

# Minutes of Silk Route Motorcaravan Network (SRMN) AGM 2015

Sunday 6 September 2015 @ 9:30am at Blackmore Camping and Caravanning Club,  
Hanley Swan, Worcestershire

## Present:

Alan and Virginia Williams  
Robert and Nina Blackwell  
John Gilpin  
Rosemarie Gilpin (items 8 & 9 only)  
Roma and Ian Smith  
Olwyn Cupid and John Brooke  
Clive and Ann Barker  
Michele Maynard and Stephen Stewart  
Jenny and Paul Hopkinson  
Pat and Paul Guy  
Carl and Mary Hunter  
Andrew Pearce  
Phil Seddon  
Margaret and Les Brook  
Patricia Tribelhorn  
Martin and Marion Hisom  
Rick and Kathy Howe

## In attendance:

Sue and Chris Davies  
Eion and Liza Rutherford

Les Brook began the meeting by proposing that non-members could be in attendance at the AGM and take part in the discussions but not take part in any voting. The proposal was approved by a show of (Members') hands, with just one member voting against the proposal.

### 1. Appointment of AGM chair and scribe

Les was nominated as AGM Chair by Stephen Stewart, and seconded by Robert Blackwell. Jenny Hopkinson volunteered to take the minutes of the meeting.

### 2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from the following Members: Jack and Chris Kane, Maureen Middleton, Antony Evans and Karen Binns, Roger and Susan Shuttleworth, Stewart Signol and Rachael Farricker, Norman Seddon, Anne Speirs, Chad and Champa Soma, Rebecca Todd and Bruce Winney, Anne and Louis Couteaud, Nette and Andy Clarke, Joyce and Larry Space, Marilyn and Paul Longden, Ruth and Geoff Bass, Lynda and Kurt Kovach, Steve Wigglesworth and Emma Smith, Neil and Pat Hay, Clare Dyson and Darren Oliver, Kira Pearce..

### 3. Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) held on 30 August 2014

Virginia Williams (Ginny) informed the meeting that an earlier draft version of the previous year's EGM minutes had inadvertently been circulated with this meeting's papers. The following paragraph, included in the final version, was missing from the version recently sent out to members for this meeting.

'It was agreed that the minutes containing this new framework be circulated to all current members for their approval and that it would be regarded as formally endorsed if those against are fewer than the attendees at the EGM who had approved the new proposed framework. Members to respond to [general@silkroute.org.uk](mailto:general@silkroute.org.uk) and cc to [treasurer@silkroute.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@silkroute.org.uk)! Subject to this endorsement, Les will prepare for circulation a more detailed statement on implementation. (Action LB)'

No other comments were made and the minutes of the EGM of 30 August 2014 were approved with the above correction.

#### **4. Matters arising from the minutes and not addressed elsewhere**

None raised.

#### **5. Treasurer's report**

- I. There is currently £689.56 in the bank. No transactions have been made in the past year.

At last year's EGM, Clare Dyson agreed to contact Sebastian Zareba of Web Solutions Workshop to see if any money was due back to SRMN since work on the new SRMN website had been put on hold. Paul Hopkinson advised the meeting that, as far as he was aware, Sebastian had stated that time spent had already exceeded the £500 paid and so no refund was due to the Network.

- II. Following agreement at the EGM last year, Paul and Alan had tried to become signatories but failed due to Barclays' systems. Champa is still the only signatory and is currently in New Zealand. This action will be picked up again later in the year when Champa returns to the UK. ACTION: CS/AW/PMH
- III. Les asked for members attending the AGM to contribute £3 each for room hire due to difficulty in accessing SRMN funds (see III. above). This approach was agreed as a one off for this meeting.

#### **6. "Where do we go from here?"**

##### **a. Report and debate on implementation of the plan agreed at the 2014 EGM**

Stephen outlined the action taken since the last meeting. Forms had been sent to all current and would-be members for completion and, instead of a membership fee being payable, members were asked to undertake to contribute to the Forum or Network in some way.

50 crews had completed the forms and these have been published in the 'Members Only' section of the SRMN website (Members' Handbook). Stephen commented that there are SRMN members and Forum members and some (but not all) are members of both. The vast majority of Forum members are not Network members, and around one third of Network members are Forum members. Approximately 200 people access the Forum but only around 20 are 'active'. However, there is no evidence that Forum questions not being answered, with most responses being meaningful and prompt.

Les raised the question of whether the Forum should be for members only, as this was the only matter previously agreed at last year's EGM but not yet implemented. As the Forum is relatively

inactive, it was agreed that it should remain open to anyone in order to encourage new members, but all Network members will be asked to join the Forum too. ACTION: SS

Alan suggested using Facebook as a marketing tool to attract younger members to the Network. After a lively discussion about the need (or not) for change and the need to promote the Network and attract new members, it was agreed that an 'open' Facebook group should be set up for an initial trial period of twelve months, with a progress report being made to next year's AGM. Andrew Pearce offered to establish the Facebook group, with Alan and Paul as administrators/moderators. The Facebook group's initial purpose will be as a marketing tool rather than for technical discussions and there will be links to and from the Forum and website. The use of Facebook is intended to be complementary to the Yahoo Forum as the latter, it was noted and agreed, works well for those on the road as it requires lower bandwidth. ACTION: AP/AW/PMH

Alan also suggested having flyers to advertise the Network. Patricia Tribelhorn commented that the French SRMN club sends out a few flyers to members with each membership renewal. Chris Davies asked whether an A4 or A5 template could be added to the SRMN website for members to print off themselves, to which Les invited anyone who wished to have a go to submit a leaflet design to Stephen so one can be added to the website. In the meantime, Stephen handed out SRMN vehicle stickers to all attendees. ACTION: ALL/ANY

#### **b. Determination of next steps consequent upon the report and debate**

- i. Andrew to set up Facebook group.
- ii. To review use of Facebook group at next year's AGM.
- iii. Members to support effort by adding content to the Facebook group.
- iv. Network members to be asked to join the Forum.

#### **7. Election of officers or representatives (if any) consequent on the preceding discussion**

The current officers or representatives are

- a) Treasurer - Champa Soma
- b) Webmaster - Stephen Stewart
- c) Newsletter producer (for members only) – Clive Barker

All of the above confirmed they were happy to continue in their current roles and were endorsed by the meeting.

In addition, the following were endorsed

- d) Facebook sub committee - Andrew Pearce, Paul Hopkinson, Alan Williams
- e) Meeting and AGM organiser(s) for next year:
  - i. Campsite booking – John Brooke and Olwyn Cupid (to research other campsites with rooms available with a view to potentially meeting elsewhere next year on same or following weekend) ACTION: JB/OC
  - ii. Opening quiz / game / activity – Alan and Ginny Williams ACTION: AW/VW

It was also noted and agreed that it would be useful to have a coordinator to oversee the arrangements for the AGM next year, to be appointed in due course ACTION: ALL

## **8. Discussion of any matters and resolutions notified in writing to the AGM organiser before 23 August 2015**

No matters had been submitted.

## **9. Any other business**

- I. It was noted that some people have had difficulties filling in the online membership form and/or inserting photos. Stephen explained that there were a variety of approaches that may be adopted, and one of these would work - e.g. he could complete the membership form for an applicant based on emailed details, in extremis.
- II. Michele asked for recipes for last night's meal to collate and distribute. ACTION: ALL

There being no other business the meeting closed at 11:40am.