

## Gay Classic Car Group

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 6 March 2022 at 1.30 p.m. at the British Motor Museum, Gaydon CV35 0BJ and on line via Zoom

Present:	Peter Geake	Chair
	Tony Stokoe	Big End Journal (BEJ) Editor
	Rob Gibson	Area Organiser Liaison
	Mark Wells	2023 Eurotour Co-ordinator
	Darren Mitcham	Press Officer
	Stephen Duxbury	All Torque (AT) Editor
	Steven Forster	Membership Secretary
	Iain Johncock	General Secretary
	Jeremy Lindon	Treasurer (Zoom)
	Rob Dewing	Webmaster (Zoom)

36 members were present in the room, with 4 on Zoom

Apologies: Peter Smith, Harry Small, Geoff Shepherd, Alistair Beard, Allan Downend, Phil Dunster, William Tilsley.

- 1 The Chair (PG) welcomed those present both in the room and on Zoom, and declared the meeting to be quorate with more than 20 in attendance.
- 2 The minutes of the last AGM on 21 March 2021 were agreed; matters arising on the agenda.
- 3 **Chair's report:** PG introduced his report which saw the club emerging strongly from the pandemic with members increasing and activities in all regions as new Area Organisers came forward. He commended club officers who had secured yet again both an award and 'highly commended' entry in last year's Classic and Sportscar Club Awards. In addition to a large and well attended presence at the NEC Classic Car Show the club had also expanded its range of events with the Track Day in August, supported by Racing Pride. PG also drew attention to his initiative to explore offsetting our carbon emissions, in response to growing environmental concerns particularly around older cars. An article in the Spring BEJ highlighted the partnership the FBHVC had established with Tree-V to buy carbon offsets linked to specific tree planting in the UK. Similar schemes were also being developed by others which may be less costly. In response to questions, PG felt that if the club were to adopt a carbon offset scheme it would be seen as socially responsible on this issue. Although individual offsets are available for different classes of vehicle, Tree-V may provide a whole event offset for all participants based on mileage, initially as a one off. The cost would be met from the event charge and each car would be accredited. Members were asked to send their views to the Chair about this proposal as set out in the Spring BEJ. The Committee would consider the options and put forward proposals.

Members were also asked to give their views on a draft equality statement as circulated. Whilst the club already had clear anti discrimination policies as set out in the Constitution, the Code of Conduct and elsewhere, it was felt that these could be more proactive. The draft statement is as follows: *'The GCCG aims to treat all people equally regardless of sexuality, gender, age, disability, race, religion or nationality. As with our vehicles, we actively seek to reflect the diversity in society in our activities. Our codes of conduct and behaviour reflect our*

*desire to promote positive action to secure those standards.'* A consultative questionnaire on equality issues would be circulated later in the year.

PG said it was also time to consider a refresh of the club website and the logo. TS showed examples of the updated logo, where the brief was not only to simplify but ensure that it could be scaled across different platforms while maintain a 'line of sight' with the existing which was well known and had itself evolved over the years. Members were again asked to submit comments to PG both on the logo and possible improvements to the website.

- 4 **Treasurer's report:** A member asked, given the significant resources now accumulated, how much might be available for spending on new initiatives. Jeremy Lindon replied that he considered the equivalent of 2 years' income should be retained as reserves, £26,000. Items coming forward in 2022 included additional gazebos for shows and the cost of the website renewal. The verified accounts for the year ending 31 December 2021 were approved.
- 5 **General Secretary's report:** received.
- 6 **Press Officer's report:** received.
- 7 **Membership report:** (given verbally) Rob Dewing (RD) reported that in 2019 we had a total of 1110 members, which fell by 2% to the end of 2020 to 1084 but by 2021 it had grown back up to 1178 – 8.6% growth, or 6% up compared to the last 'normal' year of 2019, and a greater increase than the previous year 2018-19. This indicates that membership is buoyant and well distributed across the country although the majority is still in London (136) and the South East (106) followed by the West Midlands (81), Anglia (81), NW (59), South Central (57) and SW (57) with smaller numbers in other regions. In terms of gender, 4 state 'fluid', 13 female, 67 prefer not to say and 742 male. (All figures based on lead members). Analysis of the sources of membership where given suggests 'word of mouth' and 'Google' feature strongly as does Facebook, which is still generating more members than Instagram as well as some via 'I drive a classic' on YouTube. A number of responses from the floor indicated that new members already felt included when attending events for the first time, and it was hoped this was an area to be developed by the new Membership Secretary. RG said that he hoped to improve the documentary support for AOs to ensure that new members in their areas are identified and made welcome soon after joining. Received.
- 8 **Webmaster's report:** (given verbally) RD stated that website traffic had significantly increased by about 34% in 2021 compared to 2020, although still 10% below 2019. Typically the website has 20-40 visitors per day. Not surprisingly, traffic is higher at weekends and in summertime, with 54% from mobile phones. From a technical point of view, the site is running reliably though there is still an intention to replace the membership management module as its authors have more or less stopped developing it. There is an active discussion about switching the event listing software to something easier for Area Organisers to use. We thought we had identified a preferred package, however despite its ease of use does not have quite enough features such as tagging for regions. A second contender is now being looked at. Technical support requests are noticeably lower – people seem to have learned how to reset a lost password, and over the past year RD spent more time on the membership secretary role than on tech support. Received.
- 9 **Liaison (including AO Conference and reports):** Rob Gibson(RG) said we had now a full complement of AOs including Marc Lamb (East Midlands), Lorenzo Gomez (Wessex) with Will Lucy assisting in South Central. The AO conference that morning was well attended and

discussed additional events such as a Summer Spectacular and a gathering in the SW. The calendar was filling up this year and members should let us know if they were aware of local Pride events at which we might take part, although it was noted Birmingham Pride was expensive to join. Consideration is being given to splitting London and Wales into North and South to make the organisation of events easier. Brief statements were made by those AOs present including Martin Gillingham (Anglia), Jeremy Palmer (SW), Richard Warrington (London), Darren Mitcham (Chilterns), Stephen Duxbury (NE), Mark Wells (Yorkshire), Graham Davis (SE) and RG (West Midlands). Received.

10 **Eurotour 2023 report:** MW reported that with just over a year to go to Eurotour 2023 (19-22 May) we were close to signing up the hotel, after which routes would start to be planned. A member asked whether a quota would be set aside for visitors from abroad but this had not yet been decided. The venue would be announced in October this year. Received.

11 **Election of Committee for 2022/23:** The following officers were duly proposed and elected by a show of hands from the floor:

Peter Geake	Chair:
Jeremy Lindon	Treasurer
Darren Mitcham	Press Officer
Mark Wells	Eurotour 2023 Co-ordinator
Stephen Duxbury	All Torque Editor
Tony Stokoe	Big End Journal Editor
Rob Dewing	Webmaster
Rob Gibson	Area Organiser Liaison
Iain Johncock	General Secretary

Steven Forster had been co-opted during the year as Membership Secretary and gave a short statement setting out his intention to improve the welcome to new members, explore how we might enhance recruitment and develop better links with other car clubs. He was then duly elected by a show of hands.

12 **Any other business:** Sadly a number of long standing members had died during the year and SD circulated a club sympathy card which had been designed and was now available for partners and friends, on application to him. RD asked for new images to be sent to populate the redesigned website and social media channels as many were now out of date. IJ drew attention to the provisional AGM date for 2023, 5 March and invited suggestions about possible venues - The Black Country Museum and Duxford Air Museum were proposed and would be investigated.

13 PG thanked all those present for attending and closed the meeting at 2.45 p.m.