

The Annual General Meeting of the
KNAUS OWNERS CLUB
at the Peterborough Show Ground, Friday 22 April, 2005



Present:

Steven & Hazel Brock; Dunan & Joan Clarke; Noel & Sue Cooper; Mike & Jill Dixon; Graham & Brenda Parsons; Alan & Kim Payne; Tony & Olive Poole; Rita & Rod Scott; Bill & Jean Sier; Brian & Gill Suffling; Vic & Margaret Tointon; Frank & Margaret Tunstill; Cathy & Mike Wilcox; (13 vans) –

There were no apologies for absence

1. Secretary's Report –

This year, 2005, is the third full year of the Knaus Owners Club and it is pleasing to see the Knaus name is selling steadily in the UK and as a result new members are joining. We now have a membership of forty-three (43) spread throughout the country. Sadly two of our most enthusiastic founder members, Jonathan & Julie Pierce are no longer members as they emigrated to the USA after their wedding.

I believe members agree with our informal approach and most look to the Club as a point of contact for help and advice. Having made a large financial commitment members look to use their motorhome to the full; some wintering in sunny climes and others taking long continental breaks. This lifestyle plus family commitments suggest there will never be large numbers to attend Club meets.

However, excluding Motorhome Shows it would be appropriate if we could have two short meets a year, (a preferred term rather than rally). These are best arranged outside high season when sites are more flexible over numbers. Our meet at Kelling, Norfolk, will be a guide as to how popular meets are likely to be.

Unfortunately we get little feedback or contact from the two main dealers of Knaus in the UK, maybe this is because they have a franchise for a number of continental brands. Nevertheless regular information would be appreciated. Although both accepted Club leaflets to give to new owners when they purchased vans, to date, I have not seen a single response from these. We do have contact with the Customer Services at Knaus in Germany who do respond to our enquiries – (more of this under AOB).

It was also good to see that the Club was reviewed in the November, 2004 edition of the Practical Motorhome magazine after the Editor contacted us for copy, etc.

I would like to thank Jill for her administrative skills, Steve for maintaining the website, Tony & Olive plus Bill & Jean for supervising the York and Peterborough Show meets.

2. Treasurer's Report -

After the last AGM an account in the Clubs' name was opened with the Woolwich Building Society and the table distributed showed that we have a credit balance of £133.02.

Expenses have been kept to a minimum helped by the fact that all but ten members receive all newsletters, etc. via the Internet by email, which saved printing & mailing costs. (Although at some cost in stress to us to sort out PDA's, how to send a group of emails as 'Unspecified Recipients', etc.). The stamps from our stock of s.a.e.s. have been used where possible elsewhere for postage and a 'friendly & free printer' helps to keep print run costs to a minimum.

In spite of a good balance in hand it is felt that the membership fee should remain at £5 per van, which in turn will help build a 'buffer' should we arrange any event, meet, etc. which requires a subsidy in the future.

3. Web Masters Report -

Steve Brock explained that the recent problems in accessing the Club's web site had been caused by the initial set up format. The initial provider, although cheap in the first instance, had then required an expensive annual fee. A new provider and a new web address had to be found. Some older software and slower web access has meant that some people have not been able to get on to the site, but it is hoped that this will be rectified soon.

He went on to urge all members to go the 'Discussion' section of the site where views, news and matters of interest can be aired, as this is a good way for us all to keep in touch. Your reports on trips away, good sites and interesting items can be emailed to him at any time to be added to other areas of the web site to make it interesting not only for members but for others who 'hit on' the site.

4. Subscriptions –

As already reported subscriptions were discussed and it was voted unanimously that these should remain at £5 per van. The year to run 12 months from the AGM in April to the next. People joining very late in the year should be allowed for their subscriptions to count for the following year.

5. Election of Officers –

(This item was really put in as a 'joke'). The posts of Secretary & Treasurer were combined and the current post holders were willing to continue, if that was the wish of the meeting. However, should there be any one wishing to take on the tasks a vote would be taken. It was unanimously agreed that the officers should remain the same.

6. Newsletters –

Newsletters would continue to be produced at intervals during the year, but the producers would be grateful for more input from members. To date nobody had sent even a postcard, let alone an article and there must have been places members had visited, or ideas that could be shared! The idea is for it to be for the members, by the members so contributions will always be welcome.

7. Meets –

What is needed is for a member, knowing of a good site, to book dates for a meet. It is suggested that 10 – 15 pitches would be ample. After circulation members then book direct with the site in their own name, but under the umbrella of the Knaus Owners Club. The months of June and September seem appropriate. The Secretary will be happy to hear from any member knowing of and willing to organise such a meet.

8. Dusseldorf Show –

Jill and I intend to visit the show on the 29th & 30th August 2005. This will be our first visit but I understand you are directed to a pitch on arrival and it is not possible to be together as a Club.

We have booked to cross Dover-Calais on Wednesday 24th August, by P & O Ferries and will spend a few days at a site before travelling to Dusseldorf. We have not yet decided on a venue. I know other members are interested in attending and maybe wish to meet up in Germany. This is where a mobile phone comes into it's own. Please let Jill & I know if you are planning to go and we can organise arrangements nearer the time.

9. Any other business -

1. Instruction Manuals –

Knaus, Germany have sent us copies of most of their manuals. The earlier models are in German as few of these were sold in England, the later versions are in English. However, whilst not promising to translate the whole of the manual – specific points can be translated for those struggling with a problem. We are happy to photocopy these for anyone without a copy, but it will be at cost, plus postage as they are quite long.

2. Caravan Owners as members –

We have been contacted by a person owning a (Knaus) Tabbert caravan, who wishes to join a club. If there are no objections it is proposed they should be allowed to join, as we had not previously specified that the membership is for Knaus Motorhome Owners only. It was agreed.

3. Members who change their vans to another make –

A query has been raised as to whether members may remain members if and when they change the make of their vehicle. The matter was discussed and it became apparent that this might happen for a variety of reasons. It also became clear that we could, in fact, lose enthusiastic founder members that play key parts in the running of meets, etc. and others who have become friends over the years. With this in mind it was agreed that should they wish to remain within the Club and continue to pay their subscriptions they should be allowed to continue to be members.

10. The meeting was closed by Tony Poole thanking the officers for their work during the year and wishing all members safe & happy motoring.