



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO AREA SECRETARIES. February 2017

As they say every little helps as the daylight hours are gradually getting longer giving us that valuable time to work outside. Please find below the details of subjects that were discussed at our last Council of Management meeting in Stoke.

Insurance.

After the November meeting of the Council of Management (CoM) our negotiations with Graham Sykes over our 'umbrella' insurance, for both CoM and Areas, continued. We wanted to make sure that we were getting the best possible cover for all the events that we are involved in. It took considerable effort from Tim Hawkes, John Young and myself, with equal effort on the part of Graham Sykes to come up with a bespoke policy. We agreed to take up the insurance they were offering which has been moulded by us.

As a result of this work we now have a most comprehensive policy that will allow us all to organise and attend events as the MVT with cover that we have not seen the likes of before. The policy is more expensive than the previous insurance but the old policy was no longer fit for purpose. The new insurance will give us all much better peace of mind as we plan events up and down the country.

New Area.

We are pleased to say that CoM were approached at the back end of last year about the possibility of the formation of a new Area. They held their first AGM in January and as a result of that the 'West Pennines Area of the MVT' was created.

Alan Rawsterne has had considerable help from Brian Slingsby, Yorkshire Area Secretary, which he really appreciated. I'm sure the two Areas will be able to complement each other in the future. Alan tells us that the Area meets on the third Tuesday of the month at the Royal British Legion Club in Ramsbottom at 8pm.

At the Council meeting we agreed the start-up package for them so we will put that in place as soon as we can. They already have a busy events diary so it would seem they are off to a flying start. We wish them well in their endeavours.

Safety Training Day.

In the light of the type of events that we organise, safety is paramount in everything we do. Wicksteed at War have run Safety Training Days for their volunteers over the last few years. These training days have proved invaluable in building up a skilled and reliable team to make sure the event has the right volunteers in place. These training days look at events safety, vehicle marshalling, first response First Aid and first response fire fighting.

Seeing how well these sessions have worked, we are offering the same course to Area Secretaries and one other member of the Area to attend. We are also extending that invitation to event organisers. Numbers are limited so if you are interested it is important to let our Safety Officer, Tim Hawkes, know as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. At the end of the course those that have attained the proficiency level required will be issued with an Orange MVT Safety Vest which will allow that person to officially marshal vehicles at MVT shows.

By organising such training sessions it helps us all on several levels. Firstly, it gives Area Secretaries and show organisers a common approach to safety. Secondly, it is showing to outside bodies that we do take the issue of safety seriously and that we are taking every effort to minimise risk at any of our events, which all goes to help with our insurance cover in the case of a claim. Thirdly, it means that we can run events in the knowledge that we have a newfound confidence in the volunteer teams as we can impart that knowledge on.

More information will be sent to you by Boyan and Mandy so if you are interested I would implore you to let Tim Hawkes know as soon as possible that you would like to attend.

Finances.

Our Treasurer, John Young, reported that the Trust is financially sound but warns that we cannot continue to be the sole provider of financial support for all events. I appreciate that over the past few years restraints were put on what Areas/Event Organisers could do to generate an independent income. It was necessary to encourage Areas to allow their funds to be accounted for centrally, but now that process has been completed we can now look at how best we can now make that work for us all. We have had and will continue to discuss this with our accountants, who are Preston-based Rushton's.

Rushton's are not just accountants but specialise in accounting for charitable organisations. So far indications from them may well allow us to rethink our financial matters and how we approach our spending and funding of events in the future. One subject in particular that we need further clarification on is that of VAT and just when we can and cannot claim it back, depending on how and who pays for certain services.

Event Funding.

Following on from finance we discussed the funding of events, and that perhaps in future we need to take another approach to support some shows. Instead of granting money to an event we are looking at how we might be able to sponsor an Area to add an extra element to a show they helping run or support. For example, instead of the MVT paying for fencing, perhaps we provide the funding to transport armour or some other unusual MV to an event that would perhaps not normally be able to attend. This would mean that the Area involved would apply for help rather than the event itself.

We feel this would mean that the relationship between the Area and the show would strengthen and it would mean we as the Trust would be fulfilling our charitable aims by giving the public a chance to see an exhibit that they might not normally be able to see.

All this would have to be put forward through the grants application and these need to be received by CoM by the 1st November each year.

Membership.

Membership Secretary, Michelle Young, is well and truly on top of the membership now but still has one or two things to sort out with the company that currently deal with sending out our membership cards. As a result of that we are investigating other options to improve how the distribution is done and we are approaching other companies that offer this service.

Currently we have three levels of UK membership which is felt is unnecessary. These are Single Membership, Joint Membership and Family Membership. It is that last category, the Family Membership, that we feel does not add anything that a single membership already offers. So we are proposing that the Family Membership is re-titled Single Membership and that the family member can choose the single membership or, if they wish to have their partner (living at the same address) registered, then they could upgrade and become joint members. This helps us streamline our administration and it will mean we can easily show our insurers just how many 'registered' members we have in the club. This will help us in our future negotiations over our insurance premiums.

The change to the Family Membership will be proposed at the AGM on the 2nd April.

Vehicle Verification.

Mandy Keedwell, our Vehicle Verification Officer, has reported that the number of applications for vehicles to be verified, have fallen quiet markedly, but this comes as no surprise. This is a result of us now asking for those wishing to have their vehicle verified, to provide us with the required paperwork and photographs to support their application. By doing this it has stopped the speculative applications that often never materialised until they re-applied over six months later after the first application had expired. This resulted in duplicate effort.

Mandy is extremely grateful to all the volunteer inspectors that go out and check over vehicles on her behalf.

MVT Shop and Trailer.

After my last appeal for possible volunteers to run the shop and trailer failed to generate any applicants, we at CoM are now looking at other ways of continuing the services but in a much reduced role, particularly with the shop.

We realise there is a small demand for logoed clothing in the form of sweatshirts, hoodies and polo shirts, and possibly baseball caps. We are looking at the possibility of continuing a service whereby the items are embroidered with the MVT or Area logos when an order is placed. By operating this way we do not need to hold any stock. Other items that we currently have in stock will be run down and not replaced. This is all in the light of no-one offering their services, but that of course may change in the future.

The shop used to work in conjunction with the trailer but it was felt that the two should be separated and that the trailer would perhaps be better utilised as a Publicity trailer. It certainly came into its own at Stoneleigh at the end of January. We were busy all day long taking to members, Area Secretaries and taking members' renewal fees. We even signed up a few new members.

We appreciate that the trailer is no small item to tow around the country and it is a big ask to expect one individual to be away for many weekends during the summer. For now we will attend shows wherever possible depending on availability of a volunteer with the right kind of tow vehicle to step up to the plate. In the meantime we are looking at other possible way of getting the trailer to events without the need of a volunteer doing for us. It may well be that the trailer can be delivered for the local Area to man on CoM's behalf. We are keeping our options open at the moment.

2019 MVT D-Day Tour.

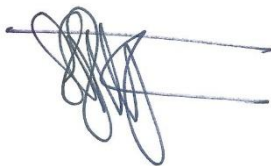
Suffice to say there will be a 75th Anniversary D-Day Tour in 2019. I don't want to say too much on the subject as the planning is well underway and an announcement will be made soon. There has already been a great deal of interest shown by members wishing to take part, so we expect the demand to be high but unfortunately there only be a certain number of places available.

AGM.

Finally the AGM is on the 2nd April at the British Motor Museum at Gaydon. There are a couple of proposals that the Council of Management will be putting forward with a view to be able to offer many more benefits to being a member of our unique club, the Military Vehicle Trust.

I hope this report has shed some light on the breadth of discussions we have at the last CoM meeting helping to keep the hobby alive, safe and compliant with all the legislation that affects what and how we do it.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM, if not at some of the events planned during the year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Simon Johnson', written over two horizontal lines.

Simon Johnson
Chairman