

A Newsletter for the Knaus Owners Club in the UK

KNAUS KONTAKT



May 2013

Knaus Owners Summer 2013 Rally

Just a reminder: our club will be rallying at the new Warners Exeter Show, The Midsummer Motorhome and Caravan Event, being held on 14th-16th June 2013. **Pre-booking closes at 10am on Tuesday 28 May.** Please paste this link into your browser if you want to book online.

<http://www.outandaboutlive.co.uk/Shows/The-Midsummer-Motorhome-and-Caravan-Event/sh26>

If you pre-book to rally with the club you can get a discount on the ticket price. Please contact Bill Lowes (membership@knausowners.com) if you need a reminder of your membership number.

As Andrea mentions in her account of the recent Peterborough Show on page 2, we hope to make the summer rally a fun event with more opportunities to socialise together than on some previous occasions. So if you have ideas for group activities, even something you may be willing to organise for the group, please let Andrea know (secretary@knausowners.com). As always, things will be relaxed, with no pressure to join in if you prefer to do your own thing, or just chill out with a glass of something cold.

CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER



Dear Knaus owners,

Not quite sure how I managed to get the title of Chairman!!! I am certain that all the chairs in the vicinity of the top table should bear a health and wealth warning. Firstly I would like to say how sorry we are to hear that Tony has had to stand down, Tony you did a fantastic job and I will have a lot to do to keep up to his standard.

Peterborough was a great show this year and it was good to see so many owners there, I was just sorry we had to leave directly after the AGM and I was not able to have a good chat to you and meet some new faces. My wife and I are already booked to attend the Exeter Show and are looking forward to meeting up again with as many members as possible. Meanwhile, we seem to have moved directly from Winter into Summer, with the Spring Bank Holiday turning out to be absolutely balmy weather! Let's hope this augers well for the rest of the season.

Best regards, Mike Bourner

National Motorhome Show Peterborough 2013

We were pleased to welcome forty three members in 22 vans to this year's rally at Peterborough. The weather was windy at times, but fine with some sunshine, so a vast improvement on last year.

There were many of the regular traders there, plus more clothing and alternative therapy stalls, which may appeal to many folks, but aren't much help when you are searching for that odd widget, vital replacement fixing or accessory!

Most dealers had a variety of pre-owned vans, as well as the latest models and appeared to be well patronised, Lowdhams had a large display of vehicles, including the new Knaus ones. Steve Sharpe, Lowdhams Commercial Director, explained that there have been a number of staff changes at Knaus, following a dip in the French market last year. All members of our club were invited to call in for a free coffee when they were looking around the show.



The AGM, held on Saturday afternoon was well attended. Tony Poole had sent a personal note to thank everybody for their "get well" messages, and to tender his resignation as Chairman. He will be sorely missed for his organisational skills at rallies and also for his Chairman's Chatter in the newsletters, but he and Olive hope to be joining us at future rallies. Mike Bourner kindly chaired the meeting in Tony's absence, and the members showed their appreciation of the good job he did, by voting him in as Chairman for this year! Thank you to Mike for accepting this role. Jim and Jan Whitehouse

also kindly offered to step in to Karen's shoes as new editors of the Newsletter.

There was quite a lot of discussion about the Warners Motorhome and Caravan Show at Exeter's Westpoint Arena next month. Andrea and Kevin will be Marshalling the rally, and the camping grounds are open from 13th to 17th June. Several people have already decided to include the show in a longer holiday, and do some touring around the West Country. We hope to make this rally a bit of a social event by having a "bung it on barbie" (Bill will provide the BBQ and folks to provide their chosen meat etc) on Saturday afternoon, weather permitting. Other suggestions include a Boules game, and possibly a Cream tea one afternoon. Any ideas would be most welcome. Warners are providing four nights of entertainment, at no extra cost to the camping fee. Pre-booking for this show closes at 10am on Tuesday 28th May, so please don't miss the opportunity to join us for some summer fun.

Andrea (Secretary)

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT PETERBOROUGH ON 20/04/13

Prior to the start of the meeting Cathy Wilcox updated members on Tony Poole's progress. She explained that he was starting a regular exercise programme and could now start to drive again. He was feeling less tired and gaining in confidence. He sent his good wishes to all members.

The meeting was asked for a volunteer to chair the meeting in Tony's absence and Mike Bourner kindly accepted the role.

CHAIRMANS WELCOME

Mike Bourner opened the meeting at 3.10pm.

He welcomed everyone to the meeting and hoped that they would bear with him while the committee members prompted him where necessary.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Andrea & Kevin Hamblin, Cathy & Mike Wilcox, Kathy & Steve Dawes, Sue & Brian Tuxford, Lynne & Malcolm Evans, Lynda & Mick Tims, Joan & Duncan Clarke, Carole Crispin, John Paintin, Christine & Mike Bourner, Jacquie & Bill Lowes, Barbara & Bill Brook, Maxine, John & Evelyn Clarke, Kath & Mick Pepper, Lesley & Burton Marsland, Jayne Bridger, Richard Furness & Jasmin Furness, Margaret & Frank Tunstill, Marilyn & Chris Hooker, Jan & Jim Whitehouse, Alan & Laura Greenhowe, Richard Drummond, Harry Pearson.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from; Olive and Tony Poole, Keren Nicholls, Alison and Jim Gilmore, Margaret and Ian Ronson, Beryl and Derek Hall, Heather and Ron Kench, Rita and Rod Scott, Dawn and Phil Hall, Malcolm Thurston, Colin Wilkes, Mike Barker, John Stewart-Young and Hazel and Roger Goulden,

2012 MINUTES

The minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting were agreed and accepted,

Proposed by Kevin Hamblin Seconded by Malcolm Evans

OFFICERS REPORTS

Copies of each report are attached.

Secretary. Taken as read

Treasurer and Membership. The members were asked for ideas to use some of the club funds.

Lynne Evans suggested that an advert in the MMM magazine would alert more Knaus owners about the club.

In order to identify where new members have purchased their vans, all welcome packs that are handed out by dealers in future, will have a letter to identify their origin.

Lynne Evans is to discuss with Southdown Motorhomes, and Secretary to contact Steve Sharpe at Lowdhams.

Bill Lowes suggested that more Polo shirts, with the club logo, be purchased. Secretary to discuss with Keren Nicholls

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT PETERBOROUGH ON 20/04/13

Knaus Liaison. Keren's report was discussed. The secretary had spoken with Steve Sharpe, Commercial Director at Lowdhams, who explained that there have been approximately 25 staff changes at Knaus in the past year, possibly due to the fall in sales because of the economic situation in France, and he was himself building new contacts. He has offered to assist the club in re-establishing an effective relationship with Knaus.

Webmaster. Kevin explained that there have been occasional problems with the host 1and1, but he feels that there would be no advantage in looking for an alternative as they would be more costly. He also said that the website is very underused and welcomed ideas from members. He also advised members that they could ask for personal email addresses using the knausowners.com domain.

Newsletter Jacquie Lowes appealed for more contributions, long, short, factual or funny. She asked if there was anybody interested in taking on the role of editor, and Jan and Jim Whitehouse volunteered to edit future newsletters.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual Subscriptions are to remain at £5 per couple or family.

Proposed by Bill Lowes Seconded by Carole Crispin

2013 RALLIES

The Club will rally at the Warners Midsummer Motorhome and Caravan Show, which is being held at the Westpoint Arena, Exeter, from Thursday 13th to Monday 17th June. This is a new venue for Warners and they are including 4 nights of entertainment in the camping fee. Andrea and Kevin Hamblin will be your Rally Marshalls and look forward to your company. The club will hold its end of season rally at the Lincoln Show with the usual Jacob's Supper on Saturday afternoon. The dates for this show are 19th to 23 September. Rally Marshalls yet to be decided.

Please remember that the Rally Marshall can be contacted on 07544 495567 if you are unable to attend or have an emergency en route to a rally. This phone is only in use for the duration of the rallies.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairman. Mike Bourner Proposed by Kevin Hamblin, Seconded by Carole Crispin

Secretary. Andrea Wolfe- Hamblin. Elected unopposed

Treasurer and Membership Secretary. Bill Lowes. Elected unopposed

Knaus Liaison Officer. Keren Nicholls. Elected unopposed

Newsletter. Jim and Jan Whitehouse. Carried unanimously

Items for the newsletter should be sent to Jim and Jan by email to newsletter@knausowners.com

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT PETERBOROUGH ON 20/04/13

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Andrea to speak with Keren reference Steve Sharpe's offer to help re-establish a liaison contact at Knaus, and to consider a personal approach to the Managing Director at Knaus

Andrea has sent cards on behalf of the club to several members in the past year. Please do contact her by email at secretary@knausowners.com, if you have good or sad news, or a special occasion to share. The club does like to show support to all of its members.

Mike Bourner concluded the meeting with an amusing reading, a copy of which will appear in the next newsletter.

The meeting closed at 4.50pm

AGM 2013 REPORTS

Chairman's report and chatter

It is with great sadness that I have to step down as your Chairman, especially after wishing to carry on in the role last year. For those who are not aware I had a "Heart Attack" on the 8/9 March, was taken to Leeds G.H. had a blood clot in my right artery removed and 2 stents inserted, transferred to York Hospital for a few days, before being allowed home to rest etc.

During the procedure it was noted that I had some obstruction in the left artery and this would have to be dealt with. I duly had the left artery cleared and a stent inserted on the 2nd April.

I am pleased to report that all went well and I am on the road to full recovery, my consultant has stated that all is very good and he does not need to see me for 6 months, so onwards and upwards as they say.

I would just like to say a heartfelt thank you for all your cards, good wishes and offers of help etc. to both of us, it was truly amazing and very comforting to know you are all there for us.

We will not be giving up Caravanning, but will have to wait for permission from my Cardiac Nurse, the expectation is if all goes well is late May or early June.

So it remains for me to wish you all and the Club the very best for the forthcoming year and hope to see you all on the Rally sometime in the future.

Tony

Secretary's Report

Welcome to all members who have joined us in the past twelve months. Sadly we have lost dear members this year, and other members are dealing with long term health issues. Our thoughts are with the families of all concerned and where possible the club has sent messages of support. We are all very sorry that ill health has forced Tony Poole to resign as our very efficient Chairman. We wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him at future rallies. A special mention goes to Keren Nicholls, who has maintained a very positive approach to her role in the club, despite a very trying year. Her late husband, Trevor, will be sorely missed for his involvement in the club and especially for his dry sense of humour - evenings at the Rally "Get-togethers" will never be quite the same without his presence.

There has been a variety of enquiries relating to the purchasing of pre-owned vans, and I thank all members who have responded to these where appropriate.

AGM 2013 REPORTS

The weather wasn't kind last year at either Peterborough or Lincoln, and this may have affected the number of units at both these shows. I think that the general economic climate conditions are affecting both the number of visitors and exhibitors at the shows. It was noticeable that some well-known regulars were missing at both shows. A letter of thanks was sent to Warners on behalf of the club, to thank them for their assistance in ensuring everybody was towed from their pitches at Peterborough, after a very soggy weekend. Regardless of weather conditions our club spirit prevailed and a good social atmosphere was enjoyed by all.

The rally at Betton Farm near Scarborough, in June was another victim of the very unseasonal weather, but thanks to the choice of venue, with its excellent facilities, and thoughtful planning by Tony and Olive Poole, a good time was had by all. There was ample opportunity to explore the local area by public transport (between the showers!!) and most evenings there was a social gathering in the Event tent, including a superb take away fish and chip supper on Friday.

Following the AGM last year, Knaus Owners Club Information leaflets and Membership forms are now held by Lowdhams and the Southdown Motorhome Centre, to be included their company information packs which are given to all new owners.

The club will be rallying at the Warners Midsummer Motorhome and Caravan Show in June, and we hope that many of you will take this opportunity to join us at the Exeter Arena and maybe explore the area. The end of season rally will be held at the Lincoln Show in September, and we look forward to a Jacob's Supper on Saturday of that meeting. Hopefully the weather will be pleasant for each of these rallies, but I guess we should have our wellies and raincoats handy.

Andrea

Liaison Officer's Report

I don't mind continuing with the liaison – unless of course someone else would like to take it on? I'm quite happy if someone does – especially if they speak German. I've had an e-mail from someone called Alexander from Knaus – they seem to pass me from one to another as I don't think anyone in the company really knows what to do with us, so if someone else wants to have a go at pestering them I'm happy with that, but if not, I don't mind doing it still.

I'm not getting very far with Knaus as they mostly don't answer my e-mails and communications at present. My new contact, who I thought was promising, has e-mailed to say he is too busy to reply to me!! If at the AGM someone wants to do it then I'm quite happy to let them have a go.

Keren

Newsletter

Bill and I pull together the newsletters for the club. We try to get a newsletter sent out three times per year mostly by email. Please keep us up to date on email changes. We do also print and post newsletters to those members without Internet access. Should any of these members then acquire email addresses we would be grateful if you would let us know ASAP. I am sure you will appreciate that printer cartridges and postage are expensive whereas email is free. If you are not receiving newsletters please accept our apologies. Do inform us so that we can adjust our database

AGM 2013 REPORTS

“Thank you” to Kevin Hamblin, our Webmaster, for lodging a copy of each newsletter on the Knaus website.

“Thank you” to Keren Nicholls who has kindly continued to format the newsletters once we have compiled them.

Another “Thank you” goes to our Chairman, Tony, who has continued to write “Chairmans Chatter” for inclusion.

We have also included several interesting articles from members as well as jokes etc. and we do “thank” members very 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 and 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. It would be nice to involve new people in the organisation.

Jacquie

Webmasters Report 2013

The Knaus Owners website continues to be a focal point for members' discussions, sales and wants, and trip reports. This year saw a small decrease in the number of visits, 64,340 this year compared to 64,468 for the same period last year. This is the first time in my 4 years as webmaster that there has not been substantial growth on the previous year.

Most visits to the website (over 60,000) are from users who know our website and visit it directly. Most of the remainder find us by using Google. The most popular search term is now 'Knaus' with 'Calira' charger units dropping from first place to fifth.

The discussion forum is still the most visited part of the website. 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 rise in the cost of our website hosting with 1and1 Internet Ltd. At £170.09 this 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. A 'Travellers Blog' was added for those of us overwintering abroad – but there was little response to this. It was perhaps a bit too fiddly and I will try to come up with something simpler for next year if re-elected. 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

AGM 2013 REPORTS

Treasurer's Report 1st April 2012 -31st March 2013

2011	/2012	Description	2012	/2013
Income	Expenditure		Income	Expenditure
244.22		Brought Forward - Bank	479.67	
38.97		Brought Forward - Cash	18.45	
370.00		Subscriptions	355.00	
2.00		Donations		20.80
		Postage		
	154.49	Web Site		170.09
10.00	17.56	Inks, envelopes etc		83.84
		Misc. - Event shelter/USB Drive		136.96
357.40	105.15	Emblem + Polo Shirts	19.00	
	47.27	Lincoln Refreshments/Phone		53.99
		Flowers		38.99
	200.00	Scarborough Rally	156.14	
739.40	524.47	Totals	530.14	504.67
214.93		Balance of Inc/Exp	25.47	
498.12			523.59	
		Carry Forward		
479.67		Bank	523.59	
18.45		Cash	-8.01	
498.12		Total C/F	515.58	

Notes

- Subs. Down slightly on last year but still have 69 paid up members for this year. The additional income is members paid up for next year.
- Website – our main expenditure – Price rise of 6% plus last year we had a £6 discount
- Extra printing expenditure with reprinted brochure/form.
- Event shelter damaged at rally – replacement. USB Drive for backing up treasurer's admin.
- Polo shirts – 2 shirts in stock were sold.
- Rally was slightly subsidised as the weather put some people off.
- Income £25.47 more than expenditure leaving a balance as shown.
- Cash is minus as I paid for some stamps/envelopes before realizing there was not enough cash. Will recoup this from Peterborough.
- Still a healthy balance and no need to consider raising the subscription.
- Any suggestions for spending to enhance the club?
- All cheque, paying in books receipts and ledgers are available for inspection.

Bill



**A news sheet for the Knaus
Owners Club in the UK**

Membership Secretary

Bill Lowes

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Doncaster

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E-mail:

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treasurer@knausowners.com

Club Website:

www.knausowners.com



The Club website

www.knausowners.com

Is where Kevin Hamblin would be happy if you could e-mail 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?

Thank you.

**DO YOU THINK OUR ACCENTS ARE A PROBLEM FOR
'THE SOUTHERNERS'?**

This should help! Kind regards, Burton.

Gerront kawzi - Please keep to the pavement.

Ayyup midduck - Good morning.

Mek it g'bakkuds - Put it in reverse.

Innit cowd - It is rather chilly today.

Arkattit - Listen to the rain.

Wotsup? - Is anything amiss?

Gerroff - Please go away.

Oo worree wee? - Who was he with?

Worree wee iz-sen? - Was he alone?

Aya masht midduck? - Have you made the tea, dear?

Gizzarfonnitt - Please share it with me.

Wiggorn ev uz dinnuz - We are about to take lunch.

Y'alluz wanna gerra susstifikut - You should always obtain a certificate.

Aya gorra weeya? - Is your wife with you?

Ghee over - Please desist.

Atode im eekudd pleez izzen - The decision was his.

Yowl koppitt - I fear you will be in trouble.

Gerrup yo, elsal bat yatabb - Get up, or I may use violence.

Kanni cum anorl? - May I accompany you?

This summat up wee im - I fear he may be ill.

Ez ee sed owt? - Did he say anything?

Ant yer gorrote? - Didn't you get anything?

Ittle norrotcha - It is quite painless.

Yerwott? - I beg your pardon?

Gerrit dern yer - Eat up.

Ah've gone an dottied missen - I have soiled my hands.

Ayupp sorry - Hello there.

Your new newsletter compilers, Jim & Jan, need your support by sending in your items for the Newsletter!! Don't be shy – please tell others about your experiences. You can send your articles for inclusion to:

newsletter@knausowners.com