

## **MINUTES OF THE 2023 GENERAL MEETING OF THE MASERATI CLUB Ltd**

Held at the Greenlands Hotel, Henley on Thames, RG9 3AU

5.00pm on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

### **Present: -**

#### **Members of the Committee**

Sir Drummond Bone	Brian Harris	Michael O'Shea
Luq Niazi	Jerry Hutton	Michael Roberts
Eric Toft	Gail Mosley	Matt Briffa
Chris Green	Shirish Chauhan	

### **Attendees: -**

Cliff Clifton	Peter Milligan	Jacky Wood
Deborah Toft	Jan Wilson	Alex Jackson
Phil Ford	Adine Ford	John Bennett
Kay Harris	Jan Roberts	Sarah O'Shea
Clare Hutton	Jane Niazi	Dave Smith

### **Item 1 Welcome from the President.**

Sir Drummond Bone welcomed all attending. It's been a good year for the Club and Maserati. The Club emerged from Covid and is now running a full programme of events. Maserati has released a new GranTurismo and by 2025 Maserati will be offering 100% electric variant of every model in the range by 2030. The next year will have the Folgore GranTurismo, then the Grecale followed by the GranCabrio.

He thanked the Committee for all their help and support over the year, and with managing all the changes. He noted that it was Michael O'Shea's last meeting after serving 21 years on the committee which Michael first joined when he was Chairman. A Gift in recognition of all his years of service to the Club was presented to Michael.

### **Item 2 Apologies for absence.**

Andy Heywood	Tony Bernstein	Keith Davies
Charles White	David Timmons	Edwin Faulkner

### **Item 3**

To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at Greenlands Hotel, Henley.

Proposed by Cliff Clifton and seconded by Jacky Wood, there being no objections, the minutes were adopted as presented.

### **Item 4**

To receive and adopt the Report and Accounts of the Maserati Club Ltd for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022. These are available on the Club Website in the Resources section.

Luq stated this was his final year in looking after the Maserati Club UK finances. From his perspective it has been 6 years gaining a lot of experience in the good years while managing the resources during the difficult period of COVID, was challenging. However, the Club is in good financial health, and as membership increases it's ever more important to have the right background support.

Luq mentioned the retirement of Dave Smith, now an honorary life member and announced Samantha Gratrix as his replacement. She is taking on administration duties as well as supporting the Treasurer with the bookkeeping duties. Luq thanked Dave for all his service and Samantha for all her support to date and going forward.

Luq announced that Jerry Hutton, will continue to serve on the Committee assuming the role of Treasurer on an interim basis until the next Treasurer & Director has been appointed.

Luq presented a summary of the accounts, noting that slowing membership renewals could impact revenues adversely and the reasons needed to be understood. Luq then ran through the proposed budget for 2023 noting that the additional costs of attending both Silverstone and the NEC were offset by the release of an overprovision made in previous years for website development costs.

Cliff Clifton voiced his concern over the proposed budget, after spending on the website as this leaves Club finances facing a deficit. Luq explained there is now a separate reserve for the website and Yorkshire bank account has a balance of £70,000 to cover one operational year's costs.

Jacky Wood asked if the Committee knew why renewals are slowing. It was advised this could be several factors: Natural retirement, Members who joined a few years ago have sold their cars, cost factors, Impact of Covid.

Deborah Toft: Asked if an exit questionnaire was given to those leaving the Club, Luq advised not currently, but is something that the Club can investigate. One of the main reasons members leave is due to selling their Maserati. Dave Smith agreed with this point.

Matt Briffa – Stated that the Club membership grew very quickly over the last 4 years approx. 25%, so it may just be levelling off. Luq advised that we need to strike a balance and the proposed budget is appropriate to the current level of membership. Moving forward we need to consider how the Club maintains its membership.

Michael O'Shea said the Club is a family friendly club, if it exceeds 1000 members this won't be the case, as is seen in clubs such as Ferrari.

Eric Toft advised there was a surge of membership after the Maserati Club was present at the NEC of 25 new joiners.

Jacky Wood: It would be helpful to have feedback from Eric Toft to know the level of new memberships applications after each event, to determine which has the greater impact. Sir Drummond stated trying to increase the membership level, may change new member profiles.

John Bennett asked about Dave Smith's Honorary Life membership, as he had not heard re this. Luq stated he may have jumped the gun by mentioning it early on.

There being no any other questions, it was recommended to approve the Report and Accounts and the motion was proposed by Cliff Clifton and seconded by John Bennett and carried on a show of hands.

### **Item 5**

Part of the Chairman's report is to summarise the events which took place last year, for this Michael passed over to Gail Mosely the Club's event organiser.

Gail said the club had a very successful year running 15 events with 4 new volunteers coming forward. There are many events already being planned for the year ahead, with the clubs first event where 2 groups will be attending the same venue on different dates.

To continue his report Michael confirmed over the last 12 months membership has increased from 794 to 808.

Michael spoke about the international meeting which took place in Bastad Sweden that he attended. The event was supported by 120 Maserati cars from all over the world including two of the new MC20's, alongside 14 members from the UK. Time was spent on the racetrack with excellent wining and dining, demonstrations of traditional Swedish dancing and singing. A good time was had by all, but with a drive of 675 miles home the joys of the unrestricted autobahn were not able to be fully utilised due to heavy traffic.

### **Item 6**

Approval of the amended Maserati Club Articles of Association. The proposed amendments have been explained in a communication to all members and the proposed Articles of Association have been available on the Club website Resources section.

Jerry Hutton explained the proposed changes, the main ones being:

1. Increase in the number of Directors from 3 to 4.
2. Wording of the Administration role simplified.
3. To permit valid decisions to be taken in online meetings.
4. Classification of payment and expenses.
5. Classification of approval process for payments and charitable donations.

These were approved. Proposed by Michael Roberts and seconded by Gail Mosley. The Articles of Association were adopted.

### **Item 7**

The Directors are each required to retire after serving for three years and stand for re-election if they so desire. The Articles state that no Director may serve for more than three 3-year terms (nine years).

Jerry Hutton has served as director for the full nine years and therefore is stepping down. Michael O'Shea wishes to step down after serving 21 years on the committee, the last 3 being as Chairman.

Luq Niazi is stepping down as Treasurer and Director due to work commitments, having served as a director for the last 5 years.

The Committee is recommending the following appointments.

Michael Roberts as Director and Chairman  
Anthony Bernstein as Director and Secretary  
John Bennett as Director.

Director and Treasurer - Currently vacant, Jerry Hutton will stand as interim Treasurer.

On a show of hands all were duly elected.

### **Item 8**

David Webber was appointed to the Committee at the 2022 AGM but unfortunately needed to step down due to other commitments.

The following existing committee members stand for re-election.

Gail Mosely as Events Co-ordinator	Andy Heywood as Trident Editor
Matt Briffa as Newsletter Editor	Eric Toft as Webmaster
Shirish Chauhan as Social Media Co-ordinator	Chris Green as Committee member

Jerry Hutton is also Standing for election to the committee.

On a show of hands all were duly elected.

### **Item 9**

The President Sir Drummond Bone and Vice President Brian Harris have each served a 5-year term from June 2018, both are willing to continue in their respective roles and therefore offer themselves for re-election.

On show of hands, they were duly re-elected.

### **Item 10 Any Other Business**

10/01 - Michael O'Shea offered his sincere thanks to the Committee and especially the President for supporting him through his tenure as Chairman. He said that it had been a great privilege to be the Chairman of this fantastic Club, despite starting his tenure in the dark covid days and finishing in the sunshine with a strong balance sheet and the most members the club has ever had in its 51 years.

Michael went onto thank various people not the committee for their help behind the scenes. These are:

Adam Painter for his technical assistance especially when Graham Wood sadly passed.

Roger Epztajn for assisting Adam Painter.

Sarah O'Shea for issuing all new member packs.

John Bennett for co-ordinating entrants for international meetings

Samantha Gratrix for taking on various roles in administration and bookkeeping.

Dave Smith previously mentioned for his 23 years of attending committee meetings, producing the minutes, along with other administration duties.

The A Team for their commitment to setting up the Classic Car Show and until last year for organising the Club's display at Silverstone.

All the event organisers and their teams without whom we would be a very different club relying on travel agents for our outings.

10/02 – Matt Briffa confirmed Jacky Wood would be taking on the role with him of Newsletter editor. He proposed Jacky Wood to be elected to the committee.

On a show of hands Jacky Wood was elected as a Committee member.

10/03 – Sarah O'Shea gave her grateful thanks to Dave Smith for all he has done for the Club and making her life so easy to issue new membership packs. Luq Niazi also gave his thanks saying Dave Smith had immense history with the Club, Dave Smith will be made an Honorary Life Club member and official photographer of the Club with an email address of photo@

Dave Smith then spoke – Saying he joined the club in 1974, in 1998 he was made redundant from BT and the Club was looking for someone to take on an administrative role. The then chairman Bill Jackson said he knew who would be suitable, took him out for a drive in his Maserati and has been doing this role ever since! He thanked everyone for his Honorary Life membership and gift (photo printer).

10/04 - Jacky Wood wanted to thank the Club for the charitable donation of £2500 to the RNLI in memory of Graham Wood.

10/05 Cliff Clifton – Referred to the E-Type club website and how their events are run by outsourced parties, and enquired whether the Club would consider this for 1 event a year. John Bennett asked why pointing out there would be a fee involved of approx. £2-£3000. The spirit of our Club is that members are closely involved in events. Michael O'Shea feels it would be better to keep the organisation of events in house until Gail Mosley asks for help or if there no event organisers available. Gail Mosley stated she would not have a problem with external organisers so long as it was separate to the Club and events already in the diary. Then it would be nothing to do with the Club. Luq Niazi advised outsourcing of some events would reduce admin work for the team in respect of all the processing of payments, bookings etc. Gail Mosely advised the Club has 4 new event organisers this year and is hoping there will be more in the coming year. The discussion went on to point out that this idea may be suitable for international events such as Monaco and Le Mans, whereby an outsourced party will have contacts in that country. The Club events are bespoke and very much in demand so this could have multiple appeal to members. Matt Briffa added that at present any event surplus benefits Club resources thus increasing its income, if we outsource the Club will be having to pay for the privilege thus costing the Club more and there would be no surplus. The consensus reached was that the Club runs excellent events that are in high demand, but that maybe international car events could be run through outsourcing as an addition. It was agreed this would be discussed further at the next Committee meeting.

#### **Item 11 Closing Remarks**

As there were no other questions Michael O'Shea asked the Vice President Brian Harris to close the meeting.

Brian thanked the Committee for their work and the members for attending, noting that it now only remained to for him to give directions to the Bar and Restaurant, where dinner will be served at 19:00.

The Meeting ended 18:16

Samantha Gratrix

June 2023