

# THE CARAVAN AND MOTORHOME CLUB - SUFFOLK CENTRE COMMITTEE MINUTES MEETING HELD 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022

A meeting was not held face to face at Hintlesham but arranged via Google Meet for September. Committee thanks go to Alison Stammers for arranging this. Invitations to join were sent to all current committee, meeting commenced at 19.31 p.m.

## Joining the meeting were:

Chairman	Ron King
Secretary	Janet Dobson
Junior Liaison	Sarah Aldis
Centre Equipment	Tina King
Publicity	Melody Gosling
Newsletter	Graham Gosling
Competitions	Alison Stammers

**1. Apologies for Absence** - Julian Fincham-Jacques (VC and Webmaster) - prior engagement. Alan Dobson - other commitments. Chris Stammers (Regional Rep) - work commitments. Paul Wade (Treasurer) and Karl Moles (Sports) did not join the meeting.

**2. Corrections to Previous Report** - None noted.

**3. Signing of Previous Minutes:** The July minutes were agreed and signed by Ron King. To be passed to Centre Secretary to be filed.

**4. Matters Arising** - None noted.

**5. Chairman's Report** - I was involved with the Chairman's Charity Rally held at Trinity Showground at Ipswich 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

The weekend was well supported, with people giving generously to the raffle and then buying raffle tickets. Also thank you to local caravan and accessories companies who donated prizes for the draw.

Farnham Leisure Ltd, KM Leisure Supplies, Sharman Caravans, also East Anglian Air Ambulance also donated as well. Morrisons Supermarket, who helped with supplying some of the ingredients for the Cream Tea afternoon. Liz Combes baked all the scones for the cream teas. Thank you, Liz, they were lovely.

Julian Fincham-Jacques, Vice Chairman was rally chairman. Thank you and Sarah for your work, with the cream teas and the draw that raised £270 for the nominated centre charity, EAAA.

I chaired the Reeley Weeley Rally, it didn't attract as many units as in other years, but a good weekend was laid on by the marshals. Friday night the marshals looked after everyone with Tea/Coffee and homemade cakes made by Sandra Meyrick. Saturday afternoon we were treated to Pimms and Cream Teas.

The next rally myself and Denise chaired was 'A Day at the Races', Newmarket. It was a joyous weekend with a touch of sadness thrown in. It was a weekend of achievements, for rallies done with the centre.

Denise and I had the privilege of presenting attendance rally plaques.

Firstly, Ronnie and Carol Larcombe received their Fifty Rally plaque. They haven't been in the centre very long but support us on most of rallies in the programme.

Alan and Janet Dobson were next to receive an attendance plaque. This one though was not just any plaque; it was the one you get presented with the "Suffolk Punch Horse" for achieving Five Hundred rallies attended in the name of Suffolk Centre. Alan and Janet not only get involved in organising rallies for us, but both serve on our committee. Well done for reaching a milestone with the Centre.

If you think five hundred is a good number to do, well this weekend saw a couple massing Seven Hundred rallies with Suffolk Centre. Tony and Karen Reed, another couple who have been stalwarts for our club. Like Alan and Janet, they are involved in running rallies or assisting other marshals with their expertise in setting out a rally field. To mark this special achievement, a special seven hundred designed plaque was made and presented to a very surprised couple. Congratulations on your first seven hundred, looking forward to the next seven hundred.

Now for the sad part of my report Derek and Sheena Parnell, past chairman 2008-2011 announced an emotional farewell to caravanning as he said at their age, they find it a struggle. We will miss seeing you both out on the rally field and thank you for all the work you have done for the Centre. Happy retirement from caravanning and enjoy whatever you decide to do in the future.

For those who knew Bill Toop, an active centre member for many years passed away in the early hours 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022. His funeral was held at Severn Hills Crematorium on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August 2022. Other Suffolk Centre members and I attended the funeral and the wake at the Suffolk Showground.

**6. Vice Chairman's Report** - Nothing to report under Vice-Chairman.

**7. Other Rally Reports** - Julian sent in: Chaired Thorpeness Cliff top Holiday rally where a couple of new ralliers were welcomed to the centre.

Again, the rally provided a range of activities for ralliers to join as they wished, including cheesy bingo, cinema night, cake stall and entering a float at Meare fireworks. Ron did receive an email from a village resident complaining of a noisy vehicle creating a nuisance in the village, possibly originating from the camp site. However, with the limited information provided, it was not possible to confirm or deny whether the vehicle originated from the rally. Ellie announced it would be their last year of running the rally, but new marshals have come forward to take it on next year.

Then chaired Holt Adventure at Greshams School.

A new venue within a five-minute walk of Holt town centre and a little further from the steam railway. Another excellent weekend with everyone enjoying the Sausage sizzle and Prosecco laid on by the marshals. Looking forward to it running again next year.

A report on the Lessingham Rally is to follow.

**8. Treasurers Report** - No report or information had been received.

Janet reported that a member had come forward for the Treasurer role. Information discussed in meeting, Janet to approach to see if still willing as no other interest has been recorded to enable nomination to be completed.

**9. Secretary Report** -

**9.1. Membership** - Janet reported that on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August there were 1,463 members. Members with July renewals to renew is 110. There are currently 114 August

members to renew, reminder emails will be sent after return from holiday and when lists have been amended.

Janet advised that as of 29<sup>th</sup> August no nominations for committee for 2023 have been received.

As at Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September Janet reported that there were 1,365 Centre members as 109 July members had not renewed.

#### **9.2. Correspondence as received:**

**29<sup>th</sup> July 2022.** Message from Club. Guidance on tents is changing along with placing outfits on a rally. Details passed to all committee - discussion took place, and it was decided to put on the Agenda for October prior to AGM and to make a decision as to where the Centre will stand with this.

**1<sup>st</sup> August 2022.** Message from Richard at Hintlesham village hall that costs are being raised from our £17 a session to £19 w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> September. As we have paid to year end, they will honour our advance payment.

**2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022.** Message from Club requesting that we make sure no Club brown rally envelopes that have insurance products listed or the old Club branding are used. Any leaflets we may have please check details are still valid.

**4<sup>th</sup> August 2022.** Message from Club about the Centre questionnaire that was filled in. Thanks to the Centres that completed this and it will be used by the Review Group in their feedback to the Club. Some details on members surveys were given from the Spring 2022 survey and their response to Centres.

**20<sup>th</sup> August 2022.** Email sent to Ron King as Chairman from a Thorpeness resident about a car seen driving dangerously through the village and appearing to come from and return to the common where the rally was. Message passed to Julian who was attending to make enquiries. Julian ascertained the vehicle was unknown on the rally, had not been witnessed on the field.

**5<sup>th</sup> September 2022.** Notification that Shropshire Centre has gone into "hibernation" from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022.

**9<sup>th</sup> September 2022.** Following the death of Queen Elizabeth on 8<sup>th</sup> September, message from the Club with information on operating rallies/flying of flags or pennants.

**9.4. Attendance** - Database being updated as the lists come through. The issue over the holiday rally and bookings has been sorted out.

#### **10. Rally Secretary Report -**

- a. Advertisers emailed. 8 confirmations in so far. Will approach again on return from holiday.
- b. 23 rallies in the programme for 2023/24. AGM rally weekend 13/15 October 2023.
- c. Have approached printers. Due to lack of pages, it looks like next year's book would be thinner which may lower the prices given. Quotation given as:

"I have put a quote together for same as last year  
48-page A5 Book gloss lam heavy cover.  
325 £662  
450 £839

A5 booklet printed  
As above but stapled. (May have to use a slightly lighter cover)  
325 £565  
450 £725

The staple book may not sit as flat as the perfect bound books, (when it comes to postage)"

Their comment over the book not sitting as flat, this would not be a problem with postage with the right envelope. At present the figures I have obtained for numbers is approx: To post: 227 To email: 1161

**11. Publicity** - Melody thanked those sending in items but to be aware that the Club was specific in the image quality to be accepted for printing. Tim Cooke took photographs at the new venue at Lessingham which will be sent on to her. Family friendly photos are still needed for the Centre leaflet and some photos from recent rallies are still needed.

**12. Rally Equipment** - Nothing to report.

**13. Competitions** - Nothing to report.

**14. Junior Liaison** - Nothing to report.

**15. Webmaster - Julian reported:** Updates have not been forthcoming to go on the website and therefore there has not been much activity.

An update will be going on in the next couple of days regarding nominations for the Committee, perhaps Ron would like to do an updated chairman's message to encourage interest.

**16. Newsletter** - Currently the newsletter is put out to members via members Facebook group and the website. The latest edition doesn't appear to be on the website, can this be followed up. Graham would like to resurrect the emailing system. It was pointed out that the old system enabled members to "opt out" when they received it - by emailing it may be better to contact all relevant members first advising the newsletter will be emailed to them and giving opportunity to "opt out" before one is sent. Janet to look into providing Graham with list of relevant emails. This list to be updated as each edition is due.

Alison asked if a piece could go in the next edition about off-grid rallying to answer any questions members may have. This to be given to Graham for the next edition.

**17. Sports** - No report.

**18. Regional Meeting** - Ron has received an email from John Kent that the next meeting will be over the weekend of the Regional AGM Rally/Children in Need Rally. It is possible some members of the Regional Committee are not standing for re-election.

**19. Any Other Business** -

Ron advised he had been told of two Scottish Centres going into hibernation this year.

Nominations close for the Suffolk Committee on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Some indicated they would be standing for election for next year.

Due to some being unable to attend the scheduled meeting prior to the AGM it was agreed to change this to Thursday evening, 13<sup>th</sup> October, at 7 pm and Alison kindly offered to host this at her house as several members would be local at Trinity Park setting up the rally. Hintlesham booking to be cancelled.

**Date of next meeting** - Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October commencing at 7 p.m. hosted by Alison Stammers.

It was felt that the method of meeting had worked well all things considered and the meeting ended at 20.51 p.m.

**DISCLAIMER:** All those mentioned in this report have given their permission for their data to be used.