

The Murvi Club
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Held on 20 April 2024 at 6.00pm

Present:

Ian Baxter
Steve & Maggie Butler
Jane & Mark Elson
Angela & Robert Emuss
Nigel & Anne Evans
Robert & Christine Flitney
Mike & Sylvia Frew
Ingrid & Billy Gawthorpe
Terry Gordine
Adrian & Theresa Hitchman
John & Mary Laidler
Christina Langford & Ron Robertson
Alan & Marilyn Major
Nick & Yvonne Mawby
Penny McCallaig & Andrew Shewan
Roger Norman
Anne & Steve Parker
Roger & Wendy Pepper
Tony Phillips
Lin Powell & Wendy Palmer

Pete & Meg Privett
Keith & Lyn Ross
Andy & Karina Shire
Martin & Penny Sweet
Mike & Helen Vernon
Colin & Liz Wallis
Geoff & Carol Wilkinson
Jackie & Malcolm Withers
Julia Wright
Vince & Christine Wright

Apologies:

Janet & David Crouch
Colin & Jean Elliot
Alan & Jane Fletcher
Kate Foster
Barry Ireland
Sue Norman & Sarah Woolley
Karin Sumption
Mike Warburton
Alan & Chrissy Williams

1. Julia Wright took the chair and welcomed everyone to the Meeting.
2. The **minutes** of the Annual General Meeting held on 25 March 2023 were approved and signed by Julia Wright.
3. There were no **matters arising** from the Annual General Meeting held on 25 March 2023.
4. **Julia Wright**, the Chairman, reported as follows:

It seems hard to believe that it was over a year ago that Alan was leading us through a familiarisation of The Hub. I think that many of us of a certain age who are not good with technology found it challenging to say the least. One year on I am certainly convinced of its benefits and I hope you are too.

These benefits are particularly noticeable for those of us who organise meets. The system saves so much time over the whole process and being automated, it is more likely to be accurate. Hopefully it will encourage more members to volunteer to host a meet. That too can seem daunting at first but is very satisfying. Members are always grateful for the chance to explore new territory, especially with company and the social aspects of a meet.

On the question of volunteering, I am mindful that none of us are getting any younger. That applies equally to your committee. Last year Roger Pepper retired as secretary. Mike and Sylvia Frew stepped into the breach. This year Karin will be stepping down as Rally Secretary. Sadly, she is unable to be here this year. Once again, we had a volunteer to take on the Rally Secretary's role, initially by supporting Karin. Andy Shire has already been busy organising the final stages of the AGM and supporting Vince at the Ripley pre-meet. I would like to say a big thank-you to all three of our recent recruits – Mike, Sylvia and Andy.

You will have seen from the agenda that one of the later items is a proposal to award honorary life membership to Roger and Wendy Pepper. The Club first did this for Pam Crummay and her partner. For the benefit of newer members, Pam was the driving force behind the establishment of the original Murvi Lovers Club. (The name was changed a few years later to save embarrassment!) At the inaugural general meeting in July 2010 Roger volunteered to be Secretary. Alan Major and Nick Mawby also volunteered for their positions at that meeting. All three have been crucial in how the Club has developed over the following 14 years.

Roger certainly kept me on the straight and narrow when I became Chairman in 2012. We knew that we could rely on him to pick up any of the ever-changing legal aspects of running any Club these days. So the committee was pleased that we were able to offer him and Wendy this accolade.

Finally, my thanks also go to John Laidler for his hard work with our newsletter, Pete and Meg Privett for supplying their sound system and of course, you the members, for your enthusiastic support for what we do.

5. **Mike Frew**, the Secretary, reported as follows:

Sylvia and I took over the role of Secretary at last year's AGM. We would like to place on record our appreciation to Roger Pepper, not only for the thoroughness with which he conducted the handover process but also for the immaculate state of both the paper and digital records he left behind. It has made our job much more manageable and straightforward.

As I mentioned, Sylvia and I are in effect doing a job share. Too many people for my liking have suggested that our division of responsibilities is slightly uneven. I am the officially nominated secretary and Sylvia does all the work!

Executive Committee meetings took place on the 26 March 2023 and 23 November 2023. Any member not able to be there in person attended by Zoom video conference. The Committee members have been in regular touch by email and on the Hub between meetings. John Laidler was co-opted onto the Committee as Newsletter Editor and Sylvia Frew to assist with the Secretary's role. A decision was taken to recommend to the AGM that the membership of the Executive Committee be increased from 5 to 6 to allow the Newsletter Editor to be a permanent member of the Committee. This would require a change to the Constitution. The Committee also decided to propose the awarding of lifetime membership of the Club to Roger and Wendy Pepper.

Membership of ACCEO (the Association of Camping and Caravanning Exempted Organisations) and our public liability insurance have both been renewed.

6. **Alan Major**, the Treasurer, reported as follows:

You should all have received a copy of this year's accounts with the AGM papers. As in previous years they have been audited by Martin Sweet and on your behalf I would like to thank him for his time.

Subscription income remains stable and while some costs have increased others have reduced so once again the accounts show a surplus of income over expenditure for the year.

Recovery of event costs is always a challenge as the Club endeavours to meet its objective of making neither a profit nor loss. It does seem that the Club's use of a crystal ball for setting rally fees this year has been rather more successful than in the previous year.

As always the Club needs to be aware of increasing costs and in particular there may be a challenge in the current year on the level of expenditure needed to maintain the Club's web presence. However at current expectations these should be manageable within the current subscription level. In conclusion, I believe these accounts show the Club's finances remain sound.

Meg Privett proposed and Wendy Palmer seconded that the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023 be accepted. Meg Privett offered huge thanks to Alan for his hard work.

7. **Karin Sumption**, the Rally Secretary, could not be present in person. Her report was read out by Sylvia Frew.

This has been a difficult year for me, but I'm hoping from now on things are looking up. I'm sorry I can't be with you here, but my niece has chosen this weekend to get married in Gloucestershire, a little too far away to be here as well. I hope the rainy weather we've had so far this year, and the state of the ground, hasn't made the organisation of parking the vans too onerous. I think in future, if our winters continue to be so wet, we might have to confine ourselves to venues with lots of hardstandings.

We have run nine meets during this year, a similar number to last year. We now have a regular group of members organising them, which is really good. They are proving very popular, with numbers topping forty at one. They have been well spread around England and Wales and it would be good if we could have some in Scotland again.

With the new system for booking rallies working well, planning meets is now fairly easy. I would like to say a big thank you to Alan for all the hard work he has put into it. He says it has made his job simpler. It has certainly made the job of organising rallies easier!

So far we have five meets planned for this year, all returning to popular venues. In May in Falmouth and Heligan, in June in Crickhowell, in November in the Forest of Dean and December in Chertsey. Some members are also going to the Shrewsbury Folk Festival in August. Details of all are on the Club website. If anyone fancies organising a few days pre or post any of these, somewhere on the way there or back, for members coming from a long way away, that would be excellent.

I am standing down as rally Secretary at this AGM. I've been doing the job for twelve years and have really enjoyed it. I haven't done much in the last few months and would like to thank Andy Shire for all the work he has done on my behalf.

Have a great weekend.

8. **Nick Mawby**, the IT and Membership Secretary, reported as follows

The membership continues to grow and has reached 322 vans. During the year since the last AGM we have lost 51 members but gained 71.

Many of the early photos of members are now showing their age (!) so I would appreciate some newer updates.

The membership system is now much easier for me since Alan automated many functions, although I have no idea how these work!

There have been no new tips submitted to the website during the year but these are being posted to the Hub and the Committee will look at the best way to move forward with how tips are made available.

9. **Proposed Change to the Constitution**

The Committee propose an amendment to the Constitution so that the Newsletter Editor becomes a permanent member of the Committee rather than being co-opted each year. The wording of article 4 of the Constitution would be amended to allow the election of SIX members rather than FIVE. "The management of the association in accordance with the terms of this constitution shall be in the hands of an executive committee which will consist of SIX members elected at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting called for that purpose."

Proposed by Meg Privett, seconded by Angela Emuss. Carried unanimously. (Amended copy of the Constitution attached)

10. **Elections** to the Executive Committee:

Mike Frew, John Laidler, Alan Major, Nick Mawby, Andy Shire and Julia Wright were elected

11. Lin Powell proposed and Tony Phillips seconded Martin Sweet as **Auditor**. Carried unanimously with the meeting's thanks to Martin for again performing this function.

12. Proposal to award **honorary life membership** of the Club to Roger and Wendy Pepper. Proposed by the Committee, seconded by Pete Privett. Carried unanimously.

Roger spoke about his delight at the honour. Had asked Alan why he hadn't had to pay his subs. Alan said, "Hasn't Julia said?" Julia said, "I need to have a word..." Roger remarked it had been a privilege and pleasure... most of the time!

13. **General Discussion**

Lin Powell raised the question of the date of the AGM. Organised to avoid Easter and be before most people had gone away on their travels. Had to be within 15 months of the last AGM

Keith Ross commented that Andy had done a fantastic job. The AGM is potentially the most difficult rally to organise.

Wendy Pepper brought the sad news that Nick Nicholls had died in January. Pauleen had been in touch with her.

Anne Evans recorded our thanks to Karin for all her hard work as Rally Secretary.

John Laidler encouraged input for the next Newsletter – maybe photos and a report of this AGM?

14. Date and venue of the **next AGM** to be announced.