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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



We can't have a new van every year!!!

NEWSLETTER 237

June 2008

From the Editor (S)

What great weather we had for the National in the end. When we turned up to help get things organised on Wednesday, it was raining and it rained even more on Wednesday night, so the field looked very soggy on Thursday morning. However a fine week-end ensued for what was a very successful National Rally; but much more about that later.

Our thanks to Rita Daly for her 'on the spot' sketch of one of the new vans on show, which features on our cover this month.

You will see from the Rally Supplement that the Ripon and Whitby rallies are now full BUT Ulverston seems now set to go ahead this year. Please also note that the Northern Motorcaravan Show will be held at Pickering Showground and NOT York.

Could you please tie a knot in your hanky this month to remind you that **Dudley and Kathleen Woodhams** are doing the next two issues of the **Newsletter** so please send your contributions directly to them, details on the back page. We've also sent some on that we don't have room for this month. And as we have a lot to report from the National, we'll waffle on no longer, but get straight to it.



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My wife and I are very new members of ASOC and as yet have not had the pleasure of attending any rallies, although we hope to do so this year.

We have never had a motorhome or caravan before, so buying a second hand one last September was a new experience and I have a couple of questions I hope can be answered. The motorhome in question is a Pescara. Now, looking through certain magazines and ASOC Newsletters I've noted certain named Auto-Sleepers keep cropping up but I've never seen a Pescara. When I asked the dealer about this he told me that not many were made and I would like to know why was it taken out of production and have I purchased a problem?

Question 2; my wife has difficulty getting inside the van from the passenger side as there are no grab handles. Is it possible to fit grab handles or is there another solution to make like easier.

I do hope someone can find answers for me as I am a little disillusioned.

Sam Bissell

The National Rally

The National Rally is always an enjoyable week-end, but this year was exceptionally good and I'll start my report on the event by quoting a couple of emails we've received:



"Although we have been members of ASOC for 2 years, this year's AGM was our very first rally with the club. We would like to say thank you very much for the warm welcome extended to us! We have thoroughly enjoyed the weekend's events and entertainment and are in awe of the monumental organisational skills involved in the smooth running of such a large gathering!

We are now looking forward with eager anticipation to further rallies, including the one in Chinon.

Dianne and Brian Palmer"

"We have just returned from the AGM at Newark and would just like to say that we had a really enjoyable weekend.

Nora and her team work so hard to ensure that everything runs smoothly and the organisation is superb. This was only our 2nd time at the AGM but we would thoroughly recommend it to all members who have not yet attended. "You don't know what you are missing!"

The weather was very kind to us, the entertainment on both evenings was both professional and fun and the meals excellent. Everyone is always so friendly. What more could you want?

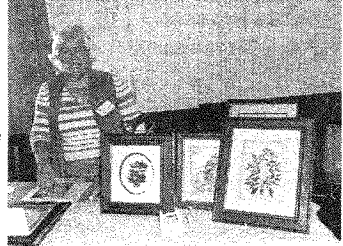
A big thank you to everyone.

Jill and Tony Showell."

On a personal note it was also a pleasure to meet Ken and Margaret Bolton and their son during the rally. Ken has contributed regularly to

the Newsletter on mobility matters and has also given direct help on that subject to other members.

The hobbies hall was extremely popular as usual with some really fine examples of the skills involved in the various hobbies, exquisite cards from Lyn Milford and Eileen Kellard, intricate models from Ray Whiley. Dennis Wright had a small display of Victorian Knitting Machines and Bert Carr displayed his model vehicles. Robin Gardner demonstrated and displayed stained glass while Joan Cook



demonstrated and displayed her pictures. Roger Spensley was *'radio hamming'*, Baz Wellard, assisted by various other members was on the Technical Group table and Jeanne Hall had her jewellery on display. The Chicks Charity table was very colourful; Chicks provides free respite breaks for disadvantaged children from all over the UK. The tea and coffee was very welcome, the cakes entered into the cake competition

looked very inviting and the photos displayed for the photo competition were very good.

On Friday afternoon and Sunday afternoon Heather Tidbury, Sheila Henthorne and Jeanne Hall ran craft classes, which as always, proved very popular and great fun. Dudley Woodhams is emerging from these classes as something of a jewellery designer, modelling one of his more discreet(!!) designs in earrings at the dinner on Saturday evening....

A Question and Answer Session held on Friday afternoon gave everyone the opportunity to question Auto-Sleepers on anything they wished to raise. It was hosted by the Technical Group and chaired by Baz Wellard and proved a very lively and informative session.

Friday evening's meal was followed by a quiz, devised by Jean Sellars and guaranteed to get *"zee little grey cells working"* Quiz Master Neil Rogers was very ably assisted by Ian Sellars, Pauline Rogers and Nora Venables (who obviously found herself at a loose end!!!). It was won by

'Quartet +1', which comprised 9 members?? I did ask, but it got complicated.

The dinner dance on Saturday night went with a swing, with music provided by Nick Martin on the organ. The dancers couldn't wait to get on the floor as soon as the meal ended.

After the Salvation Army service on Sunday morning a cheque for £1714.73 was presented to CHICKS representing the monies raised over the week-end for the charity. We then enjoyed a superb carvery followed by the customary Boules Competition - won by the Executives.



Sunday night's entertainment was provided by the Houghton Weavers, who were really on form and I have to confess, had me in hysterics at one point and I'm sure I wasn't the only one, only I couldn't see very well as my eyes were watering so much!

The winners of the **Cake Competition** were:

- 1st Brenda Jarvis**
- 2nd Win Townsend**
- 3rd Marilyn Hawkins**

Thank you to everyone who entered. The cakes were auctioned on Friday evening (we managed to get Win's, which was delicious), Geoff Scott of Auto-Sleepers successfully bid for Brenda Jarvis's; all the proceeds went to CHICKS.

The winners of the **Photo Competition** were:

General

- 1st Win Townsend** - Lauter Brunnental Switzerland
- 2nd Derek Smith** - Always the same hotel only the view changes
- 3rd Sheila Stewart** - View of Zieider Zee Museum

Humorous

- 1st Ted Pratt** - Glum and Glummer
2nd Peter Coward - 2 of the 7 Deadly Sins
3rd Peter Coward - Good reception here

Rita would like to thank all the people who entered, lets have even more entries next year. I would also like to mention that Win Townsend refused her second prize of the evening and donated the cheque to the Chicks Charity.

NOW... We have some more **Thank You's** to publish, a reflection I think on the tremendous success of this year's National.

From Pauline Rogers, who would like to thank, on behalf of all the Club members, everyone who gave up some of their free time to serve coffee and tea in the Stuart Goodwin Pavilion, "I know their efforts were very much appreciated, as was all the assistance given by Jim [Henwood]."

From Charles and Angela Trevelyan to all members of the Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club:

"Angela and I were extremely touched to be granted Honorary Life Membership of the Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club. This is indeed a wonderful accolade and we really are enormously grateful to you all. We shall of course, continue to support the Club in every way possible, knowing many of you so very well.

We enjoyed the National Rally and AGM greatly; it is always wonderful to attend such events, to exchange news and, not least, to see so many familiar faces.

To each and every one of you, might we say a very sincere and heartfelt thanks for such a very great honour."

As many know **Ben, the Chief Rally Marshall, and Evelyn Mansfield** couldn't attend this year because of health problems, and they would like to thank everyone for the card. They were very sorry to miss the rally and overwhelmed by the sentiments expressed. Here's to a speedy return to fitness.

And Finally, from Nora Venables, Chair of the Sub-committee, who does an exceptional job each year organising this event:

"I would like to thank all the members who supported the National Rally, making it a very enjoyable few days.

My thanks also to the Committee and my Sub-Committee who have supported me throughout the year during the planning, and to the members who helped with the marshalling at very short notice, and the pitch markers.

Thanks also to:

Auto-Sleepers for funding the entertainment on Sunday;

Geoff Scott, Simon Vaughan and Charles Trevellyan for sharing the weekend with us, supporting the events and for the interesting Q&A session on Friday afternoon; and thanks to Baz Wellard for organising it;

Russell Langley and the Auto-Sleeper staff for showing members the new models and answering queries on them;

Elizabeth Morgan and her team of raffle ticket sellers;

Jim Henwood for organising the Stuart Goodwin Pavilion;

Cedric Jones for auctioning the cakes and organising the boules;

Jean Sellars for organising the quiz;

Chris Mawdsley (a member of my sub-committee) for being event photographer and with Angie Cavell for laminating signs;

John Jones for liaising with the charity personnel

Sheila Henthorne, who yet again has so efficiently handled all the bookings.

Harry Henthorne for printing the Programme;

Everyone displaying their hobby;

Pauline Rogers and Jean Sellars and their team for organising the tea and coffee;

Sheila Henthorne, Jeanne Hall and Heather Tidbury for running the craft classes;

Sheila Barnett for organising the cake competition and Martin for judging;

Ian and Marion Wood for looking after the 'For Sale' board;

Rita Tubb for organising the photographic competition;

All members who offered their help in any way;

The Newark Showground staff, with whom I work very well and my husband, Ven, who is always a great support.

Thanks also to everyone who contributed raffle prizes, including East NEUK Campervans who donated an Easy Check Tyre Valve Extension and Neil Rogers for announcing the lucky winners.

At this time I have not been able to collate a list of monies raised; it will be in the July Newsletter.

The date of the 2009 National Rally is Thursday April 20th to Monday May 4th. THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLUB.

The National Rally is not the only rally we have a report on.....

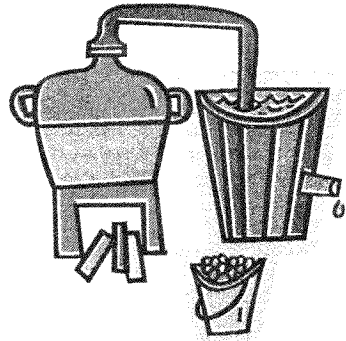
The Burton on Trent Rally

Sheila & David Stewart

Well done Trish, Ted, Jan and Vic for another super rally at Burton on Trent.

We all parked up behind the Albion Hotel where the hard standing was much appreciated, especially when we woke up to snow on the Sunday morning!

The tour of Marstons Brewery was well organised and extremely interesting and everyone was able to sample the beer at the end of the tour.....



During the day many of us were able to use our new bus passes for trips into Burton or further afield. Two meals were organised, one in the Marstons Visitors Centre on Friday, and the other in the Albion Hotel on Saturday. The evenings were enjoyed by all and it was good to meet up with everyone after the winter break.

So thanks very much rally marshalls for all your hard work, we look forward to meeting up at your next rally at Litchfield.

Goodbye

"Sadly, Deanne and I have to leave the ASOC. NOT because we've gone for another make-as if we would! - but because Deanne has suffered serious problems with her eyesight, forcing her to give up driving. I don't drive, so all these years I've been the lucky one..."

To the many friends we've made in ASOC we say a sincere 'Thank you' for that friendship. We wish you all - members, Committee and everyone at Autosleepers Willersey every success for the future. Happy rallying and safe journeys.

Norman (and Deanne!) Rendle, Cardiff.

12 Volt fault in 2007 Talisman

Other owners may be interested in the following. The original symptoms seemed quite odd but on investigation, became quite logical.

We left Elm Cottage Rally bound for Evesham via the M6/M5. On switching on the radio, the digital display showed "CODE". I thought this was strange as we had not disconnected either vehicle or leisure battery recently. We input the correct code and carried on our journey listening to the radio.

When we arrived at our destination, I plugged in the mains and changed the fridge supply over to 230 Volts. However, there was no indication on the fridge that the supply was on. (Green LED extinguished). The EC200 Control Panel indicated the leisure battery voltage to be zero. I checked the 230 volt supply by switching on the battery charger - red light so that was OK and the leisure battery was then indicating 14.3 volts This was obviously the unloaded charger output voltage. Green LED on fridge was now illuminated, indicating fridge was running on 230 volts. On switching on the radio again it indicated "CODE" again.

On investigation, the fault was found to be a blown 20 amp fuse in series with the leisure battery positive terminal. Replacing this returned all services to normal. I thought it odd that the cab radio is supplied from the leisure battery and that the fridge 230v indicator is also derived from 12 volts. These facts may be helpful to other owners when investigating electrical faults.

Steve Lawson

A note of condolence

The Marshalls at Peak Rail, Mike & Jeanne Hall received an apology from Mrs Steve Smith saying that they could not attend as her husband, Tony, was ill. Mike phoned her subsequently to enquire how Tony was, to be told he had died.

We subsequently received a note from Steve informing us of her husband's sudden death, from a very nasty lung cancer

which they didn't know he had.

She mentions that they only got to two rallies, but were made very welcome. However, the Amethyst is too big for her to drive so she will be leaving the Club.

This must have been a terrible shock for Steve and on behalf of the Club, we send our condolences.

In Response.....

In response to Mike Cann and Pauline Lillywhites' letter in the May newsletter, I have never had difficulty in booking a rally, but you do have to be quick if there are limited spaces.

When I worked, I used to look at the published rally list and mark those I wished to attend and organise the time off before I needed to book the rally. There is always the chance to cancel annual leave and even the rally (mostly with a part/full refund depending on costs/waiting list etc) .

Now that I am retired I still plan for the year ahead as we do foreign holidays, family occasions etc. as well as holidays in GB and I frequently have to miss certain rallies because of clashes!! I think the simple rules of not being able to book a rally until it's published in detail has worked well for years, and its only certain rallies that have limited spaces. Yes sometimes you can be disappointed, but there's always next year and I don't wish to do the same rallies year after year despite how good they are. Its nice to string a few rallies with a holiday in the motorvan to make best use of the price of diesel these days anyway!

Be assured however that when you are able to go to a rally you can be sure of a friendly welcome.

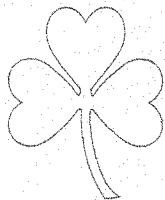
David Mayne

Ken, I would say that your water tank has been replaced at some time as an aluminium one would in time suffer from water damage, it should be heavy plastic type.

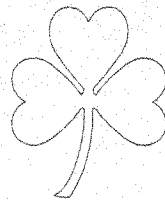
The small metal holder you refer to originally had Autosleepr written on it on a maroon background, but as time goes by they disintegrate, I still have mine somewhere but cannot read it anymore.

We have had our CB22 (known as FATTY because of its number plate) for over 21years now and done all our own repairs and maintenance and still performs beautifully, even taking us on the Italian Autosleeper Rally last year up through the St. Bernard pass into Switzerland with no trouble (except for an electrical fault with the ammeter) I would be interested in how many CB 22's are still going. If I can be of any help to you in any way email bic63@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01202 475747.

Brian Collins



June 2008
Rally Supplement



***Stop Press. NEW RALLY. 27th. – 1st December. Ulverston Dickensian Weekend. Details later.

***** The Northern Motorcaravan Show will be held at Pickering Showground not York Racecourse. More details next month.

All rallies start at 12 noon unless otherwise stated in this supplement.

If you wish to take a car, trailer or tent to a rally, please ask the marshals if this is possible.

All rallies, with the exception of the National Rally, must be applied for by using only official A.S.O.C. rally slips sent by post to the relevant marshals.

1st to 10th September 2008 – (10 nights) – Chinon in the Loire Valley France.
THIS RALLY IS NOW FULLY BOOKED.

Rally in Ireland. 29th May – 18th June 2008. 20 nights
THIS RALLY IS NOW FULLY BOOKED.

12th - 16th June (4 Nights) Hurley Riverside Park, Hurley, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 5NE

Emergency Tel:- No.07754 761423 Marshal's Mobile.

Site Tel:-01628 8

Rally marshals: R

THIS RALLY IS NOW FULLY BOOKED.

d Theresa &

Dave Smith.

Site Fees £46.00 including electric for four nights. Rally Fee £2.35 .All charges include VAT.

Please send a C5 162mm x 229mm (6 x 9) SAE for full directions and confirmation,

with rally slip and cheque for **£48.35** payable to Rita Tubb 70 Charnwood Crescent, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh, Hampshire .SO53 5QL Telephone 023 8026 7294.

If you are bringing a car or towing a trailer please state on rally slip.

The rally is on a commercial site with full facilities, all pitches have electric and there is a laundrette, hot showers, toilets, CDP and a shop with provisions and papers available.

Attractions:The site is ideal for visiting Henley on Thames, Maidenhead and Windsor. It is situated beside the River Thames with fishing available. There are two pubs serving food near to the site. Hurley village is about ½ mile from the site with pubs, shop and post office. On the Saturday in Marlow it is regatta day, and also on the Sunday you can watch the dragon boat racing. There are several N.T. properties nearby you can visit. You can walk or cycle the Thames Way path towards Marlow or Henley from the site.

The site is situated on the A4130 between Henley on Thames and Maidenhead.

Limit of 25 vans.

PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE 12.00 NOON.

13 – 16 June 2008 (3 nights) Cartmel Park Racecourse, Cartmel, Cumbria LA11 6QF.

Emergency Tel.No. (mobile: 07710 200547).

Rally Marshals: James & Jill Bertlin.

Site Fee: £21.00 (3 nights) Electricity (limited to 15 vans) £8.25 (3 nights) Rally Fee: £2.35 Long electric leads may be required. (all charges include VAT).

Booking slips and cheques to Jill Bertlin, The Rockeries, Lindale, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria LA11 6LQ. Tel. No. 015395 34500.

Rally field slightly uneven in places. Toilets & showers on site. Dogs are welcome, but as with Ralliers, they are not permitted on the racecourse track.

A simple BBQ and pudding has been arranged for Sunday evening (provide own salad if required). Please state if interested on rally slip.

Attractions: Cartmel village is a maze of streets, cobbled pavements and picturesque bridges, crossing the meandering streams that wind their way amongst the houses with a Priory, which was founded by the Augustine Monks back in 1190. It has an historic market square, surrounded by centuries old houses and Inns, the ancient fish slabs still survive and also the original Gatehouse. Nowadays Cartmel is full of interesting shops, including the famous sticky toffee pudding shop..

Close to the Edwardian resort of Grange-over-Sands and within a short drive of the renowned beauty of the Lake District National Park, offering some of the most spectacular scenery in the country with opportunities for walking, golfing, cruising or just sightseeing.

Directions: From M6 Junction 36, follow A590 towards Barrow in Furness. Once past the Meathop roundabout follow the brown attraction signs for Cartmel Priory. Continue through the village to the market square, at the village shop take the **right hand road** (sharp bend) and continue along to entrance of Racecourse on left.

4th – 6th. July Midsummer Music, Motorhome & Leisure Show, Lincolnshire Showground, Lincoln.

Emergency Tel.No. 07711 271568. Marshal's mobile.

Rally Marshal:-Liz Irvin & Trish & Ted Pratt.

Please use the booking form that is enclosed with this Newsletter, or if booking online or with another form mark ASOC in the club box, and return the form to Warners with the appropriate cheque for camping & entertainment before the closing date of Monday 16th. June.

Then complete the ASOC rally slip and return, with rally fee of £2.00

couples, £1.50 singles (Incl.VAT) to:- E.Irvin, 43 School Lane, Kirk Ella, HULL, East Yorkshire, HU10 7NP. Tel.No. 01482 658345, e-mail

Irvin@irvin.karoo.co.uk

The rally finishes at 12 noon Sunday, but you may stay until 12 noon Monday.

4th – 6th. July(2 nights). Prestwood Steam Fair, Great Missenden, Bucks.

Emergency Tel.No. 07775570182 or 07749378587.

Rally Marshals:- Jan & Vic Hicklin, & Margaret & Bob Cleaver.

Fee for weekend:- £17.00 per unit, Rally Fee:- £1.75 per unit (Incl.VAT). NO

Electricity.

The weekend fee includes unlimited entrance to the Steam Rally.

This is a GREENFIELD site—own toilets essential.

Rally slips & cheques to Mrs. J.Hicklin, 381 Manor Road, Brimington, Chesterfield, Derbyshire. S43 1PP. Tel.No. 01246 236157. If unavailable please ring Margaret on 01442 851080.

Directions:- From A413 Great Missenden take A4128 to Prestwood and follow Steam Rally signs.

NO arrivals before 1.00p.m. Friday please.

7th – 11th. July (4 nights) Ledbury Rugby Club, Nr. Hereford.

Emergency Tel.No. 07989153109 Joan . 077915882 Max.

Marshalls Joan & Max Cooke, Sheila & Ivor Barnett.

Site fees £8 .00 per night Rally Fee £2-35 (incVAT).

Drinking water, waste water facilities, dog walking on site.

NO ELECTRICITY. use of club facilities -toilets & showers.

We have use of the bar.

Please include **S.A.E** for confirmation & directions.

Please indicate if you require a meal.

Booking slip & cheques payable to:-J.E.Cooke The Magnolias ,Canon Pyon Rd, Hereford HR4 7RB Tel.No.01432 274906

Directions :-The Rugby Club (HR8 2LP) Leave M50 at junction 2 take the A417. The Rugby Club is off the roundabout on A449 to Much Marcle.

Limit of 35 vans

17th - 20th July (3 nights) Beacon Park,Lichfield,Staffs.

Emergency Tel. No.. Marshal's mobile 07713186508

Rally Marshals Ted & Trish Pratt & Vic & Jan Hicklin.

Site Fee £5.00 per night inc. vat . Rally Fee £2.35 inc. VAT.

Booking slips and cheques payable to P.M.Pratt,3 Grafton Rd.,

Stapenhill,Burton on Trent. Staffs DE15 9DN .Tel No.01283538818

You may arrive on Thursday AFTER 12noon NOT BEFORE PLEASE. (This is virtually a green field site although there are toilets in Beacon Park).

Saturday evening get together includes Jacket potato, dessert and drink - £4.50 per person. **Pay with booking slip.**

Attractions:- Beacon Park is adjacent to Lichfield City centre.

Directions: Beacon Park is situated in Lichfield, just off the A51 Tamworth to Rugeley Road. Go round the island with the Bowling Green Pub in the middle. Then take A 51 Rugeley/Stafford Road; turn immediately right down Walsall Road, then immediately left into Lower Sandford Street. Follow signs for Car Park, the site is through the car park keeping to the right.

28th July- 1st.August.(4 nights) Ripon Racecourse,Ripon,North Yorkshire.

Emergency Tel.No. 07922049714 Marshal's mobile.

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

Site Fes & Rally

THIS RALLY IS NOW FULLY BOOKED

 (T).

GREENFIELD site 8.a.m.-10pm

Rally slips & cheques payable to N.C. & P. Rogers,3 Appleby Close, Aldbrough St.John,Richmond,North Yorks.DL117TT.Tel.No.01325 374540. **S.A.E. for**

confirmation & directions.

Attractions:-Ripon Cathedral,Workhouse,Courthouse, Prison & Police Museums,canal,marina & walks.Fountains Abbey & Hall,Studley Royal Water Gardens.Newby Hall & Gardens. Pub serving meals nearby.

PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE 1.00P.M.

1st - 6th August. (5 nights) Eskdale School,Whitby,North Yorkshire.

Emergency Tel. No. 07711 271568 (Marshal's mobile)

Rally Marshals: Liz Irvin, Peter Brown & Chris Mawdsley.

Site Fees £4.70 per night. Rally Fees £3.00 couples £1.50 singles (Inc. VAT).

Greenfield Site, **THIS RALLY IS NOW FULLY BOOKED.** East

Booking slips to Yorkshire.HU10 7NP. Tel. No. 01482 658345. Cheques payable to Mrs. E.Irvin.

Attractions: Whitby Regatta 2nd, 3rd. & 4th August. School off the Scarborough Road, buses at the school gates 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 with links to 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 30mph. sign, turn **left** into Eskdale Road and the school is on the left. From Guisborough or Pickering on A171, enter Whitby and continue on the Scarborough road, cross the new Esk Bridge and continue up the hill to the top, Stainsacre Lane. Eskdale Road is on the right, before the industrial estate.

Post code YO22 4HS. **Limit of 25 vans.**

11th – 15th August (4 nights) Bugatti Owners Club, Prescott Speed Hill Climb, Prescott, Glos.

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

Rally Marshals: Angie & Andy Cavell assisted by Mo & Mike Valentine.

Site Fee: £5.00 per night. Rally Fee £1.50 per person.

Rally slips and cheques to A. Cavell, 24 The Close, Hampstead Norreys, Thatcham, Berks. RG18 0RY. Please enclose SAE for directions and further info.

Please do not arrive before 2.00 pm.

This is a green field site with basic toilets open 24/7. We will be camping in a paddock at the bottom of the hill climb course. The site is sloping and levelling ramps may be required. Prescott is well located in the Cotswolds with many visitor attractions nearby. Dogs welcome subject to the usual rules. There is a super walk from the site to the top of the nearby hills.

The Bugatti Museum will be open during our stay. We have arranged for the Curator to give us a guided tour and talk about the history of Bugatti which is not just about cars! The fee will be £2.00 per head and numbers may have to be limited. Please send money with rally entry slip.

We could also arrange a meal in the course restaurant if there is sufficient interest. Cost will be around £15.00 per head for a two course carvery type meal. Please indicate on rally slip if you would like a meal but do not send money at this stage. **Limited to 50 vans.**

19th.Tues. – 24th.Sunday August (5 nights). Topsham Rugby Club, Topsham, Nr. Exeter, Devon.

Full details next month.

(v.)

**21st.August. – 1st. September.(5 nights).Shoreham Air Show.
Shoreham Airport, Shoreham by Sea, West Sussex.**

Emergency Tel.No. 07999 571461.

Rally Marshals: Shirley & Chris Sturgeon & Theresa & Dave Smith.

Site Fee: £2.00 per night. NO Electricity. Rally Fee: £2.35. **GREENFIELD** Site.
Water tap & Elsan point.

Airshow tickets required: £26.00 per adult, £10.00 per child.Covers both days.

Booking slips & cheques made payable to A.N. Fowler, 20 Hawkins
Close,Shoreham by Sea,West Sussex. BN43 6TL. Tel.No.01273 594479.

Saturday evening Buffet meal available £4.12 per person,payable in
advance.(Incl.VAT).

Send SAE if confirmation of booking required.

Directions: On A27 between Worthing & Brighton leave A27 at traffic lights
opposite the **Sussex Pad Hotel** and turn into airport (This is the only entrance
for motorcaravans.)

Attractions: 2 day Airshow with on ground entertainment,cycle rides from site.

Please do not arrive before 12 noon on Wednesday.

*If you wish to run a rally in 2008 please contact me to check dates **before** booking with a
site.This prevents any clash of dates.*

*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 & help is
available.Committee members are also available to assist if required.*

*I have some sites that have offered a rally site,they have not been vetted as to
suitability for rallies,please ask if interested.*

*A "Guide to New/Possible Marshals" is available. If you would like one please contact
me,details below.*

*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

E & OE

Rally Date

Your name and address (Please PRINT)

.....

..... Post Code

Phone No. Mobile No.

e-mail Membership No.

Van Reg. Length Arrival Day/Time

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

Name Phone No.

Please complete both sides of this form.

.....

Rally Date

Your name and address (Please PRINT)

.....

..... Post Code

Phone No. Mobile No.

e-mail Membership No.

Van Reg. Length Arrival Day/Time

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

Name Phone No.

Please complete both sides of this form.

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

Number of people in your van: Adults..... Children.....

Adults' names (Incl. forenames).....

Childrens' names (incl. ages).....

Cheque enclosed for £..... for..... nights incl. rally fee.

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.
Enclose a SAE if confirmation is required.

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

Number of people in your van: Adults..... Children.....

Adults' names (Incl. forenames).....

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Cheque enclosed for £..... for..... nights incl. rally fee.

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Enclose a SAE if confirmation is required..

A new member, **Mike Harris**, has sent me a very exhaustive document detailing the modifications he has already carried out to his new Wilton. Below is an extract of the section on safety.

SAFETY.

Although the Wilton is fitted with a Fire Extinguisher and a smoke alarm, a Fire Blanket was added immediately, as was a glass hammer and seat belt cutter. Everyone hopes never to have to use these, but we certainly needed a fire extinguisher when the caravan we were towing a few years ago caught fire behind the car. The cause was never fully explained but presumed to be two contacts in the electric fire too close together.

At a motorhome show, we saw a combined gas alarm/carbon monoxide alarm which integrated with a motorised gas valve and decided that it was far more sensible to have that, than separate units. If there is unburnt butane/propane detected, or a rise in the carbon monoxide level in the motorvan, not only does an alarm sound, but within 15 seconds, the motorised valve operates and turns off the gas supply to all appliances.

It is called a Gas Guardian system and is adaptable to both domestic and leisure uses. The carbon monoxide sensor incorporates a room thermometer. This unit is fitted as high as possible in the vehicle, and connects wirelessly to the Control Unit (A backup rechargeable battery is fitted inside this unit, but it also needs a 12v supply to it.)

As well as automatic cut off in the case of gas being detected, the valve can also be operated manually by simply pressing the left hand button to turn the gas off, and the middle one to turn it back on.

If necessary the aerial can be extended to improve reception for very large vehicles. Wiring going to both these controls was hidden behind a false wooden panel

As butane/propane is heavier than air, the other sensor is fitted as low down as possible (in this case, adjacent to the step well). Again, there is a provision for battery back up as well as the 12v connection.

The final part of the system is the motorised valve, which operates to cut off the gas supply in case of danger. It is fitted in the gas box, in the main supply pipe to the van, before any appliances are taken off it.

With gas leaks taken care of, water leaks were next to be considered, and three inexpensive water detectors purchased for £2.00 each from one of the foreign supermarkets now operating in Britain. Worked from 2 AA batteries, they simply screw onto a wall close to a source of potential leaks, and a wire goes to a sensor which can be screwed to the floor wherever a leak is seen as a possibility.

One was placed under the kitchen sink, another under the bathroom sink, and a third near to the onboard water tank and water filler. The sensor comes with a plastic sucker to attach it the floor, but this lifts the sensor off the floor and means that detection does not take place until approx. 1/4" of water is present. I cut off this sucker, and simply screwed the sensor directly to the floor using the centre hole left by the sucker. Water is now detected when just a thin film is present. At £1.99 these units are cheap to be installed wherever there is a threat of water either leaking from a pipe, pump, sink or from a faulty roof etc.

Spare Parts for a Talbot Express

Charles Trevelyan

The request from Mr & Mrs Wright in the May 2008 issue of the Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club Newsletter, where they requested a new carburettor for their 1999 Talbot Express Talisman, was duly answered by another Club member, ourselves ringing later in the day. This prompted me to make mention that the Delfin Designs (01258 857474/01202 840749) specialise in parts for the Talbot Express and Fiat Ducatto chassis. They have a very comprehensive range of spares - indeed they were able to produce, without delay, the carburettor for Mr & Mrs Wright, and where parts are unavailable they also regularly dismantle vehicles so that defunct parts may be refurbished - for example they recently helped us with a rear door hinge for a Talbot Express panel van.

For those of you who have this older, but very robust, model, Delfin Designs' telephone number should be the one you have to hand.

Lucky at the ACCEO Rally

Having had an enjoyable weekend at the ACCEO Rally at Norwich, we were lucky enough to win a prize at their raffle of a free return trip on the Ramsgate to Ostend Ferry, which was a much better prize than your Editors got! (What do you use a nose weight measurer for a caravan for, whilst using a motorhome? Sell it on Ebay I suspect!)

Anyhow we decided to book this ferry for April 12th to 17th and visit the Belgium town of Ghent for a few days, hoping that the weather would be kind. The lady that did the booking promised to email confirmation but this failed to arrive, despite phoning again. So we turned up with a booking reference no. and our passports, and had a very friendly welcome from the lady in reception who offered us free hot drinks from the machine in the lounge area.

Transeuropa Ferries operate 9 ferries a day both ways but only 3 of those allow for cars etc. but no foot passengers or coaches! This made for a very civilised crossing of 4 hours where we settled into our 4 course meal at £8. What a bargain - soup, pasta dish and then I had the fish which turned out to be a plate filling Dover Sole plus a bowl of Chips! oh, and we shared a bottle of Slovenian Wine at £6! I was stuffed for the rest of the

day! Pat chose to skip the main and had her meal for £5.

The boat was not busy with passengers and their main business is freight but the drivers have their own lounge, food etc, so at this time of the year the car drivers and us (about 17 vehicles) had 3 lounges, restaurant and bar (with snacks) to rattle around in.

The return trip was less pleasant. The quality of food and service was inferior as it was normally a self service restaurant, still at good prices though. The waiter later turned up on the car deck to off-load us. Multi-tasking is the way they operate throughout, so keeping costs down.

We stayed at the Bleermesen Campsite in Ghent which was on a bus route to the city centre and had 4 days exploring the City and its historic buildings and had a guided boat trip along the local canals and rivers. We were disappointed with the weather as there was a really cold north wind all the time though sunny apart from one rainy day.

Again it was relatively uncrowded which suited us, but the quality of restaurant food was mixed and quite expensive (but big helpings!) because of the poor showing of the £ against the Euro of

1.17, that's like 20% less than normal. But we had a great break to start the season off. The local people are very friendly and they all speak English, most very well.

The Transeuropa ferry would normally cost £60 each way for a motorvan at this time of year (and this can include up to 9 passengers!), and takes about 4 hours - and I gather that it is fully used in the summer months. They

only do direct bookings (web or phone) so don't figure in the magazines, clubs etc. but they run a very friendly operation. Our boat on return was less than a quarter full on the upper car deck but freight was full of lorries and trailers on the lower deck. Certainly worth a look if you are heading that way.

What a great prize!

Pat and David Mayne

Ken & Sue Gourd came across a 1978 Motor Show Guide whilst turning out the loft recently.

This is one of the models displayed in the Guide; there are others and we'll try to include them in future editions if the quality of the reproduction is good enough.

Auto-Sleepers Ltd 409 Hall 4
Grange Works, Witley, nr. Broadway, Worcs., WR12 7PT
Telephone: Broadway (0386-81) 3388/9



Coachbuilt Bedford Auto-Sleeper Model CB22

The Coachbuilt Bedford Auto-Sleeper, which is part of the official Bedford motor caravan range, is a luxury 4-berth motor caravan. Standard equipment includes: 2.3-litre engine; full insulation including double skin floor; large capacity water supply; hot/cold running water; shower unit; flushing toilet; interior heating; Electrolux gas/12/240 volt refrigerator; oven/cooker; cocktail cabinet; 4 front facing seats; 2 large double beds; full carpeting; large wardrobe; 3 roof ventilators with fly screens; large side sliding windows with fly screens; rear corner stays.

Technical Group & Website

Baz Wellard
Chairman, Technical Group & Webmaster



National Rally:

- **Open Session:**

The Open Session at the National Rally attracted 125 members on a hot afternoon to put questions regarding the Company and its products to the Company Managers. Notes of the session are available on the Club website or by sending me an SAE to 18 Greenwood Close, Fareham, Hants PO16 7UF. I would like to thank Geoff Scott (Chief Executive); Simon Vaughan (Operations Manager); Stephen Small (Design Manager); Ady Jones (Quality) and of course Charles Trevelyan for giving up their time and answering all the queries.

- **Technical Table:**

The 'technical table' was as busy as ever and I would like to thank Brian Smith; Albert Brown and Ken Bolton for their assistance and for giving up their precious time.

- **Photos:**

The Website update No. 6/08 has the winning photos of the National Rally photographic competition; the winning team in the boules competition, the winning team of the quiz and finally the presentation of the Cheque for £1714.73 to the charity 'CHICKS'.

Club Archives:

Several members kindly gave me old literature relating to Auto Sleepers for which I thank them. If anyone else has anything they think might be useful to the Club please send them to me. Postage will be refunded.

X250 Chassis:

20 Minute radio:

As reported in the last Newsletter, Auto Sleepers have resolved the prob-

lem of the radio switching off for new vans by replacing the Peugeot one with a different model – but unfortunately this will not be retrospective.

Water under the bonnet:

There would still appear to be confusion on what action is being taken (*or not taken*) by differing garages. If you are in doubt of the latest situation may I suggest you contact the Service Centre at Auto Sleepers to enquire on the latest information?

Recalls:

A member has kindly advised me that there are 2 re-calls applicable to the X250 chassis. I have not been able to check them myself, but I understand the codes are

YLM - for steering rack, and

YMX - engine download

Ideas Sheets:

The following Ideas Sheets have been approved by Auto-Sleepers, and are available by sending me an SAE:-

- No. 152 - Auxiliary input on a Ford 6000CD radio
- No. 153 - Duetto – Dashboard 'sat-nav' mounting
- No. 154 - Improved security for sliding windows
- No. 156 - Duetto – Basic quick fit wireless reversing camera
- No. 157 - Leisure battery monitor – most models
- No. 158 - All Boxers - Fitting deadlocks to cab doors

No. 150 - was not approved; and No's 151; 155; 159 & 160 are still with Auto Sleepers.

From the Factory

Improving Quality, an ongoing exercise.

We are currently working towards improving the Quality system as a whole across the Auto-Sleepers range.

Some fundamental changes have already been introduced across the Production lines and preparation areas, as listed below.

Laminated panel press shop

To improve the quality of the laminated panels that we produce we have completely refurbished the spray system and heated hydraulic pattern press. We have also carried

out extensive trials to allow us to reduce the pressing pressure, again to improve the quality. We have redesigned the fixtures for manufacturing the panels prior to being loaded which has resulted in a reduction of weight and hence are easier to handle. We have also reconfigured the router operations to give us greater consistency and hence more accurate finished panels.

Production Lines

Improved process inspection points have been introduced at various stages along the Production lines. These are to ensure that a "no faults forward" policy is adopted during the build process, which in turn, helps to minimise any faults at end of line inspection and warranty.

Quality Boards

We have introduced a Quality station on each of our Styrofoam lines to assist our operators and to help improve the build quality for our customers.

The Quality station is broken into 6 different categories that are as follows: -

Letters & Claims

This is used as an awareness post for all employees to view customer highlights and problems.

Countermeasures & Actions

Items of both a positive and negative nature are raised in this section. The issues are then reviewed at our

weekly Quality meetings and fed back to the departments concerned for resolution.

Rework Items

This folder contains a list of items that are found by the "End of Line Inspector". This list is available for all Line Managers and operators to view so that they can eliminate build problems.

High Level Work Instructions

These are new work instructions aimed at Safety Critical issues. Gas, Water and Electrical issues all fall into this category.

Vehicle Travellers

In this folder we have cards containing a list of reoccurring faults found in the end of line inspection as well as warranty department issues. The cards accompany the vehicle through the build process alerting the operator to any issues that may be present on their build stage.

Audits

Regular audits are carried out by the Quality Department. The Line Managers enter the data captured onto sheets, which are reviewed at a regular period by the Production lines concerned.

Gate Quality Check

This is a new procedure that has recently been introduced to ensure that all vehicles despatched are to the highest quality standard.

Simon Vaughan

On the Computer Front

Peter Brown

My apologies, the following is targeted at those who are fairly familiar with computer software, I am though happy to answer specific questions from anyone on this subject but will be on holiday till the middle of June.

OpenOffice.org 2 is the leading **open-source office software suite** for **word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, graphics, databases** and more. It is available in **many languages** and works on all **common computers**. It stores all your data in an **international open standard format** and can also read and write files from other common office software packages. It can be downloaded and used completely **free of charge** for any purpose.

It has very similar capabilities and functionality to MS office (which is expensive to buy) but much more capability than MS Works (given free with most PC's). If you have broadband you can download it from www.openoffice.org. If you are still on dial up do still visit the site and you can find out how to get the software on a CD. I have installed and accessed all of the programs on my PC and it looks good but I haven't used it extensively and if you do install it, that of course is at your own risk.

Chairman's Chat



Another National rally has come and gone and it was an absolutely splendid weekend. Even the weather smiled on us this year! We owe an enormous vote of thanks to Nora and Ven for all their hard work. Thanks also to the sub-committee and everyone who helped in any way to make the rally such a success.

At the AGM members decided to increase the annual subscription to £20.00 and this will take effect from 1st September. As a result of this change all existing Standing Orders would have to be cancelled and replaced so the committee has decided to take this opportunity to withdraw this method of paying subscriptions. It has always been a difficult system to administer for the Membership Secretary and causes a great deal more work than is reasonable. In future all members will have to pay their subscriptions by cheque and return a completed renewal form.

So if you currently pay your subscription by Standing Order please contact your bank and cancel it.

At the open forum after the AGM there was some discussion about issuing newsletters electronically. Although this looks a good idea at first sight, the committee are concerned about a number of aspects of this method. We also noted that only 12% of the membership have registered their email addresses on the website. Clearly we would need a great deal more than that to make the idea viable so as a first step we are encouraging everyone to register. It is easy to do and full instructions are given on the website. The address is www.asoc.fsnet.co.uk.

Whatever happens in future this will give us an immediate ability to contact members and pass on information such as problems with the delivery of the newsletter.



2003 Marquis Dorset

Boxer 2.0hdi 18,000 miles, full AS spec rare ES AND 2+2. 2nd n/s elec.step, roll-out awning, unused 3

bike rack. Air-ride, Van Aaken smart-box (torque impr.) turbo vent, Heki, alloys etc. **£22,950** ono. Can email full details. **Contact Terry Hammond 0118 962 8030 eves.**(Reading)

VW Topaz 1995 2.4D. 38,000 miles.

FSH, cruise, AS crockery, toilet/shower. TAX/MOT Nov.08. Exc.cond **£15,000.** **Contact Phil Wade 01603 743497 email pipwade@tiscali.co.uk** (Norwich) *Thanks for the donation*

VW Trident 2.5 tdi 15,000 miles. 3 way

fridge 2+2 blown air heating. Hob & grill, Fiamma awning + extras. Strike Back alarm + battery master. 2 bike rack & K&N filter. VW serviced & tested. **£21,500.** **Contact John Morrison 0151 424 1594** (Widnes) *Thanks for the donation*

Awning Khyam Motordome Classic

with ground sheet & additional quick fix bar. Exc.cond. Quick & easy to erect. Suitable for small van. Used twice only. **£300** ono. **Contact Pauline & Frank Stevens 01202 884063** (Dorset)

Peugeot Boxer AS Talisman 2.8

hdi.Reg Feb 03. 1 yr tax & MOT. Excellent condition. 36,000 one owner. Non-smokers, no children. Cobra alarm. Hope save tow bar. Alloy wheels, silver screen and other extras. **£25,000** no offers. Sale due to bereavement. **Contact Mrs N Robson 01932 267174 or 07973 673730**

VW Trident 2006. One owner, non-

smokers, no pets. 2.5L tdi (130ps). 3,650 miles. Wheat-beige metallic

exterior. Usual equipment + extras. Cab a/c, Cobra TS alarm, alloy wheels, 2 butane gas cylinders. Upper bed safety net + ladder. Sale due to advancing age. Exc.cond. **£28,000** ono. **Contact Bernard Pollock 01524 735181** (North Lancashire).

Thanks for the donation

Ford Duetto 2002 38,000 miles 2.4 turbo. MOT Feb.09. Bike rack TV/DVD. Exc.cond. **£20,500.** **Contact Steve or Mary Butler 01977 515502 email stevebutler119@btinternet.com** (Yorkshire).

VW Clubman GL '95. 4 berth. FSH 64,000 miles 2.4 diesel MOT/TAX to Aug. New cam belt, new Fiamma awning, bike rack. Usual access. Exc.cond. **£14,950** ono. **Contact R P Cole 02380 220955 email colemary@talk21.com**

Thanks for the donation

Thanks to Chris Wild for his donation in respect of his ad. Last month and thanks also to Mr Rendle who 'insisted gently' that we retain his donation even though he no longer requires us to insert his advert.

Cushions Available from AS Parts Dept.

Sausage cushion 190mm x 140mm x 1550mm Cheers Gently **£10 + VAT**
Executive b/rest cushion 370mm x 1580mm x 165mm x 2 Delta **£30 + VAT**
Executive base bench seat cushion 685mm x 1600mm x 1500mm x 2 Delta/Plain **£40 +VAT**
Palermo bed mattress Blue Circle **£20 +VAT**

Contact Alan Osborne 01386 842630

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