

March Newsletter

MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 5th FEBRUARY 2018.

In accordance with our Constitution, the 2018 Annual General Meeting was duly held on 5th. February, 2018, at the Bulls Head, Smallwood. There was an excellent turnout and the raffle made £61. The meeting opened with Andrea giving the Membership summary report. At the end of 2016 the membership stood at 86, 8 members did not renew in 2017 however we gained 11 new members during the year. AT the end of 2017 the membership stood at 89. These figures do not include honorary members, of which there are three, none of whom are current committee members.

Finance; Unfortunately Bryan, who was returning from Portugal, was unable to join us in time but copies of his report were made available to members. The report confirmed a continuing healthy overall financial position and the good news that no increase in subscriptions would be necessary.

President's Summary Report: Terry remarked that he started the year with some trepidation, following the resignation of Brian and Paul. However whilst there were some technical teething problems, e.g. unable to get the Mailing List to work for Newsletters, things carried on OK. Membership, whilst slightly down, and Finances remain stable. Monthly meetings remain well attended and we continue to run shows & social events. The new format annual BBQ went smoothly, everyone commenting how much they enjoyed the food offering from the outside caterers, so we will retain this format for the future. The year had seen the continuance of sterling support from members, the non-committee committee as Ray says: organising the raffle, organising the Christmas lunch, shows list copying, organising road runs, delivering membership renewal packs, and this makes a real contribution to the running of the club. Sadly, the year was noticeable by the number of members who had passed on, Terry has attended five funerals, at which there was always a good number of members paying their respects. This really shows that we are not just any old club but a great club, a community in its own right! However it may also suggest we need to do more to encourage younger persons to join, none of us is getting any younger!

Nominations for the Current Club Officials positions: There were no alternative nominations for the existing Committee roles so the incumbents continue in the roles. However, for the first time in memory there was a nomination received for David Kelly of Smallwood who will nominally take on the Events Secretary role and help wherever possible. This is a most welcome nomination.

Stephen Mooney proposed a vote of thanks to the existing committee and the meeting closed at 20h45.

2018 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL.

Any remaining members who have not yet renewed their subscription for 2018, are asked to complete the Renewal Form, including current vehicles, and return it with their subscription, as soon as possible. It is important that the form is completed, as it acts as a check against payments and is also, more importantly, used as our Audit for the Public Liability Insurance.

2018 CAR SHOWS LIST.

A limited number of printed copies are available on request. Many, many thanks to Bob Stelling, and his relative who was an accomplice in the affair. (Members will find the latest show list under the download tab on our website.)

“HOT POT” SOCIAL EVENT. BULLS HEAD. 11th. February, 2018.

About a dozen or so people had a good time and enjoyed good food and beverage. The last of our “winter” events will take place 18th. March, 2018, usual times, usual place **BUT SEE FOLLOWING.**

SPRING ROAD RUN. 18th. MARCH, 2018.

Weather and road conditions permitting, and thanks to Eddie Howell and George Timbey, we will be able to enjoy the first of our road runs for this year. Congregate at the Bull's Head for coffee, etc. from 10h30 on and wander off randomly and leisurely returning some 2 hours later.

CLASSIC CAR SPECTACULAR, TATTON PARK. 02/03rd JUNE, 2018.

The list for members wishing to participate from the Club Stand is open and will remain open until the April Club Night meeting. Tickets will hopefully be available for our May Club night meeting.

MARCH EVENTS

18/03/18 - Beartown Classic Car Club, Hot Pot Social, Bull's Head + Spring Road Run

23-25/03/18 - Practical Classics Restoration & Classic Car Show, The NEC, Birmingham

OTHER EVENTS.

April 01 - Motorfest, Weston Park, Shifnal, TF11 8PX

April 08 – Newark Mega Autojumble, Newark, Notts.

April 08 - Malvern Festival of Transport, Wyre Halls, Malvern WR13 6NW

April 14 - Sleaf Airfield Show, Harmer Hill, Nr. WEM, Shrops. SY4 3HE

April 14 – *****Music, Motors & Fine Food, Leek Town Centre*****

April 21/22 – Sandbach Transport Festival, Sandbach, Chesh.

April 22 – FBHVC: DRIVE IT DAY

April 22 - Ripon Spring Classic Car & Bike Show & Autojumble, Ripon Racecourse, North Yorks, HG4 1UG.

FOR SALE.

2000 Peugeot 2.0LX Saloon – Good runner, great engine, very reliable. Would need sills welding and a wheel bearing for MOT. Spares or repair. £175 ono. Contact Terry

CHANGES TO M.O.T TEST – MAY, 2018.

From 20 May 2018 the MOT test is becoming stricter in a number of areas. The changes are being brought in to adhere to a European Union directive called the EU Roadworthiness Package. There will be tighter scrutiny of diesel cars' particulate filters and faults on cars will be classed as Minor, Major or Dangerous.

Minor faults are comparable to the current 'advisory' notices written on test certificates by MOT testers for items that aren't bad enough for the car to fail its test, but will need to be fixed at some point.

Faults classed as Major will require the car to be fixed and retested.

Those categorised as Dangerous will make it illegal for the car to be driven on public roads as well as automatic failure of the MOT.

How is the MOT test for diesel cars changing?

The most significant area for diesel car owners is stricter rules on the permissible level of emissions of cars fitted with a diesel particulate filter (DPF). If a car's exhaust emits "visible smoke of any colour", it will be issued with a Major fault and will fail the test.

MOT testers are also required to check if the car's DPF has been removed or tampered with. If it has, the tester must refuse to test the car unless the owner can provide a "legitimate" reason for it having been removed, such as for cleaning.

What else is changing on the MOT test?

Three other areas on cars that have the potential to cause serious accidents are also going to be scrutinised more closely than before. Testers will check steering systems – a steering box with a heavy leak will result in a MOT failure, as will reversing lights that don't work or have blown bulbs and brake discs that are "significantly or obviously worn".

How will the changes affect you?

If you own a diesel car with a DPF that has been replaced or repaired you'll need to show evidence of this to the MOT tester.

Blown light bulbs, worn out windscreen wipers and tyres with too little tread depth account for nearly 50% of failures, so it's well worth checking these areas before taking your car for its MOT.

If you're buying a diesel-engined car check if it has a DPF – if it does, ask if it's had any problems and check the dash for an orange warning light that may look like an exhaust. If this is illuminated it means the DPF is becoming blocked - don't buy a car with this dash warning light on because it could indicate the need for a replacement DPF, which is likely to cost several hundred pounds.

It's also worth regularly checking the car for leaks – this is easy to do by looking on the ground under the car for oil or other fluids that may have come from the car.

The most common MOT fail items.

The top 10 most common reasons why cars fail their MOT test and simple tips to help you check these items before taking the test.

1. Brake lights

With the car's ignition turned on, press the brake pedal and ask someone to check that the brake lights come on. You can also do this on your own by reversing the car up to a wall and looking over your shoulder.

2. Fuel and fuel cap

The filler cap needs to close securely and your car needs enough fuel in its tank for the tester to carry out emissions checks, so don't go for an MOT test with the car running on empty.

3. Headlights and indicators

Check all the lights work properly, including full and dipped beam headlights, rear and side lights, hazard lights and all four indicators.

4. Horn

Beep it to ensure it works properly.

5. Number plates

Ensure that both plates are clean and legible and check that the light above the rear number plate is working.

6. Suspension

Press down heavily on each front wing of your car; if the car bounces up and down instead of returning to the right position, the shock absorbers may be worn.

7. Seat and seatbelts

Check that the driver's seat slides back and forth smoothly, and look for fraying or damage on the seatbelts and give each one a good tug to ensure that it pings back as it should.

8. Wheels and tyres

Check all four wheels and the sidewalls of the tyres for damage; bulges, cracks and gouges out of the tyres are all fail items.

Next, check the tyre tread depth is above the legal limit of 1.6mm; if your tyres have tread depth indicators, check that the tread hasn't worn down to the level of the indicator. Alternatively, you can put a 20 pence coin into the area between the tread; if the raised part of the coin is above the tread, the tyre is too worn.

9. Windscreen

Check for chips and cracks; any crack larger than 40mm will result in a fail, and any crack or chip covering 10mm or more in the area the windscreen wipers clean is also a fail item.

10. Windscreen wipers

Check for splits or perishing on all wipers, and check that they clear the screens properly when they're used. Also check and top up the screen wash if necessary.