

The Norwich Traffic Club



Newsletter – 2017-18 Issue 1 - August 2017

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I cannot believe that we are already over half way through the summer break. Over the last three months the Committee have been working hard on planning for the 2017-18 season. In addition to finding and booking guest speakers, researching potential venues for Club outings and completing arrangements for the implementation of the new category of Corporate Membership. The most significant task has been negotiating the unexpected need to move our meeting away from the Holiday Inn North.

In this Newsletter I will update you on all these issues.

Barry Parnell. Hon. Secretary.

Return to the Mercure Norwich Hotel.

Negotiations with the Holiday Inn for the 2017/18 season revealed that not only did they wish to increase prices to a level we did not feel were acceptable but more importantly had, despite long standing agreements, let the Lancaster Suite to another organisation on the date we would hold our 2018 Annual Dinner. As a consequence the Committee decided we should look for an alternative venue for all our Meetings and having considered options and completing negotiations we will be returning to the Mercure Norwich Hotel, on Boundary Road commencing for all our meetings from October 2017. There will be no change in the meal cost which will remain at £16.50 per head. Meeting times, with the exception of the annual dinner and AGM, will be as per the last few years. i.e. 6.00pm for 6.30pm with the Bar in the Chairman's Suite open from 6.00 pm. Timings for the annual dinner and AGM will be advised in due course.

Parking at the Mercure is free of charge,



The 2017/18 Season Programme:

Date	Room	Guest Speaker
Wed. 11 th October 2017	Chairman's Suite	Keith Grisedale, Norfolk Blood Bikes, SERV
Wed. 8th November 2017	Chairman's Suite	To be confirmed
Wed. 13th December 2017	Presidential Suite	Help For Heroes (see enclosed booking form)
Wed. 10th January 2018	Chairman's Suite	Mike Mizen, Member of Guild of Battlefield Guides
Wed. 14th February 2018	Chairman's Suite	To be confirmed
Friday 16th March 2018 Annual Dinner	The City Suite	Roger Daykin, After Dinner Speaker and entertainer
Wed. 11th April 2018	Chairman's Suite	Aviva. The future for motor insurance
Wed. 9th May 2018 including A.G.M	Chairman's Suite	To be confirmed

The monthly Committee Meetings will be held in the Statesman Suite at 5.00 pm

The last date for booking the places for yourself and guest(s) will be the Friday 12 days before the meeting date. Cancellations need to be advised to me by the Friday before the meeting, any received after that date may result in your still having to pay the meal cost.

Please, please try to keep to these dates; late notifications cause frustration and additional work for not only the Hon. Secretary but more importantly the Hotel staff who are responsible for planning and managing service and providing the food. .

Member Recruitment - : We need your help.....

As mentioned at the AGM and subsequent Newsletters, the number of members has reduced over the last 2 or 3 years. As a result it was agreed at the last AGM we should, from the start of the 2017/18 season, take a number of actions, including the introduction of Corporate Membership to actively recruit new members. The involvement and help of all members is vital to the success of this recruitment drive.

Details and cost of Corporate Membership is included in the application form enclosed with this newsletter. A copy of the Personal Membership form is also enclosed for your use when recruiting.

How you can help:

1. Endeavour to bring at least one guest to every one of the Club meetings and other events.
2. When talking to customers, suppliers, colleagues and friends make them aware of the Club and its function as a networking and social opportunity for proprietors, managers, etc working in or having roles/interest in the transport industries or related organisations. Encourage them to “**get to know us**” by attending one or two of our meetings before having to apply for membership. All they need to do is contact the Hon. Secretary.
3. Assist in a Corporate Membership mailing exercise by providing the Hon. Secretary with contact details of your customers, suppliers etc who you think could be interested in Club membership.

Club Outings:

I am pleased to report that the Club's summer outings, the BBQ and glider flights at Tibenham Airfield and the visit to the Caister Lifeboat Station were both very well supported and considered by members and their guests a success. In relation to the later the attendance enabled the Club to donate £150 to the Caister Volunteer Lifeboat Service.

Research is now underway to identify potential opportunities for our summer 2018 outing(s) and possibly an autumn outing in November or early spring. Possibilities already identified include private visits and tours of:

- The East Anglian Transport Museum, Carleton Coleville
- The RAF Air Defence Radar Museum, Horning
- The City of Norwich Aviation Museum, Horsham St Faith
- RAF Marham Heritage Centre.
- Woodfordes Brewery, Woodbastwick
- The English Whiskey Company Distillery, East Harling

The visits could include refreshments/meals either at the establishments or nearby. For details as to what can be experienced at each of these venue visit their web sites.

To help the Committee identify the outing which would gain the best support from the membership please can you let the Hon. Secretary know, assuming cost, day and time were acceptable, which, if any, of the above you would be most likely to attend. Suggestions for other venues would be gratefully received.

Annual Subscriptions:

The Committee is pleased to confirm that the Annual Subscription, which is payable 1st October 2017, remains at £25.00 with the concession rate for members who are over 65 as at that date or already retired at £12.50. Last year 7 members paid the pre October 2014 rate. Please can members paying by standing order check the amount they pay and if underpaying instruct their bank to increase the figure to £25.00 or £12.50 as appropriate.

Despite annual appeals for members to pay their subscription by standing order the percentage still paying by cheque is still almost 27%. Unfortunately of those a significant number need to be sent a reminder. The additional costs and work placed on the Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary in having to bank cheques and producing reminders needs to be eliminated. A Bank Standing Order form is enclosed with this email. If you are still paying by cheque please complete the form and send it to your bank. If you have any concerns about or difficulty in paying by standing order please ring either David Baxter or Barry Parnell (telephone numbers at foot of the newsletter) who will be only too happy to discuss this with you.

We look forward to seeing as many members and their guests on the 11th October at the Mercure Norwich Hotel.

Barry Parnell. Hon. Secretary on behalf of the Committee

Officer Contact Numbers

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