

SOUTH SUFFOLK DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

The Camping and Caravanning Club

The 35th Annual General Meeting of the above association, held at Hallowtree Scout HQ on Saturday 26th March 2011 started at 2pm.

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Ian opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 35th Annual General Meeting and asking everyone to have a minutes silence to think of members no longer with us.

He also thanked Wendy for checking everyone in and confirmed that there were 52 eligible to vote and 5 non-eligible to vote members.

2. Apologies For Absence

Apologies were received from Mick and Barbara Smart, Bill & Sophie Sykes, Roger and Rita Barham and Ian and Anne Rivett

3. Minutes of the 34th AGM held at Sutton Memorial Hall

These were circulated to the members present.

They were proposed as a true record by Wendy Ferguson and seconded by Bill Ferguson, the minutes were then agreed. The minutes were signed by Ian Roberts as a true record.

4. Chairman's Report, 2010, by Ian Roberts

Ian welcomed National Councilor Molfrey French-Owen and Linda Walsh, Ian Walsh and Nick Whitbread from Region.

The number of units attending our Meets has held up compared to 2009 levels even though the economic situation has continued, hopefully there will be some improvement this year. With the excellent turnout of 31 units at the Valentines meet I hope that this year will see our numbers attending meets grow.

The Committee continued to hold fewer committee meetings in 2010 to keep costs down and have worked hard to still maintain a high standard of entertainment and activities at the Meets.

The THS at Tattingstone attracted fewer units than the previous year with Reydon having 40 units, primarily due to issues with the late advertising. This year the THS's are already in Out & about and we hope for an improvement on numbers – I have suggested to friends in Spain that they join us at Reydon so let's see if they come to our part of the world from the north of England.

Our FOL held at Sutton with the theme "Cartoons" in September was well supported and was enjoyed by all those that attended.

In the autumn we had the Halloween and Bonfire Meets followed in December with the New Year Meets, all of which were once again very successful with professional entertainment.

Unfortunately we had to postpone the Christmas party due to be held the first weekend in December, due to bad weather. It was however rescheduled into January this year and although the numbers were down it was very successful with the Christmas spirit much in display with everyone who attended entering into the spirit of Christmas.

Currently we are conducting a survey into the future of the Christmas party food, so please let us know what you think. Forms can be found on the website or paper if required.

We will be presenting a cheque for an amount in excess of £625 to the Air Ambulance at tomorrow's coffee morning, thanks to your support and by the hard work of Sonia and Lynda so a big thank you to them.

We had a new website commissioned following last years AGM which was up and running in the summer, my thanks go to Dave Nelson our webmaster who built the site and does all our updates promptly. I urge all those that can to send in contributions and let us know what you enjoy or not about our meets.

Thank you to all the stewards who run the Meets for our enjoyment over the course of the year. My sincere thanks goes to all the Committee members, who have served with me during the last year, for their hard work and support together with their families. The committee was low on numbers last year, which meant that some members had more than one role, particularly Angie who was both Committee Secretary and Site Secretary, both very essential tasks, our thanks go to Angie for the hard work on our behalf. I hope that we can get some additional members this year and in particular someone to volunteer to join the committee and take on one of the Secretary roles.

Thanks go to Paula and Andy Last for their year on the committee. They have decided to step down due to health reasons and we wish them both well and look forward to seeing them out in the field later in the year.

Particular thanks go to the Auditors Anne Rivett and Wendy Ferguson for their work on the DA accounts, also to Darin who has decided to step down as Treasurer at the end of this year, so we will be looking for someone to fill that role from January 2011. Darin has agreed to assist the new treasurer whilst they undertake the role.

Finally thank you all for supporting the D.A., at our Meets in 2010 and we look forward to seeing you in the field in 2011.

5. Presentation of DA Accounts

As you will see the accounts sheets show that we made a loss of £1683.22 in 2010 however this isn't a true figure because it includes the 2009 Charity and VAT bill which were paid in 2010. Additionally, it does not take into account the 2010 VAT and Charity payments which won't be paid until 2011. When these aspects are factored in, the loss reduces to £1289.19.

	Current Account	HQ Account	Total
Opening Amount	£3,736.19	£3,931.13	£7,667.32
Closing Amount	£2,102.16	£3,881.94	£5,984.10
Profit/Loss			- £1,683.22
Add back 2009 Payments			
Charity	£810.00		£810.00
VAT Bill		£1,187.57	£1,187.57
Profit/Loss			£314.35
Take Away Outstanding Payments			
Charity	£496.30		£496.30
VAT Bill		£1,107.24	£1,107.24
			-
Actual 2010 Profit/Loss			£1,289.19

The fact that we have made a loss can be looked at both positively and negatively. The obvious negative is that we have not had enough people attending our Meets to cover the cost of running the DA. The positive is that we, as members, have not been paying excessive prices for Meets that we attended. Other than the low prices that we pay for Meets, the main reasons why we have made a loss this year against a profit last year are as follows –

1. The average number of Units per Meet has reduced very slightly resulting in a Meets income reduction of £600 however the payments to landowners has remained much the same as in 2009
2. VAT increased to 17.5% meaning that we keep less of the money that is paid for Meets
3. THS Income after VAT was down by approximately £500
4. Attendance levels at Xmas and New Year Meets were lower resulting in both making a loss
5. £300 more was spent on Entertainment
6. Higher Committee Expenses due to increase in the price of Fuel and Stamps and the rise in VAT

We have continued to try to control the non-camping expenditure however, as can be seen from amount of money we've spent on Entertainment, we have tried to attract people to our Meets by putting on Entertainment that we felt would be enjoyed by everyone. Despite the loss, we are still in a pretty healthy financial position with a total £4876.86 in our Bank Accounts however we obviously cannot continue to eat into our capital at the rate that we have been.

Looking ahead to 2011, the main challenge that we have had is trying to set Meet fees at levels that do not put people off attending but trying to take into account the further increase in VAT and increases in the fees that a number of Landowners are charging us. Unfortunately, we have had little choice but to put prices up however I would hope that you will agree that they are still reasonable. To give you an example of how things have changed, last year if we had charged £15 for a weekend at Hallowtree, we would have made a profit of £1.27 whereas, this year after the VAT increase and the Hallowtree increase we now make a profit of 50p and that's before we've paid for the hire of the hall, entertainment and coffee morning. It's not a huge difference but it shows what we are up against.

On the subject of Meet Fees, I have been looking back at some old Committee Meeting minutes from 2007 and have seen that the weekend cost to camp at Haughley and Bobs Meadow was £13, this year the cost for the same sites is going to be £14. There are other examples where this year's prices are within a few pounds of the prices that were being charged in 2007 thus showing how we have tried to keep costs down. One final point on fees, we were planning to book Dan's Meadow for the 2012 AGM and have just received their prices. This year they are charging us £6 per Unit per night, next year, their per Unit per night charges are £10.50 for 1 to 10 Units, £9.50 for 11 – 19 Units and £7 for 20+ Units. Given the fact that we never know how many Units would turn up for a Meet we would have had to price on the 1 – 9 Units which would have resulted in a cost of £25.20 for the weekend. Needless to say, we haven't booked Dan's Meadow for next year's AGM!

If anyone knows of any sites where fees are low, possibly £4 or £5 per night could they please let us know.

Finally on 2011, unless we get a significant increase in Meet attendance I suspect we will make a loss again in 2011 however, to try to minimise the loss we are reducing the amount of money that we are spending on Professional Entertainment but are not reducing the number of Meets where we have entertainment. We are also fortunate to have been able to increase the Reydon THS to 2 weeks and have a new 2 week THS at Brokhowse Farm, Weeley, both of which will hopefully bring in additional income.

To finish, I'd like to thank Anne Rivett and Wendy Ferguson for auditing the accounts and would like to make the customary appeal for anyone who would be prepared to take on an Auditor's role for 2011. Anne has agreed, I think, to do the auditing again however Wendy has decided that 1 year is enough! Finally, I'd like to thank everyone who has supported SSDA through 2010.

That concludes my report. If anyone would like to ask any questions please feel free to do so.

6. Auditor's Report 2010

Wendy gave the following report sent by Anne Rivett, who sends her apologies.

I would firstly like to thank Darin for all his hard and dedicated work as the Treasurer for the last year. It is not an easy job.

The Accounts unfortunately show a loss for the year of £1683.27. As at 31st December 2010 your bank balance was £5984.10. From this amount a VAT figure for the year of £1178.62 will have to be paid over to HQ and the charity money collected of £515.35 paid to the charity leaving equity of £4290.13.

Going forward the committee will have to make some serious decisions to ensure that the club remains a going concern. They will have to consider the profitability of running some meets. THS meets all show a good profit.

The committee are facing the same challenges as all businesses at the present time.

I would also like to thank Wendy for assisting me with the audit.

7. Approval of Accounts

Steve Thompson proposed that we accept the accounts as a true record, Mary Welham seconded. The accounts were then agreed as a true record.

8. Youth Report

With no youth officer there is no report to be noted however as we are seeing an increase in youth, Ian Roberts made an appeal to the floor

9. Notice of Appointment of Treasurer

Darin Crawford has been appointed as Treasurer for 2011, but he has indicated that he wishes to relinquish the role at the end of this year

10. Notice of appointment of Youth Leader

No Leader had been appointed

11. Election of Committee

Following the resignation of Andy and Paula Last there were 6 vacancies on the committee and we have had 6 nominations passed to the secretary. Ian Roberts asked if there were any more nominations from the floor. None were forthcoming. The nominations for committee were, Ian Roberts, Angie Crawford, Hazel Thompson, Nina Vincent, Nina Zizka and Kevin Zizka. 4 of the posts are for 2 years, and 2 of the posts are for 1 year. Ian welcomed the new committee members and asked if any of the 6 had a preference to stand for one year and Nina Vincent and Angie Crawford both agreed they would stand for the 1 year posts. This was agreed by the floor.

12. Election of Auditors

Ian Roberts proposed Ann Rivett for the forthcoming year, seconded by Bill Ferguson, all agreed
Ian Roberts appealed for a second auditor as Wendy has decided not to continue but none were forthcoming so it was agreed to run with one auditor.

13. Date and Place of Next Meeting

The 36th Annual General meeting of SSDA will be held on the 21st April 2012 venue to be confirmed
The meeting finished at 2.34pm

Signed By Chairman of the 2012 AGM21st April 2012