

Minutes of MAFVA Annual General Meeting

15th March 2015

Held at RBL Hall, Hemel Hempstead

In attendance:

John Ham (Chairman)

Paul Middleton

Bob Lockie

Max Hundleby

Rod Woodhouse

Chris Lloyd-Staples

Paul Gandy

Annabel Eagle

Nick Broomfield

James Maher

Neil Wharton

Ken Merrett

Christine Maher

- *Apologies received from:*

Gary Williams

John Rulton

Tom Cromwell

Peter Bailey

Tom Cole

Graham Baker

Colin Rosenwold

- *Minutes of 2014 AGM*

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

- *Matters arising*

No matters were raised, other than those already on the agenda.

- *Chairman's report*

John explained that 2014 had been a very busy year, with successful shows such as On Track, the Duxford Nationals, and the new REME show. Local branch shows have been excellent, and several were mentioned in dispatches.

Gary Williams has stepped down as Membership Secretary and his fine work over a long period of time was recognised and applauded. His experience and knowledge will be missed. The role is now being carried out by Neil Wharton and the meeting wished him well.

Transfer of accounts dealt with by Rod Woodhouse, assisted by Neil and Mike Gill. We have an operational PayPal account and a link on the website will be a priority.

MAFVA trips have been organised, including two visits to REME Bordon, and Cambridge branch trips to Europe, amongst others.

There are numerous 50th Anniversary promotional activities, including:

- Promotional calendars by S. Wales branch
- Research into the history of the MAFVA by London branch published in Tankette
- Diorama built for the Muckleburgh Collection by Cambridge branch
- Anniversary logo designed by Tim Neate
- Mugs and badges designed by Cambridge branch

- ***Treasurer's report***

Tabulated monthly cash flow totals for 2014 were provided.

- ***Membership Secretary's report***

The membership spreadsheet is now being transferred to Excel. Glitches are being removed. Access to PayPal is having a positive impact, but we need a trader account in order to put a direct link onto the web page.

Confirmation of issues arising from the 18-month membership deal (good uptake, including overseas members), the payment for extended numbers of years (about 3% of total membership), and members still paying old levels of subscriptions.

Payment methods were discussed: standing orders, direct debits, bank transfers and PayPal. Each has pros and cons, with different charges and degrees of dependence on internet access.

A starter pack to give to new and prospective members is proposed, containing back issues and various 'goodies'.

A recruitment drive is required and will need to include something substantial to attract new members.

Back Issues will be collected from Gary Williams. The total number is considerable (c.60 boxes), and these could represent a valuable resource for new members.

- ***Editor's report***

The submitted report was read. Responses to the magazine have been very positive, including the SPG special. New articles are always required. Max provided a few minor amendments to the article on the history of the Association.

The 'special' nature of Tankette was discussed and it was agreed that the research articles and the scale plans were features not found in other magazines.

- ***Nationals report***

The Liaison Officer role is going well.

2014 Nationals: Successful and made a surplus of £800. However, the add-on aspects, such as the Bring and Buy, tea stall and raffle made a big difference. Without these, there would have been a loss.

2015 Nationals: There will be no vehicle show but some IWM vehicles will be located near to the MAFVA tent. Uptake from traders is slow, with some cancellations, possibly due to the false rumour that the show will be cancelled. An extension is planned to the side of the marquee to provide a separate competition area. The DAS has been very disappointed to see the cancellation of the vehicle show and the DAS will still support us.

- ***Website Officer's report***

The submitted report was read. There was discussion of whether we need additional support to help Tom manage and develop the site. Neil is working on the PayPal link.

Email addresses need to be assigned to officers and it is vital to contact the webmaster to find out how to do this. Mike Gill needs to be asked who did this work initially. Neil and Paul Gandy to get the details and arrange for the email addresses to be assigned to new and existing officers. A record needs to be kept of the process for doing this and any login details and passwords so that an address can be assigned to a new incumbent should the individual in a particular role change.

- ***2015 officers election***

64 voting returns were received, with 5 blank in addition. All officers elected unanimously.

- ***Changes to Constitution***

The Constitution does not give frequencies for elections. Initially this was to avoid difficulties with snap resignations, or wholesale changes in the team. It was agreed that in such cases, co-opted officers, or by-elections, could be used to fill vacancies.

It was proposed that half of the officers should be elected each year, for a two-year term. This was agreed unanimously. Neil will explore current guidance for which officers should be up for election each cycle. John will formulate appropriate wording for the Constitution.

Membership Officer post: Proposed by Gary Williams, seconded by Paul Middleton, voted unanimously for Neil Wharton to be in post.

Constitution 5k: Development Officer deleted from Committee as post unfilled.

Constitution item 5c: To include the honorary officers, allowing them the same voting rights as paid up members. Proposed by John Ham, seconded by Jim Maher, the meeting voted unanimously for the change. Max made a voluntary donation to funds, which was not solicited but was gratefully received.

Constitution item 5: To reduce the required quorum from 6 to 5 officers in attendance to reflect the reduced Committee members. Constitution changes proposed by John Ham, seconded by Jim Maher, the meeting voted unanimously for the changes.

- ***Subscription Committee***

A small team is needed to consider the level of subscriptions. This needs to take into account the impact of the Military Modelling deal and other factors. The volunteers for this committee were: John Ham, Bob Lockie, Neil Wharton and Dave Johnson.

- ***50th Birthday Initiatives***

Discussed previously.

- ***Promoting MAFVA***

Planned trips include Shrivenham and Heywood. Bob Lockie volunteered to manage the trip planning. This was proposed by Neil Wharton, seconded by Jim Maher, voted unanimously.

John recommended a form of extended branch membership which encouraged members to meet at shows, even if they were unable to attend formal club meetings .

- ***Publicity Officer***

Jim Maher discussed his previous experience and the desire to have an impact in 2016. Plans include a link to Brett Green's sites and a Facebook page. The average age of modellers is 43 and the average cost of a new model is £48. He felt that this indicated much about the clientele for our recruitment, namely middle aged with disposable income!

A further suggestion was to give members access to the stock of plans (Neil has John Church's and Mick Bell's plans, which he was authorised to use in Tankette), and to other resources. This could be a significant benefit to membership.

- ***AOB***

Access to the library of plans bequeathed by John Church, Geoff Lacey and Mick Bell; discussed without decision.

- ***Location of 2016 AGM***

There has been an offer from Nottingham branch to hold the 2016 AGM, likely early February. It is desirable to move the AGM around the branches but only Notts has stepped up with an offer and this was gratefully accepted.

Minutes taken by Chris Lloyd-Staples. 18march 2015