

AUTO - SLEEPER
OWNERS' CLUB



NEWSLETTER 32

MAY 1991

Hello.

Our National Rally and Annual General Meeting was a great success. Much of the success was due to the unstinting efforts of members who helped as Marshals, in the Club Shop and selling the raffle tickets. On behalf of the rest of the Club may I say a big 'Thank You' to all of them. The raffle had 77 prizes in it (list later) and raised quite a lot of money for the Club. And you almost overwhelmed the Salvation Army who received something over £180 in their collection. The Auto-Sleepers Quiz was well received so if you didn't come to Edithmead here are the questions:

1. Which Motor Caravan has won the 'Motor Caravan of the Year' award for the past three years at the Earls Court Caravan Show?

2. Which Founder Member of the A.S.O.C. met his true love on the buses?

a - Phil Daley. b - John Cox. c - John Normandale.
d - Charles Trevelyan

3. A/S built most of their early conversions on Commer based vans. Which badge change did it take on in the late seventies?

4. Which chassis was the coachbuilt Clubman built on?

5. Which of the following conversions was NOT an A/S?

Executive: Utopian: Crusader: Leisure: Sportsman.

6. On which chassis did A/S fit its first Hi-top conversion?

Bedford: Talbot: Ford: Commer

7. Where did A.S.O.C. hold its first National Rally?

a. South Cerney c. Stratford Racecourse
b. Billing Aquadrome d. Lundy Island

8. The A/S factory lies on the borders of which two counties?

9. What is significant in the registration number of John Hunt's Legend?

10. What was the list price of the 1969 Commer A/S?

a. £995 b. £1200 c. £1380

11. Before leaving the Army in 1986 which military rank did Charles Trevelyan hold?

a. Brigadier b. Colonel c. Major d. Private

12. What make of room heater have A/S always installed in their Coachbuilt vehicles?

13. In which year did A/S become a Limited Company?

a. 1961 b. 1971 c. 1981

14. A/S made a batch of Bedford Midi motor caravans.

True / False

15. How far is it from the A/S Factory to Edithmead?

a. 85 b. 135 c. 175 miles (approx)

For those who still have the original entry forms I know I have amended the list very slightly in wording so that I can include it in the Newsletter. Answers? Oh well, you'll find them at the back of this issue, but DON'T LOOK YET!

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CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Another April, another AGM, a new Committee, a new Chairman. With all these changes it was good to know that there is no need to make any radical alterations to the way the Club is run - the mood of the meeting seemed to be very much in favour of keeping things going as they are.

Your new Chairman has asked John Normandale for permission to use this title for the monthly up-date and has been given the go-ahead so there will be a bit of continuity there too. With this Newsletter you will receive a list of the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the Committee members. The Members present at the AGM showed their preference, on a show of hands and by a reasonable majority, for direct contact with the Committee rather than having additional "Area Contacts" or whatever so the list is quite short. It does mean that 12 members (plus 3!) will be acting on behalf of some 1,200 and that worries me just a little but there we are.

We needed an unusually large number of "replacements" on the Committee this year and I am delighted to report

the safe arrival of (just) sufficient volunteers and their prompt election. In alphabetical order they are Ken Honeyborne of Tamworth (841), Arthur Irving, Sheffield (79), Tony Jones, Swindon (148), Terry Plant, Balsall Common (768) and Ron Wilson, Rushden (574). I would like to extend a "public" welcome to all of them and wish them a happy and fruitful term on the Committee.

I am glad to say that our co-opted member, Wendy Fisher, was elected. At the subsequent first meeting of the Committee she was confirmed in the office of Regalia Officer and John Tidbury was also confirmed as Treasurer - which was just as well as they were both just getting their teeth into their jobs! All the other serving Officers were re-elected after I had been promoted from Assistant Newsletter Editor to Chairman and Arthur Irving had become Vice-Chairman. Rita Daley volunteered to become Minutes Secretary in order to relieve Harry [Henthorne] of the smaller of his two tasks (Rita is a Vice-President and thus an ex-officio member of the Committee). The President, Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer are the agreed signatories for cheques drawn on the Club account (any two out of the four); the next Committee meeting should be at Ebury Hill on Saturday 27th April and we shall all look hard and urgently for a site for the 1992 National Rally and AGM.

National Rallies and the AGMs get better all the time. This year the atmosphere was delightfully friendly, more people knew more people, were renewing acquaintance and making new friends. Just what it's all about. The AGM was a big improvement with many more members having a say - daring to come forward to that inevitable microphone. All in all a great reward for Clive and Rita Jenkins who have put in a vast amount of work over the past two years to run both Billing and Edithmead. I'll add my thanks to yours and wish Clive every success with his new responsibilities, even though they do deprive us of his services.

I find it hard to believe that the Club only came into existence, officially, on 1st April 1989. We have grown so much since then and everything seems to have settled down into a well-known and well-liked format so easily that it is quite possible to overlook the untiring work put in by our first Chairman both in front of and behind the scenes to make it so. My sincere thanks to him for taking us through our formative years so gently but firmly and also for showing me the way it should be done. As I said, John, you're a hard man to follow!

Phil Daley

The weather could have been kinder, especially on the Thursday night when the wind did blow - HARD! It rocked the vans to quite a degree and some of us wondered if all would be still on the wheels in the morning. The formal AGM. took place at 2.30 pm on Saturday and everybody was delighted to see Dilys Stinchcombe on the platform. (A letter from Dilys is printed later in this issue.) The Minutes of the First AGM., the Committee's Report, the Accounts, the suggestion for the Annual Subscription and the Election of the new Committee and Honorary Auditor were all agreed without demur. Under the heading of Any Other Competent Business it was my great pleasure to propose that Dilys Stinchcombe be made an Honorary Member of our Club in recognition of the work which she and Frank had done to get us started and running. I had only just finished speaking when the room exploded with the noise of applause from which we rather gathered that the proposal was approved. She will also become one of our Vice-Presidents so we shall not be losing her assistance in the future when we need it. Our retiring Chairman then announced that Dilys had presented the Club with the handbell which had been rung at previous AGM's and that it is now inscribed:- "A.S.O.C. The Stinchcombe Bell 1991" The Stinchcombe Bell was, of course, rung at the beginning and end of proceedings this year. Finally a plaque was presented to Anthony Trevelyan, Managing director of A/S to mark the 30th anniversary of them becoming a Limited Company

The wording on the plaque is:

PRESENTED
AT
THE 1991 A.G.M. AT
HOME FARM
EDITHHEAD
TO
AUTO-SLEEPERS LTD
ON CELEBRATING
THE COMPANY'S
30th BIRTHDAY
1961 - 1991

This is surmounted by the Club badge; it is engraved on a metal plate mounted on a block of wood. [Sounds terrible that way but I didn't see the plaque so can't say what metal or wood it was! - Ed.]

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The "Open Forum" followed where the suggestion was put that we should try to find a more central location for

the 1992 National Rally and AGM. A suitable site must be able to take about 350 vans and have a room big enough to hold 800 people. In answer to a question our President pointed out that for A/S to attend as they have done in the past the site must be not more than 100 miles from Willersey. Electric hook-ups are preferred but most people would attend even if there were none. (It is appreciated that the lack of electricity could cause real hardship in a few cases.) It should be central, have reasonable access routes, good toilet facilities and accept pets. There should also be facilities for catering. (At a later stage Phil Daley asked if it might be possible to reduce the catering needed by, say, providing only one meal (at a price) and leaving members to arrange their own catering. *Richard Osborne (598)* suggested that members should bring a picnic meal into a hall and this idea seemed to be approved by members.)

The problem associated with the printing of the Newsletter and other items of Club material was then mentioned. Our existing printer has gone out of business and we are looking for suitable alternative arrangements which will not cost too much. We have, thanks to *John Tidbury*, been able to find a printer for the time being at least but the Committee will be considering whether to buy a printing machine of some sort for Club purposes.

Dave Clarke (299) brought up the subject of the Scottish Rally and *Jeff Worley* advised that the main problem was lack of interest. [Details of the rally later in this issue and in the Rally List.-Ed.]

Gordon Denham (400) then mentioned the problems associated with Holiday Insurance and advised members to read the small print very carefully. He asked if the Club could find any alternative source of insurance where the exclusions would not be quite so limiting and the Secretary will write to *Europ-Assistance* for clarification of their exclusions.

Bob Measom (119) voiced his thanks for the Newsletters and asked for more volunteers to help with the survey he is conducting into fuel usage. So far he has only had a very few replies and needs more.

John Cox (1) enquired about rallies during June and was told that some had been arranged. [See Rally List - Ed.]

I then got up and asked for more items for inclusion in YOUR Newsletter. Several people who spoke to me

spoke of MY Newsletter but it isn't. I only put in what you send me - if I had to write 19 pages of stuff every month I should (a) go round the bend, (b) resign and (c) be reduced to writing all sorts of twaddle!

Finally, *Dilys Stinchcombe* (2) bravely rose to her feet to say a few words of thanks to the members. Her words were received with acclamation.

The Stinchcombe Bell was again rung to mark the end of the proceedings

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GAS

I have been taken to task for printing letters about gas in vans. In the words of *Melvyn Crapp* I should not hide behind the disclaimer and should ensure that the information printed is correct. He goes on to say that the letter last month which said that apparatus would require "extensive modification" will have caused worries. If that is correct people who have gone over to Propane will worry because they haven't modified. If it is incorrect then many will have been un-necessarily worried. He quotes the Caravan Club manual as an authoritative source which says quite clearly that either gas can be used but "remember each needs a different regulator". What he omitted was that in the very next two lines the quote goes on "and sometimes the aeration adjusters on the appliances need altering".

I make no apology for printing the views of our members - some might find the aeration adjusters an extensive alteration. I think we all know enough to use the correct regulator appropriate to the type of gas in use and not to try to use both together through any type of 'Y' junction arrangement because of the residual gas in the pipes etc. Of course the correct thing to do if you are ever not sure of anything is NOT to take advice from the printed word from whatever source but to approach a qualified gas/electric/water or whatever fitter and have the item completely checked

Personally I do not agree with the idea of carrying a propane ring as a separate entity for use when the temperature is too low for the butane to work properly perhaps because we carry two cats with us and I wouldn't want them knocking the thing over. But each to his/her own and I'll still print views whether I agree with them or not.

Still on the same subject:-

"If only people would read all the instructions that the makers supply with their products.

Unfortunately some of us only read the first page which tells you how to switch on and off but then go on to make statements which are not true. I refer to the letter in Newsletter 31 from Thelma & John Austin. Most butane appliances may also be used with propane without any modification to the appliances. The only difference being that propane has a slightly less heating value.

The other disturbing point in the letter is the fact that a single ring cooker is used in the van. The safety factor of using a non-standard appliance in the van is most alarming. One wonders how the Insurance Company would react to this situation.

Barry Smith."

Barry also sent in the calculations involved in changing WG to lbs per sq.inch and shows that the actual pressure difference is 0.129 lbs/sq.in. Not a lot!

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Remember the letter from *Jean & Ron Rawlings* who were looking for ways to make the Omnistor awning leak-proof along the roof? (March N/L) They couldn't find the stuff I mentioned (and haven't yet tried) but had a call from 'a helpful gentleman' but didn't get his name. He recommended, and they have fitted, some Swish Celuka Cladding Trim Universal Channel, part number CO 26, which is a white plastic channel shaped like a 'J'. This they have fitted to the Legend with stainless steel self-tapping screws just below the level of the guttering over the door allowing an overlap there of about 2". The ends of the new channel by the door are blocked and sealed and the top edge is sealed too with a clear plastic compound. Time taken about 45 minutes and the result is apparently successful - they should know by now as they came to the National Rally.

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RALLY NEWS

We went to the Honeybourne Rally and thoroughly enjoyed the weekend. 44 vans arrived and many people took the train into Evesham or Worcester on the Saturday while we were in the committee meeting. The weather was kind to us, perhaps a little on the cold side but dry all through the weekend. The ground was a bit soft and a couple of members had to be pushed or pulled off their

pitches. Saturday evening most of us met in the site club room for a bar meal. Because they were rather inundated with maybe 90 people arriving in a fairly short space of time the production of food was a bit delayed. Rita & Phil Daley together with Sheila Hammell left the club room with me at about 10.30 or so - poor Mary Colling (and others) were still waiting for their grub!

Incidentally, while waiting in the queue to order the food I was told of the best excuse yet for joining Weight-Watchers. The nameless couples' reason was that they couldn't get between the front seats of their Flair!

On Sunday morning there was a gathering of some members who had volunteered as Area Contacts (or some such term) to discuss the matter. The Regalia stall was opened and the new line of Club tea towels was displayed - and the SOLD OUT notice quickly appeared. Then coffee, biscuits and the raffle and I actually won a prize! Our thanks are due to Barbara and Tony Jones for their organisation which, as usual, was first class. They even had a small competition to see who could make the most words of three or more letters other than names etc., from 'Honeybourne'. I think the winner scored about 130 or so.

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As you will know, if you've read the Rally List, Sheila and I are marshalling a rally at the Midland Railway Trust Centre which should appeal to steam enthusiasts. In addition we are marshalling an extra rally on August 16th-18th at Detling, near Maidstone, Kent, which is a Steam and Transport Sepctacular. Sheila and I have been going to this rally for a number of years with our old motor-bikes and can assure you that it is a most interesting experience!. I know it is a bit 'way out' for many people, being down in the south-east corner of the country, but do come along if you can. The site will be open for campers from 12.00 noon on Friday, please do NOT arrive before that time. You can stay over until Monday midday if you wish. If you can spare the time it might be a good idea - we've seen the traffic snarl up which can result at 6.00 pm on the Sunday evening when the world and his wife and children leave together!

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An updated Rally List is enclosed with this issue of the Newsletter - Keep it safe, please, and use it to

plan your rally trips for the rest of this year. After all, you can always tell the Boss that you SIMPLY MUST get to an ASOC rally, the export order (or whatever) will just have to wait!

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The rally which followed on from the National appears to have been a great success too. Jeff Worley sent a note up from Leverton Place, Truro which says:-

"Leverton Place was pleased to host the recent Auto-Sleeper rally 9th-12th April). Leverton place is a modern, spacious, 9½ acre holiday park, three miles west of the cathedral city of Truro, Cornwall. It has the AA top rating for cleanliness and facilities and the English Tourist Board grade Excellent.

We are prepared to offer all Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club members a 25% discount on site fees. Please write or telephone for our free brochure. We look forward to welcoming you individually or as a rally in the future.

Simon and Andrea Vallance.

Leverton Place, Greenbottom, Truro, Cornwall, TR4 8QW.
Tel: 0872 560462."

Now that isn't a bad offer, is it? I'm sending them a sample of our membership cards so you will need to produce yours to get the benefit of the discount. Make sure that your card is current!.

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Dear Harry,

I have just returned from the National Rally and I must say that, despite the awful weather, Andrew and I thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. This year we were the fortunate ones in that we didn't have far to travel but, as in the Poll Tax, there will always be winners and losers! You can't please everyone all the time. While I'm sure the majority of members wouldn't mind being without Mains electricity for a couple of days, I'm not so sure about the use of race courses - they always seem rather bleak places to me. [And me - Ed] I would have thought that parents with children to cater for would prefer some facilities for them and do Mums really want to cook for their brood on these weekends? I thought the bar at Home Farm was lovely and the large amount of space ideal. So much nicer and warmer than the marquee at Billing.

Having said that I know that Andrew would be happy anywhere as long as there are people to chat to. And if he's happy then so am I!

Thanks everyone for a super weekend!

Sincerely

Eileen Langman."

And wasn't it great to see Andrew and his mum dancing on Saturday evening. We are all so glad that you both enjoyed yourselves, Eileen.

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"Dear Mr. Henthorne, [how formal can you get?]

First and foremost my wife and I would like to convey our congratulations to the officials who organised and ran the National Rally at Edithmead. Having been a "Tugger" for 23 years, been members of the Caravan Club for all of them, attended a lot of rallies and been Rally Officers ourselves we know the problems of around 100 vans, but when it comes to several hundred we can only say what a wonderful co-ordination you achieved.

During the weekend it struck me that with such a well run and faithful lot of members the Club has why don't we have our own "Club Song"? I am not the right person to compose the words but suggest we use a tune that is already well known. At the end of the Sunday Service, when speaking to Charles Trevelyan, I made the suggestion and the idea 'did not fall on stony ground!' In fact he suggested Rod Stewart's "Sailing"

How about it?

Mervyn J. Potter."

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"Dear Editor,

Audrey and I have been to many rallies in our 30 years of motorcaravanning but can assure you that the weekend at Home Farm was one of the best.

The organisation was superb, right from arrival at the main gate, when one was shown exactly where to park and given a map of the route to the pitch, plus all the details of the campsite's facilities and the Auto-Sleeper activities. The former were certainly above

average and the latter abundant. The weekend was well worth the modest fee.

Whilst I'd like to thank everybody concerned, from the sponsors and supporting dealers to the hard working officials, I'll reserve my particular gratitude for the unsung marshals; their smiling welcome in wind and rain set the tone for the whole weekend.

There was but one small niggle. One of the joys of such a weekend is the renewal of friendships and the making of new acquaintances. We couldn't sit outside in the rain and the only place for a chat in comfort was the clubhouse, where the volume of the "music" made conversation impossible. The Salvation Army band showed us that an enjoyable sound does not have to be artificially amplified; they were superb, the other music makers merely an annoyance which drove us "home" earlier than we could have wished. Perhaps we are now too old for modern social events!

Yours sincerely,

John Hunt"

On behalf of all those mentioned above, thank you, John, for your kind words. And if you and Audrey are "too old" for that type of "music" and the volume thereof you are in good company. I heard (when I could hear) many similar comments!

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FOR SALE

"I recently bought a pair of front seats, with headrests, for our 1989 Ford Flair. I now have for sale a pair of perfectly good front seats, WITHOUT headrests, only been used for one season. The seats are from the slide rails upwards and the colour is Scilly (pink). I am asking £80 each or £150 the pair but am willing to negotiate."

So says Alan Savory who can be contacted at 16, Beech Park, Chesham Road, Wiggington, Tring, Herts., HP23 6JF or by telephone on 024029 682.

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'H' Reg., 2-litre Rambler (August 1990). One Owner. 2,500 miles only. Condition as new. Fitted with ultrasonic alarm system, second battery, fly screens. £15,250. Phil Harrop has this van for sale and you can

contact him at "Tall Trees", 1, Roundway Gardens, Devizes, Wilts., SN10 2EF or telephone 0380 722217. He is regretfully having to part with it due to personal circumstances.

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"We have a cycle rack for sale which fits onto a Rambler (or any Talbot). It involves no damage or screw holes to the body of the van as it is bolted to the chassis. It can easily be removed or folded flat for the rear doors to open. It was custom-made by Hornchurch Caravans, Essex, for £230. It is very sturdy and holds two push bikes or a small motor-cycle. We would like £90 for it. Also a Harrison Awning - free-standing - approx. 8' x 8' - little used and in very good condition. Can be fitted to the side or back of any van - £90. Finally a Primus double burner and grill camping gas cooker complete with folding stand and shelves - seldom used - £35."

Barbara & John Dyer, 18, Deepdale Road, Balsover, Derbyshire, S44 6BY is where to write to if you are interested.

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"Seat Covers - Pink Dralon - Rapport - £60 - pitch no G141. D & C Matthews"

That was on the noticeboard at Edithmead and was handed to me for publication. But you won't know where that pitch is so try telephoning David or Celia Matthews on 0970 871 372 or write to them at Maesarfor, BORTH, Dyfed, SY24 5JP.

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I received a lovely letter and I have included it in full below. I don't think any comment from me is required:

"The Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club.

Dear Friends,

Frank was very proud to be a founder member of A.S.O.C. and was determined along with the other Founder Members to make a good job of the Club and to pass on his pleasure to you all, always "flogging" either raffle tickets or those darned pads - anything that swelled the takings and always on the lookout for fresh ideas.

So remember him as a Happy, Hard-working and Caring man ready to help anyone whatever race or creed.

May I say a big Thank You for the lovely basket of flowers and for the many phone calls, letters and cards I received all so very much appreciated.

Please go on rallying and enjoying yourselves and thanks for all your support. It has helped. And don't forget I still live in Kingswood and you will be made welcome should you call and always a "cuppa" in a few minutes.

Love to you all

Dilys Stinchcombe.

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Mr. C.J. Harris, trading as Telford Satellite Services, has written to the Club with an offer about the latest portable satellite system. This may interest you if you are into such things. The system includes a 55cm dish, DIY installation cable set, 1.0 LnB pol feed [whatever that may be - Ed], special mounts for home and mobile use and the receiver. The R.R.P is apparently £280 including V.A.T. BUT as the letter is dated 2nd April this price may have increased thanks to Mr. Lamont! Mr. Harris is prepared to offer a 10% discount for ASOC members. For further information contact Colin at 11, Selkirk Drive, Sutton Heights, Telford, Shropshire, TF7 4JE or telephone 0952 582731. According to the leaflet he sent in you can have satellite TV pictures within five minutes wherever you are in the whole of the UK and Europe. You have to mount the pole on the vehicle first but this appears to be a permanent fixture or a slide-in fit to pre-prepared mounts. Certain satellite broadcasts will still require an optional decoder in addition to the package.

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With two discount offers in one issue of the Newsletter together with the discount for Europ Assistance you MUST be getting good value. I shall have to go through back numbers and try to collate all the offers we've had so far.

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While at the Honeybourne Rally I was given a copy of the Hull Daily Mail in which there is an item which should warn travellers to Spain. A couple were

travelling home to Hull in their camper when they decided to stop overnight in a lay-by about 40 miles from Valencia. At about 2 am they were awoken to the noise of breaking glass. Two men had entered the van and stabbed the husband in the chest while shouting for 'monee, monee'. When they escaped they threw the contents of a large can over the van which fortunately only contained water, not petrol. When help finally arrived the husband was rushed to intensive care while the wife was interrogated by the police for about 8 hours. When she was finally released she had no idea whether her husband was alive or dead. There have apparently been an enormous number of motorway robberies in that area and it has been a continuing problem for the last two years.

So whatever else you may do, DO NOT stop overnight in a layby and DO NOT get out of the vehicle if an apparently 'helpful' driver signals that all may not be well at the back of your van. Stop by all means but WAIT until the other car has driven right away before you unlock your doors.

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Another couple of extracts from the letter from *Thelma and John Austin* which won't lead to quite so much argument (I hope!). They mentioned the closed cooking pan and the vendor was at Edithmead this year. The lady demonstrating the pan was very pleased to have received such a recommendation.

They then went on to the problem of traction, or the lack of it, on wet and slippery fields. "I would commend consideration of the use of a winch of some sort. These come in a variety of sizes, capacities and designs, both manual and electrical (12v and 110v) power driven. I answered an "Ad" in *En Route* and received details from Sycon Products of 1309 Melton Road, Syston Leicester, LE7 8EN (telephone 0533 600102) who have a wide range. Mr. Roberts, their MD, seemed very willing to amend any standard design to suit specific requirements."

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I've often thought about some sort of winch when I've been stuck in the mud. But each time I think about one I wonder (a) where I would mount or attach it to the van and (b) what to do with the other end of the cable. (Perhaps I'd better re-phrase that!) Theoretically, if the winch is mounted on the van, say a reinforced front bumper type area, then the cable should be run to a

stout tree or other fixed object against which a pull could be exerted. What's the betting that I would be parked with the only stout structure behind the van? If the winch is 'tied to a tree' and the cable run to the van then there would be a need for a long electrical lead. Perhaps we would do better with the manual versions - provided that they do not need too much effort. I would guess that the effort required is down to the proper amount of gearing within the winch and to the type of operating lever. Anybody any ideas?

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RECIPE CORNER

Quick Chilli Con Carni - (for 2 persons)

1 x 425g tin Minced Beef & Onions with gravy.
1 x 215g tin Red Kidney Beans in Chilli Sauce
 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 teaspoon Chilli Powder (to taste)
1 or 2 packets Boil in Bag Rice.

Boil rice according to packet instructions (usually 10 mins.). Heat other ingredients over gentle heat until hot, stirring regularly. Spread rice on plates and serve meat onto it.

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A letter arrived from *Mavis and Michael Mawer* who said that they had sent off to book for the Peterborough show and could I notify the marshals, please, as they had not at that time been finalised. Jeff (Worley) has managed to find a marshal for the event, and he is Ken Honeyborne, one of the new Committee members. For the Stratford Show Terry Plant has been co-erced ... sorry!... has volunteered to be the marshal for ASOC and at Kingswood Sheila Hammell and yours truly will help Barbara and Jeff Worley.

I did ask Michael if he and Mavis would like to be marshals for the Peterborough event but couldn't persuade him. Perhaps I'd better hop over to Ireland and kiss the Blarney Stone so that I can convince folks.

Seriously, though, I was quite surprised at what Michael thought the Marshals had to do. For any other member who may be similarly concerned because they don't think they could handle the job let me explain briefly. We would like the marshals to arrive at the site before the other attenders (if possible - NOT absolutely essential). They collect the site fees as the bookings arrive and arrange payment to the site owner, unless the

bookings have had to be made direct as in the Peterborough case. . . (Their own fee is paid by the Club; however some of our enterprising folk have managed to agree with the site management to deduct their fee from the total for the rest of the members!) They provide coffee and biscuits for the Friday evening get together and again on Sunday morning, the costs come out of the rally fee. It is pleasant for other members if a meal can be arranged on Saturday evening in a local pub or somewhere; perhaps a raffle on Sunday morning; maybe some regalia sales if available and some idea as to what is available to see or do locally. Some marshals arrange a little quiz of some sort; some a different form of competition. BUT NONE OF THESE ARE ESSENTIAL. Each marshal does his/her own thing and the attending members enjoy whatever comes their way. Perhaps the only difficult part of the job is totting up the balance at the end of the weekend and sending the report and cash to Jeff Worley, our Rally Co-ordinator. Even that isn't really hard. It has been very noticeable in the returned questionnaires and at the rallies which we have attended how many members do NOT want things to be too organised.

I hope that more members will come forward to help Jeff out and volunteer to be a marshal for 1992. Perhaps even finding a site somewhere. And if you can combine it with a special form of interest so much the better. Bird-watching, windsurfing, painting, steam engines - whatever turns YOU on! YOUR knowledge of the subject, however unusual that subject may be, would be of interest to other members. I know I like to learn about something different and I'm not alone in that. So come along, please, step forward some volunteers! You'll find Jeff's address a bit later in the Committee list so there is really no excuse.

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If you intend to go to the Lydiard Country Park rally please note that the fees have been increased to £3.50 per night. Jeff Worley has also advised that he has started on the 1992 rally programme and from what he is being told the prices are likely to increase quite considerably.

Jeff goes on to say that the Scottish Tour will assemble at Kilkerran Gardens near Ayr on June 7th. Then up the west coast to Fort William and on to Ullapool by stages. The choice is then right round the top or the short cut across to Inverness and down to Fishcross rally (28th-30th June). No sites have been booked yet due to lack of numbers interested. Jeff is

leaving home on 29th May - if you haven't booked before then and want to go join in at Kilkerran.

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National Rally - Raffle Prizes

(In no particular order)

- Three subscriptions to Motor Caravan Magazine.
One subscription to Which Motorcaravan or MMM.
From Motor Caravan World:
Sweat Shirt. Ocean Pacific Jacket.
Rear View Lens. Motorcaravanner's Log Book.
One subscription. Five International Site Selectors.
Two tickets to the Stratford Show.
Safe Box from Brabantia.
Ferry Crossing from Brittany Ferries.
Ferry Crossing from P & O.
Ferry Crossing from Sealing Stena.
Shop Box.
Barbecue from H. Pudden Ltd., Kettering.
Two bottles of drinks from Carver & Co., Brownhills.
12v Video Cassette player from Centeyun Ltd., Towcester.
Elsan Green Fluid from Elsan.
Radio/Cassette player from Kingfisher Rubber & Plastics.
Collapsible Box from D & F Promotions.
6 records and 6 tapes from Savanna Sounds Ltd.
£20 voucher from J & M Designs (Silver Screens).
Crocheted Shawl from Mrs. Kathleen Hansford.
Long Flame Gaslighter from Sunbird Leisure.
Isovolet Kit from Hayes (Leisure) Ltd.
Sweater from Brooks Ltd.
Bottle of Whisky from Colonial & Mutual.
£15 Garden Centre voucher from Ron Reynolds Leisure.
6 bottles of Wine from Electrolux.
Bottle of Whisky from 'The Nite Owl' (Clubhouse on site)
From Lloyds Bank plc:-
Two Umbrellas. Two Golf Caps.
Two Sweaters. 12 assorted Shampoos, Polishes etc.
From Sheila Hammell and Harry Henthorne:-
Electric Hot Tray. Clock Radio with Personal Stereo.
Grow Your Own Begonias. Lead Crystal Bell.
Bathroom/Shower Bag Kit. Fragrance Basket.
Metronome. Book about Stained Glass Windows.
Mud Rack. Microwave Cookery Book.
Leather Wallet. 'Journey into Space' Tapes.
Pocket Radio.
From Rita & Phil Daley:-
Tin of Biscuits. Ladies Waistcoat.
From Wendy & Peter Fisher:- Grip Mats
From Barbara & Dave Clarke:- Bottle of Wine
Terry's All Gold Easter Egg - donor didn't give name!
Bottle of Champagne - donor unknown!

Our thanks to all the donors of this magnificent array of prizes.

The Committee elected at the 1991 AGM is as follows:

Phil Daley, 46 Ulverley Green Road, Solihull, West Midlands, B92 8BQ. Tel: 021 706 1816. (CHAIRMAN)

Peter and Wendy Fisher, 27, Sunnyside, Walsall Wood, Walsall, West Midlands, WS9 9LD. Tel: 0543 377777. (Peter is SECRETARY and Wendy is REGALIA OFFICER)

Sheila Hammell, 144, Devonshire Hill Lane, London, N17 7NH. Tel: 081 808 9112. (MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY)

Harry Henthorne, 69, Bingham Road, Addiscombe, Surrey, CRO 7EG. Tel: 081 654 4216. (NEWSLETTER EDITOR)

Ken Honeyborne, 2, Loughshaw, Wilnecote, Tamworth, Staffs., B77 4LY. Tel: 0827 896871

Arthur Irving, 89, Pingle Road, Millhouses, Sheffield, S.Yorks., S7 2LL. Tel: 0742 365698.

Tony Jones, 49, Wessex Way, Highworth, Swindon, Wilts., SN6 7NT. Tel: 0793 763032

Terry Plant, Foxfield, Waste Lane, Balsall Common, Coventry, West Midlands, CV7 7GF. Tel: 0676 32513

John Tidbury, 26, Ferny Close, Radley, Abingdon, Oxon., OX14 3AN. Tel: 0235 25730. (TREASURER and contact for EUROP-ASSISTANCE)

Charles Trevelyan, Auto-Sleepers Ltd., Orchard Works, Willersey, Nr. Broadway, Worcs., WR12 7PT. Tel: 0386 853338 (PRESIDENT)

Ron Wilson, 154, Rushden Road, Wymington, Rushden, Northants., NN10 9LE. Tel: 0933 55658

Jeff Worley, 26, Houndstone Park, Gunners Lane, Brympton, Yeovil, Somerset, BA22 8SQ. Tel: 0953 24049 (RALLY CO-ORDINATOR)

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

John Cox, 73, Westmead Road, Barton-under-Needwood, Staffs., DG13 8JR. Tel: 0283 712394 (VICE-PRESIDENT)

Rita Daley, (address as Phil Daley above) (VICE-PRESIDENT and MINUTES SECRETARY)

-----oooOOOooo-----

Phil has sent in a couple of corrections to previous "Rabbit". "The insulation of the cab doors by applying felt inside them. I have been told that High Humidity and Poor Ventilation and other horrors lurk there so if decomposable material like felt is put inside Potential Disasters exist there too. I shan't do it, don't you!

Also I correctly reported that P&O European Ferries grant rebates to Stock-holders but the concession is to FARES ONLY. That is they knock quite a few percent off the cost of transporting you, your companions and your motor caravan across various strips of water but they do NOT knock anything off on-board accommodation such as cabins, reclining seats, Club Class lounge etc. They don't even reduce the price of "Duty Free".

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QUIZ ANSWERS

1-Talisman. 2-b. 3-Dodge. 4-Bedford. 5-Crusader.
6-Bedford. 7-a. 8-Worcs & Glos. 9-MMM. 10-£995.
11-c. 12-Carver. 13-a. 14-True. 15-a.

How many did you get right - BEFORE you looked?

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And again that just about wraps it up. See you next month.

Your Editor

Harry Henthorne

69, Bingham Road, Addiscombe, Surrey, CR0 7EG.

Tel: 081 654 4216

DISCLAIMER

All contributions from Members which appear in the Newsletter are published in good faith in the hope that they will prove useful or interesting. All reasonable care has been taken to ensure accuracy but none of the modifications has been tested by us therefore neither the Editor, the Club nor the Company will accept any responsibility for the consequences if you try them out.

AUTO - SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB
RALLY SUPPLEMENT

May & June 1991

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHEQUE PAYABLE TO THE RALLY MARSHAL NAMED AND SEND IT WITH THE COMPLETED BOOKING SLIP AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, and preferably at least 10 days before the rally. YOUR NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER printed on the back of the slip will help the marshal. Last minute arrivals are still accepted but it does help the Marshal to advise the site of about how many will be coming and to have everything prepared. So the motto is EARLY BOOKING PLEASE; IF POSSIBLE!

10th-12th May. PETERBOROUGH.

17th-19th May. NATIONAL WATER SPORTS CENTRE.

24th-27th May. BEVERLEY, Yorkshire.

24th-28th May. YEOVILTON, Somerset.

31st May - 2nd June. Lytham, Nr. Blackpool.

7th-9th June. Motor Caravan Fair, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON.

FOR FULL DETAILS OF ALL THE ABOVE RALLIES PLEASE REFER TO THE LIST FOR THE REST OF THIS YEAR WHICH ACCOMPANIES THIS LISTING. Space limitations have precluded repeating the information!

7th-9th June. The Gardens, Kilkerran, Maybole, Near AYR, Scotland. Camping and Caravanning Club site. Fees £4.30 per night. Rally fee £1.50.

Marshals: Jenny & Peter Berry, 9, Carcluie Crescent, Ayr, Scotland, KA7 4SP.

For the start of the Scottish Tour, Scottish members (and others) welcome. A buffet meal has been arranged for FRIDAY evening in a room on the site. International Air Day CANCELLED due to Gulf War.

Directions: From A.77 in Maybole, at Cross Hill turn right after Post Office. Take right fork when joining B.741. Camping and Caravanning Club site sign on left in 0.8 mile. Follow signs.

14th-16th June. Waudby's Caravan Centre, Brough Road, South Cave, North Humberside. Fees £2.00 per night, Electricity £1.00 per night. Rally fee £1.50.

Marshal: D. Waudby (Site owner - address above).

There is a maximum of 25 vans only for this rally. The centre is owned by our member who has an accessory shop available for your inspection.

Directions: On A.63 from the end of M.62 towards Kingston-upon-Hull. Turn South towards Brough. Waudby's Caravan Centre is on the left, opposite the I.C.I. Petrol Station.

28th-30th June. The Woods Camping & Caravan Park, Divers Well Farm, Fishcross, ALLOA, Clackmannanshire, Scotland (6 miles east of Stirling). Fees £4.50 per night. Rally fee £1.50.

Marshals: Helen & Douglas Denholm, 1, Willowfield Place, Rashgill, Dumfries, Scotland, DG1 4SA.

Directions: Turn right off A.91 Stirling to St. Andrews road 0.5 mile past B.908 junction at s.p. Fishcross. Site on right in 0.75 mile

This rally is again aimed at Scottish (and other) members and marks the end of the Scottish Tour.

28th-30th June. Walsall Airport, Walsall Road, Aldridge. GREEN FIELD site. Fees £2.50 per night. Rally Fee £1.50.

Marshals: Wendy & Peter Fisher, 27, Sunnyside, Walsall Wood, Walsall, West Midlands, WS9 9LD.

Directions: From M6 North - Leave at Jnc 5; take A.452 towards Cannock. Go straight on at first 6 roundabouts; turn left at third traffic lights. At next island take second exit, go over hill, site entrance on left about 0.25 miles after foot of hill. From M6 South - exit at jnc 11, follow A.5 through Cannock. Go straight on at first roundabout, at next take 3rd exit towards Brownhills. At next island take 2nd exit (watch this one), follow A.452 to 2nd set of traffic lights (ignore crossing lights) at Hardwick Arms. Then as from M6 North. From M5 North - Join M6 towards the south and exit at jnc 7 (about 200 yds after you join M6). Take A.34 towards Birmingham, turn left at first set of lights then take 1st exit at next roundabout towards Aldridge. Straight on at lights, bear left at end, site entrance about 0.25 miles after bottom of hill.

A U T O - S L E E P E R O W N E R S ' C L U B

Send one of these slips to the Marshal named at least 10 days before the event. You can arrive at the site without booking and you will be welcomed but if the rally is limited you may be disappointed.

ALL CHEQUES PAYABLE TO THE MARSHAL BY NAME, PLEASE

R A L L Y S L I P

Site..... Date.....

Name..... Membership No..... Van No.....

Day/Time of arrival..... 1st Rally? Y/N Electricity? Y/N

Saturday night meal, if available? Y/N. Any Special Needs?.....

.....
Please send this slip to the Marshal with the fee. Please complete
BACK of slip IN FULL!

R A L L Y S L I P

Site..... Date.....

Name..... Membership No..... Van No.....

Day/Time of arrival..... 1st Rally? Y/N Electricity? Y/N

Saturday night meal, if available? Y/N. Any Special Needs?.....

.....
Please send this slip to the Marshal with the fee. Please complete
BACK of slip IN FULL!

R A L L Y S L I P

Site..... Date.....

Name..... Membership No..... Van No.....

Day/Time of arrival..... 1st Rally? Y/N Electricity? Y/N

Saturday night meal, if available? Y/N. Any Special Needs?.....

.....
Please send this slip to the Marshal with the fee. Please complete
BACK of slip IN FULL!

BLOCK CAPITALS, PLEASE

Address _____

Telephone No: _____

In the event of an emergency at a rally whom should we contact?

Name _____ Tel.No: _____

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