

Lynton Caravan Club
Annual General Meeting
Uttoxeter Racecourse
Sunday 16th April 2017 @ 12.30pm

Present:	Helen Ball	Chairman/Minute Secretary
	Colin Willis	Vice Chairman
	Dennis Kempson	Membership Secretary
	Dave Howarth	Treasurer
	Jo Kempson	Rally Co-ordinator
	Lynn Birch	Committee Member

Mr S Ball, Miss Katie Ball, Ms K Cottrill, Mr G Brunt, Mrs S Brunt, Mrs S DeSchoolmeester, Mr D DeSchoolmeester, Mrs M Beers, Mr R Beers, Mrs C Tichauer, Mr M Tichauer, Mrs P Ball, Mr G Ball, Mr J Birch, Mr M Smith

1) Apologies: Mrs J Bowring, Mr & Mrs P Duncalf, Mr & Mrs A Yates, Mr & Mrs A Craft, Mr & Mrs P Yates, Mrs G Howarth, Mrs G Smith, Mrs J Willis

2) Minutes of Meeting at Cannock Woods, Sunday 27th March 2016: Mrs Pam Ball proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record, seconded by Mr Dave DeSchoolmeester and signed by the chairman.

3) Matters Arising: None.

4) Chairman's Report: Helen thanked everyone for attending the meeting and in particular welcomed our newest members. She added that the previous year had again been very enjoyable and that it was good to see turnouts in double figures again. Referring back to the last AGM she wasn't sure if any members had seen the TV Series "Carry on Caravanning" which made for some entertaining but cringe-worthy viewing, and she felt that the club had made the right decision not to take part. She offered thanks to Colin & Mike for providing the Race Night entertainment last evening which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

Helen confirmed that she had now renewed the website hosting and domain name for another 2 years at a cost of £159.69, which was higher than previously as it had originally been discounted, but which was still good value. She is aware that some members are experiencing difficulties with the bookings page and said that she will remove those members' details from the system and reload them to see if this helped and said she would be happy to run through how to use the site with members who have difficulty. She asked that members please let her know if they are having issues so that these can be resolved.

The committee had been discussing how we can continue to attract new members, which is vital if we are to keep the club running and bring in fresh ideas. We have so far relied on word of mouth which has proved very successful but we need to keep this up. One idea was to produce flyers to hand out at storage sites etc and she had come up with a couple of ideas which were handed out for members to peruse and for their feedback.

i) 40th Anniversary: Helen advised that it will be the club's 40th Anniversary in 2018. She confirmed that Jo had booked a site on the edge of the New Forest in Salisbury for next Whitsun and the committee felt that we could make it a "party" week and welcomed suggestions from members. As we needed to find out about whether we could access a hall etc, the committee will let the members know more at a later date.

5) Treasurer's Report: Dave confirmed that we made a loss of £224 last year which is better than the £673 the year before. He advised that we paid £144 in advance for renting the room for this AGM, which has come off last year's accounts. We made approximately £200 on the rallies, plus the money from raffles. He added that the rallies are making money and the club can afford a small loss as we are well in profit. There were no questions from the floor.

6) Rally Co-ordinator's Report: i) 2017 Rally Programme: With regards to Marshals for rallies this year, Jo confirmed that Colin & Jacqui had offered to host the May Day rally and will possibly "buddy up" with Steve & Helen or Jan & Adrian. She asked for those members who are attending the Holiday Rally at Driffield if they could let her know if they have a preference for a day they would like to Marshal so that she can make a list of marshals/activities and let members know. Sally asked what she wanted each member to do and she advised that it really was up to the individual member, as obviously not everyone wants to be stuck on site. Members attending could either choose a particular day or be allocated. Helen added that really members needed to know who was taking bookings and who would be setting up etc. Jo will take bookings. Dave will collect the rally fees and do the raffle.

ii) 2018 Rally Programme: Jo has provisionally booked the Holiday Rally at Salisbury, North of the New Forest. She advised that if they can't accommodate us for the 40th she will look elsewhere. Sites booked so far:-

Buzzards Valley Vineyard, Sutton Coldfield, which is also a fisheries.

Lyme View Marina, Macclesfield

Malvern for August Bank Holiday

Sherwood Forest in September

She is still looking for venues for the early bird and late season rallies.

She advised that she had provisionally booked Stratford-upon-Avon Racecourse for the AGM next year before she remembered how bad the traffic congestion would be for the double bank holiday. Members would either have to travel right through Stratford or take the longer A46 route round, which brings you in down the Evesham Road. If needs be, she will find another venue and she mentioned that Steve had said about Warwick Racecourse where members could still travel into Stratford if they wished. The Easter rally next year runs from Friday 30th March to Monday 2nd April, although we can arrive on the Thursday if we wish. For £16.50pn members can have electric, £13 non electric or in the centre on grass at £9pn. After a show of hands it was decided that Jo should book Stratford Racecourse with electric.

7) Membership Secretary's Report: Dennis noted that in 2011 the club had 33 members which is the highest he had known it since becoming a member himself, although he acknowledged that the membership in previous years had been considerably higher. To date we have 20 members and at the club's lowest level 18. He said it was great to see new members and hopes they continue to enjoy coming and stick with it. He was glad the membership is going in the right direction.

He felt this was a good time to bring up the costs the club incurs with printing and postage. We need to be mindful about keeping these costs down so instead of printing up the rally packs and posting them out in future, if the members agree, he proposes to put all the information onto the website for members to download themselves and encourage members to get more into using the website. The committee acknowledge that there were still some people having a few problems with the site. It was agreed that Dennis could send a general email reminder to all members and even attach the rally programme to the email. Ron Beers noted that he didn't get a reminder about the subscription and therefore was late paying and Mary asked if Dennis chased up the late payments. Dennis confirmed that he emailed reminders to one or two members who hadn't renewed. He reminded members that he would like them to complete a membership form at the end of the meeting so that he has up to date addresses, emails and mobile numbers for his records.

Ron Beers asked if we should consider putting up the membership fee by £2. After some discussion it was agreed that with the current membership this would only raise £40 which was negligible and we didn't want to discourage people from joining.

Mike Smith asked whether we should stop giving new members their £10 Membership fee back on their first rally. It was agreed this was a valid point and that this was a part of the club rules dating back many years. It is something the committee can and will look at, but it would mean a change of the club rules.

Graham Brunt asked whether anyone had looked at why the membership was dropping off. Dennis felt that it was generally very old members who had either passed away or stopped caravanning and acknowledged that things sometimes change in people's lives. He felt that we really needed some new blood to carry the club forward especially members who rallied regularly. We do have some members who just don't come anymore and we don't know why. He ended by encouraging our newest members to keep coming along and to spread the word.

8) Nominations for Committee/Election of Officers: There were no nominations. Helen advised that next year she would be passing the Chairmanship to Colin Willis and that she is planning to stand down as Minute Secretary at that time as well. She asked members to seriously consider putting themselves forward for committee as it is essential to have new committee members and fresh ideas, adding that even members who have served before should give this some thought.

9) Any Other Business: Mike Smith expressed his thanks to the committee for all their hard work and in particular to Jo who is doing a great job in her new role.

10) Date of next meeting: Stratford Racecourse 1st April 2018 @ 12.30pm