

Chairman's Report – Pat Pawsey

2017 being the hundredth anniversary of the Fordson tractor really was “The year of the Fordson” which was celebrated not just up and down this country but all around the world. Almost too much of a good thing as there was so much going on it was quite impossible for anyone to witness anything but a tiny part of it. Among other shows the Club did host an excellent display of Fordson F's at Great Dorset with some very interesting tractors on display and my thanks to all that made that possible. This year is the sixtieth anniversary of the Dexta, I have heard mutterings that should also have been 2017, but the truth is that although launched at Alexandra Palace in November 1957 and shown at that year's Smithfield, it is common ground that production did not commence until February 1958.

I must thank my fellow committee members for the all the hard work that has made the Club what it is today, but a very special vote of thanks must go to the real unsung heroes, the ladies, who unquestionably give the Club its character and friendliness making it the real family club it is and without whom we would have no soul. That ladies and gentlemen is what, I am proud to say, sets us apart and makes this the Club it has become.

As you know this is the last time I shall stand at your AGM giving the Chairman's report. I became Chairman in 2011 intending to serve for no more than three years, that's now seven years ago. Doesn't time fly by when you are having fun! Make no mistake I have had fun and been honoured to serve as your Chairman, but it is time to move on and make way for new blood. You will hear that the Club is in good financial heart and the membership continues to grow but there will be fresh challenges and we need to continue to innovate and improve, nothing stands still, nor it should.

I am also pleased to announce that Ian and Lin Prince have taken over the administration for our show activities, and are doing an absolutely splendid job; they are now the people to contact.

I should perhaps just explain the mechanics of the Chairman's election. The Chairman is elected at the first committee meeting following the AGM and serves until the next such meeting when he or she is eligible for re-election. So, I shall remain in post until our first committee meeting when a new Chairman will be elected. A date for this meeting has not yet been arranged but will be in due course. I am happy to continue to write and badger others into contributing to the Club pages in the magazine until other arrangements can be made if that is your wish.

I said on my welcome that I should be brief so as not to keep you from the Show unnecessarily, so will again sit down and hand you over to our Treasurer and Secretary Jane.