



KNAUS KONTAKT

June 2009

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2009

There was a good turnout for the AGM with over 20 members present. The weather was exceptionally kind – warm and sunny - and we were parked in a good position near to the Show, but within easy reach of the entrance and exits. The footpaths and cycle-ways from the Show site were excellent, providing quiet and very pleasant off-road walking and cycling for miles. Members still had time though to bag a few bargains at the Show, although it was disappointing that there were no Knaus vehicles on the Lowdhams Stand.

Minutes of AGM 2009

Apologies were received from, Jim and Alison Gilmour, Carol Crispin, Steve and Hazel Brock, Hazel and Roger Goulden, Ralph and Mavis Holmes, Barbara and Allan Brown, Glen and Anne Smith, Bob and Barbara Pendlebury, Dick and Ann Gregory and John and Maxine Clarke. Sadly some of these members couldn't attend because of ill health. Members wished them a speedy recovery.

The minutes of the last meeting (AGM 2008) were read and accepted.



Election of officers:

Chairman: Tony Poole was proposed as chairman by Mike, seconded by Trevor and elected by the members. Tony is also to continue as rally marshal.

Treasurer: Bill Lowes agreed to continue as treasurer and was duly elected.

Webmaster: Kevin Hamblin agreed to be webmaster, following discussion with Steve Brock

Secretary: After some discussion it was agreed that the secretary duties would be divided. Bill Lowes will take on memberships and Andrea Hamblin and Cathy and Mike Wilcox will share other secretary duties including the newsletter. Keren will continue with Knaus liaison.

Webmaster's Report 2009

Please accept my apologies for not being able to join you at this year's AGM, but Hazel and I will have just returned from a holiday in Israel and will be busy preparing for a 'proper' holiday in the motorhome the following week. However, we will be at the Knaus rally in May and look forward to seeing you there.

The website currently costs the club £116.10p per year in registration and subscription fees, providing good value for its members at a competitive rate. Service provision is reliable, with the website being online and contactable 99% of the time.

I will not describe all of the web pages available on the website as most will already be familiar with its content. If you don't have access to a computer at home, can I recommend you go to the local library and visit our website using their free service, just to see what is available?

Since we moved to the new website three years ago we have been free on 'hackers', although there is the very occasional non-offensive comment placed on the discussion forum, which I am able to remove quite easily – not that there any offensive comments place on the forum by members!

The website does not currently require members' registration, and anyone can visit the site without the need for a password etc – are members happy with this arrangement? Please let me have your views.

It is interesting to note that in 2008 there were 20,939 unique visits to the site. This equals averages of 1,745 visits per month, or 57 visits per day. During 2009 the average number of daily hits has risen to 64. A 'visitor' is counted only when bringing up more than one page upon each 'visit' – each time an individual visits the site and looks at more than one webpage, it is counted as a 'unique' visit. Therefore we could, for example, have an average of 64 different people visiting the website every day – or we could have a lesser number visiting the site several times a day.

Incidentally, the website receives regular 'hits' from other European countries (i.e. France, Italy, Spain, Portugal and the Benelux countries). This could well be our own members visiting the site whilst abroad, but it could also reflect that others have an interest in our activity.

The Discussion Forum currently has 58 original 'threads' (topic headings), with a further total of 74 replies attached. This shows that the forum is being used for its intended purpose – providing an opportunity for members to make comments or ask questions. It is encouraging to see that most entries receive at least one reply, indicating that we continue to offer help and support to one another.

Currently there are 70 individuals registered on the website 'Owners Database', which provides details of 'vans and email addresses for further contact if necessary. Please feel free to use this facility to speak with one another should the need arise.

I am satisfied that the club is getting good value for the money it spends on the website. However, its members could receive even more value – but it does depend upon more of us submitting items to me for inclusion. For example, you might consider sharing your 'travellers tales' or other motor-homing experiences. This can be in the form of either a full electronic document or just an email – I will convert it into a readable format if needs be. Please attach any photographs (but make sure their file size is not huge – you may have to reduce anything in excess of 5 megapixels), and I can either incorporate them into your story or display them separately on our picture board.

Finally, I am looking to pass over maintenance of the website to any willing volunteer. I was a founding member of the club in 2002 and immediately took on the position of 'webmaster'. I have since changed 'vans and no longer own a Knaus – which means that whilst I still retain an interest in the marque I can no longer speak 'first hand'. I do, however, still wish to remain a member of the club and will be available to support in any way I can. The website can easily be maintained by anyone with basic computer skills – the current service provider simply provides online templates which you alter to suit your own preferences – doing away with the need for web design skills. AS ever, if you would like to discuss any of these matters in more detail, please don't hesitate to drop me an email: webmaster@knausowners.com

Kind regards, Steve Brock

Secretary's report 2008-2009

I have been secretary since April 2007, taking over from Mike and Jill Dixon. The two years I agreed to have come to an end and we are looking for someone to take on the position of secretary. Sadly, my health is such that I am unable to carry on for another year although I will give the new person all the help I can. I am willing to process membership renewals for May and complete tasks already in progress, but aim to hand over to the new secretary by June.

Bill Lowes has been treasurer again and also marshalled at the September 2008 meeting at Pickering. Steve Brock has managed the website and Tony Poole organised the AGM at Peterborough. On behalf of members, I should like to thank Bill, Steve and Tony for all their help during the year and thank them for helping me when I have e-mailed with problems.

This has been another good year for the Club. May was a busy as subs reminders were sent out and most members renewed. Only two outfits left and we have welcomed 23 new member outfits. We have a current membership 160 members with 92 outfits. English counties are well represented by owners with a few in Wales and Scotland and one in Ireland. Two member outfits live abroad.

Once again, members have been brilliant at helping one another with problems. Everyone I have asked has come up trumps with advice and assistance. My e-mail account has been busy this year and I have received over 200 e-mails with information, requests and problems – most of which the club has responded to positively.

The club had a wet, but enjoyable meeting at the Northern Motorhome Show in Pickering in September and this year we've sent newsletters in May, August, January and March.

The big news of the year has been the insolvency of the Knaus-Tabbert group in November. This was a worrying time, and continues to be so as we have had so little news. We are told that HTP, a Dutch company has taken over and the business is continuing. I have had some written contact with Knaus, which due to their difficulties has been limited. (Once again, my grateful thanks go to Eilidh Gilmour for her translating services). However, I have a recent new contact in Knaus aftersales -who is prompt at replying, has been very helpful so far and is interested in the Club. I also have a contact in the Spares department and am encouraged with the progress we are making with the new company.

Lowdhams are still the sole importers/dealerships for Knaus.

I should like to thank everyone for their help and it is good to know our club is indeed friendly and welcoming and members are so willing to help each other.

Kind regards
Keren Nicholls

Marshal's report

Tony reported that last year's rallies had been successful and he had made directional signs to improve this year's rally at Peterborough. We have had the best site so far at Peterborough, near the entrance and exits. We traditionally meet at the end of the season, normally at the Northern Motorhome Show at York and last year at Pickering. This year it will be at Lincoln in September, as the Pickering Show is too early in July. Tony was thanked for making the signs. Bill noted that there were sufficient funds to buy directional signs if required.

Treasurer's report

Bill reported a healthy balance as below. The main expenditure is on the website, with stationery etc. being other outgoings. The old flagpole was broken, so a new one has been purchased. Bill explained that the difference between the figures in the treasurer's and the webmaster's reports is because of a payment from last year which appears in this year's figures.

Balance Sheet		Knaus Owners Club		April 2009	
2007/ 2008	2008	Description	2008/ 2009	2008/ 2009	2008/ 2009
Income	Expenditure		Income	Expenditure	
214.25		Brought Forward - Bank	404.04		
17.52		Brought Forward - Cash	0		
310		Subscriptions	305		
0.12		Interest	0		
10		Donations	6.31		
	100.33	Web Site			133.32
	47.52	Inks, stamps, envelopes etc			31.98
320.12	147.85	Totals	311.31		165.3
		Balance of Inc/Exp	146.01		
		Unpresented chq.	52.77		
		Carry Forward			
		Bank	579.8		
404.04		Cash	23.02		
0		Total C/F	602.82		
404.04					

Knaus Takeover by HTP

Keren noted there was little to add to current knowledge, other than she had made a contact at Knaus aftersales and another in the Parts Department. Knaus have asked that we do not contact HTP, but all correspondence and contact should be directed to Knaus Tabbert, who will forward matters to HTP as appropriate. Keren acknowledged that whilst the situation was far from perfect it was at least encouraging that Knaus were still in business and were willing to keep in contact with the Club. It seems it is still a question of 'watch this space'.

Life memberships

Following last year's AGM it was proposed that Bill and Jean Siers (as Club founders) and Mike and Jill Dixon (who carried on running the club and gave it a secure base) should be honoured as life members. The motion was carried unanimously.

Insurance Partners

As noted in the last newsletter, two companies offering discounts and incentives had approached the Club to become 'partners' if we would allow advertising on the website and in our newsletter. Members voted that this was acceptable for 12 months.

Salterforth Rally

Details of the rally, 14th – 18th May 2009 were given to those who thought they might like to attend. At the last AGM members asked for rallies to be organized, especially at the beginning of the season. Nine units have booked.

Any other business

Keren asked if members would like Club regalia (such as clothing/ hi-vis vests etc.) with the Club name. Interest was shown in sweatshirts if the name was small and Keren agreed to report back on costs.

Date of next AGM

The next AGM will be at Peterborough, April 2010. Tony thanked the officers for all they had done and said their efforts were appreciated. He thanked Steve in his absence for a much improved website, which was an excellent tool for the Club and its members.

Important News - All change for Club officers

As you will have noted from the minutes, there is a change of club officials. In future please will members address all membership issues (renewals, change of details etc) to Bill Lowes. Bill's e-mail address is membership@knausowners.com or treasurer@knausowners.com. His address is School House Braithwaite, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN7 5SS and his phone number is 01302 842809.

Bill and Jacqui are also taking on the next newsletter, so please send all items to them as above. All other queries are to go to Andrea Hamblin or if she is away, Mike and Cathy Wilcox – they can be contacted through the secretary@knausowners.com e-mail or telephone Andrea on 07802 336421 or Mike and Cathy on 01483 233989.

Kevin Hamblin is taking over as webmaster. Steve and Kevin say this takeover should be completed by September. If you want to contact the website, the e-mail is still the same: webmaster@knausowners.com. It might take a little time to complete the changeover, so please be patient if you are asked to contact someone else.

I know members will join me in thanking Bill, Jacqui, Andrea, Kevin, Mike and Cathy for volunteering.

RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTION

The subscription for 2009-10 will remain at £5 per unit. I won't be sending separate reminders this year, so will everyone who has not done so, please send their renewal to the membership secretary **Bill Lowes**. It would be helpful if you would complete one of the new membership forms and tick (or not) the boxes which indicate if you want to share your details. You can download a form from our website at www.knausowners.com. Please write RENEWAL on the top if you are already a member. Don't forget – if you joined the club after 1st November last year, your subscription will run until May 2010.

THE NEXT MEETING

We will not be having the next meeting at the Northern Motorcaravan Show, as the Show date is too early (July).

Instead, our Knaus meet will be at The Motorhome Show Season Finale on 25th, 26th and 27th September 2009 at Lincoln Showground, Lincoln, so keep the date free. There will be details in the next newsletter

Life memberships

Following the decision of members to award life memberships to Jean and Bill Siers and Mike and Jill Dixon, I wrote to let them know.

Bill and Jean want to pass on their sincere thanks to members and to let you know how happy this has made them. They miss their Knaus, but are looking forward to continuing to have news from the Knaus Owners Club.

Mike and Jill also wrote to say they were delighted and thanked members. Although they have been enjoying cruising the Caribbean and spending time in Portugal they still have their caravan and look out for Knaus owners when they are out and about on campsites. They send everyone their good wishes for the future and wish us all safe motoring.

Frank Pickles Insurance Partner Insurance Savings for your members!

We specialise in Motorhome and Campervan Insurance with very competitive premiums and a further very generous 15% discount for Knaus Owners Club members.

Our policy benefits include:

- Club Members Discount 15%
- Generous Limited Mileage Discounts
- 90 days European Use
- Camping Equipment and Personal Effects over £2,000
- Excess £100 (for vehicles under £20,000)
- Legal Protection Included
- UK & European Breakdown Cover Available

Further details can be found on our website at <http://www.frankpickles.co.uk/motorhome-insurance.asp>

**Frank Pickles (Insurance Brokers) Ltd 33/35 Cross Green
Otleigh LS21 1HD Tel: 01943 850999 Fax: 01943 850388**

A news sheet for the Knaus Owners Club in the UK

Membership. Secretary
Bill Lowes
School House
School House Braithwaite,
Doncaster, South Yorkshire,
DN7 5SS .

Phone: 01302 842809

Email:
membership@knausowners.com
treasurer@knausowners.com

Club Website:

www.knausowners.com



The Club website

www.knausowners.com

is where Steve Brock would be happy if you could e-mail your experiences to him for others to share. There is also a Discussion Forum where you can post questions or put up subjects for discussion. Why not log on and see?

STOP PRESS

Members Maxine and John Clarke (Duncan and Joan's son and daughter-in-law) have just had a baby girl on 18th May. Many congratulations go to 7 ½ lb baby Evelyn Ann – the youngest member of the Knaus Owner's Club!

Paul at **Kings Lynn Caravan and Camping Park** tells me he has good rally facilities with meeting sheds, local pubs and places of interest. The site is open for any inspection. If we would like to rally there contact Paul on 01553 840004 or look at the website kl-cc.co.uk.

Sureterm Direct Insurance Partner 15% discount offer

For members of the Knaus Motorhome Owners Club, Sureterm Direct Insurance is pleased to offer a unique 15% discount on motorhome or RV insurance policies taken through them. With over 72,000 satisfied policy holders, Sureterm Direct continues to enjoy success in the Motorhome and RV markets with these fantastic incentives:

- £5,000 personal effects cover
 - £2,000 cover for awnings and gas bottles
 - Limited Mileage Discounts if you can limit your annual policy to 3,000, 5,000, 10,000 or 15,000 miles
 - Drivers 25 - 74
 - Mirror No Claims Bonus
 - 15% discount if you have owned your motorhome more than 12 months
 - Further 15% discount for motorhome club members
Modified motorhome or **RV**? No problem
 - Breakdown cover available for ANY motorhome no matter what size or weight
- Outstanding rates for Great Britain and Northern Ireland residents
Call **0800 999 2030** now quoting reference **KNAUSOC** to claim your 15% discount on your motorhome or RV insurance policy.
No other discount schemes/offers will apply with this promotion.

Adverts

From time to time we are sent information. As always we are just passing this on and make no recommendations.

For Sale – Barbara and Allan Brown say “Our Knaus is for sale at £23,500. with cruise control, High-spec swivel cab seats and external and internal TV aerial sockets. (Will haggle on price) 4-berth: The van has a huge double overcab berth and a further double when the dining table is lowered and lounge seating extended. Including the cab seats there are four forward facing seats with full lap and diagonal seat belts for travelling. Photos of the van are here www.geocities.com/ivfdg We are in the North Manchester Area Mileage is less than 8000 miles. Its a 4 berth 2004 'Knaus Sun Traveller model 555L' with L shaped lounge. i.e. the cab seats swivel completely and are superbly comfortable, similar to 'captains seats'. They were specified by ourselves when we ordered the van, new, from Lowdhams. The van's water ingress warranty lasts until the first week of June this year so it would pass to any new owner before that date. It is taxed until the end of October 2009 and is already booked to have a mechanical service and MOT very soon. For our health reasons the van has been used on only one 2-week holiday. The rest of the time it has been taken for regular rides purely to keep the tyres, engine, and batteries in good condition. The engine is 2.3 Litre diesel with cruise control and it is a delight to drive. The driver can clearly see following traffic through the rear window. The van is about 18'4" long with loads of storage cupboards, Alko double floor storage, circular wetroom style shower etc ... typically-Knaus range of fittings including integral cab-sunblinds and everything in superb condition. (Except the rear window blind needs repairing or replacing.) Our home tel. No is 0161 766 9835 with answer machine our email is motorhome.camper@ntlworld.com (that is: motorhome DOT camper) We *may* consider exchanging the van for a smaller one based on a VW T4 with raising roof.

Camping de la Touch in the Loire Valley say they have new for 2009 a dedicated meeting/wet weather room, which accommodates club rallies with discounts for organizers of rallies for 12 units or more. Further information from www.theloirevalley.com

For Sale- Fiona is selling her year 2000 2.8TDI Fiat Ducato based KNAUS 504 sports traveller for sale. 45000 miles (75000KM) full years MOT Left Hand drive imported by me from Germany 2 years ago Taxed Full service history Full service last year and cambelt change and new battery when sold form German company Many small extras portable solar panel wired into 2 leisure batteries by electrician making this van a real live all year option which I did for a year New fridge a year ago New Blind system for privacy costing £600 Swivelling Captain chair fitted to passenger ser for comfort 3 Bike Rack Awning NO SMOKING /PETS There are a few points of damage I am travelling Australia. Home 5 June when I can mail pictures I would like £1,400 valued more but I'm emigrating so will take decent offer in this climate!! Fiona Daniels 07976 226075 LONDON / ESSEX border e- mail: Rebelfifi@aol.com