

ANNUAL REPORT

Chairman's Annual Report for the year to 31 December 2017 on behalf of the Club Directors and Committee

I'm pleased to report that the Club continues in good health.

Membership

The past year has seen us finalise the merger of the old and new databases, the new one being linked to the website. Following this we decided to take a firm line with those members who were still paying their membership fees at the old rates. Everyone was given ample time to respond and in the end we terminated the membership of those who wouldn't, couldn't or didn't care. At the end of this year it will be interesting to see how many continue to pay the old rate despite not receiving Trident or the Newsletter in the intervening months!

Due to this 'Spring Clean' membership at the end of 2017 stood at around 580 compared to 689 at the end of the previous year. Associate membership continues to grow slowly.

The number of members paying on-line continues to increase and is now over 50%. Please switch to the on-line system and save your administrator and treasurer a pile of work.

Events

It has been another very busy year for our Events Organiser. As is the tradition I would like to run through the year to pay tribute to our many organisers who put on such a good show for the Club.

- Once again our first event was the Northern Lights lunch at The Mere and our thanks go to Robert Crooks and Stella Oldham for their excellent arrangements.
- Next up was lunch at Brandon on the Water, hosted by Clive and Pamela Brandon at their lovely home. Some 60 guests enjoyed a very sociable lunch thanks to their generous hospitality.
- In May some 40 cars made the journey across the Channel to enjoy a weekend in the Champagne Region. There was endless champagne, wonderful roads, great food and good weather to boot. We have to thank Michael Miles and Marie-Elizabeth Miles for their detailed organisation. It should be said that Michael is one of the original Members of the Club and at the end of the

Rally presented the Club with the Spark Plug Trophy that was awarded for the first time at the Champagne Rally to Peter Bateman.

- The AGM in early June moved to Blenheim House and the new venue was deemed a big success, to some extent due to the glorious weather.
- Later in June an intrepid group set off on Highland Fling III, Edwin Faulkner's latest expedition into Scotland. There was great praise for Edwin and Pam for a fabulous trip from all those who took part. I understand that Irish Fling I is planned for 2020!
- July saw some 24 Members take to the track at Blyton to exercise a variety of cars. All seemed to go very well though a few were upset at the speed of Chris Green's Ford Escort. Thanks to David Daw for the off-the-track organisation and to Geoff Lancaster for putting the day together so well.
- Later in July Edwin was back in action organising the Club stand at the Silverstone Classic. Maserati UK again helped enormously by providing their hospitality unit and as ever the team of Dave, Keith and Edwin provided the backbone of labour!
- August is traditionally Summer Party time at the Dering Arms and a fair number of Members turned out for first class hospitality from Jim Buss.
- The destination for this year's International in Italy was Saturnia, about an hour north of Rome – quite a trek. Thankfully an enterprising Member put together a stopover tour for the outbound journey with 18 cars travelling out and enjoying three very different overnight stops en route. The International was all great fun though the Italians didn't seem to understand portion control at the meals. There was a strong smell of sulphur from the hot springs at the hotel though we all got used to it!
- Next up, the Autumn Meeting at Portmeirion. A huge turnout of cars to stay in the very famous hotel and cottages. Whilst the weather was not a 100% everyone was full of praise to Simon and Caroline Edwards for their excellent organisation.

- November is NEC Classic Show time and this year the organisation passed to Paul Yardley who put on a brilliant display themed, 'Maseratis in Films'. Behind each of the display cars was a screen running part of a film showing that car on the big screen. For the foot-sore Members we had seating on our stand for the first time with Prosecco served at lunch times! Thanks especially to David and Angie Daw for their help and very professional expertise with the display.
- Finally it was Christmas lunch again and I think it can be safely called a huge success! Andrew Hutton did a first class job and a sign of the fun level was the struggle to get everyone to vacate the room at the end of the afternoon! Thanks Andrew!

That's a pretty impressive list of happenings over 12 months and the Committee is very grateful to all of the organisers who give so much time and effort to make these events so enjoyable. On top of that we also recognise the enormous support we receive from our sponsors: Maserati Northern Europe, the dealers Meridien, HR Owen and Greypaul; Locton's Insurance, McGraths, Autosshield, Pirelli and many others. Without their generous support the organisation of many events would be so much more difficult.

Finally I have to say a sincere thank you to Gail Mosley, our Events Co-ordinator, whose care and attention kept the event organisers up to speed and the Committee informed.

Looking ahead I can tell you that plans for the 2019 International hosted by our Club in the UK are well advanced. For those who are not aware we are staying at the five star Gleneagles Hotel in Perthshire with a regularity run (not that serious) up the historic Rest-and-be-Thankful hill climb road, visits to Inverary Castle, Blair Castle and Dalwhinnie Distillery and with our farewell banquet at Stirling Castle. The dates are 20-23 September 2019. Bookings will open in November this year and you will receive a Club e-mail to alert you. Look out!

The website has proved a great success in making the information on Club events easily accessible and I think that Members are now aware that this is the place to look to find out what's happening.

Club Developments

Now a few words about how and where the Club has progressed over the past year.

Our relationship with Locton's Insurance continues apace and I do ask you to give them the opportunity to quote when your renewal comes around. The Club benefits every time they issue a policy to a Member

Our agreement with Pirelli continues to develop. The discount offer on tyres has changed to a pre-paid gift card of up to £100. Details appear on the news pages of the website.

The website has continued to become a major resource centre for the Club and I think most active members now know to go there if they need information on a particular subject. There isn't a large budget for developments but we keep making subtle improvements. The next big change is the addition of a new Calendar page that will not only list Club Events but also any other event that we deem worthy of mention. It will be similar to the back page of the Newsletter but without any space restrictions. We need more members to get involved in the on-line Forums, please do take a look and have your say if you can find a moment.

The Committee

These are the guys and girl (we need more girls) who expend their valuable time keeping the Club on the straight and narrow and managing the diverse activities in which we are involved.

Jerry Hutton is our retiring treasurer. Jerry joined the Committee in 2011 as Treasurer Designate to take over from Dick Pole and was elected to the post in 2012. I think we rather underestimate how involved the treasurer is in Club affairs. For every Rally there are the deposit and balance payments from the Members and on the recent Pyrenees trip, more than a dozen suppliers to pay. The biggest task though is keeping control of the membership fees as they are paid; however I hope this task is becoming easier now so many are paying on-line and we are dealing with one membership list.

Luq Niazi joined us last year to understudy Jerry Hutton for the Treasurer's role. In the meantime he undertook to complete a review of the Club Articles. Thank you Luq and welcome to your new post as Director and Treasurer!

Gail Mosley: As I said earlier Events Co-ordinator is a key role and one that Gail has handled very well with much attention to detail. Thank you Gail.

Simon Park: Simon's role as it appears in the Trident is Associate Editor but that's a bit of an understatement as he really does manage the content of the Trident that Phil Ward puts together. Simon has started a debate in Committee on the roles that the Newsletter and Trident should play in future – the feeling is that they are overlapping too much and that perhaps the Newsletter should to be a bit smaller and focus on what's to happen in the future. We all appreciate Simon's input to the job and on the Committee. Thank you.

Henry McNeill: Henry joined the Committee in 2011 and has served seven years as Newsletter Editor. At six copies a year that's 42 issues he's dealt with as well as being a great asset to the Committee. I'm personally very pleased that he's staying on as a Member without portfolio as I appreciate his views and approach.

I have to thank Graham Wood, our Webmaster. He stepped into the role of Webmaster with undisguised enthusiasm – I think. Without his help and advice on all matters pertaining to the website – and a few more - my task would be very difficult. Thank you Graham.

Michael O'Shea stepped up as a Director and Secretary at the last AGM. It's a very varied role but more than anything Michael is my right hand man who is always there to discuss and reason with. I also share a race car with him on occasions and so we are well used to working together. I look forward to another year working with you.

Dave Smith: What can I say that's not been said already over many years. Dave runs the Club admin in a quiet and workmanlike way and is the man behind the scenes – in a sense. Thank you Dave for another year at the coalface. I just hope that a lot of subscription issues are now behind us and that some of the stress this caused has now passed.

Finally, I'd like to see another Member come on board the Committee. I feel there's a place for someone to focus on Membership, finding new Members and better looking after those already paying a subscription. If you think this could be for you then give me a call.

Thank you for entrusting me with the Chairmanship for another year. I have enjoyed the past year immensely and look forward with enthusiasm to the one ahead.

I wish you all another year's happy and safe Maserati Motoring.