

Web Copy - Minutes of the Anglia Region Council

Held at the Ipswich Hotel Copdock Suffolk on January 7th 2017

Attendees :

Name	Centre	Name	Centre
Mr K. Flexman (Chairman)	N. Essex	Mr G. Potter (V. Chairman)	N. Essex
Mr A Leslie (Secretary)	S. Essex	Mr B. Clark (Treasurer):	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
Mr R.Lambert	Exec Committee	Mr M. Threadgold	Nom. Member
Mrs S. Maran	South Essex		

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received and accepted from Mr David Wakeling

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on September 24th 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

In response to a question regarding the New Member booklet, the Chairman made it clear that contents should only reflect what Centres wanted, He added that as such it would be wrong for content to be driven by the Region

Action

All Centres & Greg Potter

With regard to Sports Activities at the National being spread over Saturday and Sunday Mr Lambert reported that because of lack of space and the need to find suitable pitches for all the vans that had booked in, he felt that the Events Team would be “challenged” to accommodate the Sports over two days in 2017 but added that he saw no reason why it should not be possible in 2018, In reply to a comment from Mr Chamberlain, he confirmed that children’s sports would be held on Saturday this year.

Action

Rodney Lambert

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)

Mr Clark reported that finally internet banking is now available for anyone wishing to use it to claim their expenses. He stressed however that VAT receipts were still required and that if claimants put their banking details on the bottom of the receipt he would ensure that this part of the receipt would be destroyed.

Action

All Members

Mr Potter confirmed that he was receiving all necessary information from Centres of forthcoming rallies requiring promotion on the Regional website and that the site was presently up to date

Mr Clark stated that the Region has agreed to fund the cost of trophies for the Centre Fishing Competition but to date had not received any bill so no monies had yet been paid. Mr Kent advised that he would deal with this matter.

Action

John Kent

With regard to the Treasurers forum due to take place after this meeting, the Secretary reported that unfortunately it had had to be cancelled at the last moment due to Mr Laws being incapacitated by an injury to his back. Instead there will be a Treasurer's discussion this afternoon chaired by Mr Clark and the official forum will be held at a later date to be advised.

Action

Brian Clark

Mr Kent advised that details of Regional Block marshals for the National were in hand and would be advised to the Club shortly. We will be having ten marshals and 285 vans are currently booked in to the Anglia Region Block.

Action

John Kent

Mr Threadgold reported that booking forms for the London Experience had been sent out and many already returned. He added that there had been an issue with sites charging standard pitch rates for rallies and that although he had resolved this for Abbey Wood the problem still remained elsewhere. Mr Chamberlain said he would speak to Brian Savage in the coming week/

Action

Mike Threadgold & Grenville Chamberlain.

Mr Threadgold also confirmed that details of the Charity Bike Ride had been sent to, and received by, all Centres and that response thus far had been good

Action

Mike Threadgold

On behalf of Mr Higgins, Mr Goldspink confirmed that the dates for the Inter Centre fishing rally had at the request of some anglers, been extended by a day and will now take place from the 14th – 17th September 2017 and take place at Homestead Caravans at Weeley

Action

Item Closed

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

The Chairman said that he had taken a South Essex member's question regarding voting by proxy at Centre AGM's to the Club Council meeting, He had been advised that it would be extremely onerous from an administrative point of view for the Club to handle and therefore it could not agree to such action. A copy of the full written reply from the Executive Council had been sent to the member concerned

Action

Item Closed

4 Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported that once again this had been a relatively quiet period. He confirmed with Secretaries that they were up to speed and comfortable using the "Box " cloud storage system and reminded them that it was only possible to download data from it – uploading data is not permitted.

He also reminded Secretaries to ensure that the word "Honorary" be deleted from all letterheads in line with the new Letters to Centres issued in October 2016

5. Treasurers Report

Like the Secretary, the Treasurer reported that this had been a quiet time but wished to report the following:-

- The "Children in Need" raffle at the AGM had raised £275 and that a further £31 had been donated resulting in a total of £306 being sent to the Charity
- He again confirmed that electronic banking is now up and running
- All necessary VAT returns had been submitted and the accounts sent to the auditor

6. Vice Chairman's Report

Mr Potter reported that arrangements for the "Question Time" event on March 25th we well in hand and that he was just awaiting confirmation of attendees from the Club and Dealers. Additionally he had spoken to Graham Turner regarding hardware requirements for the live internet feed.

The website is up to date with Centres having recently submitted their list of forthcoming rallies. Additionally Regional Council minutes are now also available but he reminded members that there will always be a delay in uploading the most recent because they need to be approved at the next Regional Council meeting before publication. He urged all members to continue to submit items for the site to ensure that it stays relevant. Issues regarding difficulties with the contact form have been resolved and it is now working correctly.

7. Chairman's Report

The Chairman began his report by thanking all Centres for the timely manner in which they had provided names and numbers for this afternoon's forum. He said that by doing so it had been of considerable help to the Secretary. This was endorsed by the Secretary who also wished to extend his thanks to the Hotel Events organisers who he said had been extremely accommodating in arranging rooms and catering despite some last minute changes'

7. Chairman's Report (Cont'd)

With regard to the upcoming forum at East Grinstead Mr Flexman advised that due to availability of personnel and questions already being raised, the Anglia Region representatives at the meeting will be Kevin Flexman, John Kent (National RBM) and Mike Threadgold (Questions re Rally Fees being charged by Club Sites)

Action

Kevin Flexman, John Kent and Mike Threadgold

Following a discussion with Martin Stringer regarding the election of Malcolm Finney as a nominated member at EGH, the Chairman advised the meeting that whilst Mr Finney could attend and would always be welcome at future Regional Council meetings, he would no longer be able to vote. The Chairman requested that the Secretary write to Mr Finney explaining this position and also to thank him for his past support and contribution as Anglia Region Independent Member.

Action

Alan Leslie

Regarding finding a replacement for Mr Finney, Mr Flexman said he hoped to bring some ideas to the April Meeting

Action

Kevin Flexman

Turning to the National, the Chairman stated that thanks to John Kent and his team all RBM.s had been identified to deal with the 285 vans booked in. He had also been advised by Mr Lambert that the Street Party would go ahead on the Sunday afternoon – the theme being “90 years of the Rally”. Any money raised for charity would once again be divided fifty/fifty between the Club Chairman's Charity and the organising Centre.

Given the very large numbers attending in Anglia Region (ca 600) the Chairman said that we will need the assistance of the Centres regarding catering and administration (welcome letters, invitations etc) and this would be explored further at this afternoon's forum. Mr Lambert added that because bookings had been made earlier than usual the actual numbers attending could increase with respect to juniors and young children and this should be borne in mind when making arrangements.

For 2018 Mr Flexman proposed that the region have a rally similar to the “London Experience”, but to be held within our region to better showcase its capabilities and facilities. He suggested that the train ride between Holt and Sherringham might fit the bill. He had already had some informal talks with Mr Threadgold, who had agreed to run the event and also with the Norfolk and Suffolk Centres to get their agreement in principle. Assuming the Regional Council was in agreement he suggested that it be held over the August Bank holiday 2018 but was keen to stress he did not wish to compromise Centre Rallies in any way. Because of this, he asked that all Centres take away the proposal for discussion with Centre Committees and bring their thoughts and suggestions on dates, back to the April Meeting

Action

All Centres

Mr Flexman thanked all people involved in washing the Region's marquee roof.

8. Centre Reports

- **Mid Anglia** : Mrs McDonald reported that their rally book would not be available for a couple more weeks but added that since many Regional Council members were going to the Pre Season dinner they would be distributed there, or for people not attending, then via others who were, Their New Year rally had taken place at a new venue and had been very successful and the Valentines Rally is already full

- **Norfolk** : Following their AGM one member of their elected committee resigned so they are still looking for additional members
Mrs McGarva said that she was delighted to report that the issue of poor quality flags had now been resolved and three new replacements had been received.
The 2017 Rally Books are ready and will be distributed at this afternoon's forum

- **South Essex** : Mrs Maran advised that 2017 rally books were available and had already been distributed to all fellowship holders and members of this Council'
The Christmas Rally (which she believed to be the only one in the country) had taken place at a new venue (Deanes School) and had been very successful with 47 outfits attending of which 23 were visitors. Two New Year rallies had been held both of which had been very well attended. The Mainly Marshals Rally is to be held next weekend with 52 vans in attendance and a further 32 members attending the dinner on Saturday evening, which promises a very busy night for the committee but was very encouraging to see.

Adding to Mrs Maran's comments Mr Goldspink reported that several of the early rallies were already nearly full.

- **North Essex** : Mr Rice reported that the 2017 rally book was now available and contains 67 rallies for this year all of which have also been uploaded to the Centre website.. For the second year running on line booking is available and already proving to be popular. The Centre hosted two New year rallies both of which were very successful

This year is the Centre's Charity Year with the nominated charity being "Autism Anglia". There will be a charity walk in May and other charity events during the year culminating with The Chairman's Rally in September

- **Suffolk** : Mrs Kent said that following their AGM which was well attended the committee were looking forward "very optimistically" to 2017. The rally book for 2017 is available and had been distributed to members before Christmas. Their first rally will be held at Clacton and is full which is really encouraging. She continued by saying that planning for the 50th anniversary rally in July was well under way and she would continue to update the meeting with further details as they became available

9. Independent Member Report

In the absence of an Independent Member the Chairman asked Mr Threadgold if he had any general comments to make.

Mr Threadgold began by saying that at the New Year rally held at the Ipswich Hotel it was interesting to note that of all those attending, almost as many chose to stay in the hotel rather than come in their caravans. He said this could suggest that for the future, using venues which offered a range of alternative accommodation (chalets, lodges, hotel rooms etc) as well as caravan pitches, could well encourage considerably more members and their families to attend the rally.

In addition to the above Mr Threadgold stated that for the Anglia Region Forum in 2018, the Ipswich Hotel could offer the use of a rally field as well as hotel rooms for the weekend. This would make the forum a more social event, giving people more time to talk to each other and of course encourage more people to attend

On another subject,, Mr Threadgold offered to attend rallies to deliver a short (ca 2 hours) course on first aid, aimed primarily at first response to an emergency (e.g heart attack etc) occurring at rallies

10 Mildenhall Report :

In the absence of Mr Wakeling, Mr Chamberlain said that he had recently hosted a “wash up” meeting for wardens at volunteer sites and was able to offer the following information :

The site itself looks very good but notwithstanding, attendance had declined over the years going from 4100 in 2003: 3700 in 2014; 3400 in 2015 to 3100 in 2016. He believed this to be due in no small measure to improvements made to the Swaffham Site (concrete roads etc) and was not in any way a reflection of the efforts of the wardens who had “done a fantastic job”,

Towards the end of the season a problem with drainage had resulted in condemnation of a drain resulting in closure of one service point. Mr Chamberlain expressed the view that this will undoubtedly require major work to repair and the Club is currently awaiting a report by specialist engineers. The long term impact of their findings on the site is not yet known and he added that Mr Wakeling had been advised of the situation.

He concluded his report by asking Centres to thank all volunteers for their outstanding efforts over the past year.

11 Correspondence

The Secretary reminded the meeting that administrative information emanating from EGH now comes via “The Box” and that Centres should monitor this facility regularly to check for updates, He added that he would be doing so and for a while he will E-Mail Centre Secretaries whenever an update appears..

Action

All Centre Secretaries & Alan Leslie

Mr Potter said he had been approached by Mid Anglia who are proposing to produce a “Calendar Boys” Calendar of Events as part of their charity fund raising and wondered if there would be any issues in so doing, Following a discussion with Mr Flexman, Mr Potter had advised Mid Anglia that this was purely a matter for the Centre to discuss.

12 Any Other Business

Mr Kent said that he was disappointed to see that Centre and Regional news had been reduced to only one page (as opposed to two previously) in the latest issue of the Club Magazine. Mr Chamberlain said it may be that it was just for one issue but suggested that Mr Kent raise it at the Club Forum meeting next week

Action

John Kent

Mr Kent stated that Mid Anglia was now running a follow on rally to the National which would be held at Holkham Hall in Norfolk. Mr Lambert commented that this information should be passed to Len Short so that it could be published more widely and also that signage at the time of departure from the National could advise the route to Holkham.

Action

John Kent

Mrs McGava advised that the Norfolk Vice Chairman had been unable to book the National because it was full. Mr Lambert advised that there is a waiting list which he expected would be offset by cancellations already being received. As a result he added that he did not expect anyone to be turned away provided that they booked within the next couple of weeks - any later may see spaces not being available.

12 Any Other Business (Cont'd)

Mr Stammers requested further clarification regarding Children's Sports being run on Saturday because many families would be arriving on this day. He was advised that they will be held in the afternoon and that should mitigate this situation. He also said that to date no information had yet been received regarding names etc of National attendees. The Chairman requested that Mr Lambert provide an update on this issue

In his presentation Mr Lambert made the following comments :

- It is proposed to distribute the "goody bags" on arrival so that people are able to have immediate access to the programme, rather than having to go to the arena area to collect them.
- A 16 amp power socket will be installed on block marshals pitches to allow the use of urns and high wattage kettles for making tea and coffee (which will be supplied by the Club). Mr Lambert said that this would help improve the initial overall experience for those attending and also provide a first opportunity for dialogue between "regulars" at the National and those attending for the first time.
- It is hoped to provide facilities for booking next year's National at this year's event
- Because of the speed with which the event became fully booked before Christmas, staff at EGH were initially "fire fighting" to keep up and as a result, information required by Centres and RBM.s etc was late in being sent out. Notwithstanding it is hoped that by the end of February more detailed lists of attendees will be sent out to Centre Chairmen and RBM.s

Mr Threadgold suggested that in order to attract more Centre members, a slip be added to the goody bag which people could fill in giving their name, membership number and Centre preference. Slips could be put into a "post box" and collected at the end of the National and sent to the membership department at EGH. Mr Potter expressed some doubt about the logistics of actually getting the names properly registered at EGH and said he would talk to the membership department. Mr Chamberlain said that he would also talk to Brian Savage

. **Action**

Greg Potter & Grenville Chamberlain

Mrs McDonald requested that details of rules for competitions e.g photographic, cake making etc be published sooner rather than later to give people the greatest opportunity to enter. Mr Lambert replied that they will be published on the website shortly

Mr Threadgold said that in the past the racecourse at Great Leighs had expressed an interest in exploring the possibility of having a club site on the course and that now the racecourse had reopened he wondered if it may be worth pursuing,. Mr Chamberlain thanked him for this information and said that he would investigate

. **Action**

Grenville Chamberlain

Mr Rice suggested that the Question Time Event may be a good opportunity with regards to seeking a new Independent Member. The Chairman agreed and said this was one of a number of options being considered.

The Meeting closed at 12.40 p.m

15: Date of Next Meeting : April 8th 2017 at the Ipswich Hotel Copdock, Suffolk beginning at 10.30. (Tea and Coffee available from 10.00 a.m)