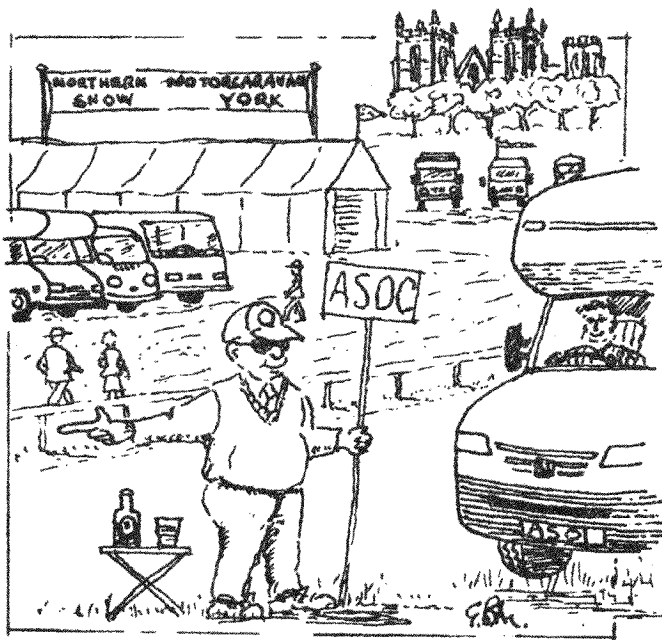




AUTO-SLEEPER
OWNERS' CLUB

Newsletter



No. 156

September 2001

Making waves

HO HUM... Every club suffers from it from time to time - that little group of discontented members who won't accept Committee decisions and who then go on to try to stir up opposition. Members are, of course, entitled to differ from the Committee but, having made their case and not persuaded it to take the line they want, they should accept the decision, especially if the Committee has suggested an alternative. What they are not entitled to do is conduct a campaign attacking the Committee as a whole and individual members of it, especially if the points at issue are minor. Not only is that childish and wrong-headed but, if carried very far, can threaten the existence of any Club.

The Committee is elected to look after the interests of the Club as a whole and of its members. It makes considerable efforts to find out what members want and to be responsive to suggestions. However that doesn't mean it should listen only to those who shout loudest, or be blown off course by them - after all, it is the Committee that bears the responsibility and has to satisfy the wider considerations. Everything referred to the Committee has to be, and is, considered on its merits, with decisions being reached without fear or favour for the benefit of the majority.

Members of a Club like ASOC want it to be run as smoothly as possible. They rightly assume that that is what the Committee tries to do to the best of its ability. Members do not thank those who make waves over matters of little importance and will call them to account. We do not want this Club, of which we are all proud, to become a football for those with axes to grind (if you'll forgive the mixed metaphor). Nor do we want it to provide a political platform for those whose object might be seen as less to serve the Club than to achieve their own ends.

WHETHER OR NOT the Club should become a Company Limited by Guarantee is generating a fair amount of correspondence. We publish excerpts from more letters again this month, but assure all who have written that every letter is being forwarded to Ray Whiley, our Chairman, whether or not there is space for it in *ASOC Newsletter*.

Ian Day

What a year!

The Club and Company rally has been and gone, and we are now into the last few rallies of the year. This year has been one I would rather forget as members' worries over VAT, combined with the effects of the Foot and Mouth outbreak have all conspired to decimate the rally calendar. Of course our sympathy goes to the farming community and all the others who have suffered this year, but as the situation appears to be improving I hope that by 2002 we will be able to enjoy a full programme of rallies again.

As far as VAT is concerned, you will no doubt have seen the article in the August Newsletter from Jeanne and Mike Hall pointing out that they, as new marshals this year, enjoyed running their rally and found no problem with VAT. I hope that members take note of this and we will have more people coming forward to offer to run rallies next year.

At the moment I am compiling the provisional rally list for 2002, which will be sent to members with January's *ASOC Newsletter*. If you are thinking about the possibility of running a rally next year, please contact me as soon as possible. I will need dates for next year's rallies by the end of November 2001 if they are to be included in the provisional list. If you arrange further rallies after November, although they won't be in the provisional list, they will be publicised in the Newsletter as they arise.

Talking about rallies, I would like to leave you with an account of what happened at a rally some years ago. The rally was held on a field at the back of a pub, and on the Saturday evening the ralliers met in the pub for a meal and a chat. As the evening progressed the laughter from the group got louder and attracted the attention of some of the local lads who were in the bar next door. Being curious they popped their heads around the door and were obviously surprised when they saw the source of the hilarity. They then went back to the bar and commented to the landlord that they hadn't realised that 'old fogies' could enjoy themselves so much. But, as we know, enjoyment is what rallies are all about - so if you haven't yet experienced a rally, why not give one a go next year?

Neil Rogers

New Amethysts from Auto-Sleepers

JUST ANNOUNCED, the replacement Amethyst on the new Ford Transit chassis comes in two models, has new curvaceous furniture and a high level of insulation, including a 40mm-thick bonded construction floor.

The familiar four-seater dinette on the offside with the long settee-cum-daybed, rear kitchen and toilet are retained in the standard model, but in the 'SL' variant, the dinette is replaced by an L-shaped seating area.

The kitchen features a four burner hob integrated into a full height tower unit, a 77-litre fridge with full-width freezer and hot water system. Familiar fittings include blown-air heating, but a bespoke TV area, removable carpets laid on a vinyl floor, and an awning lamp are new. The electric rear step returns, and there is a choice of blue or green in the colour co-ordinated furnishings.

Using Ford's 2.5 Di Turbo Intercooled diesel engine, which develops 120 PS, the new Amethysts should prove attractive, not only to owners of the existing model, but also to members trading up. Unfortunately the advance information supplied to us did not include prices.

From the Club and Company Sub-committee Chairman

Club and Country Ruby rally

MAY I THANK everyone who worked so hard to make this year's Club and Company Ruby rally such a success? The main idea of this rally is for Club members and Company staff and their families to have a particularly enjoyable and entertaining weekend in convivial surroundings. I think we succeeded in that.

The secondary aim is that we raise funds for charities. The main charity is selected from nominations from members and the guidelines are that it should be a lesser-known national charity that has benefited a member or close relation. This year's successful charity was the Urostomy Association and £3085.68 was handed to their National Fundraiser, Peter Hundley. A further £600 was donated to Stress in the Country-side, the Three Counties' charity for this year, and £200 to top up their

normal fee to St. John Ambulance. In addition there was a substantial offering made to the Salvation Army at Sunday's service. Well done, everyone.

If anyone has 6 x 4 inch rally photographs they are willing to donate to the photographic archives, could you please send them to me at 18 Greenwood Close, Fareham, Hants PO16 7UF.

For your diaries: Next year's Club and Company rally will be held from 12 to 14 July 2002.

Baz Wellard

Charity thanks

OUR CHAIRMAN, Ray Whiley, has received this letter:

'Would you please accept our warmest thanks for selecting our nomination for the Club and Company charity donation to the Urostomy Association. We are both so pleased and proud of the members of ASOC. The generosity and interest shown by them was overwhelming.

'Words cannot describe the feelings and emotions we had when the cheque was presented to the representative of the Urostomy Association. The donation will, we know, be used wisely on the new research programme set up by the Association. We thank you all.

- Ena and Roy Coleman.'



In addition, the Chairman of the Club and Company Sub-Committee, Baz Wellard, has received a letter from the Urostomy Association's National Fundraising Officer, part of which reads:

'Please convey to all that we are eternally appreciative of all that was accomplished on our behalf and assure you that the memories of such a fantastic weekend will be never forgotten. The most generous and magnificent amount donated by you and all your wonderful members to our charity has so overwhelmed us that I find it impossible to express in words the immense feelings that are still encompassing me.

- Peter D. Hundley.'

Pam says 'Thanks'

PAM HADLEY, of Auto-Sleepers, to whom a presentation was made on behalf of the Club at the Club and Company rally by our Chairman, Ray Whiley, has written to him:

'Thank you so much for the vase and really lovely flowers you gave me on Saturday evening at Malvern. Bill, my husband, knows the way to my heart is with flowers and you all certainly got to my heart. You are such lovely people and I am proud to be part of you all through Auto-Sleepers. My best wishes and again a big thank you.'

Photographic competition

A STAGGERING NINETY-FOUR ENTRIES were received for this year's photographic competition. Not only did it show that we have a lot of talent in the Club, but the display gave enormous pleasure, interest and amusement the whole weekend, largely thanks to Jim Henwood who gave it a prominent place in the Avon Hall at the Club and Company rally.

Well-deserved congratulations go to all this year's winners and thanks to everyone who entered:

General category

- First (£30): Bob and Glenice Brooks with 'Two hearts beat as one'
- Second (£20): Barbara Potter with 'Our pots of gold'
- Third (£10): Pauline Hignett with 'Arran in a shady nook'

Humorous category

- First (£15): Geoff and Anne Bowen with 'Your turn to put out the light'
- Second (£10): Diane Kisby with 'These ASOC rallies are really good'
- Third (£5): Liz Morgan with 'Carry on awning'

Please keep snapping. This competition is becoming an institution and is well worth everyone's effort. When displayed with others, even the most ordinary snap can look good. As each year has been better than those before, next year's should be tremendous.

Pam Davies

Cake competition

THIRTY-FOUR ENTRIES made the first cake competition at the Club and Company rally a great success. The standard was so high that the judges had a very difficult job choosing the winners. First prize went to Sheila Hunt, second to Letitia Keenan and third to Roy Pethers.

After judging all entries were taken to the cake stall, where they were rapidly sold, with the takings helping boost the weekend's charity donation. Our thanks to the three judges and to all who donated cakes.

Stella Ross

Club and Company comments

What a super rally at Malvern - the rain didn't spoil it and there was something for everyone. The food was very good, the dance bands, too. And as for the entertainment throughout the day, it was sometimes hard to decide where to go next. It was great that events were repeated so that we had plenty of opportunities. Thanks a million to all concerned. We had a lovely time and even managed to buy a St George's flag to fly on the van.

Don and Jeannette Cadney



I AM WRITING to say how disappointed I was with the recent Club and Company rally at Malvern. I've been to numerous events and rallies for quite a number of years with different organisations and felt this one was a giant flop, particularly after being told what to expect from existing members who attended previous Club and Company rallies.

'No arrivals before 10am' on Friday, so I thought if this was anything like the Peterborough show, I wouldn't get there until the early afternoon, rather than join an endless queue. Arriving after three pm I was disgusted to find that the rally opened and events started at noon. This I found most unacceptable on the day of arrival. At most other events I've been to time is given for members to settle in, erect awnings, etc. Sometimes there are events and entertainment that same evening, but mostly the rally and events start the following day.

We waited over half an hour for the opening ceremony, due at 6.45 pm on Friday, but became so fed up with waiting we walked out and missed it. It seemed everyone was more interested in the quiz.

As for the so-called trade area, two words come to mind: appalling and pathetic. I had been told, too, what the stores shop would be like, but on my visit on Saturday there was little left in the way of timber or items I'd have liked to purchase.

I think my membership of ASOC will be a short one after our first Club and Company experience, unless changes are made.

Frank Briggs



WE WOULD LIKE to record our thanks to the Committee, the Company and all the many helpers whose efforts made the Club and Company rally such an enjoyable occasion yet again.

We would also like to suggest that the Committee should not feel that they must strive to make each rally even better than the previous one - it is *always* a great occasion and a splendid weekend. Please don't risk 'bursting the bubble'.

Rosemary and Alan Jones



IT WAS WITH GREAT EXPECTATIONS that we arrived at the Malvern Showground. We were met at the gate by a Club marshal, then directed to our pitch. Yes, this looked good - Baz and his team had, as usual, done a brilliant job organising the Club side of the rally.

But what happened to the Company's Ruby Anniversary celebrations? We were led to believe that this year was to be something special. Compared to the last two years, this year was a bit of a disappointment. Poor band (compared to the Royal Marines), no fireworks - in fact nothing special at all. Come on Auto-Sleepers, you could have done better than this.

This is not just the whinging of one, but the feelings of many Club members who attended.

David and Maco Bishop

Being a Company

I REALLY CANNOT ALLOW Nial Reynold's letters about Companies Limited by Guarantee (June issue) to go unanswered. I served as secretary of two such companies for the last 20 years of my working life and can assure members that you cannot just set up a company and forget about it. They are covered by the Companies Acts and, although requirements for guarantee companies are much less onerous than for normal limited companies, there is quite a lot of form-filling, returns submission and general bureaucratic rigmarole.

If the sole purpose of the proposed company is to remove the remote possibility of members being pursued in connection with a public liability claim I would suggest that the Club's insurance policy is re-examined.

John Normandale



WHILE I AM by no stretch of the imagination at all knowledgeable in Company law, I did have experience of an organisation which was a Company Limited by Guarantee.

It had over 500,000 members, divided into fairly autonomous geographical areas under an umbrella generally call the National Body. The area I belonged to had become a Company Limited by Guarantee, the main reason being to limit any liability if the area wound up. This was all to deal with fundamentally the same problem that ASOC faces, except that in those days people didn't sue at the drop of a hat and the main risk was liquidation because of debt.

When eventually the Company did wind up it wasn't because of debt and so the guarantees were never called in.

There wasn't much difference either for the Committee - or Executive Committee, rather - though a few people who would otherwise have just been Committee members, did seem to enjoy being called 'Directors'. I think we eventually prepared two sets of accounts each year, one for Companies House in their preferred format and one for everyone else in the form we were used to - though both representing the same situation accurately, you understand!

So you will see that this note does little more than confirm Ray Whiley's reassurances in his 'Becoming a Company' (August issue) through an actual experience of a CLG.

Colin Lumb

Birdwatchers in ASOC

AT THE CLUB AND COMPANY rally, I manned a table in the hobbies hall about my birdwatching interests and activities. There was a good level of interest shown by members.

One of the things I did was to draw up a form inviting other members interested in birdwatching to give me their details so that I could develop and circulate a list of those who had an interest. The initiative was taken with a view to encouraging contact between members, perhaps to stimulate rallies at birdwatching locations, promoting exchanges of information, etc. A list has already been circulated since the rally.

The response at Malvern was good but, of course, not all our members could attend. I would therefore like to invite members who have a positive interest in birding and would like to be included in my list, to let me have their name, address, telephone number, e-mail address (if they have one), details of local birding patches and locations and/or countries visited for birding. I will also need confirmation as to whether or not the members concerned are willing for their details to be shared with other members.

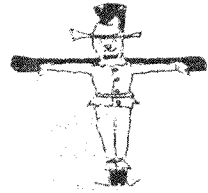
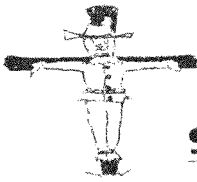
I can be contacted by letter at 324 Turton Road, Tottington, Bury, Lancs, BL8 3QG, by e-mail at EddieJones@turtonrd.Freeserve.co.uk or by ringing 01204 887947.

Eddie Jones

Do I see members twitching? We wish Eddie every success with this initiative - Ed.

'As soon as a road is covered with new asphalt, but before it dries, it is to be torn up again by the gas authorities; the same procedure is to be repeated by the water authorities, by the telephone linesmen, by the sanitary authorities, by the Inland Revenue...'

- *George Mikes*



SEPTEMBER 2001 Rally Supplement

Because of the Foot & Mouth outbreak please check with the relevant marshals, who will be following Government guidelines, as to whether a rally is taking place. If you are attending a rally and the site becomes an infected area then you may find that your van may be placed in quarantine for a period of time.

If you are planning to run a rally in 2002 then please let me know before the end of November. This will mean that your rally will be in the provisional rally list that is circulated with the January Newsletter.

NEW Rally. 5th - 7th. October. (2 nights) Bass Museum of Brewing, Burton on Trent, Staffs.
Details later in supplement.

31st. December - 2nd. January New Year Rally. Hidden Valley, North Devon. If you are interested then please contact Sandra & Bernie Wisely at 2 Mount Pleasant, Bishops Itchington, Southam, Warwickshire. CV47 2QE. Tel. No. 01928 614 194

29th. August - 3rd. September. (5 nights) Shoreham Air Show, Sussex.

On site mobile: 0771 284 8716.

Rally Marshals: Shirley & Chris Sturgeon.

Nightly donation to R.A.F.A. £2.00. Rally Fee: £2.35 (incl VAT).

Air Show Tickets cost £14.00 Adults, £8.00 Child. Sat. & Sun. incl. payable in advance.

NO Electricity, GREEN FIELD Site with water tap & Loo emptying.

Booking slips & cheques payable to A.N. Fowler, 20 Hawkins Close, Shoreham-By-Sea, West Sussex. BN43 6TL. Tel. No. 01273 594 479.

Saturday evening buffet meal available £3.53 each, incl. VAT. Please state and pay in advance if interested. Send S.A.E. for confirmation of booking.

Please state van model for organisational purposes.

Attractions: 2 day AirShow with on ground entertainment, bicycle rides & dog walks from site (Dogs MUST be on leads at all times).

Directions: On A27 between Brighton & Worthing, leave A27 at traffic lights opposite the Sussex Pad Hotel and turn into Airport This is the ONLY entrance for motorcaravans).

Please DO NOT arrive before 10.00a.m. Wednesday.

Restricted to first 30 vans.

7th - 9th September. (2 nights). Ludlow's Food & Drink Festival.

Ludlow Secondary School, Ludlow, Shropshire.,

Rally Marshals: Sheila & Ivor Barnett & Nora & Ven Venables.

****Site Fee: £6.00. per night (incl. VAT). NO ELECTRICITY.**

Rally Fee: £ 2.35. (incl. VAT).

Rally slips to Mr .I. C. Barnett, Highlevel, Farden, Bitterley, Nr. Ludlow, Shropshire.

SY8 3HV. Tel.No. 01584 890 428. Cheques payable to: I.C. Barnett.

Please include a SAE.

GREEN FIELD SITE with all level hard standings. Heated Hall for evenings .Leisure Centre adjacent. 20 mins. walk to town centre, Bus service.

Attractions: This weekend is Ludlow's Food & Drink Festival which is held on the Saturday & Sunday. There is a Sausage Trail, Bread Tasting, Ale Trail etc.

Directions: On A49 from South follow "South Shropshire Leisure Centre" signs. At 2nd. roundabout turn **left** .Following signs go under railway bridge and turn **right** at the signs and **left** into Leisure Centre car park. Then follow A.S.O.C. signs.

On A49 from North follow "South Shropshire Leisure Centre " signs on the B4361. Turn **right** into Leisure Centre car park, follow A.S.O.C. signs.

Limit of 30 vans. Rally closes at 4.00 p.m. Sunday.

No arrivals before 4.30 p.m. Friday.

13th.-16th. September (3 nights), Shepton Mallet Motorcaravan & R.V. Show, The Royal Bath & West Showground.

Site Tel.No.07751 598 028.(Marshals' mobile).

Rally Marshals: Stella & Ian Ross & Dorothy & Baz Wellard & Eirwen & Ben Cox.

Site Fee: Special Club prices.Arrival day Thursday £23.00, Friday onwards £18.00. Rally Fee: £2.35.(incl.VAT).

Send Rally Fee £2.35 with rally slip & SAE to Mrs.S.Ross,33 Grosvenor Gardens, Upminster,Essex.RM14 1DL.Tel.No.01708 228 075.Cheques payable to Mrs.S.Ross.

By return you will get a special booking form, which should be sent to the organisers *with the site fee* to obtain tickets.

There will be a "For Sale" board so bring along your motorcaravan related items for sale and put up a postcard.The rally ends on Sunday but you may stay on site until 12.noon Monday.

Rally limited to 100 vans.

20th. - 23rd.September (3 nights).Northern Motorcaravan Show, York Racecourse.

Emergency Tel.No. 0771 409 1349 (Marshal's mobile).8.00 - 10.00 am & pm.

Rally Marshals:Pauline & Neil Rogers & Evelyn & Ben Mansfield & Jean & Ian Sellers.

Rally Fee:£1.75 (couples),£1.25 (singles) Both incl.VAT

The special Club site fees are:arrive Thursday £24.00, arrive Friday £22.00, arrive Saturday £20.00.

The rally ends at 12 noon Sunday but you may remain on site until 12 noon.Monday 24th.September.

If you did not send an application form back to the organisers,Warners, before 24th.August, then you will not be able to rally with the Club.

This rally starts on Thursday and finishes on Sunday 12 noon but you may remain on site until Monday 12 noon. **Please remember to send a rally slip with a cheque for the Rally Fee** (payable to N.C. & P. Rogers)

to: N.C. & P. Rogers,3 Appleby Close, Aldbrough St.John,Richmond, North Yorks.DL11 7TT. Tel.No. 01325 374 540.

**21st - 23rd.September (2 nights).Penybont T & C.P.,Bala,
Gwynedd,Wales.**

Site Tel.No.01678 520 549.

Rally Marshals:Helen & John Greenwood..Tel.No. 0701 0702 919 (Mobile).

Site Fee:£8.95 including electricity per night. Rally fee:£1.50 per person.Both incl.VAT.

Booking forms & cheques to: John Greenwood,5 Ellesmere Road, Mynydd Isa, Mold,Flints. CH7 6UJ. Tel./Fax. 01352 754 794.

E-mail jdvw@jdvw.freemove.co.uk

The site has hardstanding ,camp office & shop,heated toilet block.Very close to the town and Bala lake.A site that we have used before now upgraded to 4* status.Full site facilities.

Directions:From A5 take the A494T to Bala,On entering Bala from N.E. follow B4391 and site is on *right after ½ mile round sharp bend.*

**2nd - 4th.October (3 nights). Hartsholme Country Park,
Skellingthorpe Rd.,Lincoln.**

Emergency Tel.No. 077 68 16 45 22.(Marshal's mobile).

Rally Marshals: Janet Sutterby & Eileen Kellard.

Site Fees:£9.60 per night including electricity & VAT.*Payable to the site warden on arrival.* Rally Fee:£2.00 incl.VAT. payable with booking slip to Janet

Sutterby,3 Bilsby Road, Alford,Lincs.LN13 9EW. Tel.No. 01507 46 24 49.

Cheques payable to Janet Sutterby.

Attractions:Small site with toilets & showers.Part of an extensive park and nature reserve with lakes and footpaths.Visitors Centre and Cafeteria.Local shops.Good bus service to city centre.A room is available for social gatherings in the evening.

Directions:Take the A46 Lincoln by-pass.Turn towards the city centre on the B1378.Watch for the Country Park sign on the **right** (easily missed!).Keep left inside gates. *Arrival time - 12 noon on the first day. Numbers limited.*

**5th - 7th.October (2 nights). Bass Museum,Burton on
Trent,Staffs.**

Rally Marshals:Tricia & Ted Pratt (Tel.No. 01283 538818) assisted by Barbara & John Cox(Tel.No. 01262 671762) & Greta & Eric Dunn.

Site Fee:£7.00 per night,includes VAT & entrance fee to Bass Museum during opening hours.. Rally Fee:£2.35 (incl.VAT). Cheques payable to P.M.Pratt. Booking slips to P.M.Pratt,3 Grafton Road,Stapenhill,Burton on Trent, Staffs,DE15 9DN. Tel.No.. 01283 538818.

Arrival time **Friday 12 NOON NOT BEFORE.**

All hardstandings,toilets available 24 hours..

Saturday evening: Meal in Bass restaurant with a choice of meals from Bar Snacks to full meals.Please state on booking slip if interested.

NO DOGS. Limit of 30 vans..

Attractions: Walking distance to Burton Town Centre,Leisure Complex,Bass Museum entrance fee included in site fee.

Directions:Bass Museum is signposted around Burton on **brown** visitor signs,it is on the A511 .DO NOT ENTER BY MAIN ENTRANCE Please turn the corner into GUILD Street and use the Trade Entrance.Take care this is a Car Park Exit. Turn immediately **Right** into Car Park.

For further details of directions or confirmation of availability of places please send a SAE to P.M. Pratt with your rally slip.

NOTE Change of dates 16th , - 19th . October.(3 nights).Park Cliffe Camping & Caravanning Estate,Windemere Cumbria..

Site Tel.No.015395 31344.

Rally Marshals:Jill & James Bertlin & Sue & Peter Coward.

Site Fee:£8.00 per night (incl.VAT). Electricity,if required,£3.00 per night.

Rally Fee:£2.35 (incl. VAT).

Booking slips & cheques payable to Mrs.J.Bertlin,The Rockeries,Lindale,Grange-over-Sands,Cumbria.LA11 6LQ. Tel.No. 015395 34500 (**N.B. We will not be contactable between 12th .Sept. 6th .Oct.**).

Attractions:Situated in 25 secluded acres of fell land.Ideal location for walking,golfing & sightseeing or just being lazy!There is a fully equipped launderette,heated ladies & gents shower/toilet block,electricity to all pitches.Squirrel's a small licensed restaurant & bar with a take-away service and well stocked licensed mini market.

On Thursday night a special meal will be arranged at "Squirrel's".

Directions:Leave the M6 at Junct. 36, follow A590 to Newby Bridge,then turn **right** at roundabout on to A592.After 3.3 miles turn **right** at signpost for site.Entrance to site is 1/3 mile on right.**Warning:** Approach from Bowness-on-Windemere is not recommended as the turn left to Park Cliffe is difficult to negotiate on busy main road.

**25th - 28th October. (3 nights).Eastham Hall C.P.,Lytham,
Lancs.**

Site Tel.No.01253 737 907.(Emergency only).

Rally Marshals: Kath & Norman Benyon, Barbara & Vic Kaye.

Site Fee:£10 per night.(Incl.VAT). Includes electricity and use of centrally heated hall. Rally Fee:£1.50 per van + 75p per person.(Incl.VAT).

Booking slips to Mrs.B.Kaye,14 Firthwood Rd.,Coal Aston,Dronfield.S18 3BW.

Cheques payable to: B & V. Kaye. Tel.No. 01246 412 679.

Attractions:All the fun of the sea-side at Lytham,St Annes,Fairhaven & Blackpool. **Thursday.**Coffee Evening.**Friday.** A coach to Todds Motor Caravans for a social evening including refreshments.Large accessory shop.Cost between

£2.00 - £3.00. per person for coach.DO NOT send money for coach. **Saturday.** Fish & Chip Supper in the Hall.We also exchange Christmas cards with friends(saves postage).Bring any spare camping equipment for a Bargain

Table.Raffle Draw & Quiz.Please indicate on Rally slip if you wish to go on the coach trip also if you want Fish & Chips.**Sunday.** Coffee & biscuits - rally ends.

Directions: A 584 to Lytham.On entering Lytham at first mini roundabout turn right over railway bridge to next roundabout.Turn right s.p. Kirkham.Site on right after ½ mile.

**9th - 13th November. Somerset Carnival,Burnham on Sea,
Somerset.**I hope to have further details of this rally for the October issue.

We depend on volunteers within the Club to act as rally marshals.If you know of a suitable site why not think about running a rally.It is not difficult and help is available.It is important that all potential rally dates and venues are checked with me first as,unless they are approved by the Club, no rally can be held.

Please note that ALL information concerning rallies,dates,booking of sites and rally details for the Newsletter should be sent to the Rally Co-ordinator at least 3 months before the actual rally.

*Neil C. Rogers,
3 Appleby Close,
Aldbrough St. John,
Richmond,
North Yorks,
DL11 7TT.*

Tel./Fax. No. 01325 374 540 E-Mail. ncr@nasuwt.net

Local assistant: Jerry Haxton (01483 223 476) Woking,Surrey.

E & O E

Rally: Date:

Your name and address(Please PRINT)

.....

..... Post code:

Phone No.: Van Reg:

Membership No: Day/Time of arrival:

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

Name Phone No.

Please complete both sides of the form!

Rally: Date:

Your name and address(Please PRINT)

.....

..... Post code:

Phone No.: Van Reg:

Membership No: Day/Time of arrival:

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

Name Phone No.

Please complete both sides of the form!

Rally: Date:

Your name and address(Please PRINT)

.....

..... Post code:

Phone No.: Van Reg:

Membership No: Day/Time of arrival:

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

Name Phone No.

Please complete both sides of the form!

Is this your first ASOC rally? Please tick box Yes No
Number of people in your van: Adults..... Children.....

Names of Adults.....

Names of Children (including ages).....

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:-

Full payment MUST accompany this slip-cheques payable to the marshal.
POST FORM TO REACH MARSHAL 14 DAYS BEFORE EVENT,IF POSSIBLE PLEASE!

Is this your first ASOC rally? Please tick box Yes No
Number of people in your van: Adults..... Children.....

Names of Adults.....

Names of Children (including ages).....

Extras: Please indicate which you would like, if available:
Electricity: Yes No Saturday night meal if any: Yes No
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Names of Adults.....

Names of Children (including ages).....

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:-

Full payment MUST accompany this slip-cheques payable to the marshal.
POST FORM TO REACH MARSHAL 14 DAYS BEFORE EVENT,IF POSSIBLE PLEASE!

Premier makeover

AT THE CLUB AND COMPANY rally we were delighted to meet up again with Simon Fletcher, now MD of Premier Furnishings who, in 1993 and a previous existence, had helped us choose and design a refurbishment of our first Talisman.

We'd been thinking of changing our van this year, but decided to keep it and have a makeover instead. On our way home from the Club and Company rally, we found the Premier unit a mile from the M1 at junction 26. Even with the help of Simon and Paul it was difficult to choose a colour and material from the huge range and types they had on offer, and it was only after narrowing the choice down to two and adjourning to the van that we succeeded.

Simon redesigned the cushions to convert the van to a two-berth layout, similar to the Clubman, and undertook to fit our choice of a pair of captain's seats with armrests and lumbar supports when we took the van back to have the work done.

Only ten days after that we received a phone call asking us to arrange a date to return with the van because the cushions had been made and the captain's chairs were ready for fitting. Arriving early on the appointed morning, we were offered the use of a car for the day but instead decided to walk the short distance to a large Ikea store nearby, where we spent the morning browsing and lunching in the excellent restaurant. A short walk into Eastwood filled in the couple of hours until our return to Premier.

The transformation was amazing. All doors had been re-covered, including the rear door and Geoff's inset rubbish box - which now looks too good for the purpose for which it was made. The front seats have map pockets, all curtain tiebacks have been replaced with matching material and four scatter cushions and a tea cosy supplied as extra touches. The material picks up the colour of the wood and the whole van has a warm glow.

To say we are delighted is an understatement. We will be at the York rally and anyone thinking of having a makeover is welcome to come and view. We have 'before' and 'after' photos for comparison.

Enid and Geoff Mackey

Dog-gone it

I SEE THAT A NEW FACTOR has entered into our rallying - a charge for dogs attending. Presumably this was thought up by a site owner wanting both the cat and the skin.

What will they think of next? Perhaps a charge for the use of our marshal's tent and chairs, or perhaps one for permitting the use of our macs and wellies?

Taking my old dog is entirely natural and indeed, essential for me. I have never had a complaint and will never attend a rally at which a charge is made. Aware that I may have been lucky over the years, whether at an ordinary rally or at a show, I have never seen one instance of an owner or dog being other than considerate and well-behaved.

We are all essentially countrysiders and even bearing in mind the need for more rallies, particularly in the north, I do hope that members will refrain from encouraging opportunism by arranging rallies at sites where such rules apply - however beautiful those sites may be.

Michael Mawer

Charges for dogs have been made at some sites for some time, but it seems to be on the increase. Alas, not all dogs and their owners are as considerate as Michael - at the Club and Company rally this year it was necessary for marshals to clear up dog mess in one of the halls - Ed.

Technical Information Group

IAN ROSS, appointed after the last AGM to chair the Technical Information Group ('Tiggers') is now unable to act. A new Chairman is to be appointed in the near future, but in the meantime Brian Smith, the Committee's TIG Liaison Officer, will receive details of members' modifications, etc.

'The only places John likes on the Continent are those in which it's only by an effort of the imagination that you can tell you're not in England.'

- W. Somerset Maugham

Habitation checks

CONCERNING RECENT CORRESPONDENCE about servicing and safety checks on the caravan element of our vehicles. My own 'F' reg. Rambler was bought from Brownhills four years ago but we haven't returned it there since due to the distance they are from where we live. The van had a new MoT when bought and had been checked out otherwise by them.

After two years the caravan element was checked by a local man who used a shed at the premises where the van was stored. The water heater was never satisfactory afterwards, and I was not able to obtain a response from him. At the start of the following season I arranged for a check by a local caravan dealer. After a three month wait they sorted the heater and apparently checked everything.

When the current season began the same dealer still had a three-month waiting list, so, as I was having a long weekend on the Norfolk Broads, I asked Simpsons of Great Yarmouth to carry out a service and safety check. They were booking two weeks in advance, which seemed reasonable.

The outcome was not quite as I'd hoped, as they found a gas leak. However, they produced a written check report (at a cost of £85) and a CORGI report on the gas system. I was very impressed with their service and let them repair the van.

My first thought is how many caravan/motorhome dealers are CORGI registered? They should be if they service gas equipment. (My own domestic heating engineer isn't registered to service caravans.)

A second thought is that main dealers in the motorhome trade should issue a safety certificate when selling a second hand van, as they presumably carry out a full check in the same way as they issue a new MoT certificate with the sale. This could also serve to remind new owners of the need to check and maintain the safety of both elements of the vehicle and form a useful service history for reselling the vehicle.

Beric Thrupp

Why shouldn't all dealers have to issue safety certificates for all the vehicles they sell? - Ed.

Scottish midges evade screens

ON A RECENT, wonderful trip from Cumbria northwards through the Western Highlands to Skye and on across to Harris and Lewis, Judy and I painfully discovered that Scottish midges have no difficulty in squeezing through the mesh on Auto-Sleeper insect-screens. Since the weather was warm enough for us to need the top ventilators open at night and the midges, on Skye particularly, seem to have fangs, *something had to be done*.

In desperation we lightly sprayed the mesh of the screens with 'Jungle Formula' insect repellent. It worked perfectly. (Future May-to-October venturers may care to take note.)

The only down side was that the procedure made the screens slightly sticky and attract dust, but this was easily rectified with a carefully-wielded damp cloth.

Jim Andrews

European long-stay advice wanted

WE ENJOYED your editorial 'Variety is the spice...' [August issue]. The reason we bought a motorhome and joined the Owners' Club was to enjoy ourselves. The way we enjoy ourselves is by actually going out in it, having a great time and then talking to other people about our wonderful trips. We thought this was what the Club was all about when we joined. Am we now to believe from moaners that we got it wrong?

If, as we thought, the Club was all about having a good time, would it be possible to ask about Spain and Portugal? During late winter and early spring we hope to make a circular tour from Bilbao, Madrid, La Manga, Granada, Seville, up into Portugal, then along the top coast of Spain back to Bilbao. We'd be very interested in any tips and site suggestions. Please e-mail or phone: kiles@kiles.worldonline.co.uk 01275 545881.

Keith and Lorraine Iles



ANY ADVICE? We, our dog and Symphony are embarking on a year's holiday starting in the south of France for the winter months, then on

to Spain and Portugal, returning home in late autumn 2002. We would appreciate advice from anyone who has undertaken a long European trip. Please e-mail or phone: garnsey@amserve.net 01424 844676.

Keith and Daphne Garnsey

Topaz step

IS IT POSSIBLE to give a friendly warning about the first black plastic covered step leading into Topaz vans from the sliding side door? This cover on our van has a lip with no support, which has split, causing a jarring fall. This makes it a dangerous step on entering or leaving the van.

Having not experienced this problem on our previous Topazes, we felt it would be wise to highlight this problem.

Sylvia and Norman Brice

This seemed important enough to be published without delay. A copy has been passed to Auto-Sleepers for their comments, but there has not been time for them to reply - Ed.

Mobility aids

MEMBERS WITH MOBILITY DIFFICULTIES contact your editor quite frequently about adapting their motorhomes and asking what accessories are available to make life a little easier in and around them. I understand that these matters will be dealt with in *MMM Mobility* which will be on sale with October's *MMM* at the end of September. In addition it is also to include notes on travelling to the Continent written by disabled motorhome owners.

Too much whinging?

I AM SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING not renewing my membership because it is not enjoyable receiving the Newsletter because of all the whinging letters.

We also purchased a new motor caravan last year and are very pleased with the manner in which every available space is used. We have had a few problems which we have sorted out ourselves and have enjoyed the challenge.

Godfrey Roberts

That's the spirit! We publish letters about members' difficulties with their van because others may suffer the same problems, but it would certainly make more agreeable reading if those letters were sometimes more positive and less critical - Ed.

Docked by sheep

DRIVING HOME ALONE from the Club and Company rally, the journey was uneventful until the final bend of the M3, only ten miles from home, when a yellow-clad policeman appeared a short way ahead, making St. Vitas-like signals with both arms. I slowed down, put the hazard warning lights on and moved out into the middle lane so that I didn't run him over.



Hello, hello, hello - another policeman, losing a desperate race with a sheep in the slow lane. I'll never know why, but yours truly and several other drivers felt compelled to close up in line astern to form a rolling roadblock, which stopped the sheep accelerating into the middle and outside lanes, and it peeled off left to take refuge in a blackberry bush at the bottom of a dry ditch. After its second burst for freedom

back into the slow lane, we finally cornered the sheep, which turned out to be a crossbred breeding mule. In the ensuing mêlée yours truly and the breeder made contact by bouncing off one another, leaving me with a sore knee. However, all was well - the boys in blue had their road-runner even if they had no transport for him. One of our number volunteered a refrigerated van but we thought it was a little early for that. As for me, I completed the journey home and unloaded the van.

Later, all was not well with me. That evening the knee started to swell and stiffen. Ice packs and a warm bath didn't help. By morning the knee was immobile. The osteopath was sympathetic; well he said, 'Silly sod. Go straight to A&E at Roehampton - the queues are shorter.' Beloved drove me there but, no, they do everything but knees. On to Kingston

where the Triage nurse saw me immediately and listened to the story. Things were looking up. The doctor in A&E checked the knee, wanted to hear the story again and orders X-rays. The lovely in X-ray took the piccies and, yes, insisted on hearing the story. Back to the doctor. 'Hmmm.' He pointed out old rugby injuries and some arthritis but wasn't happy with the amount of fluid around the knee. He called for an orthopaedic doctor's opinion, telling her I've been 'hit by a sleep...a sleep...Ah, a sheeep!' She arrived, beaming, to inspect both knee and X-rays, and insisted on hearing the story. After careful thought she left to consult her own boss - and doubtless repeat the story. Back she came with an assistant and gia-normous syringe. 'It's okay. The Boss says we must remove some of the fluid, otherwise your leg will never move. He says we shouldn't use anaesthetic, but don't worry - he'll hold your leg.' A little time later yours truly, complete with a beautiful whole-leg dressing and crutches, was collected by beloved. 'Come back in a week,' they said. 'Not if that horse needle's still around', sez I.

It's all right for them. It's the best story they've had all week - dine out on that, you know. Me? Too busy telling the story to bother with food.

Tom Searle

Good to know that two weeks later when Tom wrote, he could report the knee was healing fast. - Ed.

Retiring

DURING THE MONTH we have learned that Pete and Barbara Garnell have found it necessary for health reasons to retire from motorhoming. Marjorie Savage and Joan Powell, too, are bringing almost 30 years of 'great fun' motorcaravanning to an end. Both vans are advertised for sale in this issue, but we hope that even without vans all these members will retain their interest in the Club.

Obituary

Hazel Wilton. It is with regret that we record the death of Hazel Wilton on 26 June. Our sympathy is extended to her husband Eric. He hopes to get out in the van again, and we look forward to seeing him on rallies.



For sale

RENAULT ROMERO 2000 2-BERTH, 'N' reg., 42,000 miles. VanBitz Foxguard alarm, immobiliser, Omnistor awning. Service record. No pets, smokers or children. Immaculate condition. One lady owner/driver. Phone Marjorie Hulme 0121 705 6060 (W. Midlands).*

CLUBMAN GL 2.4D. 'S' reg., Oct. 1998, 5,500 miles. 3-speed roof fan, TV aerial, extra power points. Immaculate condition. No smokers or pets. Genuine reason for sale. **£23,500** for quick sale. Phone Marjorie Savage 01395 265798 (Devon).

TALISMAN CUSHIONS; AUXILIARY SPRINGS. Full set blue/grey zig-zag pattern (1992) cushions from Talisman GL, comprising 4 bench, 2 backrest, 4 infills. Offers: **£40.** M.A.D. auxiliary springs: **£20.** Phone Geoff Mackey 01325 313087 (Co. Durham).

DUETTO 2.5TD 'R' reg., 1997. 28,000 miles. Usual superb A-S fittings plus Fiamma 2-cycle rack, Taylormade screens, reinforced rear step with tow bar and electric fittings. Excellent condition. A well-loved van. **£20,500.** Phone Di Aston 01952 412422 (Telford) after 29 August.*

TALBOT EXPRESS 1986, 56,000 miles. Ideal camper van for first timers to see if motorhoming is for them. See ad. in Aug. Newsletter. Verdict is that windscreen is OK for indefinite period, major repair may be some time off. Van's inside condition good. Usual fittings incl. shower cubicle. Awning, bike rack. Recent new clutch and tyres. MoT to June 2002. Value at **£2,800.** Phone Doug Johns 01348 873577 (Fishguard).

TALISMAN 2.5 DIESEL TB INTERCOOLED WITH 4-WHEEL DRIVE on Peugeot Talbot Express chassis. 'H' reg., Aug. 1990. 79,000 miles. Dealmaster awning, back box, Silver Screen, TV aerial. Airide rear suspension, tow bar plus all usual Talisman fittings. MoT and taxed until Aug. 2002. Garaged. Good condition. Non-smokers. **£16,000.** Phone Michael Sledge 01556 670285 (Kirkudbrightshire).*

SYMPHONY S300 JOY 2-LITRE PETROL. 1999, 8,500 miles. In excellent condition. No smokers or pets. Extras incl. electric windows, central locking, awning, special upholstery, alarm, Silver Screen, CD player. Taxed. Reluctant sale due to ill health - hence low mileage. **£21,000.** Write Christine Hawkins, 6 Hollins Moor, Liden, Swindon, Wilts SN3 6NJ.*

GATCOMBE 2.5TDI. 2+2 BERTH 'X' reg., Sept. 2000. 102 bhp, 32 mpg. Upgrade upholstery, TV aerial, deadlocks on all doors, Van Bitz alarm with

pager. Genuine reason for sale. Cost £38,000, will sell for **£28,000**. Will include Harrison high top awning with the sale. Phone Bryan Bennett 01304 374788 (Kent).*

CARRY BOX, AWNING SIDES. Fiamma Carry Box 360, fits on cycle rack of either high top or coachbuilt, 147 cms wide: **£95**. Harrison side to fit high top awning of any length: **£55**. Phone Angela Aston 01326 270856 (Cornwall).*

EXCELSIOR FORD 2.5TD 4-BERTH 'V' reg., Oct. 1999, 9,000 miles. Two bench seats. Alarm, swivel seat, extractor fan, TV aerial. Immaculate condition. **£28,500**. Phone Roger Granger 01474 702263 (Kent)*

TALBOT EXPRESS WORKSHOP MANUAL. The genuine article. **£25**. Phone Bob or Sheila Deamer 01462 454100 (N.Herts).

CLUBMAN 2.4D 4-BERTH. Jan. 2000, 10,600 miles. Bike rack, alarm, Waxoyled, insulated fresh water tank with frost-stat. Seats and carpets covered at all times. Thoroughly cossetted. **£25,500**. Phone or e-mail Andrew Bromley 01539 821334 (S. Cumbria) bromleyad@yahoo.co.uk *

DUETTO 2.5 TURBO DIESEL. 'T' reg., 1999. Under 9,000 miles. Alloy wheels. Electric windows. Immobiliser. Hope Safe T Bar and ball hitch. Status aerial and booster. Professionally Waxoyled. Many extras. Excellent condition throughout. No pets or smokers. Reluctant sale. **£24,000** ono. Phone Pete or Barbara Garnell 01903 787243 (W. Sussex) or mobile 07769 667270.*

CLUBMAN GL 2.5TDI 4-BERTH. 'T' reg., April 1999, 27,000 miles. Bike rack, Silver Screens. Garaged from new - immaculate condition. **£22,000**. Phone or e-mail Shena Wardrope 01540 661625, shena.wardrope@lineone.net

HARMONY 2.5 DIESEL WITH PAS. 'K' reg. Good condition. Equipped with Airide suspension, awnings, roof fan, alarm, oven, safe, bike racks and all the usual extras. Full service history. 12 months MoT. One owner. **£10,500**. Genuine reason for sale. Phone or e-mail Ann Bowes 0117 9735844 annbowes@yahoo.co.uk *

AMETHYST 2.5TD 4-BERTH. 'M' reg., 33,000 miles. FSH, Fiamma 3-bike rack, quality alarm, status aerial, electric step, roof fan. Fiamma awning, swivel seat plus usual Amethyst refinements. Non-smokers, no pets or children. Cherished, hence immaculate condition. New MoT. **£21,495**. Phone Peter and Irene Lee 01282 423796 or mobile 07970 546472 (Lancs.).*

*Note: Advertisements followed by a * mean that the advertiser has made a donation to Club funds. To each we say 'Thanks for the donation'.*

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