

EKDA Site Secretary's Report 2024

As you maybe aware I took over as Site secretary May 2023 following a resignation. All the 2023 rally's were booked by the previous site secretary, David Steward. It became my role to book the 2024 rally's.

The 2023 rally's were successful with some rally's having a waiting list, which as a committee we discussed how we could find extra space to accommodate and avoid disappointed members due to the popularity of our DA meets. I contacted the sites that could possible give us more space and negotiated feasibility, it was discussed with the committee and extra spaces were booked.

We did not cancel any rally's in 2023 and I do not expect to cancel any in 2024. Subject to having Stewards for all the meets.

There are 26 Rally's booked for 2024. Although I am negotiating a 27th. We have held 3 to date and St Georges Day weekend of 19th April, which incorporates the AGM makes 4.

Some of the meets (Glamtastic, Easter and St Georges day) have been at schools where we have been able to use indoor amenities for Children's Crafts, social gatherings and entertainment. This will be similar for Halloween, Christmas and New Year rally's.

The other 20 rally's are when we hope the weather to be better and although some sites maybe schools or have club houses, we primarily camp on these grounds. At few of these meets we take the EKDA Gazebo, as we did for the Canterbury Club meet for the working party in March, which was very successful.

The next rally at Chatham and Claredon House Grammer School has a Fete organised to raise money for the KSS Air Ambulance, our chosen charity. The EKDA raise money at all the rallys for this good cause. Well done and Thank you everyone, with a special mention to Nick and Tracey Northover with lots of assistance from Jackie Gibbs.

Unfortunately some landowners have increased there rent substantially so there have been negotiations. One rally was openly discussed with the members on our EKDA facebook page, as to whether they were happy for us to book the rally due to the increase, The members still felt it was value for money so it has been booked. The others were negotiated and an agreement made, so costs are slightly higher but the committee still felt it was a good rally opportunity which members would enjoy. This helps us keep future relationship with the landowners.

There have been a couple of sites which we couldnt book unfortunately, Dane Court School Broadstairs, as there terms and conditions state No Dogs. We felt we couldnt book this site and inform you your Dogs couldnt attend. Another being Oasis Academy Sheerness, due to a change over between schools. However I have recontacted them and they can be booked again from September 2024. So are back on my radar.

We have booked two new sites this year, The aforementioned Chatham and Claredon House Grammer School has been booked twice in 2024, as we feel it is a fabulous location and value for Money, firstly for the Bank Holiday weekend in May with the Fete and as a THS during the Summer Holidays. Very central to Ramsgate.

The other Baypoint, is a Sports centre by a nature reserve and the Sea near Sandwich. Im told you can sometimes see seals.
Our other THS will be held at Rye Rugby Club ending just after August Bank holiday.

I have included a rally at Jemmetts Farm and Hamilton Farm for variety and a change from last year and left a few off, to come back to. I have left some firm favourites, such as the Hop Farm, Rye and Little Groves Leysdown and our Palm Bay beach party to name a few. I have emailed and am waiting for a confirmation as to whether the Hop Festival is happening due to funding there end. I will update when I know more.

If anyone would like to discuss with me any venues they feel may like to have as a rally, Id love you to contact me.

Heres to another successful year.
Thank you.
Helen