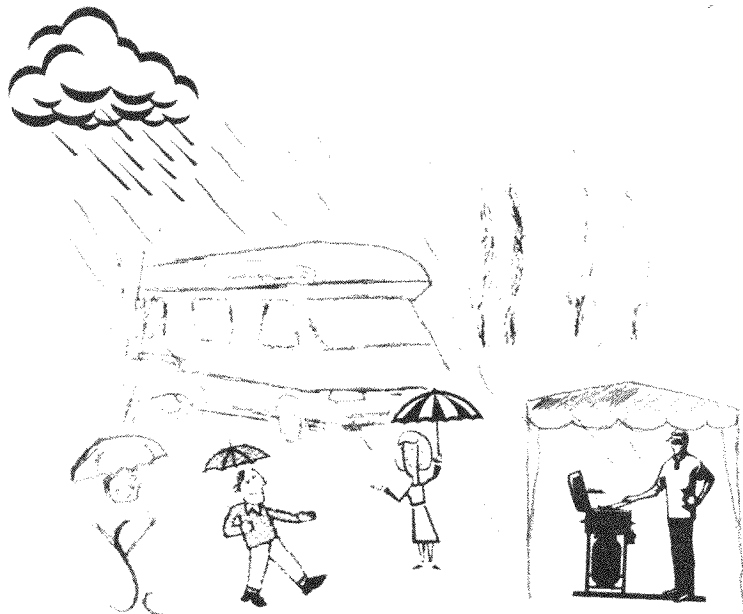


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AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

A Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered Office: Orchard Works, Willersey, Nr. Broadway Worcs. WR12 7QF.
Registered No: 4616969



*So, what's a little downpour between
friends?*

NEWSLETTER 227

August 2007

From the Editor ^(S)

Hasn't the weather been abysmal? Still, it appears it takes more than the odd cloudburst to stop our ralliers. Let's hope for a dry spell in the not too distant future, I think at this point I'd even welcome the odd rumbling about hosepipe bans!!

Thank you to everyone who sent in articles this month - we have a bumper bundle, so some will have to be held over to next month, but it will be published and please keep them coming.

On a personal note we'd like to thank John Lakey, whom we met, together with his wife Pam, at the Italian Rally, for sending a copy of one of his paintings attached to a very nice letter thanking Peter and Phil Gledhill for their assistance in getting his ruptured tyre valve sorted out.

We had a wonderful week-end at the Cartmel Rally in June, run by James and Jill Bertlin, who arranged, what turned out to be a very *cheeky* bar-b-que on the Saturday evening. But the Sticky Toffee Pudding mmm..... Then we had our own very soggy rally at Rochester, but thank you to everyone for braving the weather and a special thank you to Mike and Jeanne Hall for co-marshalling for us.

On a more sombre note, Ian Canham has asked us to convey his "*heartfelt thanks to the many members and friends who sent the cards, letters and messages of sympathy and support at this sad time.*" You will remember Ian lost his wife Brenda recently.

And very many congratulations to Mary Newman (Eddie Newman's wife) who was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours, who, according to the Editorial in the South Wales Echo (the actual article is reproduced on page 19) "*has devoted 30 years to helping homeless people in Cardiff and has done much to ease their suffering.*" Apparently the award was suitably celebrated at a great Ledbury Rally, according to Janet & Les Howells. Once again, many congratulations Mary.

Ian King would like to pick your brains.....

We are looking for some help with choosing a top box for our AS Executive. We travel a fair amount to dog shows with our two little dogs and also take them over to Europe on holiday and so far we have managed quite well with all the cages and stuff you need to carry with you. Now we are about to acquire a new pup we could be in trouble so we thought a top box might be the answer (instead of a bigger van). We would like the biggest that will fit comfortably in the rails on the roof, but we have heard comments that they are not secure and have a terrible effect on fuel consumption. We would be pleased to hear of any experience or recommendations from anyone and can be contacted at iandjking@btinternet.com or on 01258 840868.

Don't give up!
Pat & Dennis Diment

We have a 1996 AS Excelsior on a Ford Transit Base and I took it in to have the power steering mended, as well as a service, and was informed the power steering couldn't be done as Ford don't do the parts anymore. We would have to go to a specialist to have some specially made.

I phoned the AS Technical Department and was told that they don't put power steering in their Auto-Sleepers, but it is done at the Ford factory and told me to ring Ford Service Fleet. This I duly did, which resulted in various other phone calls, we even had people looking on e-bay, where some of the parts were available, but not all. Eventually, after a very trying day I telephoned Bussey's, the Ford Commercial Vehicles Dealer in Norwich, who had the parts but asked us to bring the vehicle in so they could check before ordering any further parts that might be necessary.

So, if anybody does have trouble they should contact a Ford Commercial Transit dealer.

An update from Charles Trevelyan

In reply to the article '*Can you help?*' in the July 2007 Newsletter I contacted Jenny Hamilton and, by return of post, sent with our compliments the curtain runners she needed.

Regarding Colin & Kay Haynes, to have their Symphony converted to two forward facing seats with the appropriate seatbelts, of course in the rear, I have today sent them photographs of a conversion we recently carried out that would, in effect, convert the Symphony to the ES specification. We carry out this conversion here at the Willersey Service Centre, generally requiring the vehicle for a full working week (deliver on Monday, collect on Friday) and in each instance, of course, the customer has been delighted.

If any member or indeed Auto-Sleeper owner, has any query or problem, we would recommend that in the first instance they contact us here at the Willersey Service Centre; we can normally help - but if not we can certainly point the customer in the right direction.

Ford Tyre Valve Sleeves **Bob Aldred C.Eng FIMinE**

Having followed past articles in the Newsletter with more than a passing interest, but not being a person who habitually writes letters, your editorial feature has aroused me from my inertia and I write to support your expressed view "*Whilst I accept this problem is not caused by AS I do believe they have an obligation to take this up with Ford.*" I could not agree more.

I may be remembered as the member who persistently asked related questions at the 2006 AGM Open Forum, as to what was the correct tyre pressure for an AS Ford Pollensa. My questions were prompted by two experiences:

1. Having previously purchased a pre-owned unit from a very well know supplier in Newark, who pride themselves on an '86 point delivery check' of all vehicles, I found on arrival home that all the tyres were inflated to 50 psi., and was given telephone assurance that must be the correct value, regrettably, I should have pursued the matter to a higher authority.
2. Being a little suspicious because front and back values were, unusually, the same value, and because of my engineering background, I decided to probe a little further and found the AS Polensa Owners Handbook gave me no clue on the subject except on page 4, para (6) which told me to "refer to the base vehicle Owners Guide" and that I should

treat the Pollensa "as based on a Ford Transit chassis cab/flatbed truck with 3.5 tons (*sic.*) 1500/2300 kg axle weights. Please contact Ford for tyre pressures to operate at the full 2300kg rear axle plated weight."

From the last paragraph of the above quotation, it seems to me that AS expect the unit to be operated at inflation pressures which are something less than the plated maximum, but will not admit to it - for reasons perhaps best known to themselves, but it is open to others to form an opinion on the matter. Para (6) goes on to say "The manufacturer of the tyre (Goodyear, Michelin, etc) does not affect the tyre pressure; it is related to the load rating and speed rating only. Auto-Sleepers cannot make any recommendations about tyre pressure, because the information *sic* is the responsibility of the tyre manufacturer." The term '*passing the buck*' springs to mind and I am of the opinion that it is time AS came off the fence and, as a responsible manufacturer, make quite specific statements of pressure values related to actual axle loadings, and NOT only the maximum permissible axle loading.

Looking at the Transit Owners' Guide, I find that for the 350M single axle vehicle (as advised at (2) above) the following is specified for a diesel engined flatbed truck: Tyre size 215/75 R 16C; Max axle load (kg) front 1550, rear 2300; Pressure, front 44 psi, rear 70 psi, (both values slightly

more than the 'plated values' but of no significant amount, but non-the-less all adding to the uncertainty). When tyres are inflated as advised above, my Pollensa gives me a most uncomfortable and noisy ride,, hence my questions at the 2006 AGM.

Because of the very bumpy ride and because I did not get any satisfactory answers from the panel of experts at the AGM, I tried, during the course of the rally, to identify and speak to members who appeared to be experienced individuals and found that several operated at something less than the base vehicle maximum - 60 psi being the most favoured value for rear wheels. Looking deeper still, I obtained a publication by the British Rubber Manufacturers' Association 'Tyre Tips for Motorhomes' (a most informative document). They give a sliding scale of inflation pressures based on *wheel* loadings, ranging from 36 psi @ 668 kg to a maximum recommended value of 60 psi @ 1032 kg. They go on to indicate that this tyre, the 215/75 R 16 C, can be loaded up to 1150 kg (axle 2300 kg) but at higher inflation pressure, **but this is not to be recommended!** A Michelin publication of which I have had sight gives front 48 psi, rear 60 psi.

For me the next step was to get the vehicle to a public weighbridge to determine each axle load and total laden mass: fully loaded except for my wife, but with due allowance made, and with all tanks full, I was able to identify from the 'Tyre Tips for Motorhomes' chart that their recommended inflation values for my usage would be: front 40 to 44 psi, rear 51 to 54 psi. Suitably adjusted, it made a very, very, significant

difference to both ride comfort and road handling and with no noticeable difference to mpg.

But now a vital note. Some months later the vehicle was submitted for MOT, service, etc. And afterwards was then driven in the rain the 11 miles or so to my home and parked safely in a secure position on hard standing.

The following morning dawned bright and I examined 'Polly', paying particular attention to the engine compartment, wheels and cleanliness - OK good job done. Two days later and with the vehicle having been undisturbed, I noticed a flat OS rear tyre. Examination revealed a slit in the rubber valve sleeve, originating from the base of the valve near to where it emerges from the wheel, and almost reaching to the valve cap. Checking the NS wheel I found it was inflated to 69 psi! - the same as the 'plated figure'. Perhaps the MOT/service engineers too are confused about published data. I shudder to think of the consequences of a sudden deflation at speed.

I suspect that deflation is not as uncommon as some would have us believe, and I wonder if many occurrences are not caused by over inflation pressures caused by the confusion between base vehicle *maximum* specified values and *mass load related* values. I wonder if any information could be gleaned from AA & RAC records for the UK - this might be enlightening, but I doubt if their records would include the inflation data from each call out.

Personally, I shall continue to use the guidance given by the BRMA and ignore the plated advice, but I do think that Auto-Sleepers should get their act together with Ford and specify to Ford what is required of them for the intended purposes, ie for a motor home base unit. My 'Polly' is certainly not a 'cab/flatbed truck' whatever its mass, tons or tonnes. Other vehicle manufacturers are quite definite and specific in their recommendations as to tyre operating pressures, my Toyota Picnic manual tells me what pressure to use at different mass loadings and at different speeds, why can't Auto-Sleepers do the same for their customers?

This has been passed to Auto-Sleepers for comment and Baz Wellard is chasing for a response.

ASOC cannot give advice on this as it would breach the Clubs insurance limitations. However I as a member would like to express my opinion. If I owned a motorhome using a Ford Transit MK6 (2000-2006) as a base vehicle and it was fitted with rubber tyre valve sleeves then I would not inflate any of the tyres to greater than 60psi. Additionally if I had till now been using tyre pressures of over 60psi I would have the valve sleeves replaced immediately either with new rubber ones or with metal ones.

I hope AS are able to obtain some qualified advice from Ford in time for publication in the next Newsletter

Peter Brown

Failed Water Pump

During the recent Rocester rally I turned on the tap in the bathroom. After two cycles the water pump stopped dead and of course no water was forthcoming. I checked everything was still switched on and that no fuse had blown before facing up to the fact that I would have to dismantle a lot of the wardrobe and electrical installation in order to be able to remove the floor of the wardrobe to get at the pump.

However not being quite as impulsive as I was in my youth I had a think first. It came to mind that the display on the control panel for the Sargent EC200 Electronic Control System fitted in our van occasionally blanks out, preventing operation of any 12v powered electrical device in the van. The procedure to rectify this is given in the handbook and involves removing and replacing the cable connection plug at the back of the control panel to reset the system.

Knowing that the water pump on/off switch is part of the EC200 system I thought I'd try a reset (even though it looked as though it was working properly—ie pump switch light going on and off as the switch was operated). Being well practised at re-setting the system it only took me a couple of minutes and 'hey-presto' we got water again. Thanks for old (er) age and a bit of pre-thinking.

Peter Brown

A timely reminder from Rita and John Tubb to everyone to take lots of photos so you can enter the photographic competition at the 2008 National Rally. Size - either 7x5 or 6x4. Categories: General - can be taken anywhere but must have an Auto-Sleeper in the photo. Humorous - must be taken on a rally and can be digitally enhanced. Any entries must be in by 31 March 2008.

Rally News

**Hurley
Rita & John Tubb**

The weather was kind to us most of the time when 30 vans visited Hurley Riverside Park on the Thames. A walk was organized to a local pub, led by Jenny & Peter Fraser and attended by about 35 people and thoroughly enjoyed by all! Not so sure about the rain on the way back....

We held a group BBQ on Saturday evening and there was plenty of choice for people to walk or cycle in the area. There were buses to Henley, Maidenhead and Windsor and the Marlow Regatta, taking place over the same week-end, was a bonus. So many thanks to the able assistance of Dave and Theresa Smith and Chris and Shirley Sturgeon and of course, all the ralliers who came along.

Rocester Della Chapman

Our 4 nights at the JCB Rally at Rocester was most enjoyable *despite* the awful weather. Peter, Chris, Mike and Jeanne coped well with trips to Trentham Gardens and shopping in Uttoxeter instead of a 7½ mile walk over 30 stiles through very muddy fields. They started off though, by going out to buy a gazebo and our big brollies came out for an airing **several** times.

The JCB tour and lunch was attended by most and enjoyed very much. As Saturday evening was just too wet for the BBQ Peter went out for chips and 'summat' for everyone. We had a fun quiz hurriedly put together by Jeff Atkinson with questions numbered 1 - 24, however 12, 13, 14, 15 were missing - Don't ask!!

So don't be put off by the weather folks, there's always something to do or you could just catch up on reading and sleeping - very relaxing...

ALKMAAR North Holland Rally. 1-9 June 2007

Pauline Hill

JEANNE and MIKE HALL put a lot of work, time and effort into making this a most enjoyable rally. From the first welcoming smiles, guidance and information, they, with their valiant assistants, HILARY and LIONEL WALKER were there making sure that we got as much, or little, out of the week, as we possibly wanted.

Holland is definitely a land of the bicycle! Many of the ralliers brought their bikes, whether they were regular cyclists, or like me, once a year folks. There were certainly a few 'sore rear ends' some evenings.

Right from the start, on the Friday afternoon, Mike led a contingent, some on bikes, some on foot, and even one motor scooter, a mile along the cycle road to the nearest supermarket. On Saturday, he took a similar party into Alkmaar itself (a lot shorter distance on bikes than driving), pointing out landmarks en route. In town, eyes opened wide, as a '*lady*' elaborately dressed all in white passed, but the fact that *he* hadn't quite 'got the walk right', causing a few giggles! Jeanne had organised coffee and delicious Dutch apple cake at a cafe in the square, and most people also made use of the 'facilities', on learning that public toilets are non-existent! An extensive, colourful street-market created much interest.

Sunday saw a ride led by Lionel across flat country, fields being separated by ditches and small canals. Bird watchers among us were delighted with what they saw, and wild flowers were a delight. Fields held many horses, and we saw the inevitable windmills. Coffee was taken in the small town of Bergen, before several intrepid cyclists went on to Bergen-Aan-Zee. (Yes, On-Sea!) The North Sea invited a few paddlers, but no deeper! Being Sunday, lots of families were out and about on foot and bikes on the sand dunes and in the woods.

On Monday, Jeanne led an informal tour around historic buildings in Alkmaar. Somehow they landed up in the 'Red Light' district, and there were strange tales that evening of a vibrating hippo, and ?carrots?!

The special outing booked for Tuesday, was by water. Making their way to the landing stage necessitated a bus ride, and delighted pensioners found out that 'over 65s' went free!! A two hour boat trip on a major canal was provided with a commentary in the lower deck cabin, but most of us preferred the upper deck, and fresh air. Two hours were then spent in Zaanse Schans, a 'Living Museum

Village', with original painted wooden houses, shops with individual museums, and windmills, some working. Many of us enjoyed massive Dutch Pancakes for lunch. The return journey turned out to be quite chilly.

On Wednesday most people 'Did their own thing'. I, like a number of others, braved the cycle roads again, to another town/beach, Egmond-Aan-Zee. Another colourful street market was setting up for the evening as I left.

Thursday saw another outing, north to Den Helder. This time on the train. Great amusement when buying tickets, Charlie, the one dog on the rally, had to have his own ticket, and was given a biscuit by the booking clerk! An enthusiastic traveller by the end of the week, he also had his own 'Strippen-Kart' or multi-journey bus ticket. The town of Den Helder is protected from the sea by a massive grass covered dyke, and an invigorating walk along the top of it, took some of us to the Maritime Museum. Apparently, Den Helder was an important dock-yard especially during the two world wars, but is now being run down.

Friday brought the Alkmaar speciality, the weekly Cheese Market. We set off to see this colourful, spectacular event. Hundreds of round yellow cheeses, weighing around 30kg each were lined up in the square, and as they were sold, members of the Guilds of Cheese Carriers, in white clothes, and straw hats with distinctive coloured ribbons, carried them off, eight at a time, on wooden 'sledges', harnessed to their shoulders. (See pictures on the web-site).

Most evenings of the rally, there were informal gatherings mainly outside Jeanne and Mike's 'van, catching up on the days happenings, and fortunately the weather was extremely kind to us, warm to hot, and no rain.

Friday evening was the exception. Everyone brought something towards an American Supper, a superb meal, nothing missing or over-catered. Only trouble was, thunder rumbled around during the meal, then just as we were packing up, and preparing to play a game, the first spots of heavy rain started to fall, and it was necessary to take shelter in groups in 'vans or under awnings. A pity to finish up in that way, but it was dry in the morning as everyone prepared to leave. Big farewells for those going home, but many 'See you in Delft next week', from folks going off in all directions before the next rally.

A big Thank You to Jeanne and Mike for a most enjoyable rally. A whole week without having to take the 'van off site! I hope *you* enjoyed *yourselves* in Delft.



And After Alkmaar..... Elizabeth Grimsley

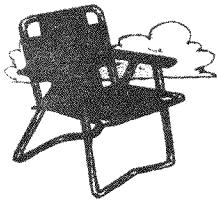
We, along with 19 other vans, attended the rally at Alkmaar, which was very well run by Mike and Jeanne Hall, and Lionel and Hilary Walker, but I wonder what everyone else did afterwards. I know that a few were going on to the other rally at Delft, but even they had a week to use up before that one began.

What did we do?... We headed north, over the 18 mile long Afsluidyke to the north coast and a site at Lauwersoog. Busses pass by the entrance to the site, so on our first full day (Sunday) we went into Groningen. (We had to pay on the buses in this area!) This was a disappointing town, but maybe it's not got much to offer. All we could see going on was beach volley ball (yes, on sand) in the square outside the large church. There were scantily clad young women playing on one 'court' and young men playing on another—not exactly of interest to us. Another much larger square, with an impressive pillared building at one end was deserted. After a look in the church we ate our packed lunch and soon returned to the campsite.

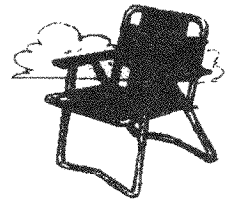
We had 2 more nights in Holland on a rural site east of Almelo and not far from the German border. Here we experienced something which had never happened before in 30 years of motorcaravanning - various birds landing on our roof rather frequently. Imagine the early morning song of a blackbird sounding through our open roof vent at 4.30/5.00 am, and we only had low bushes round our pitch!

We decided to go to Hameln in Germany next, and as we were shown to our pitch, another Gatcombe came into view. We knew that John and Linda Hill were going to Hameln to find John's army barracks (still there), but we thought they would be on their way back to Delft by that time. Anyway we parked behind them and had a very sociable evening together.

The next day we got the bus in the opposite direction to the harbour, where we got the ferry to the island of Schiermonnikoog, together with dozens of school children, who were going to have a few nights on the island. Almost the whole island is a National Park consisting of sand dunes and beaches, salt marshes, tidal flats and scrub/woodland. There is a village with some houses dating back to 1720. There are about 1,000 permanent residents and some 300,000 people visit each year.



August 2007 Rally Supplement



2nd - 6th August (4 nights) West Somerset Steam Fayre, Bishop Lydeard, Somerset.

Emergency Tel.No. 0789468286.

Rally Marshals: Mike Buttel & Paul Mollard.

Site Fees:£5.00 per night. NO ELECTRICITY. Rally Fee:£1.50 per person..

Booking slips & cheques to Mike Buttel, Parkley, Mill Lane, Station Road, Wiveliscombe, Somerset.TA4 2LY. Tel.No. 01984 623133.

The Steam Fayre is open on Saturday & Sunday. Price of entry is:-Adults £6.00, OAP £5.00 & Children £3.00, payable at the gate.

Taunton Flower Show is on Friday & Saturday with a bus service from the Station to town.

Steam trains are running a full daily service to Minehead throughout August starting at 9.35 a.m.

There will be a daily shop service to order for newspapers, milk, bread etc. Calor Gas will be available on site within the camping area.

There will be a Bar on the showground from Friday evening.

Directions:The site is located in the Station Field behind the Station at Bishops Lydeard. The site is signposted from Taunton on the A358 to Minehead...

8th - 13th August (5 nights or less if you wish!) Abingdon Vale Cricket Club, Abingdon, Oxfordshire

Emergency Tel. No. 07880 532057 (Marshal's mobile).

Rally Marshals: Angie & Andy Cavell and Mo & Mike Valentine.

Site fee: £5.00 per night: Rally Fee £2.50 couple, £1.50 single (inc VAT).

Rally slips & cheques to A. Cavell, 24 The Close, Hampstead Norreys, Thatcham, Berks. RG18 0RY. Tel.No. 01635 201976.

Attractions: This is a GREENFIELD Site adjacent to the River Thames and only a short walk from the town centre, which has a variety of specialist shops and several pubs. There are many local attractions including bus and boat services to Oxford. We will have the use of the pavilion for a get-together on Friday evening if the weather is bad!

Dogs welcome, subject to usual rules; there are walks straight from the site.

The Croquet Club has again offered tuition and a mini tournament on Friday morning at a cost of £5.00 per head. Numbers are limited, so this will be on a first come first served basis. Please indicate on rally slip if interested but DO NOT SEND MONEY. Payment will be direct to the Croquet Club on the day.

Directions: The cricket club is on the A415 Abingdon to Dorchester road. If you approach from Abingdon, it is on the right after you go over the river bridge. Don't turn in to the car park! About 100 yards after the car park there are two gateways side by side. The cricket club is the right hand gateway. Coming the other way it is the second of the two gateways on the left just after the 30 mph sign. **Limited to 50 vans.**

9th - 14th August (5 nights) Eskdale School, Whitby, North Yorks.

Emergency Tel.No. 07711271568 (Marshal's mobile).

Rally Marshals: Liz Irvin & Mike & Jeanne Hall.

Site Fee £.4.70 per night. Rally Fee £3.40 (couples) £1.70 (singles).

Greenfield Site, No Toilets, No Electricity. All Hardstandings.

Booking slips to Mrs E Irvin, 43 School Lane, Kirk Ella, Hull, East Yorkshire.HU10 7NP. Tel.No. 01482 658345. Cheques payable to Mrs E Irvin.

Attractions: Whitby Regatta 11th 12th & 13th August. School off the Scarborough Road, Buses run

hourly to Whitby. Come and explore Whitby's fascinating and historic streets and waterfront. The site is close to the Whitby end of the Moor to Sea Cycle Route linking Scarborough and Pickering. For walkers the Cleveland Way coastal path is nearby. Visit Goathland where Heartbeat is filmed, or travel on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway.

Directions: From Scarborough on A171, on entering Whitby, after Lay-by and 30 mph. sign turn left into Eskdale Road and the school is on the left. From Guisborough on A171 enter Whitby continue on the Scarborough Road, cross the new Esk Bridge and continue up the hill. Eskdale Road is on the right, before the industrial estate.

15th – 19th August (4 nights*) – Open Air Concert Rally. Malvern.WR13 6NW.

Emergency telephone 07879 473434 (Marshal's mobile.)

Rally marshals: Dorothy & Baz Wellard; assisted by Marian & Jimmy Henwood.

Fees: Site fees 4 nights £25 or £8.50 per night (**option to stay over Sunday night – free!*)

Rally fee: £2.50 for two or £ 1.75 single. Concert fee(s) Group pre-booked £18 per adult (£26 on the night) or 2 day ticket £33 per person. Ralliers will be expected to attend at least one of the concerts, please. Rally slips and cheques for rally, and the concerts, payable to Mrs. D Wellard, 18 Greenwood Close, Fareham, Hants, PO16 7UF. If you only wish to go to 1 concert please indicate which one. Tickets will be issued at the rally. SAE please if you wish to receive confirmation.

Attractions: The Malvern Showground's open-air concert celebrates its tenth anniversary in 2007, and is extending it to 2 nights for the very first time. Also for the first time they have agreed to let us run a rally for members who wish to attend either or both great concerts. Malvern is also an ideal centre to visit the local countryside and attractions.

Friday 17th Bootleg Beatles: The world's first tribute band, the Bootleg Beatles will be the star attraction on Friday. A multi media spectacular, featuring all the classic Beatle hits.

Saturday 18th Tribute to Elgar: Compered by Angela Rippon, the English Symphony Orchestra and Fine Arts Brass will be performing an Elgar tribute, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of his birth, with other popular classics, culminating in spectacular fireworks and cannon fire.

Site: We will be in the caravan field which has toilets and showers. We will not have exclusive use, but we should all be co-located. Dogs are not allowed in the main showground area.

Directions: The Three Counties Showground is well signposted from all approaches. Entry is by the yellow gate.

21st – 26th August (5 nights) Topsham Rugby Club,Nr.Exeter,Devon.

Emergency Tel No. 07890876859 (Marshals' mobile.)

Rally marshals Elizabeth & Bryn Morgan 44 Mersey Road, Stockport. SK4 3DJ. Home Tel. No.0161 432 4869 and Nora & Ven Venables Home Tel. No.01902 332 105

Site Fees: £6.50 per night. Rally Fee £4.35 for couples, £2.18 for singles incl. Vat.

This is a GREEN FIELD SITE with fresh water and an Eisan emptying point (No electricity.) We will be able to use the club's toilet and shower facilities. We plan to devise a roster so we can use the communal shower room. **RALLY FULL** day. We plan to devise a roster so we can use the communal shower room. Dogs are allowed but they must be on a lead at all times and exercised. **lease say on rally slip if you are bringing a dog.** The rugby club may have functions on whilst we are there. We hope to organise a "Bring Your Own Supper" one evening.

Attractions: Topsham is a delightful small town situated on the River Exe. Topsham Town Fair Week coincides with our rally. Topsham has an historic quay, ferries across the river and an excellent bus and train service to Exeter City. The town has a good range of shops, eating places, pubs and an open-air heated swimming pool. The nearby River Clyst has a nature reserve that is popular with bird watchers. Dartmoor National Park is a short drive away. The rugby club is 300 yards from the town.

Please send cheques payable to B. Morgan together with a rally slip and an SAE to the address above. Directions and confirmation of booking will then be sent to you. **LIMIT OF 35 VANS.**

NEW RALLY, 23rd - 27th. August (4 nights) Burn Gliding Club, Nr. Selby, North

Yorks.

Club Tel.No.01757 270 296 (Emergencies only).

Rally Marshal: Alan Guest.

Site Fee: £5.00 per night. (incl.VAT). No Electricity. Rally Fee: Couples £2.35 Singles £1.75 (incl.VAT).

Booking slips to Alan Guest, 27 Chiltem Drive, Ackworth, Pontefract, West Yorks. WF7 7DW. Tel.No. 01977 612 773. (after 6.30pm.) Cheques payable to A.Guest.

Attractions: Gliding trial flights/ lessons over weekend (subject to weather).

Directions: From M62 junct.34 take A19 towards Selby, Gliding Club signposted in Burn Village

31st August - 3rd Sept. (3 nights) Wimpole Hall (National Trust) Cambridgeshire

Emergency tel. 07905 898149

Rally Marshals Stella & Ian Ross

Site Fee £10.00 per night Rally Fee £2.35 (incl.VAT) GREENFIELD Site. No Electricity.

Group (Reduced) Rate entry to Hall - Home Farm & Gardens for ASOC (Non NT) members.

Cheese & Wine Supper Saturday evening £4.75 per person, non-alcoholic drink available - state preference. Cream Tea Sunday afternoon £4.95 per person. If required please send payment

with Rally & Site Fees. Cheque payable to Mrs S Ross 33 Grosvenor Gardens Upminster Essex RM14 1DL Tel. 01708 228075.

Attractions: Rally Site in grounds of :- Wimpole Estate:- Hall - Home Farm - Park - 60 Acres Gardens - Several walks within grounds.

Directions: From M11 Junction 12 take A603 direction Sandy. In 6 miles just after Orwell village, turn Right into Wimpole Estate. **20 Vans Max.**

**** Members are welcome to attend one or both of these rallies. Why not do both and have an extended holiday in Cambs. and Essex. ****

7th - 9th Sept. (2 nights) Essex Steam & Country Show. Billericay, Essex.

Emergency tel. 07905 898149

Rally Marshals Stella & Ian Ross

Rally Fee £2.35 (incl.VAT) Greenfield Site. No Electricity.

Send rally fee, cheques payable to Mrs S Ross, with rally slip and SAE for Show Application form by 24th August to:- Mrs S Ross 33 Grosvenor Gardens, Upminster, Essex RM14 1SL. Tel 01708 228075.

Fees payable to Show Organisers. Special advance booking prices. Camping 2 nights £16. Show Tickets per day Adult £9, Child £4, Senior Citizen £6. Return the Show application form to the organiser, address on form by closing date 1st Sept.

Attractions: Vintage steam engines. Over 150 Craft Stands. Working Heavy Horses. Trade Stands, Arena Events, vintage cars & motorbikes and much more.

Directions: Will enclose sketch map with application form.

6th -10^h. September (4 nights) Lancaster Heritage Weekend, Lancaster F.C.

Emergency Tel.No. 07989776207 Marshal's mobile.

Rally Marshals:- Kevin Harwood & Don Bland.

Site Fees: £5.00 per night. NO Electricity. Rally Fee:-£3.00 couples, £2.00 singles. All hardstandings. Toilets available during the day..

Booking slips & cheques with SAE to F.K.Harwood, 10 Peel Crescent, Westfield Village, Lancaster.LA1 5NY. Tel.No. 01524 62697.

Attractions:-City centre 5 min walk includes Museums (5),Castle, theatres, etc (free entry this weekend). Nearby historic Heysham & Morecambe.RAF display & fireworks.Walking & cycling(level) alongside river & canal.Lake District 30 mins drive away..

Directions: Northbound Leave M6 @Junct.33 join A6 North.Follow signs for city centre & train station .Once in one way system turn left at Waterstones bookshop.Pass rail station on right then

turn left into West Rd. After 300 yds. Football Club on right.
Southbound Leave M6 at Junct. 34 follow signs to city centre & rail station. Follow one way system round city keeping in right hand lane until KFC. Then get in left lane ready to turn left at Waterstones bookshop. Then as above. Limit 25 vans. Rally starts at 12 noon.

7th - 9th September. Motorhome & RV Show, Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

Emergency Tel.No. 0777 557 0182 Marshals' mobile.
Rally Marshals: Jan & Vic Hicklin, Eirwen & Ben Cox. & Margaret & Bob Cleaver.
Site Fee: Special Club prices. Arrive Thursday £28.00 Friday onwards £23.00.
Rally Fee: £2.35 (Incl.VAT). Send rally fee with rally slip & SAE for Show application form to Mrs. J. Hicklin, 381 Manor Road, Brimington, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S43 1PP. Tel.No. 01246 236 157 by 16th. August. Show application forms to be returned to the organisers, Stone Leisure, by 23rd. August.

NEW DATES. 7th - 9th. September (2 nights) Ludlow Food & Drink Festival, Ludlow School, Ludlow, Shrops.

Emergency Tel.No. 07849298695 (Marshals' mobile).
Rally Marshals: Sheila & Ivor Barnett, Nora & Ven Venables & team.
Site Fee: £10.35 per night. (Incl.VAT). Rally Fee: £2.35 (Incl.VAT). Total fees £23.05.
NO ELECTRICITY. Rally slips to Mr. I.C. Barnett, Highlevel, Farden Bitterley, Nr. Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 3HU. Tel.No. 01584 890 428. Cheque payable to I.C. Barnett. Please enclose a SAE (C6 9X6) for directions etc. **GREENFIELD** site with all level hardstandings, heated hall for evenings. Saturday evening American Supper. **NO DOGS allowed.**
Attractions: This weekend is Ludlow's Food & Drink Festival which is held on the Saturday & Sunday. There is a Sausage Trail, a Bread Trail, an Ale Trail plus cheese tasting.
Directions: 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 sign and left into Leisure Centre Car Park. On A49 from North follow South Shropshire Leisure Centre signs on B4361 turn right into Leisure Centre Car Park. Follow ASOC signs. **Limit of 28 vans.** Rally closes at 3.00p.m. Sunday. DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE 4.30 p.m. FRIDAY.

12th - 17th September (5 nights) Shoreham Airshow, Shoreham by Sea.

Emergency Tel.No. 07999571461.
Rally Marshals: Shirley & Chris Sturgeon, Theresa & Dave Smith.
Airshow Tickets £26.00 per adult, £10.00 per child. This covers both days.
Booking slips & cheques payable to Mr. A.N. Fowler, 20 Hawkins Close, Shoreham by Sea, West Sussex, BN43 6TL. Tel.No. 01273594479 Send a SAE if confirmation of booking is required.
Saturday evening Buffet meal available at £4.12 (Incl.VAT) each, payable in advance.
Attractions: - A 2 day airshow with on ground entertainment, cycle rides from site.
Directions: - On the A27 between Brighton & Worthing leave A27 at traffic lights opposite the Sussex Pad Hotel. Turn into Airport. (This is the only entrance for motorhomes). Please do not arrive before 12 noon on Wednesday. Sorry **NO DOGS** allowed.

20th - 23rd September. Northern Motorcaravan Show, York Racecourse, York.

Emergency Tel.No. 07922049714 (Marshals' mobile).
Rally Marshals: Pauline & Neil Rogers, Evelyn & Ben Mansfield & Jean & Ian Sellers.
Rally Fee: £2.00 (couples), £1.50 (singles) Both incl.VAT. Please remember to send a rally slip and cheque for the Rally Fee payable to N.C. & P. Rogers, 3 Appleby Close, Aldbrough St. John, Richmond, North Yorks. DL11 7TT. Tel.No. 01325 374 540
The special Club site fees are: - Thursday to Monday £38, Friday to Monday £35, Saturday to Monday £32. You may either use the form enclosed in the July Newsletter or fill in an application

form from MMM or Which M'Van using the special fees and mark the form A.S.O.C in large letters. Send this form back to the organisers, Warners with the site fees, before the closing date 3rd September.

Applicants after this date cannot rally with the Club.

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

26th - 30th September (4 nights) Fort Widley, Cosham, Portsmouth.

Emergency Tel.No. 07747815594 & 07766093174. Marshals' mobiles.

Rally Marshals: Doreen & Derek Turner - Pam Davies - Sheila & Dave Stewart.

Site Fees for 4 nights £28.80. (Includes hire of hall for Saturday). Rally Fee: -£3.25 couples, £2.50 singles (Incl.VAT). GREENFIELD Site NO Electricity. Water, toilet emptying points.

Toilets within Fort. Electric charge point for wheel chairs. Short fairly steep incline to site.

Dogs welcome, but on leads whilst on site.

Possibility of tour of the underground rooms & tunnels under Fort. Cost £2.00 per person. State on rally slip if interested. (Stairs only NO lift).

Rally slips with SAE for reply & directions to : Doreen Turner, 45 The Thicket, Fareham, Hants. PO16 8QA. Tel.No. 01329 232716. Cheques payable to Doreen Turner.

Attractions- This Napoleonic Fort is situated on Portsdown Hill with magnificent sea views over Portsmouth & Southsea. The many tourist attractions include Fort Nelson Armouries, HMS Victory & Warrior, The Mary Rose, the D. Day Museum & the new Spinnaker Tower, to name just a few. The Chuchillian public house serves food & is a short walk. Buses are within ½ mile.

Limit 22 vans. Rally starts at 12 noon.

27th September - 1st October (4 nights) Masham Sheep Festival, Old Station

H.P., Masham, North Yorks.

Emergency Site Tel.No. 01765 689569. not for rally bookings.

Rally marshals: Val & Robin Gardner, Maureen & Cedric Jones.

Marshals' mobiles Valerie 07794 411 446, Robin 07796 202 238.

Site Fee: -£10 per night Hook up optional £2.50 per night. Awnings extra.

Rally Fee: £8.00 per couple £5.00 singles. (VAT incl.).

SAE (for confirmation, directions & meal booking forms) with rally slips & cheques payable to Mrs. V.J. Gardner, Marango, 13 Carrington Ave., Flackwell Heath, Bucks. HP10 9AL. Tel.No 01628 522363. Put your mobile Tel.No. on rally slip if possible please.

Attractions: Sheep Fair (open Sat. & Sun. 10.00 - 4.00) is an annual event & includes sheep show, sheep racing, spinning & weaving demos plus many more.

Friday a.m. A walk in the local area led by Ian Sellers.

Friday evening Black Sheep Brewery Tour (min 15 persons). Includes a drink & supper @ £15 per head. This is a 20 min walk from the site and involves a lot of steps in the brewery.

Saturday evening: A meal has been organized at £7.50 a head including sweet & coffee on site. Meals are also available on other days bookable on site. Brewery tour & Sat. meal payments to be made at rally.

3rd - 8th October (5 nights) Autumn in Norfolk, Royal Norfolk Showground, Norwich.

This will be a rally at the ACCEO AGM, attendance of the AGM is not required.

Royal Norfolk Showground, 4 miles west of Norwich just off the A17.

Organisers (on behalf of ACCEO) the Omaha & District Breakers C & C Club.

ASOC Contacts Barbara & Ray Whiley.

Rally Marshals: Pauline & Neil Rogers & Jean & Ian Sellers.

This is a Greenfield site close to a Norwich Park & Ride terminus, and a large shopping complex which includes Sainsbury's & the Range (garden, crafts & homeware).

ASOC Site emergency Tel.No. 07922049714. Marshals' mobile.

Cost: Weekend (Friday & Saturday nights) £15.00 per unit. Additional nights (Wednesday, Thursday & Sunday) £6.00 per night. Friday & Saturday entertainment pass £7.50 per adult. Friday evening fish & chips, Sunday roast lunch at cost.

Attractions: Norwich and nearby, brochures will be provided in rally packs.

For full details send either your e-mail address to ray@rewhiley.fsnet.co.uk or a SAE to Mr. & Mrs. R.E. Whiley, 21 Ellcar Rise, Eaton, Norwich, NR4 6HR. Tel. No. 01603 452 593.

Please note that all ASOC bookings must be made on one ACCEO booking form. Applications must arrive at the Whileys by **SEPTEMBER 1st**.

Details have already been sent to members who have already shown interest.

NEW RALLY 8th -12th October.(4 nights). Walk the Wolds,Alford Cricket Club,Lincs.

Emergency Tel.No._07768164522.

Site Fee: £30.00. NO Electricity.

Rally Fee:£2.00.

Rally Marshals: Janet Sutterby & Eileen Kellard.

Meals(optional) Tuesday,Wednesday & Thursday £5.00 per head payable at rally.(Incl.VAT).

Rally slips & cheques payable to Janet Sutterby, 3 Bilsby Road,Alford,Lincs.LN13 9EW.

Tel.No. 01507 462 449.

Venue Cricket Club car park & firm grass.Use of pavilion facilities.

Walks arranged,card making for beginners,cycle routes.Small town 1 mile,sea 8 miles.

Directions: In East Lincs take A16 Boston to Louth road and turn onto the A1104 for Alford.Turn **right** opposite church onto the B1196 signed "Welton le Marsh & Willoughby.In 1 mile turn **right** onto narrow road signed "Well".Cricket on **right** in 0.1 miles.

9th - 13th. November.(4 nights) Somerset Carnival, Burnham on Sea.

Rally Marshals: Linda & Brian Ellis, Sheila & Ivor Barnett.

Site Fee: £51.00.(Includes electric). Rally Fee: £2.50. Total £53.50.(Incl.VAT). by the end of

September please.

Rally slips & cheques made payable to Brian Ellis,52 Golf Links Road,Burnham on Sea,Somerset.TA8 2TP. Tel.No. 01278 784 524. Mobile 07711375323.

The Carnival is on Monday evening.Rally limited to 60 pitches,45 are hardstanding 15 grass.Site toilets & showers. NO PETS ALLOWED,site rules.

Attractions: Saturday coach trip to Clarks' Village of Street (shopping) cost approx. £3.50 each(**DO NOT send payments but indicate interest on slip**).Sunday evening Fireworks display on beach.Monday a.m. beach to pub walk.Monday evening two hour(approx) Carnival Procession. The Holiday Village is approx. 10 mins walk from the town centre.There is also a Saunders Garden Centre a short ride out of town with parking.

Directions: Post Code TA8 1NQ. M5 junct. 22 Burnham on Sea exit.To large island(Edithmead A38) turn **left** and follow signs for Burnham Holiday Village (Taunton A38).In approx. 1 mile straight over island A38 continue past Caravan Sales, over railway bridge then turn **second right** signed Burnham Holiday Village to mini island by petrol station.Bear **left** towards Burnham town centre.Holiday Village about a ¼ mile on **left**.

Rally starts at 10.00a.m. Friday 9th. November.

It is important that all potential rally dates and venues are checked with me first as unless they are approved by the Club,there will be no Public Liability Insurance.

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

Rally : Date:

Your name and address(Please PRINT)

.....

..... Post code:

Phone No.: Van Reg: Length

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: Length

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 Evening meal: 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 Evening meal: 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!

Hameln is best known for the story of the Rat Catcher who, when he had cleared the town of rats and mice in 1284, during a plague, was not paid the agreed fee. He returned in the form of a hunter in frightful appearance, played his pipe and 130 children followed him out of the town never to be seen again. The 'Pied Piper' is considered to be the most famous figure of German legends in the world. The town has an old centre with 16 - 18th Century sandstone and half timbered buildings.

We skirted Hannover as we continued eastwards to Wolfsburg. I have been several times before, but not camping, as it is the home of Volkswagen. The town has built up since the 1930s when Hitler decided this was the place to build the factory to make the 'people's car' - the Beetle. There are large canal and railway connections to the rest of Europe, so it was a good place to build the mile long factory. Now there is also Autostadt next to the factory, which is like a theme park with pavilions for each brand of car in the VW Group, all set in a beautifully landscaped park. The history of the Volkswagen, with many exhibits, can be seen at a separate museum. The original small village of Wolfsburg and a large castle are only a bike ride away. There's plenty to interest one here, unless one has no interest in Volkswagens.

Our final destination, and the reason we didn't go to Delft, was Limburg, south of Koln, to meet up with other members of the Leistershire & Warwickshire VW Owners' Club. They flew into Koln.Bonn airport and we all stayed in a hotel for 4 nights. The purpose of this trip was to spend most of the week-end at nearby Bad Camberg, where there was a gathering of probably the most really old (1950s at least) Volkswagen - Beetles and vans. Most were really well restored and cared for, while a few were waiting for such treatment. Some vans were so rusty at the seams and edges that we wondered how they had ever passed an MOT and survived a drive from Britain without falling apart! They had road tax discs 'til April or May 2008! The event only takes place every 4 years and was started by the late owner of the VW garage in 1979. Like so many similar events it gets bigger every year, but most of us had never been before.

By now our weather had deteriorated and we were getting all the rain left over from flooding parts of Britain. We had very wet conditions for driving back and soggy, muddy camp sites in Belgium, France and Kent.

Two Lake District Rallies—May 2007

Peter Coward

Ambleside Rugby Club

Yet another lively gathering - 55 of us in total enjoyed our 5 nights - during which the weather was fairly kind to us most of the time. The fell walk to Rydal Water proved popular with welcome refreshments at the Badger Bar and a visit to the Langdale Ambleside Mountain Rescue Team Headquarters was of great interest. As usual a good social atmosphere prevailed each evening and the introduction of a Chinese Raffle to the programme, in addition to a variety of games and quizzes, proved to be a winner.

The 4 days went by only too quickly, ending with a Final Night Supper, produced once again by Nick Martin, followed by the raffle, prize-giving, etc., and next morning we all parted company with 19 vans pointing their noses westwards, across to the coast for the 'follow-on' rally.

Camping & Caravanning Club, Ravenglass

Being a new venue many people were inquisitive at paying a visit to this peaceful spot - previously an important garrison port in Roman times - and the only place where the Lake District National Park meets the sea.

Upon arrival at our site it was noticeable that almost everyone was seen to 'chill out' in the sunshine, which was not difficult to do in such a pleasant and leafy glade. (Described by some as 'a little gem'.) The two main local attractions here proved very popular - lots of tickets purchased for the Ravenglass Railway, La'al Ratty, and most of us spent quite some time at Muncaster Castle, where the grounds were a mass of colour with azaleas and rhododendrons, and the World Owl Centre proved fascinating.

Our two evening socials here took place in Muncaster Parish Hall and included a Bingo session and Rally Supper served by local ladies.

At the end of the rally many folks expressed delight at having been able to visit this more remote part of the country, and to compare it with other places in the Lake District.

Technical Group & Website

Baz Wellard
Chairman Technical Group & Webmaster



Protect your gearbox:

Mike Valentine informed me of a conversation he had with a commercial garage owner who has had to repair nine Peugeot HDI engines following damage to their clutch/gearbox/bell-housing assembly. In the opinion of the engineer the damage was due to moving the vehicle from stationary in other than first gear. This, he says, can result in damage costing about £5,000 to repair! I will not go into the technical details, but they are available if anyone feels a need.

I had never heard of this problem and on contacting Charles Trevelyan neither had he; however he did agree to pass on the perceived problem to Peugeot for their comments.

I will report back when I receive a reply but in the meantime I think the guidance is to use first gear when moving off!

Since receiving this from Baz Charles has advised that he has heard from Peugeot and that this problem does not occur with any of chassis that AS use for conversion. I'm sure a full explanation from Baz next month.

Blocked gas regulators:

To prevent the possible blockage of the gas regulator another solution is now available. The option is to change the rubber gas pipe for a stainless steel one which, it is claimed, removes any problem. The stainless steel pipe should be obtainable from most dealers - at a cost of around £30, as against typically £8 for a standard rubber hose, so it's not cheap! If you have any difficulty, try contacting Gaslow - telephone 0845 4000600 or sales@gaslow.co.uk.

Tyre valves:

In last month's Newsletter, Peter Brown's article referred to the failure of rubber tyre valves on a Ford chassis. This report was forwarded onto Auto-Sleepers who contacted Ford on our behalf. We still await Ford's reply.

Website:

Update, No. 5/07, contains:

Photographs and reports of: - Italy in the Spring; Hurley and Two Lake District rallies. Also a further fuel statistics for the Pescara.

FORMER MEMBERS AT RALLIES

Ray Whiley (Vice-President)

As renewed interest has been expressed in the possibility of allowing former members to attend occasional "open" rallies, I would like to add to my earlier comments (Newsletter 217, October 2006).

- 1 When the Club became a Company Limited by Guarantee, its Memorandum and Articles of Association were written to reflect its position as an owners club.
- 2 The Articles can be amended at an Annual General Meeting by a "Special Resolution".
- 3 To be considered, a Special Resolution needs the support of only two members (proposer and seconder, who may be husband and wife or partners sharing the same membership number).
- 4 To be carried, a Special Resolution needs the support of two-thirds of the members present and voting at the AGM.
- 5 The Club is able to organise rallies on unlicensed sites only because it holds an "Exemption Certificate" granted by DEFRA (the Department for the Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs), or whichever Department takes over its functions in a subsequent government.
- 6 The Exemption Certificate is governed by strict rules, one of which is that only full members of a club may attend a rally . The family of members may also attend.
- 7 It follows therefore that the Club's Articles could be changed to widen its membership to cover former members using another make of motorhome. These would have to become full members, pay the annual subscription, and *ipso facto* be entitled to full voting rights.
- 8 If members voted for this change, the Club would no longer be an owners club and its name would have to be changed (for moral if not legal reasons, although it is likely that Auto-Sleepers Ltd would no longer allow their name to be used in a club open to all makes, nor offer their valued support).

Members wishing to rally with friends who are no longer owners of Auto-Sleeper motorhomes have two choices: to join a club with open membership (of which there are many, including two very large ones with their own sites around the country) or to set up a new club for this purpose. There are also a number of shows during the year, which are open to all (but not reserved owners' club areas).

I cannot fault Ray's logic and take his point - Peter

Joan & David Jones would like to say Thank you

We went to France on 23rd May this year, planning to spend a month there. Early on in our trip in our 2004 Transit-based Ravenna, we were travelling south along the N147, when I noticed that the orange plastic lens of the driver's side marker light had disappeared. I felt unhappy that this was now open to the weather, which was poor, and was also probably illegal in the eyes of the French police. I removed the bulb so that it did not show a white light, but was unsure of what to do next. It was also a Friday, so not much *could* be done over the weekend.

On Monday morning I thought it might be worth a call to Charles Trevelyan at Willersey to see if he could help. I rang just after 9am and told him of my plight and asked if he could help.

Without hesitation he asked for details of the part and the address of the site and said he would post it to me in the south of France. This he did, and he even phoned me on my mobile about 5pm that day to let me know it had been posted, and that I should receive it in a few days. We received the complete light assembly on the following Wednesday afternoon.

This in my view is real quality service and one which definitely deserves a mention in the magazine. Many thanks once again to Charles and the team.

We need some input on Sat Navs

We have been looking at Tom-Tom 1 New Edition Europe and Garmin Europe (both priced £200), but after trying them out in the store - having both perform the same request, we are still confused as to which to buy.

Could anyone who has either of these models please get in touch on 01754 830373 (call and leave your number and we'll call you back).

Thanks.

Geoff Williamson

Geoff also supports comments about tyre pressures and Ann Sanders' comments on AS vehicle design.

From the Factory

Firstly I'd like to clear up a rumour that I have heard which is that Auto-Sleeper are discontinuing their relationship with Ford. This is completely untrue. As I said in June's newsletter, we have incurred some issues over deliveries with Ford but they are being resolved and we are starting to see product coming through to build on. The investment of launching our new models on Ford was based on the fact that the current Ford chassis will be in production until 2011/2012. Therefore, our commitment to build on Ford will continue at least through until then, at which time we, as always, will re-evaluate the situation. We will continue to build on the new Ford Transit, along with our other chassis suppliers VW & Peugeot.

What I can tell you is that Ford will not be building an automatic or offering the previous Durashift option. With that in mind we at Auto-Sleepers are looking to find a suitable alternative automatic chassis to build on that will compliment the existing range. We are very aware that the demand for automatic motorhomes is great and we want to be able to continue being one of the few British manufacturers that offers this to our customers. Research is underway and as soon as we have further news you will be one of the first to know!

As promised, here are some of the comments we had at the recent ASOC AGM Rally with regards to the new Warwick and other models. We have taken these comments on board internally and are happy to show you what we will be acting upon.

ASOC RALLY 2007 – FEEDBACK FROM THE FACTORY

WARWICK – SUGGESTIONS

Q: Passenger seat swivel & occasional table as an option

A: Yes – now on price list

Q: Stow table behind driver's seat to save wardrobe space

A: Yes – in progress

Q: Bigger splash plate to cover driver's seat back or re-locate the hob to where sink is and keep separate oven/grill where it is. People very worried about hob being near to driver's seat.

A: Yes – in progress

Q: New crockery required – can't put metallic rimmed plates in microwave!!

A: Yes – in progress

Q: Would have liked bigger wardrobe (maybe with some shelving)

A: No Action – not possible with bathroom and furniture configuration

Q: Put shelf or similar in bathroom to store shower gels etc, must be able to hold items securely in transit.

A: Yes - progress

Q: Umbrella stand needs plastic cup at the base to catch water if umbrella is wet!

A: Yes – in progress

Q: Solar panels as an option

A: No Action – but will evaluate

Q: Very negative on Eberspächer system would prefer gas/electric or convector heating system.

A: No Action

Q: Fit mud flaps as standard

A: Yes – will be an option

Q: Change crockery cupboard glass to wood infill or lighter glass – shows dust and dirt.

A: Yes – but later

Q: Get rid of ironing board as it's a waste!! Campers don't iron! Replace with a large drawer that pulls out into isle way, to store extra cutlery etc. Make ironing board optional.

A: No Action, ironing board will stay and we'll make it a no cost option to have a drawer in lieu of ironing board.

Q: Bed catches wrong end for making the bed from inside the van.

A: Yes - will modify

ALL MODELS

Q: Put shelf or similar in bathrooms to store shower gels etc, must be able to hold items securely in transit.

A: Agree – will action

Q: Put extra light in lounge areas at front and back (Nuevo in particular good example) would be dark if you're trying to play cards and using the cab seats as well.

A: Will review

SIGMAS

Q: Gas switch on EL under bed box is exposed and therefore you can put anything on top of it. Either create a hatch or re-locate so you can place items on top

A: R&D to review

Q: Don't like silver plastic sliding doors – revert to classy wooden ones?

A: Will review

Q: Re-locate awning so it pulls out over habitation door?

A: Agree

Q: Wet locker?? Make an option

A: Will now be standard

Q: Provide pipe for waste tap so waste can be pointed elsewhere

A: Will do

MBE for amazing mother of seven who still finds the time to help the homeless

Supermum
Mary
Newman was
today
awarded an
MBE from the
Queen for her
tireless work
helping those
less fortunate
than herself.



But modest Mary said the feeling she gets from helping the homeless - rather than her gong - is the best reward.

The 71-year-old mother-of-seven and grandmother-of-nine is just what the Queen's Birthday Honours are all about.

She is a true unsung hero, who

puts herself last and would not dream of asking for any recognition.

And she is one of the many across South Wales to be rewarded for their contribution to society.

[Reproduced from the South Wales Echo]

For Ulverston

Last week-end in November will again be the Dickensian Christmas Festival in Ulverston, Cumbria. Come and join in a week-end of fun and **don't forget your Victorian Costume**. Look in Yellow Pages for your nearest supplier, or maybe e-bay....?

Don Bland



Please note correction of phone number for Dave Millican who advertised a Hope Rac-N-Rol Scooter

Rack (Fits on towbar instead of ball) **Number should read 01697 73590**

Tailor Made external insulated fold down cab screens with solar screen panel (little used) to fit Peugeot Boxer 2005/6 model. **£50 + p&p** or can deliver to York Show.

Contact Roy Magna on 01592 758475 or 07762 649598 (Fife)

Silver Screens for Peugeot Boxer (used on AS Talisman registered April 2000). 3 internal screens in 'as new' condition. External screen used but good condition **£45** the lot. Buyer to pay postage.

Contact Mr W Bremner on 01381 620366 (Ross-shire)

Thanks for the donation

Talbot CX1000GTL petrol, B reg. 1984 totally renovated. 64,700 miles, MOT July 2008. Re-upholstered, new deadlocks, 1000wt inverter connected to new 110 L.battery with separate charger, plus 75wt L.battery. Resprayed and undersealed. New AS decals as original. Brand new Fiamma portapotty still in box. Low voltage microwave, new blinds,

bonnet, wings and part doors. All recreated in original colour. Shower, fridge, etc., all serviced and working. Original instructions booklets and only 3 owners and me. Diabetes decline reason for sale. Tax to September 2007. **£4,995.**

Contact Paul Long on 0151 678 5856 (Wirral)

Thanks for the donation

AS Excelsior diesel T reg. 31,000, MOT. Was fully prepared for long continental trip before the sad loss of my dear wife. In super condition **£19,500**

Contact Bryan Orchard 01284 787360

Thanks for the donation

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