

Gay Classic Car Group

Record of the meeting of the Gay Classic Car Group held on 26 March 2017 at the Radisson Blu Hotel, East Midlands Airport, Castle Donington DE 74 2Z.

Present:	Brian Palmer	Chairman
	Tony Stokoe	Big End Editor
	Darren Mitcham	Liaison
	Jeremy Lindon	Treasurer
	Rob Dewing	Webmaster
	Robin Edwards	Ordinary Member
	Ian Roberts	Ordinary Member and Founder
	Iain Johncock	General Secretary
	David Birkett	Membership Secretary

10 members were also present.

- 1 The Annual General Meeting of the GCCG had been duly called for this date and time but, as the attendance did not reach the quorum of 20 required by the Constitution, the formal meeting was adjourned and it was agreed that it should proceed to discuss the matters on the agenda informally. This record would be considered by the adjourned meeting.
- 2 **Apologies** were received from Alistair Beard, Richard Fox, Tim Griggs, Mark Wells, Sean Neal, Brian Skelhorn, Graham Davis, John Lockyer.
- 3 There were no comments on the **minutes** of the AGM held on 26 February 2016.
- 4 **Chairman's report:** Brian Palmer (BP) summarised the major events and achievements of the past year, drawing particular attention to the new website which went live on 6 February, and expressed his thanks to Rob Dewing, our Webmaster who was responsible for its design and build. Additional features continued to be added, and the feedback from users had been positive. The new website was much better adapted to use on mobile devices, and gave Area Organisers (AO) much more control of their events. He urged members to access the site if they had not already done so, and to update their personal profiles. The Committee had done a lot of work during the year researching suitable hotels all over the country for Eurotour 2018, and the result would be announced later this year along with the outline programme and booking arrangements. During the year sadly the death of Bill Robson had occurred, a well liked and respected member and former Area Organiser, and a well attended memorial run was held last summer. BP welcomed two new Area Organisers, Len Smart (LS) and his partner Tom Crooks for South Wales, and David Greenleaf (DG) for Scotland. After discussion the report was noted.
- 5 **Treasurer's report:** For the first time, two years' reports were presented, both 2015 and 2016, made possible by the timing of the AGM in March. There was considered no need to raise subscriptions again this year, and the report was duly noted.
- 6 **Membership Secretary's report:** Numbers have remained broadly stable around the 1,000 mark including partners. The usual pattern is that each year some people do not renew, but new members join up in the early months of the year. Events were a stimulus to growth especially in urban areas. There was a flow of members from the 2000 strong Facebook

group (run by member Gary Fuller but not owned by the GCCG). Of that group, some 200 were already members although it included 500 who were unidentifiable. The report was noted.

- 7 Liaison Officer's report:** The Area Organisers meeting held near Reading in early March was well attended with 10 present plus DM and RE from the Committee. It was a useful opportunity to share experiences and to meet new AOs including David Greenleaf (DG) from Scotland. The new website was also demonstrated and AOs given help on uploading their events, and there was discussion about financing, how to handle social media issues as well as improving recruitment.
- 8 General Secretary's report:** IJ expressed some concern about the turnout at the meeting which fell below the quorum of 20 set out in the 2015 Constitution. Although the clash with Mother's Day was unfortunate, the Committee had tried to move the AGM round the country to make it accessible to members and linked to attractions such as today's visit to the Donington Museums. The Committee will need to consider the options for the AGM in future to ensure that meetings were quorate.
- 9 Webmaster's report:** RD said that since the new website went live there has been 483 logins, indicating a good level of interest. Optimised for mobile and tablet devices, it was now possible for AOs to update their own pages as well as making the annual membership updating process much easier. As yet the membership database was not available to AOs but would be shortly, or on request. In response to a question about whether non renewers are followed up, DB said that that did happen, but was more difficult where the payment was made on PayPal which does not trigger an auto email when the payer does not renew. RD said that he would welcome more high resolution photos of club events to put on the website. BP felt the new website was a major step forward and thanked RD and the Committee members who had worked to make it a success.
- 10 Big End (BE) and All Torque (AT):** BP commended the editors TS and Simon Legge (SL) for their respective contributions to the improvement in the quality of the club's communications. Whereas the website would continue to carry all current events, BE offers both a printed diary and record of activities, whereas AT is the electronic newsletter highlighting new and upcoming events. SL noted that a high proportion of AT emails had been opened, and it was possible to track the level of interest to certain types of events.
- 11 Reports from Area Organisers:** **Phil Dunster (North West)** said that they were now supporting two monthly meetings in different parts of the region. The GCCG stand at the Tatton show in Manchester was now well regarded by the organisers on account of the quality of its display. **David Greenleaf** hoped to build back the **Scottish** group to 25+ starting with members who had lapsed. He initiated an inaugural lunch via Facebook which brought together 9 members from all over Scotland, and was now organising a Drive It Day event and had in mind proposals for visits to the Pitlochry Theatre and a tour of the Border abbeys. He would also like to put together a group to do the North Coast 500 (from Inverness to John O'Groats and back via Ullapool) which might be of interest to members across the country. **Jeremy Palmer (South West)** reported that they had 30 for the Laying Up Lunch, 34 for Drive It Day, with pub meets successful and well attended. He was pleased to report that both the Isle of Wight and Somerset tours had sold out. Other events were being planned such as a regular visit to Exmouth Pride as well as a lunch on Dartmoor towards Christmas. **Len Smart (South Wales)** is planning to have a stand at the Vale of Glamorgan car show in May, and hoped to link with the adjacent Wessex area to draw in more members

for future events. **Mark Wells (South Yorks)** although not present reported via SL that the Yorkshire tour in September 2017 was now sold out, a weekend Ramble to East Yorkshire at the end of June was planned and there were more than 15 events on line including regular pub meets. BP was pleased to note that there were now had more AOs in post than for many years, and thanked them for their work and for everything they do for the GCCG.

The reports were noted.

- 12 Election of Officers:** In the circumstances as all officers had put themselves forward for re-election they would continue in office, as follows:

Brian Palmer	Chairman
Tony Stokoe	Big End Editor
Darren Mitcham	Liaison
Jeremy Lindon	Treasurer
Rob Dewing	Webmaster
Robin Edwards	Ordinary Member
Ian Roberts	Ordinary Member and Founder
Iain Johncock	General Secretary
David Birkett	Membership Secretary

- 13 Any Other Business:** Jeremy Palmer said that there was a value in succession planning for AOs to avoid disruption in future when people stood down. BP hoped AOs would encourage active members to organise one off events not only to spread the responsibility but with the hope that they might consider becoming an AO themselves in time. Noted.

- 14** BP thanked all those present for attending and said that the notice of the reconvened AGM would be given in due course, when it would be asked to agree this record as its minutes.