

Murvi Lovers' Club

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Held on: 26 March 2011 at 18.00

Present:

Alan & Jean Brill
Jackie Coles & Steve Little
Hugh & Jeanette Constable
Garf & Jessica Corfield
Paul & Pam Crummay
Leigh & Annabel Darnton
Colin Davies
Bob & Maggie Eley
Terry & Margaret Gordine
David Gosling
Pete & Di Johnson
Ian Leslie
Alan & Marilyn Major
Nick & Yvonne Mawby
Penny McCallig & Andrew Shewan
Bob Moakes & Janet Parish
Dave & Liz Nayler
Nic & Pauleen Nicholls
Roger K Norman
Roger & Wendy Pepper
Pete & Meg Privett
Paul & Linda Riley
Peter Robinson
Adrian & Karin Sumption
Barry & Betty Tomlinson

Apologies:

Robert & Carolyn Ash
Joy and Ian Castle
Dick & Vicky Constable
Alan & Jane Fletcher
Graham & Jenny Goodacre
Nick & Audrey Goulden
Mel Harris
Barry & Jean Ireland
Tony and Chris Lewis
Charles and Dee Marks
John and Jan Meadows
Mike Moody
Lin Powell
Roy & Pam Pyke
Mike Scratcher
Mike & Louise Simpson
Lynda Sellen
David & Julie Wain
Michael Warburton
Nick Wainwright and Lynne Francis
Vince & Christine Wright

- 1 Pam Crummay took the chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2 The minutes of the Inaugural General Meeting held on 18/07/10 were approved.
- 3 There were no matters arising from the Inaugural General Meeting.
- 4 The minutes of the Special General Meeting held on 16/10/10 were approved.
- 5 There were no matters arising from the Special General Meeting.
- 6 Pam Crummay, the Chairman, reported as follows:
I find it hard to believe that it's over a year since Rex sent out the initial letters inviting anyone who was interested to contact me with a view to starting a Murvi club. The initial response was a little slow and I remember feeling a little disappointed. But I should have had more faith in the average Murvi owner. The requests to join started to roll in and suddenly my dream of many years started to take shape.
Last year all our meets were held at shows, the first, and very informal one being at Newbury, when a group of us sat in glorious sunshine and talked of great things to come – and we signed up two new members! The enthusiasm generated there led to a very well attended summer meet at the Northern Show, held for the first time at the Cheshire Showground. We had twenty units booked on the very first official Murvi Club area: an historic occasion! During the weekend we actually “found” another Murvi and they joined our happy band.
Nick and Yvonne Mawby had kindly done most of the setting-up and, thankfully, Nick had purloined his Bee-keepers' Club marquee – and wasn't it heaven-sent. The weather chuckled everything at us those few days in July: lashing rain, high winds – but some sunshine, too, just not at the appropriate time.... But I think if you ask anyone who was there, they would confirm that we had a great time!
Rex (our highly esteemed manufacturer) joined us at this event for the Saturday “shared meal”, kindly supplying a couple of crates of wine, very gratefully received and consumed fairly rapidly. He was persuaded to stay imbibing until quite late and, he told us rather sheepishly next day, had a rather adventurous journey home, which involved falling into a ditch at some stage.....least said about this the better, I think.....!!

Our next meet was in September at the Shepton Mallet Showground. This time twelve Murvis gathered – but we did our now usual trick of adding a further new member to the throng at the event. Again, a good time was had by all as the weather on this occasion was very pleasant. We had a marquee to gather under which worked well, except, with the evenings now drawing in, we retired somewhat earlier than before, small groups congregating in separate vans for a noggin and natter.

Rex joined us once again on the Saturday evening but did not stay late (can't imagine why!) and had a taxi to take him to a safe haven this time.

The winter has been spent emailing and chatting on the splendid Google site that Nick Mawby has set up. He's a whizz on anything to do with computers and I am delighted that he has taken on all that complex stuff which I find quite mind-blowing! Alan Major, our treasurer, has been beaver away setting up bank accounts, sorting out our subscription charges and mailing the appropriate paperwork to collect the money. And Roger Pepper, our stalwart secretary, has had the most onerous task of all sorting out our affiliation to ACCEO (Association of Caravan and Camping Exempted Organisations) and also setting up our club insurance, to ensure that all our legal liabilities are covered. My very sincere thanks to all three of them: they're absolute gems!

As we go into our second year, I feel really confident that we have a staunch and loyal membership who want to see our club go from strength to strength. I know from the emails I have received that many of you would love to be more involved, so please, let us know what you would like to do: run a rally, organise a special holiday somewhere, lead a trip to Outer Mongolia – anything's possible for Murvi Lovers!

7 Roger Pepper, the Secretary, reported as follows:

Since the inaugural meeting held in July last year most of my time spent on the club's business has been to ensure that we are on a proper footing to hold rallies on unlicensed sites such as the location we are in now.

Initial research showed that we needed to obtain from Natural England (a branch of the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs) a caravan exemption certificate. To have any chance in being successful in our application, modifications and additions were required to the constitution agreed at the inaugural meeting and we needed to adopt a code of conduct for the operation of rallies. The documents were drafted and accepted by the membership at the S.G.M. held on 16 October.

An application to Natural England was made on 8 December 2010 and we received the exemption certificate to cover England on 24 January 2011. I would like to thank all members who sent me their experience of organising rallies. I'm sure this helped in the smooth progress of this application.

Certificates for Wales and Scotland are issued by separate bodies. We received the Welsh one on 4 March and are still awaiting the one for Scotland. Anyone who is acting as our marshal on an unlicensed site meet needs to have a copy of the appropriate certificate with them. These can be obtained from Pam Crummay or me. A meet cannot exceed 5 days and must only be attended by members of the Club.

At the inaugural meeting, the committee were charged with investigating the availability of public liability insurance to cover the club and its members while we are holding meets. The most suitable and economic policy appeared to be that provided by The Association of Caravan and Camping Exempted Organisations commonly known as ACCEO. ACCEO is an association of over 200 clubs who have exemption certificates and to obtain the insurance a club needs to be a member. Other advantages of membership are access to a selection of guidance notes and the receipt of a Magazine published 3 times a year. I have examples of the magazine here should anyone wish to look at them. Any member of the Murvi Lovers Club who wishes to receive a copy of the magazine will need to become a personal member of ACCEO at a cost of £5 per annum. The committee decided the club should apply to join and membership was granted on 9 February. We immediately applied for the public liability insurance and this came into force on 21 March. A copy of the policy is here for your inspection.

As there has only been one meet since last July there has only been one formal committee meeting. However we have been in regular touch by email using a system devised by Nick Mawby and this has enabled us to smoothly progress the necessary matters on behalf of the members.

8 Alan Major, the Treasurer, reported as follows:

After the inaugural meeting last July, my first task was to open a bank account for the Club. This was completed through HSBC using their Community Account product – which is a free of charge account for non profit making organisations such as ours.

At the July meeting a decision was made to ask for a £5 joining fee to provide initial funds for Club expenses and to set an annual subscription once the Club's ongoing financial needs could be established. The joining fee was collected from the 20 members present and the plan was to collect the joining fee from those not present at the same time as the first annual subscription was requested.

During the first six months of operation the Club did not incur any significant expenditure. It was only once the application to join The Association of Caravan and Camping Exempted Organisations was successful that the Club's ongoing expenses could be estimated. This was because currently the most significant

expenses are the Public Liability Insurance which is arranged through ACCEO and the ACCEO membership fee itself. The remainder of the subscription is to be used for the production of a year book for members, maintenance of the Club's website and administrative expenses. The joining fee will be used to establish a contingency fund for unexpected expenses and to ensure there are sufficient funds on hand to manage the Club's cash flow.

The Committee has accepted my recommendation that the Club should operate with a financial year end of 31 December and since the Club has only recently started incurring significant costs the first annual subscription should be payable for the 2011 year. As will have been reported separately there has been an excellent take up of paid membership of the Club which has enabled the Club to establish a sound financial base.

I am not presenting accounts at this the first AGM due to the Club only being in existence for less than six months as of 31 December 2010 and, as commented earlier, there was no significant expenditure incurred in that period. The first accounts of the Club will therefore be prepared for the 18 month period to 31 December 2011 and will be presented at next year's AGM. Thereafter accounts will be prepared for a 12 month period ended on 31 December in each year.

At the conclusion of his report, Alan asked anyone who was willing to act as Auditor for the future accounts to contact him.

9 Nick Mawby, the Website Manager and Membership Secretary, reported as follows:

Membership

The term 'members' refers to a Murvi with either one or two persons.

It was in March 2010 that Pam sent out the letter inviting Murvi owners to join the club. By April we had 36 members, and by June this had grown to 54. The option of signing up online was then introduced, since when 46 members have applied this way.

Since 1st January 2011, 17 new members have joined, 15 using the online form.

As of 25th March 2011 we have 89 members (86 paid up and 3 pledged to pay on return from foreign trips).

Of those who originally applied to join, 14 have lapsed:

- 4 resigned with no reason recorded
- 4 no longer owned a Murvi
- 3 'do their own thing/does not fit lifestyle'
- 3 removed for non-payment
- 2 for ill health
- 1 unable to contact as inadequate details provided
- 1 thought membership fee was too expensive

Privacy

When we started up, we assumed everyone would be happy to share their details and be involved in email communications. This turned out not to be the case, and we now have in place a privacy policy and the option to choose not to share details with the general membership. Nine of our 89 members have selected this option.

No members' details are shared outside the club.

Membership Database

This is held online using GoogleDocs.

It is accessible only to persons specifically authorised, who have to log in by individual password. This is restricted to the current committee. When a committee member resigns, their access is revoked. Only the treasurer and IT manager can edit the data, the other committee members are currently limited to view only.

Email Communication

The use of GoogleGroups for email has made it simple for the committee to communicate and to pass on information to members.

I set up a chat group, and currently two thirds of the membership are subscribed.

There have been some useful discussions, some of which I have copied to the 'tips' area of the website. I have tinkered with a forum, but am not sure that there would be sufficient interest.

There are three members who have opted for paper communications.

Website

This has been set up using a completely free site (yola.com).

This does impose some limitations, such as the lack of individual login and editing ability.

Feedback from members will enable the committee to decide if it meets our needs in the future.

Yearbook

I would like to produce a yearbook, which would basically be a membership list in a format similar to the one posted to AGM attendees.

Members' interests would be included; so far 45 members have listed their interests.

I hope that sharing names and interests will encourage friendships between members.

I propose that we post out the yearbook, as this is easy to do and avoids some concerns regarding email security. The cost will be 58p per member, printed and posted before 4th April, via imail.co.uk

- 10 Pam Crummay, Alan Major, Nick Mawby and Roger Pepper were elected to continue on the Executive Committee. It was agreed that the vacant place will be filled by co-option should a volunteer come forward from the membership.
- 11 A discussion on the number and format of meets in future years took place and the following points were made:
One meet per year at a show may be sufficient in future.
There should be a rally in the Spring and the Autumn.
Two or three rallies per year not at shows should be held.
A trip to walk a long distance footpath over several days could be held.
Any trips overseas should preferably be put together by an independent organisation such as GB Privilege.
A meet could be held in the Gower in November 2011.
Two people in the same area could get together to arrange a meet in their area.
Some meets should have special topics.
The committee should ensure there are sufficient club funds to cover a deposit required for a meet.
Pam Crummay reminded the meeting that a programme of regular meets can only take place if sufficient members come forward to organise them. She asked anyone prepared to organise a meet to contact her.
The committee will provide whatever support is necessary but cannot be expected to act as the marshal on every occasion.
- 11 Jackie Coles proposed a vote of thanks to the committee for their hard work in establishing the club and this was endorsed unanimously.
- 12 The next Annual General Meeting will be held on 24 March 2012 at a venue to be announced.

The meeting closed at 19.10.