

The Murvi Club

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Held on: 23 March 2013 at 18.00

Present:

Ian Baxter & Jane Senior
Jean Brill
Ann and Roger Clough
Hugh & Jeanette Constable
Leigh & Annabel Darnton
Colin & Julia Davies
Bob & Maggie Eley
Robert & Angela Emuss
Sandy & Rachael Ewing
Robert and Christine Flitney
Mike & Sylvia Frew
Nick & Audrey Goulden
Wilf and Debbie Harris
Pete & Di Johnson
Alan & Marilyn Major
Penny McCallig & Andrew Shewan
Roger Norman
Roger & Wendy Pepper
Dean & Sarah Small
Adrian & Karin Sumption
Martin & Penny Sweet
Barry & Betty Tomlinson
John and Mai Welton
Julia Wright

Apologies:

Robert & Carole Barratt
Andrew & Elizabeth Bawn
Anne & Brian Biffin
Mike & Dot Birch
Mike & Caroline Brankin
Alan Brill
Phil & Gay Chamberlayne
John & Judy Chandler
Adrian Clinton & Cath Potter
Jackie Coles & Steve Little
Garf & Jess Corfield
Anne and Stewart Cormie
Martin Cox
Jane & John Day
Jo Durham & Hanneke van Deth
Martin & Brenda Elliston
Simon & Ellie Elsdon
Andy & Sylvia Embling
Anne & Nigel Evans
Val & John Flatt
Alan & Jane Fletcher
Graham & Jenny Goodacre
Philip & Hilary Greenwood
Mel Harris
Noel & Karen Harte
Ray & Val Hill
Barry & Joyce Hopewell
Ian & Pat Johnson
Godfrey and Alison Kent
John & Mary Laidler
Tony & Chris Lewis
Graham & Lorna Lockley
Peter & Jean Lynch
Charles & Dee Marks
Nick & Yvonne Mawby
Carolyn and Howard Mowbray
Dave & Liz Nayler
Nic & Pauleen Nicholls
Alice & Ian Palmer
Pete & Meg Privett
Max & Erica Quarterman
Trevor & Sheila Redman
Chris & Nadine Reed
David and Jill Sadler
Mike & Louise Simpson
Richard & Lynn Stevens
Adele & Bob Voice
David & Julie Wain
Michael Warburton
Geoff & Carol Wilkinson
Alan & Chrissy Williams
Vince & 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 24/03/2012 were approved and signed by the chairman.
- 3 There were no matters arising from the Annual General Meeting held on 24/03/2012.
- 4 Julia Wright, the Chairman, reported as follows:

It doesn't seem a year since we were gathered in the sunshine at Abingdon. Reflecting on my first year as chairman I can confirm that Pam was being truthful when she told me that the role wasn't onerous and that the committee members were 'wonderful'.

Many things have worked well this year. As Nick will confirm, the membership continues to grow. The on-line chat discussions impress me with their content (from toilet paper and televisions to tyres) and with the enthusiasm that members have for their campervans and for the topics discussed. The biggest response came from the suggested name change for the club, something we will return to later in the agenda. There have been nearly 100 separate posts since the last AGM, which represent a great source of information not only about technical issues but also travel recommendations. If you are not already linked in to these you might want to consider doing so. More information is available on our website.

One thing we are interested in doing is increasing the number of meets that we hold. At the 2011 AGM a lot of suggestions were made, including rallies in the spring and autumn; two or three rallies not at shows; long distance footpath walking; two people getting together to arrange a meet in their area, plus special topic meets. Surprisingly, we have been successful in holding meets in the winter, with Roger's November meet and Karin's February meet very well supported. That may suggest that members find the out-of-season events more attractive. We will return to this topic later in the agenda so that we can gather your views.

Other commitments meant that I only made one of the meets, the Historic Vehicle Gathering at Powderham Castle in July. David Wickers had kindly arranged for us to rally on the site, despite camping normally only being available to exhibitors. Karen will cover this memorable event in her report later. Suffice it to say that I knew it was going to be different, when I had to be towed on to the site!

Jess Corfield has had to step down as our Editor and I would like to thank her for the work she has done. Finally, I'd like to thank the committee, who do a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes. I'd also like to thank you, the members without whom none of this would be possible.
- 5 Roger Pepper, the Secretary, reported as follows:

The only committee meeting which took place during the year was on 25 March 2012 immediately following the AGM. However the committee have been in regular touch by email.

The following decisions have been taken:

Pam Crummay kindly donated a gazebo for use at the Club's rallies. It is being stored by the Corfields but if any rally organiser wants to use it they should contact me.

Contingency plans have been put in place to cope with the unexpected loss of any of the Club's Officers.

The year book and any other large documents will in future be distributed by a link to a section of the Club's website.

I notified the organisations responsible for the issue of our exemption certificates that we have had a change of Chairman.

Membership of The Association of Caravan and Camping Exempted Organisations and our public liability insurance have both been renewed.
- 6 Alan Major, the Treasurer, reported as follows:

The latest set of accounts has been prepared for the year to 31 December 2012 and a copy was sent to everyone with the meeting notice. They show that the Club has been able to meet all its financial commitments from the subscriptions collected from members without the need to draw upon any of the Club reserves. The surplus of income over expenditure for the year has been added to the general reserve.

Where members pay subscriptions in advance, the advance subscriptions are not recognized as income until the year to which they relate. This ensures that expenditure and income are properly matched year by year.

As the income of the Club remains sufficient to cover its expenditure and the budget for the forthcoming year shows that this should continue, I will be recommending to the Executive Committee that the membership subscription remains at £5 per year.

The acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Adrian Sumption, seconded by Roger Norman 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, in March 2012, we had 123 members.

As of 20th March 2013 we have 163 members (161 paid up and 1 pledged to pay on return from a foreign trip and 1 when her fractured wrist has healed to enable her to sign a cheque!).

We have two lapsed members:

- 1 resigned with no reason
- 1 is selling their Murvi

Privacy

We have in place a privacy policy and the option to choose not to share details with the general membership. Eleven members have chosen not to share; one less than last year. Concern over publicising the home address seems to be a concern by some who are away a lot.

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 75% of the membership is subscribed.

There have been some useful discussions, and I have 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 has changed to become more like a forum, and I have recently altered the Chat group so that all members can view the discussions via the website, although you need to be signed up to the chat group to post messages.

There are five 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 had a total of 3982 hits in the last year on the home page (down from 4863) and 1358 on the members page (up from 1006).

We will look at purchasing our own domain name, once the vote on the club name has concluded.

I will also explore different ways of hosting the website with the aim of allowing individual login so that it would be possible for interested members to edit specific pages on the website.

Yearbook

Last year we uploaded the yearbook to the website as a password protected file, so that all members could view or download it. Printed copies were sent to those who had paid extra for postal information.

I would like to get members feedback on the photo leaflet sent out for this meeting. I personally find it useful as I struggle to put names to faces. I emailed the photo leaflets last year, but found that a lot of members were too mean to use their printer ink to produce hard copy. It cost 78p per leaflet to print and post the handout this year.

Martin Sweet suggested that home addresses are not included in the year book as this could lead to a breach of security when members are away travelling. This was generally accepted.

Nick Goulding asked that only one item is included in a chat email as this makes tracking easier.

Members felt that the AGM leaflet with photos was useful.

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

You won't need telling that 2012 was rather wet!

In mid June we had 12 vans booked for the Midsummer Event at Kelmarsh Hall, but this was cancelled with three days notice. Fortunately we were able to contact all those who had booked, including some who had already set off. This is the benefit of providing us with mobile numbers. We managed to organise an alternative meet at Upper Hurst Farm in Derbyshire. It was a very successful weekend, with twelve vans, dry pitches and reasonably dry weather. We even managed to find a pub within walking distance to spend our evenings in.

Twenty vans took up the very kind offer from David and Lorna Wickers for us to hold a meet at Powderham Vintage Vehicle Rally in Devon from 7th to 8th July. Despite the rain, most turned up. It was ominous from the start, with Nick & Yvonne needing three separate tows to get on site. On the Friday evening Nick had arranged a meal at the local pub; it started well with Nick getting served his fish and

chips after 10 minutes. Unfortunately it was two and a half hours before Andy Bawn was fed; he certainly impressed all with his patience. For the half dozen stalwarts who stayed on for the Saturday night (despite the cancellation of the show) the camaraderie in the beer tent was superb, as was the food (and beer). The evening was topped off by the communal singing of 'Thank You for the Murvis' written by Lorna who accompanied us on guitar, to the tune of a similar name by Abba. This is available on request, although the last verse that Liz Naylor insisted on adding is not suitable for general distribution! We hope that we may be able to return to Powderham in the future.

We had hoped to have a Scottish meet towards the end of July. Ronnie Leadbitter had found a lovely venue at Butterstone Loch, Perthshire, but unfortunately, although quite a few people were interested in a meet in Scotland, most were already booked to do something else that weekend and as there was only one taker the meet had to be cancelled.

Only five vans booked for Shepton Mallet Motorhome Show in September and unfortunately the organisers did not provide us with a club area. The people who went did however manage to meet up with Pam and Paul Crummay in Wells.

In late September Ian Castle, who lives in Suffolk, organised for a group of eight vans to camp in the car park in Orford. This was a very pleasant, leafy car park right in the middle of the village, with a pub across the road, one five minutes up the road and a bakery/café that sold almond croissants to die for. Most of us took the short boat trip across to the Ness, which used to be a military testing station, but now belongs to the National Trust and has old buildings with very interesting displays of what used to take place there. It is also a beautiful wild place to wander around. Ian also provided a village trail leaflet so some of us spent Saturday afternoon walking round the village discovering some of its history. On Sunday morning Ian took us for a wildlife walk along the fields and marshes of the area. We had a wonderful weekend and will be asking Ian if we could repeat the trip sometime.

Roger and Wendy came up trumps again with another mid November meet by the seaside, even down to booking sunny weather! This time the camp site was in a village near Robin Hoods Bay. Twenty three vans made the trek from as far away as Aberdeen and Cornwall. Lots of us walked the coast from Whitby to Ravenscar in different sections on different days, using the local buses to ferry us to the beginning and collect us at the end of each trip. Most people also took the bus or walked along the disused railway line to Whitby for a fish and chip lunch. In the evenings we could use the bar on site to socialise and they provided us with dinner on Saturday evening. We didn't realise how lucky we were with the weather until we saw on the news, just a few days later, how badly Whitby had been affected by the floods just after we left.

Adrian and I organised a meet at Setthorns campsite in the New Forest in mid February. For the second year running we managed to book glorious weather. There had been almost continual rain in the weeks leading up to the camp so it was a relief when six vans arrived with their intrepid owners. During the days we walked, cycled, sightsaw and lazed. There was even an opportunity for a comparison of the tools carried by Murvi Lovers when water was sighted spreading rapidly across the carpet of one of the vans. All the handy people sprang into action and with tools and instruction manuals a temporary fix of what turned out to be a leaking boiler was made. On Saturday morning we all went to Lymington for sightseeing, the market and a pub lunch. The evenings were spent quite cosily in the gazebo (with walls and a fan heater). A shared supper on Saturday evening was up to its usual excellent standard.

9 Alan Major, Nick Mawby, Roger Pepper Karin Sumption and Julia Wright were elected to the Executive Committee.

10 Angela Emuss proposed Martin Sweet as Auditor. Di Johnson seconded and his election was carried unanimously with the meeting's thanks to Martin for carrying out this function.

11 Roger Pepper spoke as follows:

'In a debate on the chat line which took place in January this year, a majority of the members who took part were in favour of the word 'Lovers' being dropped from the Club's name. Our founding Chairman Pam Crummay and now honorary life member joined in the debate and said 'Our reason for using "lover" in the name was because we are such lovers of the Murvi - simple! And every Murvi owner we had ever met were lovers, too. But if members are getting "upset" with any connotations connected with the name, Paul and I really don't have problems with the name changing, after all, we don't even own a Murvi now - but we shall always remain "lovers"!!'

The Executive Committee therefore decided to propose the motion at this meeting that 'The name of the association be changed to The Murvi Club and the necessary amendments made to the Constitution and Code of Conduct'. I now make that proposal on the Committee's behalf.

I have circulated copies of the revised Constitution and Code of Conduct to all members. The only changes are to include the new name in the heading and the first paragraph of each document.

Members not able to be present today have been given the opportunity to appoint a proxy, or submit their voting intentions to me. 26 members have voted in this way.

In accordance with clause 3 of the Constitution each member is entitled to one vote. A member is defined as an owner, prospective owner or past owner of a Murvi motor caravan plus their spouse or partner. A simple majority of valid votes will decide the issue.'

Adrian Sumption and Jean Brill volunteered to act tellers, voting slips were distributed and completed and the result was as follows:

For the motion 45

Against the motion 3

Abstentions 1

The new name of the Association was therefore declared to be 'The Murvi Club'.

12 Karin Sumption spoke as follows with regard to future rallies:

'The following rallies are planned for the next twelve months.

The Midsummer Motorhome Show in Exeter 14th -16th June. To book go to the Murvi website, click on Events and then the link to the booking page. Under Camping Arrangements don't forget to click on club and then you will be given the choice of clubs. When you have booked please let me know as the Organisers won't! There is a link to me on the top of the events page on the Murvi Lovers website.

<http://www.outandaboutlive.co.uk/Shows/The-Midsummer-Motorhome-and-Caravan-Event/sh26>

We are hoping to hold a staggered meet at different sites in Scotland starting from Edinburgh in late August arriving in Rosemarkie by September and maybe up to the far Northwest. There is a link on the website for you to add your ideas.

Roger and Wendy are planning another mid November seaside meet.

Adrian and I plan to hold another late February meet, probably in Dorset this time.

If anyone fancies running a meet give me a ring or email me (from the Murvi website if you don't have my email address to hand) and I will send the information out to members. I am also very happy to help with planning a meet if anyone would like to run one but is unsure of what is involved. We have exemption licenses so that we can hold rallies at places other than campsites.'

We now have a section on the website called Mini Meets, if you are going away for a few days and would like to share the time with other Murvi Lovers, you can post your plans and email address and anyone interested in joining you can liaise with you.'

Roger Pepper said that the November seaside meet would be on the weekend of 14-18 at the Kelling Heath Campsite on the North Norfolk coast west of Sheringham. Further details will be published in due course.

Julia Wright gave the following further guidance on organising and attending Mini Meets:

Hosts

- Choose your site and book and inform the manager of the site that you may be joined by other Murvi Club members
- Publicise on the web-site
- Meet people when they come on site and liaise with them so that they know what is happening each day

Members attending

- Let the host know you are attending. (Note how the host wishes to be contacted)
- Let the manager of the site know you are with the Murvi Club
- If you are late in deciding to attend contact the host on arrival
- If you need to cancel let both the host and the manager of the site know
- The host is not responsible for anything other than that mentioned above

Julia Wright said she was thinking of organising a rally at Bucklers Hard. The rally site is only available to organised groups, so we would have it to ourselves. The 'peaceful haven' of Buckler's Hard is on the banks of the Beaulieu River in the New Forest National Park. It's an ideal base to explore the New Forest and is just a short walk to Beaulieu village along the river to the National Motor Museum. 10 units is the minimum if possible. Interest was shown in this and it was felt the best time to hold the rally would be in September 2014 after the finish of the school holidays.

13 Julia Wright spoke as follows regarding 'buddying'

'On our website we offer a buddying system for travelling to more remote areas.

Nothing formal has ever been done about this, although as far as I know, no-one has ever asked about it either.

The options would be enabling members to make their own informal arrangements via the website, or a formal club expedition.

Informal Arrangements

It would be possible to put up a form online in the members area, so members could post their buddying wishes. This would work in the same way as the food list for the shared supper at the AGM.

Alternatively we could have a buddying co-ordinator who could be then contacted by members and who

would then run a separate list.

Although we say on the website that this would be relevant for those travelling to more remote areas, I wonder if there are members, particularly if they are new to campervanning or foreign travel, who would like to go abroad but are hesitant about doing so alone.

A Formal Club Expedition

I have been in contact with one of the tour leaders from GB Privilege. His question was does the tour need to be exclusive to Murvi owners only? He has been involved with owners' clubs tours in the past and take up can be low. This has resulted in many not being viable to run and thus cancelled. This is obviously annoying for those members who had booked to go.

With this in mind one option could for us to have a number of places reserved for Murvi owners on a GB Privilege tour. This would give us the guarantee that the tour would run even if take up of our reserved places by members was low.

A tour that may be suitable is a trip to Greece next spring to coincide with the Greek Easter celebrations. This is around a month long starting early April 2014.'

Interest in the Greek tour was shown by some of those at the meeting and Julia agreed to hold further discussions with GB privilege personnel.

Wilf Harris pointed out that the Club's insurance may not cover trips abroad and if an expedition is arranged this needs to be checked.

14 Karin and Adrian Sumption were thanked for all their work in organising the A.G.M. rally

15 The next Annual General Meeting will be held on 22 March 2014 at a venue to be announced.

The meeting closed at 18.55.