MINUTES

Of the

National Meeting of the
State Presidents and State Representatives of the
Alfa Romeo Owners Clubs of Australia

Held at Berri Resort Hotel, Berri, South Australia
On Thursday April 5, 2007

In attendance:

National Coordinator: Victor Lee

State Presidents: Tony Vaughan (Qld), Julie Crafter (SA), Glen Phillips (WA)

State Representatives: Edward Hellsten (Vic), Laurie Ardill (SA)

Visitors and Observers: Jeremy Caldicott (Vic), Evan Bottcher (Vic), Steve Jones (Qld), Phil Storr (SA), Graham Stafford (SA)

Meeting commenced at 08.35pm

1. **Websites and Club Web Forum.**

VL canvassed Division’s thoughts on websites and the idea of a National Club Forum. Each Division had an active Club Site that was regularly updated, except for WA. GP advised of personnel issues with their website. Because of the out-of-date info, VL advised that Ateco’s web links to the Divisions excluded WA.

Currently only Victoria and Queensland has a Web Forum connected with their websites. SA had a Web Forum until the start of 2007 when it was transferred to the ALFABB.COM site. It appears that Victoria’s forum is reasonably active whilst the Queensland forum is not regularly frequented.

VL suggested that most topics (eg: mechanical topics) are relevant to all members regardless in which state they are in. VL introduced Evan Bottcher, Victoria’s Web-Master. EB advised that Victoria has had a relatively hassle free Forum. GP asked about inappropriate postings. EB said that with help from a few key Forum Contributors in the Club, any potential problems have been avoided.

VL asked EB the feasibility of making Victoria’s Web-Forum into a National Web Forum? EB said that technically it could be done but of course the Victorian Committee must be consulted. How about Queensland’s Forum? TV
advised that Queensland has already had discussions on this matter and would be willing to shut down its Forum if a National Forum went ahead.

Costs: EB advised that increased server space maybe needed and thus approx costs will be around $250-$300 per annum.

AGREED: All agreed that a National Club Forum based in Victoria should proceed, conditional that the Victorian Division accepts to close the Victorian Forum, and EB will investigate any technical issues.

VL stressed that a National Club Web Forum in no way infringes on each state having their own state based website for local content.

VL asked about links to other Divisions websites. Discussion held on placement of links buttons.

ACTION: Each Division to have 4 prominent links buttons on its home page so as to allow the user to go directly to another Division’s home page effortlessly.

VL asked about each Club’s domain names and the possibility of getting uniformity among the States. Currently the names are:

QLD: www.aroca-qld.com
VIC: www.alfaclubvic.org.au
NSW: www.alfaclubnsw.org.au
SA: www.alfaclubsa.org.au

TV advised that Queensland has their domain name also printed on their club stickers and other materials, it would be difficult to change.
GP said that domain name maybe possible sometime in the future but they have to get the website in order first.

VL thanked EB for his input and EB retired from the meeting.

2. **Relationship with ATECO (and local dealers).**

South Aust: OK and improving. LA has the use of a 159 2.4JTD for the weekend!
QLD: Local dealer has had three changes of ownership with differing participation levels with the Club.

The proposed New Car Buyer Membership Proposal has got no-where. We have to try another approach.
Discussion on some Clubs has New Members Forms and asked the Dealers to hand out to new car buyers. This had varying degrees of success as the dealers sometimes forget to do it. How about a New Members Form whose direction to give to the new car buyer came from the top (ie David Stone)? The New Members Form will be INSIDE the pack each owner is given at time of purchase. We may ask Ateco to print these Forms for us.

**ACTION:** VL to speak to David Stone about this proposal.

3. **National Coordinator’s Report**

VL asked all to see attached report.

VL advised that an oversight has occurred in that no Club notice was issued to call for nominations for the position of National Coordinator.

GP nominated VL to take on the role as National Coordinator for another year. Carried unanimously.

GP proposed an expression of thanks to VL for his role in the past year. Carried unanimously.

4. **National Financials.**

VL asked if anything arising from the financials as prepared by NSW Treasurer Peter Evans. Nothing raised.

VL advised that the most likely foreseeable expenses would be about $200-$250 for the Alfesta keepsake trophies and $250-$300 for the proposed Club Forum.

TV suggested that the National Funds must be put into a Term Deposit to earn at some interest to assist in preserving the capital, rather than the very little interest earned currently. Based on the Funds available, a typical account could earn maybe $400 in interest which would cover most of these foreseeable expenses. Carried unanimously.

**ACTION:** VL to communicate with Peter Evans to have National Funds put into an Interest Bearing Account.

TV suggested that the signatories of the National Funds be the National Coordinator and the State President in the State in which he resides. Carried unanimously.

VL proposed that in the Alfesta guidelines, that the provision for the $3000 loan be removed as all states now are very self funded. Carried unanimously.
5. **Club Shoppe.**

EH has got very strong relations with clothing supplier and embroidery company that accepts orders for as few as 6 different items. So please send any clothing requests to EH.

EH advised that all Alfa dealerships’ Spare Parts departments have quotas to fill. One dealer has assisted the Victorian club in getting AR merchandise at cost pricing. If your local dealer cannot do the same pricing, let EH know.

JC’s contacts overseas allows opportunities to source “hardware” items onto which the AROCA logo can be engraved onto. JC will advise when samples arrive so as to send via email pictures of said samples.

Names of Club Shoppe people must be exchanged.

**ACTION:** *VL to follow up to ensure each State’s Club Shoppe Officer knows his/her counterpart in the other States.*

6. **Alfesta Trophies.**

VL asked Graham Stafford to lead this discussion.

GS speaks in reference to the Bob Gardiner Trophy. Believes it is demeaning to the memory of Bob Gardiner by playing kid’s games to earn points in his name. The Trophy should be assigned to motor racing events.

However, there should still be a “points type competition” trophy to balance the Harry & Joan Lewis Spirit Of Alfesta Trophy. (Comments: You need to “earn” it! Need to be able to take “stock” of it!) This follows from the opinions sought pre-Alfesta on a Ern Stock Trophy for Alfesta.

Can there be a track-based competition that can be run in all states whose results can then be comparable in the other states?

Suggested have a look at the MSCA SA fast-slow factor that is printed on the MSCA’s sprint results, which shows a competitor’s spread between their fastest lap and slowest lap. (see the results page in [www.mscasa.com](http://www.mscasa.com)). Such a factor could be comparable regardless of what track the driver is on.

**ACTION:** *To go ahead and do some feasibility studies on this. Two areas: 1. Publish letter in all Division magazines to seek opinions from members. 2. Devise a track-based criteria and rules for a National competition for the Bob Gardiner Trophy.*
7. **Communication Between The States.**

VL advised to ensure that the relevant people in each state receives information from him, that from now on, any emails sent will be to TWO recipients in each State. This will typically be the State President and the State Representative.

Also, for replies back, please clarify in the situations where a decision or vote or opinion is sought from VL, if the reply is a personal one or one behalf of your State.

8. **Other Business.**

GP enquired about the use of AR logo by the Club. VL replied that this same question has been emailed David Stone previously and no answer was forthcoming. It is believed that so long as the wording incorporated “Owners Club” or the like, then it is ok to use.

SJ enquired about the Public Liability matter per last year’s National Meeting Minutes. VL replied that it has been a remiss on that point and will follow up.

Meeting finished at 11.15pm