

## Chairman's Report 2019 – 20

Welcome to my third and final Chairman's report.

Unfortunately, my year started in a similar vein as the last one finished, having to discipline a centre member for breaking CAMC and centre rules. This was done in a professional manner, again with no support from East Grinstead, but following established work place practice which has now been introduced in to the CAMC rules for governing centres.

Ironically, with four weeks left to go of my chairmanship, I received another horrible e-mail, this time it was anonymous. So I or the committee can't really do anything about it, but it has upset Andrea, I and the committee. The e-mail has been sent to CAMC and has been logged.

At the beginning of the year we suffered from an extremely wet weather period which led to the last minute cancellation of a few rallies. I was very impressed with the professionalism of the Rally Officers who had to deal with the problem. Then came the dreaded Covid-19 pandemic which decimated the programme for five months including the long awaited 50<sup>th</sup> year celebrations.

Throughout the lock down your committee and I have continued to meet, albeit virtually, and worked extremely hard to promote and move the centre forward.

I approved:

- The purchase of new rally equipment, including electric urns now that we are organising more rallies on sites.
- Financial assistance for rallies that were affected by Covid-19 and had to be cancelled.
- A second on line booking trial following the success of the first trial; the 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration rally received 240 bookings of which 123 of them were on line, so it was obviously very popular. This year's Bonfire rally was selected to be the trial rally. The committee would love your feedback.

Your committee and I worked very hard preparing for the 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration Rally so, when rallying was stopped in March, we were all heart broken. I am sure you will all agree it was the correct decision to postpone the rally, but it was so disappointing. Most of the companies and individuals agreed to hold their bookings with us for 12 months which has made things easier for us. I am positive our Celebration Rally will be fantastic.

Then at the end of July came the news from the CAMC that we were to continue with our AGM's but to carry them out virtually which in our case also meant an on line voting system. This created more work and additional committee meetings to resolve the problems as the 'guidance' from East Grinstead was very minimal to say the least.

Probably the highlight of my year was reading the Facebook campaign to keep me as your Chairman for a fourth year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. That led to numerous phone calls and e-mails which was lovely to hear and read. It was very humbling and makes me immensely proud that you think so highly of me. The Chairman's report is not supposed to name names, so I will just say to the lady from Finland, thank you so much.

Taking out the cessation of rallies due to Covid-19, I have represented you on the rally field at both of the English and Welsh Nationals, collecting the Ernie Sadler trophy at the English National and the Visitor's cup twice were definite highlights of my term of office. I have represented you at numerous other centres rallies and in the 3 years I have only missed 3 weekend rallies. I attended the last rally in March before Lock Down and I attended the first rally when we were granted permission to organise rallies in August. I set out to support as many Rally Officers as I could and, apart from a couple who organise rallies at the same time as I run my own rallies, I did that.

The affection you showed Andrea and the amount of ducks you donated to her collection was amazing, I am currently having to convert the spare bedroom to display them all. I would like to personally thank Andrea who has had to put up with all of the meetings, both on and off the rally field, and the hassle from that small group of ralliers hell bent on spoiling my time as chairmen; cheers chuck.

I have had three fantastic committees supporting me; their dedication, enthusiasm and hard work has been impressive, which has made it a privilege to lead this great centre. Thank you to all of the Rally Officers who have made our weekends so enjoyable. I have done my best to keep you all updated, especially during the lock down, by the use of the Chairman's Blog, the centre's web site, Weekly Updates and Social Media, hopefully that has helped you all keep informed of what was happening.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as your Chairman. Thank you for all of the support and kind words you have given me it has made it a very special time.

And that ladies and gentlemen ends my third Chairman's report.