



KNAUS KONTAKT

May 2007

The Meet at Peterborough

There were ten units at the Peterborough Show which has become the venue for our AGM.

In addition we had visits from other members during the course of the three day event. Most of us were tempted by the various stands and stalls at the show, in some form or another, some in small measure and others actually buying a new van! Though, as always, much time was spent in chatting together exchanging experiences, ideas and tips. It is this part of the 'meet' that we all enjoy so much..



An early morning chat

A member's dog very happy with the Knaus soft ball kindly donated by Knaus - (occasionally they send us some 'goodies' for our members.)



The AGM - 28th April 2007

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2006-2007

The Club has now been in being for seven years since Bill & Jean Sier formed it in 2001. Bill & Jean have now sold their motorhome as Bill's health, at the moment, precludes him from driving and I have sent them our thanks and best wishes. Jill & I helped from the outset and for the last five years have run the club as Secretary and Treasurer. You will recall last year we stated our intention of standing down due to a number of lifestyle changes and with that in mind, this is my last report as your secretary.

There are now 80 members shown although I believe this is a slightly false figure, as the membership base has not been fully revised for two years, as there has been no need for a subscription renewal. The popularity of the Knaus motorhome range and their success in the market place was shown in applications for new membership with many purchasing the Sun Ti models.

We have had regular meets at Peterborough and York, for which we thank Tony & Olive Poole for coordinating these events and acting as rally marshals. Otherwise, most members seem content to have a point of reference and

contact to obtain information and advice when needed. We have been able to help many members on an individual basis. Perhaps with a new era beginning it may be time to expand the club's activities. However, to do this requires some of our members to give a commitment to organising a meet or journey.

It is pleasing to report that two members have come forward and made that commitment to become Secretary and Treasurer in order that the Club will continue. I am extremely grateful to them and wish them every success.

I take this opportunity to thank those who have supported the Club over the years and in particular Steve Brock for building the website and being our Webmaster, (a website is an important communication tool in this day and age) and Tony and Olive for marshalling.

Finally, on behalf of us both, I thank you for your friendship and hope we will continue to meet up from time to time.

Mike Dixon –
Retiring
Hon. Sec.



TREASURER'S REPORT

In keeping with our policy of not raising money for money's sake, there has not been a need for a subscription for a number of years.

The joining subscriptions from new members, plus some donations, have been sufficient for our needs. The account is still in a healthy state having a surplus on the last thirteen months of £17.54. The balance in the bank and petty cash is £214.25. The reason for thirteen months is that the account can be handed over totally up to date. The main cost to the club is postage, newsletter and the fee for the website. I should point out that the club has benefited from having free printing through our son and this obviously will not continue in the future and therefore must be planned for.

Currently 55 members receive information by email and 25 members by normal postage. It is recommended that for 2007-2008 that a renewal subscription of £5 is requested. This will also give the new Secretary a chance to revise the membership list.

Mike & Jill Dixon
– Retiring Joint Treasurers

RESULT OF THE VOTING AT THE AGM

It was proposed and accepted that the new Secretary should be -

Mrs Keren Nicholls
2 Panorama View, Dales View Park,
SALTERFORTH, Barnoldswick,
Lancashire, BB18 5RJ
Tel: 01282 850586
Email: t.w.n@tesco.net

Keren will be assisted by her husband Trevor. We thank them for coming forward, wish them every success and look forward to see the Club continue and thrive and move forward. Jill and I will do all we can to help a smooth changeover.

Could you
help?

It was also proposed and accepted that the new Treasurer should be -

Mr Bill Lowes
School House
BRAITHWAITE
Doncaster, Sth Yorks
DN7 5SS

Bill & his wife Jacque enjoy their Knaus Traveller and we are indebted to them for taking on the post and keeping the Club in being.



Following the acceptance of the Treasurer's Report it was agreed a subscription of £5 per unit should be levied for the current year. This to exclude the members who have recently joined.

To ensure the new Secretary and Treasurer have a definitive current list of the membership it was agreed that the May newsletter will be sent to all members on the existing list together with a subscription renewal form. ***The completed form should be returned to the new Secretary with the subscription.*** (The subs will then be forwarded to the Treasurer.)

This should provide a current list of members.

Bill Lowes has said he would consider being Rally Marshal at the designated motorhome shows, but it would be of great benefit to the club if others would host a meet from time to time.

Part 2 - Of a trip to Greece - by Cynthia Webb

First stop on the Peloponnese was Olympia, then we drove to the south-western tip and found "heaven" – Finikounda –, within a week, everyone knew we were staying at the local campsite and greeted us with a cheery wave. We collected our mail from the local butcher! 6 weeks later we forced ourselves to move on via the ruins of ancient Messini to what was reputed to be the finest drive in Greece, the Langada Gorge (where ancient Spartans threw babies too weak or deformed to become good soldiers!) – reaching the captivating ruins of the once-awesome town of Mystras spilling from a spur of Mt Taygetos 3 exciting hours later. Now the second of the three peninsulars of the Peloponnese, the wild and desolate Mani peninsular, little changed since feudal times. Descendants of the Spartans, the few people who remain here (the Maniots) in their stony towers, 50 to 80 feet high, behind trapdoors which once protected them from feuding neighbours, high above the shoreline where pirates prowled. In one village, the army had to bring in artillery to end one feud! They even had their own

small family churches. There are still 800 towers still standing, It was a desolate landscape, windswept and mountainous – we drove down the west coast, stopping for the night in deserted bays, and visiting Diros caves accessible only from the sea, which reputedly stretch back inland as far as Sparta, they have actually traced them 5km inland, then back up the east coast where only in recent years have the fishing villages been accessible by road, previously only by boat eventu-



Gythio

a l l y staying at Gythio, a charming port. Then the third peninsular to a charming hidden village ... along a causeway is a large rock, go round the rock and ... a beautiful fortress and village – Monemvassia, "the gem of the Peloponnese" – "moni" means "single" and "vassia" means "entry" – apt or what, spending the night in the van on the causeway falling asleep to the lapping of gentle waves.

From there we moved north via ancient Mycenae and Nafplio – our first taste of tourism at its height – Easter holidays brought bus loads of teenagers from



Mule transport in Monemvassia

all over Europe (and USA) – so on we drove northwards to Ishmia near the Corinth Canal – once again parking by the side of the ocean this time in an orange grove. We cycled over the Corinth Canal via the "sinking bridge" and drove over the main highway ... an awesome engineering feat. ***Time to go home,*** Patras-Ancona ferry, once again sleeping in our van on "open deck" with even electric plugged in. Imagine lying in your own bed looking out as we sailed past Greek islands. Idyllic or what? A super end to a fabulous trip. Will we return? **YES.**



A news sheet for the Knaus
Owners Club in the UK

NEW Hon. Secretary
Mrs Keren Nicholls
2 Panorama View
Dales View Park
Salterforth
Barnoldswick
Lancashire
BB18 5RJ

Phone: 01282 850586

Email: l.w.n@tesco.net

Club Website:

www.knausowners.netfirms.com



The Club website on

www.knausowners.netfirms.com

and is where Steve Brock would be happy if you could email your experiences to him for others to share. There is also a Discussion Forum where you can post questions or put up subjects for discussion. Why not log on and see?

We welcome the following new members to the Club :-

Malcolm Bonus

Lesley & Burton Marsland

A & L Greenhowe

Teri & John Jane

Stewart & Carol Marshall

A Member's Fiat Gearbox Problem

I thought that I should let you know about our misfortune so that if you wish, you can pass on the details to other members.

In February we had a failure in the gearbox. We were given a lift home some 330 miles thanks to Caravan Club Mayday and had the vehicle taken directly to our Fiat dealer in Keswick where it was repaired but at a cost of around £2000. (Gearbox was £1150, new clutch £150, service say £300 - rest labour). The garage suggested that we contact Fiat to ask them if they would be willing to reimburse at least some of that amount. The response was that they could not help as the repair had been carried out by an unauthorised dealer - this despite the fact that the dealer is listed in the Fiat book and has been a Fiat dealer for over 35 years. We have contacted Fiat again to correct that error and now await a second reply.

You may have seen the March issue of MMM page 231 where Fiat gearbox failures are discussed. I sent all the details to George Collins at MMM Interchange and have since had a long phone conversation with him. He suggests that the fault was a mechanical failure rather than wear and tear. We have only covered 21000 miles in 45 months. He is going to contact Fiat on our behalf but does not hold out too much hope, despite the fact that Fiat are concerned that they are losing market share and making big efforts to support the new model.

So! Be warned - even the newer Fiat gearbox post 2002/3 is poor. George C said that he has a file of problems (but many fewer since the 2002 model). These mainly concern drive system failures - clutch, shafts etc and electrics.

The symptoms were an irregular tinkling from the gearbox not related to revs. The noise stopped when the clutch was depressed.

Bad points - obvious! Good points - Mayday. I will let you know if there are any developments.

I hope everyone enjoys the show in April - we will be in Botswana! Best wishes,

David Hilton

Later email received -

Further to the tale of the gearbox, I write to inform you that I am now the proud possessor of 5 £100 vouchers to be spent at a Fiat dealer valid one year. Not very helpful but better than nothing. Apparently, according to Fiat, vouchers are standard practice. DH

SOME THINGS OF INTEREST?

Various items arrive in the mail for the KNAUS OWNERS CLUB, below are a few 'snippets' which may be of interest. As always we are just passing the info on and are not making any recommendations.

GLENN MILLER FESTIVAL

Twinwood Arena & Airfield, Clapham, Nr. Bedford. 25th - 27th August, 2007
Details: www.twinwoodevents.com

SERVICING OF LARGE MOTORHOMES

- **GO EUROPEAN LTD**
Hillier Garden Centre
Henley Road, Nr Redditch,
Warwickshire, B80 7DR
goeuropeanltd@aol.com -
(Service and imports inc. Knaus)
- **B & B Motors,**
Unit 9, Barrs Fold Close,
Wingates Industrial Park,
Westhoughton,
Bolton, BL5 3XA
www.bandbmotors.co.uk
(Leisure Vehicle Servicing)
Because of 'Block Exemption Regulations 1400/2002', they state they can now carry out maintenance work on your motorhome without invalidating your manufacturer's warranty.
- ***This could be of interest to members who have had problems with warranty issues.***
- **SITES AT HOME & ABROAD**
- **Parc Verger** - new English run site in the heart of France, ½ hr Limoges
www.parcverger.com to view details
- **Roselands** - Dowran, St Just, Nr Penzance, Cornwall TR19 7RS
www.roselands.co.uk
- **South Lytchett Manor** -
Dorchester Road,
Lytchett Minster,
Poole, Dorset, BH16 6JB
www.southlytchettmanor.co.uk