

Minutes of the Caravan and Motorhome Club -Anglia Region Council

Held at the Ipswich Hotel Copdock Suffolk on April 8th 2017

Attendees :

| Name | Centre | Name | Centre |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Mr K. Flexman (Chairman) | N. Essex | Mr B. Clark (Treasurer): | S. Essex |
| Mr A Leslie (Secretary) | S. Essex | | |
| Mr G,Chamberlain | Exec. Committee | Mrs K McDonald | Mid Anglia |
| Mr P Goldspink | South Essex | Mrs A McGarva | Norfolk |
| Mr D.Kemp | North Essex | Mr W McGarva | Norfolk |
| Mr J. Kent | Mid Anglia | Mr R. Rice | North Essex |
| Mrs J,Kent | Suffolk | Mr C.Stammers | Suffolk |
| Mrs S. Maran | S. Essex | | |

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received and accepted from Mr David Wakeling, Mr Gregory Potter and Mr Mike Threadgold

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on January 7th were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Due to Mr Potter's absence, and with no update from him regarding the status of the New Member Booklet, this item will be carried over to the next meeting

Action

Greg Potter

With regard to Sports Activities at the National being spread over Saturday and Sunday it was felt that given Mr Lambert's comment at the last meeting, this item should be closed. This was agreed

Action

Item Closed

Mr Chamberlain reported that the Club was giving consideration to the possibility of announcing National venues two years in advance but made it clear that much depended on getting contracts in place with landowners that far in advance. He added that it will not be possible to do it this year but in future if it is possible the Club would do it, but if not. then clearly the existing one year announcement would remain.

Action

Item Closed

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes (Cont'd)

Several members indicated that they were now successfully utilising the internet banking facility without any problems

Action

Item Closed

The Chairman reported that he had spoken to the executive members of the Regional Council .with regard to policing of information supplied to the website, and they had agreed that as originally stated, Centres should be responsible for the content and format of information supplied for publication. Mr Rice accepted this but requested that clearly if any blatant errors occurred that they would be corrected by the webmaster. This was agreed by the Chairman who added that he would talk to Mr Potter about this on his return from holiday.

Action

Kevin Flexman, and Greg Potter

Mr Kent stated that an invoice for fishing trophies had been supplied and paid by the Treasurer.

Action

Item Closed

The Treasurer advised that due to lack of response from some Centre Treasurers no formal Treasurers forum had yet taken place. Following discussions between Mr Flexman and Jan Moore.it was agreed that it would be rescheduled to coincide with the Region's September meeting. and that Mrs Moore would issue a formal invitation via the Region Secretary. It was suggested by Mr Chamberlain that to avoid any further difficulties with communications in future, all correspondence on this matter should be addressed to both Jon Laws and Jan Moore. He also added that because of the difficulty in filling the position of Treasurer the invitation should be extended to anyone interested in taking the position in the foreseeable future.

Action

Alan Leslie

Mr Kent advised that details of all Regional Block marshals for the National had been sent to Diane Pitchford

Action

Item Closed

The Secretary reported that regrettably the London Experience had been cancelled. Mr Flexman said he would comment further on this in his report. Mr Clark commented that Mr Threadgold was looking at alternative dates for this event in order to protect our £500 deposit which has not yet been returned. Mr Clark had also suggested that travel by coach to the event may be worth exploring

Action

Mike Threadgold

Mr Chamberlain advised that to date approximately 30 people had booked into the Charity Bike Ride. He was hopeful that the number might reach 50 by the time the event took place in July

Action

Mike Threadgold

Matters Arising from the Minutes (Cont'd)

The Secretary reported that he had written to Mr Finney explaining his position on the Regional Council now that he had been seconded to the Executive Committee but to date had not received a reply. Mr Chamberlain suggested that for the future Mr Finney should continue to be included on the mailing list for Council minutes and agendas. This was agreed

Action

Alan Leslie

As a corollary to the above, Mr Flexman reported he had still to find a replacement for Mr Finney as an Independent member of the Council. It was his intention to discuss the matter with Non Centre members at the Anglia Region Reception at the National. He also suggested that we may have some success by seeking to recruit from CL owners but was cautioned by Mr Chamberlain to ensure that the owner was a member of the CAMC as from his experience, he knew that many are not. Mr Chamberlain also suggested that it may be possible to post notices at Club sites and in this respect suggested that we contact Martin Stringer for his assistance.

Action

Kevin Flexman

Mr Flexman reported that a booking had been made at Holt Rugby for August Bank Holiday 2018 as a venue for a *London Experience* type event to be held within the Anglia Region. Details concerning the train ride are still being finalised.

Action

Mike Threadgold

Turning his attention to the reception at the National, Mr Flexman thanked everyone for offers of help and for bringing "domes" for shelter. At least eight would be required given that the event itself could be looking to cater for ca 600 people. Mr Kent requested that to avoid confusion or loss that all Centres ensure that all panels were identified with Centre name, Regarding flagpoles at the reception it was agreed that they should take place between 5.30 and 6.30 p.m

Action

All Centres

The Secretary again reported that Centre Secretaries appeared to be coping well with "The Box" system but in an ensuing discussion it was agreed that for the future, details of any updates would be sent to Centre Chairmen as well as Secretaries

Action

Alan Leslie

Mr Kent confirmed that he had asked a question at the Club Forum as to why there was only one page of Centre and Regional News in the last Club magazine, and was advised that the information that had been given was insufficient to spread over two pages.

Action

Item Closed

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes (Cont'd)

In reply to a question from Mrs Maran regarding difficulties Rally Secretaries had when supplying information to the Club about upcoming rallies, Mr Flexman replied that the question had been asked at the Forum and he would deal with it in his report later in the meeting.

Action

Kevin Flexman

Mr Kent confirmed that all arrangements for the National follow on rally at Holkham Hall had been completed and information passed to Len Short.

Action

Item Closed

Mr Chamberlain reported that he had passed to Mr Lambert the suggestion regarding slips being added to "goodie bags" at the National to enable non centre members to register their Centre preference (if any) to the Club membership department.

He also advised that he passed information regarding the possible use of Great Leighs racecourse as a potential Club site to the Sites department at EGH for their consideration. Mr Flexman also suggested that Towerlands Equestrian Centre which has now closed may also be a possibility as a Club site

Action

Grenville Chamberlain

4 Secretary's Report

The Secretary said that because much of the correspondence he receives now arrives on Box or he shares via E-Mail he had little further to report other than the fact that he had prepared the invites to the Anglia Region Reception on the back of which he had also printed details of the Garden Party. He formally thanked Mrs Maran for the use, at no cost to the Region, of the South Essex colour printer for the preparation of the invites and additional covering letter

5. Treasurers Report

Mr Clark reported that the Region's accounts had now been prepared and signed off. Although it had appeared that we had very little money left at the end of the year this was in fact due to the fact that the Regional grant had not been received until January rather than in December. Currently the money in the account now stands at just over £3000. He added that the VAT return had also been completed and sent to EGH.

6. Vice Chairman's Report

(Because of Mr Potter's absence, the Chairman presented this report on his behalf.)

Mr Potter advised that his report centred on the Question Time event held at Colford School in March. He thanked the staff at the School for their help in laying out the room and for the catering for the event. He did, however, have one criticism of the venue in that it was cold in the room. He also thanked EGH staff for their attendance and also the representative from Adria Caravans who was present since the Region had been unable to persuade a local dealer to attend.

6. Vice Chairman's Report (Cont'd)

Some 50 people attended, 13 of whom were non centre members. He added that this was a considerable reduction from 2016 and may have been due to the fine weather on the day attracting people elsewhere. A further complication arose due to the fact that the school's "firewall" prevented the use of a live feed of the event via Facebook for people not able to attend in person. This was ultimately overcome using a mobile phone but the delay clearly did not help the smooth running of the event. Notwithstanding, he felt that the event itself is worthwhile and will be submitting a grant application to run it again in 2018.

In an ensuing discussion Mr Stammers suggested that Colchester Football club might be a possible venue for 2018 although some members again thought it was too far away for Norfolk and Mid Anglia members.

7. Chairman's Report

Mr Flexman presented hard copies of the Minutes and all presentations from the Region and Division Forum held at East Grinstead House on January 17th 2017. He stressed that the minutes were not yet approved and should therefore be shared or discussed only with this caveat in mind.

In the interest of brevity, he then touched only on highlights of the minutes and presentations but urged all members to read them outside this meeting and if they had further questions to bring them to the next meeting.

In a similar vein a hardcopy of the Club Council Meeting Presentations held on April 1st were also distributed and highlights and details discussed. Minutes of this meeting will be distributed when they become available.

The final part of the Chairman's report was a review of the minutes of the Caravan Club Council Meeting held on October 22nd 2016. Again highlights and details were discussed.

Mr Chamberlain congratulated Mr Flexman for his thoroughness in presenting his report.

Action

All Regional Council Members

8. Centre Reports

- **Mid Anglia** :Mrs McDonald reported that many of their current/near future rallies are already full. They have recently been advised that their Junior Liaison Officer is about to resign so are actively seeking a replacement.. It would appear that some members on the National waiting list have been cleared. Mr Chamberlain commented that he expected some more (but not all) of those still on the wait list to be cleared before the National.

8. Centre Reports (Cont'd)

- **Norfolk** : Mrs McGarva said that Norfolk have less rallies in their book than last year. One rally had already been cancelled because of a fifty pound (plus VAT) admin charge levied by the National Trust who owned the venue. She cautioned the meeting to be aware of such charges when booking NT sites. Despite her best efforts to recruit replacement committee members for next year, she reported that as it stands for 2018 Norfolk do not yet have a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer or a Secretary. She once again reiterated that although a big Centre, Norfolk members seem very reluctant to go on rallies

- **8. Centre Reports (Cont'd)**

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- **South Essex** : A very successful charity Curry Night was held last week raising £368. Mrs Maran presented a cheque for this amount to Mr Chamberlain who extended his grateful thanks to the Centre. Mrs Maran said that the Centre were also exploring the possibility of a Chinese night later in the year. Since Christmas the Centre had run fourteen rallies all but one of which have been full, In addition both of the Easter rallies are full. Of the fourteen rallies between Easter and the end of May ten are already fully booked. She continued by saying that the Annual Dinner had attracted 95 attendees and thanked Mr Flexman and Mrs McDonald for their attendance. She was also pleased to see that bookings for the National included more children than last year. She concluded her report by saying that overall she was very pleased with how well the early part of the season was turning out for the Centre

- **North Essex** : Currently rallying numbers are good with several upcoming rallies already full. They have already had seven new members out this year (one of whom has since booked twenty more rallies!). The Annual Dinner at Great Leighs Racecourse was well attended and the venue has been booked again for next year. With regard to this year's regional AGM twenty outfits are already booked in. A full entertainment programme has been arranged including a curry night, charity horse racing, pig racing (in the hall!!!) and a singer.

- **Suffolk** : Mrs Kent said that there were less rallies running this year but attendance has been pretty good.

Plans for their 50th anniversary in 2018 are progressing well, but she was concerned at the lack of numbers standing for committee next year.

Mr Stammers expressed some concern at the lack or late publication of information as to what is happening at the National especially details of wine making classes (although this has been published this week)

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11 Correspondence

No correspondence was identified for discussion at this time.

12 Any Other Business

Mr Kent updated the meeting regarding National attendance giving details of individual numbers for each Centre. He said that having visited the site twice and also having spoken to the Senior Site Marshal he wanted to advise the meeting that it will not be possible to site vans by Centre. This means that people wishing to be together on the rally must arrive together. Other than this caveat, he reported that all arrangements were in hand and going well.

Mr Kemp raised an issue regarding who was responsible for retaining treasurer's records because at present his Centre's records are being held between two different treasurers. Mr Clark advised that financial records are required by HMRC to be retained for a period of seven years and that they should all be held by the current treasurer in case of an audit by HMRC. In the event of a change of Treasurer, then all existing records should be passed to the incoming Treasurer at the beginning of the next financial year.

12 Any Other Business (Cont'd)

Mr Goldspink asked other Centres if their Facebook pages were open to all or only to registered Centre members. All Centres said that they were only open to Centre members. However, Mr Rice said that North Essex have an additional page where posted information can be reviewed by everybody but cannot be commented upon, but could be "liked" or "shared"

Mr Goldispink asked a question regarding the new logo carrying the words "Since 1907" when his research had indicated that the first motorhomes were not available until the early thirties. Mr Chamberlain said that motorhomes had in fact been around since before the beginning of WWI but were built by individuals not mass produced.

In answer to a question from Mrs Kent. Mr Flexman advised the meeting that having spoken to John Gass about the Garden Party at the National, Mr Gass had requested that Centres contact him and advise what activities they would be doing so that hopefully he could then arrange a meeting with all participants. Mr Chamberlain provided the meeting with an E-Mail address for Mr Gass,

Mr Kent asked for the date for the 2018 Region AGM and for confirmation that Mid Anglia would be hosting it. Mr Flexman confirmed the latter and said he would advise the date as soon as possible.

Action

Kevin Flexman

The Meeting closed at 13.37 p.m

15: Date of Next Meeting July 22nd 2017 at the Ipswich Hotel Copdock, Suffolk beginning at 10.30. (Tea and Coffee available from 10.00 a.m)