



Nov. — Dec. 2010

67th Edition Editor & Publisher: Jim Gislason

## Annual Banquet 2010

### Farewell Beano Belles



## Chairman's Report

I am pleased to write my first Chair Report as the incoming President for next year. First of all, I would like to thank the entire 2010 executive team for their great work throughout the year in maintaining the Branch's well-being and expanding membership to 118.

As many of you already know, the annual elections took place in November and the new executive members are as follows:

Malcolm Hargrave	Chair
Candy Francis	Vice Chair/Membership (Events Coordinator for part of 2010)
Bill Grace	Treasurer (Continuing from 2010)
Darla Millard	Secretary
Doug Unia	Presentations Coordinator
Howard Lockhart	Events Coordinator
Cathy Gislason	Website Coordinator
Jim Gislason	BEANO Editor (Continuing from 2010)
Peggie Badger	Roster Coordinator (Continuing from 2010)
Judy Unia	Regalia Coordinator

We held our first executive meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup> and discussed many items. The main topics were where we would hold future meetings and what the financial forecast looked like with the cost of room rentals in place.

Due to the ABC Restaurant implementing a \$50.00 per hour charge for our future meetings, it was decided to find an alternate meeting place with lower cost. As we had already used the Lantzville Legion for our Christmas Banquet, it was considered that this venue would be ideal and very suitable for our meetings. The room is larger, quieter, easier to arrange seating, and only \$15.00 per hour, therefore it was agreed to use this venue for our meetings. Unfortunately, the Legion already had commitments for Tuesday evenings and it was further agreed that we would change our meetings to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. The first meeting will therefore be held on Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup>.

We also discussed the format of our meetings based on feedback from our members' answers to Candy's questionnaire, and came up with a start time of 7:00 p.m., with the first section following a similar format to previous meetings, with the exception of reading out previous meeting minutes. After this section there would be a 10 - 15 minute break and the meeting will resume with a presentation, either technical, or of special interest in nature. It is expected that the meetings should end by 9:00 p.m. Minutes of monthly meetings will be posted on the website for review.

The financial forecast was reviewed and, with the extra cost for room rentals in place, it showed that a loss was expected for 2011. It was also pointed out that the cost of printing and mailing out hard copies of the BEANO to approximately 30 members was costing the Branch a considerable amount. It was therefore decided that the **annual dues should increase for 2011 to \$25.00 per member and \$30.00 for dual members.** Furthermore, as the BEANO is available to be printed by members on their own copiers, the Branch would start to charge for mailed out copies. **The future cost to anyone wanting colour copies of the BEANO mailed to them will be \$24.00 per year.** There will be no charge for the BEANO which is posted on the website.

One other topic raised by individual members to the executive was a request for our Branch to create an annual Restoration Award, which would be awarded to the best restoration project for the year, decided by members' votes. I would like to get feedback from members on this idea.

With the new executive in place, I am really looking forward to some positive changes in our Branch and having a great line up of fun and interesting events for 2011.

I would like to remind everyone that we will be having a meal at the ABC Restaurant on Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in lieu of our regular monthly meeting. Also, Janet and I have arranged for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Polar Bear Walk on Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> around Neck Point, followed by lunch at Piper's Pub.

I hope to see as many of you as possible for these two events, and for those that cannot make them, I would like to wish them all a merry Christmas and a very happy, fun-filled, New Year.

Best regards,

Malcolm Hargrave, Chair.

Win me !

... at the Polar Bear Walk ...



## Editor's Report

Well, I've made it through my first year as BEANO editor. I'd like to thank the many contributors who have sent in pics and reports... sometimes with short notice. It's made my job a whole lot easier. I'd like to say thanks to last year's executive for all their hard work as our branch must be by far the busiest of them all... and that takes a lot of organisation. I'd also like to welcome the new executive on board and look forward to working with them in the coming year.

The website has just been revamped and I will probably make some changes to the BEANO as well. Any and all input always graciously accepted!

I'd like to wish all the membership a merry Christmas and happy new year and hope you all get lots of car parts under the tree 🎁

... *Jim*

## Membership Report

We now have 35 membership renewals for 2011, (12 single memberships & 23 dual memberships). These 35 memberships, and any that I receive prior to December 31<sup>st</sup> are eligible for our early bird draw of a full refund of your membership dues. All renewals can be sent to: Candy Francis, 4325 Ashbury Place, Nanaimo, BC, V9T5S3. A new membership form has been developed and I would very much appreciate receiving one with each membership renewal. One has been sent to each 2010 member, or you can print it off from our website: [http://oecc.ca/cib/about\\_us.htm](http://oecc.ca/cib/about_us.htm) Contact me if you have any questions or concerns; [geoff001@telus.net](mailto:geoff001@telus.net) or (250)758-7314. I will bring a few copies of the new membership form to our January meeting. Looking forward to our 2011 season that kicks off January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas

...*Candy*

## Annual Banquet 2010

The annual banquet this year was a resounding success. It was held at the Lantzville Legion, whose space and facilities were more than adequate. The food had a “home cooked” appeal to it and was absolutely terrific!

Dave Harris was the MC and did such a good job that we want him to do it again next year! The live music was provided by Rob Sutherland and many people had fun dancing. Cathy and Jim Gislason prepared a slide show of the past year’s events which played continually throughout the evening, and was enjoyed by all.

Geoff and Candy Francis received the “Member of the Year” award for their dedication and hard work. Jim Gislason received the somewhat less coveted “Piston Broke” award, for the unsurpassed breakdown of the year, while engaged in a club activity.

The Beano Belles finally retired, but went out with a bang. They hosted a quiz which showed the gentlemen in the club that the ladies know as much about cars as they do...even though the game was rigged!! In the end the men were each presented with a “thanks for participating” certificate.

Irene Thompson was presented with an award of appreciation for the many years of planning and working with the Beano Belles, as well as regaling us with her many verses of the OECC song.





## SMITHS INSTRUMENTS

At one time, Smiths car instruments were as English as Dunlop tyres, string back gloves and, um, Lucas electrics. Most British cars from the 1920's to 1980's used Smiths instruments, or British Jaeger or VDO made by Smiths.

From beginnings as S Smith & Son, a jeweler making clocks and watches near the Elephant and Castle in SE London in 1851, Smiths industries became the dominant force between wars and after WW2 in auto, marine, industrial and aircraft instruments, car radios and heaters, anti-freeze and spark plugs.

Now, Smiths is a shadow of its former self, and although the management is highly regarded, is reduced to making scanners for airport security. It's growth, dominance and fading away mirrors in many ways that of the British watch making and motor car industries.

They acquired KLG spark plugs in 1929, and later merged it with Lodge, to compete with imported American Champion plugs. Core income from spark plugs funded growth and acquisition throughout the 1930's and 40's.

Smiths began to make electrical clocks and instruments in the early 1930's, moving to Cricklewood in North London on the Edgware Road then, just at the intersection with the new orbital North Circular Road, and reached a non-compete agreement with arch-rival Joseph Lucas. A substantial clock making business was established between 1930 and 1939, and they began to make aircraft instruments and automatic pilots.

Instrument and automatic landing was added with the purchase in the 1950's of S.G. Brown, who my father was with, and the Sperry Gyroscope Company, becoming the aviation division. Marine instruments were added with the prewar purchase of Kelvin Hughes, who my uncle was with.

They acquired British Jaeger from the French-Swiss parent company in 1937, with the distribution rights in the Dominions, Protectorates and Colonies, and in 1931 production and distribution rights for Bosch and VDO equipment.

Fresh air car heaters, a real novelty, as against the older recirculatory type, were introduced, and car radios, under the Radiomobile brand. Later, Motorola radios were made under license.

Smiths chairman at that time was Ralph Gordon Smith, a keen horseracing man, and accordingly factories were built strategically near racetracks in Basingstoke and Cheltenham.

The recent trend has been to use warning lights in place of calibrated gauges.

Most car instruments are now made in a single dashboard unit for mass produced cars, and eventually Smiths had only one customer for instruments, for electrical fuel and oil pressure gauges. Ammeters were brought in from (gulp) Lucas.

Smiths stopped making clocks and watches in the 1970's, most car instruments, and car radios under the Radiomobile brand. They had been making Motorola radios also under license, and Bluecol car antifreeze.

The Radiomobile factory was nearby in what had been the prewar Bentley car factory on the North Circular Road.

It was close by the Van Den Plas coachworks, which built many vintage Bentley bodies, and which was later bought by BMC, eventually becoming a badge name for deluxe Austin and Jaguar saloon cars.

W. O. Bentley's original office had his original desk and office furniture ( still there, maintained by the Bentley Driver's Club ).

The Aviation Division became the main growth area of the company, was renamed the Aerospace Division in the 1960's and moved to Wembley, with the factory in Cheltenham.

Portland Plastics was acquired then, and the Medical Division became the second key division.

The Aerospace Division was sold to American GE in 2007, leaving Medical & Diagnostics the only remaining active areas in what was S. Smith & Sons, renamed Smiths Industries in the 60's, then Smiths Group, now Smiths. Their main area of business now is making security and x-ray systems for airports.

*... submitted by Tony Dowell*

*... A few early examples...*

Fuel gauge ( tank mounted ? )

Amp meter and rotary light switch

Oil pressure



## Minutes of Nov. 30, 2010 Executive Meeting

Present: Malcolm Hargrave  
Candy Francis  
Darla Millard  
Doug Unia  
Howard Lockhart  
Cathy Gislason  
Jim Gislason

Absent: Bill Grace  
Peggie Badger

The incoming Executive met on Tuesday, November 30, 2010 at 7 p.m. in the home of Doug & Judy Unia to resolve outstanding and new issues.

Select a suitable new meeting venue: ABC has advised that they will charge \$50 per hour for meeting space. The Lantzville Legion will charge \$15 per hour, however Tuesday evenings are not available but it is believed we can rent the space the third Thursday of the month.

**ACTION:** Candy will determine the availability and advise the membership.

How often does the Executive need to meet? It was decided to meet on an as need basis and/or half hour prior to regular meetings, by conference call, email etc

Financials: The operating forecast for 2011 that Bill prepared was reviewed. It is evident that an increase in annual dues will need to be implemented in order to cover additional costs for meeting space. Jim advised the cost to print and distribute the Beano continues to escalate. The cost to the Branch is \$750/yr. It is suggested advertising be offered in the Beano at \$30 for 1 year (business card size).

**ACTION:** Effective January 1st Annual Dues will increase to \$25 single and \$30 couple. Members wishing to receive a printed copy of the Beano will be charged an additional annual fee of \$25. Candy will develop a new membership form reflecting the changes in fee structure. Agenda advertising.

Consider purchase and financing of Overhead Projector. This has been tabled for the February meeting.

Do we need to fill the position of Membership/Regalia? Candy will fill the Membership position and Judy Unia will take on Regalia. Mike Bull is submitting all Regalia inventory to Norm Hall.



Future format of Monthly Meetings: Monthly meetings will run from 7 pm to 9 pm.

7 pm to approximately 7:45 pm: - Regular meeting without the reading of previous minutes (these will be emailed along with the Agenda one week prior to the meeting)

The Mystery Car and Report on English Car World will alternate each month.

8:00 pm to 9:00 pm - Technical presentation and/or social hour.

The Presentations Coordinator will arrange and organize interesting technical presentations whenever possible, using the existing member's knowledge and skills, alternatively, find suitable speakers/topics/tours from external sources.

ACTION: Malcolm, Darla, Doug

Branch Events: It was discussed and agreed that The Events Coordinator should encourage as many members as possible to participate and/or organize social and car events. As well as:

A Branch car run should be available every month from March through October

Continue to make Brits on the Beach our main event

Participate in other Branch events whenever possible

Participate in Brits Round BC when appropriate

Individual members should contact the Events Coordinator for any special interest events, which may be of value to all members

Other possible events could include a slalom race and/or a technical school day.

Continue to have and affordable Christmas Dinner each year: Reviewed

Margie's notes and discussed other feedback – suggested more gooey desserts and enhanced music/entertainment.

ACTION: Howard, All Members

Executive responsibilities were discussed and clarified.

It was suggested to develop and use business cards to promote CIOECC.

ACTION: Malcolm

Cathy reported the need to update the website to give it more pizzazz and the need to update sponsors.

Malcolm received a request that the branch have a restoration award. This will be on the January agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 10 p.m.

... *Darla Millard*

## Minutes of Oct. 19 , 2010 Meeting & AGM

The meeting was called to order by chairman Norm Hall at 7:30 PM with 38 members and partners present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were not available as Al Thompson was absent.

Membership guy Mike Bull introduced Doug Nelmes, a guest of Peter Robson, who used to own Minis. Also Brian Collings, a former member who has renewed and has now acquired a 1997 Jaguar XK8. Regalia was reported on.

Bill Grace gave the treasurers report.

Editor Jim Gislason advised the latest addition of the Beano was on the web.

Marge Sabourin has tickets available for the Christmas Banquet at the Lantzville Legion November 20.

Peter Sparke discussed ways to pay for club equipment, including a possible raise in dues.

Adele Hedges proposed having a page on the website with pictures of members. This would be separate from the roster.

Ken Hedges had copies of the new ICBC Calendar, including pictures of his TR250.

Tony Dowell's British car report included Morgan 's plans to re-introduce the 3 wheeler, and a Jaguar supercar hybrid.

Merv Steig's car of the month was the Trident Inceni. The make was identified by Doug Unia but not the model.

Winner of the 50-50 draw of \$24.00 was Peter Sparke.

Next meeting is November 16.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

### **AGM**

Due to the very late attempt at voter eligibility clarification, a motion was proposed by Glen Stainsby and passed to defer the AGM to the November 16.

... *Doug Unia*

## Minutes of Nov. 16 , 2010 AGM Meeting

Chairman Norman Hall opened the meeting at 7:30 pm with 51 members present. The minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> October meeting were read by Doug Unia and were accepted as read. Branch Treasurer, Bill Grace, circulated the 31<sup>st</sup> October financial statement, and told us that the bank account stood at \$2064. Chairman Norm then asked Past Chair Al Thompson to administer the election of Club Officers for the year 2011. The elections were conducted in accordance with the procedure which had been forwarded in advance to all members by email on November 11<sup>th</sup> 2010. The election results were as follows:

**Chairman** – Malcolm Hargrave was nominated by Dave Harris and seconded by Norman Hall; there being no other nominations, Malcolm Hargrave was declared elected by acclamation.

**Vice-Chairman** – Candace Francis was nominated by Marg Sabourin and seconded by Bill Grace; there being no other nominations, Candace Francis was declared elected by acclamation.

**Secretary** – Darla Millard was nominated by Candace Francis and seconded by Russ Heughan; there being no other nominations, Darla Millard was declared elected by acclamation.

**Treasurer** – Bill Grace was nominated by Ken Hedges and seconded by Norman Hall; there being no other nominations, Bill Grace was declared elected by acclamation.

**Presentation Coordinator** – Doug Unia was nominated by Jim Gislason and seconded by Peter Spark; there being no other nominations, Doug Unia was declared elected by acclamation.

*(Recorder for the elections was Glen Stainsby).*

Following the elections, the names of those members who have volunteered to fill Appointed Positions on the Executive were read out. They are: Howard Lockhart as Events Coordinator, Jim Gislason as Beano Editor, Cathy Gislason as Webmaster, and Peggie Badger as Roster Keeper. The appointed position of Membership Registrar is still vacant.

On completion of the elections, other matters of business included: discussion of a replacement meetings venue should it become necessary to leave the ABC; promotion of the branch's Annual Banquet scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> November; and arrangements for a Holiday dinner gathering to be held at the ABC on 21<sup>st</sup> December. Finally there was a brief British Car Industry update by Tony Dowell, and the regular Car-of-the-Month quiz by Merv Steg (Doug Unia correctly guessed the Ginetta G21). The 50/50 draw was won by Derek Sparks. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm

*...Al Thompson*

## Upcoming Events

### **Jan. 2**

2nd Annual Polar Bear Walk  
at Neck Point

### **Upcoming Monthly meetings...**

Jan. 20 2011

Feb. 17 2011

### **SPARES**

### **FOR SALE**

MGB Overdrive Transmission \$950

Late model 4 syncro, will fit cars 1968 on

This is a Blue nameplate overdrive, which indicates it came from a post 1974 car.

I purchased this from a reputable company in England and was sold as a Tested unit.

I planned on installing this into my MG Magnette, but have now decided on a 5 speed instead.

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Email [agcompu@shaw.ca](mailto:agcompu@shaw.ca)

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## OECC CI Executive

**Chairman:** **Malcolm Hargrave**  
Phone: 250-741-0084  
Email: malcolmhargrave@shaw.ca

**Vice Chairman & Membership :** **Candy Francis**  
Phone: 250-758-7314  
Email: geoff001@telus.net

**Presentation Coordinator:** **Doug Unia**  
Phone: 250-751-8270  
Email: 55omdu6@telus.net

**Treasurer:** **Bill Grace**  
Phone: 250-390-0779  
Email: bjgrace@shaw.ca

**Secretary:** **Darla Millard**  
Phone: 250-729-9931  
E-mail: darlamillard@shaw.ca

**Events Coordinator:** **Howard Lockhart**  
Phone: 250-729-0220  
Email: howardl@netbistro.com

**Beano Newsletter:** **Jim Gislason**  
Phone: 250-723-4372  
Email: jim@island.net

**Roster :** **Peggie Badger**  
Phone: 250-716-1651  
Email: peggiebadger@shaw.ca

**Web Master:** **Cathy Gislason**  
Phone: 250-723-4372  
Email: cath@island.net

**Regalia:** **Judy Unia**  
Phone: 250-751-8270  
Email: 55omdu6@telus.net