

Murvi Lovers' Club

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Held on: 24 March 2012 at 18.20

Present:

Mike & Caroline Brankin
Phil & Gay Chamberlayne
Hugh & Jeanette Constable
Garf & Jessica Corfield
Paul & Pam Crummay
Leigh Darnton
Bob & Maggie Eley
Martin & Brenda Elliston
Simon & Ellie Elsdon
Robert & Angela Emuss
Nigel & Anne Evans
Billy & Ingrid Gawthorpe
Terry & Margaret Gordine
Nick & Audrey Goulden
Philip & Hilary Greenwood
Steve & Ros Grigson
Pete & Di Johnson
Ian Leslie
Tony & Chris Lewis
Nigel & Maggie Lister
Graham & Lorna Lockley
Alan & Marilyn Major
Nick & Yvonne Mawby
Penny McCallig & Andrew Shewan
Dave & Liz Nayler
Nic & Pauleen Nicholls
Roger Norman
Roger & Wendy Pepper
Pete & Meg Privett
Paul & Linda Riley
Dean & Sarah Small
Adrian & Karin Sumption
Martin & Penny Sweet
Barry & Betty Tomlinson
Julia Wright
Vince & Christine Wright

Apologies:

Phil & Bernie Aldis
Robert and Carolyn Ash
Bob & Carole Barratt
Andy & Liz Bawn
Jan Carr
Jackie Coles & Steve Little
Dick & Vicky Constable
Anne and Stewart Cormie
Martin & Jo Cox
Paul & Sue Crabb
Colin & Julia Davies
Andrew & Sylvia Embling
Rachael & Sandy Ewing
Alan & Jane Fletcher
Mike & Sylvia Frew
Marcus & Anne Griffiths
Richard & Audrey Hollingbery
Godfrey and Alison Kent
Mel Harris
John & Jan Meadows
Dave and Zelda Moorwood
Brian and Janette Norris
Wendy Palmer & Lin Powell
Max & Erica Quarterman
David & Jill Sadler
Richard and Lynn Stevens
Philip & Anne Strong
Dave & Julie Wain
Geoff & Carol Wilkinson
Val and Barrie Wood
Mike Warburton
David and Lorna Wickers

- 1 Pam Crummay took the chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2 The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 26/03/11 were approved and signed by the chairman.
- 3 There were no matters arising Annual General Meeting held on 26/03/11.
- 4 Pam Crummay, the Chairman, reported as follows:
I shall make this report short and sweet – and therefore painless!
Having made the momentous decision to sell our beloved Morocco and thereby break a very longstanding association with Murvi, Paul and I are beginning a new phase of our life together, and in a new venue, too. Sitting here, in our new abode, in Wells, surrounded by boxes, Murvi-ing feels a million miles away!
However, the memories are very sweet and will forever be thus.
In 2012 we found that we were just not able to get away as much and as often as we used to because of family and work commitments. We only managed to meet up with you all a couple of times and had a short trip away in July – and that's no way to use a beautiful, born-to-travel Murvi! So, it was time for big discussions and ultimately, to call it a day.....
Having promised Rex that I would start a club – one day – I have been extremely pleased with myself at having done just that – and look at it now: vibrant and thriving.....long may it last. I can step down a very

happy woman!

You have a wonderful committee who will ensure, I know, that the club goes from strength to strength. So please support them in any way that you can, because your club will only be as good as you are!

Paul and I wish you all the very best and happy travelling. Enjoy!

5 Roger Pepper, the Secretary, reported as follows:

Compared with the period after the Club was set up, the past year has been a relaxing one for your secretary.

Two committee meetings have been held, one after the AGM and one in July at the Knutsford show rally.

The following three actions resulted from decisions taken at the meetings:

Any member who has not paid their subs by the date of the AGM will be removed from the membership list.

Lapel name holders have been purchased.

Members should send me details of rallies they are organising in order that I can ensure that they are distributed to all members either by email or post if the postal supplement has been paid.

Membership of The Association of Caravan and Camping Exempted Organisations and our public liability insurance have both been renewed.

At last year's meeting, I reported that we had received exemption certificates for England and Wales to enable us to hold 5 day rallies on unlicensed sites such as the one we are using this weekend. The Certificate for Scotland was outstanding but after a fair amount of chasing, I have recently received this. A regular series of rallies have been held during the past year, each being led by a different member. In order for this to continue volunteer organisers need to come forward to show us their favourite sites. We have felt for a while that we need a rally co-ordinator to help this process and Karin Sumption has agreed to be co-opted to the committee to take on this role. However the Sumptions are leaving next week for a two month trip to New Zealand so during this period please contact me or one of the other committee members if you are planning to organise a rally.

6 Alan Major, the Treasurer, reported as follows:

The accounts which have been circulated to you cover the first 18 months of the club's existence. As I explained at the first AGM no accounts were presented at that time because the club had only been in existence for 6 months and had not incurred any significant expenditure. Since then membership has continued to grow and the club has been able to meet its financial commitments from the membership fees it has collected.

The most significant item of expenditure for the club is the Public Liability Insurance which it needs to hold in order to run events and be granted its exemption certificate.

I am pleased to report that there has been no need to call upon the contingency fund established from the joining fees.

During the year the committee made the decision that the members joining after September in any year could enjoy the remainder of the year of joining for free and that the membership fee paid on joining would cover their first full year of membership. For this reason membership fees paid by members joining after September, together payments from exist members paying in advance for future years, are treated as prepaid in these accounts. This ensures that income is correctly matched to expenditure, year by year. In view of the fact that the accounts show a surplus of £111 and the budget for 2012 shows that the club should be able to continue to meet its financial commitments from membership fees collected at the current level, the membership fee will remain at £5.

I am indebted to Martin Sweet for kindly agreeing to audit these accounts.

The acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Meg Privett, seconded by Dave Nayler and agreed unanimously

7 Nick Mawby, the IT and Membership Secretary, reported as follows:

Membership

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

At last year's AGM, on 25th March 2011, we had 89 members.

This had grown to 122 by 31st December (there had been two resignations due to selling their Murvis)

As of 17th March 2012 we have 124 members (121 paid up and 2 pledged to pay on return from foreign trips).

Since 1st January 2012 we have had 11 new members and 9 have lapsed.

Of the lapsed members:

- 4 have not responded to three emails and a written reminder

- 1 resigned with no reason
- 1 resigned as 'not my thing'
- 1 resigned through ill-health
- 1 sold their Murvi
- 1 resigned because they wanted 'the chat discussions on a forum rather than email group'

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.

I recently emailed those members who have selected not to share, asking if they wish to change. Only one elected to share and twelve members still do not want to share.

No members' details are shared with third parties.

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.

This seems to be working well, with the treasurer having been able to manage renewals whilst he was in China.

Email Communication

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

The chat group has flurries of interest, and currently 69% of the membership are subscribed.

There have been some useful discussions, and last year I copied some to the 'tips' area of the website, but it would be good if some of the 'chatters' would like to produce a summary of those topics which have been useful, which I can put in the tips section.

Google groups is changing to become more like a forum, which may make it easier for some to view online. When the change has completed we will email members.

There are four 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.

We have between 306 and 583 hits per month, with a total of 4863 hits in the last year on the home page and 1006 on the members page.

I have received very little feedback from members.

Yearbook

Last year we sent the yearbook listing members' details to all members, including the no-sharers. This year we need to decide if the no-sharers should get access to the yearbook.

In the guide to the Abingdon meet, I have included photos if possible. I would be interested to know if members feel these should be included in the yearbook.

Last year I posted the yearbook listing members and their interests, at a cost of 58p each. With more members, and especially if we include photos, it may be better to send the yearbook by email.

After a short debate it was agreed by a substantial majority that no-sharers will get access to the yearbook.

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Jess Corfield, the Editor, reported as follows:

Since the last AGM two Murvi Lovers Newsletters have been issued, Summer 2011 and Spring 2012. There have been a few contributions and I'd like to thank the people that sent them in.

But for the newsletter to remain up and running it does need more contributions from club members.

You'll see in the current newsletter I've listed some suggestions for your contributions. So if you want to write a small piece with or without a couple of pictures or you have any information with regard to anything on the list or have any other suggestions you can send them to me at jess@roadum.org.uk and I can include them in the next newsletter.

And if you put Murvi Newsletter Item in the subject box I'll know to read it straight away.

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- 9 Jess Corfield, Alan Major, Nick Mawby, Roger Pepper and Julia Wright were elected to the Executive Committee.
- 10 Martin Sweet was elected Auditor.
- 11 On behalf of the Executive Committee, Roger Pepper proposed that honorary life membership be awarded to Pam and Paul Crummay, saying that in the Committee's view the constitution gives the Club the flexibility to appoint Honorary Members. The proposal was seconded by Nick Mawby and carried unanimously.
A presentation was made to Pam.
- 12 Roger Pepper said that it was important the members came forward to organise meets and rallies to ensure that a full programme could be put forward for 2012 and beyond.
It was generally felt that meets were an excellent way of members getting together to swap their experiences of using their Murvis.
- 13 The members generally felt that they were happy with the layout and content of the Club's website and thought it was a good method of communication for large documents. A site which required an annual subscription was not needed
- 14 In a general discussion, the following points were raised:
- Leigh Darnton thought that Murvi Lovers could arouse suspicion in prospective members and it would be better to hyphenate the name. However it was generally felt that the current name should be maintained.
- Graham Lockley said that the current site using grass pitches was excellent and in order to maintain this it may be preferable in future to hold the AGM later in the year. Robert Emuss thought a location further north should be investigated. Schools or National Trust properties were suggested.
- Nic and Pauline Nicholls had brought some wood turned dishes to sell for club funds and they were thanked for this gesture. £33 was subsequently raised
- 15 Meg Privett proposed a vote of thanks to the Executive Committee for all their work on behalf of the Club during the year. In seconding the proposal, Nick Goulden felt particular mention should be made of Nick Mawby for his efforts in producing such an excellent website. The proposal was passed unanimously.
- 16 Pete and Meg Privett were thanked for bringing and setting up the PA system which was of great help in the smooth running of the meeting.
- 17 The next Annual General Meeting will be held on 23 March 2013 at a venue to be announced.

The meeting closed at 19.20.