

The Murvi Club

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Held on: 01 April 2017 at 18.00

Present:

Andrew & Elizabeth Bawn
Steve & Maggie Butler
Gay Chamberlayne
Roger & Anne Clough
Leigh & Annabel Darnton
Colin & Julia Davies
Jane & John Day
Bob & Maggie Eley
Simon & Ellie Elsdon
Robert & Angela Emuss
Nigel & Anne Evans
Robert & Christine Flitney
Kate Foster
Mike & Sylvia Frew
Billy & Ingrid Gawthorpe
Chris & Heather Gould
Philip & Hilary Greenwood
Tony & Chrissie Gumbrell
Mel Harris
Adrian & Theresa Hitchman
Martin & Jane Jones
Alex & Lesley King
Ian Leslie
Tony & Chris Lewis
Alan & Marilyn Major
Nick & Yvonne Mawby
Barry Moy & Den Richardson
Nic & Pauline Nicholls
Roger Norman
Steve & Anne Parker
Roger & Wendy Pepper
Tony Phillips
Nick & Penny Potts
Meg & Pete Privett
Andrew Shewan & Penny McCallig
Paul Shingler
Tim & Jacqui Simmons
Dean & Sarah Small
Chris & Sue Spencer-Higgs
Philip & Anne Strong
Karin & Adrian Sumption
Steve Sykes
Roy & Kath Tipping
Alan & Chrissie Williams
Colin & Lynn Woods
Julia Wright

Apologies:

Robert & Carolyn Ash
Andrew Bennett
Pete & Anne Bland
David & Jenny Bond
Mike & Caroline Brankin
Hugh & Jeanette Constable
David & Janet Crouch
Campbell & Lorraine Dixon
Martin & Gerry Evans
Alan & Jane Fletcher
Gary & Wendy Hardcastle
John & Pat Henderson
Barry & Joyce Hopewell
Barry Ireland
Jan Lacey
Steve Little & Jackie Coles
Martin & Davina Lloyd
Peter & Margaret Lloyd
Glenn & Jacqueline McDiarmid
Dave & Liz Nayler
Ian & Alice Palmer
Wendy Palmer and Lin Powell
Chris & Nadine Reed
Keith & Lyn Ross
Linda Shingler
Richard & Lynn Stevens
Martin & Penny Sweet
Peter & Elaine Vincent
Mike Warburton
Vince and Christine Wright
Alan York

- 1 Julia Wright took the chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2 The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 19/03/16 were approved and signed by Julia Wright.
- 3 There were no matters arising from the Annual General Meeting held on 19/03/16.

- 4 Julia Wright, the Chairman, reported as follows:
 Welcome to our AGM. It is with some trepidation that I chair this meeting on April Fools' Day, sometimes called All Fools' Day, which is apparently 'one of the most light-hearted days of the year'. Let's hope it bodes well for the tone of our meeting today.
 2016 brought two firsts - our first official international meet, in the Mosel in Germany, was a great success, despite the attempts of the weather to spoil things. Many thanks go to Andrew and Penny for all their hard work in organising this and their efforts to overcome the difficulties caused by the weather conditions.
 Secondly, we had to extend our insurance cover as the number of member vans exceeded 250. There is always a flurry of applications when Rex sends out the Murvi HQ Christmas Card. This year was no exception with 12 applications in December, including one keen (or perhaps bored) member who applied at 5 p.m. on Christmas Day!
 There were other highlights in the year. Congratulations go to John Laidler on publishing his book 'Two Go to Spain', available in both paper form and as an e-book. Sadly John isn't attending this AGM so we are unable to arrange a book signing.
 2016 was the 50th Anniversary of Motorhome and Motorcaravan Monthly. The August edition featured 'motorhome icons of the past five decades'. Representing the 1980s was the first Murvi (1981). It was 'a very different beast to those we see today, with bold striped exterior graphics and that mounted spare wheel - all very American.' It was a very different beast price-wise too - a snip at £9,728, although with fuel consumption of 22 mpg some things have improved.
 In 2015 I was spared one of the more onerous duties I have as Chairman, which is to report the deaths of members. Sadly last year we lost Jean Ireland, Christine Woolford and Jane Senior. You will probably have known Christine and Jane as they regularly attended our meets, including the AGM. Jean Ireland attended the inaugural meet with her husband Barry in 2010.
 As usual, thanks are due to many people. No club can be a success without an enthusiastic membership. So I would like to thank all of you for coming along today. Once again thanks go to the committee for all their support and hard work throughout the year. Thank you Karin for your efforts in organising this AGM weekend. Finally, thanks to Pete and Meg Privett for providing the sound system.
- 5 Roger Pepper, the Secretary, reported as follows:
 Committee meetings took place on 20 March, 22 April and 12 November 2016. The committee have been in regular touch by email between the meetings.
 Adrian Sumption was co-opted to the committee to act as our Editor
 Further to the discussion during the 2016 A.G.M. a survey of members' preferences for the A.G.M. date was held. 74 members responded and on 02 May 2016, I circulated the results which were:
 I am unlikely to attend the AGM on either date: 8 votes 10.81%
 I would prefer the AGM in late June: 18 votes 24.32%
 I prefer the AGM in late March or early April: 28 votes 37.84%
 I am happy to attend on either date: 20 votes 27.03%
 The following decisions have been taken:
 New members will no longer be required to pay a joining fee. Joining fees already in the club funds will be retained
 A club vehicle sticker was produced and circulated to members at a cost of £250.
 Membership of ACCEO and our public liability insurance have both been renewed. The ACCEO magazine is now included on the Murvi Club website.
 Each year in preparation for the A.G.M., I email members twice. Firstly, the calling notice for the meeting and secondly the agenda. The committee is concerned that these communications may be caught in members' spam filters. If anyone here has not received one or both of the emails could they indicate now. (All members present had received the communications).
- 6 Alan Major, the Treasurer, reported as follows:
 You should have all received a copy of the accounts with the AGM papers. These have been audited by Martin Sweet and I thank him for his time.
 In the report I gave at last year's AGM I highlighted the growth in the Club's funds and my intention to recommend to the committee that the Joining Fee be abolished. This recommendation was approved and explains the reduced level of joining fees reported in this year's accounts.
 The most significant change to the Club's ongoing level of expenses was due to the growth in membership taking the Club into the next higher premium band for the Public Liability Insurance. This band will be sufficient now unless membership exceeds 500 members.
 There was also a one-off set of expenditures in the last year to produce and distribute a windscreen sticker to indicate Club membership.
 However, despite the above the Club has once again been able to meet all its expenses from the subscriptions collected for the year.

I see no reason to change the subscription fee from the current level of £5 and will make this recommendation to the Committee.

The acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Heather Gould, seconded by Paul Shingler and agreed unanimously.

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

The website has continued to show future meets. We have also had a few more tips but the initial enthusiasm has waned. Several more members have offered their drives as StayOvers. Three members have submitted articles and I would be pleased to receive more.

The club was formed in summer 2010 when our founder, Pam Crummay, told me she would be happy if we attracted 6 members. At our first AGM in 2011 we had 89 vans, in 2012 there were 124, in 2013 there were 163, by 2014 we had grown to 191 and by 2015 to 210 vans. Last year we reached 235. When I left home for the AGM we had 280 and 3 have joined in the last few days, making 283. At this rate of growth, we should reach 800 in another seven years!

8 Karin Sumption, the Rally Secretary, reported as follows:

I never imagined in 2010 when we decided to join the new Murvi Lovers Club what a big part it would come to play in our lives. Even though I was one of the main agitators for the name change to the Murvi Club I think the "Lovers" set us off on the right path!. One of the lovely things about the club is the friendships that have blossomed between members, often getting together with each other between meets. Some of our best friends are now in the Murvi Club and I don't know where we would be without it, or them.

Last year we had fourteen meets altogether, including a very enjoyable ten day trip down the Mosel river in Germany, and also meets in all three of the home countries.

We already have eight rallies organised for the coming year. Roger's at the seaside in November, a selection of Julia's pre and post meets and some more Yorkshire outings.

Our two Christmas lunches were very successful again last year, and I see the Southwest Christmas lunch is already booked for this year. It would be good to see more being organised in other parts of the country. It isn't difficult to plan one. All you need to do is find a good restaurant or pub, then let me know and I'll help you organise the rest. The southern group now have Christmas Shopping as well as Lunch sorted. Last year's meet in Brighton was so good we are thinking of making it an annual event. Murvi festivalling is taking off this year. There are four on the website so far. If you are going to one and would like to meet other Murvis there, contact Nick with the details. Likewise, if you've never been to one but fancy trying, take a look at the events page, to see which ones other Murvis are going to.

Numbers for our AGM are creeping up every year. This year we have 44 vans (we were up to 50 at one point, but had some drop outs). We couldn't have managed if the Caravan Club site wasn't just next door. Next year we are trying something slightly different. As Easter is quite early we are holding the AGM later, on April 21st. We will be camping on a site with enough space to accommodate us all, to save my nerves, but with only a few hardstandings and limited electric hook-ups. As our numbers are increasing every year this is the kind of site we will have to use in the future for large rallies. We hope the weather might be more clement by then so we can socialise around the vans more, which, when it happens, makes Murvi meets perfect!

Don't forget, if you haven't done it already, to place details of your next of kin behind the driver's sun visor, where they can be located in the event of illness during a rally.

Finally, my thanks to Nick Mawby for his help in the preparations for the A.G.M. rally.

Roger pepper said that the November rally this year will be held over the weekend of Thursday 9 to Monday 13 at Highlands End Holiday Park which is situated in a beautiful cliff top location on the Dorset coast close to Bridport. The cost will be £22 per night. I'll circulate more details and booking information at the beginning of July.

9 Adrian Sumption, the Editor, reported as follows:

I'm sure you would really have wanted George Osborne to be addressing you now as editor but sadly he wasn't available as I understand he has one or two other jobs. And we couldn't quite stretch to his speaking fee either.

I'm sure he would have found a lot more to say than me, but there's not a great deal I can say about producing the newsletter that I haven't already said in previous years, but I'll say it anyway.

Once again, we published two newsletters in the year, a Spring copy and an Autumn one, both of which were well received and for which I received a good number of articles covering a wide range of topics.

I am most grateful to those of you who were good enough to share the highs and lows of your experiences in your vans, your technical wizardry or your culinary skills ... or even just an amusing anecdote ... for publication in the newsletter. It is you who really make the newsletter what it is and help

to make my job as editor easier and more enjoyable. Fortunately, I didn't receive anything too scurrilous or too much 'fake news' so my job was relatively easy.

All that then leaves me to do, apart from adding a few of my own thoughts, is to attempt to cobble all your contributions together into an interesting package and send it out to all our members in the hope that they will find it interesting and enjoyable.

Of course, that leads me on neatly to tell you that the time is rapidly approaching when I will be sending out an email asking for contributions to the next newsletter – hopefully to be published in early May. But you don't have to wait that long – strike while the iron is hot and write something about this weekend or another recent experience/tech tip/etc. It would be especially good to have contributions from members who haven't contributed previously as there is a danger of relying too heavily on one or two regular contributors.

So, please do send me anything you think might be of interest to fellow members - but remember, try to keep it to 800 words or less and include some nice photos if possible.

- 10 Alan Major, Nick Mawby, Roger Pepper Karin Sumption and Julia Wright were elected to the Executive Committee.
- 11 Robert Emuss proposed Martin Sweet as Auditor. This was seconded by Andrew Bawn and carried unanimously with the meeting's thanks to Martin for carrying out this function.
- 12 Nic Nicholls proposed a vote of thanks to the committee for their hard work and commitment in the running of the Club. This was greeted with a round of applause.
- 13 The next Annual General Meeting will be held on 21 April 2018 at a venue to be announced in due course.

The meeting closed at 18.37