

KNAUS OWNERS CLUB UK

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT PETERBOROUGH ON 28TH APRIL 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tony & Olive Poole, Cathy & Mike Wilcox, Andrea & Kevin Hamblin, Alison & Jim Gilmore, Jill & Colin Sandeman, Sallie Lockette & Tony Kilbane, Lynne and Malcolm Evans, Margaret & Frank Tunstill, Rita & Rod Scott, Maxine, John & Evelyn Clarke, Dawn, Phil & Sophie Hall, Kath & Mick Pepper, Marilyn & Chris Hooker.

Tony Poole, Chairman, opened the meeting at 2pm

Tony welcomed all members to the meeting, including new members attending their first meeting with the club. He said how much he appreciated everyone's attendance, despite the very wet and windy conditions that accompanied the whole weekend. He thanked Kevin, who had negotiated with Warners for the use of a room, in which to hold our meeting, as the weather had prevented the use of the Club tents. He expressed concern for Keren and Trevor during this difficult time, and said he was sure that all members sent them their good wishes. He also said that he was sorry to hear that two members, Duncan Clarke and John Paintin, had been unable to attend because of health problems, and wished them both a speedy recovery. He explained that 25 units had booked but only 19 had arrived, and he felt sure that the inclement weather had affected attendance.

Tony emphasised that although not all club members still owned their original Knaus vehicles, the ethos of the club was to facilitate friendships and contacts, and to enable members to help and support each other. He hoped that members would continue to enjoy the informal approach that has been so successful over the years.

Tony thanked all of the club officers for their work throughout the year, especially Bill and Jacquie who held 3 posts between them, including compiling the newsletters. He asked that all members think about contributing items on any subject, large or small that would be of interest to other members. He thanked those who had sent in details of holiday travels they had made during the past year. He also said he was pleased that other people are happy to assist with marshalling the Peterborough and Lincoln rallies in future.

He hoped that members would be able to attend the rally at Betton Farm from 22nd June to 1st July, details of which are attached to his Chairman's Report. The site is at East Ayton and

in a very convenient spot for exploring the coast and many places of interest in North Yorkshire.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from; Keren & Trevor Nicholls, Jacquie & Bill Lowes, Jan & Jim Whitehouse, Betty & Tony Roots, Christine & Mike Bourner, Pamela Jeffries, Lesley & Burton Marsland, Carole Crispin, John Paitin, John Stewart-Young

MINUTES

The minutes of the 2011 Annual General Meeting, which have been displayed on the Knaus website, were agreed and accepted by all members present.

OFFICERS REPORTS

These reports were presented to members and are available as an appendix to these minutes. Kevin raised the point that the website is still underused, and that there are free email accounts that can be used via the web. If anyone is interested please contact him via the website.

Understandably there wasn't a written report from Keren Nicholls, Knaus Liaison Officer, but the secretary presented some notes from Karen as follows;

Keren sent her apologies for her absence due to Trevor's illness (he is now recovering at home after his bone marrow transplant in February) and they both sent everyone their best wishes. Keren has been in conversation with Daniela at Knaus Tabbert for the past two months, resulting in the promise of some Knaus mementoes and a new flag (which unfortunately didn't arrive in time for the meeting), and there are also some camping site guides for Europe and Germany---written in German, should anyone be interested. Daniela also requested some photos of our club at Peterborough for their Knaus Facebook, which Tony kindly agreed to organise.

There was also news of a Knaus owners meeting at the production plant in Jandlesbrunn, Bavaria from 22nd to 24th June—all Knaus owners welcome, and an additional web site address, www.mein.knaus.de. showing the benefits of Knaus. Members can also access this through the existing link on the club website.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Bill Lowes, Club Treasurer, recommended that there should be no increase in the annual subscription for the coming year.

This was proposed by Jim Gilmore and seconded by Phil Hall

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Members present were delighted to hear that Tony had reconsidered his decision to resign from the post of Chairman and the election of officers is as follows;

Chairman: Tony Poole Proposed by Andrea Hamblin. Seconded by Frank Tunstill

Secretary: Andrea Wolfe-Hamblin Proposed by Tony Poole. Seconded by Lynne Evans

Treasurer and Membership Secretary: Bill Lowes Proposed by Kevin Hamblin. Seconded by Tony Poole

Website: Kevin Hamblin: Proposed by Tony Poole. Seconded by Cathy Wilcox

Newsletter: Jacquie Lowes: Proposed by Tony Poole. Seconded by Andrea Hamblin

NEWSLETTER

The Chairman asked that all members contribute to the Newsletters and Jacquie is happy to edit any items if requested to.

2012 MEETS

The next club meeting will be at Betton Farm, East Ayton, near Scarborough, from 22nd June to 1st July. All members and their families are welcome to come and stay for as long as they wish. Please contact Tony via the website or on his mobile phone 07772 761045, if you wish to attend and haven't already made your booking.

The Lincoln Motorhome Show is being held from 21st to 23rd September, and as usual the club will have a social "bring and share" gathering on the Saturday afternoon, with the club providing the drinks. Please remember to use your membership number when making your booking with Warners.

We look forward to seeing you at these meetings.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 1) The secretary advised the meeting that she had a copy of the latest bank statement, forwarded to her by the Treasurer, confirming the balance on his balance sheet on March 31st 2021
- 2) Malcolm Evans had been in conversation with Lowdhams, who seem to have shown a far more positive response to customer queries in recent months, and suggested that the club should approach both Lowdhams and Southdowns, with a view to them passing details of the Knaus Owners Club, when selling a Knuas vehicle.
- 3) Jim Gilmore asked that current owners would leave club information in the vehicle if they sold it.

- 4) The meeting agreed with both of these suggestions, and the Secretary will send letters of introduction and information leaflets to both companies.
- 5) There was a discussion about the purchase of a mobile phone to enable people who are attending rallies or meetings, to contact the Rally Marshall if there is a last minute change to their plans or they have difficulty in locating the rally site.

The use of club funds to purchase a mobile phone, solely for the use of rally Marshalls, was proposed by Cathy Wilcox and seconded by Chris Hooker.

When the phone has been purchased the number will be put onto the website and will be published in the Newsletter.

- 6) Bill Lowes had sent information about the Lawns Rally Site, near Holbeach, just off the A17, as an example for members who would like to consider organising future rallies. Any member interested in organising a rally is assured of support from all Committee members.
- 7) Harry kindly brought information leaflets of Calder Valley Motorhomes, West Yorkshire. He has found them to be extremely helpful and reliable, whenever he has needed vehicle or habitation services and repairs.
- 8) Pamela Jeffries asked that it be circulated that her Sunliner 800DG is for sale. It is a double axle, 2006 vehicle with less than 15,000 miles use, and details will be posted on the website when photos are available.
- 9) The club now has some surplus funds. and the committee would welcome suggestions from members as to how this money might be usefully spent. Please send any ideas to the Secretary or Treasure via their website email addresses.

Many thanks to Olive Poole for organising the fun quiz, which brought the meeting to a close at 3.15pm

Officers reports attached :-

1. Chairman – Tony Poole
2. Secretary – Andrea Wolfe-Hamblin
3. Treasurer and Membership Secretary – Bill Lowes
4. Webmaster – Kevin Hamblin
5. Editor Knaus Kontakt – Jacquie Lowes

Chairmans Report AGM 2012

Our club continues to flourish with its extended membership, rallies and the emergence of the Knaus brand in the UK. and here we are once more on the verge of a new camping season full of anticipation for some great holidays and breaks, seaside, country side, forests or hillsides there is always a camp site in the vicinity, but not forgetting the eternal hope for fabulous weather wherever we camp.

It has been once more a pleasure to be your Chairman through out the past year and it is with a degree of sadness that I inform you of my intention to stand down as Club Chairman at the A.G.M.

I took over this role when our club was on its knee's we had virtually no officers and membership was static, it is now thriving and members are on the increase, the attendance at the rallies has kept going up and up to record levels and with the introduction of the brand back into the U.K. I feel it is time the Chairman was some one with at least a Motorhome, if not a Knaus one, it has not felt right for some time being Chairman with a caravan, we had always hoped that we would go back to a Motorhome sometime, but have to admit that will now not happen.

So I thank all of you for your dedication, support and friendship.

Tony

P.S. Don't forget we are holding a Holiday Meet at East Ayton, near Scarborough in June , anyone requires info. or to book please let me know, full details enclosed.

Secretary's Report. 2012

The past year has seen fewer enquiries to the Secretary, but lots of activity on the Forum, which is most encouraging, and a big thank you to all the folks that respond to enquiries. As a club we have been able to assist in identifying "Knaus friendly" dealers, as well as helping prospective motorhome buyers to make their choice, by showing them around our vehicles. This has enabled people to make more practical assessment of a particular model prior to buying it.

We are delighted to see an increase in the number of members attending both the Peterborough and Lincoln Shows. We look forward to welcoming many of you at the rally being held at East Ayton, near Scarborough, later in the year, which is being organised by Olive and Tony. After a wet and disappointing weekend at the Northern Motorhome Show, held at Knutsford, where there was a sad lack of stalls, we feel that it is not really viable to have a club presence there in future, unless club members request it.

It is good to see that once again Knaus vehicles are being imported, both by Lowdhams and Southdowns Motor Home Centre, Portsmouth, which should cut down on travelling time for members to get repairs etc. completed.

Cathy and Mike Wilcox are standing down as Joint Secretaries this year and I would like to thank them very much for the work that they have undertaken for the club. We hope that they will continue to rally with us whenever possible.

Andrea Wolfe-Hamblin

Secretary, Knaus Owners Club UK

KNAUS OWNERS CLUB ACCOUNTS – 1ST APRIL 2012

2010 Income	/2011 Expenditure	Description	2011 Income	/2012 Expenditure
668.18		Brought Forward - Bank	244.22	
26.42		Brought Forward - Cash	38.97	
425.00		Subscriptions	370.00	
		Donations	2.00	
	151.65	Web Site		154.49
	27.78	Inks, stamps, envelopes etc	10.00	17.56
	72.99	Misc. - Gazebo, Sign		
	270.63	Emblem + Polo Shirts	357.40	105.15
27.85	80.32	Lincoln Refreshments		47.27
	34.98	Flowers		
	225.91	Event Shelter Rally		200.00
452.85	864.26	Totals	739.40	524.47
		Balance of Inc/Exp	214.93	
-411.41			498.12	
283.19		Carry Forward		
		Bank	479.67	
244.22		Cash	18.45	
38.97		Total C/F	498.12	
283.19				

Notes

- a. Subs. Down slightly on last year but still have 70 paid up members for this year.
- b. Donation by member with his subs.
- c. Website – our main expenditure – slight price rise.
- d. Income for stamps etc. was postage costs from members for shirts
- e. Polo shirts – expenditure last financial year – income this year. 2 shirts in stock?
- f. Rally deposit of £200 should be recouped in June.
- g. Income £214.93 more than expenditure leaving a balance as above.
- h. Still a healthy situation and no need to consider raising the subscription.
- i. Any ideas for spending any surplus?

KNAUS OWNERS CLUB Membership Secretary's Report April 2012

70 paid up members for 2011/12, 2 honorary life members and 12 paid up for 2012/13.

We have around 120 on the database, but I know some have resigned and others have sold. I shall look at the database later in the year (September/October) and delete those who have not paid for a number of years.

We have picked up a 15 new members this year, some buying second hand vans, others only finding out recently that we exist. I still receive regular calls from prospective members who are considering purchasing a second hand van and are asking for advice.

A reminder to all members to advise me of any change of details at membership@knausowners.com

Thanks

Webmasters Report 2011-2012

The Knaus Owners website continues to be a focal point for members' discussions, sales and wants, and trip reports. This year again saw considerable increase in the number of visits, 64,468 this year compared to 42,556 for the same period last year. This is a rise of over 50% and I believe that it shows the benefit that the website provides to members.

Most visits to the website (83%) continue to be from users who know our website and visit it directly. Other websites with links to ours generate another 10% of visitors and the remainder find us by using search engines such as Google and Bing. Google remains the most popular search engine used providing over 80% of search engine referred visitors. The most popular topic that brings visitors to our site continues to be the information we have on the Calira charger units.

The discussion forum is still the most popular part of the website with over 60% of website traffic being to this area. There continues to be a problem with automated nuisance postings to the discussion forum, but this has been much less of a problem this year. I have been able to deal with most of these occurrences fairly quickly and have not received any complaints from members. I apologise to anyone who has had problems accessing the discussion forum while these messages were being removed.

There has been a small rise in the cost of our website hosting with 1and1 Internet Ltd. At under £155.00 per year I still believe that it represents good value for members. The site is still under used and although a couple of members' trips articles have been added this year there is room for much more. I have even managed to add a photo album to Kim and Phil's Denmark trip! Email addresses are also available to any members who may need one. I use one myself and they can provide an alternative to gmail or hotmail accounts. These email addresses can be used as webmail or with most email programs and smartphones. I can provide details if required.

Kevin Hamblin

Webmaster, Knaus Owners Club UK.

NEWSLETTER
Report for AGM Knaus Owners Club. April 2012

My name is Jacquie Lowes and together with my husband, Bill we compile the newsletters for the club. Bill and I try to get a newsletter out roughly quarterly and a copy is lodged on the Knaus website by our web master, Kevin Hamblin. Thank you Kevin. The majority of members receive copies of their newsletters by email, however we do also print and post newsletters to those members without Internet access. Should any of these members then get email addresses we would be grateful if you would inform us. I am sure you will appreciate that printer cartridges and postage are expensive whereas email is free. Please accept our apologies if you are not receiving newsletters and do inform us so that we can check our lists.

A big “thank you” goes to Trevor Nicholls who kindly formats the newsletters once we have compiled them, as we do not have access to a PDF program. Trevor could not format the last newsletter as he was in the Christie Hospital in Manchester for his bone marrow transplant. I am sure you will agree that the newsletters look so much more professional with Trevor’s input. Get well soon Trevor!!

Another “thank you” goes to our Chairman, Tony, who never fails to forward an article... “Chairman’s Chatter” for inclusion. We have also received several interesting articles from members in the last 12 months and we do “thank” members so much for these. We are happy to edit any articles if requested but normally include articles exactly as received. PLEASE keep the articles coming! Our email addresses are - jacquie.lowes@btinternet.com or bill.lowes@btinternet.com

Bill and I are happy to relinquish the job of newsletter compilers if any member(s) would like to take this on.

Bill and I apologise for not being with you at the AGM at Peterborough. We have baby-sitting duties in Reading. Bill and I always look forward to this show, catching up with old friends and meeting new members too. We hope the weather is kind and you all enjoy yourselves.

Bill and I hope to see many of you in June at the rally in Scarborough.

Jacquie Lowes