MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
11TH FEBRUARY, 2015.
Salen Hotel, Salen, Isle of Mull, at 8.30pm.

Those present:
Allan Cameron (Chairman); Alistair (Fred) MacLean (Membership & Club Secretary; John Clayton (Chief Marshal); Sandra Clayton; Chris Baker; Martin Rowley; Chris Warden; Eddie O’Donnell (Snr); Stewart MacDougall; Geoffrey Gallagher and Jenny Reddaway.

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed and thanked all those who had come to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Jamie Reddaway; Neil Bowring; Freda Bowring; Chris Woodcock and Diana Baines. Chris Baker gave Kim Baker’s apologies from the floor.

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 12th February 2014.

The Chairman advised that these had been previously circulated. These were agreed by those present to be a correct record. Their adoption was proposed by Chris Baker and seconded by Martin Rowley.


There were no matters arising.


AC advised that the provisional accounts and item 7, Treasurer’s Report, would be combined. He drew attention to the Club’s balance sheet and asked that members contact Diana Baines if they had any queries. Noted that there was a typographical error under Reserves with 2012.

6. Chairman’s Report

AC thanked all members who had attended events in any capacity; who had supported events in various ways and for their efforts to put events on, even, as in the case for the RTT, which unfortunately did not take place.
AC told members he had received an email from Iain Campbell, CoC for the Mull Rally, attached at Annex 1.

7. **Treasurer’s Report**

See above.

8. **Membership Secretary’s Report**

Fred MacLean reported that membership at the current date was 127, the same as the previous year.

EO’D expressed concern as to whether those who joined the Club and helped out on events were not disadvantaged over those who joined at the time of the Mull Rally, including some island based individuals.

9. **Chief Marshal’s Report**

As usual another busy year with 10 events attended from the Island members, (7 running stages and 3 officiating as Radio Controls or Clerk of the Course). On top of that club members attended and helped on another 10 events on the mainland and finally Mull Rally. That is over 20 events per year and I would like to put on record my thanks to everyone concerned for their support. Also many members compete on a variety of these rallies, particularly STRC events. Please do not say that the club is not **ACTIVE** because it is!

Factual examples: We have 20 active club members with TOB call signs doing radio duties on the above rallies. On the Pirelli Rally, for instance, all the timing crews and mandatory radios will be club members, with a radio on every Post, 14 in total. On top of that we have another 10 club members who have other clubs’ call signs for their radios.

Since the tragedies on the Jim Clark and the Ulster rallies this year we are going to see a huge increase in the importance of safety. To this end eventually I can see that ALL marshals will have to be registered with the MSA and be trained on a regular basis. Luckily I can report that well over 90% of our active members are registered and regularly attend training days, so this will not impact so much on us other than we can expect more calls for assistance from other events.

With safety in mind the Club organized a training evening on the Thursday before Mull this year. Called “First on the Scene” it was an excellent evening with an amazing attendance of over 80 people, who to a person said how informative it was and really helped them.

Finally a plea. The club desperately needs extra helpers for Mull Rally. Nothing onerous but with perhaps 6 extra people giving 1 or 2 days or part days or evenings on the lead up.
to the event, particularly 2 weeks before, helping with staking and getting all the club’s equipment ready for distribution on rally Wednesday. Please get in touch with me. It has been mentioned that “we see the same old faces “yes mostly it is OLD faces we really do need some more younger ones to replace us “OLD GITS”!!

In summary another great year and I am looking forward to 2015. Keep Safe and Enjoy.

AC thanked JC.

10. Appointment of Directors

AC advised that two Directors (Neil Bowring and John Clayton) had stood down in turn and were standing for re-election. Both were re-elected. A further nomination had been received after the formal deadline date for nominations for Eddie O’Donnell (Snr). The Directors agreed that EO’D would be co-opted as a Director for the period of one year from the AGM whereupon he would be welcome to stand for election again under the usual rules.

11. Appointment of Club Officials (Chairperson/Secretary)

AC, the resigning Chair, advised members that he had generally enjoyed his time as Chair. He did have a couple of things with which he was unhappy. Firstly, whilst acknowledging that the Club needed Directors to oversee the proper legal and financial running of the Club, it was disappointing that those off-island Directors did not attend the AGM, nor had been present on any Club nights. Ordinary members needed to know the people who are in charge of making certain decisions on their behalf and AC hoped that this would be rectified. JC advised that all off island Directors would be available at the Rally Time Trial in March. This was noted.

Secondly, AC felt that there was a divide between the Car Club and the Guardians, despite the fact that both were supporting the same aim and said that the situation needed to be pulled together.

AC advised that Geoffrey Gallagher had been nominated as Club Chairman, proposed by JC and seconded by CB, GG was duly elected. Fred MacLean, JR and JC to remain in their respective posts of Membership Secretary/Club Secretary, Secretary to the Directors and Chief Marshal.

AC resumed the Chair and, proposed by Sandra Clayton and seconded by Wendy Brown, Fred MacLean agreed to continue (with able assistance from Cath-Anne) as Club and Membership Secretary.
SC reminded all present that it was during AC’s Chairmanship that the MSA had voted Mull Car Club third best in the country.

EO’D proposed a vote of thanks to AC who received a generous round of applause in response. AC thanked members for this and GG took the Chair.

12. Any Other Business

Fred MacLean put forward a proposal that Club nights should be held quarterly, rather than monthly (i.e. in February (AGM); May; August and November, each with a advertised purpose. CB suggested showing DVD of old rallies such as RAC that might attract younger members; CW might use one to prepare for the proposed car production trial whilst the November one might include a debrief from the Mull Rally. SMD suggested every second month as an alternative but the majority favoured the quarterly meetings on a one year trial basis. Proposed by SC and seconded by CB, it was agreed to go ahead with a one year trial with the next Car Club meeting on Wednesday, 13th May, 2015. Any suggestions for activities to GG, please and finalised details to go on Club’s Facebook and website pages.

Fred also thanked Cath-Anne for all the help she provided; this was echoed by those present.

JC reported that the Events Calendar was now on the website with involvement in 30 events being requested this year.

Fred reported that the Dinner Dance was being held the evening of the Rally Time Trial with many people attending who came last year including some from Ireland. Regarding entries for the RTT, three entries had been received but matters would become clearer after the Snowman. In response to EO’D’s query, JC advised that the Mull entry was £150, as were the Stonehaven events (the first one had to be cancelled because of the advancement of major roadworks near the venue); Skye was £195 and last year HCC was £225, but they had to pay forestry fees. JC advised that the Club had been very lucky with sponsorship, including a generous offer from Park Lodge.

JR advised members that, having looked at other Clubs’ arrangements and bearing in mind the tragedies of last year and the Snowman, the Directors had appointed an Honorary Legal Advisor who was Gordon MacNab of Messrs Stevenson Kennedy in Oban. (Overseas members south of the border should note a Scottish solicitor was selected because the Club is registered in Scotland and subject to Scots Law.) Various questions as regards public liability were raised; JC will enquire of other Clubs.
Following on from this discussion, JR was asked to write to Neil Moir of HCC to advise that the Car Club had not received an approach from HCC or Neil McHaffie regarding assistance on this year’s Snowman and would not wish to be seen to be associated with any stage as a Mull Car Club stage.

13. **Close of Meeting.**

The Chairman thanked all those for attending and thanks were again given to AC.
Annex 1.

Mull Rally – an update from Iain Campbell

In 2014 the event received a real ‘buzz’ around it due to it being the 45th running. We had 131 entries and benefitted from entries from Jim McRae & Ian Grindrod, Nik Mathews from Canada and Derek McGeeghan from Ireland to add to our international mix.

The Thursday night Forum, which was hosted by Colin Clark in John Fife’s absence even benefitted from having guests such as Hayden Padden, Elfyn Evans and Mikko Hirvonen.

The route was well received though it was a shame to lose the Glen Aros stage but that is one of those things that is always there as a risk on this event. The Saturday afternoon loop was popular. Following competitor comments we looked at the two service venues on Friday night but now that it has run the competitors would like it to return to the traditional format.

Thanks to Chris Baker for the work that he did in getting the Hill Road stage to be streamed live on the website on Saturday afternoon. The images were brilliant and it would be good to see this repeated in 2015.

Also thanks to the MacGillivrays and TSL for the use of and work on The Vets road for Shakedown. We had over 30 cars for this new aspect to the event. It also goes to show what you can get away with when the weather is with you. If we had had the sunshine of Saturday for Shakedown I am sure that it would have been better received. As it was the road was very slippery and conditions horrible. It would be great to be able to use the GlenGorm road for 2015 but I am struggling about how we can get access to here. Any suggestions would be well received.

Dr Ben Shippey managed to transform Craignure hospital into a major trauma unit for the weekend and I am grateful for the huge amount of work that he put in to make this happen. I am more grateful that we didn’t have to use it.

For 2015 we have a new sponsor in Beatson’s Building Supplies and they have committed to a five year agreement which takes the rally right up to the 50th Anniversary. This means we have the financial security to continue our planning for the future and to hopefully to allow us to invest in infrastructure to ensure the smooth and safe running of the rally. Further funding from EventScotland has been applied for and other individual sponsors are still being sought.

The 2015 route has been approved by Police Scotland and is currently with Argyll & Bute Council. They don’t see anything within it that may cause concern. The route has 18 special stages and 160 competitive miles. 2014 was 20 stages and 154 miles. With the format this year there is less likelihood of stages being cleaned so the only chicanes used will be for safety reasons on the Gribun straight and at the Ensay Steps when heading south. The format of Regroups, lateness and the option to Restart after retirement will remain as they have since 2012 to aid with the running of the event.

The Scottish Government Motor Sport Event Safety Review Group recommendations are likely to have little impact on the rally as we more or less ran to the full recommendations in October.

Media interest in the event last year once again grew and already I have commitments from Autosport, Motorsport News and Autocar that they will have journalists on the island in October. It

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has been hammered home to me in the last few months just what a reach the Mull Rally has: Mikko Hirvonen has been watching in-car videos of the stages, Dario Franchitti has said that he wants to take his yacht to the harbour in October for the weekend and even Ari Vatenan said to a senior MSA Board member at the Monte Carlo Rally that he had heard of Mull and the real challenge that it represents. Our Facebook page, though recently changed, continues to grow and has over 100,000 looking at it over the weekend of the rally. The Twitter account has fewer followers but is still active and the website has around the million visits in October. Rally Radio draws in an international audience over the weekend.

With regard to TV coverage, it is my opinion that this is not a good use of funds for our event, that it really only panders to the vanity of a view. However, The Guardians are investigating coverage for 2015 and we will see what is offered and the value it represents.

One thing that will be missing from 2015 is the presence of John Clayton; who stated before last year’s event that he would be standing down. John did a huge amount for the event and I would appeal to the Car Club members for assistance during early September in getting the route set up for reconnaissance and then for the rally itself in October.

The support that the rally receives from the Car Club is much appreciated. The use of the equipment for stage furniture and support of members’ to make things happen go a long way. Thank you and I hope that we can continue to grow this support in the future?

On a personal note I have been asked to work on a consultancy basis with IMS (commercial arm of the MSA) throughout this year to get the British Rally Championship to run from 2016 onwards. It has been agreed with The Guardians that from the end of this year’s rally Andy Jardine will take on the role of Clerk of the Course and I will become his Deputy. We envisage that there will be little change as we don’t operate on titles anyway and the workload is shared between us. This title change will happen from 2016 onwards.

All the best with your Gravel Sprint next month and catch up with you soon,

Iain