Retro Camping Club

Annual General Meeting

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| Date of Meeting | 6 July 2025 |
| Location | Hereford Rowing Club Rally |
| Committee Attendees | Julie Strong – ChairDebbie McDine – RalliesIan Quarry – ITJayne Scott – Treasurer |
| Committee Apologies | Ann Jones, John Roberts, Paul Wood |
| Minutes taken by | Jayne Scott |
| Member Attendees | Graham Bird, Cameron Burns, Dan Cook, Marian Evans, Annie Gamble, Ben Gibbons, Alan Grimley, Mike Jones, James McLean, Lynne Munro, Pamela Petre, Jim Rann, Alasdair Robson, Jamie Robson, Emmerson Salkeld, Rachel Sharp, Dave Snowden, Mike Tucker, Martin Udall, Lynn Vincent, Paul Winslow, Tracie Winslow  |
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| Item No |  |
| **1** | **Welcome** |
|  | Julie opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending the Rally and AGM. Special thanks to Debbie for organising the event and obtaining a free rally tentJulie reminded the meeting of the Committee and their roles:Julie Strong - Chair & LiaisonBen Gibbons – Vice Chair & MembershipsAnn Jones – Secretary Jayne Scott - TreasurerDebbie McDine - RalliesIan Quarry – ITPaul Wood – EditorJohn Roberts – Club Historian Julie thanked all the Committee for their stellar service, support, good work and contributions to the Club over the past year. ‘Commit’ is a big part of the word Committee, involving time, skill and dedication. Julie also acknowledged the impact on the Team’s partners – Chris, Hilary, John, Mike and Oliver - and thanked them for their patience and support |
| **2** | **Chair’s report and Overview of past year** |
|  | **Publications**The Committee’s proudest achievement was getting the magazine back on track, after not appearing since 2022. Feedback showed demand and the Committee wanted to give members what they wanted. Editor Paul was the architect, who compiled and designed everything, with members contributing some great articles. The end result was really good quality and very well receivedPaul also took the lead on the calendar, with the idea of inviting members to get involved in a prize photo competition. This generated a lot of interest, with hundreds of lovely photos submitted. Some were not quite the right quality, but 12 successful ones were chosen after a Committee ‘Eurovision style’ vote, with a bonus photo used for a Christmas card. The winner and runner up received Logo that Polo vouchers to be used in the Club shop. The others had the kudos and satisfaction of their photos starring in the calendar month of their choice!Club member stickers were also designed and produced for 2023, 2024 and 2025. These were packaged with the calendar and Xmas card, so no additional postage chargesMonthly newsletters have been produced and emailed out to keep members up-to-date on RCC activities and news**Rallies**Members have enjoyed several very successful rallies and meets since the last AGM:July 2024 – Hayling Island (Organised by James McLean/Debbie McDine)Aug 2024 – Garton-on-the Wolds (Organised by John Roberts)Oct 2024 – Cotswolds end of season (Organised by Debbie)Apr 2025 – Upton-on Severn, season openers (Organised by Debbie)May 2025 – Shrubbery, nr Lyme Regis (Organised by Ann)May 2025 – Marfit Farm (Organised by member Laura Togwell)June 2025 – Bagwell Farm, nr Weymouth (organised by Julie)Rallies were all well attended, with mainly lovely weather and it was good to see old friends and new people attending for the first time, who were made very welcome. Thanks to all who organised and provided entertainment, fun and games, including Ann and Debbie who went the extra mile by cooking supper for the Shrubbery rallygoers in the village hall!Members also attended Meets at Branscombe, Banbury and Crickhowell, as well as external rallies and shows which all helped to increase Club awareness and profile**Memberships**Ben gave an outline of the membership situation. Membership had been declining gradually since Covid. The Club needed to recruit new members to maintain fee income and ensure existing members stayed engaged and happy. UK membership fees were increased during the year to £20. Approx 100 members had fee exemption due to the ECCR fallout. For many this would expire in the coming months, which is likely to have an impact on numbers. On a positive note, some new members had joined recently, including via the Sprite Beaulieu rally and Mike Tucker’s efforts at steam/vintage rallies Cameron pointed out that RCC engagement was higher than the average car club percentage and always higher at rallies. He suspected a lot of the ECCR fee-exempt members were not engaging with the Club and would leave when their exemption period expired. Fallout from the ECCR with Europe was long term and not likely to recover**Facebook Page**A new RCC Members Facebook page had been set up as a specific resource for members, separate from the non-members general page |
| **3** | **Treasurer’s Report** |
|  | All present had copies of RCC accounts for the financial year 1 June 2024 – 31 May 2025. Jayne gave an overview of the main pointsThe year started with a large pot of money carried in from the previous year. This had built up mainly due to cost savings by not producing magazines since 2022. The previous Committee had produced calendars, but only online for members to downloadThis Committee agreed that surplus funds should be used to give members value and benefit and feedback had indicated demand for reintroduction of these publicationsCalendars and Christmas cards were produced in December, along with retrospective membership stickers. After several quotes the most competitive and convenient company were used. After such good service and quality, the same company also produced the Club magazine in AprilThe total cost for all the publications was just over £4900, including printing, fulfilment, package and postageJayne mentioned rally site fee expenditure, which at £7616 appeared higher than the rally income received. Fees for last June’s rallies had been paid out at the start of the financial year, but much of the related income had been received in the previous year, so was included in the Bank Opening Balance totalOther expenditure related mainly to monthly costs of running the Club and systemsOverall, RCC finances remained very healthyThe accounts were proposed by Jamie Robson, seconded and approved by Alasdair Robson, Mike Tucker and Martin Udall |
| **4** | **Nominees and Committee Roles** |
|  | Nominations for the new Committee opened on 30 May. Current Committee members Ann Jones and Ian Quarry did not stand for nomination so would not serve another termThere were 15 nominees, including 6 of the current Committee. 4 nominees subsequently stood down, leaving 11 which removed the need for an election, in line with the RCC ConstitutionFor various reasons, 10 nominees later withdrew from the potential new Committee ahead of the AGMJulie reported that she and all of the current Committee were standing down. Ben had already left before the AGM. Jayne had offered to remain until a new Treasurer was appointed to avoid disruption to financial operationsJulie thanked Committee members for their support over the past year and highlighted their individual strengths and contributions to the Club and TeamJayne thanked Julie, who as well as being a great Chair, was also a key contributor to the magazine, newsletters and website articles. Her connections with members ensured everyone felt welcome and included on the rally fieldMike Tucker and Emmerson Salkeld thanked the outgoing Committee for their hard work and contribution to RCC Cameron Burns was the sole remaining nominee for the new Committee and would serve as Chair. Julie handed the meeting over to Cameron  |
| **5** | **Incoming Chair – Cameron Burns** |
|  | Cameron thanked the outgoing Committee for an amazing job and leaving the Club in a very healthy position. He acknowledged times had been difficult since Covid, but each Committee and Chair had added to the Club year on year in their own wayNext year would be the 10th anniversary of the original RCC formation and Cameron would look to step up things behind the scene to celebrate this important milestone. The anniversary year would be a good time to take stock and look to the futureThe Beaulieu Sprite 75th anniversary rally had showed there is still passion for classic caravans and RCC needs to be prominent in leading and promoting the enjoyment of retro camping. He believed the Club should be out there and participating in bigger events, steam and vintage rallies to raise RCC awareness and profileRCC need to attract new people to keep going, as well as important longstanding relationships with old friendsCameron acknowledged the current situation was difficult, with no quorum for a new Committee. He was determined to keep going and form a new team and would give more information over the coming weeks |
| **6** | **Discussion** |
|  | Members moved to the Rally tent due to rain for more informal discussionsCameron talked about possible ideas to form a new Committee and the way ahead for RCC. Nothing was clear and Cameron would be taking a couple of weeks to think over and look at options to fill protected roles and co-opt members with the necessary skills for other roles and to meet required quorum to run the Club. He hoped to have a clear plan in place by the end of the monthThere were questions on these plans and the future of RCC from members and discussion on the value of magazines and newsletters |