



Area 57 (Enfield) Newsletter

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On April 13th, following another enjoyable breakfast at The Woodman, Doug and I headed off to Milton Keynes for the meeting about the club finances. There were about fifty people at the Holiday Inn and we were welcomed by Nik Drukker, who was chairing the meeting. He commented that the turnout was larger than the AGM normally gets, which was an indication of the strong feelings that had been aroused. He invited us to stand up in turn to introduce ourselves and say which Area we were from. It turned out that thirteen Areas and three Registers were represented.

He commenced by stating that there was no question of the JDC being in financial problems as they have assets of about £180,000. Changes are necessary as it has been found that the JDC has not been complying with the law as far as VAT returns are concerned. This is because all Areas and Registers are part of the JDC rather than affiliates of it; therefore VAT applies to the club as a whole. It would need a change to the club's constitution to separate them, and this is going to be looked into.

It has been agreed that money does not need to be transferred to the JDC account, although as it stands at the moment, it is officially their's as has always been the case. With the advice of an Independent VAT expert who had come from South London to help us, accounts for the first quarter of this year need to be returned to Head Office as soon as possible. It is then less likely that HMRC would look further, back as they are entitled to do. The suggestion that we spend all our money and close the account is not feasible as Head Office holds our account details anyway and money for the past three years would have to be accounted for.

A lot of the questions raised did not apply to us, as any meals out, weekends away etc. have always been paid for individually and have nothing to do with club funds. Similarly we don't run any events or sell any items. We should be receiving a guidance document detailing what information about accounts will be needed but it does seem that they will need returns at least quarterly. A group of volunteers from those present, some of them tax experts, accountants etc. will be looking into all the relevant problems as soon as possible.

We have kept our Area as simple as possible, so hopefully it won't involve Barb in too much extra hassle as we have very few incomings or expenditure. Kathy Beech's job is made more difficult by Areas/Registers not sending in relevant information as required. Barb has always done this promptly for us. Head Office is concerned that if Areas/Registers continue to administer their own funds as we do, that it must be done correctly and on time as the Board would be liable.

Nik did a very good job of running the meeting and, as many of those present were expert in the financial field, views were well expressed and discussed.



I have entry forms for Aston Clinton on 18th May. Entry is £4 per car and two passengers in advance and £5 on the day.



Roy has discovered that Pump House Museum at Walthamstow will be holding Classic Car Evenings on the first Tuesday of the month from 7 to 9:30 p.m..



On Bank holiday Monday, 5th May there is a Jaguar Day at the Ace cafe, also a gathering at Royston, and I have details of a Treasure Hunt starting at Epping, which is being organised by the Morris Minor club. It is also a club night as normal.



The following Sunday, the 11th, there is a show called Classics at the Aquadrome at Rickmansworth; free entry.



There are the usual two shows at Croxley Green; the afternoon one on Wednesday 6th August and the all day show with Carters Steam Fair on September 21st



David Holland has provided details of the Helmingham Hall show near Stowmarket on 3rd August. If you follow up the website from the email that Roy forwarded there is an entry form. I know that it is frustrating if you can't do it, but Pam has printed it off, so she would be able to pass on details.



Looking even further ahead, we have again booked our Christmas dinner at Pearse House. The date this year will be Saturday 13th December.



Back at the end of March, quite a few of us helped Dick celebrate his 60th birthday. Eileen did the catering so our thanks go to her for all her hard work. Dick would like to thank everyone who sent cards or bought presents. We clubbed together for Silverstone vouchers, as did some people from the Museum.



On 21st April we had our second Quiz night; It was nice to see Penny, Bobbie and Audrey there to help their other halves. This year's winners were Keith and Audrey. There was a booby prize but I won't say who that went to. If any one else feels inspired to set a Quiz for next year, please feel free to do so.



I gather from Eric that numbers are a bit low for the Pageant at the moment, particularly on the Monday. If you have not booked in and are available, please give Eric a call (01707 875129).



Apparently, the Whitewebbs Museum weekend to Lincolnshire was very enjoyable and Audrey hopes to tell us a bit more about it next month.

