



Chairman's Report - Annual General Meeting – Saturday 11th March 2023

Jane will cover the Club's excellent financial progress over the last two financial years, so I shall leave those matters in her capable hands.

Thankfully shows and events are getting back on track, however The Great Dorset Steam Fair's future looks to be in doubt. From a personal point of view I found the show was steadily deviating from its founding principles, unfortunately not for the better, but wish it well. It had the distinction of being a show where you met people you never saw anywhere else, and I would miss it for that alone.

However, I really must thank all those who have organised the Club's stands at events up and down the country for their hard work, it is this that has enabled the Club's continued and growing success, much committee work goes on unseen, but is necessary to both the smooth running of the Club and the organisation of shows and events.

Singling people out for thanks is difficult but Roy Cowgill and Phil Gibson have both made an enormous contribution to the Club's success.. This in no way detracts from the contribution stalwarts such as Derek and Margaret who have nobly represented the Club up and down the country over so many years. As it just builds on the previous hard work that has gone before.

Some things seem to be slowly returning to 'normal' if that is the right word for these uncertain times. But everything seems to either have or be changing in many ways, some we can influence but many we cannot. One undeniable fact of life is that "Time and tide wait for no man", I'm sure such statements are now regarded as sexist and inappropriate, but in the real world that doesn't alter the fact that we are all getting older and some of us can no longer do what we once did. Or put another way the mind may be willing, but the body isn't quite up to par. There is no need to look round to see who I may be referring to here, I'm a prime example.

I know I keep droning on about this but if members want the Club to be at their favourite events they will have to step up themselves and help, I'm very pleased that some already are but more are desperately needed. In the past committee members have been the backbone of most events, but we are all getting older, it is time for others to share some of the load.

Costs of everything are on an upward spiral, another factor outside our control. As a Club there is little that can be done about this. Just to remind you, committee members receive no expenses save foray incurred on the Clubs behalf, the most obvious is postage. We used to hold committee meetings at events, but since Covid have held them by Zoom when required. Travel and any other costs are as they have been for years at their own expense.

As I said in my opening remarks, I know you want to get on so I will hand the meeting over to Jane.

Thank you.