



FOUNDATION NEWS

Chairman's Notes



Being chairman of any organisation, whether it be a car club or a golf club, has its ups and downs. A few weeks ago Vivien and I had an up moment; I accepted an invitation on behalf of the SHRMF, from the 20-Ghost Club to attend their AGM and Gala dinner at Vintner's Hall in the City of London.

However, there was a slight problem. We had been away and didn't land back at Heathrow until the day of the event, but with the help of Club and Foundation members Jane and Rob Pedler we were able to get changed and made the dinner on time. It was wonderful to see so many RREC members that are also members of the 20-Ghost Club mixing and having a great time.

Many of you will know both Jane Pedler and I have been elected to the board of the RREC, at what could be described as an 'interesting' AGM. During the Conference that followed on from the AGM we were granted a few minutes to explain to the meeting how the Foundation is trying to extend the *Autocar* collection and, as a result, we received donations of £200 toward the binding of four more volumes and an offer of more *Autocar* magazines to fill the gaps left by missing and damaged copies.

At the moment the board of the SHRMF is exploring ways to raise money to maintain and preserve what we already have at The Hunt House, and possibly even increase the collection. There could be an opportunity of more in-depth tours of the THH, with the possibility of handling (under strict supervision) some of Sir Henry's personal items, however there would have to be a cost, which has yet to be decided.

Duncan Feetham



37LC attracts attention at Birmingham show

AS MENTIONED IN the previous *Foundation News*, 37LC (The Michael Forrest Phantom) took pride of place on the RREC stand at the Classic Car & Restoration Show held at the NEC in March.

She attracted a considerable amount of attention from visitors and press alike and there were many expressions of interest both from those who have watched progress over the years, and from people to whom she was entirely new. Some even took away details of the tender process so we hope a new owner to complete the work may soon

be found. The Foundation Trustees in attendance (Jane Pedler, Duncan Feetham, John Beecroft and Allan Fogg) were all kept busy answering questions.

Michael's daughter and son-in-law Sally and Clive Osman visited the stand on Sunday and were shown around the event by John Beecroft and FBHVC Chairman David Whale (Foundation Deputy Chairman and Trustee) – an excellent example of the 'cross party' co-operation between the Foundation and the RREC.

Jane Pedler

Unique Spirit of Ecstasy collection placed on loan with SHRMF

THE LATE JOE FILDES was a prominent member of the RREC in the 1960s and '70s and he became noted for his superb collection of original Spirit of Ecstasy mascots. He was probably the first person to assemble a complete collection of them.

Joe's collection became a benchmark for those studying the Spirit of Ecstasy, and in 1969 Eric Barrass asked him to produce a size chart to assist him in answering the numerous enquiries he received in his position of

Club General Secretary. It is not clear whether anything came of this, but a chart was published in RREC *Bulletin* No 84, of May 1974, (below), however this was attributed to Eric Bellamy of the National Motor Museum. It is not known whether Joe had a hand in this. The chart has since appeared in a number of other publications around the world.

Rolls-Royce Ltd (as it was then called) at Crewe took an interest in Joe's collection, and in 1969 presented him with their last remaining example of the only mascot he did not have, a small presentation model.

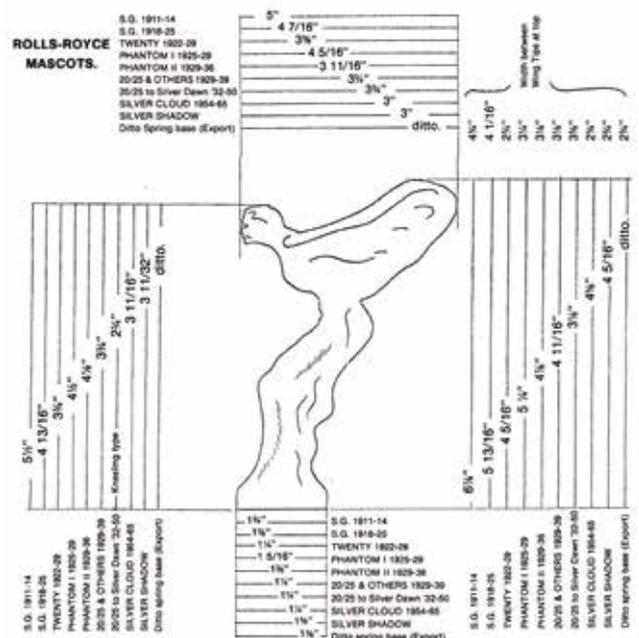
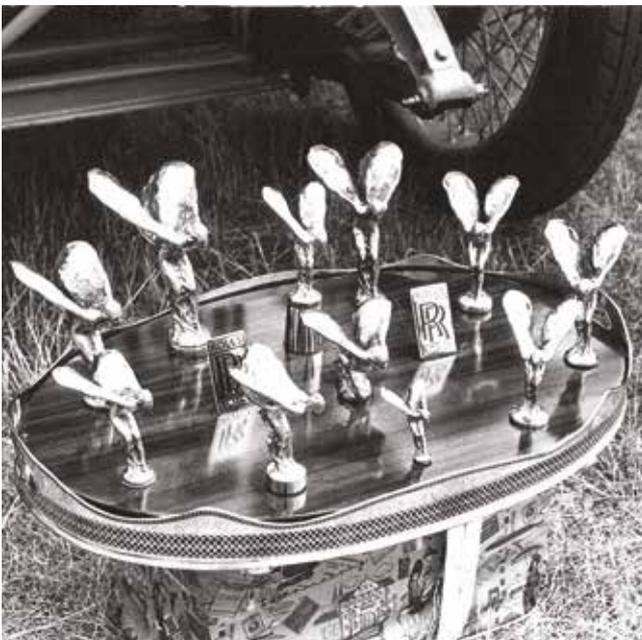
The collection comprises mascots as fitted to:
 - Pre-war Silver Ghost
 - Post-war Silver Ghost
 - Twenty

- New Phantom
- Phantom II
- 20/25
- Phantom III, 25/30, Wraith, Silver Wraith and Silver Dawn
- Silver Cloud
- Early Silver Shadow
- Later Silver Shadow (spring-loaded)
- 1960s Presentation Model

Joe mounted his collection on a silver tray, and he exhibited this at various events (below left). This must have served to settle many discussions about the authenticity of mascots.

The tray has remained in the ownership of Joe's daughter, Mrs Jane Matthews, and we are most grateful to her for placing it on temporary loan with the Foundation.

Philip Hall



FOUNDATION NEWS



'Highly necessary' kitchen refit at The Hunt House back on track

AFTER A HIATUS due to a serious medical diagnosis which resulted in the main contractor backing out at short notice, the kitchen re-vamp is now back on schedule.

We removed the ceiling completely as, although safely encapsulated, it was felt the small asbestos content needed to be sorted out once and for all. The new equipment (funded by the Foundation) was purchased early and already delivered to The Hunt House. The builders moved in the day after the Conference and immediately started work. Most of

the old fittings had already been dismantled by John Baker with help from Chris Ball and Ian Dorward, to whom the RREC and the Foundation are very grateful.

The new kitchen will meet all modern legislation and enable us to provide a proper level of catering for all future events. In answer to a comment I read on the *Forum*, this work definitely comes under the heading of 'highly necessary' and not simply 'nice to have'. It will be invaluable to both organisations.

Jane Pedler



Rod Dean shares fond memories of piloting a Hawker Hunter for many Royal flypasts

THE MARCH SIR HENRY ROYCE Memorial Foundation Lecture was presented by retired Squadron leader Rod Dean in a very entertaining manner.

Rod talked about his career in the RAF in some depth and the planes that he flew whilst in the service. It was obvious he had very fond memories of the Hawker Hunters that he flew on many occasions at air displays and flypasts for the Royal Family.

He also liked the Gloster Meteor and said it was impossible to make a bad landing, I did notice he never mentioned a bad take off.

The lecture was well illustrated with lots of

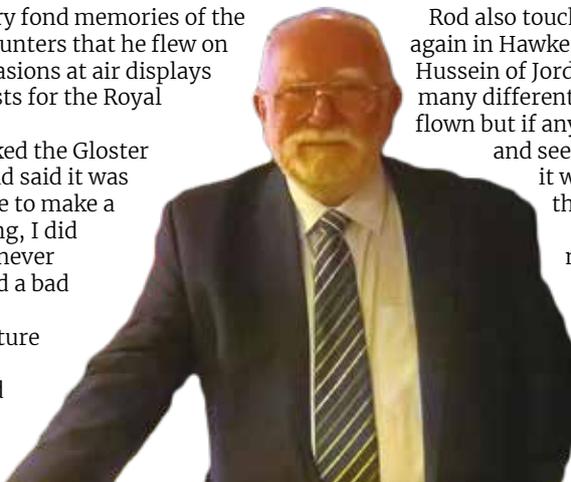
photographs showing the layout of many different aeroplane cockpits. He also pointed out how the controls on certain aircraft were down at the side, out of sight. To say moving the wrong one could lead to very interesting situations is perhaps an understatement.

Rod also touched on his post-RAF flying, again in Hawker Hunters owned by King Hussein of Jordan. I can't recall just how many different types of aircraft he has flown but if anybody has been to Duxford and seen the F86 Sabre displaying, it was almost certainly Rod at the controls.

The de Havilland Vampire now privately owned is also one he loves to fly, very clean and aerodynamic.

Rod still flies light aircraft on an almost daily basis and loves to be airborne at every opportunity.

Duncan Featham



FOUNDATION DIARY DATES

Thursday 3 October

■ Concorde
John Hutchinson

Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 November

■ Royce Heritage Weekend and Foundation AGM. Confirmed speakers Malcolm Tucker and Jonathan Wood

The Sir Henry Royce Memorial Foundation

President: Charles Tabor Chairman: Duncan Featham Deputy Chairman: David Whale Company Secretary: Mark Griffiths

Trustees/Directors: Cedric Ashley, Chris Ball, John Beecroft, Stephen Byrne, Allan Fogg, Philip Hall, Ian Hick, Jane Pedler, Lindsay Robotham Business Manager: John Baker

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