

ASSOCIATION OF CLASSIC TRIALS CLUBS

Minutes of the Council Meeting of the Association of Classic Trials Clubs
held at the Bung Inn, Redhill, Wroughton, Avon on Sunday, 7th May 1989

PRESENT	W G A Penhale	Chairman
	C B Cope	Vice Chairman & Shenstone & DCC
	A Foster	Hon Treasurer
	S Woodall	Championship Scorer & VWOC (GB)
	J Vowden	Championship Secretary & Torbay MC
	A Vowden	Torbay MC
	R Grimwood	} Silverton MC
	B Mitchell	
	A Webb	} Woolbridge MC
	S Webb	
	K Buckle	} Bristol MC & LCC
	M Tooth	
	T Osborne	} MG CC
	A Grassam	
	R Moore	Launceston & N Cornwall MC
	R Butcher	} MCC Ltd
	K Hobbs	
	E Haywood	} Stroud & DMC Ltd
	S Tucker	
	J Barthram	North Devon MC
	C Andrews	} Ross & DMSC
	R Andrews	
	K Pettit	Crane Valley MC
	B Cooper	} Sheffield & Hallamshire MC
	M Jones	
	H Viertel	} Camel Vale MC
	P Allen	
	R Pole	Holsworthy MC Ltd
	J West	by invitation

89/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Minehead MC; Sporting Owners DC; Octagon CC; 750 MC; Morgan SCC; D Alderson (Hon Secretary); M Halliday (Hon Rights of Way Officer); K Green (Championship Quality Controller); J Wood (Holsworthy MC Ltd) and R Murch (North Devon MC).

89/2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (4th September 1988) were signed as a correct record by the Chairman, subject to minute 88/27(g) referring to the "Exe Valley Trial" not the "Lee Valley Trial".

89/3 MATTERS ARISING 88/27(h). R Moore confirmed that he had discussed with T Threlfall the possibility of the VSCC rejoining ACTC. Time appears to be healing the previous dispute, and the VSCC are prepared to consider renewing membership and had asked R Moore whether he would be prepared to represent the club at Council meetings. R Moore was concerned that he would have difficulties representing two clubs. He confirmed he would continue discussions with T Threlfall.

ACTION: R MOORE

88/25. The new address of the Byways and Bridleways Trust is The Granary, Charlcutt, Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 9HL. Tel: 024 974 273.

- 89/4 FINANCIAL REPORT. The account stood at £241.33, about £100 below its optimum level due to outstanding subscriptions from 6 clubs. Reminders had now been sent. There were also outstanding expenses for the former and present Secretaries. The Treasurer advised that there was no case in his opinion to change the annual subscription of £15 per club for 1989/90. However, he asked delegates to forward the ACTC subscription form to their club treasurers for payment as soon as it was received, as no separate form was sent to club treasurers whose names and addresses were not kept by ACTC.

ACTION: ALL DELEGATES.

- 89/5 DATES FOR CLASSIC RELIABILITY TRIALS IN 1990. The agreed programme is set out in Appendix 1 attached to these minutes. It was decided by Council that in order to give the most comprehensive information and attempt to avoid clashes between events, those trials to which ACTC is not invited are also included in the programme. It was noted that the Clee Hills may not run on January 21st due to lack of organisational resources within VWOC. Ross requested that the Kyrle Trophy be reprogrammed from April 29th to January 21st if the Clee Hills did not take place. Sporting Owners, subsequent to the meeting, also requested a date more than two weeks from the Land's End (April 13/14th) and April 29th or early May will be considered.

ACTION: VWOC, ROSS AND SODC.

- 89/6 REPORTS OF ACTC DELEGATES ON RACMSA TRIALS & CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE. The Secretary's reports of the meetings held on 9th February and 6th April 1989 are attached to these minutes as Appendix 2, and the MCC General Secretary's note on Tyres as Appendix 3. Delegates are asked to note the need for Competitors to produce MOT Certificates at scrutineering or signing-on as from 1st January 1990. There was discussion concerning the reduction in the number of pre-1941 vehicles now competing. Whether this is due to the restriction on the use of radial tyres in class 2 as implied by H W Tucker-Peake, the increasing roughness of observed sections, or other reasons, including the range of events available, is open to speculation. It was noted that VSCC events remain well subscribed (in which radial tyres are not permitted) and also that the use of crossply tyres only in class 2 had arisen following support for such a restriction from more than 2/3rds of the respondents to an ACTC sponsored questionnaire.

Concerning the matter of week numbering for the motor sport calendar, R Moore described that the two systems relevant, based on the relationship of the weekend to 1st January each year (the ISO system found in most diaries and, for lack of a better name, the ASWMC system) would coincide for 1990. Now was the ideal opportunity for clubs to 'reserve' a week number for their events to avoid future clashes. It was agreed that the Chairman should write to the RACMSA giving support for the ASWMC week numbering system, and requesting week numbers to be printed on the programme forms completed by clubs each year.

ACTION: CHAIRMAN.

- 89/7 REPORT OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP SECRETARY. As at 28th April, there were 127 registered contenders and 26 competing in the new Passengers League. The Deposit Account stood at £627.12, and the Current Account at £81.29, with a major invoice for printing still to be settled. It was noted with regret that a clash of events still existed on 22nd October 1989 between the Exmoor Clouds and the Tamar. It was proposed by Bristol, seconded by Holsworthy and carried nem. con., that Minehead be approached by the Secretary and asked to consider moving their event to another date.

ACTION: CHAMPIONSHIP SECRETARY

89/8 REPORTS OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP SCORER. To date, 39 contenders had scored in the Wheelspin League and 59 in the Crackington League. Only 17 of the 26 registered for the Passenger League had so far recorded points. However, this may be because of the lack of the passengers name on the results sheet in some events. It was agreed that at Championship Trials there should be a list at signing-on for all drivers and passengers to complete in a legible manner, the organising club then to forward this to the Scorer, or incorporate in full in the results.

ACTION: ALL ORGANISERS OF CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS.

There was considerable debate about the present system of scores from the best 67% (rounded up) of events to count in all 3 leagues promoted by ACTC, and whether the MCC Bonus Rounds should be included in the total or be additional to one-day events. Council was reminded that only a handful of contenders competed in sufficient rounds to fall within this rule. However, it was proposed by Woolbridge, seconded by Ross and carried 11 to 1, that the Championship Leagues be organised on a fixed number of events to count, including Bonus Rounds, on the following basis:

More than 12 Events Run		- Competitors best 9 results to count						
11	or 12	"	"	"	"	8	"	"
9	or 10	"	"	"	"	7	"	"
7	or 8	"	"	"	"	6	"	"
6	or 5	"	"	"	"	5	"	"
less than 5	"	"	"	"	"	all	"	"

ACTION: ALL DELEGATES

The Scorer's new address is The Brook, Dumbleton Lane, Eardiston, Tenbury Wells, Worcs. WR15 8JR.

89/9 REPORT OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP QUALITY CONTROLLER. The report is attached to these minutes as Appendix 4. Some concern was expressed about the increasing number of Championship Events, and whether quality was being maintained in all cases. There may be a case for one or two events being removed from the Championship for re-observation, but such decisions need to be made in an open and democratic manner. A number of clubs reported that they received little or no feedback from observers or the quality control system. Clubs generally felt they would like observers comments as soon as possible after their event, and certainly within 3 months. The lack of any return at all from some observers was mentioned as a contributory cause; not all competitors accepted their own responsibility to the sport. It was agreed that the Championship Officers investigate the means of improving the observers system and feedback to organising clubs, and report to the next meeting of the Council.

ACTION: CHAMPIONSHIP OFFICERS.

89/10 REPORTS OF THE RIGHTS OF WAY OFFICER. The report is attached to these minutes as Appendix 5, with its own Annexures A to C. Copies of the minutes referred to in para. 1 may be obtained from the Secretary. Particular attention was drawn to Lord Denning's support for Campaign for the Countryside and the fact that a TRO is to be imposed on part of the South Downs Way, principally on the grounds of protecting visual amenity. Byways and RUPPs used in our sport must be carefully monitored so that action can be taken should future restrictions on use be proposed.

89/11 PROPOSALS TO CHANGE THE CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS SYSTEM. A paper prepared by C B Cope had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting, and a further contribution by K Green is attached to these minutes as Appendix 6. There was a wide ranging discussion with the general consensus that our sport should be primarily aimed at production cars, and moves towards tougher or rougher sections to provide a challenge for specials should be avoided. There was support for MCC events being given more priority within the scoring system, remembering the traditions of reliability in our sport. MCC reminded Council that it was not committed to remaining within the

Championship, and would be considering its own position. There was discussion about the Championship being based on class positions, or on index of performance. It was agreed that there was a need for a much wider debate amongst those involved in the sport, and an open forum was proposed at a place and time to be agreed, which would have discussion papers before it. The ACTC Awards presentation in Torquay on 7th January 1990 following the Exeter Trial might be an appropriate opportunity.

ACTION: ACTC OFFICERS.

- 89/12 OPEN LETTER FROM STROUD & DISTRICT MOTOR CLUB LTD. The Club's letter had been circulated with the agenda. As a result of major over-subscription of entries on the Cotswold Clouds Trial, and the ill feeling this caused in some circles, including abuse to the entry officials by disappointed would-be entrants, Stroud had withdrawn their event from the Championship. The Club, whilst supporting the aims of the Association, considered it had become dominated by the Championship and our sport was losing its friendly and relaxed atmosphere by a "win at all costs" attitude of some competitors. Whilst expressing understanding for Stroud's position, many delegates emphasised the track record and strengths of the Association. All clubs organising Restricted Status reliability trials had a place at the table in what must be the most democratic forum in motor sport. The present rules governing the sport had emerged from the Association, and few changes were made by RACMSA without prior consultation. The Association had two representatives on the appropriate RACMSA Committee. Acknowledging the time spent at meetings on Championship related matters, a number of delegates highlighted the general improvement in the quality of events, and in return, the size of entries. Many registered contenders in the Championship simply wanted to receive information from which they would choose the events which suited their requirements. There was general agreement that as much as possible of the administration of the Championship should be done outside the forum of the Council, and that the agenda should be structured to deal with Championship business at the end. That Stroud wished to remain a member of the Association was warmly welcomed.

Delegates considered themselves at some disadvantage as it was some years since the constitution of the Association had been considered. In order that everyone could be reminded of the purpose and function of ACTC, it was agreed that copies of the updated rules should be circulated to all delegates.

ACTION: SECRETARY.

- 89/13 CLASS 7 LIMITED PRODUCTION CAR SPECIFICATIONS. A Discussion Document by D Alderson is attached to these minutes as Appendix 7. MCC reported that a questionnaire would shortly be circulated to class 7 competitors seeking their views on whether modified production cars with shortened wheelbases should continue to be accepted in class 7, and whether the specification sheet system for kit cars should be continued, or more freedom permitted. Results would be reported to Council.

ACTION: MCC.

- 89/14 DATE OF AGM. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council will be held at Bung Inn, Redhill on Sunday 3rd September 1989, commencing at 2.15pm.