

**MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

10th FEBRUARY, 2016

Salen Hotel, Salen, Isle of Mull, 8.00pm.

Present:

Geoffrey Gallagher (Chairman); Alistair (Fred) MacLean (Membership Secretary); John Clayton (Chief Marshal); Jenny Reddaway; Sandra Clayton; Steven Alexander; Chris Baker; Allan Cameron; Peter Stanhope; Chris Warden and Eddie O'Donnell (Snr.).

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed and thanked all those attending the meeting.

2. Apologies

There had been no apologies received by post or email. JC advised that apologies had been sent from Ian Parkin; Joy Hewson; Bob Fisher; Diana Baines and Dr Neil Bowring. CB advised Kim Baker had sent her apologies.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 11th February, 2015.

A short time was given to allow those present who had not read the Minutes on the website to consider them. Eddie O'Donnell proposed and Sandra Clayton seconded the adoption of the Minutes; this was agreed.

4. Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report

GG reported that there was an issue to getting the cars used in the Autotests both down to the venue and away again. There was interest from the young ones and an event was scheduled for 28th February. It was agreed that the young ones should have someone in the car with them. GG reported that three timing training sessions for younger members had been held; JC said it was well worth doing as had been proven at the Mach1 Stages. It was agreed that the training should be repeated this year.

6. Treasurer's Report

The Club's accounts showed a loss of £707.16 in 2015, compared to £1,251.75 in 2014. Net assets totalled £25,927.74 in 2015, compared with £26,634.90 in 2014.

7. Chief Marshal's Report

JC reported another very busy year for the club with both highs and lows spread along the way.

As usual we started with the Snowman although a few very brave members ventured to Knockhill in early January.

February the 1st round of the SRC saw the first public view of the latest edition of the Safety Review. Neil McHaffie was again Stage Commander and met the challenge head on with great success I believe. Yes it involves a lot more work for the organisers and much more dedication and planning for the stage teams. Those people not involved with this really have no idea what is now involved in organizing a stage team never mind a whole rally. Unfortunately because of the publicity surrounding all of this there has been a severe negative effect on marshal numbers just when we need more. Yes there is a financial reason for this decline as well, but we really do need a lot more people to get involved to share this load and make it not bearable but enjoyable as well again.

I have yet to meet anyone who has got involved in marshalling whether ex competitor, wanna be competitor, or just enthusiast not tell me of the buzz and yes adrenalin rush of a stage running well bringing success and enjoyment for all.

We are a relatively small club with a great reputation for marshalling across the country so please think and see whether you can join us and help. We do have a large contingent who live on the mainland, called our Overseas Division, and are proud of it. Plea over.

March saw the club restart Rally Time Trials on the Island and with thanks to everyone involved in any way, especially Glengorm who hosted it for us, a huge thank you. It was received very well by all and in spite of low entries all enjoyed it and we will run another event in Fishnish Forest March 12th 2016.

We also helped club members run a stage on the Malcolm Wilson Rally and the Border Counties.

April saw the Pirelli with another huge turnout and more refinement of the Safety Review. At this point we had not only to nominate how many marshals were to be at every post, but name them as well before the stage was allowed to run. This was altered later as it was unworkable. 2 Stages ran like clockwork and thank you to all who cleared up afterwards. It really does make a difference.

May saw another very successful Rally Time Trial at Fort Augustus with the club providing Highland CC with radios and control.

End of May saw a bit of a disaster on the Jim Clark which impacted on events later in the season.

June another busy month with the Carlisle Stages and Scottish as well as STRC event at Craill

July saw our return to Machrihanish for their 2 day blast. Once again a huge turnout from the club with both marshals and many competitors from Mull enjoying the weekend. I believe it was Calum's debut in his newly acquired Subaru, in a rally on Scottish soil and he didn't disappoint.

August saw another great Speyside running 2 stages at the same time!!!; not easy but we managed it but don't talk about the flies!!! Next year they are moving their rally to April so hopefully fly free. We helped on the Solway Coast and Pendragon; also Otterburn for the tarmac specialists.

September we had the loss of the Merrick but Hamsterley ran and so did the Skye Rally Time Trial where Mull CC were heavily involved. Members also helped on Rally Yorkshire

October we lost another rally the McRae and the tragic accident on Mull which curtailed the event. This really was the low point. The Galloway Hills ran as the last

round of the SRC.

Finally November saw The Malton Stages run with club members helping but the final event and my jewel in the crown the RAC was cancelled.

That totals 22 events during the year where the club were involved in some form or other a huge commitment from our members and a big thank you from me.

All this and I haven't counted the Off Road Clubs Hill Rallies and Comp Safaris most of which are controlled by Diana with other members helping, or events overseas which some of our members have excelled in especially in Ireland. Well done to all.

2016 looks exciting already with the Autotests starting again on Laggan Beach. Geoffrey is organizing this with help. The first in January had 19 people on the day and hopefully the next one is February 28th.

March 12th the Mull Hire Fishnish Rally Time Trial many marshals wanted please come and help us put on a great event. The new main sponsor is Allan Cameron and many thanks were expressed to Allan.

8. Membership Secretary's Report

In 2015, the Club had 124 members, down three from previous year. To date, the Club has 77 members including a number of new and young people and is good for this time of year.

9. Appointment of Directors

Diana Baines, Jenny Reddaway, Alastair MacLean, Geoffrey Gallagher and Eddie O'Donnell (Snr.) were appointed Directors.

Concern was expressed regarding some Directors not being island residents. JC advised that, after attempts to have meetings at rallies proved impossible, most meetings are held by teleconference. Fred pointed out that the Club has a lot of mainland members and the Club should allow for three off-island Directors. Peter pointed out that limiting directorships to island residents only might restrict the skills and knowledge available. Allan pointed out that the majority of directors had homes on the island. What is of concern is the future as, with the exception of Geoffrey and Fred, most directors were getting a bit "long in the tooth" and the Club desperately needed younger people to come in.

10. Appointment of Club Officials

Chairman – Geoffrey Gallagher

Treasurer – Fred MacLean (with acknowledgement to Cathanne for her hard work).

Diana Baines would continue in her role in preparing the Club's accounts and very many thanks were expressed to her.

Chief Marshal – John Clayton

Membership – Fred MacLean

Secretary – Jenny Reddaway

Website co-ordinator – Dr Neil Bowring

Jenny suggested that, rather than having to forward items coming in for the possible interest of Club member to Fred, she be sent a list of members to enable her to send these direct. This was agreed.

11. Any Other Business

Eddie advised that 2300 Club had donated their signs, tape, barriers and radios to the Guardians of Mull Rally; James MacGillivray was sorting the arrangements for the container.

The meeting closed at 21.38 hours.