

## AGM 2022 Chairman`s Report



I have paid tribute to individual members of the committee who have sadly passed away in three successive editions of Vintage Taxi but I do want to acknowledge their contributions to the LVTA in what is my final Chairmans Report. It is unprecedented that we had to say goodbye to three ex key members of the club committee earlier this year and I would like to note what a pleasure it had been to work with Gary Zylberszac, Roy Ellis and Sybil Strugnell over a considerable number of years. All three made a significant contribution to our small club; we shall miss them and may they all rest in peace.

At the last AGM President Bruce Kingwell proposed that we should look at the club finances which were in a very healthy state and examine ways in which the money can be best used to support our members. A small working group was set up to look at the issue and some suggestions were put to the committee as a result. These included:

- Holding the subscription at what is already a low rate for as long as reasonably possible.
- Paying for a meeting venue; hitherto it had been mostly held in the home of James and Sybil Strugnell
- Paying the reasonable expenses of club officials who are on official business e.g. hiring a van to transport spare parts to our storage facility near Manchester.
- Paying the reasonable overnight expenses of club officials attending the NEC Classic Car Show.
- Paying for the AGM venue and overnight accommodation costs where appropriate
- Monitoring the sums spent, and being aware of the sustainability
- Beginning the process of providing some NEW spares eg bottom hoses for Low loaders
- Changing the format of VT to an A4 size

Some of the above may not be implemented yet, and they will be regularly reviewed.

The situation with Covid meant that many of the usual events were cancelled, but this year the rules have been increasingly relaxed and a number of events have been reinstated.

I am always saddened to note the resignation of club officials, and this year is no exception. Vintage Taxi editor Sandie Goodwin resigned after 11 years because of family pressures. James Selby Weatherley resigned as Events Secretary also because of family pressures. James had also served in other roles on the Committee. James Strugnell resigned as Advertising Manager for VT, and as International Liaison Secretary after 20 years in post, and Vice President John Freeston has stepped back from being the leader of our US Section after 22 years. All of them have made an enormous contribution in the service of the club.. New committee member Scott Moynihan took on the role of Regalia Secretary for a brief period, but regrettably had to resign the role because of business pressures.

The club is also grateful for the services of Judith and Ian Shephard for their professional assistance in typesetting VT during Sandie`s editorship, and for their help in setting up the website over a total period of 11 years.

The London Vintage Taxi Association is enormously grateful for their service, and it has been a pleasure to have worked with them. Judith and Ian are our “unsung heroes” who helped produce “Vintage Taxi” during Sandie`s editorship.

Bill Munro stepped into the role of VT Editor from the July - August 2022 edition, but that has meant that he needs to relinquish his temporary role of looking after the Regalia.

It has been somewhat disappointing that other members do not come forward to support the club by joining the committee despite various roles being advertised widely through VT. We hoped that paying reasonable out of pocket expenses for members where appropriate would encourage members to come forward, but to date that has not happened. Should you be interested, and encouraged by the potential of expenses being paid please do get in touch.

And finally.....

It has been an enormous privilege and pleasure to work with the committee over a total of around 15 years, and to get to know so many talented people. I decided over a year ago that due to my changing personal circumstances it was time to leave the role as your Chairperson, and I thank everyone for their support and friendship. There have been lots of very happy times, tempered with some sad times, but throughout my tenure I have always tried to promote the fact that this club is bigger than any one individual, and that everyone in the entire committee has made significant contributions to the wellbeing of the club. I trust that under new leadership the club will continue to flourish.

As this report will be published in the final VT of the year I would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Doug Cheshire.

Chairperson LVTA

