

The 33rd Sporting AGM and Dinner 29th November 2014

Thanks to Lesley Reynolds for organising the Party. It was a celebration which will be remembered for many years. Lesley has it down to a fine art now with fun balloons, in Red, green and Blue, whizzing like rockets through the supercharged air. The tabled competitors battle each other for the best shot and the noise of escaping air adds to the crescendo of voices. It's usually the youngsters who win and this year was no exception with two tables of effervescent youth showing the future of the Sporting part of the club will be in good hands.

The 80 guests stood, glasses in hand to celebrate a special occasion which had been kept a close secret for 6 months!

Special Guests Stuart and Penny Harper were waiting along with the many friends and people this man has inspired, Steve Lister waited patiently holding the trophy, a framed photograph which Dennis Rushton and Jake Alderston had kindly provided, while the clock on the wall ticked towards seven. He entered quietly and stopped to talk to Stuart not aware of what was happening, looking rather bemused by the offered hands of congratulations as he went through the throng of people. Barbara Caroline, the instigator of it all, looked so proud as Gary was finally congratulated for his 50 years in racing. The toast was raised and the Caroline Trophy was presented to Gary to decide who should receive it at the Trophy presentation later in the evening.

The party atmosphere continued with a lovely dinner, yellow jazz mingling with the cutlery before the raffle took over. The Racing Girls completed several laps of the room at breakneck speed and sold hundreds of tickets. They were equally as quick to call the results which led to a rush off the start to collect prizes before someone else got them! The new sweepstake meant entrants had to guess the time of a particular competitor in a specified race lap or sprint and led to much merriment due to the Comp Sec having mixed up Mallory and Donington leaving Stuart Harper lapping Donington in a miraculous 1 minute 11.85 seconds! Even more miraculously Bill Tuer won by getting 2 of the 5 times in the competition correct to a hundredth of a second!

The trophy presentation was running late but fortunately the hotel promised to keep the bar open until 1am. Steve Lister did a wonderful job of preventing the Comp Sec from choosing the wrong trophies and the lovely Penny Harper presented them in her inimitable bubbly fashion; a big thank you to Penny. Hamish Bibby and Maggie Tuer took the Racing Class Challenge win and the Championship while Maggie took the Sporting Lady Trophy. The TM win went to Cathy Quinn and Phil Bridge and the Standard Class to Chris and David Harfield. Gary and Barbara decided to present the new Caroline Trophy to Sue Darbyshire for her total commitment to Morgan Racing to add to the 2 Speeder Trophy. Mark Reeves won the 5 Speeder Trophy which had been provided by Morgan Motors. The jazz drifted into the small hours and it was close to 2am when the last adrenalin subsided, the lights dimmed and the 2014 season drew to an end. The raffle and sweepstake raised over £420.00 which will help to pay for the event.

The frivolity had been preceded in the afternoon by the Sporting AGM opened by Adrian Murray-Leslie, our Chairman. Attendance was good with 51 members signing in for the meeting and a full Agenda including a proposal related to brakes and the introduction of a Sporting Formula for the 5 Speeders. 2014 had been a very good season with MTWC Morgans achieving success in all areas of their competition both in the UK and abroad. The meeting expressed thanks to all the club members who had made the season possible by marshaling, helping individuals and spectating and for the financial support for Curborough and Cadwell which makes these events possible. Special thanks went to the officials from the VMCC and our own club without whom we could not run our events. Gratitude went to our mystery donor and to Cathy Quinn who has raised a substantial sum to help pay for the CTC courses of new licence applicants.

Alistair Rew reported that finances of the Sporting Group were sound with a surplus due to increased entry numbers in 2014 which would allow us to take a confident approach to booking meetings for next season.

ACU Insurance premiums are to rise by 10% which will increase our entry fees slightly for 2015. We have also been granted a dispensation to run with Ballast in Morgan only classes at Hill Climbs.

All our existing Competition Officials were re-elected for next year.

The main business of the meeting was the development of a Sporting Formula to allow the 5 speeders to take part in Competition. This formula will be similar in format to the existing formula for pre 1953 Morgans but separate from it. The ACU are happy for them to compete as Category 2, Group D vehicles which means in practice that they can take part in Road Race Morgan Only Class but racing against each other in the same way that we compete at VMCC in our Challenge Race with outfits on the circuit at the same time but who we are not competing against. The next step is to develop an Eligibility Form to be completed by owners wishing to compete in time for the 2015 season.

The only Proposal before the meeting was a change to the Regulation in the Sporting Formula covering the use of twin leading shoe brakes which are now permissible in TM and Racing Class. The meeting decided the 2015 Challenge Rounds, which are:

- Round 1 – VMCC Mallory 11-12th April***
- Round 2 – H&DLCC Loton 18/19th April***
- Round 3 – BOC La Vie en Bleu Prescott – 24th May***
- Round 4 – VSCC Cadwell 7th June***
- Round 5 – VMCC Darley 15/16th August***
- Round 6 – MTWC Curborough 23rd August***