



Austin Healey Club
www.newforest.austinhealeyclub.org.uk

New Forest

NEW FOREST CENTRE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday 16th October 2025 Empress of Blandings, Copythorne @ 7.30pm

1.0 Chairman's Welcome

Welcome to our AGM and thank you for coming along.

We have Brian on the techy stuff, so thanks Brian.

Refreshments will be provided for a break after the officers' elections.

2.0 Apologies for Absence

Roger Smith

3.0 Approval of AGM Minutes. Dated 17th October 2024

Minutes were approved.

Proposer: **David Peaty**

Seconder: **Mike James**

4.0 Officers Reports

4.1 Jim Finch Chairman

JF reported on the Annual NFC Dinner Dance took place on 8th February at the hotel Miramar, Bournemouth and the Bicester Trip that JF and BL organised. Both events were well supported and enjoyed.

JF thanked all the members who organised trips or days out during the last year. Their efforts have been much appreciated.

4.2 Jim Palmer NFC Director and Webmaster

Director's Report: I've had the honour to represent the Centre as your Director during 2025 and have attended all the National Committee meetings on your behalf. Nationally, we have a membership of 1695 (NF 162), which is down around 11 from last year (8 in NF).

During the year, the National Committee decided it had completed the actions in the 2020 five-year plan and has moved any outstanding actions into normal committee business.

Achievements of the plan include:

1. The drive to improve efficiency and keep costs down. The Club has maintained existing membership rates for 9 years – largely by driving the benefits of technology.
2. Simplification of processes to join and renew membership of the Club and creation of a new welcome pack.
3. Introducing updated methods for booking and paying for events.
4. Enhancement of the Event Planner on the National Website and in RevCounter.
5. Creation of the Online Marque Registers.

6. Digitisation and disposal of almost all of our paper records & archives.

We aim to construct a new 5-year plan next year following consultation with our members.

The key areas of focus this year have been:

- Introduction of the Club Insurance scheme. The rates are good & the cover excellent and of course the Club gets a commission on all sales.
- Ongoing work on Safeguarding and inclusivity. A guide for those running events is being produced and is expected to be issued in time for next season.
- Rationalisation of our Technical articles and advice, together with production of a searchable database available to members but not non-members.
- The use of WhatsApp groups. I would welcome your views in the discussion later on whether we want to start one in New Forest.
- IHM will be in Windsor in 2026 and in the South West in 2027.

I can advise that after quite a few years in post, John Keener has advised he will be standing down as Club Chairman at the end of the year. We'll be looking to elect a new Chairman at the National AGM on 7th December.

Webmaster's Report: I've continued to maintain the New Forest website this year, with flysheets, flyers and booking forms published regularly each month.

Although we've not added anything to our Facebook Page this year, our followers have stayed steady at 1900. Please do feel free to add your thoughts at any time!

I'd like to take this opportunity to tell people about the members' map.

If you log into the members area on the national website and select members' map, you'll see a Google Map of the New Forest area, showing the location members in our area, also enabling you to send these other members messages. This is a great way of seeing who's in your area and messaging them.

However, you only appear if you've given the Club permission to use your address data – and at the moment, only 35 members have. To appear, you need to tick the consent box in your membership area. Please check this out and join the map if you can. Again, I'd like to thank Jim and the team for all their support.

4.3 Rose Rawles Treasurer

RR reported in detail on the financial year 2023-2024 for the New Forest Centre as displayed on screen slides.

Accounts as of 31st August 2025:

£	
188.00	Petty Cash
4155.26	Daily Use Accounts
<u>4500.00</u>	Holding Accounts
<u>8843.26</u>	Total Assets.

Subscriptions: Membership income was **£992.00**

This is based on £6.50 from National per paying members (159), less £41.50 for one life member.

The figures for the NFC were down by 8 memberships compared to last year.

£39.18 in charges were applied by Lloyds Bank in Jan 2025 for credits/cheques paid in and out of the club account.

£104.34 was spent on two new club sail flag drive over bases to display at events to promote the club. These fold and can be used on hard or soft surfaces.

£52.46 was the accumulative figure for postage, printing and stationary required for various events.

Interest £41.48. This has gone down from last year's figure in line with interest rates.

Thanks were given to Rose by JF for her work on the club finances.

The accounts were approved by Pauline Hall and seconded by David Peaty.

4.4 Bernice Kemp Secretary

BK reported as follows:

We have held three committee meetings since last year's AGM, as listed below.

Since the passing of our secretary Clive Kemp in March, Bernice Kemp has covered the secretarial role.

AGM 17th October 2024 Empress of Blandings

Committee 22rd January 2025 Empress of Blandings

Committee 23rd April 2025 Empress of Blandings

Committee 24th July 2025 Empress of Blandings

There has been no significant correspondence during the past year.

4.5 Colin Dimbylow Events Co-ordinator

CD presented the lists of 2024 events that were shown on the slide screen.

New Forest Centre Events 2024

8 th February	Dinner Dance at Miramar Hotel	Jim Finch
23 rd March	Early Spring Lunch , Forest Park	Dave Peaty
27 th April	Drive it Day from Rawles Classic Cars	Jim Finch
18 th May	New Members Day Bursledon Brickworks	David Tofts
16 th -19 th June	"Breakaway" to Cotswolds	Jim Finch
21 st -22 nd June	Thruxton Retro Race Day	David Tofts
12 th July	Wheels and Wings at The Wallops	David Tofts
20 th July	Picnic and Concours , Copythorne	Jim Palmer
7 th August	Copythorne Meet , Copythorne Garage	
13 th August	RWW Staunton Country Park	Jim Palmer
20 th -21 st September	Autumn Classic Castle Coombe	David Tofts
4 th October	Autumn Leaves Hockey's Farm	Colin Dimbylow
16 th October	AGM Empress of Blandings	Jim Finch
15 th November	Laying up Supper Old Beams	David Tofts

JF said Drive it Day went well starting at Bill and Rose's with about 26 at the Duke on the Test after the run finished.

JF said the Cotswolds breakaway was very enjoyable.

Brian organised the use of the scout field for the concourse again. The Copythorne Meet, that also took place there, saw the whole field covered in a great variety of classic cars.

The Autumn Classic racing was good with over 100 cars.

DT said that last year's Laying Up Supper at St. Leonard's had an amazing 104 year old veteran pilot, attending with his nurse, who flew Mosquitos. His talk was very interesting. This year's event at Old Beams is experiencing a slow uptake as yet.

DT reported as follows:

This Year's 2025 Membership Number is 159.

(To end of August for financial calculations)

Following discussion, two items will be added to the next committee meeting agenda.

1. A suggestion from JF that we ask members what type of event they would like. This could go out electronically.
- 2, Bill Rawles suggestion that the committee could consider having more of a presence at his coffee morning meetings throughout the summer, where there are many Healey members present. This would present a good forum for the promotion of the NFC. He would be happy to facilitate this if a couple of members came along to chat as representatives each month.

5.0 Election of Officers

Chairman:	Jim Finch Proposer: Rose Rawles Seconder: Colin Dimbylow
Director and Webmaster:	Jim Palmer Proposer: David Tofts Seconder: Phil Gardner
Treasurer:	Rose Rawles Proposer: Pauline Hall Seconder: Mike James
Secretary:	Bernice Kemp Proposer: Jim Palmer Seconder: Bill Rawles
Event Co-ordinator:	Colin Dimbylow Proposer: Brian Loades Seconder: Di Peaty
New Members Liaison:	David Tofts Proposer: Jim Palmer Seconder: Bob Norman
General Members:	Brian Loades, Mike James and David Peaty Proposer: Sue James Seconder: Keith Hall

All committee Members were voted into office en bloc.

REFRESHMENT BREAK

6.0 Forthcoming Plans and Events

Sat 15 th November '25	Laying-up Supper Old Beams, Ringwood	David Tofts
7 th -8 th February '26	Annual Dinner Dance Miramar Hotel The hotel is already taking bookings.	Jim Finch
Sun 31 st -3rd June '26	Internation Healey Meet Windsor	
Sat 11 th July '26	Wheels and Wings	David Tofts
Sat 31 st Aug-9th Sept '26	Foray France	David Tofts
Sat 29 th November '25	Laying-up Supper	David Tofts

N.B. Colin Dimbylow is the point of contact with MSA. There is a charge of £35.00. The criteria applies if there are more than 10 cars travelling together.

Spring Lunch: Dave and Di Peaty kindly offered to run this event in 2026.

Drive It Day: A volunteer is needed to organise on Sunday 26th April.

New Members Day: Ideas needed for May/June.

Reasonable Weather Weekday: Organisers are needed. RWW is a lightly organised event, involving a place to meet, and a drive to somewhere that does not require a pre booking. The RWW can then be easily cancelled at the last minute if necessary. Taking a picnic is one solution that avoids bookings.

2026 Club Break: JF and JP are meeting next week to discuss the possibilities.

JF has had a talk offered from John Burton, who did the 'Mille Miglia', a motorsport endurance race, which might be a future possibility over the winter period.

JF also suggested Grovely Puzzles at Tollard Royal as a factory tour visit. They create jigsaws (and have tea and cake!).

7.0 A.O.B

7.1 Gazebo Purchase

JP stated that there was an intention to look into buying a small gazebo for use at some events such as Bill Rawles meetings..

7.2 Charity Sponsorship

It was suggested within a committee meeting, that a small list of charities were compiled, which club members could support through an NFC event day.

One charity from the list would be supported each year on a rolling basis.

Through discussion it was felt that 'local' rather than national charities would be more appropriate to support.

This was agreed in principle by a 'yes' vote from the floor. The NFC committee will look into the details involved in enabling this.

Members suggested charities were as follows:

- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance
- Winchester Hospice
- Pancreatic Cancer
- Julia's House a children's Hospice in Dorset and Wiltshire
- New Forest Young Carers

7.2 Formation of a WhatsApp Group

A discussion took place concerning the advantages and disadvantages of forming a NFC WhatsApp Group.

JP stated that consent would be needed from any WhatsApp group user as their number and name would be accessible to all members within the group. In the event of the use of WhatsApp, JP would be able to form temporary groups and control membership access. JP as administrator would send out an 'invite' to eligible members.

Opinions were shared and generally members present felt that a WhatsApp group for all NFC members would not be desirable.

However, when members have signed up to a specific event, it could serve a purpose to aid communication on that subject, and a temporary small group could be created. RR stated that, if this happened, then users should be told the purpose of the group, and be made aware that it was not to be used for general publication of unrelated material, or it could become very annoying and intrusive.

No decision was made concerning the use of WhatsApp, but maybe the committee could consider a 'trial' use to take place for an event next year.

Meeting Closed @ 21.14