

**THE CARAVAN AND MOTORHOME CLUB - SUFFOLK CENTRE  
COMMITTEE REPORT  
WEDNESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023  
HINTLESHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Meeting opened at 7.35 p.m.

Those attending were:

Chairman	Ron King
Secretary	Janet Dobson
Rally Secretary	Alan Dobson
Webmaster	Julian Fincham-Jacques

Due to number attending discussion still took place, but all committee to be advised and request acceptance to this now report.

**1. Apologies for Absence** - Will James, Alison Stammers, Chris Stammers, Graham Gosling. Tina King - Work

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

**3. Signing of Previous Minutes** - The minutes for July were agreed and signed by Ron King, Chairman.

**4. Matters Arising on minutes from last Meeting:**

**7.0 Other Rally Reports** - Report from Garry Pyett on the Clopton Rally.

"I was very pleased to be asked to slip out of retirement and assist our Chairman by chairing the Clopton rally, after the bad weather we had for a while before the rally the ground was a bit boggy but after an inspection by Trevor and with care, only 2 motorhomes got stuck, and that was drivers taking their own route and not following instructions from the marshals. The marshals were disappointed with the low number of Suffolk centre members sending in slips, and rather than cancel the rally, they opened it up to caravan club members of the 'Poshcats Camping' you tube group, which resulted in a well-attended rally, Poshcats Camping very kindly supported the entertainment in the hall, an excellent evening with "Mariasax", thereby keeping the rally fee to a very affordable excellent weekend, only spoiled by someone stealing the centre flag from the site."

**8.0 Treasurer** - Treasurer emails were going to correct address - invoice told sent had in fact not been sent.

**Bank Mandate** - Update mandate now recorded, next step address change and then to Internet Banking. Further update: mandate now accepted by bank and online banking has shown it is now with Will.

**9.1 Membership** - issue has been resolved.

**9.4 AGM 2023.** Email drop to all members done. One enquiry on a role on committee, another offering to marshal a longer length rally.

**10. Rally Secretary.** Advertisers been contacted. Sadly for Centre, and a lot of members, Rupert Moody of Birchwood Caravans is taking retirement this year. Ron King has come forward to put in an Easter Rally for 2024 and the AGM 2024 has been booked for Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at Trinity Park with a rally also being held over the weekend.

**5. Chairman's Report** - Since the July committee meeting, I have been able to attend most of the rallies in the programme. I had to miss two due to being away on holiday.

The first rally to be involved with was my Chairman's Thank You Rally at Trinity Park Ipswich. Julian Fincham-Jacques chaired the event, working tirelessly with the marshals and making the rally run very well. A finger buffet and summer fruits punch were laid on for the people who attended the rally, provided by myself and the marshals. A total of £248.60p was raised for East Anglian Air Ambulance.

Shotley Rose Pub rally followed by Summer in Essex were the next two I attended.

At the Shotley Rose rally I was handed £75.00p from the Suffolk Centre Bowls Club, which had ceased operating. They asked that the money go to the Chairman's Charity. Thank you very much.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023, I, with some past chairmen and friends from Suffolk Centre attended the funeral of Thelma Pettitt at Bury St Edmunds. Thelma & Peter rallied with centre regularly for many years, before the passing of Peter.

Into August, I was only able to attend one rally, due to having a holiday with the family. I chaired the rally at Newmarket Rowley Mile. The weather for Saturday was not very nice, in fact it rained all day and quite windy. Saying that it did not deter the marshals, along with Derek and Sheena Pannell and family cooking burgers in the rain and raising more money for EAAA to a total of £86.00p. Thank you to all who took part in making, eating burgers and donations.

My next outing with Suffolk Centre will be Henham Steam Rally in September.

**6. Vice Chairman's Report** - Post vacant.

**7. Other Rally Reports -**

**Report from Julian.** Chaired Thorpeness Holiday rally. Four new ralliers declared on the rally. Varied activities during the rally including, two live bands, cheesy bingo, film & quiz nights and float entered into Regatta floats & fireworks evening.

Feedback from those attending that it was a relaxed and enjoyable rally, with praise for the new lead Marshall's and hopes they will take it on again next year.

**Reports from Gary Pyett**

A Longer Return to Nowhere, Star Inn, Lessingham

On arrival it was raining, setting up in the rain, but by mid afternoon, it had stopped, and the next few days were very hot & sunny, the field was set out to give everyone a good view for the wonderful sunsets, and then on some late evenings the mist rolled in, with a heavy dew in the mornings, typical September weather.

Several members enjoyed the good food in the Inn, especially the Sunday Roast, most ralliers disappeared during the days, visiting the villages and coast etc., this proved to be a good rally, lets hope it can continue again next year. There were visitors from the Norfolk centre and a past chairman from North Essex.

Autumn on the Water, Alton Water, Sutton

Arriving on this new venue was a big surprize, the site was very large, I understand that it was originally setup / modified in 2017 to about 80 pitches, most comprised of 10m x 10m pitches with newly planted individual hedging, with loads of free space, and the facility block was very modern and very clean, the marshals had negotiated a good deal for the pitches, with an option for EHU for an extra £6 if required

With Alton Water right on the doorstep, with a chance to get out on the water, and a cafe etc and plenty of good walks mean't you always had something to do.

It was a pleasure to introduce new ralliers to the centre Robert & Dot Postlethwaite.

There were also visitors from South Essex and West Sussex centres

Again, it would be a welcome entry in the handbook for next year.

I enjoyed being recalled out of retirement and chairing rallies again, and meeting new people on the rally field.

## **8. Treasurers Report -**

### **HSBC**

As you will recall, updating the HSBC has turned into a saga. The mandate (who signs) was out of date, mailing address needed updating and to do my role I needed setting up for Internet Banking.

This has been going on for months and despite Janet visiting Colchester Branch, myself going into Saxmundham (Sax) Branch 5 times often for 30-40 minutes whilst they interrogated various systems and phoning their help desk 3 or 4 times.

For info, there seems to be a poorly designed process, e.g. they sent letters about changes we were trying to make to Mark Terry, he was still receiving monthly statements and eventually sent them back "not known/gone away". This seems to have locked the file. Most of the changes can't be done in branch and are actionable only by a central team (in India).

We had one ludicrous rejection in July - Janet signed the mandate and change of address form. The central team decided the signatures differed from her earlier one on the mandate. Staff in Sax said they would have accepted it as signatures evolve over the years but couldn't over-ride the central team!

We still don't know if the Change of Address form has been actioned (it was sent by Janet circa 16<sup>th</sup> August, haven't heard anything or received any post from HSBC). Sax also advised there is a cheque book which has probably got lost somewhere between Mark Gowers, Mark Terry and Paul - Janet has asked for this to be cancelled.

Good news, after visiting Sax Branch last week and being 'polite but firm', they have managed to progress Internet Banking Primary User set-up. I now have an activation code but need an ID number which they've posted! I phoned up but they can't give me the ID number over the phone.

Means I should be able to have Internet Banking within a week or so (depending on the post).

So soon I should be able to start doing my role! Apologies, as a consequence of the delays I haven't had the details or transactions to enable me to update the spreadsheet and produce accounts for meetings. I have been monitoring promised receipts from rallies/for the charity

account using screenshots from Paul as best as I can (I haven't received paper statements apart from earlier months passed from Mark Terry to Ron).

I'll perform the catch up as soon as I am able, update CAMC HO re VAT and produce accounts for the AGM.

## **Thorpeness**

As Paul warned me, quite a lot of work related to the Rally (it is a 10 day event with 90 vans or so). Just about sorting the 50 or so expense receipts and related invoices.

See above re HSBC, I'm still reliant on Paul Wade to make payments via Online Banking. He noticed that Barry Dye (who provides a marquee, sound system, projector, generator etc) was also charging £100 to store centre equipment for the year ahead.

This resulted in a few emails! Info from Julie Breed in response:

It's been happening for years we have over 100 numbered pegs, signage regarding the beach, and other equipment specifically for this rally.

It is bulky and not equipment the centre would want to hold.

There were some views on whether this should be down to "Thorpeness Folk" or if it should be chargeable against Thorpeness costs? I assume the items are CAMC owned as they've been bought or donated over the years?

*It was asked that Janet contact Julie Breed because this request had not been made before, is it equipment they classify as Centre or theirs (bought or paid by rally fees) and if deemed Centre will need to be stored by a Centre member. The request also went direct to Treasurer, committee approval was needed.*

Observation, my Wife and I dropped by on the first Sunday to take cash to pay the bands. In modern parlance it was 'buzzing', lots going on and well organised. Income is approaching £10,000 and whilst costs are high, there is enough to cover the storage which is necessary as a consequence of running the event.

## **Member Refund**

You may recall, back in November, Paul tried to get HSBC to find £50 sent as a refund to the wrong Barclays account (her daughter provided the wrong details). Unfortunately, Paul couldn't provide the required answers to security questions and telephone banking was locked as a result - he was going to ask HSBC to trace the money (probably in a Barclays suspense account).

In July, we agreed to pay back the £50 as passage of time makes recovery of the original £50 less likely. I've been in touch with the daughter for confirmation of which their correct account details but haven't heard anything.

## **9. Secretary Report -**

**9.1. Membership** - Janet reported that on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September there were 1,239 members, number of July members listing void were 72. For August listings 91 to renew.

Janet had queried with the Anglia Region if they could approach Club re new members ticking the Centre box thinking it was part of, or necessary, for Club membership. Is this being explained properly as more as time goes on getting messages - how did you get my details - don't want to be a member - take my details off. It then has to be

explained that they have to disconnect the link, although we won't send correspondence out. It was felt that if the Region approached about this it may be detrimental to Centre figures and the Centre grant. Suggestions made to Janet on dealing with this are already part of the process and the Region do not think it appropriate to "open this can of worms".

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

**a. Email from Club.** Message re using sites in National Parks in 2024. Final submission for entries is 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023.

**b. Email from member.** Query received from Rally Marshal over the supply/receipt of plaques for rallies. This had been requested prior to message to put on agenda. To discuss plaque supplies for 2024. *This to be put on agenda for October to discuss further.*

**c. Club Information.** Details provided by Club on new process for any Centre looking at hibernation. Details passed to committee.

**d. Rally Incident.** Email from Lessingham marshal advising incident of dog bite to one of the marshals. Further information needed, Club advised. *Incident form and marshal statement provided, Janet to scan and forward to the Club. Although dog was on lead, this was over the required length, which marshal had been unaware of.*

**9.3. Attendance** - Being updated as lists come in.

#### **9.4 AGM 2023**

Email nomination form has been put up on Facebook Groups.

Nominations received so far:

Chairman - Ron King

Secretary - Janet Dobson

Committee - Alan Dobson

List of members who can sign in has been received. 35 day limit now met for items raised, nothing received.

Further nomination form given - Julian Fincham-Jacques for Committee position.

Earlier in the year there had been a discussion on what roles may be needed looking ahead. With the improvement of the rally entries, possible still more to come in, it was decided to carry on with the Vice Chairman post for 2024.

Janet requested reports under Chairman/Treasurer/Secretary and Rally Secretary for AGM paperwork. Will need 3 sets of tellers for the signing in process and Ron to follow up to invite members from another Centre to act as Independent Tellers for any vote and to ensure meeting compliant. Confirmed that the Centre will pay half the cost of the hall hire for the AGM rally to cover use of the hall on Sunday as normal.

Photo competition for front cover to be advertised. Members get to vote at the AGM meeting.

There had been information from the Club on a possible online booking system. Janet to add details to October meeting.

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

There have been conversations between the Centres for any rallies able to be put up as Invitation to other Centres. We have an acceptance of Mid Anglia to Newmarket. South Essex have accepted our Easter Rally into their programme. We have further

rallies we have accepted, list being worked on, which currently give us 23 rallies to January 2025.

New venue in programme for end May Bank Holiday thanks to Julian.

4Bs have also been accepted totalling 15 in our area.

A list of dates has been requested by some members.

North Essex invites x 4. Details given to committee.

Speeding is becoming a problem again - to make sure marshals aware.

It was asked could the print in the handbook be made that rallies can be more easily identified.

Supply of Rally Marshal envelopes to be brought to the AGM meeting.

It was asked about using PayPal for any payments. Answer was no - hefty fee which would increase rally prices. Cash on arrival or bank transfer will be continued.

**11. Publicity** - Post vacant. Nothing reported on proposed leaflet being worked on.

**12. Rally Equipment** - To look at explaining handover and collection and to make sure all items are present. Lost or damaged items to be reported. The items do fit in the bag provided. A question on the urns was raised - committee can confirm that these are all working and get serviced as per schedule indicated.

**13. Webmaster** - Meeting minutes & agendas updated. Could do with a new Chairman's note encouraging nominations leading into the AGM. Also need to put list of nominations already received up as questions were being asked at Alton Water rally and could come up again at Henham.

Ron passed Julian proposed note - agreed all good - Julian to put up on website.

**14. Newsletter** - No report.

**15. Regional Meeting** - Next meeting due Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September via Zoom.

**16. Other Committee / Any Other Business**

Natter and Chatter 2024. Stand-alone meeting next year. Centre to cover the cost, 17 March 2024. Tea/coffee - programme to be arranged.

Suggestion to run a Xmas Celebration rally in 2024, managed by the committee. Ron to look into Trinity Park as good access, large hall and electric hook-up. Late November a possibility.

Julian kindly agreed to cover some Secretary emails due to imminent holiday, Janet wanted thanks recorded.

Next meeting Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October at Hintlesham Village Hall, starting at 7.30 p.m.

Meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.

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