



FOUNDATION NEWS

Chairman's Notes



In the period since the last Chairman's Notes, the sale of AX201 and SU13, also known as little Sue, has become public knowledge and they are now in the ownership and care of Sir Michael Kadoorie. A letter of congratulations was sent to Sir Michael on behalf of the SHRMF, wishing him lots of fun and pleasure with the cars and adding that Foundation members were looking forward to seeing him behind the wheel, perhaps at the RREC Annual Rally.

At the time of writing, we are in partial lockdown and must observe official guidelines. This means we are not able to arrange visits and events at The Hunt House, leading to a drop in SHRMF income – if we were to enforce social distancing at lectures, talks or tours, it would be almost impossible to conduct a meaningful event. Sadly, the Heritage Weekend in November has had to be postponed until 2021.

As mentioned elsewhere, well-known and respected Silver Ghost restorer James Black from Northern Ireland has joined the SHRMF trustee board. James has restored the Irish Army's RR armoured car and the well-known Moon Car (see page 32). He is a welcome and valuable addition.

As you may know, there have been concerns that individuals serving on both SHRMF and RREC boards may have a conflict of interest. Although originally set up by the Club, the Foundation is legally an autonomous, self-determining entity driven by its 'charitable objects'. Its trustees are determined to strengthen the independence of its governance in full compliance with Charity Commission guidance, thus ensuring that any potential for conflict of interest is eliminated and that, going forward, it achieves its 'objects' in full.

Duncan Feetham

The Sir Henry Royce Memorial Foundation is pleased



James Black (Independent)

I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED with historic motor cars of one kind or another all my life, starting at the age of 15 with a 1937 Standard Flying 10 (which I still own) through a succession of early motor cars and motorcycles until, at 18, I became the owner of a Rolls-Royce 20hp chassis (GWL1).

My father was a gifted aircraft engineer so engineering was a big part of early life for me and my brothers. Although my father apprenticed me into the building trade, every waking moment outside work was spent in the garage engaged in some project or another.

At the age of 18 I went to do volunteer work in The Middle East and when the period was finished I stayed on and joined

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and The Hunt House being in lockdown there is no Hunt House Treasures feature in this issue because Philip Hall cannot get into the building to do the necessary research. We hope normal service will be resumed as soon as possible

to welcome James Black and Clive Green as new trustees to the board

the military. Having served for a period of two years in two separate Middle Eastern Defence Forces, I returned home to Northern Ireland. In 1986 I married and my wife's family were involved in the motor trade – this firm grew into Lisburn Auto Salvage, the largest motor salvage business in Northern Ireland, which we now run jointly, employing 20 staff.

About 15 years ago I founded James Black Restorations Ltd, specifically for the restoration and maintenance of Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost cars. We have since restored many fine examples dating from 1910 to 1925, including one of only two original surviving armoured cars; the fact that I also inherited my grandfather's firearms business, which I still run in a small way, assisted me in the restoration of the Vickers .303 gun mounted on chassis 103WO.

I have been a member of the Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club for several decades and with the exception of a small break when I was in the Middle East, I have been a member since I was 17 – roughly 40 years.

I have always admired the Club and the Sir Henry Royce Memorial Foundation and the way in which they have not only preserved the memory of Sir Henry Royce but also of Claude Johnson and Charles Rolls.

I believe I have a reasonable knowledge of the marque and certainly an extensive knowledge of the Silver Ghost chassis. I feel there is a lot I can learn from other members of the Foundation and look forward to doing just that, but I do declare at this early stage I am purely a mechanic with a passion for history and I see myself as more practical than intellectual.

I am willing to offer my services to the Foundation as far as my ability goes but I personally believe, as my main interest is in the knowledge of the early cars, perhaps some role which utilises my knowledge and interest in this field would be best for the Foundation.

Having spoken to several of the board members, I fully appreciate the vast amount of knowledge there is within this group and with Philip Hall in particular. I hope to learn from him and others.

I have come to a stage in my business life where I find myself having more time to devote to a foundation such as this.



Clive Green (Elected by Members)

I was chairman of the branch of a national animal charity, for six years. The branch is a registered charity in its own right and is self-financing, raising its own funds through established ways and spending the money for the welfare of animals in its area, which covers many large towns. So I have much experience of working in a charitable organisation.

I joined the RREC in February 1962, but did not take an active part in Club activities until after my retirement in 2001. Before I retired I was MD of a small electronics company employing 25 staff. This gave me very good experience in managing a small organisation with all its attendant problems of dealing with customers, staff, cash flow and the accountancy and legal professions.

In 2008 Suzanne Finch, then chairman of the RREC invited me to be a Club representative on the Foundation's advisory committee, which I joined in November of that year. I was elected a trustee in the newly incorporated Foundation in 2012 and again at the AGM in 2015. I was elected a trustee again at the postponed AGM in May 2020.

My particular area of interest is the archives. I was instrumental in organising the RREC's in-house digitisation programme which started in October 2011 with Michael Bailey Snr. scanning drawings and car records.

I continue to manage this work for the RREC and support Catherine Lewis in the excellent work she is doing in the Records office.

I will continue working to help establish the long-term future of the Foundation and The Hunt House Archives.

FOUNDATION NEWS



Bill McGawley OBE considers the future of the Foundation

The rapid growth of technology driving the UK economy in the 19th and 20th centuries was driven by the brilliance of British engineers – William Morris, Geoffrey de Havilland, Reginald Mitchell and Frank Whittle to name a few. All had a revolutionary impact on motive matters.

However, Henry Royce was arguably the most influential engineer of his generation. His Credo of engineering excellence (“Whatever is rightly done, however humble, is noble”) motivated a legion of successive engineers to embrace his example and underpinned the design, development, application and upgrade of innumerable new products and projects throughout the technology sector. John Stanier, Nigel Gresley, Christopher Cockerell, Edward Turner, Alec Issigonis, Keith Duckworth, Spen King, Gordon Murray, Patrick Head and Adrian Newey all incorporated Royce’s approach of getting small things right – with demonstrable results.

The continued relevance of that credo is highlighted by the Rolls-Royce name which continues to deliver considerable economic impact in terms of research, design and development expertise, ultra-high production quality and reliability, along with a commitment to people learning/training at all levels. Consequently, their power solutions, propulsion systems, nuclear technology and automotive products have a well-deserved iconic status.

RR plc’s underpinning role in the current Ventilator Challenge Consortium, where the successful development of a Smiths/Penlon device in only two months has contributed to the saving of lives. The COVID-19 pandemic required a substantial

increase in ventilator availability. Without the application of Royce’s credo and input, this process would have taken years to resolve. Currently, more than 200 units per day are being delivered to our NHS.

As you are all aware, the Foundation, an independent Charitable Trust, seeks to nurture Sir Henry’s legacy by maintaining his artefacts and actively promoting STEM (Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) throughout the UK economy. I am therefore delighted to join the enthusiastic board of trustees to provide governance to this important and relevant charity.

I had a short involvement with SHRMF in 2018 but had to relinquish the role as I was called to undertake a root-and-branch restructure, rebuild and reposition of a different trust in Durham. That task has now been completed satisfactorily and I have stood down as chairman and trustee of that board to focus my skills on SHRMF. I look forward to

working with all to refine, sustain, enhance and increase the impact of the Foundation and to achieve in full its charitable ‘objects’.

As an ex-apprentice (English Electric, Rugby), I have over the past 50 years enjoyed a satisfying career in the engineering industry. I have undertaken substantial executive roles in power generation, fluid transfer, aerospace, defence and automotive/transport sectors. I have also gained more than 20 years’ experience in non-executive trustee assignments. I

therefore have a full appreciation of charity governance. I believe that I can help point the Foundation in the right future direction.

A lifelong professional engineer, I have the utmost respect for the leadership, knowledge, motivation and example of Royce and his ilk. It is they who laid the foundations for our economic viability by giving the nation the ability to defeat adversaries whether they be competitors, hostile forces or indeed viral pandemics.



There will be no apprentice awards this year due to COVID-19 restrictions but the newly re-formed Awards Committee under the chairmanship of Bill McGawley is taking the opportunity to review the awards strategy for the future. A full report will follow as part of a future Foundation News.

The Sir Henry Royce Memorial Foundation

President: Charles Tabor Chairman: Duncan Featham Deputy Chairman: John Beecroft Company Secretary: Mark Griffiths

Trustees/Directors: Cedric Ashley, Chris Ball, James Black, Stephen Byrne, Clive Green, Philip Hall, Bill McGawley, Jane Pedler, Lindsay Robotham Business Manager: John Baker

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