

## MINUTES

### MX-5 Owners Club National Committee Meeting Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2006 at 11.30am Held at the Kegworth Whitehouse Hotel, Derbyshire

#### Members Attending:

**Vanessa Batup (Chairman); John Batup; John Cookson; Andrew Fearon; Gillian Fearon; David Kiely; Clive Marshall; Madeline Marshall; Mino Manekshaw; John Mason; Gerry Nicholls; Michelle Paddick; Paul Starkey;**

Item	Time	Subject	Lead resp.
1.	11.30	Apologies for absence had been received from Carl Croft, Doris Tulley and Peter Esders. Vanessa was sorry to have to report to the meeting that Doris Tulley had tendered her resignation as meeting secretary. Vanessa is to prepare a note to go into June STHT calling for volunteers for the position. Minutes of the meeting held on 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2006 (As previously circulated) were agreed. There followed a run-through of the status of action points from those Minutes.	Vanessa
2.	11.45	<b>Choosing the next Chairman</b> Vanessa confirmed that she would not be standing again. Vanessa reminded the Meeting that the Committee must chose the next Chairman in a timely manner and asked them all to re-read the "Job Description" and to give some serious thought to this over the next couple of months. <b>Action: Vanessa to distribute the Job Description</b>	All
3.	12.00	<b>Merchandise Update</b> 1. Sales are steady - approx £950 since last meeting. 2. "Jaz Bags" – Michelle.confirmed that it will be easy to provide a set for the Mark 3 from existing designs. She is also able to provide badges for the luggage embroidered with the Club Logo. It was also agreed that Michelle should individually price luggage items in addition to prices for a complete set. She advised the meeting that she still had some cleaning products which came with the Jaz Bags stock and it was agreed that she should discount this at coming shows and not replace the stock. She now has a cool bag in a similar style to the luggage. 3. Merchandise page for STHT - Michelle should have a new page ready soon. 4. Michelle is ready for the spring Rally now. 5. The "Spandex" caps have not sold as well as expected and Michelle would like to offer these as a special offer at the Spring Rally – this was agreed. 6. Michelle had been unable to obtain a sample of a "badge holder" and the quote at £65 for 100 was felt to be expensive. However, if a better value holder could be sourced it was felt that if the font on the membership cards could be increased, then this could still be feasible. <b>Action: Clive to liaise with Jim Whyman on the feasibility of</b>	Michelle

		<b>increasing font size. Then Michelle to look at appropriate holders again.</b>	
4.	12.10	<p><b>Motorsport Update</b></p> <p>Generally, motorsport events have been very popular and have been sold out. Paul has deliberately kept events fairly small to ensure there is plenty of uptake.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Paul had added a Driver Training day at North Weald Airfield. on 21st April</li> <li>2. Angelsey, Curborough and Castle Combe Track events are all selling well and Paul expects them all to be sell-outs.</li> <li>3. Japfest at Castle Combe has now sold out.</li> <li>4. The MAX 5 competitor who was asking about holding a raffle to raise funds is going to go through the proper channels to hold a raffle and the plan is to bring 2 MAX5 cars to the National in September. Paul needs to get the organisers to check insurance arrangements etc.</li> <li>5. Stephen Simpson (ex- Cornwall a/c) has proposed that the Club becomes an affiliate of the MSA to allow the Club to be invited to MSA organised speed events (hill climbs etc). The total cost is likely to be around £150 per year and shouldn't impact on any other events, e.g. forcing MSA rules on club runs etc. However the rules are contradictory to what Paul has been told verbally. Paul is currently looking at the details, and Peter and Vanessa need to clarify one or two points. It was felt that we should pursue this as long as the rules can be clarified to our satisfaction.</li> </ol> <p><b>Action: Peter to check implications of MSA rules and wording in Constitution; Vanessa to obtain permission from Mazda UK on our usage of "MX-5".</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Member Nick Dughill had expressed disappointment about the split of West Midlands Area and had approached Paul about organising a Donington Track event where he felt at least 30 ex WM members would attend (all these are still current Members of the Club). It was agreed that Paul should liaise with Nick to make this a Club Event and give it appropriate support and publicity.</li> <li>7. Clive asked that there be more write-ups and photos from motorsport events so that he can publicise this more in STHT.</li> </ol>	Paul
5.	12.25	<p><b>Advertising Report</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. STHT - there are a few changes to advertisers including Mazda Accessories pulling out.</li> <li>2. Website - there has been a fair amount of interest in web banner advertising and John is pursuing this. Classifieds on the website has not progressed but John is now offering Forum classifieds to non-members for a £25 charge. It was felt that "Members links" (ie members recommendations) could have a page on the website and John B would moderate this.</li> <li>3. Rallies – there are 5 confirmed traders for the Spring Rally plus Mazda will bring their trailer and at least 3 cars. There are a similar number confirmed for the National but John is still waiting to hear of any local traders that Greg &amp; Carolynne may have asked to attend. AON have not confirmed their attendance at either Rally.</li> </ol>	John B

6.	12.35	<p><b>Technical Update</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The level of enquiries continues at levels at least those previously reported – 3 or more a day. John has noticed an increase in the number of enquiries from non-members, and feels that we should take some steps to reduce these.</li> <li>2. A number of enquiries are for general buying information - we had an agreement with purveyors of a Buyers Guide on the old website which has not been transferred to the new site – John feels that we should re-establish this link to provide useful information to potential buyers of an MX-5. John confirmed that only the first commission payment had ever been received so the arrangement must be clarified. <b><u>Action: Vanessa to re-establish relationship.</u></b></li> <li>3. No particular technical issues have arisen except for a steady increase in the number of purchasers of second hand Mk 2.5s with clutch judder, and them getting an uncooperative attitude from their dealer – usually a Mazda dealer. I believe that there are a great many cars out there where the problem has not been fixed, and I have long feared that we would get to be involved more as the cars reach the second hand market. We have been protected for quite a while, but now that the early Mk 2.5s are 5 years old, increasing numbers are reaching the 2<sup>nd</sup> user scene.</li> <li>4. The Mk 3 wheel corrosion problem is not an issue for the Club at present as the cars are still under warranty.</li> <li>5. John still gets a number of emails from people interpreting “techsupport” for website support issues. <b><u>Action: Clive to add clarification on the website of “who does what”.</u></b></li> <li>6. At the last meeting John was tasked with the action of setting up the Club as an eBay seller primarily to promote membership. At this time he is finalising the Club’s listing as a commercial seller.</li> </ol>	John C
7.	12.50	<p><b>Press &amp; Public Relations</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Spring Rally - Press Release has been written and issued to local press, radio and TV. Press release has been put on Cotswold Wildlife Park website and link put to mx5oc.co.uk with a reciprocal link. The “Courier” group of papers has requested photos and an article which appeared w/c 24 April. As we do not employ a cuttings service, it is not known whether any other publications took up the release.</li> <li>2. National Rally – Lincolnshire Showground Sunday 17 September. Madeline has requested Rally to be added to their events list on website.</li> <li>3. Press coverage - Good articles in EVO and Classic &amp; Sports Cars featuring Club members and their cars</li> <li>4. MX-5 Community website <a href="http://www.mx-5.com">www.mx-5.com</a> - Information provided and website updated.</li> <li>5. <a href="http://www.classicandsportscar.com/clubs">http://www.classicandsportscar.com/clubs</a> - Information provided and website updated.</li> <li>6. Classics and Sports Car - One of their staff writers is looking to buy a MX-5 (pointed him to the forum and STHT). If he finds one there will be an opportunity for an article.</li> <li>7. Classics Monthly Magazine – Buyers Guide - Requested technical help and Red Mk1 in London Area. Put in touch with John Cookson and Andrew Fearon. Photo shoot with Andrew’s car</li> </ol>	Madeline

		<p>took place on 2 May. Article due to appear in June edition.</p> <p>8. Mino asked if notice could be emailed to areas of any up &amp; coming publications which will feature the 5. <b><u>Action: Madeline to drop a note to area email list advising when she is made aware of publication with dates</u></b></p> <p>9. Mino – Can we get permission from the respective publications to reproduce articles featured in their magazines on our website / STHT say 3 months after the publication date, as an added benefit for our members. <b><u>Action: Madeline to make enquiries.</u></b></p>	
8.	13.00 Incl 30min lunch break	<p><b>National Events</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 2006 Spring Rally at Cotswold Wildlife Park being organised by Oxford Area. All arrangements are in place. A disclaimer is required for the “wheel change” competition for Health &amp; Safety reasons. It was decided that cups for the competitions would be restricted to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Availability of a wi-fi link had been pursued but it had not been possible to arrange in time. (It was also noted that there was no wi-fi in place for the National event either – it was felt that this would be a great advantage especially for signing up new members “live” over the internet so should be pursued)</li> <li>2. 2006 National Rally – Lincolnshire Area organising. A draft budget has now been received with a net cost of around £6000 (the dinner being a self-funded event). The programme for the day so far is:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Car competitions (It was agreed that these should remain Hot 5 (Mk1); Cool 5 (Mk2/2.5); BK5(Best Kept5) Mk1; Hot 5 (Mk1); Cool 5 (Mk2/2.5); BK5 Mk2/2.5. A masterclass for past winners was not to be held. It was agreed that the Rules for these classes need to be clarified.</li> <li>b) Gymkhana (Clive Southern is organising)</li> <li>c) Photo competition</li> <li>d) Professional photographer to hold workshop sessions</li> <li>e) Play Station Grand Turismo – The meeting expressed great concern about this in terms of popularity, equipment &amp; limited number of members who could participate. On the evidence of Weston Park, this activity would not be popular enough to justify the cost. This would only be sanctioned if more information was received and found to be satisfactory.</li> <li>f) Radio Controlled cars.</li> <li>g) Lincs police dogs display (not confirmed)</li> <li>h) Lincs Police Road Safety Unit</li> <li>i) Inter Area Boules Competition</li> <li>j) Lincs Butcher – Hog Roast and alternatives</li> <li>k) Feel in the bag to guess the car part competition</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>There was concern expressed by the meeting at the thinness of the programme. With no other interest on site (house, museum etc) the need for alternative entertainment for members is essential. Because of budgetary restrictions it was felt that the following low-cost ideas could be pursued: Caricaturist (member and their car); tug-of-war; Golf putting (Dave Kiely volunteered to run this); Blind-fold gymkhana; Car recognition photo competition.</p>	Gerry

		<p>As the site plan indicated very little at the proposed grandstand location and in a cost cutting measure, it was agreed that the grandstand seating should be cancelled and that dodgems (which had been very popular at Weston) should be pursued. <b><u>Action: Gerry to meet with the Lincs organisers to push forward the development of the programme and to ask them to attend the next NC meeting with a final presentation of the event.</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Car Competitions – as stated above, rules to be clarified (it was suggested that maybe we should have a Winners Certificate and “Gift Voucher” prize rather than cups – not decided)</li> <li>4. Rally Guidelines - this has been on the back burner but Gerry is actively pursuing the production of a definitive Rally Guide.</li> <li>5. Rallies for 2007 – The venue for Spring 2007 has been agreed as the Beamish Open Air Museum in County Durham. Tyne Tees will be organising and hosting this event . The 2007 National – Gerry is currently looking into Gaydon, Rockingham and Bakewell Showground. He hopes to have a more definitive plan for the next meeting.</li> </ol>	
9.	14.30	<p><b>Member Services Co-ordinator</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Insurance Scheme - Gillian is currently looking at alternative schemes and will be reporting again at the next meeting. She reported some difficulty in communication with AON generally but was pleased to hear that there have been some positive feedbacks on their service. AON have agreed to £1000 sponsorship for 2006.</li> <li>2. RAC scheme – this is now up and running and she will report back on take-up after a few months.</li> <li>3. AA scheme – this is almost finalised and should be ready for inclusion in the next STHT.</li> <li>4. Still chasing Protyres, will keep all posted.</li> <li>5. Discounted car magazine subscriptions. Still no joy on this. <b><u>Action: Madeline to see if she has any contacts</u></b></li> <li>6. Haynes – has now obtained the code for online bookings so members can obtain the club discount. This will be detailed in the next issue of STHT.</li> <li>7. MBI Publishing Limited has offered Club Members a 20% discount on any of their publications, initially up until the end of July. Details will be in the next STHT.</li> <li>8. Is contacting Magnecor, who might be interested in offering the club discount.</li> <li>9. Jim &amp; Mattie Whyman had an approach from a company supplying auto bulbs stating they would be interested in offering the club discount. Gillian is pursuing this &amp; will report back.</li> </ol>	Gillian
10.	14.45	<p><b>Shows &amp; Exhibitions</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dave reported that he and Carl were now pretty well up to speed with the equipment and had a full calendar of events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 20<sup>th</sup> May - ‘JAPFEST’</li> <li>- 21<sup>st</sup> May - Spring Rally</li> <li>- 18<sup>th</sup> June - Gaydon Supercar Sunday</li> <li>- 1/2<sup>nd</sup> July - JAPS</li> <li>- 2<sup>nd</sup> July - Cars in the Park</li> <li>- 15/16<sup>th</sup> July – The Royal International Air Tattoo</li> <li>- 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> July – ‘JAE’</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	Dave/Carl

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 16/17<sup>th</sup> September – National Rally</li> <li>- 23/24<sup>th</sup> September – ‘See Red’</li> <li>- 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October – NEC Classic Car Show</li> <li>- Mino asked Dave to check with CS about Callendar Classics</li> </ul> <p>2. Dave wanted to run a Grand Turismo (using his own equipment) at the JAE event and proposed to make a small charge for entry with a prize for each day. He asked that any profit should go towards the purchase of a Sony Playstation for future events – the meeting felt that any profits should go into Club funds and that Dave should then put forward a proposal to buy a Playstation at a later date if it proved successful.</p> <p>3. Gillian confirmed that any Members’ cars displayed on a Club stand would be covered by their insurance if with AON; if not with AON then Members should be advised to check with their insurer.</p>	
11.	15.00	<p><b>Editor’s Report</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. STHT - confirmed that STHT will only include contact and regular monthly meeting information for Areas – this has allowed extra articles and has redressed the balance of copy to advertising.</li> <li>2. Clive was concerned that the technical content of the magazine was dropping off and wants to address this.</li> <li>3. Another concern is that sourcing Modification articles is proving very difficult. Everyone should pursue these.</li> <li>4. Newsletters – it was confirmed that Newsletters will go out with STHT.</li> <li>5. Flyers – this is now Graeme’s responsibility</li> <li>6. Editor’s Responsibility – Graeme and Mino have taken over the graphic responsibility and Clive extends his thanks to them.</li> <li>7. Calendar 2007 – this must be addressed through Graeme</li> <li>8. Webmaster - Chris Dudley has received all secure passwords and now has controlled access to the site. We are waiting for his feedback</li> </ol>	Clive
12.	15.15	<p><b>Website</b></p> <p>A huge amount of work has now been done and the site is moving forward day by day with most major issues attended to. The main problem had been with membership renewals but rewriting script has been very effective in solving the problem. Clive reported that the site development had now hit a bit of a low and was not progressing as fast as we had hoped. It was felt that a meeting between the webteam and Rob was necessary to ensure the development of the site continues.</p> <p><b><u>Action: Vanessa to set up a meeting asap</u></b></p>	Clive/ Vanessa
13	16.00	<p><b>Forum</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ask the Committee - a vote was taken and the proposal to re-instate the “Ask the Committee” section of the Forum was rejected 4 for and 9 against.</li> <li>2. Keeping the new forum available to non-members – Clive advised the meeting that any new Forum was a long way off being delivered so any discussion about its status should be deferred until it became relevant.</li> </ol>	Clive/ Vanessa
14.	16.15	<p><b>Area Co-ordinator Liaison</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mino asked the meeting to consider an extension of free membership</li> </ol>	Mino

		<p>to Graeme Babbs in recognition of the amount of work he was undertaking for the Club. Michelle asked that Marilyn Hawkins also be considered as she is effectively her assistant Merchandise Officer. Graeme Babbs (proposed Mino, seconded Gillian) Marilyn Hawkins (proposed Michelle, seconded Clive). The meeting unanimously agreed. Their contact details are to be added to the NC contact list but will not be put in STHT.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Mino asked that he be advised of website problems so that he could communicate these to A/cs.</li> <li>3. Recruitment Prize/Draw – Mino suggested that the Club should consider a reward for Members who are successful in recruiting new members. <b>Action: Mino to investigate further.</b></li> <li>4. A/c access to membership lists – the functionality for A/cs to download direct is not available but Jim does have this and will happily provide lists as he did in the past.</li> <li>5. The Yahoo groups were discussed and some doubt was expressed as to whether the mx5oc.co.uk email addresses would be reliable. It was agreed that the Yahoo groups should continue for the time being.</li> <li>6. Business cards – were these necessary? It was agreed that Graeme should be asked to design and prepare a template and then any A/c could request the template and have the cards printed at their local Pronto Print (or similar).</li> <li>7. Mino suggested that it would be advantageous if photos were available of the Club equipment alongside the inventory. <b>Action: Dave &amp; Carl to organise this when it is convenient to do so.</b></li> <li>8. It was agreed that the website issues that Mino had brought up should be addressed following a meeting between the webteam and Rob.</li> </ol>	
15.	17.15	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. National Committee Expenses – the Expenses policy was last updated in 2002 and although the wording remains relevant it was decided that mileage should be increased to 40p per mile and that breakfast and lunch allowances should be £5 each. These changes to have immediate effect. It was stressed that consumables (printer supplies etc) should be claimed with an appropriate deduction for private use (this also to apply to A/c claims).</li> <li>2. John M reported that Income growth was still less than anticipated although new member income was promising with 935 new members having joined on-line. Advertising revenue was slightly less than budget as was Merchandise and AON commissions were a concern as these have steadily reduced. John felt that it may be necessary to increase subscriptions in 2007 (last increase was in 2000-01) but would continue to monitor the situation closely.</li> </ol>	John M
16.	18.00	<p><b>Dealer Liaison</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The updating of the list of Dealers resulting in them receiving copies of STHT has resulted in a number of new dealers offering discount. Andrew has put a note in STHT asking members to keep him informed about their local Dealer. Several dealers have asked for the local A/c to contact them, which is</li> </ol>	Andrew

		<p>encouraging.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. We have had a few requests for Club brochures but these have mainly been from independents. Mazda Dealers seem to be unsure if they are permitted to show them, as they have had no direction from Mazda UK. Would still like to follow up the issue of supplying posters but would have to have clarification from Mazda UK regarding display of these. <b><u>Action: Vanessa to clarify with Mazda UK.</u></b></li> <li>3. The Dealers list on the website has also been updated and Andrew will continue to ensure this is up to date.</li> <li>4. Andrew has been in contact with Mazda Japan regarding the naming of the new (“Tin top”) model. and have arranged for Mazda Marketing Department in Japan to receive a copy of STHT – this was appreciated as can be seen from the following email: <i>“Andrew just a quick note to say thanks as the latest issue has just arrived - I really enjoy reading it so thanks very much - it is appreciated. When I have done with it I'll pass it on to Kijima-san who is the chief engineer for the Mk3.”</i></li> </ol>	
17.	18.05	<p><b>Club Archivist</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No great changes from the last report. Andrew has been trying to accumulate copies of any articles on the Mk3, along with comparison tests that have been running.</li> <li>2. Andrew has been starting to scan articles, where he can, and download as much info from the Press website.</li> <li>3. Andrew now has an Archive CD available for any A/c who is interested.</li> </ol>	Andrew
18.	18.10	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>- Confirm timetable for AGM – as Peter was not at the meeting, this would be confirmed electronically. <b><u>Action: Peter to confirm the rotational resignations.</u></b></p>	Peter/ Vanessa
19.	18.15	<p>The next meetings will be held at the Kegworth Whitehouse Hotel on</p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> August (time to be confirmed)</p> <p>11<sup>th</sup> November and AGM</p> <p>12<sup>th</sup> November – A/c meeting</p>	Vanessa
20.	18.20	<p>The meeting closed at 6.20pm</p>	