



MIDLAND ROVER OWNERS CLUB

33rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Wednesday 22nd October 2014
At Land Rover Social Club, Bilsmore Green, Solihull**

The Chairman opened the meeting at: 20.00hrs

In remembrance: The Chairman asked that we all give thought to club members who have sadly passed away in the last 12 months. We are only aware of one and that is Colin Harrison. A minutes silence was held.

All of those present were reminded that only Full, Family and Associate members can take part in any vote.

Apologies for absence were received from: Jim Savage; Ian Walker; Richard Parry; Valerie Kesterton; Rachel Fasham; Debbie Rock; Barry Wilkes; Rosemary Phillips; Richard Squires.

Corrections to 2013 minutes: None

Approval of the 2013 AGM minutes

Proposed: Samantha Miller Seconded: Glyn Phillips

Matters arising from 2013 minutes – None

Chairman's Report

I would like to thank the committee over the last 12 months for their support and hard work in running the club. We have a few changes in committee this year, seeing some of the younger members taking on roles which can only be good for the future of the club.

Over the last 12 months we have been looking at introducing direct debit payments for membership which we have now sorted and will be rolling out next year.

I have attended many ALRC meetings and reported back to the committee any changes that may be happening. The main changes are the increased support from the ALRC for National Rallies, with the introduction of trophies, official paperwork and other items being provided for us. Talking of the National Rally, we have been working hard behind the scenes, booking land, signing contracts and organising suppliers for next year's event, I am sure the National Event Director will enlighten you further in his report.

Easter this year reminded me of when Ruth and I first joined the club and it was a great weekend with good attendance all round. Over the last 12 months we have seen membership numbers increase and the club remaining in the black financially, which has enabled us to invest in replacement items needed by the club.

My own personal feeling is that interest and support by the members has been picking up over the last year, evidenced by good attendance at club events, plus emails I have been receiving. Whether this is due to economic reasons or us going into a National year I am not sure, but it is very welcome. As many of you are aware this will be my last year as Chairman so I intend to make it a good year. Thank you for your continued support.

Treasurer's Report

You'll have seen our figures for the financial year ended in July, so you all know what's going on. Again, the year ended with a small profit – fortunately all sections behaved as expected or hoped. No doubt, you would have been wondering about the Creditors figure shown – this includes the entries received in advance for the Majors 2014 (covered in the next financial year), and the ALRC loan to help with the 2015 National.

Profitability was helped by the membership fees increase last year, the Trials sections attracting greater entries with lower land and trophy costs, and also the Journal distribution by email. While keeping spending under control, we have managed to purchase some equipment and supplies in readiness for the National and beyond.

The Club's finances remain healthy for now, and we've taken the opportunity to earn some worthwhile interest through a 3-year business savings bond. Maybe we can top this up if the National goes to plan. Someone has booked the weather for this, I hope!

That nice Mr Taxman originally wanted most of the previous year's surplus, but relented after I had a strop. I may have to do a repeat performance!

You'll be hearing shortly via the Journal about the introduction of a Direct Debit scheme for the collection of membership fees. This would normally be an expensive business for an organisation of our size, but we have an arrangement with GoCardless where charges are minimal, but you must have your own email address to take part. We would like to get the majority of renewing members to sign up to the scheme, thereby lightening the load on our membership secretary and getting renewals in on time.

Unless you've got some cunning plan, I'll be back next AGM to update you on that year's progress. Please get in touch if anyone fancies learning the ropes, or wonders what being treasurer entails. I can only echo previous comments about us needing to get some newer members into committee roles – after all, some of us aren't getting any younger, and others of us are keen to make the most of retirement. Should any member wish to examine the detailed accounts they can be made available.

Acceptance of Accounts

Proposed: David Ball (3888)

Seconded: Glyn Phillips (1439)

Membership Secretary's Report

Membership runs to the end of February and stands at 283 which was down on last year by 12 members. The gross income from membership was £5,910 making us £864 up on last year. Although membership is down from last year the higher income reflects the increase in fees and the time of year that people join the club.

Internet payments have proved popular using BACS and Paypal with the majority of transactions now done in this way. There are now very few paying by cheque or cash.

The number of members receiving their Journal by e-mail has continued to rise which saves on the cost of postage.

This will be my last year as Membership Secretary. I will be sorry to go and will miss the involvement I have had with the club but I feel it is time for new blood to take over. There have been times when I have disagreed with committee decisions and I have been known to mention this during the meetings but the welfare of the club has always and will always come first with me and with the committee and I am proud to have served with them.

I wish my successor good luck and hope they enjoy the post as much as I have.

Membership Fees

Fees will remain the same for the coming year.

Vice Chairman's report – No report

Majors event report

What a great year, fantastic weather, well laid out sections and numbers were up!

This year Carl took on the challenge of running the event, however unfortunately due to work and family commitments prior to the start of the Major's, he struggled to find time to organise everything so I had to help out, but over the event weekend he was in the woods doing a great job keeping everything moving. George turned up to do prize giving which, as always, is good to see the Estate supporting the event, and LRE sponsored the trials. As always, we will be giving donations to the church and the school from our profits.

We have had quite a lot of emails and comments from other clubs saying that it was one of the best Major's they have been to in years and how much they enjoyed it – so a big thank you to everyone who helped out.

The date for next year's event is : 18th to 20th Sept.

Section Reports

Caravans - No report

Child Protection – Nothing to report

Competition Secretary

As your Competition Secretary I arrange all the permits for forthcoming events from the MSA. After the event I liaise with the Treasurer and required payments are sent to the MSA. Most of this business is transacted online. We have had 14 permits in the last 12 months. I am also involved with the forthcoming national.

CCV Trials

Having now done 2 years as CCVT Secretary it's now time somebody else took on the role. I've done my best with the section and on the whole enjoyed it! The role is a fairly simple one to take on. I have other interests that I want to pursue so I can't be sure of giving the role my full attention any longer.

I have not been able to give my time fully as a committee member and have not attended many meetings this year so I do feel I'm not fulfilling my duties!

I have offered to help oversee the section as a none committee member if no one offers to take on the position, as of yet I haven't received much feedback or interest on this offer but I do hope the role gets filled and the section carries on doing well in the future!

Journal

The last couple of years has seen the introduction of the electronic journal. This seems to have gone down well with members and the really good thing is that family members can now receive a journal electronically. I understand that some people still prefer to receive hard copies, but the introduction of electronic journals has nearly halved the printing and postage expenditure. I do not have precise figures but I can submit some figures and publish in the next journal if the membership would like.

I intend to carry on the role of Journal Editor for another twelve months if re-elected, but will stand down next October 2015. However, I am more than willing to give support and advice to my successor.

Questions: Mike Hayes asked why we can't have a hard copy and an electronic version?

This is possible but members will probably start asking for both if that option was offered, thereby defeating the object of promoting the electronic version to save the club money, and that may then mean that membership fees may be affected.

Press and Publicity

It's sad to say that this year has been very quiet in this area.

There was a very good article at the beginning of the year about the Land Rover Factory Tour that we did. This went well. We have not attended any shows this year, mainly due to support as this year there has been a lot going on.

I am very keen to get things off to magazines so if you have anything I am happy to hear about it.

Whenever we have an RTV, CCV TYRO, Green Lane Trip... anything, please let me know. It doesn't have to be much.

Mike Hayes Range Rover appeared in the Landy Newspaper, the club was mentioned within this write up which is good.

Russ Brown for LRO is kindly going to put something together about the Majors' for the club zone area. I will be advertising the event calendar again as this seemed to work.

Social

Since the 2013 AGM we have had a few events that have been well supported:-

Go Karting

As with previous years, I have organised a Go Karting event; since the last AGM I put on another one which wasn't well supported with 7 people attending - I know it's a problem and an issue when one event goes really well we do it over and over again until the death of the event. And that is not what I want to do from now on. If we have a well-attended event, it will be a while before I do it again, give something else a chance.

Christmas Party

I really enjoyed this one, lots of families and friends that came out, we had our special guest drop by to hand out some early Christmas presents to the children and word has it that he is able to drop in again this year. So if you are interested in coming please let us know, so we can get a rough idea on numbers; it is Friday 12th December this year, and if you have children that will be coming then please let us know how many and their names. Contact details will be in the journal as this will be the first Christmas party I will be missing. I will not be hosting it this year.

Factory Tour

This was an excellent day. To see so many people interested in how they are built, though many of you have built them yourself, it's great to show people how Land Rover/Range Rovers are made.

There were 28 people total that attended this factory tour and I hope that everyone who went enjoyed themselves. It would be nice to do something along the lines of this again.

Easter Cake Competition

Only 3 (well 4 but one didn't make it to the table) entered the competition, 3 amazing cakes that people had put a lot of time and effort into, and they were then given out to everyone.

Annual Prize Giving

Sadly this year was a very poor turnout. After a lot of hard work that goes into organising an event like this where food and entertainment are provided for people to enjoy; yes we know it is a competition weekend but names were called out for those who won a trophy and it was sad to see their trophies being placed back down onto the table (as they weren't in attendance) instead of into the hands of the winner. This is something that needs addressing - it would have been nice to have been informed from those who have won a trophy if they could let us know if they can't be there to collect it. If it is a case of not knowing you have won a trophy, I believe in future a letter may be sent out to notify you that you have won one.

Monthly Socials

I also tried the monthly socials which again were well attended; these were held at the Rose and Crown Pub just off Junction 3, M42.

Due to work commitments unfortunately I could not go to some of them and slowly these died down and came to a stop; I really would like to keep the continuity of these social evenings going and to do some activities every now and then just to keep the fun and spirit alive in the club. I have started again, the first one being the 4th October; this was a skittles night at the Swan Inn in Studley. I didn't make the first half of the evening but managed to get there before the end and I was so happy when I turned up to see so many people having fun.

All in all, the social events that have been organised this year have gone down very well and I hope that they will continue to grow. It's nice to see new members, potential members and even a lot of the older members of the club come out and join in. Social evenings are open to every club member of the club and friends and family of those club members. If you happen to meet someone out and about, tell them about the social nights as they could pop along and have a chat to find out what we are really about.

Questions: John Messer asked why there was no Party in the Park this year?

Richard Smith replied that the club decided for a change to run Clyro as one of our events and a few members did attend. Not only that but Buster couldn't attend and provide the bar facilities this year either.

John Messer stated that he had some concerns with the club use of 'Facebook' as, seemingly, a main forte of providing information to members and in danger of taking over from the journal. This isn't good because not all members have access to Facebook and therefore are not always aware of what is going on, also meaning that regular Facebook users have a 'heads up' on that information.

Mike Hayes also voiced similar concerns.

Richard Smith replied that it is a valid point and needs addressing as that certainly isn't the intention of the club. The website and the journal are meant to be the prime sources of any club information and this will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Response

A very quiet year for the group and to date no call outs though we were put on standby a couple of times last winter.

At the end of last October we were invited by the Highways Authority to visit their control centre at Quinton, the main room being where all the traffic cameras are monitored and from where traffic is controlled on the motorways in our area.

During November we ran a training refresher course with the Local Authority picking up the costs for the room hire and Phil Ackroyd as an LRE Instructor kindly donating his time and the benefit of his experience to run the session for us. LRE also gave their permission for Phil to use some of their presentation and course material for the exercise for which I'm extremely grateful.

UK news was of course full of film footage of the huge flooding issues in the south and south west and although there were 2 or 3 response groups heavily involved in assisting the communities, much of the flooding was beyond the capabilities of normal 4x4's. However, as the Local Authorities were running out of places from which to hire in specialist transport, by their request Response UK put together a standby list of availability of deep water wading vehicles. One of our members, Trevor Kent, appeared on that list by volunteering his services and his Unimog but in the end wasn't called upon.

In May we were invited by the Local Authority to share a stand with them at the Rugby Spring Fair. We obliged and in my absence Phil Rock was the lead on the day with valuable help from Graham Wright & James Lyon. A first time experience for response but a pleasant day with a few membership forms handed out, a new banner and display boards helped attract some interest in what was essentially a charity event run by the Rugby Rotary Club.

Coming up to date, a Facebook page has recently been opened thanks to Graeme Wright. This is being trialled at the request of some of the team and is run as a closed group.

Looking ahead, talks have been ongoing for many months with both the British Red Cross and the RSPCA Water Rescue Team and I am hoping to finalise details of agreements for the Response group to provide both organisations 4x4 support and transport as and when they need it.

Questions: Derek Spooner stated that Air Ambulance had an open day and queried whether or not we were invited?

No invite was received though we do as a club support Air Ambulance.

Andrew Neaves asked if by having a Facebook account run as a closed group, were we not in danger of creating a group within a group?

John Kesterton replied that the purpose of Facebook for response was to give response members a platform whereby they could chat about response issues; it is not meant to be a public chat area; having this as a closed group meant that anyone can see who is in it but only members can see the posts. It was not set up for the purpose of providing information about response as this is done on the website, and the method of communication to response members is by e-mail and will remain as that. The Facebook page is presently on a trial basis only.

Recovery & Tyro

Recovery:-

Clee Hill Trial

This year the Clee Hill Car Trial run by the Midland Automobile Club (MAC) was held on Sunday 19th January. There were a number of sections (I think mostly up hills) all over Shropshire that the competitors had to attempt to climb in their classic cars. MROC attended to help out the competitors who struggled by giving them a tow off the section. It was an interesting event, with many different types of two wheel drive vehicles taking part. The MROC effort was organised by myself having been kindly volunteered to take on the role by Carl Gazeley. I was assisted in the organisation of the event by both Richard Smith and John Kesterton, for which I was very grateful. Even though I had never organised the event before, or even heard of it before, it was actually just a case of ringing around a number of the members to get volunteers allocated to the different sections.

The event ran smoothly with MROC providing 10 vehicles and at least 13 members with some family and friends helping out too. My thanks to all those who got involved and helped out at the event. We look forward to helping out at next years' event.

Rugby Point to Point

This is a regular event that we attend, this year the organisers again asked for our help. The event took place in April at Clifton on Dunsmore.

We provided five vehicles to help transport doctors & vets plus their equipment around the course. There were hardly any issues which made for a very pleasant day for everyone.

Ragley Hall Triathlon

A hot day in June saw two volunteers helping out with the Avenger Triathlon charity event at Ragley Hall. We were asked to help ferry marshals and supplies around the running course - this was a 13 mile run for the entrants, which they did straight after their 1.2 mile swim and 56 mile cycle ride! Apparently it was exhausting just watching them. Phil Rock & Carl Gazeley volunteered, and with the very hot weather they ended up doing continuous drinks delivery runs to the various watering stations around the estate until the majority of entrants had finished. It was a long day, and if we're asked back next year maybe we can get more drivers involved.

Questions: Dan Fasham stated that members weren't aware of this Ragley Hall event so couldn't volunteer to help.

Richard Smith replied that this was because we were asked at very short notice if we could help (only 2 weeks before the event date) and to enable an immediate reply two committee members volunteered.

Tyro

Easter at Eastnor Trial

In preparation for running the TYRO at next year's National Rally, I volunteered to run a TYRO Trial at this year's Easter at Eastnor event. I read up what was required in the ALRC Green Book, and considered what the requirements meant in the real world. It took two days to lay out the trial, which I couldn't have done without the help of Samantha Miller and Alexander Griffiths. With our Defender 90's being very capable off-road it was difficult to imagine how vehicles with less ground clearance and a longer wheelbase than ours would cope around the course. Thankfully Carl Gazeley offered to try out the sections that we wanted to check.

On the night before the trial the heavens opened and I was very worried that the trial would be cancelled. Luckily the next morning the sun came out and the ground was ok to allow the event to take place. Richard Smith and I drove around the ground to check on its condition and for Richard to have the final say on all of the sections. There was only one section which Richard was not happy for us to run, and I was pleased for his words of advice.

There were 18 entrants, seven licenced and 11 un-licenced. 12 of the entrants were MROC members with six other entrants from various other ALRC clubs. This included two entrants who came over from Germany to take part, who were members of Deutscher Land Rover Club. The event was a big success with everybody having an enjoyable time.

I was able to learn a number of valuable lessons from running the event which will help the club when running the next TYRO trials.

Questions: Adrian Gregory commented that there were a number of sections where unfamiliar drivers could have driven off the side of a steep drop.

Richard Smith replied that this was probably his fault and the sections should have taken that into account. Alex Griffiths stated that the sections were laid out the best we could as a first attempt but in hindsight we realise that some sections needed more consideration. Derek Spooner was pleased that some previous discussion on this had already taken place. Richard Smith agreed that the points were valid and we need to learn from this and take more care in future. All competitors should walk the course before driving it and speak out if they think there are any problems. The issues really are with new or inexperienced drivers but any experienced members seeing a problem should also speak out at the time. Andrew Neaves stated that the 'green book' is presently being written for 2015 and more emphasis will be put on the Tyro section.

Rights of Way

This has been my first year as Rights of Way Secretary for the club. I joined committee just after last year's AGM and have been made very welcome by everyone on committee and within the club. I have run two green-laning trips this year.

The first trip was to Derbyshire on Sunday 1 December 2013 which was attended by approximately 12 vehicles. We all met in a car park in Ashbourne and split into two groups, one led by Samantha Miller & Alex Griffiths and the other led by myself. We more or less did the same round trip, but in opposite directions, meeting up at lunchtime for a chat and mince pies.

The second trip was held on Sunday 20 July 2014 and saw us meeting up at Much Wenlock to explore the lanes around the Long Mynd area of Shropshire. Again there were 12 vehicles so the group was again split in two. This time although the route would be almost the same for both groups, there were a couple of lanes that Sam's group tackled that were a bit more challenging.

I believe that both trips were successful and I very much enjoyed meeting new club members and helping them to enjoy seeing what their Land Rovers can do once off tarmac. Due to work and other MROC commitments I have been unable to run as many 'green-laning' trips as I would like to have run. If I am re-elected next year is going to be another busy year with a lot of time spent in preparation for the National Rally. I would like to encourage club members to offer to run a 'green-laning' trip if they know of suitable routes / lanes in the Midlands. I would offer them advice and support to run the event.

RTV Trial – no report

Health & Safety As you are all aware, the committee are jointly responsible for Health & Safety. There have been no issues this year.

Questions: David Gregory asked if there had been any comebacks from the Majors as regards damaged roll cages.

Richard Smith replied that there was no reported damage and nothing brought to our attention.

Andrew Neaves queried if roll cage tags would be removed if a cage was damaged. Yes, there are procedures in place and removed tags would be returned and a record made in the respective log books.

Scrutineering – no report

Web Editor

First up, I would like to give my apologies to the club for not being able to spend as much time as I would have liked on the website this year due to my lack of available time.

However, this year we have been able to offer event booking with Paypal payments via the website and that is being used regularly. I have nothing else new to report this year.

Also, I am standing down as web editor this year as I no longer have enough time to do the role properly, but I hope to be able to support the next person to take on this role.

I wish to extend my thanks to all who have contributed articles and pictures over the last year and to those who have supported me over the last 6 years. And please keep on sending pictures and articles...

Eastnor Liaison

As mentioned previously the National has been high on our priority list. I have been very busy negotiating and booking the land required. It hasn't always been easy and following this year's Majors, there was a bit of a hiccup but this has now been resolved.

Tree damage, signs still nailed to trees and logs in the tracks has led to LRE being nervous about us using their prime areas for trials in the National. We have to be mindful that this land is used for the promotion of new marques and we are privileged to be able to trial there, in fact we are the only Land Rover club that is allowed to use Eastnor for trials. We should treat the land with respect, especially when clearing up after events, or we may face losing it in the future.

After consultation with the Estate and LRE, for all future events LRE will provide a driver and vehicle on the day after to drive the woods and check for anything left by us. LRE will also be attending our driver's briefings to drive home the message.

Eastnor is our stomping ground and we need to protect it for our club.

MROC Archive

No new photos have been sent in and only a few comments sent this year. But many false comments which have taken a lot of time sorting out by Tim. I have had to use a new system for inputting comments to try and alleviate some problems and also change the photo album face instructions, which are photos of word documents. The webpage is not easy to alter.

I have been asked to make the photo albums searchable. I did change the searchable tags on photos when the necessary info was sent to me, but that takes a long time and often my work isn't saved as I would wish. But the large majority of pictures will remain interesting but unknown as there are no details to accompany them.

The document (club files) scanning hasn't progressed far either. After the backache forming job of scanning several hundred documents, it became apparent that the size and format of the files was becoming a problem.

My scanners produce large individual jpegs. So I spent a long time re-titling and grouping them together. But they were still big and not searchable. Some of the items were never going to be read, but early minutes maybe. So I am looking at different scanner or conversion software, to make multi-paged PDF's. The hand written early documents do not scan very clearly so I need to try 'voice to text' software to produce searchable documents. My old computer was not up to that but my much faster (on paper, but slowed by windows 8, and me) new computer should do it.

I can confirm that the cine film I was lent does have Land Rover rallies mixed in with the personnel footage. The competitions were in the days the gates were not canes but 2 inch white posts - no claiming you couldn't see them.

Much work to be done in the cold wet and snowy winter, before the caravanning season starts.

National

We now have the land booked for all competitions and all land is to be on the deer park side of the road therefore competitors will not have to trailer their vehicle to the trial site.

LRE have agreed to run a scenic drive and also have agreed to sponsor the door stickers.

We currently have sponsors for the Competitive Safari – 'Britpart', CCVT- 'Lodar', TYRO – 'Caravan Stuff For U' and other sponsors include Stewart Price Cars, Eastnor Estates and Global Sales. We are still requiring more, so if you know of any we would be pleased to speak to them.

We would like to run a bike trial but it's not looking likely as we have no one to run it. If this is to go ahead then someone must come forward and commit to it.

We are now set up for and inviting trade stands - information is on the website alrcnational2015.co.uk

At the last count we had 12 bookings

Clothing we will soon have the range of clothing available to order this will include hoodies, body warmers and t-shirts.

Election of Officers and Committee

Officers

Carl Gazeley resigned from the post of Vice Chairman earlier this year.

The following retiring Officers offer themselves for re-election as Officers of the club:

Richard Smith	Chairman
John Kesterton	Secretary
Phil Rock	Treasurer

All were unopposed and re-elected by a unanimous vote in favour with none against and no abstentions.

The following general committee member is offering herself for election as an Officer of the club, to the post of Vice Chairman:

Samantha Miller (3956)

Proposed by: Daniel Fasham (3994) Seconded by: Richard Parry (4229)

Samantha was unopposed and elected by a unanimous vote in favour with none against and no abstentions.

General Committee

Richard Squires and Carl Gazeley resigned from the general committee earlier this year, from the positions of CCV and RTV respectively.

The following retiring members of the general committee are standing down and not offering themselves for re-election:

Glyn Phillips	Membership Secretary
Tim Kemp	Web Editor
Michael Boyle	Caravan Secretary

The following retiring committee members offer themselves for re-election to the general committee of the club:

Martin Pittaway	Competition Secretary
Richard Banks	Chief Scrutineer
Sarah Lees	Journal Editor
John Kesterton	Response Co-ordinator
Rachel Fasham	Child Protection Officer
Samantha Miller	Social Secretary / Press and Publicity
Richard Parry	Rights of Way

All were unopposed and re-elected by a unanimous vote in favour with none against and no abstentions.

The following six positions now remain vacant:

Recovery & Tyro	Web editor	Caravan Secretary
Membership Secretary	CCV Secretary	RTV Secretary

Election of members to the general committee

We have received nominations for the following three positions:

Caravan Secretary	David Ball (3888)	
	Proposed by Daniel Fasham (3994)	Seconded by Richard Parry (4229)
Membership Secretary	Paul Muir (4123)	
	Proposed by Steve Lees (3100)	Seconded by Martin Armstrong (1141)
Web Editor	Alexander Griffiths (4242)	
	Proposed by Daniel Fasham (3994)	Seconded by Richard Parry (4229)

All were unopposed and elected by a unanimous vote in favour with none against and no abstentions.

We have received no nominations for the positions of Recovery & Tyro, CCV or RTV

Members interested in standing for any of the above vacant committee posts should submit a completed nomination form to the Secretary for inclusion at the following committee meeting.

Any other business

Derek Spooner asked if any retiring committee members were due to receive a tankard and when. Yes some were and they will receive them at prize giving at Easter.

Date of next AGM: Wednesday 21st October 2015

Date of next Committee Meeting: Wednesday 5th November 2014

Date of Drivers Meeting: Friday 31st October 2014

With no further business to be discussed, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 21.47hrs.

31 members were in attendance