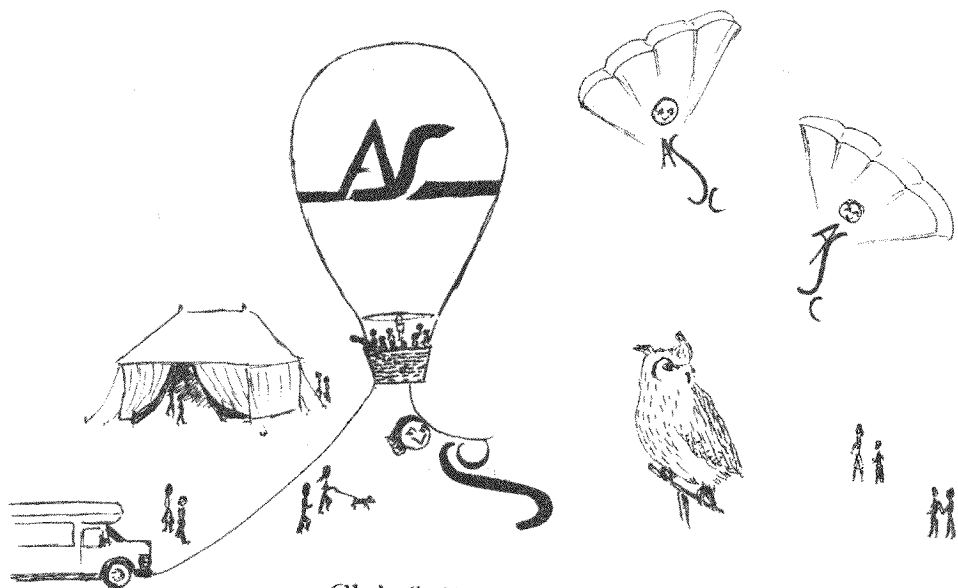


**AUTO-SLEEPER
OWNERS' CLUB**



Club & Company Rally
Three Counties Showground
Malvern
Friday 23 July to Sunday 25 July 1993

NEWSLETTER 58

JULY 1993

Hello.

This issue will have to be prepared in a hurry because I haven't got too much time before we set off on a holiday. Unlike many of you we shall remain in this country because we shall take our much travelled pussy cat with us. And, no doubt, we shall get grumbled at for the first day. But after we have slept in the van for the first night all seems to be well with him. You would think that he was used to it by now because he is 16 years old and has been travelling for 15 of them!

This is the problem when one has to go to the office (mustn't use those nasty, four-letter words beginning with a 'W') as well as do this job for the Club. It must be holiday time, I am sure, because there is a marked shortage of items sitting waiting to be used. Something must have happened to somebody out there so please put pen to paper and let us all share in the details. It may be amusing or serious - to do with using your van or not - it's all grist to the editorial mill. Otherwise I shall be forced to write the whole of the Newsletter myself and how boring that would become!

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The Ultimate Cure

I must start by saying that *Harry* misjudges Auto-Route Express. It may not recognise Nether Wallop nor, to my surprise, Castle Donington but it does understand motorways. For our trip to Uckfield it allowed me 40 minutes for 42 miles on M.1 and 78 minutes for 49 miles on M.25. as it happened we sailed along at 65 mph all the way and gained 25 minutes on the M.25. Incidentally, the gearbox fiddle at Uckfield was a complete success, I haven't sworn at it since!

Now to more serious matters. I have found the Ultimate Cure for the Talbot Right foot Cramp syndrome. Fitting a plank does help, but the real Ultimate cure is to fit a Cruise Control. I got mine at the Peterborough Show from Ultimate Design of 37 Pytchley Road, Kettering, NN15 6ND.

It is not cheap at £278.00 but it is worth every penny. It is sold as a DIY kit which takes about 3 hours to fit or you can chicken out and get an auto-electrician to do it. I used the one recommended by Ultimate, in Kettering, and was very pleased with the results.

Ultimate make no claim that it will save petrol, although *En Route* [the magazine of the Caravan Club] did a test and found a 20%

saving. We normally get about 22-23 mpg and I am pleased to say that on the only recorded run so far, from Rhayader to Harborough, 145 miles, we got just over 26 mpg. That is a run with no motorway and little dual carriageway.

The real advantage is the reduction in mental stress, which is quite extraordinary. Even on a winding 'A' road it is an enormous help. You just settle down a couple of hundred yards behind the traffic queue in front, press the cruise control button, and stay comfortable in your place with no foot on the accelerator. On the road I'm thinking of there is no hope of passing anything so I may just as well stay comfortable clear of the others.

On a dual carriageway I get up to 60 mph, set the control and relax. There seems to be so much more time to enjoy the scenery that driving becomes a real pleasure. One can accelerate to pass another vehicle and then let the control drop the speed back to the setting when one is safely in front. On the other hand, the slightest touch on the brake pedal and it disengages immediately.

It is the reduction in stress level that is the real boon of the Ultimate Cruise Control and it will be worth its weight in gold, or petrol, on long motorway journeys. I have coveted one for years and now I have it I shall move it to any other Auto-Sleeper we may change to. At the next meeting of a "Snooze" of Auto-Sleepers I will be happy to demonstrate it to anyone interested.

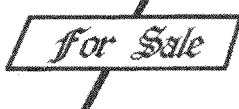
How does it work? I don't know but on a normal petrol engine there is a connection to the coil and the Cruise Control senses pulses from that to keep the engine speed constant. That would not work with an automatic gear box, or a diesel engine, so magnets are provided which can be fixed on the final drive shaft. The Cruise Control can then pick up pulses from these and keep the drive shaft speed constant.

Nial Reynolds

Thanks, *Nial*, for confirming the skills of the people in Uckfield. And as far as the computerised map-reading goes I think I will stick to the time honoured method of using a suitable map and a pair of eyes. Luckily, for me at least, I enjoy reading a map. It isn't just a collection of squiggly lines but really a meaningful picture. I'm sure that many other members similarly read maps and mentally travel over the roads as I do. My computer magazine tells me that the Next Base people who provide the programme that *Nial* uses have now produced a 'Plus' version which retails at £395 plus the inevitable VAT. I think I'll leave it on the shelf!

We have had other reports, all of which seem to sing the praises of a cruise control. But we have also had one or two comments such that the control cannot anticipate the road/traffic/hazards and may not be the best thing since sliced bread. I believe it is rather like the never-ending argument about trailer vans versus motor caravans or manual versus automatic gearboxes - you pay your money and you take your choice. Maybe I ought to get something which is like a cross between Auto-Route Express and a Cruise Control so that I can choose the items and then relax while the machinery produces the Newsletter!

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Omnistor Safari Room, 2.5 metres. Excellent condition, only been used 3 times. Cost new £399 - must be a bargain at £200. If you are interested please contact Syd Crouch at "Sydney", Sylvan Close, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2TB or telephone 0948 840 894.

Syd says he will bring this to the Club & Company Rally.

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Top Box with adaptor bars to fit most roof racks. £40. Pat & Barrie Rowland, 41 Milton Avenue, Eaton Ford, St. Neots, Cambridgeshire, PE19 3LH and the telephone number is 0480 473 149.

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NR de luxe Motor Chalet for side entry van. Sand/Green colour. Unused. 60% of new price at £200. Available from Don Valiant at 7 Bownham Mead, Rodborough Common, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 5DZ or telephone 0453 878 513. *Don* will send it by carrier for an extra £10 or he will bring it to the Club & Company Rally.

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Clubman GL, August 1992 "K" Reg. 2 litre petrol. 2,300 miles only and still under warranty. Garage stored. Unused since last October. Unmarked and as new. Fitted with every extra. Total cost was over £29,000 - selling for £22,000. Genuine reason for sale. Finance can be arranged if required. Please telephone Margaret or Bob Carroll on 0438 314 086 or write to them at 30 Granby Road, Old Stevenage, Herts, SG1 4AS.

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When *BJ* sent in the advert she very kindly sent a donation to Club finds. *BJ* is NOT the one from "M.A.S.H." but *Don Valiant's* wife! She also tells me that they were off to Scandinavia for a time from the middle of May which is why I was asked to hold the advert up until the July issue. They went to Norway last year and found that petrol was about 71p per litre and diesel was only 30p. She reckons that they will do about 5,000 miles again this year and perhaps they ought to change to a diesel engine. But the petrol engine is so quiet and, on last year's trip, it averaged 29 mpg so she isn't really complaining.

We changed over to diesel when we bought the Clubman GL in March 1992. We haven't found it to be noisy - unlike the diesels of yesteryear. But we have found that it is very responsive - it can almost be driven like an automatic. I can get into 5th gear from about 25mph and it will gently pull away from that sort of speed up to the Good-heavens-slow-down-quick speed that I sometimes reach! And, of course, the torque at the lower end of the range is extremely good.

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Information, Please



Doreen and Gordon Revell are seeking any information available on touring Western Canada and America during September, following Kuoni America map page 79. Can they book a campervan at Vancouver or Los Angeles airport? Apparently they booked in this way last year when they visited New Zealand and it gave them a larger choice of vehicle and a much lower charge. Any suggestions, please, to the *Revells* at 8 Denham Drive, Highcliffe, Dorset, BH23 5AT. You can telephone them on 0425 273 097. They also suggest that they could perhaps help with information on New Zealand.

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WHEEL CLAMPS



Sheila [Henthorne] has received a letter from a company called Triclamp who are offering a one piece wheel clamp (known as the CRIMESTOPPER) for £53.98 inclusive of VAT but plus £3.00 per clamp for P&P. This price apparently includes a 10% discount for Club members. They tell us that they also manufacture 15/16" clamps for Turbo Diesel Motorhomes. If you are interested at all, they are at Airfield Works, Foulsham, Norfolk, NR20 5SQ and will gladly send out brochures.

In their letter they asked us to send them our Membership list. The answer to that is a most emphatic NO! We do NOT pass such a list to anybody at all, no matter what reason they give for wanting it. The alternative suggestion was for them to send us a supply of brochures for us to distribute - at a cost to the Club. They suggest that "car alarms are proving useless. CRIMESTOPPER is an exterior, highly visible vehicle theft deterrent which is very hard to tamper with without being noticed."

I am reminded of a suggestion from many years ago that all trailers and trailer caravans should be padlocked to a suitable heavy duty ringbolt set into concrete when they were parked. The idea was, apparently, that if you used a heavy chain and a good quality padlock it would be almost impossible for a thief to remove the van or trailer. But they still disappeared. My own belief is that most of us won't approach anyone who appears to be working on a vehicle. It might be the owner, in which case we would be unwelcome. If it is a thief, we might be assaulted. As a result, thieves will tend to have an easier run than might otherwise be the case. I have no solution to offer because I too am a coward when it comes to taking on a younger, stronger person.

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GAS



Forgive me if I seem to be repeating myself but don't forget that you MUST turn the gas off at the bottle before taking to the highways and byways. Strictly speaking, you should not even turn the gas on during a temporary halt at a lay-by for a cuppa, but generally speaking nobody would object. But if you should be involved in an accident while "on the highway" and your gas bottle is not shut off, it could affect any insurance claim. So always turn the gas off at the bottle before you move.

I've noticed recently that some caravanners, both motor and trailer, have the warning notice on their gas lockers to indicate the contents. This sort of warning is a requirement for commercial vehicles which are carrying any form of hazardous chemicals (including gas). I have asked our Chairman to check whether or not this is a requirement for us to carry too or whether it is simply something that is advisory. [Further information in his Chat later on].

I was reminded of this when I saw the television news item about the so-called travellers who obstructed the M5 at the end of May. These are the people who tend to give caravanners generally

a bad name. They should take a leaf from our Club and leave any site where they stop in a cleaner condition than it was when they arrived. One of our members commented last year that the site at Stratford-on-Avon after we had left showed no trace of our passing. And that is as it should be.

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Tourists!

Four Ten Commandments

- 1 Thou shalt not expect to find things as they are at home: thou hast left home to find things different.
- 2 Thou shalt not take things too seriously: a care-free mind is the beginning of a fine holiday.
- 3 Thou shalt not let other tourists get on thy nerves for thou art paying good money to enjoy thyself.
- 4 Remember to take only half the clothes thou thinkest that thou needest but to take at least twice the money.
- 5 Know at all times where thy passport is; for it is written that a person without a passport is a person without a country.
- 6 Remember that if thou had been expected to stay in one place thou wouldst have been created with roots.
- 7 Thou shalt not worry for he that worrieth hath no pleasure.
- 8 When in Rome thou shalt be prepared to do somewhat as do the Romans.
- 9 Judge not the people of a country by one person who giveth thee trouble.
- 10 Remember that thou art a guest in another's land: he that treateth his host with respect shall receive due honour.

P.S. Remember that thou art a human being as is also their representative.

#####

This is an item which has been 'on the spike' for some time

now. As we are into the swing of the holiday season I thought that it might be a fitting reminder that there is still a lot of good in the world - in spite of what we see on television.

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What's in a Name?

As a sideline here are the names of the committee before and after having been processed through the computer's spell checking routine

Before

Arthur Irving
Phil Daley
John Tidbury
Sheila Henthorne
Harry Henthorne
Prudence Osborne
John Edden
Carol Bowler
Steven Bowler
Bob Wallies
Tony Jones
Jeff Worley
Rita Daley
John Cox
Charles Trevelyan

After

Farther Carving
Phi Daily
John Tindery
Shield Headphone
Harry Headphone
(not recognised)
John Eden
(no change)
Seven Bowler
Bob Wallies
Tiny Tones
Jiff Worry
Rota Daily
(no change)
(not recognised)

Some people are shown as "no change" because their name is a recognised word in the English Language. Where they are shown as "not recognised" it is because the dictionary had nothing with which to compare the name and just asked for verification of the spelling which had been typed. But it is nice to know that your Editor rejoices (?) in the title of "Headphone" - very appropriate! Our Chairman, Farther Carving, seems to suggest that we should do well in the future for the annual dinner. I'm a bit surprised that our Rally Co-ordinator, whose stentorian voice is well known, should be classed as "Tiny Tones" and as for his predecessor - Jeff Worley - Well!! The 1994 Annual Dinner and AGM sub-committee is in good hands with Bob Wallies!

It's all a bit of fun - and something to fill up the Newsletter!

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Chairman's Chat

Several members have asked if they should be displaying 'HAZCHEM' signs on their motor caravans to show that they are carrying L.P.G. either in gas bottles or in built-in tanks. I have been in touch with two of the Associations of which the Club is a member, i.e. 'The Autogas Installers and Retailers Association' and 'A.C.C.E.O.' (The Association of Caravan and Camping Exempted Organisations) and I can advise that the display of a 'HAZCHEM' sign is **NOT** required by Governmental regulations.

Tony Rushworth, the Secretary of the Autogas Installers etc., replied to say that as motor-caravanners do not carry L.P.G. for commercial purposes, and certainly less than 450 litres in total, there is no regulation requiring the display of a 'HAZCHEM' sign. In the case of motor-caravans and trailer caravans it is common knowledge that they are carrying L.P.G. and in any case the quantity is so small as to fall outside the scope of the regulations. Many will have a small sign to indicate the location of the L.P.G. locker but this is a matter of a code of practice rather than any Statutory Regulation. Built-in motor-caravan, caravan and automotive gas tanks are designed to a much higher standard of safety than gas bottles, with high-capacity pressure relief valves which virtually eliminate any risk of explosion in a fire.

Dutch registered vehicles carry a distinctive identification if they are gas-powered but this is not a safety consideration but to show that they carry a higher vehicle road tax to compensate for the fact that in Holland the fuel itself is duty free and, as far as Tony knows, this system has not spread to any other part of the European Community.

Ted Shaw, the Secretary of A.C.C.E.O., agreed in principle with the above advice and made the point that it is important that whenever gas bottles are carried, they should always be vertical to prevent any possibility of liquid seeping into the vehicle. He does know that some new caravans do carry a plate saying that L.P.G. is on board but these are the exception and not the rule.

I have been asked if our Exemption Certificate covers 'pup-tents', i.e. tents erected alongside parents' or grandparents' motor-caravans for use by their children or grand-children whilst on a Rally. Personally, I took the line that the use of such a tent was comparable to the use of an awning attached to a caravan and the Secretary of A.C.C.E.O. confirms my view. Pup tents may therefore

be used on Club Rallies when our Exemption Certificate is in use.

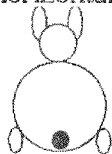
In conjunction with our Club Secretary, *Carol Bowler*, I am approaching the Scottish Office for an application form for the issue of an Exemption Certificate for use in Scotland for Rallies on 'green-field' sites. When this application is approved notice will be given in the Newsletter and, hopefully, a Scottish member, (or even a Sassenach member) will undertake the running of a suitable rally in Scotland. Indeed, *Tony [Jones]* and/or *John [Edden]* will be pleased to advise ANY member on the holding of a rally **ANYWHERE!**

When I was speaking to *Heather Tidbury*, our Booking Officer for the Club and Company Rally 1993, she said that she had received some 140 bookings up to the beginning of June and still awaited many more. PLEASE complete your Booking Form (the one printed on **BLUE PAPER** which was sent out with the May Newsletter) and send it to *Heather* as soon as possible. If you happen to have mislaid your Booking Form, please telephone *Heather* on 0235 525 730 for a replacement.

Arthur Irving

I understand from *Arthur* that a volunteer has come forward to take over the bookings for our two big rallies each year. We shall let you know more about such matters when things become a bit more resolved. *Heather* has set up a system that is easy to follow and which provides the details required by the organizing sub-committee.

On the subject of gas bottles, which I mentioned earlier in this month's Newsletter, I have actually heard it suggested that because some of the small road- or platform-sweeping trucks in use on the larger railway stations have what appear to be 'normal' large-sized gas bottles strapped on in the horizontal position, it is all right for caravanners to carry theirs in the same way. One clown thought it would be a good idea to strap a couple of these onto the front framing of his rather elderly and boxless trailer van. He hadn't appreciated that the valve is totally different for the specially made horizontal bottles!



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Phil's Rabbit



The recent spate of correspondence on the subject of credit cards reminds me of a point I made a long time ago in the Newsletter - don't put all your eggs in one basket, even a plastic

AUTO - SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB
RALLY SUPPLEMENT

July - August 1993

Please make your cheque payable to the Marshal BY NAME and send it with booking slip AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. Preferably at least 14 days in advance. Late deciders, please telephone the marshal FIRST.

9th-11th July. Midland Railway Trust, Butterley Park, RIPLEY, Derbyshire.

Fees: £1.75 per unit per night plus £2.50 per person for voucher for admission on Saturday and Sunday and ONE train ride. Rally fee £1.50.

Bookings to: Mr. H. Henthorne, 144 Devonshire Hill Lane, London, N17 7NH. Tel: 081 808 9112.

Directions: IGNORE ANY SIGNS TO MIDLAND RAILWAY CENTRE. A.610 to Codnor Clock Tower. Follow unclassified road (beside clock tower) s.p. Riddings and Somercotes for about 1 mile passing Codnor Gate Estate on left. At bottom of steep hill turn left into Coach Road. (If you pass Newlands Inn you have gone too far!) BEWARE OF TWO SPEED RAMPS in Coach Road. A few yards beyond second ramp fork right. Turn right in front of the workshops and proceed through gate.

This rally will appeal to those interested in steam railways. There are toilets available close to the licensed buffet. NO electrics. We hope to arrange a buffet meal for Saturday evening.

16th-18th July. Callow Top, ASHBOURNE, Derbyshire.

Fees: £4.50 per unit per night. Rally Fee £1.50.

Bookings to: Mr. J. Cox, 73 Westmead road, Barton-under-Needwood, Staffs., DG13 8JR.

Directions: Site entrance 1/2 mile north of Ashbourne on A.515 to Buxton, opposite Sandybrook garage.

23rd-25th July. Three Counties Showground, MALVERN WELLS, Hereford & Worcs. Club and Company Rally.

Full details will be found on separate booking form issued with the May 1993 Newsletter.

6th-8th August. Whitchurch Rugby Club, WHITCHURCH, Shropshire.

Fees: £5.00 for the weekend. Rally fee £1.50.

Bookings to: Mr. S. Crouch, Sydrey, Sylvan Close, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, Salop. SY13 2TB. Tel: 0948 840 894.

Directions: From North keep on A. 49 signposted Town Centre. At roundabout stay on main road bearing Left, over traffic lights past Mobil stations, then SECOND right (Edgeley road) opposite Doddington Hotel. From South on A. 41 take road signposted Town Centre B. 5395 (outside lane). Over next roundabout then FIRST right (Edgeley Road).

Evening meal on site Saturday evening. Toilets, showers and clubhouse amenities.

13th-15th August. Normans Farm, East Hardwick, PONTEFRACT, S. Yorks.

Fully Booked - check for cancellations

Fees: £12.00 per van for weekend - includes full on-site buffet on Saturday evening. Rally fee £1.50.

Bookings to: Mr. D. Carrigan, 38 Grenfolds Road, Grenoside, Sheffield, S30 3NU. Tel: 0742 469 473.

Directions: A.1 from South. Leave at Barnsdale Bar onto A.639 signposted Pontefract. In 5 miles turn right into East Hardwick. Site on left. A.1 from North. Pass M.62 then SECOND slip road signposted Darrington. Turn right under A.1 through Darrington. In 1 miles turn left, signposted East Hardwick. In 0.25 miles bear right, site on right.

This is a Green Field site. Limit 40 vans.

27th-30th August. Argoed High School, Bryn-y-Baal, Mold, Clwyd, North Wales.

Fees: £4.00 per unit per night. Rally fee: £1.50.

Bookings to: Mr. J. Greenwood, 55 Park Avenue, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Clwyd, N. Wales, CH7 6XR. Tel: 0244 548 882.

Directions: Turn off A.494 (Mold-Queensferry) into Bryn Road next to Rose & Crown pub (sp Mynydd Isa). Proceed over by-pass bridge, turn LEFT at top of hill along Bryn Lane until end of houses then turn right into Argoed High School.

Toilets, hot & cold water, drinking water and waste disposal, Milkman, papers and pay-phone are available. Own catering for Saturday, meal at Bar on Sunday. Common room and Social Club (licensed) available.

AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

Constitution

effective from the A.G.M. held on 17th April 1993

NAME AND OBJECTS

1. The name of the Club shall be "AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB".
2. The objects of the Club shall be:-
 - a. to arrange meetings, rallies and social functions for Members.
 - b. to facilitate exchange of information among Members on all matters of mutual interest.
 - c. to provide any additional services which may be of benefit to members.

MEMBERSHIP

3. Membership shall be open to all current owners of motor caravans built or converted by Auto-Sleepers Limited of Willersey, and a spouse or companion may be included in the Membership.
4. The Committee shall have the right to refuse any application for membership or terminate membership if, in the opinion of the Committee, such action is justified to maintain the reputation of the Club.
5. The annual subscription shall be payable with application for membership and on 1st January each year except that the first subscription paid by any member joining on or after 1st September shall cover membership up to the end of the following calendar year. The amount of the annual subscription shall be agreed by the Members at the Annual General Meeting and any change in its amount shall operate from the following 1st September.
6. The financial year of the Club shall be the calendar year.
7. Membership shall lapse if the annual subscription is not paid by 28th February.
8. In the event of the Club being wound up, Members' liability shall not exceed one years subscription.

PRESIDENT and HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS

9. The President of the Club shall be appointed by Auto-Sleepers Limited, and shall not be subject to election by the Members. At their discretion Members may, at a General Meeting, appoint Members to be Honorary Vice-Presidents. Such appointments shall continue whilst the persons so appointed remain Members of the Club. Honorary Vice-Presidents shall not be members of the Committee but may attend meetings of the Committee in an 'ex officio' capacity

AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

Constitution

effective from the A.G.M. held on 17th April 1993

COMMITTEE

10. The business of the Club between Annual General Meetings shall be conducted by an elected Committee of up to twelve Members together with the President of the Club. The Committee shall have the power to appoint a Member to fill a vacancy on the Committee that may occur between Annual General Meetings.

At each Annual General Meeting at least six members of the Committee shall retire and may make themselves available for re-election. The six Committee vacancies at each Annual General Meeting can arise from different sources:

- a. any Committee member who wishes to resign for personal reasons.
- b. any Members appointed during the year to fill casual vacancies.
- c. to make up the six, the longest serving Committee members.

Retiring Committee members standing for re-election, together with the other members nominated, shall stand for election at the Annual General Meeting.

11. The Committee shall appoint such officers as it may think fit, including a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. It may also appoint Sub-committees for specific purposes and nominate the Chairman. At least one Member of the Sub-Committee must be a member of the main Committee who shall be responsible to and report to the Committee.

12. The Committee shall open an account in the name of the Club with a recognised clearing bank. Cheques and similar payment orders shall be signed by any two of President, Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer.

MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

13. An Annual General Meeting of all Members shall be held before the end of May in each calendar year. The business to be conducted at such a meeting shall include a Report by the Committee on the preceding year's activities, the audited accounts of the Club, the election of the Members to fill the vacancies on the Committee and election of an Honorary Auditor. The Auditor shall NOT be a member of the Committee.

At least 90 days notice must be given in the Newsletter to all Club Members of any General Meeting.

14. Nominations for Committee, with the written consent of the Member nominated and signatures of the proposer and seconder, must be submitted to the Secretary not less than 56 days before the meeting. The Chairman shall have discretion to accept nominations at the meeting should there be insufficient candidates.

AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

Constitution

effective from the A.G.M. held on 17th April 1993

15. If, by the closing date, there are more nominations for the Committee than there are vacancies, the Secretary shall prepare balloting lists, in alphabetical order, of the names of those nominated. Only Club Members present at the Annual General Meeting shall be entitled, but not obliged, to vote for as many candidates as there are vacancies. The candidates receiving the greatest number of votes, up to the number of vacancies will be declared elected. In the event of two or more candidates receiving an equal number of votes the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote. Tellers will be appointed by the meeting. Members must show their membership cards at the issue of ballot papers.

16. Candidates for election may, if they wish, submit a brief curriculum vitae of their relevant activities.

17. Resolutions for consideration at the Annual General Meeting with the signatures of proposer and seconder must be submitted to the Secretary 56 days before the meeting. Such resolutions, together with the names of Members nominated for the Committee, and their curriculum vitae, if submitted, shall be sent to the Members with the Agenda of the meeting at least 28 days before the Meeting.

18. Any Member raising a matter under Any Other Business can do so for discussion only.

19. A Special General Meeting shall be convened by the Secretary on the direction of the Committee or on written request from at least 40 Club Members, such request to specify the business to be discussed. No business other than that specified shall be transacted at a Special General Meeting.

20. All Club Members who have paid their subscriptions for the current year may attend and vote at General Meetings. No proxy votes are permitted. Resolutions shall be carried by a majority of the votes cast.

21. The quorum for a General Meeting shall be at least 120 members present in person at the time and place announced for that meeting, except in the case of a meeting being called to wind up the Club.

RALLIES

22. Attendance at Club Rallies shall be restricted to Club Members in Auto-Sleeper motor caravans. Club Rallies shall only be organised by or with the approval of the Rally Co-ordinator. Sites used for Club events shall be left clean and tidy. Club equipment may only be used with the permission of the Rally Co-ordinator, an appointed Rally Marshal, or a Committee Member.

23. The Committee may at its discretion, and subject to such terms and conditions as it may decide, allow a non-Member with an Auto-Sleeper motor caravan to attend one rally before deciding whether to join the Club. This concession does not apply to the Annual

AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

Constitution

effective from the A.G.M. held on 17th April 1993

General Meeting, the Club and Company rally, any other special rally that may be held, and rallies covered by the Club's Certificate of Exemption. Such rallies being exclusively for Club Members.

24. All animals accompanying Members at Club events must be kept on a leash and under proper control at all times.
25. All Club Members attending Club Rallies or other events must comply with instructions given to them by the Rally Co-ordinator or an appointed Rally Marshal.
26. All Club Members attending Club Rallies or other events must observe the Caravan Code, the Country Code, the Coastal Code and any local site regulations as appropriate.
27. Membership cards must be carried at all Club events.
28. INDEMNITY - Officers/Members of the Committee and properly authorised Rally Marshals, shall not be liable (other than as Members) for any loss suffered by the Club as a result of the discharge of their respective duties on its behalf, except such loss as arises from their respective wilful default, and they shall be entitled to an indemnity out of the Club assets for all expenses and other liabilities incurred by them in the discharge of their respective duties.

GENERAL

29. The Club's Constitution shall be agreed by Club Members at an Annual or Special General Meeting and may only be altered by a resolution of Club Members at an Annual or Special General Meeting.
30. All correspondence on Club matters should be addressed to the Secretary or the relevant officer of the Club.
31. Any difference of opinion or ambiguity relating to this Constitution or matters arising shall be addressed in writing to the Secretary for decision by the Committee.
32. Members Leaving the Club may continue to purchase the Newsletter only, at such price as the Committee may decide.

AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

Send one of these slips to the Marshal named at least 14 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

A.S.O.C. R A L L Y S L I P

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

Your full Name and address.....

.....

.....

Membership No.....Telephone Number.....

Day/Time of arrival..... Van No.....

Is this your first ASOC rally? Please tick box: Yes No

No.of people in your van? Adults Children

PLEASE COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF FORM!

A.S.O.C. R A L L Y S L I P

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

Your full Name and address.....

.....

.....

Membership No.....Telephone Number.....

Day/Time of arrival..... Van No.....

Is this your first ASOC rally? Please tick box: Yes No

No.of people in your van? Adults Children

PLEASE COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF FORM!

BLOCK CAPITALS, PLEASE

Requirements - Please note that these may NOT be available at all rallies. Your request for them will NOT necessarily mean that you will be provided with them

Electricity: Yes No Saturday night meal: Yes No

Have you any special needs? Yes _____ No _____ If 'Yes' please detail what they are:.....

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

Name _____ Tel.No. _____

Payment MUST accompany this slip - cheques payable to the Marshal by Name, please.

BLOCK CAPITALS, PLEASE

Requirements - Please note that these may NOT be available at all rallies. Your request for them will NOT necessarily mean that you will be provided with them

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Have you any special needs? Yes _____ No _____ If 'Yes' please detail what they are:.....

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

Name _____ Tel.No. _____

Payment MUST accompany this slip - cheques payable to the Marshal by Name, please.

one! In other words, don't rely on being able to use your card if husband and wife each have a card on the same account. If one card is lost the other becomes useless the moment the loss is reported. If you use them a lot away from home where replacement is bound to take time, better by far to have two accounts and have a Visa and a Mastercard each. I don't know about other institutions but Barclaycard only make one annual charge for the pair so we have four cards between us. This is not because we go about scattering valuable bits of plastic right and left - on the contrary, we've only ever lost any of them once, when a burglar rifled *Rita's* handbag - but we found out then that we had no plastic we could use.

From time to time, once or twice a year, the Club receives some sales literature (at the Solihull address) from Eliza Travel Pty. Ltd of Mount Eliza, Victoria, Australia. They say they are "big" in motor - sorry - Campervan & Motorhome Rental (in 17 countries). I mention this in case it may be of interest to the 0.0125% of members who are thinking of going to Aus and hiring a van; I will gladly pass on more details to them if they contact me. As of 25th May 1993 they offer, in addition to the normal range of Campervans, and I quote, "The Aussie Camping Ute - a tough and roomy working vehicle with the comfort of a car, that sleeps 2 adults." It is available from Perth, Broome, Darwin, Alice Springs, Cairns, Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane and Melbourne and I see it has a 3.8 litre V-6 petrol engine with 4-speed automatic gearbox. Don't stray too far from a petrol pump!

We will soon be enrolling Member Number 1,500 and we are very happy about that but I, who am one of this world's worriers, wonder just how much longer we can continue to run the Club with unpaid volunteers. Many of the jobs undertaken by Officers appointed by your Committee take up many hours every week and in some cases this has to be fitted in after work. I guess we will solve that one as we've solved the others.

Quite a number of members enjoy attending the large "commercial" rallies such as the Motor Caravan Jamboree at Brands Hatch, the Shepton Mallet Show, the Peterborough Show, etc. I have heard that a number of members told the organisers they would have attended the Motor Caravan Fair at Stratford on Avon if the Club had been officially represented with a Club area, etc. We weren't, so they didn't. This is a sad reflection on our organisation and the spirit of the rally enthusiasts among us because we couldn't find anyone to act as Marshals on our behalf. What went wrong? We were not officially represented at Edinburgh in April but our excuse then was the relatively small number of Scottish members

who might have been available. No such excuse could possibly be used for an event taking place in the Heart of England in June. If anyone says, "I would have done it if I'd known", please tell me and I will try to find out why you didn't know. We must find out how to get messages across to members because we are plainly failing to do so at the moment. This is something I will find time for whatever else crops up.

Late news of the Club & Company Rally: I have heard a rumour that, in addition to all the "goodies" promised in the flyer sent out with the last Newsletter, there will be a display of radio-controlled model aircraft. Not just any old model aircraft, you understand, but your actual model helicopter! I didn't think it could be done but there you go. (And I've only just seen the pun - sorry!). We want YOU to come along to Malvern Wells sometime over the weekend of 23/25 July, even if it's only for an hour or two on Saturday. We'd like you to stay longer but are sure that once you get the taste you'll be back for more next year. We had 302 vans at the first event at Stratford on Avon last year, we expect to see them all again but we also hope to see many more. The dozen or so Traders who were at Stratford will be at the Three Counties Showground, selling anything from pillows to solar panels, awnings to armchairs.

A tremendous amount of time, effort and expense has gone into organising this event and we know there is something for everyone, participants or spectators. Auto-Sleepers' Shop alone is worth the trip for the bargains on offer and the entertainment is FREE! The proceeds of the Giant Raffle and from the stalls run by Club members will go to the Multiple Sclerosis Society so bring some large change! And remember, you can collect your Club Christmas Cards there, saving postage, if you order them in good time.

May I just make a suggestion to help anyone coming along to their first big Club rally? Just say "Hello" to someone in the next van and make an instant friend. Committee members particularly like to meet first-time ralliers but we do get rather diluted at this event. (We've also mostly lost our voices by Sunday lunchtime!).

One last but very important point on the Club & Company Rally - I mentioned the expense and we owe very many thanks to the Companies who have so generously given us financial support. At the time of going to press these were:

V.A.G (UK) Ltd.; Peugeot Talbot Motor Co. Ltd.; Unique Furnishings Ltd.; Barclays Insurance Services Co. Ltd.; Carpet & Flooring (Midlands) Ltd.; Cheltenham Laminating Co. Ltd.; Gaskell Textiles Ltd.; Kingfisher Rubber &

Plastics Ltd.; Labcraft, Ltd.; Montague Mayer (South West) Ltd.; Wyvern Enterprises Ltd.; and, of course, Auto-Sleepers Limited. See you .

Phil Daley."

Phil sent me the latest news release from the Volkswagen Press Office. They apparently now supply the Transporter range with a four wheel drive syncro version as well. The price increase appears to be around £2,400 plus VAT and adds 100kg to the kerb weight. It is "designed for on-road operation in conditions where four wheel traction is required." It sounds just the job for our sort of use, particularly in areas where we are likely to get stuck in the muddy or wet grass situations. But the extra cost well!

On the subject of the plastic cards, it pays to shop around. Some cards cost less than others. When my original card issuers wanted to charge for the first time a couple of years or so ago I exchanged them for another type on which there was no charge then. Recently a charge has been introduced but it is still well below the original issuers asking price. In addition, one of the cards is issued by the Camping and Caravanning Club. Apart from being an attractive picture which comes to the notice of many people when I use it, it also pays some small commission to that Club every time I use it. So not only do I get the benefit of the card, but that club also gains. I wonder if our Club could do something similar - but I don't think that we are big enough yet in spite of what *Phil* was saying.

As for the paid staffing of the Club, it might come to that one day but I would much prefer to see it continue for as long as possible under the voluntary officers. I believe, very sincerely, that something begins to slip when 'employees' take over. After all, they are only 'doing a job' whereas we are 'enjoying ourselves'!! It has been said before now that our Club is very much more friendly, particularly in the initial stages giving details to enquirers and new members and making them welcome at the rallies than some of the larger clubs which employ staff, even though a large proportion of their work is still undertaken by members. Has anybody else any views on this? Do you want a professional, paid, Editor? (I'm available at a reasonable salary - preferably ending in quite a few noughts (minimum 5) before the decimal point and provided that it starts with a decent figure like '1' or (better) '2!'). I was always taught to aim high! And how about a paid Secretary or Treasurer? Names like Maxwell spring to mind for the latter post!

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Rally News

Here is a brief list of the rallies which it is intended to run during the rest of the year. **Please note** that it is intended as a **guide only** and does not necessarily include all that may be run, nor does it mean that they will be run. But it may help you to do a bit of planning.

#####

9th-11th July. Midland Railway Trust, RIPLEY, Derbyshire.

16th-18th July. Callow Top, ASHBOURNE, Derbyshire.

23rd-25th July. Three Counties Showground, MALVERN WELLS, Hereford & Worcs. Club and Company Rally.

6th-8th August. Whitchurch Rugby Club, WHITCHURCH, Shropshire.

13th-15th August. Normans Farm, PONTEFRACT, S. Yorks. Fully Booked

27th-30th August. Argoed High School, Mold, Clwyd, N. Wales.

3rd-10th September. MORETON GLADE, Nr. Dorchester, Dorset.

3rd-5th September. Hall Farm, TRUNCH, North Walsham, Norfolk.

10th-12th September. Park Foot, Pooley Bridge, Cumbria.

17th-19th September. Motor Caravan Show, SHEPTON MALLET.

24th-26th September. Worcester Lodge, FOREST OF DEAN, Glos.

1st-3rd October. Camping International Site, OXFORD.
LIMIT 40 VANS

1st-3rd October. Chester Southerley C.P, Marlston-cum-Lacae, Nr. Chester.

8th-10th October. Bashley Park, NEW MILTON, Hampshire.

15th-17th October. Roughlee, Nr. Nelson, Lancs. **THIS RALLY IS NOW FULLY BOOKED - NO MORE APPLICATIONS, PLEASE!**

22nd-24th October. Newbridge Caravan Park, Bath.

4th-7th November. Merley Court Touring Park, Wimborne, Dorset.

26th-28th November. Abbey Wood Caravan Club site, London.

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I had a telephone call to tell me NOT to include any more details of the Roughlee rally due in October - and that is even before the monthly booking slips have appeared! It just goes to show that several of our venues are very popular indeed.

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Hidden Valley

A total of 27 vans attended our third rally here. The weather wasn't as kind as on previous rallies but fortunately the urn was working this time (third time lucky!) so we started on Friday evening with coffee as usual. The Saturday evening meal was well up to the usual standard.

On Sunday morning we were in the club house and the raffle made a reasonable profit so our thanks to all who donated the prizes. Special thanks to *Marion and Ray Tullett* for all their help over the weekend.

The subject of a Christmas rally at this site was raised with Sue & Melvyn (the site owners) who are very keen. We would need a minimum of 15 vans but no more than 25 to make life enjoyable for all, including the staff. If anyone is interested watch the Newsletter for further details. It must be appreciated that negotiations for such a rally are at a **very** early stage at the moment.

*Sandra and Bernie [Wisely]
and SAM the dog!*

#####

Savernake Forest

This is one that your Editor can report on because we attended. 35 vans in all appeared on the now restored Forestry commission site just south of Marlborough. I say newly restored because the "travellers" usurped it a couple of years back and laid the whole area to waste. The weather was kind to us, not too hot and certainly not too wet. Most people enjoyed a leisurely stroll (?) into Marlborough which was a little over 1.5 miles from the site and down a steep hill - 1 in 7 (O.K. 14%) on the road but a bit steeper on the footpath. Having spent four of my formative years in that town I

knew where I was to a great degree and thoroughly enjoyed strolling around again. Luckily, it hasn't changed all that much because the local planning authority has seen to it that the more garish of shop fronts are banned.

Saturday evening, after puffing, struggling or taxi-ing back to the site an al fresco gathering was held and those who wished took their food across to *Barbara & Tony Jones's* van and sat out to eat. A rather tasty punch was served too! It was at this stage that the light rain started, of course. But you can't keep a good rally down and conversation went on for far longer in various vans.

On Sunday the weather had turned for the better although a shower had been heard during the night. The coffee was prepared and the raffle drawn and then people began to disperse. Our thanks to *Barbara & Tony* for an extremely good un-organised (but not dis-organised!) rally.

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Last Month's Wordsearch

Did you spot the deliberate mistake? There was a missing rally in the square. Or more correctly the word "RALLY" was supposed to be in the square but in fact was missing. It was drawn to my attention by *John Greenwood* who rang to advise me of the latest details about their rally later this year. *Ruth*, his daughter, whose idea the whole thing was had been trying to find the word. It was there when she sent me the puzzle but, in transferring it to the Newsletter and adjusting it to fit the needs of the press, somehow it got lost. Perhaps it was a rally run by a "Misleading Marshal" as mentioned in the same issue!

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++++ ***Tyre Grip*** +++++
++++

"Dear Sir/Madam,

As an experienced motor caravaner (sic!), I have a product that may be of interest to your members.

!Sure go emergency chains!

Attached in minutes to your wheels, they will help you out of snow, ice and wet grass. Ideal for Talbot/Fiat F.W.D. vans. Sold in

sets of 4 chains, £20. 2 chains per wheel.

If any members are interested I attend many of the Trade shows as a rally goer and I will show them with pleasure.

Brian Cobble."

This letter came in and, as several people have expressed interest in such things, I thought that you might like to know about them. Brian's address, if you want to find out more, is 18 Manor Estate, Wolston, Coventry, CV8 3GY and his telephone number is 0203 543 812. Perhaps, if anyone can find out which shows he may be attending, they will let me know when I get back from holiday so that I can let everyone know.

I'm not sure what sort of word processor or typewriter he was using to prepare the letter but I wasn't very keen on the rather squarish, upright appearance of the print. In particular the figure 4 seemed to have lost a chunk out of the side. Perhaps I had better stick to this sort of typeface for easier reading. It is this sort of thing which always helps to discover what is best - in every sense of the word!

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FLUD MAPS

A quick line before we take off to Southern Ireland (thanks to *Carol & Steve Bowler*).

Knowing that most of the members probably read M.M.M. as well as the Newsletter they have probably noticed the item from Mr. Norman Miles in the D.I.Y. Interchange in June's issue.

My husband solved the same problem for the V.W.Clubman by obtaining mud flaps for commercial vehicles from T.H.T. Supplies (the Dirt Skirt people). He had to make a few minor adjustments but a Stanley knife works wonders!!

If anyone wishes to ring him for further advice, please do so on 0594 822 251 or write to us at 82 Belle Vue Road, Cinderford, Gloucestershire, GL14 3BL. Happy motor caravanning!

Rosemary Ball

The item is on page 136 of the June issue of MMM and refers to the fitting of mud-flaps to an Auto-h*m*s coachbuilt. The writer seems to have been unable to obtain suitable flaps - unlike our

member! *Rosemary's* husband is called *Terry* although she forgot to mention that!

And for those of you who didn't spot it, the title should be Mud Flaps, of course.

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Other Magazines

I am delighted to report that the Motor Caravan Magazine people read our Newsletter every month. Not only that, they take items from us for publication in their "Club Corner". And as if that wasn't enough, they have the courtesy to send *Sheila* a complimentary copy of the issue in which any item appears. We shall have to see whether or not we can send them a photo or two of one of our rallies - the Club and Company perhaps - for publication. On behalf of the Club I should like to thank them for taking such an interest.

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Childrens' Corner



Ruth Greenwood has sent another contribution for this item. This is the sort of thing that I need if we are to keep this corner going, so come along, *Nicola, Kirsty, Colin, Robert* and all the other children who may read this. Don't be shy, put your pen or pencil (or crayon even!) to work and let everybody know what YOU think of the Club, the rallies or whatever else you want to say. It isn't difficult, once you get over the hurdle of the very first item. Ask *Ruth* - she made it!

#####

The Roughlee Rally

At the beginning of May my family ran a rally at Roughlee in Lancashire. Strange as this may seem, the marshal was one of the last to arrive! Over the weekend people walked around the beautiful countryside and visited the nearby market towns. The weather was quite nice and on Saturday I played on the putting green with my friend *Kirsty*. On Saturday and Sunday we went to the village pub for meals. The raffle on Monday was a great success - there seemed to be more prizes than people! This rally was so popular that another will be run on the same site in October this year. It will be run by *Andrew Entwistle* and talking of him I know he is collecting old tools for a Third World charity. So if anyone can help him out, please talk to him.

Ruth Greenwood.

Don't forget
The **Argoed Rally**
August 27th, 28th, 29th & 30th, 1993

My Dad is running it, so don't forget!

It'll be great fun!

Ruth

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Collective Nouns

John and I have been trying to think of a suitable collective term for A.S.O.C. Members.

We have come up with several, but in most cases we can see a different connotation, as with the very good name "A Wake of Sleepers" where, as you say, the funereal connection creeps in.

We are eminently satisfied with our choice of vehicle and pleased with ourselves for having chosen it and for joining A.S.O.C. So the name "A Smug of Auto-Sleepers" fits us very well but we can see that that term might be offensive to some.

"A Natter of Members" seems appropriate when we meet for the first coffee of a rally but I bet that the men would say that it only applies to the women! Similarly "A Clutch of Motor Caravans" brings to mind the masculine conversations in the same circumstances.

Thinking more seriously for a moment, I ask, "What is a club? What is a rally?". It is a meeting of kindred spirits, where warmth and friendship abound. What about "A Kindle of Members"?

Joy and John Say

The Concise Oxford Dictionary shows "Kindle (1) to set on fire, light (flame, fire, substance); (fig) inflame, inspire (passion etc), stir up (person to emotion etc); (2) catch fire, burst into flame; (fig) become animated, glow with passion etc; (3) make or become bright" It apparently comes from the same Old Norse root as "Candle".

Most of our rallies are laid back affairs - so I question "set on fire, inflame, glow with passion" etc. However I fully agree with the "become animated, become bright" part of the meaning. Watch and listen to our members taking part in a quiz or just having a general chat and you'll see! Any more suggestions, please?

As usual, when I started this issue of the Newsletter I was in a panic because I didn't have any contributions; now, still as usual, we have arrived at page 20! **STOP PRESS:** *Jock Hammond* is collecting spectacle lenses for use in the Third World. If you have any unused glasses (NOT just frames) please bring them to the Club and Company rally for him. Thanks.

Your Editor

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