

The Annual General Meeting of the  
KNAUS OWNERS CLUB  
at the Peterborough Show Ground, Sunday 25 April, 2004

**Present:**

Steven & Hazel Brock; Gordon & Eleanor Bubbear; Noel & Sue Cooper; Michael & Jill Dixon; Mark & Wendy Capsey; Lionel & Margaret Hudspith; Alan & Kim Payne; Jonathan & Julie Pierce; Tony & Olive Poole; Lawrence & Jacqui Porter; Paul & Sue Prebble; Rita & Rod Scott; Bill & Jean Sier; Frank & Margaret Tunstill; Cathy & Mike Wilcox; Mark & Ann Wynne; Cindy & Martin Webb (17 vans) –  
There were no apologies for absence

1. Bill Sier opened the meeting by welcoming everyone present to the second AGM of the Club. He went on to thank Steve Brock for his excellent work in getting the website up and running and noted that several favourable comments had been received on its format and content.  
He also thanked Mike & Jill Dixon for their help with the preparation of the 'paperwork' for him during the year and for the production of the Club's 'Kontakt' newsletter, that was useful for those members who are not 'on-line'.  
There had been three meetings during the past year, the Peterborough and York Shows and a Firework Rally arranged by Jonathan & Julie Pierce. Other suggested meets had not received the numbers required and had been cancelled. He hoped that more support would be forthcoming for the coming year and looked for other members to arrange meetings in their own areas to help keep the Club vibrant and for them to be given support when such rallies were announced.  
It was at this point that he announced that due to ill health he would have to relinquish the job of Hon. Secretary but assured those present that he would remain a member and continue to support the Club in any way possible.

Left:

Bill & Jean Sier with the Certificate of Appreciation and flowers presented to them as they stepped down from the post of Hon. Secretary and founders of the Knaus Owners Club.  
It is due to their enthusiasm that the Club was formed and established over the past two years and their announcement was received with sadness.



2. The meeting continued and, in the absence of other volunteers, Mike Dixon agreed to become Honorary Secretary and Jill Dixon agreed to be Treasurer and to continue to produce the newsletter. Steve Brock was happy to operate and build on the already successful website. Many favourable comments had been received on its format and he plans further improvements for the site that can be found at [www.knausownersclub.com](http://www.knausownersclub.com).  
These positions on the committee were proposed and unanimously agreed by those present.
3. It was agreed that a bank account should be opened in the name of 'The Knaus Owners Club' and that the Secretary and Treasurer would organise this.
4. The already elected committee members felt there should be an additional club member on the committee – a) To balance the input of club views and b) Possibly to coordinate rallies and meetings. There are inevitably going to be occasions when the Secretary is away and therefore unable to deal with enquiries and duties involved with a meeting and if there were another person available it would help. Sadly there were no volunteers but after discussion Bill & Jean Sier agreed to continue to arrange our Peterborough Meet and Tony Poole generously offered to coordinate the York Rally.
5. **The Way Forward** - It was agreed that the Club should continue to operate on an informal basis with the situation being reviewed at each AGM.
6. The AGM is seen to be a fixed point early in the year at the Peterborough Show. We continue to hope for help from other members with suggestions for venues or offer to coordinate a 'one-off' meeting on sites other than at the large shows. These possibly to be on other sites, with facilities and if possible somewhere to meet in case of inclement weather. This AGM was such a success because good weather made it possible to socialise and everybody had the chance to talk and exchange views, news and tips.
7. Members are reminded that the website is available to post information of intended trips. For example - if you are off to a site and would be happy to have company you are invited to go 'on-line' and post that information. Some members have done this during the last year.

8. At this point Jonathan & Julie reported on their successful visit to the Dusseldorf Show last September. They were greatly impressed with both the standard and enormous size of the show and with the facilities of the camping area specifically set up for visitors that are free of charge.  
Due to various commitments it will not be possible for the Secretary to arrange a formal Club 'outing' to the show this year but it is a possibility for 2005. However, Paul & Sue Prebble are planning to visit the show this year and would be happy to join up with any other members wishing to go too. Their email address is [paul@prebs.co.uk](mailto:paul@prebs.co.uk) / Tel:01844 346731 should you want to contact them.
9. In connection with meetings/rallies the question of insurance was raised. It is sad that we, as a group, would not consider insurance claims against the Club, but we have to be aware that in this age of 'compensation culture' there might be someone who would and therefore, from the outset, it was felt the question should be addressed. After much discussion it was agreed the Club could not and would not undertake insurance cover and that -
  - i. A notice should be displayed at any meeting announcing that persons attending do so at their own risk.
  - ii. Where applicable, information should be added to written handouts.
  - iii. Should the Club grow and be placed on a more formal basis the question of insurance should be reviewed.
10. It was informally agreed that further approaches be made to get the main Knaus Dealers 'on side'. During the show several prospective buyers had come to our Club site to ask opinions on various models and undoubtedly this had swayed these people's decisions with the result that at least three of sales made at the show could be attributed to our input.
11. An information brochure on the Club is proposed in a format that dealers will be happy to hand to purchasers of new vehicles.
12. Group visits to both dealerships and to the Knaus factory be investigated
13. **Subscriptions** – The initial funds raised by a £1 levy on vans attending meetings and the sale of Knaus items at meetings in the first year have been more than used up in producing newsletters, information sheets, postage, telephone calls, etc. and 'officers' have been covering costs. The s.a.envelopes have helped but not everyone has sent these. It was suggested that in order for the Club to be viable and have funds an initial membership fee of £5 per van per annum should be introduced. (The year to run from the 1st May). The amount to be reviewed at each AGM. This was voted on and agreed by the members present.
14. It was agreed that a letter be circulated, together with this report to each of the known contacts, which at the moment are about 50 – 60. This would ask for the membership fee and/or acknowledge the receipt of those already paid.
15. If no response were received those names would be removed from the current mailing list.
16. The introduction of a membership fee removes the need for stamped addressed envelopes and the levy on vans attending meetings.