

Sleaford Classic Car and Motorcycle Show 2024

Chairman's Report.

2024 was a pivotal year for the show, the resignation of two long serving and very active members of the committee at the 2024 AGM, combined with the decision to move to the new venue at the Recreation Ground, presented a significant challenge. As the newly elected chairman, I had real concerns that the level of resource available would be overstretched and the workload too great to make it enjoyable. I am very grateful to those remaining members of the committee who willingly took on new roles and responsibilities to ensure that the show continued. Special thanks must be given to Cliff, Alison and Jackie, without their combined efforts we could have easily folded. Along with the newly elected committee members we were able to put together a very successful event and I thank you for all of your efforts.

Shortly after the meeting we learned of the loss of IT support for our website and that the platform it was built on was, due to its age, not transferable to another user. After seeking quotes locally for the design, creation and hosting of a new website (£1000 + £300 p.a. hosting and support) and following the advice of one local web designer, it was decided to create our own site using one of the "web builders" available online. Whilst initially this news was something of a bombshell, it did present us with an opportunity to review our systems and practices. In particular the registration of entries, much of which relied on written communication, incurred a significant postage cost and was ripe for moving to a digital platform.

The creation of a new website provided an ideal opportunity to do this. This now gives us more ownership and control of the content without reliance on others. Thanks to Russ Ganderson (our former IT Support) for helping to make the transition from the old site to the new as seamless as possible.

The move to The Recreation Ground presented us with a huge opportunity to provide an improved environment with more space available for exhibitors, traders and the visiting public. There were of course, some logistical issues to overcome, layout, traffic management, toilet facilities etc. and whilst on the whole, things went smoothly, there were some lessons learnt and we can do better for 2025. I must thank Sleaford Town Council (elected members and staff) for their help and support in allowing us to hold the show on "The Rec" and for their presence on the day, with special thanks to Sleaford Mayor, Cllr. Suiter for presenting the trophies.

This year our chosen "good cause" was the local charity group "Every 2nd Counts" who support people and families living with a secondary cancer diagnosis. I am very pleased to say that alongside our collection on the day and a donation from the event; we were able to raise around £450 for the group, who I am certain, will put this to good use.

Without our loyal show sponsors and supporters, invaluable help, be it financially or by the provision of goods and services, we would not have the means to put the show together. We thank you for your continued support and look forward to working with you again in 2025.

Finally I would like to thank everyone who came forward following our request for volunteers to help with the organisation of the 2025 show. Whilst facing the imminent loss of further valued and experienced contributors to the show team, having met the new group of volunteers I am confident we can take the show forward for this year and beyond.

Alan Aistrup

Chairman SCCMS