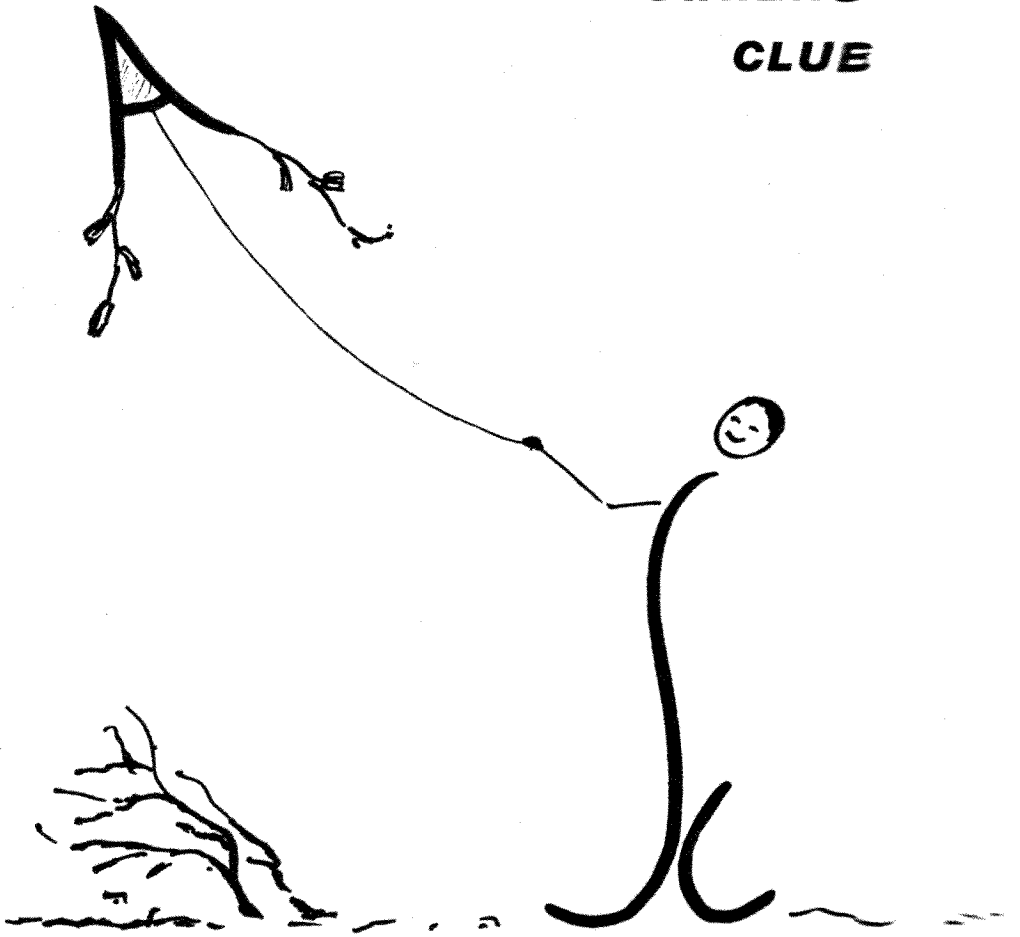


**AUTO-SLEEPER  
OWNERS'  
CLUB**



**Newsletter No. 6**

## Greetings.

First things first. Obviously the Inaugural Rally is top of the agenda this month so before you get bored and stop reading, a plea from the Secretary: "Please, please, if you are coming to South Cerney just for the day on Saturday, 1st April and wish to enjoy the free Buffet and attend the General Meeting, let me know and I will send you tickets. This is necessary and not due to our meanness - the maximum capacity of the room for the buffet and AGM is 400 and we are getting near that figure. Admission MUST be by TICKET ONLY to ensure we, and the Site Management, stay within the Fire and Safety regulations."

Even if you just wish to see what goes on or to visit the marquee with the display of the latest *Auto-Sleepers* inside or the outside displays of new & used *Auto-Sleepers* plus all sorts of accessories and things by Berkshire Motorcaravan & Leisure Centre, (Newbury), Bromley Motor Caravans (Belvedere), Hayes (Leisure) Ltd (Darlaston) and Western Motorcaravans Ltd. (Bath), it would help if we knew beforehand so that parking space can be found. As some of you will have understood from previous Newsletters, pets can come during the day but must, naturally, be kept on a leash when out of the 'van. There is a "dog walking area" within the site and the Cotswold Waterpark surrounds the site with tens, if not hundreds, of acres of open land so that if you can tear yourself away from the exhibits, displays, buffet, meeting, cheese and wine party from time to time, your best friend can enjoy himself/herself, too. It is almost too late for sales talk now; we have to close the books by 11th March so that we can give Cotswold Hoburne the notice they require for catering.

To avoid any possibility of a mis-understanding I must emphasise one point: the Club has NOT taken over the Cotswold Hoburne for the weekend! We were allocated 105 pitches in 'E' field and now have an additional 50 to 100 in 'A' field, thus leaving the whole of 'B' field to other customers who will book in the normal way through the Site Office and pay the normal fee.

The numbers involved are very gratifying to your acting Committee. At this point I want to say that the organisation of the first National Rally would have been beyond our capabilities without the marvellous assistance offered by Neville Jelts and his band of *Auto-Sleepers* helpers. You will see that Charles is delighted with the number of staff who are coming but don't get the idea they are coming just for a day out. Without giving away too many organisational secrets I can tell you that, while you and I are enjoying the Buffet and working at the AGM, Neville and his team will be moving out

exhibits from the marquee to make room for the tables required for the Cheese & Wine Party and then, having purchased the viands beforehand, will serve them to one and all. I suspect something will be called for in the way of a vote of thanks. (I'm just getting in early, in case I have other things on my mind at the appropriate time!).

Members who are concerned at the vast expense involved in providing the Free Buffet Lunch and then the Free Cheese & Wine Party should not think your Committee has done what was predicted and gone stark, raving mad. The Buffet is by courtesy of *Auto-Sleepers, Limited* and the Cheese & Wine is very heavily sponsored by **Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles**, of Swindon. **VW** are also providing their Hospitality Unit, about which I know very little beyond the interesting fact that it is 32 feet long and articulated! Mention has been made of **VW** Staff, coffee & refreshments, a Video display, flagpoles, and a welcome to all! Thank you, **VW**, very much indeed!

Since some people from Willersey, naming no names, do not have an A-S of their own, a couple of statics have been rented, for overnight accomodation. Since there is room to spare in one of these the Club Office will be fitted in. This will save wear & tear on B200REA and be much better all round, as an office. Thank you, Charles.

We have had a wonderful response to our request for marshals and helpers but, and isn't it always the same, we need one more. A specialist in this case. We, the Club, just must have a photographic record of the events of 31st March- 2nd April. What we NEED is a collection of Black & White prints suitable for reproduction in the Press and Newsletter. What we would LIKE, in addition, is a number of colour prints for the Club records. We would be happy to pay for the cost of material and processing, etc and would need the copyright, I think. Can you help us, please? A line to Rita or me or a call on 021-706 1816 almost anytime would be most welcome.

There has been a lot of response to Mike Lavercombe's item on insurance. All I am going to say is "Shop around" and then pass on the comments as nearly word-for-word as possible:-

Mr Perry wrote from Sudbrooke, Lincolnshire: "We approached the 'Pru' following the Newsletter comments and were quoted £215 with no contents cover. We ended up...with Compton Insurance Brokers (UK) Ltd. for £140.25 including cover for camping equipment & Fire & Explosion caused by heating & cooking apparatus." An interesting letter from George Hawke of Gravesend, Kent, ties in with that: "It is true that one should shop around but in doing so it is necessary to be sure that the cover bought is adequate. When insuring a Motorcaravan it is essential to that you do not merely acquire a normal car cover. For my requirements I have for 10 years dealt

with the Compton Insurance Brokers. They arrange cover suited to Motor-caravans but not always with the same Insurance Company. This year I am covered through Renown Motor Policies at Lloyds. The cover includes Breakage of windscreen and extends the cover for Rugs, Clothing and Personal Effects to include Camping equipment whilst such equipment is contained in or attached to the vehicle. It also acknowledges that the vehicle carries gas bottles and only excludes liability if heating or cooking appliances are used while the vehicle is in motion."

Mrs S Tilley writes from Southampton: "My broker, Peter Carroll, 691 Bitterne Road, Southampton (Tel 0703-449279) can, I feel sure, quote excellent insurance rates on husband and wife + 4 years NCD etc. On our Auto-Sleeper CX200, 2.5 litre engine it is £93.22 including Fully Comprehensive, No Claims Bonus Protection and full No Quibble Windscreen cover (sadly all insurance companies now charge £25 excess on this item)". Susanne does not give the name of the Insurance Company.

I notice a number of people mention windscreen cover. How important is it? When did you last have a shattered windscreen? I thought that the advent of laminated screens had almost eliminated the problem. Mary & Alan Anderton say some very nice things about the Newsletter, which modesty prevents me printing, and their letter continues: "Last early Autumn whilst waiting delivery of our Ford Legend I decided to 'shop around' the insurance market. My biggest surprise was the quotation from General Accident with whom our previous motor caravan had been insured (a VW Holdsworth Villa) and with whom I have had a motor car insurance for over 40 years (Only two claims, each paid by the other party.) In addition to quoting a high premium the company fixed the compulsory excess at £250! I settled with the well-established Newport Broker, the personal contact being something to which I attach much importance." They kindly enclosed a note of the quotes the 'shopping around' produced:

|                                |      |
|--------------------------------|------|
| M. C. I. A.                    | £153 |
| Smith & Harvey, Bournemouth    | £199 |
| Norwich Union                  | £199 |
| Griffiths (Insurance) Ltd      |      |
| Newport, Gwent (Norwich Union) | £199 |
| Avon Insurance                 | £205 |
| General Accident               | £258 |

All quotations were for comprehensive insurance, any driver with £50 excess, with the exception Of General Accident which specified a compulsory excess of £250."

### "From the Factory.

There seems never a dull moment here at Willersey which is probably just as well since there is never any question of becoming bored or stale! In fact life continues at a remarkably quick pace not least with the programming of the Inaugural Rally which you will have read about in the last Newsletter.

Production too continues at full pace and as ever we are pleased to report a very encouraging order book. The main event however of this period is the Birmingham Boat, Caravan & Leisure Show at the National Exhibition Centre where we are more than ably supported by Brownhills Ltd of Newark Caravan Centre, Farndon Road, Newark, Notts and by Don Amott Motor-caravan Centre, Hilton, Derbyshire. At the time of writing, and with the Show only three days old, we are pleased to report an encouraging increase in sales over the corresponding period last year and the stands on which we are represented look quite splendid.

Tony Johnson, as you know, is safely back from Australia and now that he is over a severe dose of jet lag is busy representing our interest at the NEC. No sooner than this is over then he will be visiting our Dealers once again and indeed, the days that we see him at Willersey are becoming few and far between. He will, of course, be present at the Inaugural Rally so those who have not yet met him in person will have the opportunity to do so!

By now you will have received a copy of our latest Volkswagen brochure and price list together with details of Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club sweaters that are available through Dilys Stinchcombe. I have already purchased mine and I can say in all truthfulness that it is not only comfortable but remarkably warm.

May I end by saying how very much we, at the factory, look forward to meeting you at the Inaugural Rally. We have been more than delighted with the fact that so many members of our company have already asked to be included in the weekend's activities so you will certainly see a predominance of our factory staff.

Have a good trip to South Cerney and let us all hope for good weather and an enjoyable weekend.

*Charles Trevelyan.*

Now that we have become firmly established as a Club the Committee has decided that, in fairness to subscription-paying Members, the expense of sending out Newsletters to non-members must be limited. It is thought reasonable to send out the current Newsletter and the 'update' with the other papers sent in response to an enquiry and to follow that up with the Newsletter for the following month. If this does not result in an application for membership it will be assumed that there is no further interest. At the moment we are sending out over One hundred Newsletters every month to non-members at a cost, in postage alone, of £14.00.

Do you use your 'van only in the Summer? I had assumed most people used their 'vans all the year. Our pre-Ramblerite vehicle is kept taxed

and insured throughout the twelve months because, in pre-Club days, we often said to ourselves, "What a lovely day! Let's go somewhere and, if we feel like it, stay the night there and come home tomorrow, or the day after." At the moment we are being very self-sacrificing and ever-so aware of it but just you wait until the 'proper' Committee is elected on 1st April! When the clearing up has been done we are going to France for a month, just visiting places we like and looking at some we have so far missed. Our over-night stops will probably be decided each day over a snack lunch of pate or cheese, very fresh bread and salad. Sorry if I drooled...

### Useful tips from the Factory.

#### A few useful tips when preparing your *Auto-Sleeper* for the summer.

- 1) Check all rubber gas hoses for cracks and signs of perishing; *Auto-Sleepers* advise that all flexible hoses be changed annually.
- 2) Check your 240 volt mains extension cables for signs of wear.
- 3) Check that your cab seats slide freely; a light application of 'Vaseline' will lubricate sufficiently, without making too much mess.
- 4) Check your friction stays on cupboard doors. Again, a smear of 'Vaseline' on the sliding mechanism will ease any stiffness.
- 5) Check all exterior gas vents for blockages, particularly any vents around the bottom of the vehicle.
- 6) Coachbuilt owners: check your corner steadies are working and grease well.

A full annual Check List, Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders recommended, for motor caravans is available from *Auto-Sleepers*. These are currently being sent out with every new vehicle leaving the factory. We strongly recommend this document which may be purchased for £1.80 + VAT."

That Check List has to be purchased from *A-S* direct at present - the two of us couldn't cope with the demand. I trust it is one of many things which will be stock items in the Club stores before long.

Which reminds me... Do you buy Michelin Maps? Do you think it might be worth my while enquiring of Michelin the terms and conditions under which the Club could become stockists of Michelin publications? It wouldn't do any harm to ask, I suppose, but how much interest is there? We have to find sources of income apart from the magnificent effort made by Dilys with her 'woollies', mugs, badges, pens, notepads and several other things I have overlooked, I'm sure. Just wait until the next Committee meeting...

You will be ordering some garments and wouldn't it be something if you had them to wear at the BIG DO? Embroidered and all! I am authorised to tell

you, strictly confidentially, that if you get an order to Dilys before Monday, 13th March, with cash or negotiable equivalent, she will TRY to have them in the Marquee on Friday, 31st March. Dilys obviously cannot promise delivery at such short notice since she will not be producing the goods but she will do her best. If you can collect on 31st March (or 1st April), you will get the postage charge refunded. Not that that will do you much good, with Frank and his merry band waving raffle tickets in your face...I suppose £1-worth of raffle tickets isn't to be sneezed at, especially when the prizes are of such high quality. What prizes? Well, I have some information but am told this is just the tip of the iceberg, as they say; so, in no particular order:-

10 V I P Tickets to the Motor Caravan Jamboree, Brands Hatch, 23rd & 24th April. Donated by Bromley Motor Caravans.

One set of Thermal Cab Window screens, donated by Bill Hayes of Hayes (Leisure) Ltd.

One set of Levelling Wedges donated by Les Dunham of Cornwall Motor Caravans.

An interesting and valuable prize from Don Amott, himself.

Various prizes to a total value of £100, donated by *Auto-Sleepers, Limited.*

Several points arising:

Motor Caravan Jamboree, 22nd & 23rd April, 1989

Brands Hatch Racing Circuit,

Brands Hatch, Kent. If Club Members intend to attend- we have been offered a Club Area of our own but we must let the organisers know how many, etc. fairly soon. There is a booking form in the March issue of M M M and I am sure bookings must be made by individuals this year but if the vote is for an area for the Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club we will ask Peter Doman if he can arrange it for us. Please respond!

Don Amott Motor Caravans, Hilton, Derby offer the Club the use of their Rally site, FREE, for one week-end in the Summer. Those interested please get in touch with the Rally Officer, John Cox.

The Motorcaravan Club of Ireland,

Clonee, Co Meath.

Bill Lupton, Hon. President and Founder, writes:

"I've taken the liberty of writing to you to inform your Members of the good will which we here in Ireland hold towards motorcaravanners and towards our English speaking "cousins" across the water. What I'm rambling on about is if you or any of your Members are coming over here for a holiday we will be delighted to make your acquaintance and offer a sincere hand of friendship.

We would also like to extend an invitation to attend our second International Motor-caravan Rally at Lilliput, Co. Westmeath, 20th to 27th August, 1989.

Why not hold one of your rallies over with us in August? Bears thinking about, Sealink are offering good rates to motorcaravanners who travel mid-week. We hope to be at Stratford in June, will you and the Club be there? If so we would like to show you some Irish hospitality. . . Slan Leat, Bill Lupton." There's more information for those interested. Could be useful for a 'First time overseas' ??


Our Rally programme is now complete, all dates confirmed. A note from the Secretary will be with this Newsletter, we hope. A rally fee of £1.50 is payable for each rally to cover admin. costs, beverages, etc. For the time being send bookings to the Secretary, Rita Daley. After the IGM who knows!

One kind Member has suggested he propose, at the IGM, the election *en bloc*, of the Six of Us (Neville feels he can serve a better purpose by remaining our primary contact with the Works). As things stand this would leave six vacancies; John & Daphne Normandale, of Chislehurst, (Kent) have yielded to some arm-twisting and have agreed to stand for election. We have a tentative volunteer living in North Humberside, which is certainly an area which needs to be represented. So, we could be within two or three of a Committee, without an election... Your Club needs YOU!!

If you are booked onto a pitch at South Cerney you will be given on arrival an envelope with your name and pitch number (and, hopefully, vehicle number) on the outside and things inside, including a programme of events - if I ever get it to the printer. Also your invitation(s) to the Cheese & Wine Party. So, if you are coming just for the day, and wish to have some cheese before you leave, you won't have the envelope but invitations should be available from the Club Office on the site.

The Party is from 7pm to 9pm.

Nothing on tyres this month, only because of lack of space. There's a lot to come, including 'From the Legal Point of View'. Might try an extra page for April.

Your Editor  
  
Phil Daley

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March, 1989.