

Chairman's Report – Pat Pawsey

Welcome to you all and thank you for attending the Club's second AGM to be held at Tractor World. You will be relieved that my report is mercifully brief, my excuse being that I do not want to keep you away from the show any longer than necessary.

The last year has again been a very busy one for the Club. We are now asked to take a Club stand to more shows than we have the manpower to cope with and could not possibly go to as many as we do without our area representatives taking charge and running their local events themselves. This demonstrates just how important area representatives and our ploughing directors are to the Club. Without their enthusiasm and hard work, it would be quite impossible to be at nearly so many shows. They really are the "backbone" of the Club and I thank them all for the tremendous work they put in.

We also all owe a terrific vote of thanks to the member's wives for all they do. I can tell you that without them there would be very little in the way of teas and coffees and certainly no cake or biscuits. It just doesn't bear thinking about: events just wouldn't be nearly as enjoyable without them and I'm sure you will join with me in thanking them all.

I must also thank the committee for the work they have put in much of which is behind the scenes. As long as things happen as they should it goes quite unnoticed, but I can assure you that they all really do work very hard for the Club.

We tried a new exhibition last year, the Classic Motor Show at the NEC. It immediately followed Newark and was certainly an eye opener for me, we had the only tractors on display and I was surprised by the interest they generated, in future the organisers may grow the tractor side of the show but I don't think any decision has yet been made.

Dorset went very well and next year we shall again have a special display celebrating the Fordson F; a tractor that is certainly iconic and may arguably have been the most influential of all time.

However, the most important alteration to the Club' affairs has been that to our relationship with the magazine's publisher. The groundwork for this change started back in 2011 and has been well documented since and I was very pleased to be able to announce the new "deal" in the last magazine. In brief, Kelsey no longer sponsor us and our relationship with them has changed, we are now financially independent, but they have agreed to continue to publish the magazine and reimburse us for the work we do. In other words, Kelsey now pay us a commercial rate for the maintenance and servicing of our members subscription list; that is now totally our responsibility. The changes have been well received by members and we will be pleased to answer any questions you may have once the formal part of the meeting has been concluded.