

**CARAVAN & MOTORHOME CLUB  
DEVON & CORNWALL CENTRE**

**OPEN FORUM MINUTES – 19<sup>th</sup> MAY 2018  
At Parker's Farm Holiday Park, Ashburton, TQ13 7LJ**

The meeting opened at 10.30 am and the Chairman, Michelle Stuttaford, welcomed members to the Open Forum and asked everyone to put their phones to silent. One suggestion from last year's Open Forum has been put into effect and there is now a small budget allocated for entertainment at Business Rallies.

**Attendance:** 23 members (Total Centre Membership – 4,496)

**Apologies Received:** Kelvin Isaac; Rob Biddle (Vice-Chairman)

**Chairman's Report:**

Michelle thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Rallies are now in progress and running, but unfortunately due to the small Centre Committee, some rallies are running without a Flag Officer.

The Chairman requested that each steward forward an attendance list for their rally beforehand, to the Centre Secretary. Due to the new Data Protection Regulation, the attendance list should only show members' name, home town and the Centre they belong to. Car registrations are not required in future. The Centre Secretary will send a letter to stewards to clarify this new situation.

Our numbers are growing and it is lovely to see more families joining as new members – we welcome them to our Centre.

New Centre flags are being purchased. We are always trying to improve the centre and a big thank you to the stewards, members and volunteers who put themselves out for our benefit.

**Open Forum:**

The Secretary asked members to state their name and town/area clearly for the record, please.

**Derek Philp, Cornwall (Past Chairman)** – Thanked Michelle for the Chairman's Rally and Open Forum and said it was good to be able to put forward suggestions. Reference the new Data Protection Act, he asked what information would be included in the rally book and how was the Committee going to deal with addresses being printed in the book?

**Sue Biddle (Rally Sec.)** – We are not going to give any information unless it is absolutely necessary. There is a meeting on Monday and another in July to discuss this. It is likely that email addresses only will be provided in future.

**Derek Philp** – replied that that was difficult for members without internet access.

**Sue Biddle** - The Caravan & Motorhome Club have organised an information seminar on Data Protection and it is hoped after this we will be able to clarify the situation for stewards.

**Michelle Stuttaford (Chairman)** - The Centre Secretary can be contacted and she will advise the relevant steward. The Stewards' own attendance list can contain the registration details as they will need to identify individual vans, new members, etc. but this list must be destroyed after the rally.

**Tony James, Plymouth** – said he did not have email or internet.

**Michelle Stuttaford** - items will be linked through someone who has email and passed on in that case.

**Katrina Shipp (Treasurer)** - After the seminar it will be clearer what we have to do in future.

**Martin King, Brixham (Past Chairman)** - asked what is happening with the 2019 Rally Book, as the 2018 book has not been distributed to every member due to the postage cost. How will members obtain a book?

**Sue Biddle** – In view of the take-up this year, in 2019 fewer books will be printed. Anyone who contacts the Centre is informed how to purchase a book. There will be a year planner showing all rallies and the possibility of emailing this to all members is being investigated. Details are always available on the website. The book was sponsored by advertisers this year.

**Sarah Vercoe (Secretary)** - All new Centre members receive an email or letter with details of how to obtain a hard copy of the Rally Book. The email attachment also has a hyperlink to the Centre website.

**Katrina Shipp** - This is the first time in very many years that the Centre has had to produce its own book from scratch and things have been learned from the experience this year.

**Mark Hannaford, Plymouth** - asked if Voucher Books were still available.

**Katrina Shipp** - Yes they were, unfortunately none at this meeting.

**Sue Biddle** - Will take some books to the rally at Trevarrian next weekend.

**Michelle Stuttaford** - At present the membership stands as follows:

**Lead Members – 2,392**

**Joint Members – 2,040**

**Family Members - 62**

**Life Members - 2**

**Total - 4,496.**

The membership is rising each month

**Martin King** - asked about arrangements for the 4,000<sup>th</sup> Rally.

**Sarah Vercoe** - this item is on the Agenda for Monday's committee meeting.

**Michelle Stuttaford** - the Committee has been looking for a suitable venue for this event and asked what would members like as the numbers attending would make or break the success of the rally. Were there any idea as to whether to have a marquee or attend some particular venue with alternative attractions.

**Derek Philp** – From his experience of running major rallies in the past, he suggested gardens, house and views would encourage people to attend the rally. If the facilities were put on then people would come. At the Easter rally he had 54 units and had to cancel some due to the weather. Entertainment is key to people's enjoyment. The 4,000<sup>th</sup> rally is a major landmark for the Centre, especially as the number of rallies held annually has dropped considerably. A rally at a Stately Home would provide interest. Boconnoc also was a popular location.

**Michelle Stuttaford** - Boconnoc was a possibility being looked at. The downside is that there is no electric hook-up there.

**Derek Philp** - Subject to dates, it needs to be on a Bank Holiday weekend, from Thursday to Monday. All facilities need to be brought in – septic tank, water etc. Another possibility is Port Eliot (St. Germans) and Saltram has been used in the past. However, the National Trust tie our hands as to what can be arranged. Mount Edgcumbe (used for the Centre's 60th Anniversary) needs all the infrastructure organised in advance. The forward planning is most important on a big rally – traffic management, parking, health & safety etc. all the documentation needs to be organised as the Committee is responsible legally for the safe running of the rally.

**Katrina Shipp** - there has to be a balance between arranging events with such a small committee.

**Michelle Stuttaford** – asked whether Derek Philp and Martin King would be prepared to help with the organisation.

**Derek Philp** – said this type of event was a Centre event, and a sub-committee of members could help.

**Michelle Stuttaford** - suggested August Bank Holiday weekend

**Sue Biddle** - there are too many rallies early in the year, many of which clash with each other. The August Bank Holiday is therefore the preferred option. However, no electric hook-up was a turn-off for some members.

**Derek Madge, Exminster** – Powderham Castle runs events, but no electric hook-up.

**Derek Philp** – electricity can be provided but this has to be put in hand beforehand.

**Derek Madge** – electric generators could be put in – Western Power?

**Martin King** - the cost of Elsan facilities is very high and using a site with facilities would keep costs down. Powderham – this was done previously.

**Michelle Stuttford** - the next Committee meeting is on 21<sup>st</sup> May and items raised at the Forum will be discussed at that meeting.

The Chairman then asked if there were any further questions, and there being none, she thanked everyone for attending and declared the Forum closed at 11.30 am.