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**The Hertfordshire Centre Caravan & Motorhome Club**

**66th Annual General Meeting**

**Saturday 5 October 2024 at 3pm**

**AGENDA**

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| **1.** | **Welcome and introduction** |
| **2.** | **Apologies for absence** |
| **3.** | **Minutes from the previous AGM** |
| **4.** | **Matters arising from the minutes** |
| **5.** | **Chair’s report** |
| **6.**  **7.** | **Treasurer’s report**  **Appointment of the auditors 2024/25** |
| **8.** | **Introduction of 2024/25 officers and committee** |
| **9.** | **Remembering members who have died during the year** |
| **10.** | **Fellowship awards and competition winners** |
| **11.**  **12.**  **13.**  **14.** | **Motions**  **Questions from the membership**  **Any other business**  **Close** |
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**Committee Nominations 2024-25**

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| **Chairman**  **and web editor** | **Alan Evans** | **Proposed by Jan Weedon**  **Seconded by Jo Longhurst** |
| **Honorary Treasurer** | **Vanessa Cannon** | **Proposed by Gordon Pearcy**  **Seconded by Yvonne Pearcy** |
| **Honorary Secretary** | **Jean Hickman** | **Proposed by Michele Gilbert**  **Seconded by Mick Gilbert** |
| **Honorary Rally Secretary** | **Sandie Evans** | **Proposed by Jan Weedon**  **Seconded by Jo Longhurst** |
| **Committee** | **Jenny Vardon** | **Proposed by Vivienne Lucas**  **Seconded by Michael Lucas** |
| **Committee** | **Mick Lucas** | **Proposed by Vivienne Lucas**  **Seconded by Jenny Vardon** |
| **Committee** | **Gordon Pearcy** | **Proposed by Vanessa Cannon**  **Seconded by Barry Cannon** |
| **Committee** | **Michele Gilbert** | **Proposed by Michael Lucas**  **Seconded by Steve Hickman** |
| **Committee** | **Sue Flood** | **Proposed by Brian Flood**  **Seconded by Ken Tompkins** |
| **Helpline Manager** | **Yvonne Pearcy** | **Non-committee** |

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

**held on 9 September 2023 at 3pm**

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| **01.** | **Welcome and introduction** |
| 01.01 | The Honorary Secretary, Jean Hickman, welcomed everyone to the 65th Annual General Meeting of the Hertfordshire Centre of the Caravan and Motorhome Club. Before passing over to the Chairman to officially open the meeting, the Honorary Secretary ran through the housekeeping rules, including the fire procedures and toilet facilities, and advised that the meeting was being recorded for the minutes and would be deleted when transcribed for data protection reasons. |
| 01.02 | The Chairman, Alan Evans, welcomed members and thanked them for supporting the Centre over the past year. In particular, he welcomed Phil Crouch for attending as the external teller to ensure the meeting was conducted appropriately. |
| 01.03 | Members were reminded that only full, joint, and family members 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 Michele and Mick Gilbert. |
| **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 Stephen Hickman. |
| **04.** | **Matters arising from the minutes** |
| 04.01 | The Chairman asked members if they wished to raise anything from the minutes of the previous AGM. No matters were raised. |
| 04.02 | Len Denbigh was thanked for his idea of making the AGM part of another rally. It was acknowledged that this had increased the number of members attending. |
| **05.** | **Chairman’s report** |
| 05.01 | The Chairman started his report by thanking his wife, Sandie Evans, for attending as a past chairman but also as his tremendous support over the past year. He noted that he would not be able to do his job without her. |
| 05.02 | It was reported that the Centre was healthy financially and had a strong committee. The Chairman noted that the year had got off to a slow start as people were still reluctant to come out after the COVID-19 pandemic.  A successful rally had been run at Searles holiday camp despite some very high winds, and the Christmas party had been moved at the last minute to a site at Moggerhanger with a lovely hall; however, the car park had been a problem for some members to tow their units off.  The New Year rally at Alameda School had been another success with some great professional entertainment, in particular a comedian/magician/ventriloquist on the last night.  There had been two winter walks with a pub lunch.  The Chairman reported that the Easter rally had gone well despite being very muddy, and a rally at Stafford Boat Club had been good.  Thorpeness and the fishing rally at Little Warden had also been successful rallies.  The weather at the Chairman’s rally with a Caribbean theme had been glorious, although the entertainment could have been better.  A holiday rally in Dorset had been great with the debut of new Coleman shelters; however, a rally at Bateman’s brewery had been a bit tight for space, and the Chairman apologised for this omission.  A rally at Yarwell Mill had again been tight as the Centre had had to obey the site rules; however, the rally officer did well and members enjoyed the rally. |
| 05.03 | The Committee was advised that the Chairman and his wife had attended several other centre rallies, including some in Bucks and North London. |
| 05.04 | The Chairman reminded members that the rally programme would not run without the fantastic support of rally officers and their assistants. He thanked everyone who had run a rally during the year for their hard work and the imagination put into making the rallies all so different and extremely enjoyable. |
| 05.05 | The Chairman’s report was proposed by Len Denbigh and seconded by Jackie Miller. |
| **06.** | **Treasurer’s report** |
| 06.01 | The Treasurer, Vanessa Cannon, advised that members should have received a copy of the 2022 audited and signed accounts, which consisted of a balance sheet and an income and expenditure account. Members also received the current year’s unaudited accounts for the first eight months. |
| 06.02 | The Committee was given a brief overview of the Centre’s accounts for 2022, which showed an operational surplus of approximately £900, advised to be similar to the previous year’s surplus. This was reported to be unexpected as the Centre had been attempting to use some of its surplus funds to benefit ralliers. The Treasurer reported that during 2022 the Centre had significantly subsidised the Valentines and Summer Ball Rallies. |
| 06.03 | An unusually high uptake for the Sywell Rally was noted with 130 units, which meant a higher than expected financial surplus for the rally. This was reported to be one of the key reasons for extra income in 2022. The Treasurer reported that the Chairman’s rally had been partially subsidised by the Centre and a significant investment had been made in four good-quality gazebos; therefore, the Centre was likely to make an overall loss in the current year. |
| 06.04 | Members were reminded that in addition to the cash in the Centre’s bank account, the Centre also had £10,000 lodged with the Club’s Head Office. The Treasurer advised that whilst it was always a good idea to have some financial backup, the Centre did have money to spend and asked for suggestions for future expenditure to be given to the Committee. |
| 06.05 | The Treasurer concluded her report by advising that 2022 had been a good year financially for the Centre, with several rallies being full, and this continued to be the same case for the current year. |
| 06.06 | The Treasurer was asked whether the Centre received interest on the £10,000 lodged with Head Office and she confirmed that the Centre did receive interest, which had increased this year to £325. |
| 06.07 | The Treasurer’s report was proposed by Val Edgar and seconded by Gordon Pearcy. |
| **07.** | **Appointment of the auditors 2023/24** |
| 07.01 | The Treasurer proposed that the Centre's auditors, George Hay, Chartered Accountants in Letchworth Garden City, remain the same for 2023/24. The proposal was seconded by Yvonne Pearcy. |
| **08.** | **Introduction of the Officers and Committee for 2023/24** |
| 08.01 | The Chairman thanked Jean Hickman for the work she had done as Honorary Secretary during the year, organising committee meetings and ensuring paperwork was kept up to date. He informed the Committee that Vanessa Cannon had done an excellent job as Honorary Treasurer, keeping all the Centre’s finances in order during the year. The Chairman reminded members of the challenges in booking sites, finding new sites, and encouraging members to book onto rallies, and he thanked Sandie Evans for her excellent work in achieving this. He stressed that rally officers were important to continuing the success of the Centre. Michele Gilbert was thanked by the Chairman for the excellent work she had done over the year to promote the Centre through social media, and it was noted that Sue Flood had joined the Committee and had done a great job as attendance officer. Gordon Pearcy was thanked for looking after rally kits brilliantly during the year and managing the 200 club, which was going well. Mick Lucas was thanked for looking after the Centre’s equipment and for bringing great ideas and realism to the Committee. |
| 08.02 | The Chairman advised members that Stacey Newlan would be joining the Committee and announced the 2023/24 committee to be:  Honorary Treasurer - Vanessa Cannon  Honorary Secretary - Jean Hickman  Honorary Rally Secretary - Sandie Evans  Other committee members - Jenny Vardon, Gordon Pearcy, Michele Gilbert, Mick Lucas, Sue Flood, Stacey Newlan.  Website Editor – Alan Evans  Helpline – Yvonne Pearcy |
| 08.03 | The Chairman said the Centre needed to look to the future, which was all about running excellent rallies for the pleasure of everyone. He reminded members of the importance of putting themselves forward as rally officers and encouraging, training and supporting other members who had yet to run rallies. |
| **09.** | **Remembering members who have died during the year** |
| 09.01 | The Honorary Secretary remembered Linda Gillon who had died during the reporting year. She had been a fanastic past Chair and a valued, long-standing member of the committee, including many years as treasurer. |
| **10.** | **Fellowship awards and competition winners** |
| 10.01 | Members were advised that the skittles trophy had been renamed in memory of past chair, Linda Gillon. |
| 10.02 | Fellowship awards were presented to:  Vanessa and Barry Cannon - 100 rallies  Yvonne and Ray France - 100 rallies  Yvonne and Gordon Pearcy - 100 rallies  Doreen and Brian Page - 100 rallies |
| 10.03 | The following competition winners are presented with trophies:  Linda Gillon skittles competition- Jan Weedon  Boules competition - Jackie and Malcolm Miller  Colin Vardon fishing competition - Ray France and Steve Edgar  Shields were presented to members who had attended more than 12 rallies in the year:  Vanessa and Barry Cannon  Sandie and Alan Evans  The iceberg trophy for the most rallies over the winter period was awarded jointly to  Jean and Steve Hickman and Sandie and Alan Evans.  The trophy for the most rallies during the year was presented to Sandie and Alan Evans. |
| 10.04 | Members congratulated all the winners. |
| **11.** | **Motions** |
| 11.01 | There were no motions for members to vote on. |
| **12.** | **Questions from membership** |
| 12.01 | The Honorary Secretary opened up the meeting to questions from the membership. |
| 12.02 | Q1. Has the Centre got a chosen charity for the year?  A1. It was confirmed that the charity would continue to be the Herts and Essex Air Ambulance Service. |
| 12.03 | Q2. Has the Centre had any results from a recent online survey asking members about their rallying experience and whether they wanted anything to change?  A2. It was reported that the uptake had been disappointing, with very few members completing the survey. The results had been inconclusive, so it was concluded that members were generally happy with how rallying was managed. Some ideas had been put forward and would be incorporated into future rally programmes. |
| 12.04 | Q.3. Why can’t the Centre rally more in Hertfordshire?  A3. It was advised that there was no reason why the Centre could not rally in Hertfordshire except site costs were considerably higher than in Bedfordshire. It was confirmed that the rally programme was worked out by booking sites north, south, east, and west, but it was noted that this was not always possible. Certain areas were also not convenient for rally officers and members, and historically, some areas/sites got cancelled more than others due to a lack of support, which led to them being cancelled. If this happened often, some site owners would refuse to allow future bookings. |
| 12.05 | Q4. Will the Centre still be publishing a small rally book?  A4. Although the main rally book was no longer published, the committee appreciated that members liked to have some sort of rally book, and therefore a small rally book had been published the previous year. To keep costs to a minimum, the book had been printed in black and white, and only limited numbers had been printed. It was suggested that a similar book could be printed next year if members would find it helpful. It was confirmed that members were agreeable to paying for a small rally book. |
| **13.** | **Any other business** |
| 13.01 | The Chairman proposed that the Children in Need rally at Cardington be a free rally to raise money for charity. Members would be asked to donate to Children in Need. First places would go to Hert Centre and North London members before being opened up to other ralliers. |
| 13.02 | The Rally Secretary reminded members that several centres were going into hibernation and when this happened the Club had usually recommended that they join another centre. She advised that the North London Centre was in trouble, and there were several ways that members could join Herts Centre if they wished. These included joining the Herts Centre as a member, or the Club telling the North London Centre that it must join with the Herts Centre, in which case the Herts Centre would ned to change its name. The joint centre may have a split committee and split finances. Members were advised that although merging and changing names was not ideal, the Centre may not have any say in the matter.  The Rally Secretary advised that the North London Centre had no specified county of its own and therefore it would not leave a gap geographically. Members were reminded of a survey the previous year on whether members would welcome a name change, and the result had been a strong negative. Members were advised that the Centre would need to stay firm if the Executive Committee of the Club insisted on a merger and name change.  Members discussed this issue and how this had been managed at other Centres. The discussion concluded that it was very clear that a name change was not wanted by members.  Some members were concerned that joining the North London Centre would mean rallying over a wider area and distance, which may be difficult for some people to manage due to the cost of fuel. It was noted that a merger would not change the way the Herts Centre was run or where rallies were located.  A North London member confirmed that their Centre had only a few members that lived outside of Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. It was reported that they joined Herts Centre rallies because they loved the Centre and were always made to feel very welcome.  A further North London member advised that he had taken a pole of members, and the results were that they did not want to merge but would move to the Herts Centre as and when their membership renewed.  The Rally Secretary reminded members that to attempt to keep the North London Centre going the following year, several invitation rallies had been included in the programme. She assured members that confirmation had been received from the North London Centre that should it fold, the rallies would still go ahead but under Herts so as not to disrupt the Herts rally programme. |
| 13.03 | The Chairman reported that he had informed the Region that he would not be attending any more regional meetings as none of the discussions focused on rallying. |
| 13.04 | A new member thanked the Herts Centre for being so welcoming and was pleased with the wide and diverse variety of rallying sites in the programme. She said she had been a member of several centres, and the Herts Centre was by far the best. |
| 13.05 | The Chairman acknowledged that units had been parked tightly on some rally sites, and he assured members that guidance would be re-sent to rally officers to remind them of the correct measurements to mark out a rally field. |
| **14.** | **Meeting closes** |
| 14.01 | The Honorary Secretary asked Sandie Evans, past Chair of the Herts Centre to welcome the 2023/24 Committee. |
| 14.02 | Sandie Evans noted that the AGM rally was much better attended than many past AGMs. She thanked the Chairman for continuing into his fourth year, which was the first time in the history of the Centre.  Sandie noted that the Centre continued to be in good hands with a strong committee, and she hoped that members did all the things together and made it a great year for rallying. |
| 14.03 | The Chairman thanked the Honorary Secretary for arranging the meeting and thanked Phil for being the teller and presented him with a small gift. |
| 14.04 | The meeting closed at 16.00. |