

**THE CARAVAN AND MOTORHOME CLUB - SUFFOLK CENTRE**  
**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2025**  
**Via Teams**

Meeting opened at 19.33.

Those taking part in the committee meeting were:

Chairman	Ron King
Vice-Chairman/Webmaster	Julian Fincham-Jacques
Secretary	Janet Dobson
Treasurer	Will James
Rally Secretary	Alan Dobson
Publicity	Dave Sanders
Committee	Martin Combes
Centre Equipment	Denise King
Media & Communications	Chris Stammers

**Item 1. Apologies for Absence** – Will joined meeting later due to traffic issues.

**Item 2. Corrections to Previous Minutes** – None noted.

**Item 3. Signing of Previous Minutes** – December minutes were agreed and signed by Ron King, Chairman. Copy to be passed to Janet for filing.

**Item 4. Matters Arising on minutes from last Meeting** –

Inventory on Equipment held and where – still to be put together. *Denise King is going to send out old forms in next few days for everyone to update.*

QR code – business cards. *Quotes received from printers. Information given to committee. No decision made whether to go ahead or not.*

**Item 5. Chairmans Report** – As I said in my last report, I would not be able to attend rallies, due to my operation until the end of January 2025. My thanks go to Trevor Smith and Martin Combes for chairing Saxtead and Burns Night rallies. I can now say that I am able to get the caravan out and drive myself again. In January I did attend the Divisional Meeting at Impington, Cambridgeshire, with my wife Denise, who kindly acted as my unpaid chauffeur.

At the end of January, Denise and I managed to take the caravan to Ferry Meadows Club Site, to join Mid Anglia Centre's Invitation Pre-Season Dinner Dance. This was a Black-Tie evening held at the Masonic Hall and Suffolk Centre had five couples attending.

Over the weekend, 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> February 2025, I chaired the Winter warmer rally held at Hallowtree Scout Activity Centre. As usual the marshals worked very hard and gave us a great event to

attend with food and music. On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025, the Centre held its Natter and Chatter at Hallowtree. Roy Swain from East Anglian Air Ambulance gave a presentation on what this vital service does. At the end of the presentation, I handed him a Helicopter Cheque for the sum of £1694.82p. Garry and Connie Pyett were awarded the Don Alcock Trophy, for most rallies attended by a family up to the end of December 2024. Sarah Fincham-Jacques received the David Totman Trophy for juniors attending the most rallies in 2024. Her Dad received it on her behalf, as she wasn't very well to attend Natter and Chatter. As of this year both trophies will now be contested for from 1st January to 31<sup>st</sup> December in the rally year.

**Item 6. Vice Chairmans Report** – Julian had nothing to report.

**Item 7. Other Rally Reports** –

Trevor Smith chaired the Saxtead rally in January. Report received.

It was my honour to be asked to chair The First Rally of the Year at The Old Mill Inn at Saxtead. It was a cold and frosty event this year but that was just the weather! On arrival there was a warm welcome from the rally marshals Nick and Carole Harbottle and from the 7 other vans that were arriving during the day. Nine motorhomes were in attendance this year. We have attended this rally many times and we have got used to the excellent hospitality from the Pub owners Ruth and Nick Barlow-Shepherd who have been serving the local community for 32 years. This year was no exception, and we passed our gratitude for providing excellent food and drink and allowing us to use their carpark. The post-Christmas and New Year atmosphere was friendly and happy, with lots of discussion about where we have been and where we are planning to go this season. On Saturday, many of the ralliers walked into Framlingham and two took their bicycles. Others like me, just spent time resting and enjoying the warmth of the van. Janet, our Centre Secretary had arranged the collection of a number of the new Rally Handbook folders. They were received very positively and seemed to exceed expectations of the members. There was a dusting of snow early Sunday morning but not enough to cause concern. At flagpole I gave apologies for Ron, Centre Chairman for not being able to attend this year and I was asked by the ralliers to pass on get well soon wishes following his hip replacement. Thanks again to Nick and Carole. It's very pleasing to see a small rally have good support and we hope this will continue throughout the 2025 season. Very best wishes, Trevor Smith.

Martin Combes had acted as Rally Chair for the Burns Rally in Ron's absence. He reported it was very well attended and well organised. Meal changed slightly on last year and appeared more manageable. The evening was very good. Sunday breakfast was provided.

**Item 8. Treasurers Report** – The accounts for 2024 had all been audited and reconciled and Ron King had counter-signed at the Natter and Chatter meeting pending committee approval. No objections, Will to now pass these back to the Examiners and for forwarding to the Club.

There was a finance question – can be held over until the March meeting.

Outstanding payments for adverts: Farnham Leisure and Caravan Cleaner.

**Item 9. Secretary Report:**

**9.1. Membership** – Janet reported that on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025 there were 1,035 members. December members showed 41 members did not renew.

Following report on 7<sup>th</sup> February we had 9 December members returning and with new members, membership now stands at 1,055.

List updated to show types of books had by members. On the figures on 31 January, we have 1 member had both PDF and a folder, 16 had nothing (expressed no interest but not disconnected membership), 9 had just an emailed list, 894 had PDF copies and 115 had printed copy (own or our folder). 4 still down to pay – one should have paid at the Burns Rally. Couple members asked for a folder. These are put by.

Natter & Chatter was held Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February. 65 adults signed in. The Don Alcock Trophy was won by Garry & Connie Pyett with 19 rallies recorded. The David Totman Trophy (for the Junior attending most in a year) was won by Sarah Fincham-Jacques at 13 rallies. Fellowship plaques were awarded for 6 and above and were handed out to 25 families.

The Centre has been requested to collect and pass on information on various aspects of rallies to the Anglia Division following a Club examination of Centres. The record for Jan to March has been forwarded as following Winter Warmer rally the next Suffolk rally will be in April. A more detailed list is actually being done showing how many pitches are actually advertised and how many member cancellations (defaulters) showed for each rally.

Fellowship plaques to be awarded were 25. 8 remain to go out - will try to get out via rallies they are booked on rather than post.

Janet is working on an updated list of items held as Secretary – new list for the badges. Agreed who had what and items spare.

## **9.2. Correspondence received:**

**January 2025.** Collecting rallying data and member conduct – from Governance.

**January 2025.** Wooden Plaque supplier information.

**January 2025.** Rally venue at Harkstead.

**Via Box.** Video tutorials on the Box system and Excel system for Centre collating information.

**9.3. Attendance** – Spreadsheet updated to record information now wanted through Division/Club on rally attendance. All lists up to date.

A default list had been received from the Burns Rally. Each one gone through. Agreed one member to write to as reason very vague.

**Item 10. Rally Secretary Report:** Overall date list for 2026 now available.

Possible new venue in the Harkstead area. We did rally there some years ago – decent looking field and village hall opposite. They approached us.

Possible supplier of wooden plaques – details passed to Secretary and committee. Information worth holding onto.

Issues re two rallies and Club permission. Both rallies over 5 days. One stated decision was Objected. This has now been reduced to under 5 days – Club to advise Council concerned. Awaiting any more feedback.

One rally still showing Awaiting Decision. This is being followed up as issue between landowner and Council. Club aware.

**Item 11. Publicity** – Dave had been on Suffolk Sounds radio for an interview which appeared to go down very well. The centre leaflets were taken by some members to be put wherever possible; Dave has been distributing them around the local area, will carry on refilling where seen.

**Item 12. Rally Equipment** – Denise King will take on updating the list of other Centre equipment and will email round committee shortly. Please return asap.

**Item 13. Webmaster** – Julian said the 2025 edited copy of the PDF is on the website. Information on the donation to EAAA as well. Everything should now be up to date. Ron passed on his thanks to Julian for the work involved.

**Item 14. Newsletter** – Brief discussion on next step. Agreed to put on Agenda for March meeting about future copies.

**Item 15. Anglia Division Report (Ron King, Representative) –**

The meeting was attended by all representatives from the Divisional Centres.

Points of interest from the meeting that was raised follows.

- 1) Life members renew every three years but renew centre membership every year.
- 2) The club are talking about a flat rate grant to all centres, not based on centre membership every year.
- 3) Anglia Division Centres to report to Vice Chairman every three months via Centre Secretary. (Information on state of centre and activities)
- 4) Treasurer Report: The annual grant to the Division was £1500, half the grant from last year. Current bank balance at the meeting was £5679.68.
- 5) Norfolk Centre is not doing rally books, also have a new website.
- 6) South Essex Centre gave a breakdown of rallies in the near future.
- 7) North Essex Centre have created a new website and is up and running through Google.
- 8) Suffolk Centre stated that the 2025 rally programme had already started. Natter and Chatter would be taking place on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at Hallowtree Ipswich. Also provided a breakdown of membership over the last year.
- 9) Nominated independent Member praised the Clubs booking system for booking holidays abroad.
- 10) ClubFest still looking for volunteers. A marquee will be in the main arena to promote centres. It was expressed that Divisions are putting on events against ClubFest. 80% non-centre members attend ClubFest. It was noted that if they cannot get volunteers, it might not run again. Attending ClubFest this year from Anglia Division, as of the meeting is 42. Last year 139 attended from the Division.
- 11) The Rally Secretaries meeting ran alongside the Divisional Meeting saw four of the five centres Rally Secretaries attend. Suffolk did not have a representative attending. According to remarks after their meeting, it was constructive and looking forward to working with each other in the future. One point that was raised is why some venues charge different prices to different centres.

- 12) Leasing of defibrillators has come down in price from £400 per year to £60 on average per year.
- 13) A Supersonic Dining Experience at Duxford Air Museum, 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> September 2025 organised by South Essex Centre on behalf of Anglia Division. The dinner costing £90 per head has attracted 40 people wishing to attend. This do not include the rally fee or coach.

All committee had seen and read through. Some interesting information. Next meeting possibly in May.

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

Ron told committee some members had questioned about responses to rally bookings, especially when emailed to marshals. This had been tried several years ago but it was left that marshals could acknowledge – changed from had to.

The bacon rolls sold at Natter & Chatter showed a donation to the Centre Charity of £27.74.

**Meeting closed at: 20.58**

Next meeting 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 to be held at Hintlesham Community Centre. To commence at 7.30 p.m.

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