

THE CARAVAN CLUB – SUFFOLK CENTRE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT HINTLESHAM

WEDNESDAY 9th September 2015 at 7.30pm

Present:

Lady Chairman	Janice Kent	JK
Vice Chairman	Nigel Berry	NB
Treasurer	Mark Gowers	MG
Secretary	Diane Preston	DP
Publicity	Derrick Stammers	DS
Junior Crew Liaison	Mandi Syrett	MS
Minutes Secretary	Karen Fisk	KF
Sports Officer	Chris Stammers	CS

1.0 Apologies for Absence

Trevor Smith
Paul Fitch
Alan Dobson
Jerry Goddard

2.0 Signing of Previous Minutes

Proposed CS
Seconded NB

3.0 Matters Arising

None

4.0 Lady Chairman's Report

4.1 Over the summer we have had lots of great rallies and thanks to everyone who chaired and gave their support to them.

4.2 Thanks to Derek and Sheena Pannell for cooking breakfast at Ickworth Park and to Peggy Lee for her donation of a knitted character which raised £20 for the Chairman's charity.

5.0 Vice Chairman's Report

5.1 NB chaired the Weeley Cheese Rally and this had good attendance and went well. He also chaired the Ickworth Park Rally where £124.00 was made for the EAAA.

6.0 Hon Treasurer's Report

6.1 Current Finances to the end of August

Bank Account	14,896.03
Un-presented Cheques	(75.00)
True Balance	14,821.03
Caravan Club	7,500.00
Cash With Treasurer	42.83
Total	22,363.86

Note: Balance Includes rally deposits of £5,896.00 for Thorpeness 2015.

6.2 Fund Balances

Charity Fund	2,993.20
Junior Crew	£614.78
Special Fund	£284.19

Note: Main donations for the charity fund were Annual Fete which raised £2530.20 and Brightlingsea Carnival Committee Donation for 1st Prize of £50.00

6.3 Income since August

None

6.4 Expenditure since August

- Panda Plaques £172.69
- Binder Ltd – Septic tank emptying at Thorpeness Rally £441.60

6.5 Rally Accounts

- July: Debenham

- August: Thorpeness (deposits received), Normandy Beaches
- Crowfield, Wissington, Great Yarmouth, Woolverstone received at meeting

6.6 Defaulters
None

6.8 Equipment Sales

- July: Happisburgh, Rutland Water
- August: Hadleigh, Haughley, Hollesley and Thorpeness.

6.9 Advertising Income
Still outstanding £612; Henry's Lake £72, Kelling Heath £360, Stowmarket Caravans £180.
Cheques received at meeting

7.0 Hon. Secretary's Report

7.1 Membership 1159 (nearly reached 1200 but some lapses last week as first week of month always drop numbers)

7.2 Correspondence:

7.2.1 A letter from a current committee member was received informing the committee of their intention not to remain on the committee next year. Some issues of concern were expressed which the committee discussed at length. The main points raised have been summarised below:

Q1. As a new marshal they found that the process of running a rally ambiguous and how people run rallies varies from marshal to marshal. Shouldn't there be a more structured approach to running a rally?

A1. The committee feels that each rally and venue present their own unique set of challenges and it is felt that it should be left up to individual marshals to use a process that suits their rally best to run the rally. To help clarify how to run a rally NB had already planned to put a presentation together for marshals/potential marshals to see. This will be hopefully presented at the Preview rally. At the end of the day the intention is always to run the rally as cost effectively as possible and to not run at a loss.

Q2. Do marshals have a free rally? Should we make it a rule that marshals have a free rally?

A2. Marshals do not automatically get a free rally because they are running a rally. If a free pitch for marshals can be negotiated with the site owner then this may be used by the marshal or if the rally is low on numbers sometimes this saving is passed onto the rally making each rally fee slightly less. Marshals often incur additional expenses as a result of having to turn up early to set up etc and sometime have to take additional trips to take supplies for a rally therefore if a marshal does have a free pitch it is not seen as perk. We cannot say that marshals should always have a free weekend as sometimes due to low numbers or because a free pitch could not be negotiated then the cost of

free marshals pitches should not be passed on to the remaining ralliers. Each rally is different and has to be treated as such. There should always be two sets on each rally as a Health and Safety issue. Rallies with over 50 ralliers should then have 3 sets of marshals, but if a rally is offering other options, such as food service for a large number of people, then the main marshal is responsible for arranging other marshals to assist with this.

DP to confirm number of marshals on different rallies for the current year.

Q3. Why is it not possible to have large plaques for some rallies when the centre has money in the bank?

A3. It was agreed a couple of years ago to restrict all plaques to the smaller plaques unless in special circumstances. If there is a special milestone rally then providing the committee is approached at least 2 months prior to rally with a request for larger plaques, the request can be considered and approved or rejected. Any marshal ordering large plaques for a rally without the agreement of the committee will be liable to pay the additional cost incurred. This cost should not be passed as an addition to the rally fee as the admin fee is set at £1.00 plus VAT to cover this cost.

7.2.2 A member phoned to voice his concern as why he had not been presented with his 50th Rally Plaque at Wisington. I confirmed he had reached his 50th rally and after checking with the marshals this turned out to be an oversight whilst preparing for the rally. Apologies for this have been made by the marshals. The committee would like to request if a member has a milestone rally, anniversary or birthday that they confirm this with the marshals on arrival for inclusion at flagpole.

7.2.3 CC published a great article on the World War II Clopton rally

7.3 DP revised the Introduction to Suffolk Centre leaflet to have up to date contact details and to have the CC logo more prominent as requested. DS is also revising the same leaflet. The committee will review both to decide which leaflet should be printed.

7.4 DP has looked into the cost of leasing or purchasing a franking machine to distribute the rally books and save some money on postage. AD has also looked into companies that can print and post the main end of year batch. Both options will be discussed in more detail upon AD return.

7.5 Agreed to have a dedicated meeting at Dan's Meadow to discuss the preparation for the AGM. However the numbers for the AGM rally are considerably lower this year but as the committee uses the hall for the AGM, the committee agreed the full cost of the hall this year will be met from centre funds. It is also hoped this will help keep members interested in attending 2016. A new venue may need to be considered for next year. Last year 60 vans this year 37 vans.

- 7.6 Register: All up to date with exception of the outstanding rally accounts (see Treasurers report)
- 7.7 Reminder to everyone to get the nominations in for committee positions to DP **27/09/2015**. The Junior Crew committee nominations should also be passed to DP by **27/09/2015**.
- 8.0 Rally Secretary's Report.**
- 8.1 AD has 8 pending, 16 confirmed with programme entry received, 20 booked no entry received yet - total 44 on the 2016 list
- 8.2 Holland has been booked for Rijinsburg 28th May – 4th June 2016.
Assington confirmed 22-24th July 2016 (DP to send confirmation to AD)
Steadings does not appear to have become permanent pitches so MS has enquired about running a rally on 8-10 April 2016. Awaiting feedback
- 8.3 Note the AGM rally for 2016 requires a marshal as MG is unable to marshal this next year. Volunteers required. Full instruction will be given to help anyone who needs more information on how to run a rally.
- 8.4 Confirmation that Sutton for Easter and Halloween in 2016 the nightly fee has increased to £5 per van per night.
- 8.5 Contacted Tuddenham for prices for 2016. Contacted further printer for comparison and perhaps something new. Printer does about 5/6 other centres books - bonus they will package and post at cheaper rate and send balance to one address given. If entry by end November books despatched before Xmas. Bonus they work in Word !! Depending on other books - would recommend a change for 2016 book from Tuddenham Press. Further details to be circulated and the final decision will be made at November meeting.
- 8.6 Would like to use an email base for sending out rally marshal packs, equipment information and finance information - would still post to marshals that requested it. So few are collected at the Natter and Chatter. This would save envelopes and postage.
- 8.7 Very few front cover photos received for the competition to be held at AGM.
- 8.8 Rallies marked as pening - Saxtead January, Butley February, Clare Priory June, Woolverstone July, Flixton September, AGM October and Halloween October - need confirmation from marshals if dates are wanted and/or if we have marshals to run them (AGM) by end September please.
- 8.9 Invitation Rally – Sweeping the Leaves, Mildenhall - Still waiting response other centres
- 8.10 Thorpeness Rally - No further contact from marshals. Have emailed about 2016 dates and marshals
- 8.11 Brightlingsea Carnival Rally – North Essex invited – no response as yet
- 9.0 Publicity**
- 9.1 DS working on the Introduction to Suffolk Centre leaflet that DP prepared.
- 10.0 Equipment Sales**
- 10.1 Good equipment sales at Thorpeness

10.2 As PF has decided to come off the committee next year (along with some other committee members) it is felt that a decision as to whether the centre should continue selling equipment should be made as soon as possible after the AGM. The sale of equipment to members is not intended to generate large amounts of profit to the centre, but with dwindling committee members, no storage for the equipment and the additional weight burden this puts on committee members when taking equipment to rallies this warrants reconsideration as to its viability.

11.0 Equipment Officer

None

12.0 Sports Officer

None

13.0 Webmaster

None

14.0 Newsletter

14.1 NB - There has been very few rally reports or articles posted to the website or Facebook making the generation of a email or newsletter difficult.

MS - At present there seems to be a degree of lethargy among centre members. It is vital for the centre to continue that people give back to the centre by running rallies or volunteering to be on the committee. DP – It is important for members to realise the committee undertake the work for the centre on a voluntary basis and that if there were more people contributing the centre would go from strength to strength.

15.0 Junior Crew Liaison Officer

15.1 The Junior Crew Tuck Shop is going well . Tuck Shop made approx £40 at Thorpeness.

16.0 Regional Meeting

16.1 £3000 grant for region to use to promote the centres within it. 5 Centres in Anglia Region. Maybe some of the money will be used to contribute toward this.

16.2 Possible Meet the Member session again but this time in Norfolk – To Be Confirmed.

16.3 There will be more support for Dealer Days. Possible regional equipment to use for dealer days to be made available as required (gazebo etc)

16.4 NB requested that JK approaches the CC to get the Centre related section of the CC Magazine to the front of the magazine. This was already mentioned at an earlier regional meeting by JK and there is a plan to do this in the near future (possibly Jan?)

16.5 It is Suffolk's turn to hold an Intercentre Freshwater Fishing competition. Need to post this on Facebook and Website to see if any prospective marshals will come forward.

- 16.6 Electronic voting will be available for the main Caravan Club AGM.
- 16.7 There will be another Regional Forum on 16th January 2016 – Possibly at Cameo Hotel Copdock but this is to be confirmed.

17.0 Any Other Business

- 18.1 NB – Just to confirm from 2016 the rally handbook will be known as the centre handbook as agreed at an earlier meeting.
- 18.2 CS – Will undertake the tea and coffee at AGM.
- 18.3 Rachel Gowers has entered a competition run by the Co-op called the Co-op Cuppa where the centre may win tea bags for use by the centre. Fingers crossed.

- 19.0** Date of Next Meeting - Following Natter and Chatter at Dan's Meadow. 26th Sept.
AGM Prep special on Saturday 26th September 2.30pm at Dan's Meadow – Bealings. Committee officers required, other committee members welcome but optional.

Meeting Closed at 10.30pm