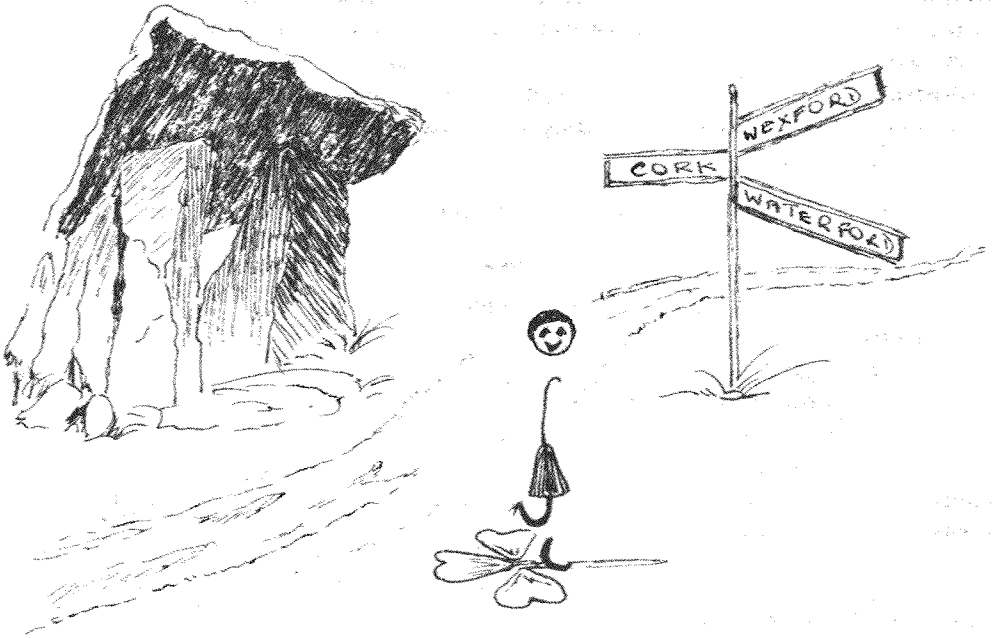


AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB



Good Journey, Good Weather Irish Ralliers.

**NEWSLETTER 93
JUNE 1996**

Hello.

This year's AGM has been and gone and you are still stuck with me as your Editor. Hard luck! If you ever read the back page of the Newsletter you will notice that the new Committee, with the various jobs, is listed thereon. The weekend was a very good one and I think that the AGM and the Open Forum which followed were just about the fastest we have ever had. The weather was, in the main, kind to us apart from the rather sudden thunderstorm on the Saturday afternoon, just as we were making our way back to the vans after the first meeting of the new committee. And guess who got wet because he can't run - or at least not very well! The dinner was up to its usual excellent standard but unfortunately the band was not as pleasantly quiet as it might, or should, have been. I understand that they were asked to turn the volume down several times but...

#####

A Puzzle

While I was doing some routine cleaning inside and outside the van I began to wonder. (Yes, I know that it's bad for me to try to use the old brain at my age!) I was vacuuming away inside and getting the bits off the floor and the seats when I started to wonder why the seats and backs were buttoned. So far as I can see the buttons only provide a neat receptacle for odd bits of fluff and stuff and are not the easiest things to clean. Next time we change the van (?) I think that I shall ask for all the cushions to be un-buttoned!

I appreciate that in days gone by when cushions, mattresses etc. had to be filled with horse-hair or similar the buttons provided a useful method of keeping the stuffing in its appointed place. But with foam blocks filling the cushions today there is no likelihood of bits moving around to the wrong place, is there? So why do we still have the buttons?

In a previous, non A-S, van I had to rebuild the inside and in making the seats and beds I bought some foam. Then I wrote to one of the cushion cover makers advertised in the commercial press and ordered suitable covers. These duly arrived complete with buttons for me to put into the cushions after fitting. Needless to say they were never fitted! Those cushions were so much easier to keep clean.

So is there any good reason for the buttons, or is it just a tradition?

#####

RALLIES

I wonder (again!) what *Sheila and I* have done? We noticed in the Motor Caravan Magazine that in their diary of rallies they had included all of our Club venues except the one that we are running at Bentley. Must have been something we said!

---===ooo000ooo===---

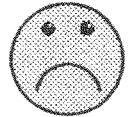
AN APOLOGY

If you have already received your tickets for the Club and Company Rally, an apology is due to you. You may have noticed that the dates shown are incorrect. The error was caused by trying to get everything ready in a bit of a hurry so that the large parcel of tickets and things could be handed over to *Jackie Claxton* at the AGM and thus save the postage. And, more or less as usual, things went a bit haywire. But have no fear, suitable corrections and adjustments - have been / are being / will be - made. Sorry!

---===ooo000ooo===---

Le Shuttle

We learned that there was a problem with the discounts being allowed to motor caravans using the shuttle. Having checked with ACCEO, through whom the Club can arrange ferry and similar discounted bookings, we now understand that the root cause of the problem lies with Customs and Excise. It seems that many travel agents have been booking "Transit Vans" onto Le Shuttle which have been used on what has recently been termed the "Booze Cruise". As too many were trying to beat the system, Le Shuttle has agreed with Customs and Excise that there will be no discounted rates for "Transit Vans" and the like. Unfortunately, this has been taken to include motor caravans who are travelling on legitimate holidays and not just dashing over for the beer. "Negotiations are continuing" as seems to be said about all manner of things today and we hope to bring you better news in the future.



In the meantime, though, if you want to go abroad and get a discounted fare you will have to travel on a surface ferry.

---===ooo000ooo===---

BOXER GEARBOX PROBLEMS

I would like to bring a problem to the attention of all readers who own Boxer based vehicles. During my recent visit to Honeybourne I was informed by a member that his vehicle recently stuck in gear and he was unable to move it without the help of roadside recovery. The vehicle was taken to a dealer where it was discovered that the cause of the fault was water in the gears. The water drips from the drain just below the windscreen on the passenger side onto the gears. A modification was required which entailed fitting a small pipe to lead the drainwater towards the side of the vehicle.

During my visit to the AGM at Kettering I mentioned this to five Executive owners and discovered that none of the vehicles had had this modification implemented. I also spoke to another person there who has had a gearbox problem with his four-month old vehicle. I suspect that his trouble is related to this problem.

I contacted my Peugeot dealer on my return to Liverpool and they verified that they are aware of a bulletin to the effect that a small pipe should be fitted to prevent the ingress of water to the 3rd gear. The work involved only takes about two minutes to complete and is well worth while having done to prevent more serious damage.

Don Sampson

---==ooO000Ooo==---

Water, Water, Everywhere



We have experienced problems with water in the van for two years running. It comes from the Carver Water Heater in spite of opening the valve and running the taps until dry. This cost us a new heater in a vehicle just two years old. (This happened before the new advice in the Newsletter by *Mr Trevelyan*.)

We want your help to find out just how many have experienced any sort of problems in the past or at present with full details of the heater, type of van, etc. We would also welcome information if you have friends with types of vehicle other than Auto-Sleepers to find out whether it is a poorly designed heater, if it needs lagging or whatever.

There must be some definite way of knowing that everything has

been cleared out of the heater. It cannot remain guesswork. Please, members, tell us how you folk who use your vehicle throughout the winter on rallies and for going to areas in cold temperatures overcome this trouble. Also how you prevent your cold water storage tank and waste tank from freezing. After all, with vehicles at their present costs they should not be "fair weather only". Please help with any information or comments to 496 Caerleon Road, Newport, Gwent, NP9 7NL or telephone 0163 322 0558.

Doris & Reg Gillham

The need for opening all the taps and then blowing hard through the shower head has been mentioned before in the Newsletter, as has the suggestion of removing the vent plug and keeping it inside the van for the winter.

-----ooo000ooo-----

Van Crockery

Did you know that ASDA is now selling the crockery as supplied with A-S vehicles? It is called "Spring Bouquet" and you can get anything from a saucer to a teapot and beyond at reasonable prices. The manufacturers also do a mail order service and their address is Biltons Tableware, London Road, Stoke on Trent and their telephone number is 0178 274 4000.

Jim Allen

I knew that Texas supply the same crockery but this is a further source.

-----ooo000ooo-----

Symphony Storage

We have a 1995 Peugeot Boxer Symphony and are just getting going into our second season. I read with interest the comments in the May Newsletter about storage in vans. Overall, we find that storage is limited and we have adopted two solutions. The first was to abandon all of the small bed cushions by using only the rear seating and the armrest to provide a transverse bed about 5'10" long and 5'3" wide. This meets our needs adequately and leaves the overcab cupboard free for bedding and there is also a space behind the rear passenger seat back. We are of average heights and can manage with this layout.

We used to carry cables and pipes in the gas locker but uprating to

a 6.5 kg Calor cylinder means that it is not possible to store items deep in that locker and so I have provided myself with a more accessible alternative. A problem with plumbing to the wash basin showed me that there was spare room behind the rear panel. I have now divided this panel into two parts and have fitted a cross member at about 600 mm from the floor. The lower half of the panel is now hinged on its left edge to make a door and has a catch to hold it closed. I cut the corner trim and re-fixed it to the door. Using the cross member I am able to hang the mains cable, 2 adaptors, a water pipe and a drainage pipe. On the floor rests a pair of levelling ramps while the jack is mounted vertically and strapped into place. The wheel spanner and jack ratchet are wedged in place. This arrangement is just about to get its first test. I have minimised the extent to which the appearance is changed and also have the option of replacing the split panel to restore the van to its original condition.

I would be interest to know if other owners have felt a similar problem and how they may have solved it.

Ted Bailey

---===ooo000ooo===---

Luton Beds

After attending a few rallies and talking to many couples with coachbuilt vehicles I am still waiting to find somebody who uses their overhead cab bed in an Auto-Sleeper. I am six feet tall and weigh 15 stones and my wife is 12 stones. Yet for 90% of the time we use this bed in our Legend. We were hoping that the new shape body would give us a little more headroom but alas, whether in the showroom or on the rally field, I cannot find any with beds. In our opinion using this space for cupboards almost amounts to sacrilege.

We keep the bed fully made up for use then store deck chairs etc. on top when travelling. We are still able to fold it up out of the way so as to have the full headroom in the cab when we turn the front seats around to use the table if we stop on route. (True, I have made a different bracket to hold it in place.)

If anybody has the new shape Legend and is using the Luton beds, please, please, if your are attending the Club and Company Rally at Malvern this year, give me a ring and let me have a look at your van and a chat with you. My telephone number is 0117 975 9568. Thank you.

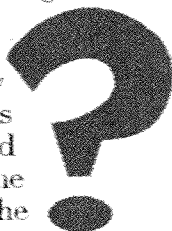
John Dimmer

In his letter *John* referred to "the company rally" which, as you will see, I have corrected because the Club does most of the organisation of the rally itself, the Company supports us with various activities and brings along their vehicles to show us. But there would still be a rally even if they were unable to do so.

====ooo000ooo====

A Duetto Question

May I express my thanks to all the members who responded to my request in the April Newsletter for their opinions on the new Symphony. My wife and I are complete newcomers to motor caravanning but have recently attended different shows to compare the various models and chat with owners. My head is still buzzing with tips and advice from the host of very friendly motor caravan owners to whom we spoke at the various venues. Dare I now admit that we have on order a Ford Duetto? Not because of any adverse comments about the Symphony, simply because of personal preference for the cab layout - and a good offer from the vendors! My one reservation is that the standard Ford 2.5 diesel has perhaps less 'oomph' than other varieties. The TB Turbo rep at the Peterborough show suggested that I should wait and see how the Duetto performs first; if I require the extra 'oomph' they could uprate the engine with their turbo/intercooler conversion. Any views from members, please?



Jack Taylor

Jack admits that he is very new to motor caravanning and he is also a new member of the Club. I wonder if he has been a bit bamboozled with figures about the different power plants and hasn't yet realised that we don't really need to travel at the maximum permitted motorway speeds all the time?

====ooo000ooo====

Chairman's Chat.



I thought I would start my life as Chairman with a brief history of my involvement with the club. Although joining in 1991 when *Carol and I* bought our first Auto-Sleeper, we have been involved with the club since it was first conceived as *Carol's* parents are founder members. Our first rally was the A.G.M. at Home Farm Edithmead where the only people we knew were

Rita & Phil (Daley) who were far too busy to spend too much time with us, and we were introduced to *Winifred & Arthur (Irving)*, *Arthur* being briefed on the duties of a Vice-Chairman!

The reason for the brief introduction above is, as I have tried to point out in the past, at the BIC rallies, people may not have the time or opportunity to speak to first timers!

Twelve months later, *Carol* became Secretary of the Club and *Arthur* became Chairman. He did not have a Regalia Officer and, in a moment of weakness, I said to *Arthur* "If it would help, I will look after the Regalia for you". Well, after a big kiss from *Arthur*, I was still looking after the Regalia 12 months later and thought I may as well be nominated for the Committee. Being duly elected, I took on the role of Regalia Officer which also included booking ferries, mainly via Stena Line. The ferry booking, over a three year period was taking up more and more time, so the roles of Regalia Officer and Ferry Booking Officer were divided and I became full time Ferry Booking Officer.

Throughout my time on the committee, *Arthur*, who has served four years as Chairman, has tried on two occasions to groom a Vice-Chairman to take over from him. Both saw the error(?) of their ways and bought a different make of motor caravan and became "Newsletter only" members of the Club!

With the demise of the Ferry Booking Officer's job, when Stena Line no longer dealt with low volume users, I thought I may have been in for a relatively easy life on the Committee. I forgot that I was also Vice-Chairman! At the Committee meeting after the AGM in April 1996, I was proposed and voted in as Chairman. This was after I had pointed out to the Committee that I was still working and could not put the same amount of time into the job that previous, retired, Chairmen had done.

Having said all the above, I willingly accept the responsibilities of the office and will do my best to carry on from all my predecessors. Such was *Arthur's* attention to detail throughout his time as Chairman that the transition from one Chairman to another was merely the changing of signatures for the bank account! (so far!).

Arthur was not going to get away so easily. I did not want to lose his wealth of knowledge and experience, so I proposed he be made Vice-Chairman for the next twelve months to assist me in the things that he has casually dealt with but which I may face with trepidation!

This is my first 'chat' as Chairman, I just hope that *Harry* does not want one every month! (Oh yes he does! - Ed) I am hoping to try and use my space in the Newsletter to interact with everyone in the club and express my views on the ideas that you, the Members, convey to me. My attitude to this job is I am responsible, via the Committee, for looking after the interests of a like minded group of people in the friendliest manner possible.

Remember we are not a business or a profit making company - we are a large group of friends pursuing a similar interest.

Ta Ta for now.

Steve Bowler

====ooo000ooo====

Toilet Cleaning

I feel that I must comment on the letter from *Arthur Irving* (our new Chairman of Vice!) regarding the flushing out of toilet cassettes from drinking water supplies. This is always a problem when a separate wash down area is not provided and is often experienced on some CL type sites. Quite why some folk practice this nasty un-hygienic habit beats me but it is a problem that needs to be redressed urgently! But how? 'Rule 4' if you must, but is there not another way to educated the "unsociable few"? Perhaps more publicity on the subject in the magazines of other clubs, large and small and possibly in the commercial publications (*John Hunt* please note) would help?

We carry a small flat sided 1.5 gallon (if you want that in litres, work it out for yourself!) garden watering can for both flushing out the cassette and filling the flushing water tank. A cheap answer to the problem, easy to store in any van and ideal for the job.

Well done, *Arthur*, for bringing this problem to everyone's notice. But there is another problem and that is will the 'few' actually take note and mend their ways? If not, it's back to Rule 4!

Alan Chennells

I think that the majority of us agree with *Arthur* and *Alan*. However you like to clean your loo from the van when you are at home is entirely up to you. In the kitchen sink, the bath or whatever appeals. But on any site you should respect other folk and not spoil the drinking water - even if you don't think that you are doing it. We carry a simple 2 pint plastic

container which we got with milk at one time. This serves very well for the same jobs as the watering can that *Alan* uses.

====ooo000ooo====

The Annual Dinner and AGM

Just to say "Thank You". The Annual Dinner and AGM was our first rally and we thoroughly enjoyed it. The meal was excellent and we met quite a few new people. An extra special "thank you" to *Ben Mansfield* - Chief Rally Marshal - who kindly helped us to erect our awning onto the side of our camper and then came round later on to see that we had it up OK. We were very grateful for his advice and experience. Our thanks also go to the couple next to us who helped us and gave us the benefit of their experience, making it a very pleasant weekend.

Audrey & Trevor Ray

That's the sort of friendship that this Club is all about!

====ooo000ooo====

The AGM and the Peterborough Rally

We would like to thank the Committee, Rally Organisers, marshals and all of the members who gave up their time to make both rallies very successful and enjoyable. These being only our second and third rallies with ASOC we really enjoyed the friendliness and advice received from other members.

Unfortunately, shortly after arriving at Peterborough, I secured Poppy, our West Highland terrier to the awning side of the van while I proceeded to attach the Silver Screen. An Alsatian bounded past me followed by the lady owner and attacked our dog. Fortunately she managed to get under the van but nevertheless lost tufts of hair and has teeth marks on her side and back. I advised the lady that she should keep her dog on a lead to which she replied "the dog was in the cab".

The rules on all sites are that dogs must be kept on leads. I am sure the lady member will recognise herself from this letter and it is to be hoped that she will adopt a more responsible attitude in future and consider herself lucky that she is not facing expensive veterinary bills.

Again, our thanks to all who helped at both rallies.

Lois & Neil Ward

Forthcoming Rallies.

6th /9th June; Laverock Hall Farm, Flapitt Cross Road, Cullingworth, Keighley, W. Yorks

Your rally marshals: Betty & Andrew Entwistle.

Site fee: £1.50 per night NO Electricity, Green Field Site. Rally fee: &1.50

Own sanitation required. Please arrive with full water tank as the farm relies on spring water and this is a drought area.

Booking slip to: Mr & Mrs A Entwistle, 8 The Dell, Mytholm, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire. HX7 6DP

Telephone: 01422 843057 Cheque payable to: A Entwistle.

Attractions: Brontë Country, Haworth Vicarage near; also Worth Valley Railway, Yorkshire Car Collection in Keighley, Photographic Museum in Bradford, numerous Mill Shops in area plus many good pubs.

Directions: On A629 South of Keighley on Halifax road turn Right at Flappitt Cross Pub junction. The site on Left in ¼ mile. From Hebden Bridge on A6033 go through Oxenhope village to Brow Top crossroads, (just past wind turbine) turn Right onto Brow Top Road; site on Right in ¾ mile.

7th - 9th June; Carrington Caravan Park, Milford-on-Sea, Hants.

Rally marshal: Maureen Torah.

Site fee: £2.50 per night. No electricity. Rally fee: £1.50

Booking slip to: Mrs M Torah, 14 Compton Road, New Milton, Hants. BR25 6EQ.

Telephone: 01425 618320 Cheque payable to: M Torah

Attractions: Level greenfield site with views of the Isle of Wight and Solent. Footpath to beach and village shops. Bus service to Lymington/Christchurch and beyond. Bring your barbecue (and food) for get-together on Saturday evening.

Directions: Turn off A337 Lymington/New Milton road to Milford-on-Sea. Turn by village green and take road towards Keyhaven. Turn right into New Lane approx. 200 yards past Elf Garage. Rally field is on right PAST main entrance to caravan park.

13th - 16th June; Camping & Caravan Club Site, Canterbury, Kent.

Rally marshals: Gordon & Joyce Matthews

Site fee: £6.15 per night. Electricity: £1.65 per night. Rally fee: £1.50

Booking slip to: Gordon Matthews, Garden Cottage, Newnham Lane, Eastling. ME13 0AS

Tel: 01795 890368 Cheque payable to: G Matthews.

Attractions: So much to see and do in historic Canterbury, site only 1½ miles from city centre. Not far from the city you can enjoy the coastal towns of Whitstable (oysters), Herne Bay, Ramsgate, or visit the Eurotunnel exhibition centre near Folkestone, Aspinall Park Zoo, so many more places of interest.

Directions: From the Dover bound A2 take the A2050 turn right at the 5th roundabout then left onto A257. Site on right S.P. Bekesbourne Lane.

21st - 23rd June; Clapper Farm, Flatford Mill, Essex.

Your rally marshals: Stella & Ian Ross

Site fee £3.00 per night. No electricity. Rally fee £1.50

Booking slip to: Mr & Mrs I Ross, 33 Grosvenor Gardens, Upminster, Essex. RM14 1DL.

Telephone: 01708 228075 Cheque payable to: I Ross.

Attractions: Green field site, 600 yard walk on footpath to Flatford Mill (Setting for John Constable's "The Haywain"). Pub Meal Saturday evening now fully booked but plenty of room on rally field.

Directions: Turn Right off A12 (Colchester - Ipswich) onto B1070 (East Burgholt), follow signs for Flatford : at One-Way Road sign turn Left into farm.

New Rally. First announcement:

27th -30th June; Black Bull C.P., Malton Road, Pickering, N. Yorks

Your rally marshals: Vera & Brian McLean.

Site fee £3.50 per night. No electricity Rally fee: £1.50

Booking slip to: Mr & Mrs B McLean, 47 Westlands Road, Sproatley, Hull, North Humberside. HU11 4XG

Telephone: 01482 813791 Cheques payable to: B McLean

Attractions: Pleasant rally field, Toilets, Sghhowers (20p), dog walk. Pickering a mile or so distant, Eden Camp and North Yorks Steam Railway. Reasonably priced meals available at the Pub on-site.

Directions: From York take A64 towards Malton, turn left onto A169 for Pickering. Site on left behind the Pub.

28th - 30th June; Guildford/Godalming Rugby Ground.

Rally marshals: Sylvia & Al Gatehouse.

Site fee: £5.00 per night. No Electricity. Rally fee: £1.50

Booking slip to: Mrs S Gatehouse, 21, Eashing Lane, Godalming, Surrey. GU7 2JZ

Tel. No: 01483 422620. Cheques payable to Mrs S Gatehouse

Attractions: Lake & Sports Centre (indoor pool/tennis) adjacent; on local bus route; River Wey & tow path to Guildford/Godalming close by. Two-Hour Boat Trip on River Wey Saturday 4.30pm @ £5.00 per person. Supper in Club House Saturday evening @ £6.25 per head if sufficient interest. Please indicate numbers for both boat trip and/or meal when booking. Toilet facilities.

Directions: From South: A3 Northbound, turn Left at slip road signposted A3100, Milford/Godalming. Follow main road and Broadwater Lake with adjacent rugby ground is on Left just past the Manor Inn. From North: A3 Southbound, turn Left at slip road signposted B3000, Compton/Godalming. Follow straight through to roundabout, turn Right and rugby ground is on Right opposite Citroen garage.

Maximum 30 vans.

4th - 7th July; Bass Meadows, Meadow Road, Burton-on-Trent (Home of Brewing).

Your rally marshals: Tricia & Ted Pratt, Telephone (01283) 538818 with the help of John & Barbara Cox, Telephone (01283) 712394.

Site fee: £2.50 per night. No electricity. Rally Fee: £2.00

Booking slip to: P M Pratt, 3 Grafton Road, Stapenhill, Burton-upon-Trent, Staffs. DE15 9DN

Cheque payable to: P M Pratt.

Attractions: Meal Saturday evening £2.50 pay with booking slip. (bring your own glass!!).

Walkable distance to Bass Museum (reduced entrance), Town Centre, Super Bowl, Leisure Centre, many local attractions including many PUBS!!!

Directions:- Site situated down Meadow Road, which is on the Trent Bridge in Burton, on Leicester to Uttoxeter Road (A50). The turning off the bridge into Meadow Road is a tight concealed entrance by Hotel sign.

Limited 50 vans

You may arrive Thursday after 12 noon.

Rally: Date:

Your name and address (please PRINT)

..... Post code

Membership No: Phone No: Van Reg:

Day/Time of arrival

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

Name Phone:

Please complete both sides of the form!

Rally: Date:

Your name and address (please PRINT)

..... Post code

Membership No: Phone No: Van Reg:

Day/Time of arrival

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

Name Phone:

Please complete both sides of the form!

Rally: Date:

Your name and address (please PRINT)

..... Post code

Membership No: Phone No: Van Reg:

Day/Time of arrival

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

Name Phone:

Please complete both sides of the form!

Is this your first A-S O C rally? Please tick box YES NO

Number of people in your van: Adults Children

Extras: Please indicate which you would like, if available:

Electricity: Yes No Saturday night meal if any: Yes No

Have you any special needs? Yes No If 'Yes', please specify:-

Payment MUST accompany this slip - cheques payable to marshal.

POST FORM TO REACH MARSHAL 10 DAYS BEFORE EVENT, IF POSSIBLE - PLEASE!

✂

Is this your first A-S O C rally? Please tick box YES NO

Number of people in your van: Adults Children

Extras: Please indicate which you would like, if available:

Electricity: Yes No Saturday night meal if any: Yes No

Have you any special needs? Yes No If 'Yes', please specify:-

Payment MUST accompany this slip - cheques payable to marshal.

POST FORM TO REACH MARSHAL 10 DAYS BEFORE EVENT, IF POSSIBLE - PLEASE!

✂

Is this your first A-S O C rally? Please tick box YES NO

Number of people in your van: Adults Children

Extras: Please indicate which you would like, if available:

Electricity: Yes No Saturday night meal if any: Yes No

Have you any special needs? Yes No If 'Yes', please specify:-

Payment MUST accompany this slip - cheques payable to marshal.

POST FORM TO REACH MARSHAL 10 DAYS BEFORE EVENT, IF POSSIBLE - PLEASE!

Rally: Date:

Your name and address (please PRINT)

..... Post code

Membership No: Phone No: Van Reg:

Day/Time of arrival

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

Name Phone:

Please complete both sides of the form!

Rally: Date:

Your name and address (please PRINT)

..... Post code

Membership No: Phone No: Van Reg:

Day/Time of arrival

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

Name Phone:

Please complete both sides of the form!

Rally: Date:

Your name and address (please PRINT)

..... Post code

Membership No: Phone No: Van Reg:

Day/Time of arrival

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

Name Phone:

Please complete both sides of the form!

Is this your first A-S O C rally? Please tick box YES NO

Number of people in your van: Adults Children

Extras: Please indicate which you would like, **if available**:

Electricity: Yes No Saturday night meal if any: Yes No

Have you any special needs? Yes No If 'Yes', please specify:-

.....
Payment **MUST** accompany this slip - cheques payable to marshal.

POST FORM TO REACH MARSHAL 10 DAYS BEFORE EVENT, IF POSSIBLE - PLEASE!



Is this your first A-S O C rally? Please tick box YES NO

Number of people in your van: Adults Children

Extras: Please indicate which you would like, **if available**:

Electricity: Yes No Saturday night meal if any: Yes No

Have you any special needs? Yes No If 'Yes', please specify:-

.....
Payment **MUST** accompany this slip - cheques payable to marshal.

POST FORM TO REACH MARSHAL 10 DAYS BEFORE EVENT, IF POSSIBLE - PLEASE!



Is this your first A-S O C rally? Please tick box YES NO

Number of people in your van: Adults Children

Extras: Please indicate which you would like, **if available**:

Electricity: Yes No Saturday night meal if any: Yes No

Have you any special needs? Yes No If 'Yes', please specify:-

.....
Payment **MUST** accompany this slip - cheques payable to marshal.

POST FORM TO REACH MARSHAL 10 DAYS BEFORE EVENT, IF POSSIBLE - PLEASE!

12th - 14th July; Club & Company Rally,
Three Counties Show Ground, Malvern.

Different this year - Bigger, Better, Cheaper!

Booking form sent with May Newsletter. Spare copies from: Mrs J Claxton, Flat 13 Albany Mansions, Upper Maze Hill, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex. TN38 0YD

19th/21st July; Abbey Gate College, Saughton Grange, Saughton, Chester.

Rally Marshals: Duncan & Jean Ellis.

Site fees: £4.00 per night. NO Electricity. Rally fee: £1.50

Booking slip to: Mr & Mrs D Ellis, 6 Tudor Close, Shotton, Deeside, Flintshire. CH5 1NY

Tel: 01244 812761 Cheque payable to: D Ellis

Saturday evening meal can be arranged, approx. £3 per head, if there is sufficient interest.

Directions: *From the North:* M6, M56, M53, signposted Whitchurch, take A41. In approx. 2½ miles, after entering Waverton, turn right for Saughton. Beware humpback bridge. Carry on through village, right then left hand bends, down hill. Gates on left.

From the South: A41 Whitchurch to Chester. After entering Waverton turn left at Black Dog; at T-junction left over bridge, then as above.

On entering College grounds, over cattle grid, please observe speed limit of 5 mph.

Limited to 35 vans

25th - 28th July; Square & Compass P.H., Normanton-on-Trent, Notts

Your rally marshals: June & Brian Metcalf.

Site fee: £2.00 per night. NO Electricity. Rally fee: £1.50

Booking slip to: Mr & Mrs Metcalf, 76 Chippenham Road, Bestwood Park, Nottingham NG5 5SS

Telephone: 01159 264112. Cheque payable to B Metcalf

Attractions: Water & Elsan point, Toilets during licensed opening hours only. Nice Pub, serving good food and real ale. Coach trip on Saturday to Brownhills then on to Newark (Market Day), approx. cost £1.00 per head - please indicate number of places when booking.

Directions: From North on A1 exit approx. 1 mile South of Markham Moor roundabout, S.P. Sutton-on-Trent/ Normanton-on-Trent and fork immediately Right. In 1½ miles turn Left by farm and small red post box (A-S D C signs), cross level crossing and proceed to village. Site is on left about 200 yards past the Church. From South on A1 exit at Tuxford, signposted Lincoln and Ollerton. At road junction turn Right, under A1 then immediately Right for Sutton/Normanton-on-Trent, then as above.

Limited to 25 vans

New For 1996! A Rally combined with an AIR SHOW!

31st August - 1st Sept. Shoreham Airport Rally, Shoreham, Sussex.

Rally marshals: Evelyn & Barry Loveland.

No site fee. Air Show charges, in advance: Adults £4.50 each per day, Children £2.00 each per day.

Rally fee: £1.50. No electricity, no showers.

Booking slip to: Mr & Mrs A Fowler, 130 The Gardens, Southwick, Sussex. BN42 4AQ

Telephone: 01273 594479 EARLY BOOKING ESSENTIAL.

Cheques payable to: A N Fowler.

Attractions: Two-day Air Show, with ground entertainment. Event run in aid of Royal Air Force Association to which all proceeds will go.

Directions: On A27 between Worthing and Brighton. Leave A27 at Shoreham Airport (opposite Sussex Pad Hotel) at traffic lights, proceed onto airport. This is the only entrance for motor caravans.

Scottish Rally, 1996

1st - 8th October. Dingwall Camping & Caravan Club Site, 15 miles North of Inverness.

Rally marshals: Betty & Geoff Scholey.

Site fee for 7 nights - Tuesday to Monday, £50, or for the over 60s, £42 including electricity for 2 persons. Early booking essential to enable firm reservations to be made. We have provisionally spoken of 25 places.

Please send rally slip with a stamped, addressed envelope and rally fee of £2.50 to:-

Mr Geoff Scholey, 4 Broughton Fold, Grassington, SKIPTON, North Yorks. BD23 5AL

For further information phone Geoff or Betty on 01756 752303

We shall organise a programme of events for those wishing to take part. The site is only 5 minute walk into town.

Rally Coordinator:-	Bob Brindle	01777 711588	(Retford, Notts)
Local assistants:	Jerry Haxton	01483 223476	(Woking, Surrey)
	Stella Ross	01708 228075	(Upminster, Essex)
	Jeff Worley	01935 24049	Yeovil, Somerset)

The Rally Supplement is prepared by Phil Daley, 46 Ulverley Green Road, Solihull, West Midlands. B92 8BQ. Telephone: 0121 706 1816

Any pet which is either outside or able to get out of the van should be on a lead. Even our cat, who at 19 years old is unlikely to be a menace to anyone, is on a lead whenever the van door is open.

-----ooo000ooo-----

The Dutch Bulb Fields Rally

Having heard several complaints about rallies I would appreciate it if the following could be included in the Newsletter. Being one of those members of the Club who generally only attends the AGM and the Club and Company rallies it was great to be a member of the second Dutch Bulb Fields Rally.

The organisation by *Winifred and Arthur Irving* was ideal in that the organisation was minimal but effective. The information was ideal (if you got lost, as I did, it was through not reading *Arthur's* notes properly - that's the trouble with joined-up writing!).

The weather was great the company of other ralliers was perfect. Congratulations to *Winifred and Arthur* for their work and thanks to all the other members who attended for their company.

Colin & Audrey Terry

-----ooo000ooo-----

THE SCOTTISH RALLY

Please note that this rally in October is now **Fully Booked**. I originally reserved 25 places but was able later to increase this to 40, all of which have now been taken. Thanks to all the members for their early booking which has made the job so much easier. Everyone who booked before 14th May 96 are definitely on the rally.

Betty and I are once again going to be at the Los Gallardos camp site in February 1997 and invite any members in the area at the time to join us if they wish. Last winter about 25 vans joined us and we had a lot of fun. A similar number have indicated that they may be there next year so we are hoping again for the sun and fun.

Betty & Geoff Scholey

-----ooo000ooo-----

FIREWORKS RALLY

There will be another Fireworks Rally at Eastham Hall C.P. from 30th October to 3rd November 1996. We shall be having a trip to the theatre in Blackpool to see Darren Day in "Summer Holiday". Tickets will be £12.50 each. The money has to be paid by the middle of August so anyone who wants to go to the theatre can either send me the money or give it to me at the Club and Company Rally.

Please do not send rally money - just the cash for the theatre tickets
Barbara Kaye

PS. Who wants to think of fireworks in the middle of May??

====ooo000ooo=====

Club and Company Rally

Don't forget this rally which promises to be the best ever in terms of entertainment. You can still book, through *Jackie Claxton*, using the form provided with last month's Newsletter. The organising sub-committee invite all members to help with the running of the rally by volunteering to assist in the varying ways. Please complete the appropriate part(s) of the form you received and return it to *Jackie* with the booking form. She will then pass on your offer of help as appropriate.

Camping will be available on the Sunday night, 14th July, at only £4.50 per van but this must be pre-booked.

THERE ARE NO ELECTRIC HOOK-UPS. Charging points are available for Members with electrically propelled wheel-chairs. Club members who wish to come as Day Visitors, on Saturday ONLY, are very welcome and do not need to pre-book. Admission will be from 10.00 am to 7.00 pm and the charge is £3.00 per adult and £1.00 for children under 15 years of age. Day visitors **MUST** enter by the **BROWN GATE**.

There will be a parachute drop on Friday evening to bring in the ASOC and Company flags. This will be followed by the official welcome and the usual quiz. Afterwards we can all enjoy an evening of entertainment. A raffle will be held during the weekend with the proceeds going to Club funds. On Friday afternoon and Saturday morning there will be the usual Club stalls, Books, Bottles, Bric-a-brac and Cakes. The proceeds from these stalls, the quiz and the Cake Auction will be donated to our chosen charity, the Alzheimer's Disease

Society. Your donations will be welcome for the stalls and the raffle, but NOT before 2.00 pm on Friday, please. The Club Shop, for Regalia, will be open during the weekend and there will be many Traders present displaying their wares. The hobby stalls will be open during Saturday for you to see how clever many of your fellow members are! Auto-Sleepers will have their usual collection of New Vehicles for your inspection and their very popular shop will be open all day on Saturday but Sunday morning ONLY. They will NOT be open on Friday at all!

Saturday will be a great day for entertainment. There will be the Malvern Brass Band and the Eureka Jazz Band around. You can enjoy the miniature railway, a dog obedience display and a Shetland pony event. The sky will be the setting for low level aerobatics flying. In the evening the entertainment will be by "Der Bier Barons", Britam's No.1 Bavarian Showband. There will be a bar and food available.

On Sunday morning our inter-denominational service will be led by the Salvation Army Band from Malvern. This will be followed by the cheque presentation.

If you are coming to Malvern, please do NOT embarrass Auto-Sleepers Limited by turning up at the factory without prior arrangement either before or after the rally.

See you there?

Brian Hooton

Chairman, Organising Sub-committee.

-----oooOoo-----

Clubman GL Observations

Just two points which could be of interest to other Clubman owners.

1. If sleeping arrangements are for single beds, it is advisable to check under the nearside bed for condensation. I found, by accident, that the bed was very damp when I lifted the mattress. In an attempt to cure the problem, I have made plywood bases with two inch breathing holes at 12" intervals and have fitted them over the original base with a 1/4" space between. This definitely helps the bed to breathe but it is not a complete cure. I suspect a cold current of air is entering the van behind the bed. Any ideas from members for removing the bed base easily for



investigating the problem will be appreciated.

2. I have always been disappointed with the performance of our Fanmaster blown air heating and the difficulty of lighting the Carver heater. So I decided to spend £50.00 and convert the heater to electronic ignition. This involved removing the wardrobe base where I found the Fanmaster problem. The ducting which supplies the heat to the toilet/shower room had an open end as the bung was missing. No wonder the wardrobe was always nice and warm!

Bryan Orchard

The cold air behind the nearside bed is a known problem. It arises because the fridge needs a fair amount of ventilation and the edge of the bed base is cut back to allow various cables through. We have done a bit of work to ours by removing the rearmost drawer (a job in itself!) and then I got *Sheila* to wriggle into the space to insert some roof insulation into the gap. This has helped, but if anyone knows an easy way to remove the bed base to get at the offending area, I shall be pleased to learn it too!

---===ooo000ooo===---

Bed Comfort

We are anxious to hear from any members who may have found that the beds in their motor caravans are uncomfortable - and what they have done to remedy the problem. we have a 1991 Sportsman and no matter what we do with the cushions we just cannot seem to make up a bed without hard ridges in it.

Eileen & Michael O'Connell

These are very new members of the Club so please try to help them. I know that many people have got a form of thin mattress, commonly used by tent campers, which they lay over the bed for greater comfort.

---===ooo000ooo===---

Islanders and Hoses

I never expected to write, even once, let alone three times, when we decided to join the ASOC. However, we are very glad that we did join and still look forward to the magazine with the tales, information and humour in it.

There must be many A-S conversions in the island and *Maureen*

and I do keep a watchful eye for them. We do see them quite frequently but seldom have an opportunity to chat with the owners because they are always on the move. We even followed one across the island recently as we went to the west. We hoped that they would stop before we had to turn off. Alas! No luck. There is another van round the corner from us in the front of their house and we still haven't seen the owners when passing. I often wonder if there are other Jersey members and think that it would be a good idea if we locals could get together.

Why I am really writing is to ask for a little information, if it is available through someone. Whilst on the Continent, some time during the last two summers, I caught a glimpse of someone winding in a soft, flat, flexible hose which had been used for topping up a camper water tank. It was being wound onto a very small reel and seemed ideally compact, light and convenient. Two well-known Mainland firms do sell them via local stores but we find them either heavy and awkward to use or not very efficient. Partly because the flat plastic is too stiff to open out unless the water pressure is very high. Hoselock also make a very compact ideal hose but it is not suitable for drinking water. When I telephoned, the manager confirmed that it should not be used for such a purpose. It is only to be used for watering gardens or washing and is, presumably, toxic. Does any member know where to obtain a small portable hose or a length of the type being sought? Perhaps someone could write or phone.

Finally, if I remember correctly, there was some talk a while ago about the possibility of making the magazine rather more glossy. We would express the opinion that it would be a great pity as the friendly, personal touch could be lost. Such a change isn't necessary.

Harry Aubin

If you can help with the hose question, the telephone number is 0153 485 1475 and the address is Le Petit Jardin, Poplar Close, St.Saviour, Jersey, Channel Islands, JE2 7JP - and if you live in/on the island, why not give *Harry* a bell and have a chat?

We use the Hoselock reel to fill the water tank but we carry a separate, 6 pint (or whatever the litre-age is) ex-milk plastic carton for the drinking water. I don't think that the hose is toxic but it possibly isn't as "clean" as, say, brewers hose.

====oooOOOooo====

From the Factory

I thought that you might like to know a little of how the sales team, Steve Cant and myself, occupy our time.

Between us we visit our twenty four dealers, covering the North of Scotland to Cornwall, on a regular basis which is about five or six times a year. During these visits we discuss with the dealers the state of the market, any problems they might have obtaining new forward orders and generally maintaining contact which cannot satisfactorily be carried out on the telephone or fax.

We support the dealers at their open weekends and local shows, plus any national show they might attend. This now adds up to approximately 33 shows per year. On top of this we, Auto-Sleepers, organise and run the two national shows; Earls Court in October this year and at the N.E.C. in February next year.

To organise Earls Court. This starts in April when we are allocated stand space. Following this we seek tenders from stand builders, which encompasses carpet laying, electrical work and florists. A plan is forwarded on how many motor caravans we can position in our allocated space - ensuring that there is ample space between vehicles. We plan the position of the vehicles on a scale map and occasionally, if we are to have a new stand layout, we position all the vehicles in a marked out area in the Orchard Works.

On the Sunday prior to the show, Steve and I arrive at Earls Court at midnight to await our delivery company. They arrive with three transporters carrying the first load - usually eight vehicles. These are unloaded in the ground floor of the hall as no unloading is allowed outside because of any noise which could disturb the sleeping neighbours. The transporters then return to Willersey for the second load. Meanwhile at 4.00 am the lift opens so that we can position the first eight vehicles on the stand. At about 8.30 am the second load arrives and these too are lifted to the upper floor. So there we are with about fourteen vehicles parked on a bare piece of concrete in Earls Court.

Normally at about 8.00 am the carpet fitters arrive to lay the carpet tiles. If everything goes according to plan the stand fitters arrive at 9.00 am and unload all of the fittings and structures which enable the stand to be built. We have assistance from their factory to help clean and

prepare the vans. This takes two or three days. We usually have problems in getting the electrics wired up. They are becoming more and more complex and the electricians more and more difficult to find - and tea breaks and meals seem to take forever.

On the afternoon prior to the show *Anthony Trevelyan* arrives and we hope that everything is to his liking - touch wood we have never had to move a vehicle yet! On the Friday morning the doors open and the public arrived. We have our fingers crossed and we hope for a successful show - it usually is!

Tony Johnson

One can easily imagine the frantic endeavours of everyone getting things done in time - and the equally frantic attempts during the show to polish off little whosits jammy finger-marks!

-----ooo000ooo-----

Los Gallardos

Members who were at Los Gallardos in Spain last February may remember that *Phyllis* gashed her shin. The wound required 16 stitches to close it. You may be interested to learn that the magic form E.111 removed all barriers in the four Spanish hospitals we visited for ongoing treatment on our route home. The staff in each were very helpful. At Pamplona Hospital 12 Doctors held a debate around 'the leg' to decide on the treatment required. Now after ten weeks the leg is almost healed.

Our advice to all travellers would be to have available several photo-copies of the Form E.111.

Eoin McCallum

It seems as though many different events occurred at this gathering - and it wasn't even an official rally!

-----ooo000ooo-----



WANTED

Will you please put the following in the Newsletter. Marie & Pete (I have neither address nor surname - I expect they were wise not to give them to dodgy ASOC types!) are anxious to get hold of an Omega. It seems that very few were made and consequently they are hard to come by. If anyone has one which they are thinking of replacing,

Marie & Pete are from the Cannock area and their telephone number is 0154 327 0851 and may well be in the market.

Mary Colling
#####

If anyone wants to sell a "C", "D" or "E" reg Bedford Sportsman, which must be in good condition, please get in touch with Elizabeth Allen on 0141 334 9537 or write to her at Kings Gate, 37 Victoria Crescent Road, Glasgow, G12 9DD

#####

I wonder if any Club member can help us. We have lost a wheel trim from our Legend on the Ford Transit base which was first registered in 1984. It is a white plastic trim 14" in diameter. I am informed by A-S that this is now a discontinued line. If anyone can help, please telephone Lyn & Peter Jones on 0179 240 4136 or write to 15 Belle Vue Road, West Cross, Swansea, SA35 5QA.

#####

~~We have just sold our CX200 and are looking for a Clubman GL on the VW T4 chassis. If anyone has one available, please telephone Edna & Roy Edwards on 0192 087 7777 or write to 36 St Margarets Road, Stanstead Abbots, Ware, Herts., SG12 8EP~~

BOUGHT!

~~(I have told them about the one mentioned a bit later on Ed)~~

====00000000====

FOR SALE



Silver Screen, insulated. For VW T4 motor caravan. £45.00. Also Back-Box for motor caravan; we fixed to bike rack. £125.00. Please telephone Pat Tyler on 0190 324 0477 and leave a message or write to Mrs Pat Tyler, Burcroft, 47a Wallace Avenue, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 5QD

#####

Suzuki generator SE 700A. Little used. Cost £420.00 - for sale at £275.00. Fiamma PROC 3 bike rack. All fittings. Cost new August 1995 £150.00. For sale at £80.00. Car roof box by Karrite. 420 litres

capacity. Approx. 3' x 3'. Lockable. Cost £130.00 - sale price £50.00. telephone Jack Lister on 0163 423 5161 or write to him at 145 Wigmore Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 0TH

#####

Wonderful opportunity for someone to acquire the most popular SV100 Bedford. In very good order. Taxed to January 1997. New MOT. 54,500 miles. Many extras including roof rack and ladder, overbed lights, auxiliary battery, split charger, two spare wheels, spots, badge bar, rear courtesy light, radio/cassette etc. Usual excellent Auto-Sleeper furniture, Carver heater, Vaillant water heater. Alarm and immobiliser. Bargain at £7,000.00. Illness forces very reluctant sale. Len Baldwin, "Seaheights", Sandyhill Road, Saundersfoot, Pembrokeshire, Dyfed, SA69 9PL or telephone 0183 481 3477

Thanks for the donation

#####

~~Clubman GL, 2.4 litre VW Diesel, 1993. 16,000 miles, 2 berth. Superb condition. Many extras including CD, Alarm, Bike rack. One careful owner. Non-smokers, no pets. Serviced by VW agents. Leg problem requires move to automatic transmission. £21,950.00. Telephone Pauline and Peter Shaw on 0159 067 3392 or write to them at Monk's Lantern, 8 Fairfield Close, Lymington, Hants., SO41 3NP.~~

Thanks for the donation

#####

Eurovent Autochalet free-standing awning. Burgundy/Grey. 10' x 7' ground area. Used successfully on Trooper, Trident and Topaz with the deep plastic rain guttering. £150.00. Telephone Jim Allen on 0178 274 4000 or write to him at 13 Wallis Way, Baddeley Green, Stoke on Trent, ST2 7JG.

Thanks for the donation

#####

Peugeot Workshop manual for 1990-2 Peugeot-Talbot Express, petrol and diesel, van. Unused. Cost £47.00. Sale price £25.00 including postage. Please ring John Alcock on 0153 943 2819 or write to him at 6 Ghyllside, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 0QU.

#####

And that's it for another month. I'm getting a bit short of items "on the spike" so if you have any odds and ends, please write them down and send them to me. Any subject, any (reasonable) length will do. Don't worry, I can always edit things. Please remember also that the closing date for items for the July Newsletter is 10th June and **NO LATER**, because *Sheila and I* want to have a holiday. Heading west to Aberga-wotsit and then to Llan-thingummy and elsewhere. But we've got a rally to run first! So if its holiday time for you, enjoy yourselves. Drive safely and **PLEASE** don't get involved with so-called "Road Rage".

Your Editor
 Harry Henthorne
 144 Devonshire Hill Lane
 London, N17 7NH
 Tel: 0181 808 9112

Any item appearing in this Newsletter may be freely used by other publications. Please acknowledge both Author and Source.

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.

Committee Members:

Steve Bowler	Chairman	0129 568 0279
Bob Brindle	Rally Co-ordinator	0177 771 1588
John Cox	Vice-President	0128 371 2394
Rita Daley	Vice-President	0121 706 1816
Philip Daley	Vice-President	0121 706 1816
Andrew Entwistle	Vice-Chairman & Joint Chairman, AGM Sub-Committee	0142 284 3057
Sheila Henthorne	Club Secretary and Membership Secretary	0181 808 9112
Harry Henthorne	Newsletter Editor	0181 808 9112
Brian Hooton	Chairman, C&C Sub-Committee	0123 576 4782
Arthur Irving	Vice-Chairman & Joint Chairman, AGM Sub-Committee	0114 236 5698
Ben Mansfield	Chief Marshal	0172 336 9769
Nial Reynolds	Public Relations Officer	0185 843 2811
Ian Ross	Regalia Officer	0170 822 8075
Janet Sutterby	Minutes Secretary	0150 746 2449
John Tidbury	Treasurer	0123 552 5730
Charles Trevelyan	President	0138 685 3338