

ANNUAL REPORT

Chairman's Annual Report for the year to 31 December 2018 on behalf of the Club Directors and Committee

Yet again I can report that the Club continues in good health.

Membership

Our membership continues to grow slowly but steadily. At the start of 2018 we had 582 Members and at the end of the year 657. At this time membership stands at 689. Whilst this might look good it's the same figure we boasted at the beginning of 2016 before we had a cull of those who were not paying the full fee. We are still receiving payments by Standing Order from former members who fail to respond to our enquiries!

Most important the number of members paying by credit card on-line continues to increase and now stands at 68%. As ever I encourage you to switch and save the administration that is involved with cheques and direct debits.

Events

It is traditional for the Chairman to run through the events that happened during the year. Remember this is for 2018

- First event of the year was the Northern Lights, this time a dinner with dancing very ably organised by Robert Crooks.
- In March Derek Mills organised a very well attended meeting and lunch at the motor museum at Gaydon
- McGrath Maserati held an open day in April. The mobile coffee and pizza wagons were a great hit as was the great weather!
- The following week many members headed to County Durham for the Three Counties weekend ably organised by Arthur and Pam Ready. No quiz, no prizes and very informal – you could do this.

- In May, 35 cars assembled at Plymouth for the sailing to Santander and a wonderful weeks journey across the Pyrenees. Thanks to Roger and Sarah Lucas who were the driving force and Susan and myself for the organisation.
- Geoff Lancaster again organised the track day at Blyton that proved great fun with all the cars surviving!
- Later in July many of us attended the Silverstone Classic with an excellent display put on by Edwin Faulkner assisted by the A Team.
- Another Summer Garden Party took place at the Dering Arms in Kent hosted by Jim Buss.
- As if organising Silverstone is not enough Edwin Faulkner takes the credit for an excellent, I think third, rally to the Isle of Man much enjoyed by all who took part.
- Finally another Christmas Lunch at the Bluebird in London. Fully booked as usual and ably managed by Andrew and Alison Hutton for a final time.

As well as our own Club events we were well represented on the Global Gathering in Australia in our Spring and at the International Meeting in Berlin in September

Thanks to everyone who was involved in putting all our events together. We really appreciate your efforts.

And all of this is very capably managed on the Committee by Gail Mosley. A huge task and we thank you for a job well done.

Looking ahead

For many of us joining others on events is the prime reason for our membership. It's our biggest challenge as demand is very strong and we struggle to find Members to organise events for us. We have no overseas events in the pipeline and I fear that if we can't find a member or members to organise these in

future then we will be forced to look at commercially run tours. Without a doubt these will be noticeably more expensive and less personal. If you thought you could help with anything from a one day run to a weekend in France please tell Gail.

On a positive note I'm pleased to report that the organisation of the International Meeting at Gleneagles is going well under the Chairmanship of Peter Holmes. The event was fully booked within three days of going on sale last Autumn. The budget is well under control and the Committee is now finalising routes, menus, and the finer details.

Sponsors

Firstly, to our two principle sponsors, Locton's Insurance and Pirelli. I hope you appreciate their involvement as much as we appreciate yours.

We also have help of different kinds throughout the year from Maserati GB, McGrath Maserati, David Daw at Event Exhibitions, Autosshield, Meridien Maserati, GreyPaul and HR Owen amongst others. Your support and generosity is a huge benefit to the Club and I thank you for your support.

Website

As we had hoped and expected the website has become a key tool for the Club and we are very grateful to Graham Wood our webmaster for the effort he puts into making it such a success.

The database linked to the website now controls our membership and payments. The diary was introduced to mirror that on the Newsletter and a number of other small tweaks were made during the year. When an event goes on sale or there is something of importance announced then an e-mail is sent to all members and around 60% of members open these. Graham says that's a good result

The website is our heart and lungs and we need to keep it fit and healthy. I have already suggested that the time is coming for a refresh and rethink and that will be a significant budget item, probably for 2020!

Trident

Trident spent the year in the capable hands of Simon Park. It has developed from a great read to a really excellent read. I am very proud of the publication. Thank you Simon! Behind the scenes we have the help of Phil and Michael Ward who manage the design, print and advertising. We are, as ever, grateful for their assistance.

Newsletter

At the AGM last year Matt Briffa took over as Editor of the Newsletter. His remit was to reduce the size to eight pages and to focus on things future leaving stories of things past to Trident. Matt has given it a new look which I think is fresher and more immediate. It's not meant to be a read but a reference of what's happening. I know there have been a few questions, but I'd ask you to bear with us while it is fine tuned. To Matt I say, I'm on your side and with you all the way.

Treasurer and Secretary

I am grateful to my two co-directors for their support and help during the year.

For Luq, our treasurer, the International has imposed a larger load than normal. But Luq copes well and you'd never know that he was probably responding from Chicago or Tokyo! It would be great if we could cut the hassle for Luq. I'd have a further cull of those paying subscriptions or for events by cheque or direct debit but I admit that wouldn't work.

And Michael is my erstwhile Secretary. We get on well together and things seem to happen in a seamless and efficient manner – thank goodness. Thanks to you both.

The Committee says good bye to Henry McNeill at this AGM. Our former Newsletter Editor who produced seven years of Newsletters. Well done Henry and thanks from us all.

And finally Dave Smith our Administrator. He's always there and works quietly and efficiently away in the background. He's also a great supporter of the marque. Thank you Dave.

I look forward to working with those continuing and those joining us over the coming year.

Finally, thank you again for entrusting me with the Chairmanship of our Club.