

ASSOCIATION OF CLASSIC TRIALS CLUBS

MINUTES OF AN ACTC COUNCIL MEETING AT THE CROWN INN, MINCHINHAMPTON, 18th May, 1997

PRESENT:-

Roger Pole	President
Simon Woodall	Chairman
David Alderson	Vice Chairman
Gerald Burridge	General Secretary
Janet Mattin	Treasurer
Andy & Sue Webb	Championship Monitor & Woolbridge M.C.
John West	Vice President & M.C.C.
Stephen Bailey	Class 7 Co-ordinator
Peter Hart)	Bristol Motor Club
Mark Tooth)	
Hans Viertel	Camel Vale M.C.
Tom Goggin)	Falcon M.C.
Mike Pearson)	
Robin Moore	Launceston & N. Cornwall M.C.
Colin Bird	MG Car Club
Jonathan Toulmin	Midland A.C.
Richard Hutchings	Minehead M.C.
Richard Andrews)	Ross & District M. C.
Neil Forrest)	
Mary & Mike Jones	Sheffield & Hallamshire M.C.
Brian Cope	Shenstone & District M.C.
Brian Mitchell)	Silverton M.C.
Ron Grimwood)	
Nigel Moss)	Stroud & District M.C.
Terry Coventry)	
Terry Mattin	V.W.O.C.

97/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

had been received from:- Alan Foster (Vice Pres.), Anne Templeton (Vice Pres.), Jim Templeton (ROW Co-ordinator), Richard Dawe (Championship Sec'y.), Brian Osborne (MGCC), Ian Tucker (Newquay AC), Greg Warren (Torbay MC), John Barthram (N. Devon MC), John Parsons (Sporting Owner DC), and Jason Collins (Holsworthy MC).

97/2 MINUTES OF AGM 22/9/1996

were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

97/3 MATTERS ARISING:

Referring to the Action List:-

96/26/1 Roger Pole had passed all relevant data to Jim Templeton.

96/22/4 Simon Woodall was able to confirm that organisers can use either, or both, Bradstock or Bowring Insurance Schemes.

96/23 It was noted that Ilkely & District MC has resigned from the Association.

All other items were covered elsewhere in the Agenda.

97/4 NOMINATIONS & ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT.

Roger Pole was willing to continue in office and, with no other nominations, he was returned unopposed.

There were no new nominations for Vice President.

97/5 NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1997/98

All present incumbents were willing to continue and no other nominations had been received; they were, therefore returned unopposed. (This included formalising the decisions minuted in 96/25/1).

97/7 FINANCIAL REPORT

Janet Mattin submitted an interim report (Attachment 97/6/A - copies to non attendees enclosed), indicated a generally satisfactory situation and reported that only the 750 Motor Club still owed their subscription.

ACTION :- 750 Motor Club - please note!

97/7 REPORT ON THE RACMSA TRIALS COMMITTEE

Simon Woodall reported that the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 20th May and would be attended by himself and Alan Foster. There had been little relevant activity at the last meeting. Jonathan Toulmin (MAC) asked whether the proposed EU prohibition of leaded fuel could be raised with the RAC as it may have an adverse effect on our members.

ACTION:- Simon Woodall to raise with RAC

97/8 TECHNICAL MATTERS

David Alderson (Chairman, Technical Panel) reported on items discussed in the morning meeting:-

97/8/1 CLASS 2 GUIDELINES. It was noted that MCC had acted unilaterally in publishing and imposing a set of Guidelines prior to the 1977 Land's End Trial, including some details not discussed, or agreed by, the Joint Working Party (see Minute 96/25/3). A copy is attached to these minutes (Attachment 97/8/1/A) for consideration by member clubs, with the intention of ratification at the AGM in September 1997 for introduction in January 1998.

Comments, in writing, to the Technical Panel, or General Secretary as soon as possible please. ACTC clubs will generally not re-classify any championship contenders during 1997, but request the MCC to provide details of "waivers" or "re-classifications" of particular vehicles to the Technical Panel so that common standards can be agreed for next year. (May include other than Class 2 vehicles).

ACTIONS:- a) Clubs/Delegates to respond re Guidelines.
b) Alan Foster please provide data requested.

97/8/2 CLASS 7. Clarified that any unique vehicle will be placed in Class 8 until a satisfactory case has been made for allocation to Class 7 (or otherwise). The YKC, Sierra based vehicle will be eligible for Class 7; also with "O" Series engine and Sherpa van gearbox

97/8/3 CLASS 8 FORMULA. It was agreed to proceed with this exercise, by generating a re-draft of the original proposal. S Woodall, D. Alderson and J. West. would form a working group.

ACTION:- Working Group to prepare a revised document.

96/9 R.O.W. MATTERS

A report submitted by Jim Templeton was presented by the Chairman. A copy is enclosed (Attachment 96/9/A).

97/10 THE 1998 CALENDAR

97/10/1 I.O.M. TRIAL. Details had been circulated by Jonathan Toulmin (MAC) in his letter dated 12th May 1997 (Attachment 97/10/1/A). It was also clarified that the date clash with the MGCC Kimber Classic had been discussed with the organisers of that event and no serious conflict was foreseen.

A lengthy discussion ensued concerning possible Championship status for the event, (including confirmation that the Rules only stipulate that....."ACTC may require.....to be observed.....").

Eventually a suggestion that this trial should be a "bonus" round - ie. scoring as an MCC event found favour and Jonathan Toulmin (MAC) proposed that:-

"The 1998 Manx Trial should be run as a 'Bonus Round' of the 1998 ACTC Championship"; Seconded by J. West (MCC) and carried. (For 13, Against 1)

97/10/2 DATES OF CLASSIC TRIALS 1998. In the absence of Richard Dawe his letter of 12th May, together with calendar version 6 dated 25/4/97 (Attachment 97/10/2/A) were considered.

Camel Vale requested that the Camel Heights be moved to 8/3/98 and the Bodmin to 7/11/98 (Saturday). Woolbridge had not yet confirmed the date for the Hardy, and are considering 1/11/98. Note that the Neil Westcott on 22/11/98 is for Motor Cycles only and is organised by the Exmoor Club.

ACTION:- Richard Dawe to confirm and amend.
(See also Minute 97/15/1/below)

97/11 RULES

97/11/1 ORGANISERS GUIDELINES. Few responses have been received. Roger Pole will proceed to finalise the document.

ACTION:- Roger Pole

97/11/2 GENERAL RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION. A revised draft was tabled by John West (attachment 97/11/2/A), including reference to Motor Cycle Clubs. It was agreed that further revision would be necessary to reflect the Officer changes agreed 22nd September, 1996 (Minute 96/25/1). This will also affect the Technical Panel appendix.

Brian Cope (Shenstone) queried the proposal that "Motor Cycle Club" status should not entail an annual fee, also the wording of rule 8 concerning secret ballots which were not held if an election was deemed unnecessary due to no nominations being received.

ACTIONS:- a) Delegates please send any comments in writing to John West, without delay.
b) John West to finalise draft for September AGM.

97/12 ACTC DINNER DANCE

Janet Mattin reported that despite the joint efforts of herself and Richard Dawe insufficient response had been received by the deadline to ensure viability; the event was cancelled to avoid financial embarrassment. This left a dilemma in that the 1996 award replicas had not been presented. John West suggested presentation after the Exeter Trial, (one year in arrears) and this, in turn, led to some debate about the ceremony generally. Brian Cope (Shenstone) drew attention to the fact that falling attendance at both occasions had been exacerbated by lack of publicity.

97/13 RESTART MAGAZINE.

A number of individuals had expressed concern at the apparent breakdown in communications, including one written submission specifically asking us for the subject to be placed on the agenda of this meeting.

Simon Woodall reported that he was liaising with Anne Templeton and that Dennis Greenslade was now helping to obtain articles and reports. A wide ranging discussion ensued, from which there was general agreement that:-

- A more modest "newsletter" format would be quite acceptable.
- More voluntary help is required.
- Costs will have to be monitored and, if necessary passed on to clubs and/or competitors.
- Some costs could be offset by selling advertising space.

ACTION:- All constructive ideas and volunteers to be co-ordinated through Simon Woodall

97/14 ANY OTHER NON-CHAMPIONSHIP BUSINESS.

97/14/1 Mike Jones (Sheffield & Hallamshire) initiated a discussion on the need to impose a time schedule for trials. Support was obtained from Andy Webb (Woolbridge) and the consensus was that this could be a helpful discipline if applied sensibly.

97/14/2 Brian Cope (Shenstone) asked that the Championship logo should be brought back into prominence. Other delegates voiced their support.

ACTION:- Richard Dawe.

97/14/3 Hans Viertel (Camel Vale) reminded delegates that the Bodmin Trial this year would be an exceptional 50th Anniversary event and the club were making special efforts to provide accommodation etc.

97/15 CHAMPIONSHIP REPORTS.

97/15/1 THE CAR AND MOTOR CYCLE CHAMPIONSHIPS were summarised in Richard Dawe's letter of 13th May 1997 (Attachment 97/15/1/A). A healthy increase in championship registrations was reported.

Several delegates expressed disappointment that up-to-date championship tables were not available, which led to a rambling discussion about the possibility of standardising the software used by clubs to record their results, in order to assist Richard Dawe with his calculations.

**ACTION:- Simon Woodall to co-ordinate a review of software.
(Information to be provided by clubs).**

Returning to the 1997/1998 calendars (Minute 97/10/2) it was agreed that the Exmoor Motor Cycle club's Neil Westcott Trial should be included in the 1997 Championship (Pouney League).

The question of the Holsworthy club's Chairman's Trophy Trial was not so straightforward; in particular there was concern about the "principle" that each club should only run one championship event. Discussion ranged over previous items (minutes 96/33/1 and 97/10/1, for example!) and other semi-related topics such as the quality and format of motor cycle events generally.

Brian Mitchell (Silverton) proposed that:-

"The Holsworthy MC Chairman's Trophy Trial should be included in the 1998 Motor Cycle Championship"; Seconded by Robin Moore (Launceston & N. Cornwall).
Defeated. (For 3, Against 4, Abstentions 7).

ACTION:- Richard Dawe to up-date calendar

97/15/2 CHAMPIONSHIP ACCOUNTS. Interim figures were presented for the period 1/8/96 to 18/5/97 (Attachment 97/15/2/A). Richard Dawe's letter gave early warning of the need to raise subscriptions to £10 in 1999 to cope with rising costs.

97/15/3 CHAMPIONSHIP QUALITY CONTROL. Andy Webb submitted a comprehensive report (Attachment 97/15/3/A) and highlighted the main points.

Discussion centred on the Newquay Auto Club's Kernow Conquest. Unfortunately this event had taken place on the same day as the ACTC AGM and only one (of four) observer's reports materialised. This report was negative and recommended a further observation next year. After discussion Robin Moore (L&NC) proposed that:- "ACTC should observe the Kernow Conquest Trial again in 1998 before reaching a decision on its inclusion in the Championship"; Seconded by Brian Cope (Shenstone); carried unanimously.

Advice was sought from Council on the proposal that the Quality Controller should endeavor to work with a set panel of experienced observers in order to obtain more consistent reports. After considering various alternatives, this was agreed in principle.

Andy Webb also raised in his report a number of Quality issues concerning ACTC generally (see minute 97/16 below).

97/16 CHAMPIONSHIP ADMINISTRATION

Various concerns about administrative matters have been brought to the attention of officers, together with one written input from a long-standing member. These include:-

- Late publication of the 1996 championship results.
- Late issue of 1997 membership cards.
- Difficulty in making contact with appropriate officers.
- No reports of the 1997 championship tables.
- The method by which the "Trial of the Year" is decided.

Council noted that Richard Dawe had responded to several of these items in his letter of 13th May (Attachment 97/15/1/A) and that others were linked to minute 97/13 above.

Simon Woodall reported that efforts would be made to bring forward publication of the 1998 Championship Regulations to the Autumn of 1997 if at all possible.

Whilst the officers of ACTC hope that the membership accept and appreciate the voluntary nature of their work, they are seeking to deal with the problems that have been recognised, and to provide the quality of service that is expected.

97/17 ANY OTHER CHAMPIONSHIP BUSINESS

All items had been incorporated above !

97/18 DATE & TIME OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

AGM:- Sunday 28th September, 1997, 2.00pm, at The Crown Inn, Minchinhampton.