

Chairman's Report – Pat Pawsey

After last year's AGM I expect you had all been looking forward to welcoming your new Chairman. I'm sorry to disappoint you – I'm still here. We still haven't managed to convince anyone to step up and take over yet, but have not given up, as my school reports often said, 'Must try harder!'

I should just say that the Chairman's job is not very onerous; we of course will call a committee meeting when any major issues need to be discussed and voted on, however most matters are resolved by consensus as we talk to one another on an irregular basis or as the need arises. We do hold meetings at shows when sufficient committee members are available, the present the system has evolved over the years and seems to be working well. I believe strongly in the old adage "If it ain't broke don't fix it".

I'm pleased to report that the Club had another successful year and make no mistake, that success is due entirely to your efforts and support. Your committee is very conscious of that fact; unlike the organisers of some events who seem to be losing sight of catering for the needs of the very people that make their events viable – the exhibitors. It is hard to earn peoples trust these days, but very easy to lose it and once lost it is neigh on impossible to win it back.

This is our fifth meeting in this hall and by and large members seem happy with the arrangement. It can be argued that moving round the country made for more people attending meetings but finding suitable venues is not easy, I remember some very cold ones in the past and I often wonder if the number turning up is a direct reflection of members contentment or dissatisfaction with the running of their club.

Last year was the centenary of the launch of the Fordson F and this year is the ninetieth anniversary of improved F the Fordson N's launch. Interestingly it had more colour schemes than most starting with Grey through De Burgh Blue to the 'Essex Cart' colours of Blue and Orange, followed by a face lift to Harvest Gold and finally Green in an attempt to make it less a target for marauding German bombers. There are several events where the model will be strongly featured during the year.

We hope to strengthen our area representatives this year to make the Club more relevant in parts of the country that are not covered at the moment, and Jane has been working hard during the last year at this with encouraging results, as you will have seen from recent announcements in the magazine, these things do take time.

We continue our relationship with the magazine's publishers Kelsey Media, and I am very grateful to those of you who send me articles and photographs for inclusion in the Club's pages, it does keep them fresh and interesting. We meet with them on a regular basis and you can be assured that your views and criticisms and occasional praise are bought to their attention. Of course, not every suggestion is acted upon, but a good relationship has been built up with them over the years. I know any concerns we raise are taken seriously and I believe do make a significant difference.

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.