

**THE CARAVAN CLUB – SUFFOLK CENTRE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT HILNTLESHAM**

**WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 7.30pm**

The Meeting was opened at 19.35 with Janice Kent (Lady Chairman) in the Chair.

**Present:**

Lady Chairman	Janice Kent	JK
Vice Chairman	Nigel Berry	NB
Vice Chairman	Trevor Smith	TS
Secretary	Diane Preston	DP
Treasurer	Mark Gowers	MG
Rally Secretary	Alan Dobson	AD
Attendance Officer	Carole Harbottle	CH
Junior Crew Liaison	Mandi Syrett	MS
Equipment Officer	Chris Stammers	CS
Publicity Officer	Bill Mitchell	BM

**1.0 Apologies for Absence**

Peter Wilson Minutes Secretary

**2.0 Corrections to previous Minutes**

None.

**3.0 Signing of Previous Minutes**

Proposed - Mandi Syrett

Seconded - Chris Stammers

**Matters Arising**

None

**4.0 Lady Chairman's Report**

Attended the Mildenhall Rally. Well attended by both Mid Anlgia and Suffolk members. All worked hard to prepare the Club site for the 2016 season.

Also attended Easter Rally at Debenham. Great rally and well attended but hindered by poor weather. Rally now has new marshals for next year.

**5.0 Vice Chairman's Report**

NB nothing to report.

TS received message from a rallier thanking them for being towed off Sutton Easter Rally.

PW was Rally Chairman at the Sutton EGGtravaganza. Although the numbers were down (as experienced across the Easter weekend), this was a well-run and very enjoyable Rally and the children (to which of course this is directed) were not only well behaved, but all had a great time, with face painting, egg decorating, egg hunt, a Beetle Drive for Adults and children alike and a Disco on Sunday Evening. The Walk was also well attended, arriving back just before the heavens opened and it poured with rain. A very well done to the Rally Marshals.

BM was Rally Chairman at the Peewit Rally. Lovely site and well run rally. The rally was well attended and enjoyed by all who attended.

BW suggested we ensure committee standing in for Rally Chair have sufficient equipment to chair rally, i.e. table cloth and microphone. JK will arrange spare set for distribution as required.

## **6.0 Hon Treasurer's Report**

### **6.1 Current Finances to the end of March 2016**

Bank Account	5,316.34
Un-presented Cheques	0
True Balance	5,316.34
Caravan Club	7,500.00
Cash With Treasurer	27.83
Total	12,844.17

Balance Includes rally deposits of £4,365.00 for Thorpeness 2016.

### **6.1 Fund Balances**

Charity Fund of £236.70

Junior Crew £647.48

Special Fund £294.99

### **6.2 2015 Accounts**

Accounts have been signed and returned by the auditors. Club have misplaced the accounts despite the auditors returning a copy to them and therefore the grant has not yet been paid. A new set of accounts have been sent to the club and grant payment is expected before the end of April.

### **6.3 2016 Accounts**

#### **Income since March**

Mother's Day Rally £14.00, Peewitt Rally £32.50, Return of Deposit from Sutton for Easter £50.00, Peewit Equipment Sales £2.60

#### **Expenditure since March**

Charity Donation for East Anglian Air Ambulance for £134.00 from Debenham Rally  
Panda Plaques £46.11

**Rally Accounts** – Valentines, Peewit, Mother's Day and Easter at Debenham received, Easter at Sutton passed to the treasurer at the meeting

**Defaulters** – no new defaulters to report.

### **6.4 Advertising Income**

Rose Farm and Sharman's paid (£408 in total), cheques from Marquis, Birchwood and Woodhill passed to the treasurer at the meeting.

### **7.0 Hon. Secretary's Report**

#### **7.1 Membership:**

As of w/c 11<sup>th</sup> April, membership of Suffolk Centre was 1164.

Currently sending around 10 Rally Handbooks per week.

#### **7.2 Correspondence**

Letter received from Roy and Peggy Lee, thanking for the assistance they received in being towed off at Sutton.

#### **7.3 General**

All leaflet stands are now out at Suffolk Dealers.

#### **7.4 Register Secretary**

CH is up-to-date with attendance records that she has been provided with.

### **8.0 Rally Secretary's Report**

Six rallies are pencilled in for 2017/2018.

Bromeswell and Valentines will require marshals for next year. We will promote at flagpoles during the year.

AD advised that numbers are very low for Hollesley rally, may need to cancel if numbers do not increase.

AGM provisional date agreed of 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Oct. Venue to be confirmed.

### **8.1 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rally was discussed. The date of 4-7<sup>th</sup> May is available at Trinity Park, but the Committee are to go away and make enquiries on possible alternative venues. We need to keep overall cost down for families to keep interest and good attendance. A hog roast was suggested with possible barn dance (MG to follow up barn dance idea). Lots of activities required for the day for all the family.

### **9.0 Publicity**

BM queried advertising costs for rally book and if these should be increased. This was discussed and all agreed to keep at current rates. It was also agreed by all that the current number of adverts was a good balance.

CS advised 10 payments on way for adverts and 9 outstanding.

Books have been issued to advertisers.

### **10.0 Equipment**

CS reported to the Committee on the quotes he had received to replace the fraying flags. It was agreed by all that these could be repaired (DP volunteered) as we were in the process of possibly replacing with sail flags. JK is to retain best Red and Suffolk flag.

CS reported to the Committee on the sale flags. These were, £111 incl VAT for 2.5m high and £325 incl VAT for 3m high. It was agreed by all to purchase one 2.5m high version as a sample to test on rallies prior to proceeding further with total of flag and pole replacement.

### **11.0 Sports Officer**

Nine Suffolk Ralliers booked on National Rally. CS suggested Suffolk enter photograph comp. CS to organise and liaise with those attending.

### **12.0 Webmaster**

TS is currently updating website with news etc.

### **13.0 Newsletter**

NB will issue updated eNewsletter shortly with list of rallies. Very disappointing with lack of rally reports now being submitted. Rally Chairs to promote at rallies.

### **14.0 Junior Crew Liaison officer**

Two designs for the Junior Crew logo were tabled and the final design will be agreed at the next Junior Crew meeting.

Craft box, sweats and face paints with to DP.

MS will advise Junior Crew of next meeting date.

## 15.0 Regional meeting

Kevin Flexman (Anglia Regional Chairman) attended on our behalf.

Overview:

2015 was a good year of the club with satisfactory cash surplus and finished with membership at a similar level as the previous year now 350,271 members, the site network had 2.4 million outfit nights the best since 2011.

Major investment in technology with new site booking app launching in February. This allows members to book CLs, Club sites and affiliated sites.

Centre Supplement to be sent out in February. Centres asked to keep sending details of rallies for website. Looking at having Centre lines on digital magazine with a What's On tool to allow members to search for up to date information.

National Rally – Outfits will be arranged in Regional blocks to encourage members to come together. There will be no pitch numbers so Regional Block Marshals to site on arrival. All marshals can arrive on the Thursday. Generators will be as far from the non EHUs as possible. 80-90% of bookings to date are EHU and in 2-3 years all pitches will be electric.

There will be less formal receptions than before and the Region has been asked to provide a reception for all Anglian members with a nominal figure being given to the Region. There will be a street party on the Sunday to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

There will be a Centre Secretaries Forum at the National this year but the discussion on continued membership to Centres was once again ruled out.

Other Issues

Following the serious fire at the South London Rally all Centres were reminded of the need to allow sufficient spacing on rallies.

Publishing minutes – As Anglia region are trying to widen general membership they would like to publish minutes on website. The consensus was that a newsworthy summary should be produced that does not include by details of members.

### Question Time 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2016

Questions put forward and answered by Grenville Chamberlain.

Many of those attending were non-centre members with various issues. Primarily they concerned Club sites and CL's:

1. Query on fairness of booking system – GC currently best system for members
2. Possibility of allowing motorhomes onto sites to use facilities – Martin Stringer said there was no likelihood of this as the CC does not encourage wild camping.

3. Query of visitors to CL's when wanting a quiet weekend other caravanners visitors can be a nuisance. – This is down to CL owners.
4. Any chance of CC site in S Essex. – CG – always looking for new locations.
5. Re cycling on CC sites – CG company collects and sorts all waste.
6. Towing restrictions on trailers – Check on VOSA website.

There was plenty of time for discussion and the event was a success with the room full of members.

#### **16.0 National Rally**

Nine vans currently booked to attend.

#### **17.0 New Website**

TS is currently researching and looking at other centre websites.

#### **18.0 AOB**

18.1 Request made by marshals of Brightlingsea rally for donation of up to £50 towards float. This agreed by all.

18.2 MS requested if JC equipment could be shared between committee whilst she moves house.

18.3 CH proposed perhaps having suggestion box on rallies for response to non-renewals – to be discussed further.

#### **19.0 Date of next meeting**

11<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at Hintlesham Village Hall.

Meeting closed 21:30

