



KNAUS KONTAKT

April 2006



Club vans at Peterborough 2005



PETERBOROUGH HERE WE COME !-

Our next meet is at Peterborough and it is also the club's AGM – and we are approaching the 5th year for the club. During that time the KNAUS brand seems to have gone from strength to strength.

At the beginning to own a Knaus put you in a very small but very select class here in England. In Germany the brand was known to a much wider field, but here to spot another Knaus was rather like spotting a rare bird! However, over the past four years the motor home magazines have been testing and trying the various models and producing only good reports. The past year, in particular, has seen Knaus vehicles featured in various 'trade' publications and their comments have always been favourable. This linked with the fact that motorhome sales are reported on the increase, must be responsible for the increase in the number of new membership applications we have received. In the first three months of this year alone we have received ten new applications. Here we have to apologise for the lack of acknowledgement to those new applicants, but we were making good use of our motorhome by spending the winter in Portugal – almost 12 weeks and that after being away in the van for Christmas too! Over the last year we have dealt with more enquiries by letter, email and 'phone than in previous years covering a variety of subjects from buying, both here and abroad, providing service manuals to solve wiring queries, service provision, etc.

The Practical Motorhome Big Group Test for A-Class fixed-bed the Knaus Sun Ti came out tops over Niesman & Bischoff, Laika & Rapido and Knaus caravans designed for the UK market have recently won two classes in major awards too. Doubtless this type of acclaim for the Knaus brand rightly increases its popularity, but when buying a new motorhome it always comes down to quantifying the plus and minus points which help you make that selection. As in all evaluations the choice of 'YOUR' ideal vehicle comes down to how many compromises you have to make before you finally make that big decision. On your 'Wish List' how many boxes does the Knaus specification tick, against similar priced models of other makes?

- * Does the overall build quality outpoint layout or minor storage questions?
- * How many features included in the basic price come as 'extras' on other makes? (e.g. swivel chairs, built in awning, etc.)
- * Is the base vehicle the 'right' for the model?
- * What is the quality of the guarantee and after sales service?
- * Does the vehicle hold a good trade-in or second hand value?

All these are crucial points to assess before

committing to such a large investment and last, but not least, are you actually going to make good use of your final choice of vehicle? It is a very expensive commitment if you are only going to use it for a few weeks of the year!

As club members you will already have gone through this process, but members considering a change of vehicle will also be faced with similar assessment criteria. With that in mind it will be interesting to hear member's comments on the new 'C' Liner.



We were able to view this innovative model at the Dusseldorf Show in September but since then it has been shown in several magazines and appeared at the NEC.

If you are able to get to Peterborough we look forward to meeting up – even if you are not staying in the Club area do come and join us at some point and have a chat and a cup of coffee or tea - Hon Sec.

A news sheet for the Knaus Owners Club in the UK

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Thanks go to -

- Steve Brock for being our Webmaster
- Tony & Olive Poole for 'hosting' the Show Rallies

Their work is much appreciated.

Anyone
with
suggestions
for
future
Meets?

MOULD ON CAB BLINDS IN THE SUN TI

Late last year we were contacted by Gay & Chris Rose who had experienced 'mould' appearing on the folding cab blinds in their vehicle.

They were good enough to inform us that whilst Knaus were not treating this problem as a recall, any complaints were being accepted by them and they would send out replacement blinds through their dealers.

However the April edition of MMM sheds some more light on the matter as within the 'Interchange' section a Bürstner owner had a similar problem with Remis blinds and I quote -"On investigation it was found that the marks were actually the centre metallised material leaching through under certain conditions. The root cause of this was found to be the absence of the required protective coating on one side

of the material. The problem will not necessarily manifest itself on every blind, and is cosmetic only". The report goes on to say that "later models have only used the correctly coated material. This is clearly a legitimate warranty issue and anyone who has experienced problems should seek replacements through the dealer network as they would for any warranty claim".

THE FUTURE OF THE CLUB

As the AGM is upon us we feel we should give notice that having been involved from the beginning, then taking over from Bill & Jean Sier, we feel the time has come to hand over to others. We are prepared to continue as Secretary & Treasurer for another year, should you so wish until April 2007, but then we need someone to take over the task.

The reason being in that as age and other considerations come to the fore we predict that our lifestyle will change and it is even possible we will cease to be motorhome owners.

We know from the correspondence and telephone calls that the club plays a valuable role to the many seeking information and advice. Rallies have not

been that successful due in part to a relatively small membership and our members' actively making individual trips to all parts of the UK and Europe.

The job is not an onerous one, but requires a steady commitment and a computer to keep matters up to date. If you feel you could get involved please get in touch. - Mike & Jill Dixon

STOPOVERS UK CAMPAIGN
Supported by the Motor Caravan Magazine

If any of you are pro the idea of encouraging 'Stopover' points here in the UK - (Similar to the Aires and Stellplatz in Germany) - you might like to log on the their website - www.motorcaravanmagazine.co.uk where you will find details of the 'Stopover' campaign and a pack to download of suggestions as to how you might encourage such a stop in your own local area.. Needless to say if people all over the country were to point out the advantages to their local councils who might then be persuaded to introduce these, the UK too could benefit from the revenue created by us the 'mobile tourists'.

KNAUS CARAVANS

Being all dedicated motorhome people club members may not be aware that Knaus are now importing purpose built caravans for the UK market and straight away are getting awards for their specification, style and build. Perhaps we will get the chance to view these, together with the new motorhome models at Peterborough?

The Caravan Club's design awards made the Knaus Star-class 560 in Class 3 - (any caravan over £14,250), the winner in this open field and again in Class 4 (any dedicated fixed bed caravan) here too, the Star-class 550 came out top.

**WE WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS**

Atkinson
Clarke
Crispen
Davies
Dawson
Duffy
Gee
Gould
Goulden
Groves
Gunn
Hamblin
Hicks
Owen
Pepper
Rose
Seymour
South
Whitehouse

Apologies if anyone has been left out