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**Minutes of Annual General Meeting**

**held on 04 October 2024 at 3pm on Zoom**

**MEETING MINUTES**

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| **01.** | **Welcome and introduction** |
| 01.01 | The Honorary Secretary, Jean Hickman welcomed everyone to the 66th Annual General Meeting of the Hertfordshire Centre of the Caravan and Motorhome Club. She thanked everyone for attending and apologised that the meeting had to be moved to online at the last minute as the rally site had been flooded. Before passing over to the Chairman to officially open the meeting, the Honorary Secretary asked members to keep themselves on mute so help with the bandwidth of the meeting. |
| 01.02 | The Chairman, Alan Evans welcomed members and thanked them for supporting the Centre over the past year. In particular, he welcomed the past Chairman present and thanked Phil Crouch from the North London Centre who had agreed to be the teller at the AGM. The Chairman reminded everyone that only full, joint and family members who were registered with the Centre and new members of over 35 days of applying were eligible to vote or speak at the meeting. |
| **02.** | **Apologies for absence** |
| 02.01 | The Honorary Secretary reported that apologies had been received from Jan and Stuart Weedon and Brian and Doreen Page. |
| **03.** | **Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting** |
| 03.01 | The minutes were agreed to be a true record of the meeting. They were proposed by Jenny Vardon and seconded by Michele Gilbert. |
| **04.** | **Matters arising from the minutes** |
| 04.01 | There were no matters arising from the previous year’s minutes. |
| **05.** | **Chairman’s report** |
| 05.01 | The Chairman informed the members that the Centre was doing really well – probably one of the strongest in the region at that time. He said it had a solid committee, money in the bank, and had gained members over the last few years. The Chairman said the Centre was known as friendly and fun-loving that puts on entertaining rallies – but advised that there was still a problem finding Rally Officers. Most rallies were being run by the committee, and more people needed to step up and volunteer.  He admitted that earlier in the year he was feeling down as rallies just weren’t happening. Putting together a Rally Programme was hard enough, but then almost having to force people to run them was disheartening. Sandie had also been disappointed by the lack of response. However, he went on to say that he was pleased that things were looking better for 2025 as some rallies had been taken on. He described the Herts Centre as not just a club but a Hertfordshire family.  The Chairman reassured members that running a rally wasn’t difficult, just turn up a couple of hours early, put out a few pegs, and it’s done! He reminded the members that there was no need to put on a social if they didn’t want to, and help was always available from the committee. Plus, Rally Officers do not have to pay a rally fee as the Centre covers the cost. He encouraged everyone to have a go as the Centre simply could not survive without rallies. |
| 05.02 | **Highlights from 2023/24 Rallies**   * **Children in Need** – a fantastic success with Admiral Vanessa and her matelots! A brilliant evening meal with the help of Jo and Scott and over **£2,300 raised**. * **New Year 2023/24** – Centre Parcs theme, packed with fun, sketches, and a huge effort from Jean, Vanessa, Michele, Steve, Barry and Mick. * **Natter & Chatter / Winter Walk** – a nice gentle start to the year. * **Valentines** – good food, music, and atmosphere. * **Easter at Wroxham** – two great evenings plus a soggy boat trip. * **Wadden Village Hall** – new venue, fab entertainment from Viv, Jenny and Mick. (Britain’s Got Talent, watch out!) * **Leyland Farm** – rocky start but picked up, thanks to Michele & Mick, then Jo & Dave. * **Denver Fishing Break** – Val & Steve’s first Herts rally, well done! * **Chairman’s at Lilley** – lower turnout but excellent food and entertainment. * **Fishing at Little Warden** – always a success, thanks Jenny. * **Beds River Festival** – new for us, a shame some who hadn’t paid didn’t turn up, but thanks to Jo & Dave for leading. * **Highfield Park** – great fun in the shelters, well done Yvonne (despite being under the weather), with Vanessa, Gordon and Barry. * **Burleigh Hill Farm** – long weekend with electric hook-up, silly games in the shelters. * **Sywell Classic** – sunny until Noah’s Ark weather arrived on Saturday – boosted the hall fund.   The Chairman thanked all Rally Officers – without them, the programme would have gone to waste. He reminded members that if they wanted to enhance their rallies with food or professional acts, the Centre had funds to support it. |
| 05.03 | **Other Updates**   * At regional level, “Region” is now called “Division,” but they’re struggling to fill posts. * **GT Towing** have stopped selling caravans – thanks were given for their support over the years and best wishes to Sally and Paul in retirement. |
| 05.04 | **Thanks to the Committee**   * **Jean** **Hickman** – efficient as ever, organising the AGM and handling Club correspondence. * **Vanessa Cannon** – great work done quietly and with a golden touch. * **Sandie** **Evans** – persevered to produce another strong programme despite the challenges. * **Michele** **Gilbert** – fantastic on Facebook, with a real talent for promotion. * **Jenny** **Vardon** – our entertainment guru, giving us some wonderful evenings. * **Sue** **Flood** – quietly keeps on top of rally attendance in the background. * **Stacey** **Newlan** – thanked for her input during the year; stepping down due to personal reasons. * **Mick Lucas** – keeper of the boom box and always bringing entertaining ideas. * **Gordon** **Pearcy** – keeps equipment working well and running a strong 200 Club. |
| 05.05 | The Chairman noted this had been his fifth and final year as both he and Sandie would be stepping down from the Committee. |
| 05.06 | The Chairman’s report was proposed and seconded. |
| 05.07 | There were no matters arising from the Chairman’s report. |

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| **06.** | **Treasurer’s report** |

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| 06.01 | The Treasurer presented the accounts for 2023, which had been audited and signed. These consisted of a Balance Sheet and an Income & Expenditure account. Members were also provided with the current year’s unaudited accounts for the first 9 months. |
| 06.02 | The Treasurer reported that:   * The 2023 accounts showed an operational deficit of £189. * This was expected, as the Centre had purchased four new gazebos costing over £1,000. * The Treasurer noted surprise at how modest the deficit was, given that the Centre was actively trying to spend surplus funds. * In 2023 the Centre also subsidised the Chairman’s Rally, Christmas, and New Year rallies, as well as offering the Children in Need rally free of charge. |
| 06.03 | Looking ahead, the Treasurer explained that:   * In 2024, to spend down more surplus, the Centre is paying for both rally officers and assistant rally officers, regardless of whether landowners provide free places. * Several rallies have already been subsidised, and the Children in Need rally will again be free. * As a result, the deficit this year is expected to be greater – which is seen as positive, since surplus cash should be used for the benefit of members. |
| 06.04 | Thanks were given to Sandie and Alan for once again running the Sywell event, which generates a healthy profit and supports hall hire and other Centre activities. |
| 06.05 | The Treasurer highlighted that, in addition to cash in the Centre’s bank account, there is £10,000 lodged with Head Office. While keeping reserves is sensible, the Centre does have funds available, and members were invited to put forward ideas for future expenditure. |
| 06.06 | In conclusion, the Treasurer confirmed that 2023 was a good year financially, with many rallies full or well attended, a trend which has continued into 2024. |
| 06.07 | The Treasurer’s report was proposed Alan Evans and seconded by Gordon Pearcy. |
| 06.08 | There were no matters arising from the Treasurer’s report |

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| **07.** | **Appointment of the auditors 2024/25** |
| 07.01 | The Treasurer proposed that the Centre appoint George Hay, Chartered Accountants in Letchworth as the auditors for 2024/25. The proposal was seconded by Mick Gilbert. |
| **08.** | **Introduction of the Committee and Officers for 2024/25** |
| 08.01 | The 2024/25 Committee  Chairman – Alan Evans  Honorary Treasurer - Vanessa Cannon  Honorary Secretary - Jean Hickman  Honorary Rally Secretary - Sandie Evans  Other committee members - Jenny Vardon, Gordon Pearcy, Michele Gilbert, Mick Lucas  Website Editor – Alan Evans  Helpline – Yvonne Pearcy |
| **09.** | **Remembering members who have died during the year** |
| 09.01 | The Honorary Secretary reminded members of the friends who had died during the year: Louise Fitt, Brian George, Maureen & Brian Titmuss, and Sue Taylor. |
| **10.** | **Fellowship awards and competition winners** |
| 10.01 | Sue Flood announced the winners of the Fellowship awards and competition winners:  Fellowship awards for attending over 11 rallies:  Michele and Mick Gilbert – 12 rallies  Jean and Steve Hickman - 12 rallies  Vanessa and Barry Cannon – 13 rallies  Sandie and Alan Evans - 17 rallies  Skittles competition was won by Val and Steve Edgar  Boules competition - Brenda and Lee Brockbank  Fishing competition - Mark Brockwell  The darts competition was still to be played. |
| **09.** | **Motions** |
| 09.01 | There were no motions for members to vote on this year. |
| **10.** | **Questions from membership** |
| 10.01 | The Honorary Secretary advised that there had been no questions submitted in advance of the meeting. She asked members to raise their hand if they wished to ask a question which would be taken in order. |
| 10.02 | **Question**: Should the Centre be looking for a deputy chair if Alan is planning to step down.  **Answer**: It was considered to be a good idea, but no one has put themselves forward at the moment. It was noted that one person could hold two roles on the committee, i.e. chair and secretary. It was agreed that the Herts Centre was going well and had always had a full committee. |
| 10.03 | **Question**: Will the Centre be presenting the donation to the Air Ambulance at a future rally.  **Answer**: It was agreed to ask the Air Ambulance to attend the Christmas Party rally on the Saturday evening. |
| **11.** | **Any other business** |

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| 11.01 | There was no other business raised. |

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| **12.** | **Meeting closes** |
| 12.01 | The Honorary Secretary asked Sandie Evans, past Chair of the Herts Centre to close the meeting. She thanked members for supporting the Centre which meant a lot to herself and the Chair. She believed that the Centre would go from strength to strength with people like the committee to keep it going. Well done. |
| 12.02 | The Chairman thanked the Honorary Secretary for arranging the meeting and thanked Phil for acting as Tellers. |
| 12.03 | The meeting closed at 16:00. |