



Motorhome Section meeting

Forbes House, Halkin Street, London SW1X 7DS

Thursday 22 May, 2008

1 Present:

Anthony Trevelyan (chairman)	Swift Group Ltd
Paul Howes	Auto-Trail
Simon Luckhurst	Ford
Steven Small	Autosleepers
Tim Speechley	Fiat
Dave Thomas	Auto-trail
Stuart Turpin	Auto-trail
David Whitehead	Explorer Group
David Williams	Volkswagen

Guests:

John de Mierre	de Mierre Communications
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SMMT staff present for all or part of the meeting:

Matthew Croucher	Economist
Robin Dickeson	Manager, commercial vehicle affairs
Natasha James	Committee secretary
Seftton Samuels	Head of Legal/Company Secretary

2 Apologies:

Andrew Aldis	Simpsons
Steve Barker	Fiat Group
Peter Crawford	Vauxhall
John Dyer	Renault
John Fisher	Swift Group Ltd
Steven Ford	Explorer Group
Robert Handiside	Citroen
Mike Harding	Blackhorse
Steve Hayes	Hayes Leisure
Nigel Head	LDV
Eric Hepplewhite	Lunar Motorhomes
Rex Kneebone	Murvi
Scott Michael	Citroen
Sharon Moscrop	Peugeot
Mark Robinson	Mercedes-Benz UK Ltd
Bryn Thomas	Peugeot
Steve Trossell	Swift Group Ltd
Mark Vivian	LDV
Tony Weavers	Don Amott Leisure Ltd
Kevin Varey	Volkswagen

3 Minutes of last meeting:

Agreed and signed.

4 Appointment of Chairman/Vice Chairman

- Noted**
- 1 that following the recent nomination process Mr Anthony Trevelyan had been elected as Chairman of the section and Mr David Williams as Vice Chairman.
 - 2 an update from Robin Dickeson on taking over the Secretariat of the section with immediate effect (this having no reflection on John de Mierre).

Agreed to write to John de Mierre thanking him for his work on the Secretariat and continued work on MIS.

5 Development of the Section

- Noted**
- 1 comment from Robin Dickeson:
 - 1.1 3 or 4 meetings to be held per year with one at Forbes House and the others around the country as guests of manufacturers/chassis builders
 - 1.2 guest speakers to be invited to give presentations at the end of meetings on relevant subjects – suggestions welcome
 - 2 comments from Anthony Trevelyan:
 - 2.1 that if meetings were held outside of Forbes House would SMMT expertise still be available. Robin Dickeson confirmed they would.
 - 2.2 the importance of chassis manufacturers attending meetings, to offer help and support through legislation

6 Technical

- Noted** updates from Robin Dickeson:
- 6.1 EWVTA update – due to be published any day
 - 6.2 V55 first registration document – DVLA currently looking at how they will handle registrations. V55/4 no certainty that this will go onto the MVRIS system – negotiations are in hand.
 - 6.3 Converters to talk to their chassis suppliers in order to ensure the correct information is on the V55 First registration certificate and that the chassis suppliers are able to supply the completed first registration certificates to their converters.

6.4 Blind side mirrors on vehicles over 7.5t - mirrors not required on privately owned vehicles, although this would change in due course

6.5 CO₂ emissions - SMMT checking for further details regarding taxation class

Discussed ECF technical committee – received a report of last meeting from current representative Paul Howes of Auto-Trail. Representation to continue and SMMT agreed to absorb the cost The ECF Technical Committee currently meets three times per year with the next meeting in September.

7 Commercial issues

Noted comment from Robin Dickeson that guidance needed to be taken from members.

8 Environmental

Noted 8.1 LEZ – implications of current scheme to be watched – London scheme may be abolished under new London Mayor but other cities around the country are expected to adopt such schemes.

Discussed implications for motorhome owners as there are currently 6000+ within the zone – SMMT have ongoing discussion with TfL.

8.2 sustainability – tabled paper and additional comments from Matthew Croucher. A request for members to inform SMMT of their organisations' energy usage.

9 Motorhome market

Noted 9.1 tabled economic brief for May and additional comments from Matthew Croucher.

9.2 comment from members that the industry remains tough at present – especially in light of rising fuel costs and the Euro.

Agreed To circulate the monthly econ/inflation report direct to section members.

10 Registration data update

Noted that MVRIS data continues to be cleansed.

11 MIS Report

Noted a report from John de Mierre, details of which have been circulated to the section members.

12 The SMMT

Noted comments from Seftton Samuels on the priority issues currently being focused on:

- 12.1 Good governance – a greater degree of cost control with year end figures being tracked on a weekly basis
- 12.2 Member value
- 12.3 Website upgrade – this would now be a 2009 initiative due to costs involved
- 12.4 CV Show 2008 – a very successful show was held back in April
- 12.5 Motor show – will be held in July 2008 at Excel, London
- 12.6 Service & Repair code – the first phase will be launched in 2008 followed by the Office of Fair Trading launch in August
- 12.7 Block Exemption – report due to be published shortly

Received update on the latest legislation (No. 69 & 70) on corporate manslaughter – with a recommendation that each firm should audit its activities

13 Any Other Business

- Noted**
- 1 members questions on the current situation of the MIS fund, including plans for its future use
 - 2 update from Anthony Trevelyan that the MIS fund is held by the SMMT on behalf of SMMT contributing member companies, confirmed by Robin Dickeson. A working group controls its allocation, which to date has been for the generic promotion of the motorhome industry.
 - 3 question from Anthony Trevelyan to Seftton Samuels as to the composition and future of the fund
 - 4 reply from Seftton Samuels that he was not in a position to confirm either the process of past contributions or the possibility of any suggested payback

13 Dates of next meeting

Thursday 6 November