

THE CARAVAN CLUB

DEVON AND CORNWALL CENTRE

MINUTES OF THE FIFTY NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT WOODA FARM PARK, BUDE, CORNWALL

SATURDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2014

CENTRE OFFICERS PRESENT

Mr Keith Kingston-Ford	Chairman
Mr Jason Avery	Vice-Chairman
Mrs Euphine Bromell	Hon. Secretary
Mrs Denise Henderson	Hon. Treasurer
Mr Paul Kingston-Ford	Hon. Rally Secretary

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Mrs Michelle Stuttaford, Mr Terry Glanfield, Mr John Andrews, Mr Andy Harris, Mr Martin King, Mr Richard Cadd. Apologies: Mr Bob Gordon (ill)

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed all members to the 59th AGM. The Chairman asked members to stand for a one minute silence to be held in respect of members who have passed away this year. The Secretary, Mrs Euphine Bromell, was asked to read the Notice of Meeting and requested members to turn off their mobile phones.

The Chairman asked that speakers on any subject should first give their name clearly and state their home town before speaking.

APOLOGISE FOR ABSENCE

Mr and Mrs A Parkinson	Kelly Bray
Mr and Mrs Gordon	Bideford
Mr and Mrs Hoskins	Plymouth
Carol Anne Foster	
Mr and Mrs R Harvey	Newton Abbot
Mr and Mrs Dearing	Plymouth
Mr and Mrs M Eastley	Liskeard
Mr and Mrs R Ferris	Plymouth

MINUTES

The Minutes of the 58th AGM were circulated to all members present. The Minutes were approved by a proposal from Mr Andy Harris and seconded by Mrs M Stuttaford. The Minutes were then signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2013/2014

Last October at the AGM held at Stowford Farm Meadows when I was elected as your Centre Chairman for the second time I felt very privileged to take up the position. I believed that my year in office would drag, how wrong I was, it has just flown by.

I would like to begin by thanking Dave and Jenny Bowden and Sue and Derek Philp for an exceptionally well organised weekend. The Church Service was conducted by the Rev. Bruce Dixon with our "Past Chairman" Euphine Bromell supplying the music.

I would like to say a big thank you to all of the Committee members for their support throughout the year. Our Centre Officers: Jason Avery, Vice Chairman, thank you for looking after the Juniors, to John Matthews and latterly Euphine Bromell, Centre Secretary, can I say thank you for your support and hard work; to Denise Henderson our Treasurer, thank you for keeping the books and ensuring Rally returns add up (even mine!), to our Rally Secretary Paul Kingston-Ford for putting the rally programme together and for producing the Rally Book along with our Centre sponsors Stowford. Can I also thank Janet Tait our Minutes Secretary for her commitment to the committee. We must all remember that all of our Officers, Committee and Rally Stewards are volunteers, each of them gives up their time freely for the benefit of all of us. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR COMMITMENT.

Mary and I have attended 27 rallies during my year of office and we have enjoyed them all, thank you for making us feel so welcome on the Rally Field.

My first rally as Chairman was held immediately after the AGM where Ivan and Joan Lobb had organised a follow-on rally, we had a great time. The Christmas Party rally held at Goodrington put us into a festive mood, swiftly followed by the New Year Rally held at Little Bodieve allowing us to enjoy culinary delights and a festive family atmosphere.

The early part of 2014 began with Valentines at Stowford followed by the Dinner Dance held at the Cliff Head Hotel, where we had the honour of welcoming the Caravan Club Chairman Grenville Chamberlain and his wife Liz along as our special guest for the evening. Our grateful thanks must go to Jean and Alan Hoskin for their organisational skills; everything was as usual done in style and was exceptionally enjoyable.

Easter saw us on holiday at Stowford Farm Meadows, thank you to Rattie and Bob Godron and Sam and Jon Piper for caretaking the site for us during my year of office.

Early in May we attended the Wiltshire Centre's 50th Anniversary Rally held at Charlton Park where we met with other Centre Chairman and representatives along with around 200 other caravans, an excellent rally and venue. Much was learnt from the experiences of other Centres.

Thank you to the 25 vans who attended by Chairman's Rally, for those who joined me in my Challenge and cycled over the weekend to raise monies for my chosen Charity, The Chestnut Appeal, I believe that we raised over £900.

The following weekend we went off to the Caravan Club National Rally held at Arley Hall in Cheshire and as usual for the National we did need the "wellies". Thank you to Euphine and Alan Bromell for their hard work and organisational skills.

At the Ladies Charity event held in mid-June we were joined by 25 other units. I must thank Catherine, Martin, Michelle and Dave for all their hard work along with anyone else that helped in any way. We raised a total of over £1100 and it was a great success.

We were now right into the main rallying season, we were unable to attend The Youth Section Rally as we were in the Forest of Dean, with Robin and Margaret Ferris on the holiday rally. Thank you to Stacey and Jason for being there to support. I understand that there was a large amount of monies raised. Congratulations to all those that undertook the recent skydive to raise yet more money. A couple of years ago Mary would have been up there with you ...

We then went on to the Exmouth rally with fantastic weather and a very full programme of entertainment.

The following weekend sees us at Frome Showground for the Rally of Wessex, thank you to Silvia and Brian Philp for organising our Centre Lines, a big thank you to Catherine and Martin King and Michelle and Dave Stuttford, our Wessex Reps, and the teams of people from all the centres who took holidays for stage building etc. Thank you to the ralliers who attended for taking part in the events, there were six Past Chairman and we did very well and came 4th.

Now to the end of August, Mary and I have a holiday on our own in the caravan to gather our thoughts.

Off to Crealy Cornwall, Cornish Shambles, Stowford Open Doors, all brilliant rallies. Thank you very much for allowing us to be your Flag Officers, we enjoyed all of them.

Here we are at the AGM, the year has been very special to Mary and I and as my year as your Chairman comes to its' end, I sit here writing this report reflecting on the years' events and I have decided that I would change very little, it has been wonderful. I have made new friends and renewed old friendships.

At this point I would like to make two very special thank-you's, firstly to Mary for her support and to my children who are now involved heavily in the Centre and on the Committee – what an accolade to a parent, thank you so very much you are all such very special people and I am proud to be your HUSBAND and DAD.

Finally can I extend my best wishes to Jason and Stacey along with "the bump" for the forthcoming year, it is a privilege to be a Centre Chairman and I know that you will enjoy it.

Once again many thanks to you all, Mary and I look forward to seeing you all on the Rally field soon.

*With kindest regards.
Keith Kingston-Ford.*

THE PRESENTATION TO THE CHARITIES

The Chairman made a presentation to the Chestnut Appeal of £3,000.

Danni Westlake made a presentation to Savannah King, on behalf of Birmingham Children's Hospital of £1229.53 with a further donation of £1022.55 being made to the Autistic Society for Devon and Cornwall.

The Chairman asked for his report to be adopted. Proposed by Mr Gareth Wilcox and seconded by Mrs Michelle Stuttaford.

There were no comments from the members.

MEMBERSHIP

Mrs Euphine Bromell reported that Centre Membership was as follows:

Full	2284
Joint	1925
Family	74

EIGHT COMMITTEE MEETINGS have been held during the year

The 402nd	on 5th October 2013
The 403rd	on 18th November 2013
The 404th	on 13th January 2014
The 405th	on 3rd March 2014
The 406th	on 7th April 2014
The 407th	on 16th June 2014
The 408th	on 21st July 2014
The 409th	on 15th September 1014

COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE THROUGHOUT 2013-2014

Chairman	Mr Keith Kingston-Ford	eight
Vice Chairman	Mr Jason Avery	seven
Hon Secretary	Mr John Matthews	seven (Resigned July 2014)
Hon Treasurer	Mrs Denise Henderson	eight
Hon Rally Sec	Mr Paul Kingston-Ford	seven
	Mr John Andrews	seven
	Mr Robert Branton	six (Resigned July 2014)
	Mrs Euphine Bromell	eight
	Mr Richard Cadd	eight
	Mr Terry Glanfield	eight
	Mr Robert Gordon	eight
	Mr Andy Harris	seven
	Mr Martin King	eight
	Mrs Lyn Matthews	seven (Resigned July 2014)
	Mrs Michelle Stuttaford	eight

TREASURER'S REPORT

Opening Remarks:

I am now at the end of my second year as Treasurer.

Notes for Rally Stewards:

Again, I would like to thank all the stewards who ran rallies this year.

Firstly, we have received a small number of bounced cheques from members during the year.

Obviously, in some cases there may be a good reason for this but each one does cost the Centre money. PLEASE SEND CHEQUES IN FOR BANKING MONTHLY. I am still receiving cheques that are either already out of date or within days of their expiry date. Apart from the inconvenience of having to change paperwork, chase stewards and members it means the Centre does not have this money in the bank which could prevent me from issuing cheques up front for site deposits or even full payments!

Cancellations and non-Arrivals:

Once again a reminder that cancellations and non-arrivals continue to be a major source of disappointment to rally stewards, so if you are unable to attend a rally that you have booked, please remember to contact the rally steward as soon as possible.

Even if you can't give advance notice that you are unable to attend, please have the courtesy to contact the stewards so that they are not waiting for someone who does not turn up.

In the year ended 31st December 2013 the total number of outfits attending rallies was 1247, against a total of 1676 in the previous year. The total of 4556 nights on site against a total of 6425 in the previous year.

In 2013 cancellations were 126 units, against 2012 when cancellations were 133 units. This means that cancellations have decreased slightly on the previous year.

In 2013 non-arrivals were 5 units, this compared with 2012 when non-arrivals were 23 units. This means that non-arrivals is decreasing.

Moving to the Accounts:

As we look at these accounts please remember that they relate to the financial year ending 31st December 2013, and are therefore almost 10 months old.

On the Income and Expenditure Account (Third Page) all of the centre income for the year is reported at the top of the account, with the expenditure and overheads itemised below. Please note that the centre grant has been decreased to £2750 from £3200 in 2012. We show a surplus for the year of £421 compared with the previous year of £14. This increase is due to the donation given to the centre from a rally. Also the centre is not posting out the welcome packs to new members but either sending them a welcome e-mail or letter inviting them to attend a rally to receive their welcome pack. Please remember that we are still fortunate to have the rally books sent out by the generosity of our sponsor Stowford Farm Meadows – thank you to Andrew.

The Youth Account (Fourth Page) The Youth /account is showing a bigger loss for the year of £96 against a loss in the previous year of £19, as there wasn't any income from the Youth Section.

Balance Sheet (First Page) – This is where all of the information from the other pages is brought together and shows the overall value of the centre assets and the current financial position of the centre. You will now that the cash on deposit with the Caravan Club has remained at £6,000.

Comments on the Accounts:

There are two ways to make the books balance, one is to increase income and the other is to reduce expenditure! I have had a look at the expenditure of the Centre and will shortly recommend reducing further some of the Committee expenditure.

Rally returns can be a little confusing but are not difficult as there are always many people that will be more than happy to help you complete them and answer any of your questions or concerns. If you are not sure you can phone me with any questions.

The report was Proposed by Mr Andy Harris and Seconded by Mrs Deborah Southon.

The Chairman invited questions from the floor:

Mary Dearing, Past Chairman – Asked the Treasurer to clarify what the Admin fee would be. The Treasurer confirmed that the Admin Fee would be reduced for the forthcoming year to £1.25 per unit per night.

Linda Heal, Newton Abbot – asked if the Treasurer could clarify whether or not she is to do her rallies on the old or the new forms. The Treasurer confirmed she is happy for Linda to do the return on the form she has already started. She also didn't understand the £13.50 stated on the sheet for the silver plaques. The treasurer advised that this is only put on the sheets to show how much the plaques cost and extra money does not need to be raised at rallies to cover this cost.

Mary Kingston-Ford, Bideford – understands that the Caravan Club are currently holding £6,000 of Centre funds and asked if the Committee would consider reducing the admin fee further in an attempt to get more people out on the rally field.

Janice Featherstone, Lostwithiel – suggested that the Treasurer make a slight adjustment to make the form simpler. The Treasurer confirmed that new forms have now been produced to make things easier.

Recommendations:

Admin Fee:

Having carefully monitored the admin fee for another year, the fee will still be required on EVERY SINGLE rally, without exception (including foreign holidays and business rallies): £1.25 per night for each night. This admin fee is the required return to the centre and must not be used for social or other events. I have put down the admin fee by 20p per night.

Free Site Fees:

To continue with the honorary positions receiving free site fees when rallying as the cost of this is covered by the Club Grant, up to a total of 24 nights, 12 weekends a year. All other Committee persons shall pay for their own site fees, with the exception of the person taking Flag, on a holiday rally the two weekends are paid for. Again this is covered by the Club Grant or a free pitch with the site.

Rally Fee:

All rallies (including business, foreign). A fee of £1,00 plus VAT. This fee is designed to cover all the costs of the rally expenses such as printing, postage, sweets for children etc.

Business Rally:

All business rallies will incur a social charge where applicable

Deposits:

The deposit for all weekend rallies is to remain at £5. The deposit for special or holiday rallies is to remain at £10. Full payment may be requested on special/holiday rallies at least 4 weeks prior to the rally commencing.

Vouchers:

At present a book of 5 vouchers costs £22 with the face value of each stating £5. These will remain the same.

Raffle:

The Raffle proceeds from the AGM, Dinner Dance, Chairman's and Ladies Charity will all go to the Charity. If you want to support this year's charity please support these rallies and monies from all other rallies is retained until the last committee meeting prior to the AGM at which point the Committee shall decide how much should be allocated to the Chairman's chosen charity.

Paperwork returns:

All rally returns must be completed on the new 2014-5 forms, if this is not done the paperwork will be returned to the steward for completion on the right form. All returns must be completed and sent to the Treasurer within 30 days of the end of the rally. Action will be taken if not received by then.

Marquee/Trailer Movement:

Each time the marquee/trailers are used a £1.00 plus VAT per unit for each rally is to be charged, with the fuel claimed back from the Treasurer with a VAT receipt.

Closing Remarks:

A special thank you to my husband Ian for his support over the last year, and thank you all for your time and patience this afternoon.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

The Treasurer informed the meeting that the Centre Committee had approved Phillips, Frith and Co of St Austell Centre Auditors. Approved by members.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

In accordance with the Rules Governing Centres the following were duly elected.

ELECTION FOR CENTRE CHAIRMAN

There being only one nomination for Chairman so Mr Jason Avery was duly elected.

ELECTION FOR CENTRE VICE-CHAIRMAN

There being only one nomination for Vice-Chairman so Mr Paul Kingston-Ford was duly elected.

ELECTION FOR HON. SECRETARY

There being only one nomination for Secretary so Mrs Euphine Bromell was duly elected.

ELECTION FOR HON. TREASURER

There being only one nomination for Treasurer so Mrs Denise Henderson was duly elected.

ELECTION FOR HON. RALLY SECRETARY

There being only one nomination for Rally Secretary so Mrs Michelle Stuttaford was duly elected.

COMMITTEE

The following Members were duly elected for Committee, and were asked to come forward to be presented with their badges.

Mr Martin King	Mr Terry Glanfield	Mr Richard Cadd
Mr Andrew Harris	Mr John Andrews	Mr Robert Gordon (not present ill)
Mr Stephen Doodson	Mrs Sue Eldridge	Mr Steve Evans
Mrs Deborah Southon		

There had only been one volunteer for Minute Taker and Anne Cadd was appointed to this role. The Chairman thanked for Sally Webber for her help today also.

HON. RALLY SECRETARY REPORT

Well as we come to the end of another rallying season and my last as your Honorary Rally Secretary, I would like to extend my thanks to you all that have provided help, support, advice and feedback (positive and not so positive). You have all helped me enjoy my time in this position and I am very much looking forward to another season working with the committee but in a different role.

I would like to start by wishing Jason and Stacey all the best next year as the Chairman. He and his whole family are far more than friends, they are family in every sense of the word, and I would like to say a big thank you to all the Committee members, new and old, Stewards, Assistant Steward, for their help over the year and for once again supporting the centre in the coming one.

Michele and I have attended many fantastic rallies this year including some that are established and some new to us. We have been made to feel very welcome at them all, and we have enjoyed ourselves so much that we will be once again representing the centre next year on the rally field.

Thank you to all those that have made this possible. Without you, none of us would be sat here and our hobby would be worst for it, but please remember that everyone who runs a rally, helps at a rally or stands for committee are all volunteers. They give their time freely and one thing that often gets missed is the simple phrase "Thank You". So from myself, Michele and all the other centre members, thank you to everyone for all the hard work they have put in.

Some popular rallies have been declared full some time prior to the start date. However, it has been necessary to cancel a few rallies this year due to lack of support. It is not only disappointing for members who have booked, but it is very demoralising for the Stewards who have worked hard to organise events for us to attend. I would urge you to consider booking rallies as early as possible, so as to prevent them being cancelled and to give your Steward the time to plan events and organise entertainment etc.

If you need to cancel a rally, please try to give the Stewards as much notice as possible as they may have a waiting list, and can then make somebody else's weekend. If you find that you cannot attend a rally at the last minute please try to contact the Stewards. Most have mobile numbers or if they are using a commercial site it may be possible to leave a message with the reception area that can be passed on.

At this point I would again like to thank all Stewards, Assistant Stewards, Landowners and any member who has helped in any way and would ask that you continue to support us in any way that you can.

A very warm and heartfelt thank you must go to our Centre Sponsor – Andrew Noall from Stowford Farm Meadows for his continuing commitment to our Centre. Both he and his graphics team have given us the support required to put together our fantastic Rally Book, and for covering the cost of the postage to send it to each and every D&C member (and there are lots of those). We as a Centre are very privileged to have this support and I know it has been said on previous occasions it makes us quite unique with the Centres, so hopefully we, as a centre, will continue to support the Stowford team. He has agreed once again to sponsor the upcoming Rally Book.

Dates are still available for the upcoming year and we will endeavour to help anyone who would like to take on the running of a rally.

A big thank you to my darling wife who has put up with me and helped out (that should probably read reminded me to do things) typed most of the rally book, moaned at me to return answerphone messages etc.....

To conclude I wish Michelle and Dave the best of luck, this post is an adventure, but I will be in the background if they need help or advice.

Paul Kingston-Ford

YOUTH SECTION

Danielle Westlake, as Chair of the Youth Section, was invited to give her report:

She thanked the Committee for their support they are not here!

She thanked Catherine and Martin King, Lyn and Jon Matthews and Jason and Stacey Avery for their support throughout the year.

She expressed her disappointment at the lack of support from the Centre, particularly in that there were only 13 vans at the Youth Centre Rally. She thanked Dave Tucker, Mark Hannaford and Ian McNeill for their support at the Youth Rally.

On 6th September there was a very successful SkyDive, undertaken as a fundraiser for the two charities.

No-one has put forward for Committee this year.

Danielle expressed her willingness to apply but again stressed her disappointment at the lack of support from the Centre.

The Chairman thanked Danielle for her offer but felt unable to take this up on behalf of the Centre. The reason for this was at the organised AGM of the Youth Committee scheduled for 1030 this morning no-one showed up at all.

Unfortunately there will be no Youth Section for the year 2014/2015.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Alan Jeal, Plymouth – would like to re-iterate poor support to Juniors. Club members should be appalled at lack of support.

Sheila Hall, Sidmouth – completed proforma for rally in May next year but doesn't know whether it's OK or not. Hon Rally Sec has corresponded by e-mail but confirmed that as the date for the Chairman's Rally has now been confirmed there will not, unfortunately, be able to be any other rallies on those dates. A letter has been prepared to send to the site.

Mary Kingston-Ford, Bideford – Youth. Agrees that the support at the Youth Centre Rally wasn't good but the Juniors have an allocated date and have to abide by that. Dani couldn't keep to this date and changed the date to a date that clashed with several other big rallies.

Voila Jeal, Plymouth – her granddaughter would love to go on the junior committee, how old do they have to be. The Chairman confirmed 10 would be the correct age.

Karen Westlake, Paignton – there was no date put forward for the Youth Rally last year.

The Vice-Chairman informed the meeting that at the first Committee Meeting it was minuted that dates were available and even offered to move his own rally to accommodate them. The choice was made after the other dates being offered.

Deborah Southon, Ivybridge – Feels sad at frustration by numbers dropping, Youth Section unhappiness etc. People are doing their best. We have been told there are 4283 members, do we need to set up a mailing list for news bulletins to encourage people to come to rallies. Need to move forward.

Kelvin Isaacs, Holsworthy – Do new meets get e-mails? The Secretary that the ex Secretary has sent a welcome letter to an e mail address but that from July this went back to postage. Kelvin feels that e-mail is a most impersonal way of communication and he contacted Jason when he first joined.

Mary Kingston-Ford, Bideford – The Caravan Club don't provide any com putters so all Committee, Stewards etc are using their own computer. The Chairman re-iterated that people may not have the most up to date computer systems.

Mary Dearing, Plymouth – would like to say well done to the Juniors.

Voila Jeal, Plymouth – Has the Cheque for £100 from Arnolds gone to the Birmingham Children's Hospital. The Treasurer confirmed this to be the case.

Alan Jeal, Plymouth – Nobody has contacted me to see if I will be running rallies. What has happened, nobody has spoken to me?

The incoming **Rally Sec, Michelle Stuttford** confirmed that she will be contacting everyone to ask if they will be running their rallies.

Kelvin Isaacs, Holsworthy – Could the Committee look at rally dates as some dates clash and this might help numbers.

CENTRE PRESENTATIONS

A vote of thanks was made to Janet Tait, the outgoing Minute Taker. The Committee have already presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

COMPETITION AWARDS

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE CHAIRMAN

The Secretary called upon Mr Gareth Wilcox to give a vote of thanks to the retiring Chairman. Gareth thanked Keith and Mary for their outstanding support to the Devon and Cornwall Centre over many, many years which has been upstanding even when things were not running so smoothly on a personal basis due to retirement and illness.

CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

The Chairman thanked Gareth.

He asked Danielle Westlake to present her collarettes to the President as there is no Youth Chair to take over.

After serving on the Committee for 15 years the Chairman said he will miss it but for personal reasons he has decided not to stand.

All he has heard during the last 12 months is moans and groans but not one to him direct. He has heard complaints that there are too many rallies in Bude and at Stowford. Please pass this on – “if there are too many rallies in Bude it is because the stewards are prepared to run them there and if they are prepared to do this then either go to it or get off your backside and run one in the area of your choice”.

Too many at Stowford – members are quite happy for Stowford to pay for handbook, printing, postage etc so these complaints are in pretty poor taste – shame on you all.

The 59th meeting of the Devon and Cornwall Centre closed at 17.05 hrs.