

# Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club

## Great Western Section Newsletter – Autumn/Winter 2020

### Chairman's Checkpoint

Dear All,

Like everybody else, I am finding the current global situation difficult to get to grips with. All of us have our own needs and priorities and some of you may hesitate to consider some of The Great Western Section's plans. Out of necessity, many of our hopes may be dashed or put on hold but nevertheless we as a Committee have decided to attempt to make plans and be flexible if the situation warrants it.

During the current year we have suffered losses. On the committee we have lost our friend Wendy Parfitt who was always willing to have a go at getting an event together. It was this time two years ago that she was told that she would not see Christmas.



Her fortitude and faith during the gruelling months of her treatment meant that she had an extra year of life. Her spirit and that of Charles Rendall and Celia Fitzhugh are ever present during our deliberations.

We also wish the new Board every success and look forward to experiencing the results of the challenges which lie ahead. In the Great Western Section, we are proud to acknowledge the hard work behind the scenes of two past Chairmen of the RREC: our Section President, Malcolm Tucker, and Suzanne Finch. Both of whom gave freely of vast amounts of their time.

We would also like to praise Ted Meachem for his tenacity and determination to ensure that this Great Club embarks upon a new journey to regain the support of all our members.

A very happy Christmas to all of you

Valerie

# Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club

## Secretary's Note

Back in 2009, after serving as a Committee Member since the inception of the Great Western Section, Dr. Valerie Smallwood was elected to the position of Chairman. For over 10 years she has guided the section which has gone from strength to strength.

Valerie has now decided to stand down as Chairman at the AGM and I would like to thank her for the amazing amount of work she has put in, her attention to detail and care for the section and the club as a whole, especially during difficult times.

However, hopefully, we shall not lose Valerie's flair for finding unusual venues as she will continue as a Committee member. We are looking forward to Polo at Westonbirt in the summer.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Valerie, on the passing of her husband Michael Broadbent in March, less than a year after their marriage.

Be assured that the section will be in good hands as Russell Herbert, subject to the normal formalities, will take on the role of Chairman.



Congratulations to Neil Sturgess on his marriage to Jean Maughan in February.

Neil is leaving the Committee at the AGM, so as he is our webmaster, we have desperate need of someone to take his place.

Be assured that a proper handover will be given to the right person - Is it you?

# Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club

Huge thanks go to Suzanne for all the support she has given the section recently – below is her resume of the new Board, and her call for us all to support them – beautifully expressed and most illuminating.

Margaret

## **RREC – New Board, New Start**

Since the majority of the incumbent directors were removed so conclusively at the General Meeting, we have a substantially new board comprising 2 members elected at the AGM on 15 August, and 7 elected on 31 October to fill the remaining vacant places. 6 directors were removed, but there was previously one vacancy on the board, so there are now 9 directors in total.

It had already been agreed that after the 2021 AGM the board will be reduced in size to 8 members. If they wish to remain on the board, the 7 elected at the General Meeting will have to have their positions confirmed through the voting process at the next AGM. It follows therefore that, even if all 7 choose to stand for re-election and no other candidates put themselves forward, one of them will not succeed. As the Articles of Association currently stand, directors who have been removed or who have resigned cannot stand for election again for three years.

It is easy to be in opposition, but the real work starts when taking charge. The most recent intake has little or no previous direct experience of running the RREC. This is not necessarily a bad thing but, as will be obvious when you read on, there is an enormous amount of background information for them to absorb before they can make any informed decisions, and it is essential that they do so. Fortunately, although they have had no handover from the previous directors, our CEO, Ian Dorward, has been able fill in most of the gaps. I am told their feet have not touched the ground since taking office and rapid progress is being made.

David Wyld has been elected Chairman of the Board, rather than Club Chairman. From my communications with them before the General Meeting, I would say that even though few of them knew any of the others beforehand, they did seem to “gel” very well and there was no conflict when coming up with their Manifesto document. This bodes well for the future.

## **Finances**

With so much scaremongering being bandied about since January, this is likely to be where their attention will have been directed first. With fewer expenses this year, and one member of staff being furloughed, it has been reported that this year's financial results should be satisfactory. However, there is no doubt that concern over the future financial situation was one of reasons for the seemingly inexplicable decision to go for the St James' House Spirit and Speed publishing deal (subsequently withdrawn).

A decision needs to be taken imminently over subscription levels for next year, and whether to axe the controversial joining fee. Quite a dilemma, with it being impossible to predict to what extent Covid and members' disillusionment will affect membership renewals.

## **IT/Computer systems**

Big expenditure has been made over the past few years, with little obvious benefit to the membership. The situation regarding the Club's obligations to Majic, the website provider, needs to be understood and suitable alternative arrangements for a fit-for-purpose website investigated. They will need to review whole Club approach to IT and how maximum benefit can be obtained from it. However realistic the ambition to encourage younger enthusiasts to join may or may not be, in a post-Covid world even more senior members will expect a higher standard from the RREC's online presence.

# Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club

## **Future Arrangement for Publishing/Editing Spirit and Speed**

This is one of our major sources of expenditure. Warners will continue to produce the next three editions, with Richard Charnley as editor. Beyond that new contracts do need to be agreed with some urgency.

## **Articles of Association**

The last revision was approved by members in 2014. The recommendation at the time was that this was just a quick fix and they needed completely redrafting. The new board will be reviewing the current governing structure and exploring ways in which it can be reformed to include more involvement from the members – both UK and overseas. This will need careful thought. I am personally doubtful that a completely redrafted set of Articles can be ready for approval by members at the next AGM but will be delighted if I am proved wrong.

## **SHRMF**

Background knowledge is essential here. SHRMF owns The Hunt House and many of the artefacts. It is the acknowledged custodian of the archive material received from Crewe. RREC has a lease on the whole of THH and leases back to SHRMF the space that organisation occupies, with other areas used on a shared basis. The original purchase of THH in 1977 was possible with a donation from Rolls-Royce Motors and a loan from a Club member. All the development projects were funded by donations to SHRMF, principally made by RREC members and through Section fund-raising efforts, hence many Club members feel heavily invested in THH. The original vision was for the two organisations to exist in harmony side by side, the Club concentrating on the cars, events etc and the Foundation on preservation and education.

Changing legislation led to a situation in 2007 when, following legal advice, the Foundation trustees served on the Club a S25 notice to quit. It turned out to be the wrong notice and was subsequently withdrawn with an apology. At the time possible alternative arrangements for Club HQ were investigated and ruled out on various grounds. A new lease was eventually agreed on the current lease and lease-back arrangement as the previous lease terms did not comply with the new legislation. A rent review is currently under way.

When SHRMF became incorporated in 2009, the new Articles of Association ensured that RREC would always have representation on the board, thus minimising the chance of anything akin to the S25 debacle occurring again. Unfortunately, rather than looking for suitable candidates from amongst the wider membership, in the recent past it has been mainly serving RREC directors who have been nominated for positions on the SHRMF board. When two SHRMF Trustee/Directors were re-elected to the RREC board in April 2019 an unacceptable, albeit unintentional, situation arose where there were 5 common directors. Although this was never actually a problem, it led to a hue and cry about conflicts of interest, which in turn has resulted in a call from some quarters for a complete separation of the two organisations.

As SHRMF are also planning a review of their Articles of Association, this could be the perfect time, and in the best interests of both organisations, to collaborate to produce a blueprint for their future relationship. When exploring what is possible, the constraints of current charity law would obviously have to be considered.

This would take time, open minds and considerable negotiation skills.

# Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club

## **Need to re-engage with grass roots and heal rifts**

Following a turbulent 10 months, there is an urgent need for the board to re-engage directly with Sections and Registers and, above all, to listen to the feedback received. They committed to do so in their manifesto. Hopefully this will include exploring ways to involve Section Chairmen/Secretaries and Registrars more directly in the running of the Club (see comments above re Articles of Association). The objective should be to make them feel that they are appreciated as an important part of the whole. This is particularly important for the overseas Sections, who contribute enormously to the Club's finances and should not feel they are merely an appendage to a British club. The board will be aiming to re-establish that sense of pride in belonging to the RREC, which for some has been so sadly lacking in recent times.

## **Trademark Licence**

The new directors need to familiarise themselves with the limitations imposed by the terms of the licence granted for the use of the Club logo and RR trademarks. A new licence agreement was signed in 2018, when RR plc handed over the responsibilities for the marks to BMW.

## **Staff morale**

Low staff morale risks low motivation, and morale must surely have been severely tested during 2020. The stated aim is for the board to concentrate on strategy whilst allowing Ian Dorward and the staff to do their jobs, without constant interference. We have an excellent team at THH and, providing the board ensure there are clearly defined and generous boundaries, they will be encouraged to continue giving of their best, rather than feeling restricted.

## **Benefits of Membership**

This is the last topic on my list, but it is certainly one of the most critical. The new board have committed "*to take all possible measures to make the RREC extremely attractive again so that existing and long-standing members will be happy to be part of it*". They will be looking at various ways of enhancing the membership experience, whether that is through the organisation of national and international events or through increasing and/or improving other services provided to members.

So, an incredible amount to do, but there is cause for optimism. We should give the new board time, and most importantly, our support.

**Suzanne Finch**

**18.11.20**

Already, since the EGM, there are positive signs for the future – Section Chairmen and Secretaries have had the opportunity to speak to each other and board members on Zoom and everyone seems open to suggestions.

# **Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club**

## **Possible Forthcoming Section Events**

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January AGM with lunch Walton Park Hotel Clevedon – or Zoom

Drive It Day – Haynes Motor Museum with lunch  
Weston-super-Mare Helicopter Museum with lunch  
South Wraxall Manor – private visit  
Poulton Hill Vineyard- Tour, Tasting, lunch  
Avon Tyres Experience – Factory Tour and lunch  
Thatcher's Cider  
Beaufort Polo Club – Westonbirt  
Bitton Steam Train, dining experience  
Miserden Gardens with Lunch  
Silverstone Racing Circuit  
Hayles & Howe Ornamental Plasterwork

Socially Distanced  
Picnic Meeting at Painswick - Russ and Jackie Herbert

Socially Distanced  
Picnic Meeting at Kenn – John and Margaret Ball

Polo at Westonbirt – subject to Covid – Valerie Smallwood

We are delighted to welcome new members to the Section.  
David Bulpitt from Frome and Stephen Grey-Harris of Clifton and  
Paul Curley from Worle, Sir John Aird of Gloucestershire and most  
recently Tim York from Bridgwater.

We really look forward to meeting them and seeing each other again in 2021

# Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club

## Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club Great Western Section

### STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2020 (Unaudited).

	£		£
Website	374.52	Event Profit	19.70
Apprentice Scheme	417.98	Bank Interest	1.32
Sundry Section Costs	82.00		
Deficit for year	( 853.48)		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	£21.02		£21.02
	<hr/>		<hr/>

### BALANCE SHEET

<b>Accumulated Fund</b>	£	<b>Current Assets</b>	£
Brought Forward	7105.35	Treasurer's (current) A/c	3204.65
Deficit for the year	(853.48)	Business Bank (Deposit) A/c	3047.22
	-----		-----
	£6251.87		£6251.87
	-----		-----

Please note these accounts are unaudited at this stage – they will be audited in time for the AGM

# **Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club**

**Great Western Section  
35th Annual General Meeting is planned for  
11.30 am Sunday 31st January 2021  
At Walton Park Hotel, Clevedon BS21 7BL**

Subject to Coronavirus Restrictions – this may become a Zoom Meeting

## **Agenda**

1. Welcome by the Chairman.
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the last AGM held 5<sup>th</sup> January 2020
4. Matters Arising - Apprenticeship Scheme
5. Chairman's Report
6. Secretary's Report
7. Treasurer's Report – Accounts will be available before the Meeting
8. Election of Committee
9. Future Events
10. Section WebSite
11. Any other business

Arrive for Coffee from 11.00 – Meeting at 11.30 –  
followed by time in the bar then at 12.30 for 1.00pm.  
2 course Sunday lunch, with coffee for just £10.00 each.

A special price as a gesture of compensation for 2020.

If circumstances change and we are unable to meet for the AGM, then we hope to be generous on another occasion.

# Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club

## GREAT WESTERN SECTION

Minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2020  
11.30 am at Bowood Hotel, Calne.

Present: Valerie Smallwood Chairman Neil Sturgess Committee Member  
John Ball Vice-Chairman Russ Herbert Committee Member  
Margaret Ball Secretary Wendy Parfitt Committee Member  
Keith Taylor Treasurer

35 Section Members were present.

- 1. WELCOME:** The Chairman welcomed everyone, especially Richard Fenner as Management Board Representative.
- 2. APOLOGIES:** – Ted and Viv Carver, Steve and Tracey Jefferies, Mark Griffiths, Roland Billson, Rod Fitzhugh and Maggi Rowan, Dave and Alison Mallinson, Clare Tucker, Mary Saunders, Peter Morris and Sue Lloyd
- 3. PRESENTATION:** Sadly, due to ill-health, Wendy Parfitt was standing down from the Committee. Valerie thanked her for all the work she had undertaken for the section over the past 7 years and presented her with a floral arrangement and John presented her with an RR Wedgwood dish.
- 4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: 6<sup>th</sup> January 2019.** Previously circulated to members. It was proposed by Peter Roberts that they be accepted. Russ Herbert seconded this motion and all members were in favour.  
They were signed by Valerie Smallwood, Chairman
- 5. MATTERS ARISING**  
**APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME** – Russ Herbert emphasised that the Section Scheme is not in competition with SHRMF scheme but that ours is aimed at encouraging hands-on craftsmen locally, who will be caring for our cars into the future. He explained the procedure for choosing suitable candidates, the contribution made by their employers and the prizes given.  
The presentations to Zack White and Simon Pickering and their employers A.J. Glew and Formhalls, on the Club Stand at the NEC had been performed by Keith Taylor with Neil Sturgess helping.  
Keith was grateful for assistance from the FBHVC.  
A full report will appear in the GW Section of the January issue of Spirit and Speed.  
A power point presentation showed the ceremony which is available on U-tube.  
Valerie thanked Keith and Russ for their huge effort, and this was greeted by spontaneous applause.  
**MEMBERS' ESTATES** – Russ reported that as agreed last year, the Section has compiled a document, available to Members on request, via Section Secretary Margaret Ball which is suitable to be attached to a Will.  
With the Committee's permission this will be shared with the Riley Club.  
As a mark of appreciation for his great contribution, Russ presented Michael Rogers, who had provided legal advice, with a bottle of wine.

# Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club

6. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Valerie thanked everyone for their support over the past year. She felt things were going well.
7. **SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Margaret thanked Committee Members for all their support and hard work during the year, with special thanks to Wendy for her contributions as a Committee Member and looked forward to welcoming her to events. Margaret noted with sadness the passing of Andrea Ridley. 11 new members had been added to our list. Including Michael Broadbent joint with Valerie Smallwood and Jean Maughan joint with Neil Sturgess.
8. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Keith reported a profit on the year of £63.51 giving a balance of £7,325.35. Most satisfactory, especially as we had made large contributions to the Apprenticeship Scheme. Costs for the proposed Club Website amounted to £107.94. Margaret was thanked for costs incurred producing Newsletters in the past. These are now minimal as most members receive communications by email. Approval of the Accounts proposed by Gwynneth Harris and seconded by Anthony Spender was agreed.

Suzanne Finch who has acted as Auditor for the Great Western Section for many years, during the tenure of treasurers Keith Taylor, Charles Rendall and Gwynneth Harris was warmly thanked.

9. **ELECTION OF COMMITTEE:** At this point the committee stood down and Malcolm Tucker took the chair. He thanked the committee for all their work.

Members standing for re-election – John Ball, Margaret Ball, Ted Carver, Russ Herbert, Reg King, Valerie Smallwood, Neil Sturgess and Keith Taylor.

It was proposed by Anthony Spender and seconded by Malcolm Hobbs that the Committee be elected en-bloc, and this was agreed unanimously.

10. **FUTURE EVENTS:** Committee Members then talked about future events and were encouraged by the enthusiasm of members. Full details will be on the website, the Bulletin and Section Newsletters.
11. **SECTION WEBSITE:** Neil Sturgess explained the situation with our Website which should be on-line before the end of January. He assured members that bookings can be made by post or on-line and payments made on-line or by cheque. There were queries from members about passwords and these will be discussed at Committee.
12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** Payment of Expenses to Committee Members – After discussion it was agreed that Expenses, equating to actual costs incurred may be claimed by organising Committee Members.

R.R.E.C. or Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club – ? the hyphen ? - Answer -  
R.R.E.C. Ltd is registered at Companies House but we are the Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club.

**The meeting closed at 12.37 pm**

# Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club

**Management Board Representative – Richard Fenner then addressed the meeting.**

After fulsome praise for our Section which was gratefully received, Richard gave us lots of information from Hunt House.

Key points:

New General Manager – improvements in financial control, in staffing arrangements.

Great confidence in him by the Board and the members.

Dramatic improvement in Club finances - Staff changes to reduce costs.

Annual Rally will be at Burghley for the foreseeable future.

Membership losses continue.

National Car Club awards, Outstanding Magazine of the Year award.

Ole Hviid-Nielsen and Richard are working on Club video projects – Publicity, Annual Rally, seminars, lectures.

NEC stand at the March Restoration Show was reconsidered, as part of cost cutting, but is likely to go ahead on a volunteer-led basis, with a reduced budget.

Election – in addition to the traditional paper voting, e-voting as an option will be available.

Club Conference 2020 – 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> April.

Floor questions included:

Club shop - Membership rates/schemes e.g. e-membership - He suggested we could look at increasing the age for young members, but that he felt value for money was a bigger concern than the actual cost of membership Seminar online sign-up process.

Richard's comments were greatly appreciated by members.

---

## Booking Form

### Great Western Section 35th Annual General Meeting - 11.30 am Sunday 31st January 2021 at Walton Park Hotel, Clevedon BS21 7BL

Name ..... Tel. No. ....

Address .....

Email address.....RREC Membership No.....

I enclose my cheque, payable to RREC G.W. Section for £..... @ £10.00 per person

to cover 2 course Sunday Lunch with coffee for ... .. people.

**Your cheque will not be banked prior to the event, in case of cancellation.**

Please return your slip, with your cheque payable to RREC Great Western Section by 12<sup>th</sup> January to **Margaret** at the address below

# **Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club**

## **Great Western Section AGM - Sunday 31st January 2021**

Great Western Section's 35<sup>th</sup> AGM is planned for The Walton Park Hotel, but due to Coronavirus may be held on Zoom.

The majority of committee members are willing and eligible to stand, and they are deemed to be nominated, However, there is a need for more Committee Members and nominations, would be welcomed, especially from people who are IT skilled.

Below is a nomination form, which it is necessary to complete and obtain a proposer and seconder, each of whom must be a Club member, of any Section, themselves.

The Secretary must receive completed forms no later than **Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020**

Depending upon the number of nominations it may be necessary to hold a ballot of members at the AGM. Any member wishing to vote by post (in the event of a ballot being necessary) must apply to the Secretary for a ballot paper.

### **Annual General Meeting**

**RREC Great Western Section – Sunday 31st January 2021**

Nomination Form for Committee Membership

**Persons willing to be nominated to serve on the Committee of the Section for 2021 should indicate their agreement below and be supported by a proposer and seconder.**

<b>Nominee's name (Block Capitals)</b>	<b>Nominee's Signature</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Seconder</b>

**Please return this form to: M. A. Ball**

Chaseside, Kenn Street, Kenn, Clevedon, Somerset BS21 6TL

Email: [Margaret.john@btinternet.com](mailto:Margaret.john@btinternet.com)

Closing date Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

# Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club

## NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Section needs some additional Committee Members. In order to run a full programme of Events during the year, we need people who are willing to help to plan and organise them and to generally contribute to the running of the Section.



Would you be willing to contribute some time? The Committee meets every 2 to 3 months to progress matters and those meetings are sociable, relaxed affairs, usually followed by lunch. As a new Committee member, you would be helped along as you learn the ropes and you will find it a fun and enjoyable experience.

If you think this is something you would like to do, please call our Section Secretary, Margaret Ball on 01275 874077 and she will be pleased to tell you more.

## WEBMASTER

I will be standing down from the Section Committee at the AGM in January 2021 and will be relinquishing my role as Administrator of the Section Website. We therefore need a volunteer to join the Committee and take on that role.

I currently share the running of the site with a very good friend who is not an RREC member, but who manages, on a voluntary basis, websites for a number of Car Clubs as well as for a Main Dealer for another prestigious car brand. I have no technical skills, but I provide all of the data to go on to the website and Steve (my friend) puts it on to the site. He is the technical expert. He was instrumental in designing the site and understands how it operates. What we need now is someone who can fulfil both functions - providing text, photos, information etc for the site and placing it on the site. So, we need someone who is willing to join the Committee so that he/she has access to all of the information about the Section's plans and activities and is then able to place it on the website and keep it up to date.

The site has only been running for a year and the new Webmaster will be able to put his or her own stamp on it and develop it further. It has potential to grow much more. The Section Committee is very supportive of the site and information flow between its members is quick and easy.

Steve and I will ensure that the new Webmaster receives full information and a proper handover. All of the technical information about it will be provided. We have both enjoyed developing and running the site and we're sure that will be the case for someone new.

if you would be interested in taking on this interesting role, feel free to give me a call and I will be pleased to provide whatever information you need.

Neil Sturgess. 01934 824414