



Minutes of 2nd MAFVA AGM

Held on 9th February 2014

At Beeston Fire Station, Nottingham

Present:

Richard Allebone, Dave Allen, Steve Bagley, Tom Cole, Steve Cox, Paul Gandy, Mike Gill, John Ham (Chair), Graham Holmes, Dave Johnson, Chris Lloyd-Staples, Paul Middleton, Rod Woodhouse, Tina Johnson, Alison Holmes, Rita Cox.

1. Apologies:

Peter Bailey, Tom Cromwell, Gary Ross, John Rulton, Gary Williams

2. Minutes from 2013 AGM

The minutes were read and accepted.

3. Matters Arising

There was a discussion about putting photos of committee members into the magazine or on the website. No firm decision taken.

There was a proposal to have all subscriptions starting in January. This was discussed at some length, but concluded that the large amount of administration to effect the change-over, and the resulting large volume of work at the beginning of the year outweighed any advantages.

Rod Woodhouse commented that renewal reminders were small and easily lost. It was suggested that an A5 renewal slip should be used, with a reply space asking for e-mail addresses and sent to the Membership Secretary at the same time as re-subbing. **Tom Cole** agreed to organise.

Tom Cromwell questioned, in his absence, the cost of the Nationals and the use of donations from clubs and individuals, and would it be appropriate to raise funds more equitably from the national organisation. Several factors had to be considered, after which it was felt that on balance donations are the most straightforward way of supporting the Nationals. The show has always been self-supporting and will continue to do so.

4. Chairman's report

John Ham described a positive picture with a lot of progress over the last year. There had been a 15% increase in membership from the low base of 12 months ago. The turn of the year re-sub season is always a crucial time, and we hope that improvement can be maintained. It was suggested that branch reps could be involved in the process by collecting subscriptions, and forwarding to MAFVA HQ.

The financial situation had been improved by the use of PayPal instead of credit cards. Mike Gill, the outgoing treasurer, had produced an excellent report. Rod Woodhouse, the incoming treasurer, was welcomed.

Production costs for Tankette magazine have been much reduced by changing printer arranged by Tom Cole and with advice from the South Wales branch.

Tom Cromwell has developed the website and intends to install a direct PayPal link onto the site to facilitate re-sub.

The Nationals and On Track have been successful shows. The REME show this spring will feature a competition run by the Northern Home Counties branch of MAFVA.

A new branch have been created: S. Staffs and an embryonic one in N. Wales

Nine interlinked branch websites have been created -- leading to much greater publicity. There is a need to link these to the main MAFVA website. The Leicester Modellers website is very good.

Some branches have arranged very interesting events and visits.

MAFVA needs to extend its role and recruit new members. There is an **urgent need for a Publicity Officer** to replace Colin Rosenwoud.

The 50th birthday celebrations fall in 2015. It is hoped that all branches will mark this event in their own way, in addition to proposed projects from central MAFVA.

MAFVA Officers, branch reps, members, and member's partners were thanked for their work and support.

The chairman's report was accepted: proposed by Paul Gandy, seconded by Paul Middleton.

5. Treasurer's report

Mike Gill presented a statement of accounts. The figures were discussed, and clear savings from the use of PayPal and reduced printing costs were noted. Generally speaking, a choice of payment methods is preferable and it is possible that an Australian agent may be needed to collect subscriptions as occurs in the United States. The use of PayPal is proving useful and it will be a priority to install a direct link on the MAFVA website.

The finances showed an overall drop of around £400 during the year, but an improvement on 2013 and savings in Tankette production should lead to a healthier position in the future.

The treasurer's report was accepted: proposed by Steve Bagley, seconded by Paul Middleton.

6. Tankette Editor's report

Tom Cole explained that there had been significant savings from the new printer. All magazines had been distributed on time. The use of a small number of adverts had generated some income to fund the Nationals special issue. It is proposed that there will be three special issues next year -- D-Day, the Nationals, and World War I. Some very good articles have been submitted, and Tom wished to thank all contributors.

There have been numerous positive responses to Tankette, reflected in a good number of recent subscriptions. Some 20% of members are from overseas, and it would be valuable to have contributions to the magazine from non-UK members. The unique value of Tankette comes from the nature of the articles, research, and drawings.

7. Nationals report

Paul Middleton reported that the 2013 event had worked well, despite his reduced input. The show made a small profit of £200. Table fees were kept relatively small. Small, but significant profits were made by the tombola, and by the tea stand. Over £700 was earned by the Bring and Buy sale. Some branches made donations.

The issue of costs is always critical: the venue is extremely expensive, but has the advantage of being close to the Land Warfare Hall. Demand for space always exceeds availability and preference is given to small traders for whom the venue is vital. Additional charges are not practical and were rejected.

It was proposed that, as a trial, membership should be verified for entry to the competition and for use of the Bring and Buy sale during the morning. Chris Lloyd-Staples will liaise with Simon Ward and will post details in Tankette, and website.

8. Website Officer's report

In absentia, Tom Cromwell reported that he has begun tidying and sorting the website that the main overhaul will be completed during 2014. Some issues remain with the new e-mail addresses.

9. Changes to MAFVA constitution

It was proposed that decisions about election results should be made known shortly before the AGM to facilitate any possible change of officers of. This was proposed by Dave Allen, seconded by Richard Allebone. This proposal was passed unanimously.

10. Officer election, 2014

This will take place in autumn 2014 and will be managed by Colin Rosenwoud. There is a need to encourage more members to stand for election.

11. Customer survey

No submission received.

12. Subscription committee

It was proposed that a small committee should be formed to set subscription rates each year. Nominated members were: Gary Williams, Rod Woodhouse, John Ham, Dave Johnson.

13. Marking the 50th birthday of MAFVA

Projects were considered for marking the 50th birthday of the Association in 2015. It does not appear to be possible to increase the size of the marquee at Duxford, but there may be some opportunity to stage a small display in the Land Warfare Hall. Paul Middleton will explore possibilities.

50th Birthday logos were required to mark the anniversary. Paul Middleton will investigate this with the Cambridge branch. A guest lecture was considered for the nationals, but this would prove a difficult logistic arrangement. This may be a better possibility at Bovington. Special visits could include Wheatcroft, or the Grand Prix museum. Steve Cox will explore possibilities.

Further ideas are invited from branches -- tell Paul Middleton so that these can be advertised.

14. Nationals venue

The possibility of changing the show venue was briefly discussed, but it was considered on balance at the current location, at Duxford, had many advantages.

15. Promoting MAFVA

Articles in commercial magazines are very valuable, including those in Military Modelling and SMMI. These ventures must be expanded, and the workload shared amongst more members. It was suggested that magazine articles could be posted onto the MAFVA or branch websites, after they had been published in the magazines. This was agreed if magazine editors would permit.

The issue of extended branch membership was considered at length. It is important to encourage isolated members to meet up with branches at a model shows, and also to encourage relocating members to join their local branch. All branches have their individual ethos, one of the Association's strengths.

New branches have been established in South Staffordshire and an embryonic one in North Wales. The process of affiliation of existing model clubs to become MAFVA branches was discussed, and it was agreed that that we encourage informal affiliation.

16. AGM in 2015

It was always the intention to hold the AGM in different locations each year. The Nottinghamshire branch has hosted the event for two successive years, and heartfelt thanks were extended to Nottinghamshire members for their hospitality. It was proposed that the 2015 AGM would be held in Hemel Hempstead at a date in mid-March. Further details to follow. Chris Lloyd-Staples will organise.

17. AOB

The urgent need for a Publicity Officer was discussed. John Ham **for circulation with Minutes**.

The AMPS show will be advertised in the next Tankette, and has featured on the MAFVA website for many years. We need to ensure that reciprocal advertising takes place for the MAFVA 2015 nationals. **Chris Lloyd-Staples**.

It was suggested that membership cards could take the form of the dated, address label on the envelope for each Tankette. This method is used by other organisations. **Tom Cole** will explore this possibility.

A Competitions Officer is urgently required for the 2014 nationals. Bob Lockie is not available this year. **John Ham for circulation with Minutes**.

John Ham concluded the meeting by thanking all participants for their attendance and contribution.

Minutes taken by Chris Lloyd-Staples, to whom any queries should be addressed.

Action points by officers are underlined

14/02/2014.