

Chairman's Report - Pat Pawsey

This is the Club's first Annual General Meeting to be held during a show; in the past they have been staged round the country in order to offer members interesting venues and collections to visit and a meeting that was within reasonable distance. However it was felt that as many members come to Tractor World every year that they might find it more convenient to hold the Club's meeting during the show.

Holding it at a show puts some constraints on the meeting. Probably the most important is to get the length of the meeting right – not so short that members cannot raise any matters that they wish discussed and not too long as to encroach too heavily on their time enjoying the show. For that reason, as I'm sure you will be pleased to hear, I shall keep my report brief.

Firstly, I must thank our hard working Area Representatives and Ploughing Directors. Their contribution has been outstanding over the last year. In 2013 the Club was represented at some 28 shows, ploughing matches and road runs but in 2014 this increased to around 40 a whopping 43% increase! Credit for this and my thanks to Roger Ingham, Ken & David Ford, David Lemonius, John Worley, Andrew Green and the hard work of all the committee members

Secondly, my thanks to the retiring committee member Simon Smart who is not standing for re-election. Simon was instrumental in my co-option onto the committee in the first place and I'm still not sure whether to thank him or strangle him, I will leave that decision to you.

Thirdly, Rob Rushen-Smith who has been the Club's secretary throughout. You all know Rob and the immense amount of time and effort he has put in to help the Club become the success it is today. He will be greatly missed and for a man who openly admits that tractors are not his thing his contribution to the Club has been quite exceptional. Thank you Rob.

Finally and I make no apology for repeating this, the success of any Club, ours included, is dependent on its members being involved in its activities. The Club really is what you make it, it is that simple, if you only put a little in you will only get a little out. Most tractor clubs are locally based and like me I'm sure many of you belong to one or two; these local clubs have one big advantage over us and that is that they are local; they have members who know the area and who tend to know one another, what I call "locality". We are a national club and our strength lies in being a specialist club that offers services to members dedicated to Ford & Fordson tractors and equipment.

Members want the Association to attend events in their areas; but as the Club covers the whole country it is quite impossible for the committee to arrange local events, however the solution is really quite simple and that is Area Reps, who know their patch and the people in it.

The committee does not organize any events apart from this one and the Expo. All the rest are organized by you, yourselves; so if you want an event in your area, for example at your favourite rally go and talk to the tractor steward, get him on board and we will help you as much as we can. It does mean a bit of organization by you but if a few mates are press-ganged in to help it is not too onerous and it is enjoyable.