



Midland Rover Owners Club Limited

Minutes of the 37th Annual General Meeting

Held at Land Rover Social Club, Bilsmore Green, Solihull

Tuesday 6th November 2018

1. The Annual General Meeting commenced at 8:01pm on Tuesday 6th November 2018. The meeting was chaired by Sam Miller, MROC Chairlady. Confirmation was made that the quorum of at least 19 members were present.

All delegates present were reminded that only Full, Family and Associate members can participate in any vote held during the meeting.

- 1.1. A minute's silence was held amongst the meeting for members who had passed away during the previous year.

2. **Apologies for absence:**

Received from the following members: Mike Gillet, Colin Andrews.

3. **Corrections to 2017 AGM minutes:**

None received.

4. **Acceptance of the 2017 AGM minutes.**

Proposed by Dave Ball. Seconded by Paul Muir. Minutes accepted - 30 in favour with 2 abstentions.

5. **Matters arising from 2017 AGM minutes:**

SM confirmed that the 2 matters arising from the minutes. The first will be covered in the appropriate section report during the meeting. These matters were 1) Members' subscription fees and, 2) Request to have a more appropriate logo for the Major's Memorial Trophy event. SM outlined that Committee had discussed the logo for the 2018 Major's event and made changes to better reflect both the club and the event.

6. **Chair's report:**

Firstly, thank you for coming and supporting the club at this time.

There have been some changes over this past year on committee with Stuart officially becoming the Club Secretary, Alex standing down from the Green Lane role, Graeme completing his final issue of the journal in December, Ruth joining us temporarily to take on the Journal these past 11 months, the next issue will be her last so I would like to thank Ruth for her help and support with being creative by gathering and delivering articles so members can receive the information. As December will be the last Ruth sends to print we are actively looking for someone to take on this role. Even if the role was to be shared between a couple of people or it was delivered quarterly, this is an important source of information, without this we rely on the Website and Facebook a lot more with the odd email sent here and there.

Paul has also been taking on the responsibility of trials and making sure these happen, The committee is stretching themselves to make the club continue forward, if we could get more people on board to help things in the club would be made easier and more enjoyable.

I have not been able to give the club as much attention as I'd have liked this past year and I am afraid things will not be changing any time soon. This has put a greater deal of pressure on the rest of the club. It was my intention to step down this year as I did not think it was fair on the

club and you the members to continue this way however, I will be standing for another year, if you'll have me but taking more of a step back, discussions are to be had within the committee as to whether it would be easier and better if I were to relieve the role completely.

If this does happen, I would still like to be involved and possibly take on another section that isn't so demanding. I did not want it to come to this as I have enjoyed every minute in this role, times are hard in the club, we need as much support as we can get but we must all remember that we are volunteers and can only do what we can do but it is difficult to walk away from something that means a lot.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped support the club from organising events, all the way through to attending events – it can take a lot of time and effort and this doesn't go unnoticed, it has been nice to see so many people get involved.

Moving on to what else has happened these past 12 months, Jonathan has been working on the new website, this is an exciting time and I can't wait to see what you all think. Jonathan will talk us through it later in his report.

I was unable to attend this year's Easter at Eastnor event; I heard that the weekend in itself was a challenge due to the weather. Thank you to those who supported the event and to Liz who awarded prizes to last year's winners. For anyone who currently holds a trophy could you please hand it to a committee member at the next event or meeting please by the end of the year so we can get these prepped ready for next year. 2019 prizing giving location is being discussed as meetings are being had with the Eastnor Estate. If you would like to see an awards evening return to the calendar then please let us know your thoughts so we can make it happen.

Over the past 2 years we have allowed Q class vehicles to enter trial including the Major's Memorial. The trial is due to come to an end December this year. The ALRC have a meeting 17th November if you are able to attend.

The ALRC National Rally at Stainby had support from other ALRC clubs to run the event this year so that the pressure to deliver such a big event does not lie with just 1. This year we helped by setting out and hosting the TYRO which David Ball, Richard Parry and I did, with the help of others. It was a great way to get involved and if they look at doing this again in future National Rally events it would be great to get involved again. The 2019 National Rally will be held in Milton Keynes and co-hosted by Anglian LRC and Chiltern Vale over the bank holiday weekend, 23rd – 27th May 2019. They may still need your help with marshalling if you want to get involved. Contact them to find out more.

We held the meeting for 2019 calendar of events back in September, there are some details to be finalised however you will see this soon.

Please make sure you check the calendar online for any updates before you attend an event in case of any changes.

I arranged a trip to Les Comes, Spain for the Land Rover 70th Anniversary. In total we had 5 units take part. This is an amazing experience to be a part of, chances are I will be arranging it again next year and will advertise the dates as soon as they are released, usually the last weekend in September – first in October. I will share the details and costs but you will need to do the booking.

Again, thank you for all of your support.

Question: Can you clarify if Q class is continuing in the off road trial events?

Response (SM): The Q class trial project is coming to an end as confirmed by ALRC but not Q class per se.

7. Secretary's report:

From my point of view as your club secretary, it's been a very steady year, as I have continued to further embed into the club secretary role and understand more about the standard club processes that I need to deliver and be involved in. As a priority I have ensured that the club has continued to operate legally and always has sufficient and appropriate insurance cover for all its activities. We do get a fair bit of correspondence and contact from outside the club, which all needs attending to and dealing with appropriately, and onward communication to members where necessary, mainly via articles in the Journal as our main medium of informing everyone about what's happening. I have endeavoured to represent our club as fully and as best I can, especially through attendance at the regular ALRC meetings and other similar meetings with organisations that we have an association with.

This year we worked to ensure that the club was adhering to the new Data Protection policy (GDPR), which necessitated a review all of our data collection and storage, as well as the need to develop a new Privacy Policy for the club, which I hope you've all seen and read with enthusiasm! Our club has officially become affiliated with GLASS via club membership, which provides us with access to information put out by GLASS. This has been especially useful for supporting the re-starting of club-run Green Lane activities that have happened recently.

As well as continuing to do all of the above matters, Should I be voted into this role again for the coming year, I want to focus on 3 specific improvements – all designed to bring further benefit to our club:

Introduce an annual review process of the clubs articles and rules of operation to ensure they continue to be comprehensive, appropriate and also enable us to operate properly as a club without any undue constraint or confusion.

Engage more with members across all our activities, with a view to trying to identify and encourage members to undertake the vacant roles on committee, to help us all out and continue to run your club well.

Undertake further research to ensure that our insurance policies are cost effective – whilst maintaining the appropriate level of cover.

Can I offer my thanks to Committee and members for all the support that they have given to me over the last year

No questions asked nor matters raised.

8. Treasurer's report:

Figures for our 2017/18 financial year were published with October's Journal. The hope is that they're understood by most of the members. The year ended with a small surplus, even with the high business costs like insurance, and in recent times, generally lower levels of membership and event attendance. Not all Club activities are able to return a surplus, or break even, but we try to contain or reduce expenditure where we can in an effort to prevent us increasing membership subscriptions or event entry fees. While we have a good reserve we can continue with this effort for the benefit of the members. As part of our reserves, we still have two

business savings bonds – another one matured this year, paid interest, and was reinvested. The Creditors figure reported comprises;

- the Majors 2018 balance carried forward;
- the remainder of a Lottery grant to Response due to be spent,
- balance of pre-paid trials vouchers yet to be redeemed,
- and an allowance for expected bills yet to be paid for that year.

The Debtors figure includes items already paid relevant to 2018/19. We'd allowed an amount for taxation last year, but HMRC declined to collect, so it has been returned to the coffers. It all helps. Detailed accounts can be made available if any member wishes to examine them.

I guess I'll be back next AGM to update you on that year's progress, but I'm still hoping a willing volunteer will come forward to be ready to take over the reins in the near future. Could all those interested, or needing more information please form an orderly queue when the meeting concludes. Of course, other Committee roles are available. If there are any questions from the floor, I'll try and answer them now, or if necessary I could give more detailed replies via the Journal.

No questions asked nor matters raised.

9. Acceptance of the club accounts.

Proposed by Martin Pittaway. Seconded by Richard Smith. All members voted unanimously in favour of accepting the accounts as a true record.

10. Membership Secretary's report:

At the end of this Feb (End of Membership Yr), total members stood at 269 – slightly higher than the previous 2 years! The number of New Members reduced from 62 in 2016/17 down to 49 in the last membership year. This may reflect on the general downturn we hear from other Land Rover Clubs, but fortunately doesn't appear to be an ongoing downward trend as new members in the 7 months of this membership year are already at 50 (traditionally we've gained between an additional 10 to 20 new members during the latter part of the membership year). Another positive is that our existing membership retention is improving noticeably. The challenge is to maintain this momentum.

Membership income in the last financial year (to end of July) decreased slightly by ~ £170 to approx. £5,200 due to the lower quantity of new members versus existing member renewals.

During the last AGM a proposal was made to evaluate the potential of replacing the current practice of reduced cost for new members late in the year with an alternative of extended membership (the remainder of year + 12 months) at the current annual cost – potentially "locking in" the new members for a greater time. Based on our typical new member quantity of 4 ~ 14 during this part of the year, I've identified this would generate a reduced membership income of between £50 ~ £200 per year & as a conclusion it's not recommended.

Ongoing improvements we've made to the membership area of the website appear to be further reducing the questions / incorrectly filled out membership applications. Plans we've agreed for the new website should make the new applications & renewals process easier – especially for members with family members.

The computerised Membership Database was originally started in the early 1990s to help manage membership records. For info, we've now transferred the bulk of the available paper records onto it, covering approx. 3,100 members out of the 4,500+ since MROC was formed. There are a few more to add, but it's unlikely to climb above 3,500 in the database.

The Government requirement to force organisations to eliminate surcharges for the use of PayPal was implemented earlier this year & unfortunately has made PayPal a more popular option for members joining or renewing, causing an increase in membership costs of £80+ per year. To reduce this cost increase, we'd like to ask more members to convert to the lower cost (for MROC) Direct Debit system for renewals – which as a reminder, you can join at any time up to renewal time at middle of Feb & the money won't be taken until late in Feb.

Due to the increasing cost of printing & posting the paper journal & because virtually all new members in the last few years have provided email addresses, the decision was made earlier in the year to stop providing paper journals to new members – saving the club at least £40/ yr. NB : We would like more of the approx. 80 members still currently receiving paper journals to convert to an e-Journal if possible - to further reduce the approx. £2,000/yr. spent on Journal printing & delivery.

An annual reminder - If anyone's contact details change, please let me know asap to ensure that your Journal continues to be delivered OK & you receive your membership renewal info.

Question: Could the surcharge for Paypal payments be addressed via an extra goodwill donation by members (rounded to £1)?

Response (PM): It could work, but it would need a lot of work to change the website when making membership fees. We could investigate what is feasible. The total estimated surcharge of £80 is not significant in the grand scheme of things, and there is always the option to recover this payment via an increase in the costs of providing paper copies of the Journal.

Question: Can we use the option to pay via friends and family facility on Paypal?

Response (PM): That is not an option available for commercial use.

11. **Membership fees:**

It is proposed to leave the membership fees at the current rate for the next membership year. A reminder of the fees:

- New Full or Associate member: £30 / £25 renewal.
- New Family member: £15 / £12.50 renewal.

12. **Vice Chair report:**

This year is my first year in the Vice Chair seat. I have stepped in primarily to support Sam deliver what is required by the club's Chair. I am getting used to the role and plan to step up more in the coming year to help Sam and Committee more. Feedback from members is always welcomed and I look forward to talking with you during the year ahead. I would like to thank Committee for all of their help and support to me over the last year.

13. **2018 Major's Memorial Event report:**

Report from Sam Miller – co-ordinator of the 2018 event.

What another great year. Good weather, well laid out sections, unfortunately the numbers were down. The 2018 Majors Memorial Trial overall went very well this year with a few minor hiccups involving a couple of ambulances and police but other than that what it was a success. We had

24 teams enter this year which is 3 less than last. Still no Standard team or lady drivers let alone a ladies team!

Winners from – Lancashire and Cheshire LRC, Dave Naylor, Neil Melish and Ben Parkes – normally Keith Lyman and has been since 2014.

We had support from a new catering company, Bassett Bar and Catering, the bar locally sourced from Ledbury. Bar 7. They are keen to support any future events and we would be more than happy to have them there as they provided a good service. James come down to help with the prize giving, it is good to see the estate supporting the event and LRE sponsoring the trials. The event was well supported and the feedback from other clubs has been really good.

As always we will continue to donate to the local school and church in Ledbury from our profits. We have continued clothing for the Major's which we hope to continue with each year.

The committee will continue to run the event for 2019 in September, we have had interest for CoC however, if you are interested in taking part in organising please come forward as we are also looking for an event manager. If you would like to or have anyone in mind that could help run / organise the event, please come forward. It is hard work but it is also so much fun. I want to thank everyone involved. Hamish, Ben, Steve, Freddie and Will for the weekends prior to the event taking place, laying out the sections and everyone who helped in the run up to the event and whilst the event took place, there are many jobs to be done for this event to happen. Again, thank you. It is very much appreciated.

The land at Eastnor is becoming harder to get due to the land being a Site of Special Scientific Interest. We do have an agreement with LRE and the Estate which we have to abide by. This includes minimum damage to the land and its surrounding trees. Having said all this, the land at Eastnor has been damaged due to the amount of rain we had but also at the Major's event, by competitors and supporters laying out using trees and causing damage. This has been noticed and reported back to us, which makes situations more difficult for us to secure the land for any future events. If this isn't taken seriously then we take the chance of losing the site, and cannot afford to do that especially after the relationship Richard Smith has built up over the years. I need to stress to everyone moving forward plans will be put in place when an event is held at Eastnor, an Estate representative will need to be present. If this doesn't happen then we run the risk of events being cancelled. Richard Smith will provide more details in his report.

Dates for 2019 Major's Memorial event are 13th-15th September 2019.

14. Section Reports

14.1. Caravan & Camping secretary's report:

Rather a poor start to the season with both Warmington and the Birdlip weekends cancelled due to the extremely wet weather. Easter at Eastnor did run and despite the appalling ground conditions we had a good turnout. During May 8 units attend the sunnier venue at Barnstaple. After a break of a couple of years we returned to The Blue Lias Inn in June for a very lazy long week end. As usual the Welland Steam Fair was well attend in July. My thanks to Judy and Michael Boyle for their help. The proposed holiday rally did not run in August due to poor interest and the ill health of the rally officer. Many thanks to Kath and Martin Armstrong for their Reception duties at this year's excellent Majors. October Autumn break was held at St Ives in Cambridgeshire and was well attended.

A Christmas meal has been booked for a provisional 12 places at the Greedy Goose Inn on Saturday 8 December. Caravans etc. will be on the site adjacent the Newman's Quarry trials Ground. The New Year's Rally has been provisionally booked at the Fish and Anchor at Offenham. I have reserved 12 pitches, but already have six provisional bookings.

No questions asked nor matters raised.

14.2. Child Safeguarding officer's report:

As the official CSO for MROC and I am pleased to announce that there have been no incidents to report.

No questions asked nor matters raised.

14.3. Competition report:

For those of you who may not know, I'm the competition secretary for our club. I arrange for the event permits to be in place, these come from the governing body the Motorsport UK. And PR pays for them! The permits are forwarded to the person running the event, the permit must be available at each venue we use.

This season we will have applied for 10 permits. We have cancelled 4 permits as they were not needed (1 due to weather and 3 due to lack of competitors).

Also this year, I have helped PM compile revised supplementary regulations for our trial events.

No questions asked nor matters raised.

14.4. Journal editor's report:

(Verbal report from Ruth Smith, acting editor)

I took on the role at the beginning of the year as a temporary measure to support the club in such an important role. I firmly believe that the Journal is a crucial medium for communicating with all of our members. I have thoroughly enjoyed undertaking this role and the work it entails. I have had great support from members and the club's Committee and certainly hope that you have enjoyed receiving my editions of the Journal.

However, the time has come that I need to step aside from this role and allow other member(s) to take up the mantle. I am willing to step back in and support the new editor or help with editing the Journal in future if things change.

I would like to offer a couple of suggestions to the club for its Journal going forward. 1) Try using guest editors from across the membership base, if the task is seen as too daunting currently for someone to step forward. 2) For the printed version of the Journal we should be looking to charge a nominal fee to cover the cost of production.

No questions asked nor matters raised.

14.5. Press and Publicity report:

This role has been vacant now for a while and we are looking for someone to fill it, this includes promoting events for the club via our website, social media, magazines, etc. promoting other clubs to our members, getting publicity and support from other magazines etc.

If you are interested in taking this on we are taking nominations tonight which will be discussed at the next meeting or taken to a vote this evening.

No questions asked nor matters raised.

14.6. **Social Secretary's report:**

Since last year's AGM we have had many social events, including pub meets, bowling, an Indian and Chinese meal, ice skating (which wasn't a huge success) and a social weekend in July at the Fish and Anchor, which included a meal on Friday night and BBQ and quiz on Saturday night it was a great success and enjoyed by everybody that attended, this is something I am hoping to do again next year. With it being the 50th anniversary of the Major's next year I am hoping it will be an opportunity for a great social event as well as the main trial, if you have any ideas on anything you would like to happen that weekend please do feel free to get in contact with me, I am always open to ideas.

September's social will be held on the working weekend so if you have any suggestions on a venue in or around Ledbury I would very much appreciate it.

I am also playing with the idea of having a Halloween party next year, if you could give me your thoughts on that I'd be most grateful.

Last year our Christmas party was not so well attended. I thank the people that did come along and joined in, but I also understand that it is a busy time of year for a lot of people and sometimes it's a struggle to get to these events.

This year I've decided to mix things up a little, on November the 24th we are attending a Christmas party at the Crowne Plaza, Solihull. I provisionally booked 30 tickets at £29.95 for a 3-course meal and disco and much to my surprise all 30 had been allocated within a few days, due to such high demand I tried to book some additional tickets, but unfortunately the venue was fully booked. I will take this into consideration next year if we are to do it again, I am really looking forward to it and I am sure it will be a very successful evening.

This year I haven't put anything in place for the children at Christmas, I had intended on taking those that were interested to a local pantomime but to be completely honest couldn't quite work out the best way to go ahead with that but is something I will want to do next year.

In 2019 I will continue to organise social events for the 1st Saturday in every month (except for August which proves to be the busiest month for holidays). Starting with A Chinese meal at the Jade wok in Solihull in January and in February we have Beer and Skittles night at the Swan in Studley.

If you have any suggestions on something you would like me to arrange please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your support over the last year.

Question: Can I suggest running a tug'o'war and a bike trial activity for the Major's event next year?

Question: Can I suggest running a gymkhana type event?

Response (KC): Thank you. Yes these are good ideas and I'll take them back to committee for consideration.

No questions asked nor matters raised.

14.7. **Response report:**

Not such a quiet year this time as early on in December we had quite a heavy snowfall that only lasted a couple of days but had the team out and about with little warning. This was followed in late February & early March with another good dumping. Those periods of call outs saw the group responding to 56 requests for assistance with 29 volunteers covering a total of over 2000 miles; we answered requests from Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire Local Authorities, NHS, West Midlands Ambulance, Solihull Care, and West Midlands Fire & Rescue.

In May we supported the club by having a joint club/response stand at the Gaydon Land Rover Show where we displayed vehicles and assisted with a combined advertising and promotional weekend to attract new members.

In August I had a call from the Organisers of the 'Camper Calling' music festival at Ragley Hall asking if we could provide 4 vehicles on each of the next 2 days for recovery & towing duties as a forecast of heavy rain was going to give them many problems with vehicles leaving the park. This was August Bank Holiday but we still managed to accommodate their needs with our members doing a great public relations job and earning the group in excess of £1k.

Worth remembering that every time volunteers turn out they are wearing clothing that advertises not only Response but also the club, and vehicles are also carrying signage to that effect.

A good deal of time during the year has been spent attending various meetings with the local authorities and other resilience partners.

In September I attended the Emergency Services Show at the NEC which is a an excellent networking exercise and later that month also attended the Response UK AGM.

Last November we hired in plant for a few days to carry out work on the training ground. We didn't complete as the ground and soil was so soft and plans to finish off early this year were scuppered because of the wet weather we had; in contrast to that we couldn't finish the work in the summer because the ground was too hard. However, at the end of September we hired more plant and 4 of us spending 3 days at the ground saw us at last completing that work. Previously the cost was covered by funding from The National Lottery but most recently funding from National Grid in Solihull covered the cost of plant hire.

My thanks go to the rest of the team and all those who have helped throughout the year, and also to the club & committee for continued support.

Looking ahead I hope to utilise the group to support one or two commercial events a year and in doing so bring in enough finance to avoid me having to spend many hours applying for external funding, funding that is necessary to keep the group afloat. Maintenance on the training ground will be ongoing throughout the year.

Question: Can you confirm that the £1k received from supporting the Camper Calling event was for MROC?

Response (JK): The money went into the Response account, which is separate to the main Club's account to support the operation of the Response arm of the club. The account has to be separate to enable Response to make bids for further funding itself.

14.8. **Recovery report:**

For many years we have supported Clee Hill Rally in January. This year the event did not take place which was a shame, however, we have been approached this year as the event is back on 20th January 2019 to help with the recovery. I have helped organise this in the past but I will not be around when the event takes place so I am appealing for your help and support with this as it would be a shame for the organisers to move on and ask another club. If you are interested please come and speak to me.

No questions asked nor matters raised.

14.9. **Green Lane report:**

As mentioned previously this section became vacant back in February so we are looking for someone to help run days out! We held a day out in Warwickshire in June on Father's day; this was a good turnout of 12 so we split into 2 groups. We also had another day back in September around the Leicestershire area, again this was a good turnout of 8 considering it was last minute. We also have another one planned for this Sunday 11th in the Shropshire area.

This is showing to be a popular area. If anyone would like to help out by giving details of a trip and which maps they have used or even help by running a day out, you will have our support. I would like to get at least 4 on the calendar for 2019 but I will need someone to run one for me around February/March time.

We have been charging a £5 fee which covers the cost of GLASS membership etc.

I would like to thank those who have helped support this section giving up time to help with reces to make the day run smoothly.

No questions asked nor matters raised.

14.10. **Trials report:**

The club held 3 RTV trials this year, but some of the club members were competing in other events elsewhere too. Driver numbers are reduced in general compared to last year with an average of about 12 at each event. Easter was an especially good weekend for turnout.

Land costs have increased this year hence why the club has ceased to use Buildwas for events. The club will agree its forward event calendar closely with C&CROC, using at least 2 events in each other's calendar next year.

Q class has not made much difference this year, and the actual adaptations utilised in this class last year weren't very significant nor of much benefit.

The club held 2 CCV events last year with the driver numbers decreasing year on year from 6 to 4. However club drivers have attended other events elsewhere including the National trials.

The club ran its first time trial recently, and it all seemed to go very well and get excellent feedback. The general view was for more similar events next year. Thanks to Steve Blakeman for his vital support for this event and being CoC on the day.

No questions asked nor matters raised.

14.11. **Health and Safety report:**

SV confirmed no incidents reported during this year.

No questions asked nor matters raised.

14.12. Scrutineering report:

This year has been as pleasurable in my role as previous years. The standard of vehicles is generally high. This year marks the end of the second year of the Q class trial. MROC will continue to support Q class within RTV trials rather than include within CCV trial events. In summary Q class has not made too much difference or had much impact for MROC.

Thanks to all who have helped me in my role throughout the year.

No questions asked nor matters raised.

14.13. Web Editor's report:

This is my first year on the committee as Web Editor. Initially there was a steep learning curve getting up to speed with how the website works and is updated. There are approximately 15 updates to the website per month consisting mainly of events and member information. The website is quite busy given the size of the club's membership, and although Facebook seems to be the number one way to communicate in real time with members, the website is still a useful resource for the detail. There's approximately 500 visits per month, and about 35% are new visitors. 60% are mobile users. The majority of users visit just the homepage, the rest seem to look at events in more detail and a small percentage look at the photo gallery & other info pages.

Since I joined the club, the website has remained the same with regard to its look and feel, and has undergone some criticism by members that it is outdated and is difficult to use on a mobile. From my point of view, it's fairly difficult to maintain as it's grown over the years to quite a complex solution. The committee has decided to replace the website and that has been my main focus this year. It's nearly finished in fact. We've even had a photo shoot for the club clothing which you'll have seen in the journal this year. The new website has been written from scratch using the latest technologies and techniques. Visually it's much more photo led, which is the trend now, and works great on mobiles. The homepage will contain the latest news and events, galleries and important info. There will be an online shop selling the clothing and accessories. I've been adding sneak peaks to the journal this year but if anyone would like to have a preview tonight, signal permitting, you can do on my iPad.

During the next few months, I intend to finish the website and launch it. Then over the next year it'll be added to as and when content dictates.

No questions asked nor matters raised.

14.14. Merchandise officer's report:

A quiet year for merchandise, poor communication from supplier has prompted us to change to a new company. We are now using Lizard Clothing, which has delivered the same quality and slightly better prices and quicker turnaround.

The Major's event tops were well received this year, with more pre-orders than last year.

Any suggestions for items people would like to see are welcome. As next year is the 50th anniversary of the Major's event we are looking for specific ideas for commemorative items of merchandise. Ideas from members about colours and items would be helpful.

Question: Some other clubs offer towropes and in-vehicle fire extinguishers for sale. Has the club looked into do something similar or providing guidance on recommended towropes – as some members don't know where to look for such things.

Response (LG): If you can send me any specific information that you have seen can you send it through to me please to help with further investigations.

Question: Would it be worth having gold as the colour for the 50th anniversary Major's event?

Response (LG): We could use gold within the colour palette for the event, and also look to utilise colours from the Major's army career that would provide an appropriate link to the Major.

15. Eastnor Liaison report:

(Verbal report provided by Richard Smith)

We have booked and held 2 events this year at Eastnor, one at Easter and the other was the Major's Memorial Trial in September. I must apologise for the negativity of this report however I don't have anything positive to say.

Easter

I attended Eastnor with Paul Muir a couple of weeks before Easter to show him the land available for the competitions. It was very wet and only became wetter leading up to Easter. Unfortunately I was unable to attend the event due to personal circumstances, so I left the decision as to whether the event should run down to those Committee members who were attending. The decision was to let the event run, but with hindsight (always a great thing!) it should have been cancelled. Imagine my shock when attending a meeting at LRE to discuss the 70th celebrations that LRE were proposing to run in conjunction with the MROC, I was ambushed and told that the edges of the tracks had been severely damaged, logs had been left in the ruts and there had been a lot of obvious tree damage too. LRE were very disappointed that this had happened after so many years of good relations with us and the outcome of this meeting was that they said that they would only allow the MROC to trial at Eastnor in future if either myself or Sam Miller were in attendance and could control the event and check the site afterwards. I made the Committee aware of this conversation via email.

The Major's event.

The weekend was a great success for the competitions and all attending, however a week after the event I received an email from LRE about more damage to trees asking for the Club to comment on it and reassurances about steps that would be taken to safeguard this from happening in the future. I immediately forwarded this email on to the Committee in time for the October Committee meeting. I also mentioned this at the driver's calendar meeting shortly beforehand. After the October meeting I contacted a member of the Committee to find out what the official reply from the Club was to be, only to find out that the issue had not even been put on the Agenda, let alone discussed. So there was no official reply. After finding this out I decided to reply to LRE, apologising for the time it was taking to get a response from the Club, but said that I had found out it was a stropky driver which is what I had been told. I heard

nothing back from LRE however last week I received an email from Eastnor Estates that had been copied in to LRE, which I shall now read to you.

“I wanted to drop you an email about the Majors in September. I understand there was some damage to trees over the weekend which is a concern. In addition footage of the event has been uploaded to YouTube which at one point shows a vehicle rolling and flattening a tree. As you know the estate is in various schemes including HLS, SSSI, AONB and as a result Natural England pay a lot of attention to the estate. We in return gain financial benefits for the way in which the estate is managed in the form of grants from Natural England and other Government bodies. I have discussed the damage caused over the Majors weekend with James and if this type of damage re-occurs we will have to look at stopping any MROC access to the estate. This of course is not something we would like to do but we need to protect our valuable relationship with Natural England.

Hopefully we can continue to welcome the MROC to Eastnor but we do need some re-assurance that your members are being as well supervised as they have been in the past under your supervision.”

I hope that you are as horrified as I am. I would like to know what I am supposed to go back and tell them please, and how the Club is going to respect the fact that we do not have a right to use the land, and what procedures will be put in place to ensure that this does not happen again. This has made me feel that unless I am actually at every event and able to supervise the whole event then I cannot trust that the land will be respected and the MROC will completely lose the use of Eastnor for events.

The only positive that I can offer is that 2019 sees the 50th anniversary of the Majors event and the Estate and family have asked me if we can do something special – however this was before the recent email about damage! I would welcome any suggestions as to what we could do to make next year’s Majors memorable - should we be allowed to continue trialling at Eastnor.

A discussion then ensued amongst attendees based on this report from Richard. Highlights of this discussion are set out below.

It was highlighted that Richard Smith had attempted to report this matter to Committee using the generic committee email address. But as this did not receive an appropriate response it was directed to select individuals’ email addresses, including some Committee members. As this too did not elicit the required response to Richard Smith, providing the requested direction, he asserted that the club’s Committee needs to address its communication issues, and give better support to him in his role for the club, and provide assurances that it is managing the ongoing operation of the club properly and sufficiently. He also requested that the Committee provides the necessary direction for him to undertake his Eastnor liaison role, and would like an apology from the Committee for the difficult position it left him in.

It was suggested, discussed and agreed that there are many lessons that the Committee can learn from this situation and some immediate actions that could be taken to build revisions into the SR’s and club policies for competition events, and enforce them properly as a club.

Mention was made that the current number of vacancies at Committee does not help the situation with current Officers having to ensure all matters are covered appropriately.

It was also suggested that an offer is made to Eastnor Estate for reparations to the natural vegetation.

It was generally acknowledged that prevention is the preferred policy for the club to adopt at its official events. It was also acknowledged that more people need to be on hand to help out after each event to help with the site inspection and close down. Each event could be signed off with a formal report to the Estate, identifying any damage that accidentally occurred, and thereby being open and transparent with the Estate.

It was also felt that the club can do better than it has been doing in the preparation, organisation and management of key events like those held at Eastnor.

SM commented that it is always beneficial to receive feedback and take on board the comments made, which will be considered at future Committee meetings to ensure continuous improvements are made. SM assured that Committee will look at how it manages and delivers its communications. SM also encouraged all members to utilise the @MROC email addresses for electronic communications as these are delivered to multiple Officers who can pick up important matters to attend to.

SM suggested that the discussion on the topic should continue after the close of the AGM (to which all are invited) to identify further areas and suitable resolutions.

16. MROC Archive report:

(Verbal report provided by Steve Collins)

This year I've not received any new photographs for archiving. I have been spending my time this year mainly doing caravanning but have also been reviewing the minutes from meetings held in the 1970's.

I do hope that people will want to see the archive that I have been working on when it is finished!

Question: Are you looking to put the archive onto the club's website?

Response (JJ): Yes we can look into doing this.

17. Election of Officers:

The following retiring Officers of the club are offering themselves for re-election as Officers:

Samantha Miller – Chairlady

Liz Guilding – Vice chair

Phil Rock – Treasurer

Stuart Vickers – Club Secretary

All were unopposed and re-elected by a unanimous vote in favour with no votes against and no abstentions.

18. Election of Committee:

The following committee members stood down and offered themselves for re-election to the general committee of the club:

Martin Pittaway	Competition Secretary
Richard Banks	Chief Scrutineer
John Kesterton	Response Co-ordinator
Kelly Cole	Child Safeguarding Officer
Kelly Cole	Social Secretary

Paul Muir	Membership Secretary
Jim Savage	Caravans and Camping
Jonathan Jones	Web Editor
Liz Guilding	Merchandise

All were unopposed and re-elected by a unanimous vote in favour with no votes against and no abstentions.

19. Election of members to General Committee

There were no nominations received for the following four positions on committee: Recovery and Tyro co-ordinator; Journal editor; Trials co-ordinator; Press and Publicity officer, and Green Lane Co-ordinator. These positions remain vacant.

20. Any other business

GLASS membership

Richard Smith enquired about the status of the club's membership with GLASS.

Response (SV): The club has taken the opportunity to utilise the new option for club membership offered by GLASS, for which the fee is not based on volume of members, and is therefore much reduced to what had been the case in previous years (and is therefore more inviting and a much improved value for money to the club).

Publication of the club events calendar

Ruth Smith asked when it is expected that the club's forward look events calendar will be published (which she would use to input club events into the ALRC calendar).

Response (PM): I have hard copies of the calendar available here if you would like a copy, but otherwise expect the electronic version to be available very soon.

21. Date of next Annual General Meeting

The proposed date is Tuesday 5th November 2019.

22. Date of next committee meeting

The next committee meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th December 2018.

23. Close of meeting

Sam Miller thanked everyone for coming along to this year's annual general meeting and for everyone's efforts to support the club over the last year.

The meeting closed at 10:00pm