



April News

This month's news letter is concentrating on information passed to group leaders at our annual group leaders meeting.

Now I know you all enjoy seeing photos, and reading about the fun things we get up to, but I feel that due to the importance of the information I have reported on, this month letter is a little more serious.

Before you read the report, I thought I would inform you of some information regarding our own group.

At our April meeting, I thanked those who attended Ian Cornish's talk, the meeting agreed that it was a very successful evening. I must Thank Ian Brown for helping me organise the event.

I have been contacted by the Group leader Alan Jezzard from East Saxons group. Alan has approached our group to see if anybody is interested in joining the East Saxons on the weekend of Friday 9th May -12th

They will be staying at Stone Manor Hotel Nr Kidderminster. And anybody who would like to join them for a drink on the evening or join them on run you are more than welcome. Please contact Alan for details.

I think they have the Black Country Museum, Stokesay Castle possibly the Long Mynd in mind.

aljezz@hotmail.com or 07812 476888 / 01277 822778.





Regalia

For those who have ordered regalia, I have been contacted by the company that supplies us, and we shall be taking delivery of the shirts etc very soon.

Unfortunately, our supplier will be moving to Tewksbury, Due to their new location , we shall be looking for another supplier, if anybody has any contacts or ideas, can they let us know.

Mary Stevens Hospice.

Following a disappointing turn out from our group, the event still went ahead and raised just over £1000. We have contacted the hospice and will be arranging a handover and photo shoot very soon. We have a provisional date of 26th April.

Birmingham Group Gazebo

I need a little help Please.

I need somebody to look after the group gazebo, I currently store it at home in the garden shed. But I am afraid it might suffer. It's a little damp in there and space is restricted. As you know, it packs into a bag about 6 feet long. I would really appreciate it if somebody could take charge of it for us.



Summary of the TR Register Group Leaders' Meeting

6th April 2014

Merve Tracey and Myself attended the Group Leaders' Meeting on behalf of the Birmingham group.

The meeting was held at the Heritage Motor Museum, Gaydon, and was chaired by Phil Tucker, Vice Chairman of the TR Register.

The Key Points discussed were:

Article of Association

At the 2013 AGM it was revealed that the Club's Articles of Association were no longer correct and needed to be rewritten to comply with the Companies Act (because the TR Register is established as a limited company).

The main problem was with proxy votes and the new Articles of Association have been redrafted with input from members and from experienced, competent and qualified people. The draft will be published, as a PDF file, on the Register's web site on Wednesday and will also appear in the next issue of TR Action. These new Articles will need to be accepted by the club and there will be a Special General Meeting at the International Weekend on Saturday 9th August 2014. This will be a full vote and every member has a right to vote either in person or by Proxy (see later).

The main points of the Draft Articles are:

- The TR Register is a limited company but called a club
- The committee members are now directors
- The directors will not be paid except for professional services (eg accountancy, legal etc.)
- Honorary members will have voting rights
- Members Termination Clause updated
- Arrangements in place for Proxy Voting
- Annual election of club officers (Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer etc)

David and Roger both have copies of the draft articles and these will also be available on line and in TR Action.

Proxy Votes

Proxy Voting will provide a one member/one vote system. This means that every member will be able to vote in elections for officers etc and for or against resolutions at the AGM irrespective of whether he/she is able to attend.

A Proxy Officer will be appointed to administer and police the system so ensuring that each member has only one vote. Proxy voting forms will be available:

- In TR Action
- On the TR Register website
- As a hard copy from the office.

Your proxy vote can be:

- Specific (i.e. containing your own views) or
- Discretionary. (i.e. giving someone else the right to vote on your behalf according to their views).

Your Proxy Voting Form should be:

- Sent to the Proxy Officer or
- Handed to another member attending the meeting.

Insurance

In spite of its contentious launch, the insurance scheme has been successful and results were reviewed.

The original scheme had evolved over the years and, due to takeovers and mergers had moved away from the original aim of a bespoke scheme. The insurers are now Allianz, a major global insurer with a turnover of \$115½bn to which the TR Register/Towergate scheme was a fairly small contributor. Whilst Towergate had increased its return to the Club it had also increased its admin fee to members. The TR register scheme sat outside Allianz's own classic car scheme and they were unwilling to meet our requirements.

Some quick points regarding the K Drew Insurance Brokers/Canopius (a Lloyds Insurer) scheme:

- Bespoke scheme for TR Register members
- Multicar policies available
- Other (non-TR) classics can be included
- Breakdown Cover and Legal Expenses Cover are not mandatory
- 60% quotation to policy conversion rate (average for affinity schemes is 50%)
- 80% Renewal Rate
- 1061 policies issued
- Over £100k premium income
- £18911.00 commission to TR Register
 - @ £17.82 per policy (Towergate was £6.87 per policy)
- Losses in year one less than projected
- Start up loan will be repaid by end of year three
- Positive feedback regarding claims service
- Projected 2k policy holders by the end of 2014
- Option will be available to add modern cars (timetable not yet known)

Motor Sports Association

Motor sport and competition in the UK is controlled by the Motor Vehicles (Competition and Trials) Regulations, 1969. This Statutory Instrument has legal effect and impacts on the Road Traffic Acts. The controlling body was the RAC but it is now the Motor Sports Association. Their 2014 rule book extends to 484 pages!

Any club or other body organising competitive motoring events must be a member of the MSA and must obtain a permit from the MSA (at a price) for each and every competitive event that they organise. The TR Register is a member of the MSA in respect of hill climbing, sprints and other competitive events.

Members of the MSA must obtain a Touring Assembly Exemption Certificate for each non-competitive run. This certificate is for production to a police officer to prove that the event is non-competitive and therefore legal. This does not seem to be a legal requirement but is a rule of the MSA binding on all of its members.

This certificate costs £23 and also provides Public Liability and Personal Injury insurance for both the organisers and the participants. The application and details of the route should be submitted

four weeks before the date of the event. The MSA may ask the organisers to refer to the MSA's Route Liaison Officer and to the local Police Force.

The MSA has recognised that TR Register groups do not apply for Exemption Certificates and have stated that they will "encourage" us to do so. Holders of MSA competition licenses could have their licenses revoked for taking part in "illegal" events.

There was much discussion, and some speculation, amongst the Group Leaders as to ways to avoid the need for an Exemption Certificate but a definitive solution was not found. It would appear that some car clubs have devolved competition activities from club activities to circumvent this requirement.

The TR Register committee are now looking to enter into talks with the MSA with a view to working round this problem or to obtain an umbrella Exemption Certificate for non-competitive club runs. In the meantime they could offer no clear guidance.

Press and Communications

Wayne Scott updated the meeting as follows:

- Press activity is being used to increase the profile of the TR Register and adverts are being placed to tie in with magazine articles - see current issue of Classic Cars which features TR7
- Social Media is being used to highlight awareness. New members can now join through Facebook.
- The website is being rebuilt. It is recognised that the current local group websites (accessible from the club site) are failing and these will also be rebuilt. Information gathered from the recent Members Wish list Survey is being used to drive the redesign.
- A new digital newsletter to be launched. – TR Register eUpdate.
 - This will NOT replace TR Action
 - This will be an e-mail newsletter
 - Initially issuing monthly which will be increased to twice a month.
 - Will contain
 - news stories and details of events
 - updates from the committee
 - audio and video interviews
 - previews of TR Action
 - up to date information
 - links to useful resources
 - eUpdate will fill the gap between issues of TR Action.
- A three car team will be entered in the Le Mans Classic. This will be sponsored by Penrite Oils. Penrite are developing a new 20w50 oil exclusively for the TR Register. It will be launched at Castle Coombe on 29th April.

Membership

Concern was expressed that the membership was declining slightly across the club. The current membership figure for Birmingham is 177

TR Forum

The recent abuse of the Forum has meant that steps have had to be taken to ensure that offensive posts are excluded. This is because the TR Register, as hosts of the forum, would be legally liable for any libelous statements. The legal liability falls on the host not the person who posts. Posts are now being checked before appearing on the Forum.

It was suggested that the Forum should only be used for technical posts but this was not accepted by the meeting.

British Motor Heritage Panels

Concern was expressed about the unavailability of panels for Tr4/4a/5. This is a Spares Fund issue and will be referred to them. It is understood that TR Bitz are importing panels for these models from Germany.

Chairman

After almost 6 years in office, Chris Cunnington will not be seeking re-election in November.



So there you have it.

I am sure you will all join me in thanking Chris for the time, hard work and contribution he has given to the club for many years. I know they will be big shoes to fill.

Now that the important matters are dealt with, you don't think for a minute that I would not let the news letter pass without a bit of fun

I was recently sent an e-mail from a friend, which made interesting viewing, and No it was not from Ian Brown.

These make you think that life is really not that bad, when you consider, what the hell they were thinking off?

Enjoy

Best wishes Phil.



