited.

#### 5. Editor's Report

Derek reported that club member, Andy Hills, has been providing excellent photographs for Sprint magazine and felt that it would be appropriate to name him 'Official Photographer to the Club'. This would enable Andy to apply for a press pass at race meets etc.

Proposer Richard Sails      Seconded Bernie Hartnett      Vote Unan.      Derek to inform Andy.

Derek also praised the efforts of Howard Bryan, who has been providing invaluable assistance with the production of the magazine. Derek and the committee felt that it would now be appropriate to appoint Howard to the post of Assistant Editor. This would provide excellent support and continuity for the future

Simon Lacey asked Derek to draw up and agree 'who does what' within the editorial team

Proposed Richard Sails      Seconded Pietro Abate      Vote Unan.

Online Design Contract. - the contract with Jon Lowey for the production of Sprint magazine is due to expire in Sept 2006. A new contract has been offered to J.L. to run for a further 2 years until Sept 2008.

J.L 's proposals of holding costs at the current level until Sept 2006 with a 7% increase at that point, held until Sept 2008 were felt to be very fair. This stability enables Jon to negotiate sensible rates with his suppliers thereby keeping costs down

## **6. RO Co-ordinators Report**

Much discussion ensued about the difficulties experienced with RO reports for Sprint. Pietro stated that considerable progress had been made in meeting editorial deadlines. However, after canvassing the ROs for their views, 4 ROs were dissatisfied with the handling of their reports. Long reports being edited and reduced in size were the concerns of those particular ROs. Derek is experiencing difficulties in trying to 'second guess' the amount of material coming in each month for the RO report section. How flexible it is possible to be with constant changes to page numbers is limited. It was suggested by committee members that Derek might need to be more prescriptive about the format of reports.

- i. Set an upper limit of 2.000 words with the possibility of the report being edited if any longer
- ii. Consideration be given to increasing the magazine size as soon as the financial situation permits

Pietro had received a number of suggestions from ROs

- i. Busy regions be given more space in Sprint
- ii. More guidance need on length & content of reports
- iii. Limiting reports may damage a region
- iv. Editing should be consistent
- v. Not enough membership focus
- vi. Feature a region per month
- vii. Agree an increase in fees to allow bigger magazine

Despite the comments however, ROs were generally satisfied with, and appreciative of Derek & Sprint

Derek and Pietro to advise ROs of the discussions and to seek a solution

## **7. Public Relations**

Ralph's written report was discussed in his absence.

Ralph had questioned the disappearance of Helplines from Sprint. Alison to look into its reinstatement.

November NEC show. – committee felt the sale of regalia to be non-viable. Club office time is better spent on recruiting. However efforts to be made to maximise the standard of display. Alison & Ralph to discuss.

The suggestion of a DVD of the Monster Meet, being produced by Richard Mayoh, to be bought by the Club to give to members at Xmas was not considered to be financially viable.

## **8. Events Report**

Jeremy reported a successful event had taken place at Rockingham with 93 cars attending.

Some discussion took place with regard to the club's public liability insurance in relation to convoys.

The insurance does not cover moving vehicles 'in any circumstance' However club officials organising convoys must try to ensure that all sensible precautions be taken to minimise the possibility of accidents.

Guards Polo Club event proving popular- to be made a permanent fixture on the club's annual calendar.

All other upcoming events reported to be progressing satisfactorily.

A meeting to be held in October to co-ordinate events for 2006. ROs to be invited to attend .

Jeremy also reported on the assistance he has been providing the club office on all matters 'IT'

The committee thanked Jeremy for this and he offered to continue with help in the future.

#### **9. Advertising Managers Report.**

Owing to Georgina's absence advertising matters to be discussed at next meeting.

#### **10. Archivist's Report**

Richard is now dealing with many queries about registration and valuation and has developed a good working relationship with the DVLA. He has also been helping John Tipler source material for his new book.

After some discussion it was suggested that James Birkby be offered the non- committee post of Valuations Officer. The rates for this service to be advertised in Sprint and on the website. Richard to action .

#### **11. Database Admin.Report**

Carried over to next meeting

#### **12. Club Office Report**

Alison requested that the direct debit details be removed from online joining form until such time as an online mandate is in place - agreed

The new database will be used when Alison and her staff feel they have had sufficient training.

Regalia catalogue to be returned to public area of the website

#### **13. Track day Report**

Bernie reported the successful conclusion to the year's track days.

Bernie will not be standing for re-election at the next AGM

#### **14. AOB.**

- i. Tony Vile to discuss with Paul Shrimpton his requests for the financing of Bristol Classic Car Show, Castle Combe Track Day and Cycle Ride to Le Mans
- ii. Simon had put in bid to ACO for Le Mans 2006 tickets. He felt the supply of coaches would not be a future option owing to problems experienced this year.
- iii. Alison requested that there be stricter booking rules for next year's event.

Meeting closed at 2 pm (suggested date for next meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> October @ Gaydon)