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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*



*Remember summer?  
Remember rallies?*

***NEWSLETTER 245***

***February 2009***

# From the Editor (S)

We had one page left to fill so I suggested to Chris that she made it the editorial page and left it for me to fill when I got home from work!

Well I'm here and the first thing I've done is to increase the size of the font so that I don't have to type so much!

Hopefully some of you may have read the ideas I put forward on using your motorhome in wintery conditions last month - I haven't had any response so you may have all skipped it! I've had further experience since I wrote the piece:

- I'd left the toilet emptying and flush fill till the morning on a CL but it was essential it was done that morning. In freezing fog all the field taps had frozen so the 10 litres of water kept in the van for just such an eventuality proved its worth.
- The CL owner had been stung by some caravanners excessive use of electricity. Not just with heating but by using air conditioners with all the caravan windows open just to get a cool draft. He installed card operated electricity meters on each pitch. On arrival on 7th January I switched on my 500W oil filled heater as normal and managed the temperature using the van electrical heater. 18 hours later and £15 in electric cards lighter (I was working in the van whilst Chris was out and about) I swapped to gas for van and water heating. Electricity cost reduced to about £1 for 24hrs and I estimate the gas cost £4 per 24hrs versus the £15 to £20 for electricity.

**MORE CONTRIBUTIONS PLEASE!!!**

# The National Rally

April 30th to May 4th 2009  
Newark Showground

There will again be electric points available for disabled pitches at the National Rally. I feel I must warn you that they are likely to be expensive. The cost of installation has risen considerably and we all know how the cost of electricity has escalated. I am hoping it will not amount to more than £20 per unit for the rally but I will not know until I arrive at Newark.

Will anyone wanting a disabled pitch please contact Chris Mawdsley at: 5, Kenilworth Walk, Cheadle, Stoke on Trent ST10 1WA and please state if you require an electrical point.

*Nora Venables.*

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## Reminder for the Photographic Competition

Well I hope you have been taking lots of photos for the competition, there is plenty of opportunity about.

Photos must be 6x4 or 7x5 and category's are:

General      Must include an Auto-Sleeper or be taken on a rally.  
Humorous    Must be taken on a rally.

All entries must have name address membership no. and which category entered. Any Photos with no category will be put in general.

All photos should be sent to me at: 70 Charnwood Crescent,  
Charndlersford, Hants SO53 5QL

by **31st March 2009** no photos will be accepted after this date.

*Rita Tubb*

## *The Month After Christmas*

*'Twas the month after Christmas and all through the house  
nothing would fit me, not even a blouse.  
The cookies I'd nibbled, the eggnog I'd taste  
at the holiday parties, had gone to my waist.*

*When I got on the scales there arose such a number!  
When I walked to the store, it was more like a lumber.  
I'd remember the marvellous meals I'd prepared;  
the gravies, the sauces and beef nicely rared*

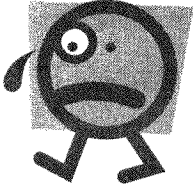
*The wine and the rum balls, the bread and the cheese  
the way I'd never said "No thank you" but "Please"  
So as I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt  
and prepared once again to do battle with dirt...*

*Away with the last of the sour cream dip.  
Get rid of the fruit cake, every cracker and chip.  
Every last bit of food that I like must be banished  
'til all the additional ounces have vanished*

*I won't have a cookie—not even a lick  
I'll want only to chew on a long celery stick  
I won't have hot biscuits or corn bread or pie  
I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry*

*I'm hungry, I'm lonesome and life is a bore  
But isn't that what January is for?  
Unable to giggle, no longer a riot  
Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet!!*

*Anon*



## **Goodbye**

Having had Auto Sleepers for 20 years and been members of the Club for the last 12, we have decided to have a change. We have replaced our Clubman with a model from a different stable; the down side is that we must now leave the Club.

We have thoroughly enjoyed our time and will miss the wonderful rallies and friendships we have made.

Our new van has a large snail on the back, so if you see us on the roads, give us a wave. Our Clubman is now in the capable hands of our younger son and his family.

***Maco & David Bishop***

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## **Query from a new Motor-Homer *Ike Dawson***

Ater 46 years of towing we've swapped the caravan for a more easily managed small Motor-Home, a second-hand AutoSleeper Medallion on a VW LT 35 base vehicle. It has a low mileage and in our first 1000 miles in a month, is already working very well for us.

Query - Have any other Medallion on VW LT owners had a tow line foul the bottom of the plastic bumper when towing-off with a line attached to the VW-installed rear towing eye?

Observation - I noted a pair of tears up from the bottom of the rear bumper which appears to have been forced up from below. There is a towing eye welded to the rear end of the nearside longitudinal chassis member and the tears are laterally in line with it: the eye is about 30 mm higher than the bottom of the bumper.

The damage suggests the vehicle has had a line attached to the towing eye and on taking up slack, the line has ruptured the bottom of the bumper upwards.

I have a repair/modification in mind but would very much appreciate comments from Medallion owners on their experiences of towing using this eye and their solutions, or more general comments from anyone on the problem and its solution.

## **Our First Auto-Sleeper** **Helen Lidstone & Mike Davis**

We have a 2001 Talisman 2800cc hdi on a Peugeot Boxer which we purchased in May 2006.

We like the excellent performance from the engine, which is economical, regularly returns over 30 miles to the gallon on long runs at a steady 60 mph. It fits nicely on our drive and is easy to manoeuvre due to medium wheelbase chassis, and it has a good heating system to the kitchen and lounge area.

*However*, on the first wet day after purchasing our van we discovered rain water entering the seal on one of the side windows. This was rectified by the dealer and to ensure there would be no further problems with water ingress, the opposite side window and the rear kitchen window seals were replaced free of charge.

Then the cooker storage compartment door hinge broke but we found a replacement on the Internet. We then suffered engine battery failure due to the van standing idle on our drive for too long; we now plug the battery into a charger when the van is parked.

We joined the Club in 2007 and attended one rally at Rowsley run by Mike & Jeanne Hall and Lionel & Hilary Walker, which we very much enjoyed and met lots of nice people. We have now booked a second one at Burnham-on-Sea.

After Rowsley we continued on to the Caravan Club site at Peterborough for 2 nights, then a further 2 nights at the Peterborough Motorhome Show, where we purchased two Snoozywraps (wider than normal sleeping bags), which are great. If you want information on these go to [www.Jonic-uk.co.uk](http://www.Jonic-uk.co.uk).

We are very pleased with our Auto-Sleeper and with the service we received from our dealer, Cotswold Motor Caravans. Hopefully we can attend more rallies in 2009.

## Welcome to New Members



Nick & Marion Ayrton  
Sheila Brown

Michael & Patricia Guy

Dennis & Margaret Osborne

Graham & Linda Dewar

Roger & Kath Michael

Ian & Linda Stokes

Dave & Kate Abbott

Des & Angie Oakley

John Morrell

Peter & Beryl Gregory

Ron & Esme Mallinson

Jean Marsh & Marie Bailey

Harold & Yvonne Redmond

Isle of Anglesey

Upminster

Farnham

Deanshanger

Yeovil

Bridgend

Tetbury

Smallfield

Fareham

Chorley

Torquay

Hinkley

Cradley Heath

Southampton

Excelsior

Symbol

Suffolk

Talisman

Talisman

Amethyst

Sandhurst

Talisman

Ascot

Symbol

Nuevo

Amethyst

Symbol

Nuevo

### *Here's another of those Pictures from the 1978 Motor Show*



**Ford Auto-Sleeper Model F585**

The Ford Auto-Sleeper, which is part of the official Ford motor caravan range, is a 4-berth luxury motor caravan and is fitted with a 1.8-litre petrol engine; solid construction elevating roof; 2 single or 1 double bed; 2 roof bunks; 4 front facing seats; 16 gal. water tank; insulation; full ventilation. Optional equipment includes: 2-litre engine; cab roof tank; chemical toilet; fly screens; Electrolux gas electric refrigerator; diesel engine; automatic transmission; overdrive.

# Rally News

## Royal Windsor Racecourse Rally 2009

*Valerie & Robin Gardner*

We have booked the Royal Windsor Racecourse for a rally from Tuesday 14th to Sunday 19th July 2009. There are many attractions in the area including Windsor and Eton towns, Windsor Castle, Eton College. See a show at the New Theatre, ride in the Windsor Wheel or have a swim at the Windsor Leisure Centre. Take a boat ride from the racecourse, a trip on an open top bus or a horse and carriage ride around the town. Walk by the Thames or in Windsor Great Park (which includes Saville Gardens). Runnymede (where King John put his seal to the Magna Carta), Hampton Court and Legoland are but a short journey from the town centre plus frequent trains to London Paddington and/or Waterloo.

The site is a fixed fee so the site fee we charge members is dependent on the numbers attending. We did a mini presentation at the Burnham Rally where lots of members showed interest, so it looks like it's going to be a popular rally.

So that we can work out the approximate fees could anyone interested please contact us by phone or letter ASAP. Marangu, 13 Carrington Avenue, Flackwell Heath, Buckinghamshire HP10 9AL Tel: 01628 522363.

This is not a confirmed booking, which will have to be made in the normal way, so see the May edition of the Newsletter.

(Repeated from last month)

## ADVANCE NOTICE FOR BREWOOD

The Brewood rally will be run again in 2009 over the Easter week-end Thursday 9th to Monday 13th April. Full details will be in the Rally Supplement in due course.

*Pete Fisher*

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# Technical Group & Website



**Baz Wellard**  
**Chairman, Technical Group & Webmaster**

### **Spare wheels or lack of:**

As I mentioned before, the response to the survey on the subject of spare wheels was very disappointing with only 0.7% of members (10) having views either way, and therefore no real conclusion can be made. I have had a follow-up discussion with Geoff Scott, Chief Executive Auto-Sleepers and we covered the subject in detail. Geoff has since provided the following comment as a result of that discussion:

*"Auto-Sleepers uses reputable chassis manufacturer's (OEM's) [Original Equipment Manufacturers] on which it converts. These vehicles are primarily geared toward commercial vehicle market. These OEM's are continually developing their products and one such focus is weight savings, emission levels and cost. AS does lobby these OEM's on potential enhancements but have little clout unless it has some benefit to their commercial vehicle business. One such development recently is the fact that a*

*number have done away with a spare wheel as standard. Instead they offer tyre weld and a compressor to enable recovery to a tyre fitter. Commercial operators usually just call the recovery agencies. Mercedes Benz (MB) have gone further in that they have installed sensors in all the wheels to measure the pressure and have a warning device on the dashboard to warn of any deflation. The OEM's such as MB cover the changing of the tyres under their roadside assistance programme, normally the warranty period, after expiry the customer should take breakdown cover. It would be fair to say that other OEM's that we use are also giving consideration to removing the spare wheel, albeit that it may well be that they offer it as a retrofit. Where the OEM does supply a spare we will endeavour to install extension to the spares to enable the pressure to be monitored without crawling under the vehicle. Auto-Sleepers will continue to make recommendations to the OEM's on vehicle design and hope they can be incorporated".*

I don't think I can go any further on this subject at the moment, but do check thoroughly that your recovery service covers your requirements.

### **Ideas Sheets:**

1,410 Ideas Sheets were issued in 2008 (Total now 6,721). Interest to 'customise' vans is still high - so please keep those ideas coming in during 2009. From analysis security remains the most sought after subject.

### **National Rally:**

We will be having the usual 'Question & Answers' session in the Cedric Ford Hall on the Friday afternoon. This is your opportunity to raise matters of Company policy and its products with Senior Auto~Sleeper Management; leaving the 'Open Forum' on Saturday for strictly Club business only!



## February 2009 Rally Supplement.



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.

**Please note my new e-mail address is :- ncr@mypostoffice.co.uk**

\*\*\*\*\*Please remember that you have to arrange ferry bookings and any insurance required, health or vehicle, for any foreign rallies.

**12<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2009 St. Sylvestre sur Lot, France**

**Rally Marshals:** Barbara & Stuart Williams assisted by Angie & Andy Cavell.  
Emergency Tel. No. 00 44 (0)7880 532057.

**Rally Fee:** £16.50 inc VAT, not refundable if offered a place. Rally slips & cheques to A. Cavell, 24 The Close, Hampstead Norreys, Thatcham, RG18 0RY. Please provide your email address if you have one, if not please enclose an SAE.

**Site Fees:** The site fees are not set yet, but last year were in the region of 10 euros a night including electricity.

**Site:** Les Berges du Lot is located at the side of the River Lot and is run by a very friendly couple who can both speak some English. There is a small swimming pool for campers. Pitches are separated by low hedges. Within 200 metres are most of the shops, Intermarche supermarket, three bakers, a butcher and a pizzeria etc.

**Attractions:** 500 metres away is Penne d'Agenais. The port area has boats for hire and shops, bar and restaurant. On top of the hill overlooking the valley is the medieval village where there are more restaurants, the Basilica and many old buildings.

The main town nearby is Villeneuve sur Lot, with lots of shops and restaurants. It is 9km away on the signposted cycle route. Within 25 minutes drive are several more medieval villages.

**Limited to 15 vans. Please do not arrive before 12.00 noon.**

(i.)

q no 23  
30/1/09

### **30<sup>th</sup>. May – 17<sup>th</sup>.June (18 nights) West Coast of Scotland Tour.**

30th May -17<sup>th</sup> June (18 nights). West Coast of Scotland Tour.

Rally Marshals Moira & Allan Blackstock assisted by Jenni & Tommy Wilson.

Emergency Tel. no. 07891704186 or 07969312703 (marshals mobile) .

Starting at 12 noon at Culzean Castle Caravan Park (2 nights) we will proceed to the Isle of Arran (4 nights), Oban (4 nights), Glencoe (2 nights), Morvich (Shiel Bridge 16 miles from Skye) (4 nights), concluding at Glen Nevis (2 nights). If by this time you are not bored with the beauty of this part of the British Isles you may wish to stay here or carry on touring .

Cost to include Site fees and ferry crossings will be approximately £400 we cannot be specific at this time as we are awaiting costs from some sources.

Rally fee £15 both to include VAT.

Booking forms with SAE to A & M Blackstock, 39 Sumpter Croft, Penwortham, Preston, PR1 9UJ. Tel.No. 01772 749178. If your application is successful a deposit will be required within 7 days of receipt of acceptance otherwise your place will be offered to the next on the list.

Morvich is a Caravan Club site which will charge full rate (other sites are discounted), if you are a CC member please give your membership number on your booking slip, it is also *essential* that we know the length of your van for the ferry booking.

**Members must book for the full tour. Maximum vans 25.**

### **14<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> June 2009( 7 nights). Delftse Hout Caravan Site, Delft Netherlands.**

Rally starts at 12 noon June 14<sup>th</sup>. and closes 12 noon on June 21<sup>st</sup>. 2009.

Rally Marshalls: Trish & Ted Pratt & Jan & Vic Hicklin.

Members must book for the full 7 nights. Rally fee: £15(non refundable) to be sent with rally slip and SAE for reply. (Small envelope will do for first reply).

Site Fees 20.00 euros approx £16.00 per night.All pitches have electricity.

I will contact you upon receipt of your booking to let you know if you are successful/unsuccessful in booking this rally.A 50% deposit will be required in January 2009.

There will be at least one coach trip out, one bike ride, and a meal arranged on site one evening. All subject to sufficient numbers booking. Buses run from the site entrance to town where you can catch a tram or train to anywhere you wish to go, the town is only a10 minute walk away. Biking around the flat countryside is very easy.

This site is about 25 miles from the Hoek of Van Holland Ferry or Europort. You will be expected to make your own way on the ferry and to Delft.

PLEASE SEND RALLY SLIPS and deposit to P.M.Pratt. 3 Grafton Road, Stapenhill, Burton on Trent, Staffs DE15 9DN (01283538818)

or mob.( 07713186508) or contact Jan on 01246236157 if I'm not available. *I have managed to get some more pitches for this rally. If you would like to attend could you please ring Trish Pratt on 01283538818 or Jan Hicklin on 01246236157 .*

**Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> June to Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2009. (10 nights) Camping Rudesheim am Rhein, Rudesheim, Germany.**

Rally starts and ends at noon. Marshals: Liz Irvin assisted by Peter Brown and Chris Mawdsley. Members *must book for the full 10 nights*. Rally fee £15 (non refundable) to be sent with rally slip and SAE for reply, to Mrs E Irvin, 43 School Lane, Kirk Ella, Hull, East Yorkshire, HU10 7NP.

Cheques payable to E. Irvin. Tel. No. 01482 658345. E-mail

irvin@irvin.karoo.co.uk Site Fees expected to be €24.30 per night for 2 adults, €19.00 for 1 person, inclusive of electricity 10 amps. Dogs €3.00. Showers

€1.00 supplement. The site is easy walking along the riverside to Rudesheim.

For local attractions please see November newsletter. I plan to organise an evening Rhine in Flames cruise on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July, including a 2 course dinner (traditional German main course with meat, supplements and dessert) estimated

€50.50 per person. I will need to know numbers for the cruise as I am now aware of another Rally at the campsite and places may be limited **so please**

**confirm your interest in the cruise with your application. A deposit for the cruise booking may be required in advance of the rally. You will be expected to make your own arrangements for travel and insurance.**

**23rd - 27th February 2009 (4 Nights), Whitemead Forest Park, Parkend, Lydney, Gloucestershire**  
**THIS RALLY IS NOW FULLY BOOKED**

**Mon 30th March - Friday 3rd April (4 nights) Fishery Creek, Hayling Island, Nr Portsmouth**

Emergency No 07745 522 335.

Rally Marshalls : Mo & Mike Valentine, Barbara & Al Bucket. Site Fees £14.50 per night inc elect.

Rally Fee : £2.35 per couple, £1.50 single. Both inc VAT.

Rally slips + cheques payable to M. Valentine please, with SAE for reply and directions.

Send to:- M.Valentine, 11, Hamilton Close, Langstone, Havant PO9 1RP (023 9248 2818).

All the usual camp facilities, inc. disabled.

Dogs welcome on leads.

Fishery Creek is set adjoining a tidal creek of Chichester Harbour with pathways leading to easy walks and extensive views of the harbour.

The park is well maintained and the grass drains quickly.

Approx 10 mins to nearest shop, pubs and buses.

**Attractions.** Chichester, Emsworth, Portsmouth with its Maritime Museum.

**Please do not arrive before 1pm.**

cl no 25 30/1/09

**April 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> 2009—(3nights) Marston's Rally. Albion Hotel, Burton on Trent, Staffs.**

Site behind the Albion Hotel, Shobnall Road. Burton on Trent.

Emergency Tel. no. 07713186508 Marshal's mobile.

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

Marshals phone no. 01283538818 or please ring Jan on 01246236157 if I am not available .

Site Fee: £4.50 per night, all hardstanding, Rally Fee: £2.35. All inc VAT.

No Electricity. Booking slip & cheques payable to P.M.Pratt, 3 Grafton Rd, Stapenhill, Burton on Trent. Staffs. DE15 9DN. Tel 01283538818.

Please remember your **S.A.E.**

A VISIT ROUND THE BREWERY ON THE FRIDAY MORNING will be arranged. **Cost £6 each, please send cheque with site fees if you would like to participate in this trip.**

A MEAL FRI. EVENING and MEAL SAT. EVENING IN THE ALBION HOTEL PUB will be available. (WEEKEND OFF COOKING DUTIES LADIES).

**Directions:** The Albion Hotel. is situated on the B5017 on the Burton to Uttoxeter road and is on the bus route into Burton on Trent.

Please send SAE for acceptance and further directions.

Dogs are allowed.

**Rally starts at 12noon Thursday. NOT BEFORE PLEASE.**

**23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> April. National Motorhome Show, East of England  
Showground, Peterborough.**

Emergency Tel.No. 07922049714

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

Please use the booking form enclosed in the February Newsletter if possible. If you use a form from other magazines please mark the form ASOC and note the *special Club site fees: Arrive Thursday: £35, arrive Friday £32, arrive Saturday £29.*

*All bookings for the Saturday evening entertainment must be made with Warners when returning the application form to the organisers, by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April if you wish to rally with the Club.*

**\*\*\*\*\*Then you must also complete a Club rally slip, (this also applies to internet bookings)**

Return it, with the Rally Fee of £2.00 couples, £1.50 singles (both inclusive of VAT) to: N.C. & P. Rogers, 3 Appleby Close, Aldbrough St. John, Richmond, North Yorks. DL11 7TT. Tel.No. 01325 374 540 Cheques payable to N.C. & P. Rogers.

Please collect the *Club* rally information pack from the ASOC marshal before parking.

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

**30<sup>th</sup> April – 4<sup>th</sup> May. National Rally & A.G.M.  
Nottinghamshire Showground, Newark.**

Application forms were enclosed with the January Newsletter.

Closing date for bookings 4<sup>th</sup> April.

If you wish to run a rally in 2009 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**

**\*\*\*\*\*NEW\*\*\*\*\* E-Mail. [ncr@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:ncr@mypostoffice.co.uk)**

**E & OE**

## **Website:**

There have been 3 updates since the last Newsletter: - No's 12/08; 13/08 & 1/09. Details are on the 'updates' page of the Club Website.

## **Postal rates:**

May I, delicately, ask members to remember that - when sending a 'large envelope' it needs a 'large letter stamp' on it! It does then save having to go to the sorting office and paying the 'handling fee of £1 plus the unpaid extra postage – thank you.

## **And finally:**

Don't forget if you have an urgent problem and do not get a quick response from me you can ring the Service Centre at Willersey on 01386 – 853511.

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## **Water Ingress**

*John & Janet Deacon*

The article in the December newsletter "Water Ingress in a Gatcombe" struck a chord with us! We recently experienced a leak from the roof in our 2007 Amethyst. Our local dealer thought that the water was leaking from the base of the roof rack bars and was caused by either a faulty batch of sealant or poorly applied sealant. Resealing certainly stopped the leak.

Was it a coincidence that in spite of a very wet summer we only spotted the leak just days after a habitation service when we know someone would have been on the roof to check the roof rack etc? We now think not!

# From the Factory

## **Procurement. Times are Changing**

*Dave Troth*

Procurement's list of excuses and reasons for not having what people want when they want them is an extremely long and well crafted one. It is not something that can simply be delegated, except to a properly trained and qualified expert in Purchasing and Procurement - with years of experience of dealing with insurmountable delay (who can forget "Thursday Phil").

We are now moving away from the 40 plus years of tradition unimpeded by progress. The time and opportunity is with us to make constant improvements to how we work.

The Procurement role at Auto-Sleepers involves not only the purchasing side (the acquisition of goods or services to accomplish the goals of the enterprise) but also supplier selection, expediting and logistics. Like all manufacturing organisations whatever the product, we face the daily problems in that our customers (internal and external) want products to be available in a shorter time than it takes to make them. This demands a level of organisation and planning suitable to meet expectations.

We at Auto-Sleepers are moving to a radically different view of what Procurement is and what it should be doing for us, and empowering Procurement to make a big difference. In an engineering context, this means involving procurement at a much earlier phase in the design process. This will ensure that a product is not designed from the outset with a particular component supplier or raw material in mind, leaving Procurement very little to do except fulfil that brief, but instead involving procurement from the beginning and allowing designers to get valuable feedback on the costs and availability of potential raw materials, or of any alterations that would need to be considered in the specification to allow production to take place in a lower-cost

manufacturing location.

This cross departmental working style will also allow for a broader perspective – the opportunities to standardise components across a number of products, and consequently offer suppliers much bigger volumes in return for greater discounts. These kinds of ‘de-proliferation’ exercises such as standardising on components across a range of vehicles for example – can lead to huge savings, not just in price but also in validation and testing.

This relationship between Procurement and Design thus becomes an important one, with Procurement constantly returning to the market for more information on pricing and quality, while designers and engineers validate the revised specification to ensure quality and general fitness-for-purpose are maintained. By working in cross-functional teams, each side plays to its strengths – and draws on the expertise of the other.

It’s important to stress that the relationship between Procurement and the operational parts of the business is not, and should not be allowed to become, one of conflict or confrontation. It is sometimes assumed that Procurement will simply compel designers to downgrade their specifications or force production people to put up with cheaper and therefore lower quality components. In fact, it’s far more likely that Procurement will see price and quality improve in tandem. This is because Procurement isn’t simply about getting the best price, but also about looking at the total lifecycle cost of a component, including logistics, warehousing, assembly, and maintenance cycles.

A cost differential is sometimes an indicator of better quality, but it could equally be the result of over-specification, ‘gold-plating’ components when it is not required. A sourcing exercise will always take place against a quality baseline, and if only one supplier can genuinely meet the quality requirements, then so be it. At the end of the day the engineer or designer has the final say.

Procurement do, however, and will, add value by continually challenging those requirements and suggesting alternatives. The value of Procurement at AS is not to be a nuisance but to bring objectivity to

purchasing decisions taking a commercially focused non-emotional view. This is achievable as the procurement exercise is sponsored from the very top of the organisation, and there is genuine, cross-functional teamwork, with everyone taking credit for the savings.

It is our aim to fully embrace the considerable opportunities that exist (even in these difficult times) for value enhancement and performance through management of procurement and third party suppliers. We are fortunate at AS in that this is now a company wide activity and not just the preserve of the Procurement function.

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In response to Baz's point about Insurance in last month's Newsletter, **Sean Hollands** writes (as a former Police Traffic Patrol Officer)...

"Baz did not make it clear if the impounded motorhome was in fact correctly insured or not. If it was, then the driver who did not carry his certificate of insurance with him was the author of his own downfall. If it was not then he got his just deserts!

The MID Database may not be available for technical reasons or the Policeman requesting proof of insurance may not be equipped with the means of interrogating it and it is indeed a foolhardy driver who does not carry his Insurance and Driving documents with him.

To forestall the old chestnut of having 7 days to produce your documents at a Police Station, most holidays last longer than 7 days and it could be a mighty long and inconvenient drive home just to retrieve the missing documents.

Whilst it is not a specific requirement for a driver to carry these documents with him, if he fails to produce them when requested and then also fails to produce them within the 7 days, the time and place of his offence will be the time and place at which he was requested to produce them."

## LPG TANKS MAY BE A GOOD IDEA BUT....

*Colin & Eva Whetham*

We were at the Shepton Mallet Show in September 2007 and saw Euragas Limited offering to fit gas tanks to motor homes. After looking at our Topaz they said they could fit a 20 litre tank under the nearside sliding door, so later in the month we went to Parkend, Gloucester, to have one fitted.

All went well at first and we then had another storage cupboard where the gas cylinders were.

In August 2008 we went to top up before going to a rally, but we couldn't get the filler hose off without gas leaking all over the place, and I'm afraid the garage was no help! However, after a while we managed to detach the hose.

We telephoned and emailed Euragas but got no reply so we went to Parkend, only to find someone else in the workshop. They had had a lot of calls from people trying to find Euragas but had no idea where they were. We telephoned Gloucester Trading Standards, who said they had ceased trading.

We eventually went to Pemco Pitstop in Yeovil, an LPG converter, who said straight away the tank was illegal, as it was too close to the ground. He then went on to find a total of 13 faults including only 2 straps holding the tank to the chassis when there should be 3, gas pipes too close to the exhaust, no weather-proofing on the tank, no anti-abrasive pads between the tank to the chassis, and so on....

We are having the tank removed and we strongly advise anyone with a tank fitted by Euragas to have it checked by an independent LPG installer.

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On a completely different subject, we have had an email from **Michael Fradin**, prompted by the article on having medical and insurance documentation on hand when travelling abroad, to say that Age Concern provide a very good draft document to assemble should your executors need it suddenly. The information is to be found at

[www.ageconcern.org.uk](http://www.ageconcern.org.uk) - Information & Advice - Sheet 18

## QUESTIONS THAT HAUNT ME!

*Brian Ellis*

Can you cry under water?

How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?

Why do you have to 'put your two cents in'... but it's only a 'penny for your thoughts'? Where's that extra penny going to?

Once you're in heaven, do you get stuck wearing the clothes you were buried in for eternity?

Why does a round pizza come in a square box?

How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?

Why is it that people say they 'slept like a baby' when babies wake up like every two hours?

If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?

Why are you IN a movie, but you're ON TV?

Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?

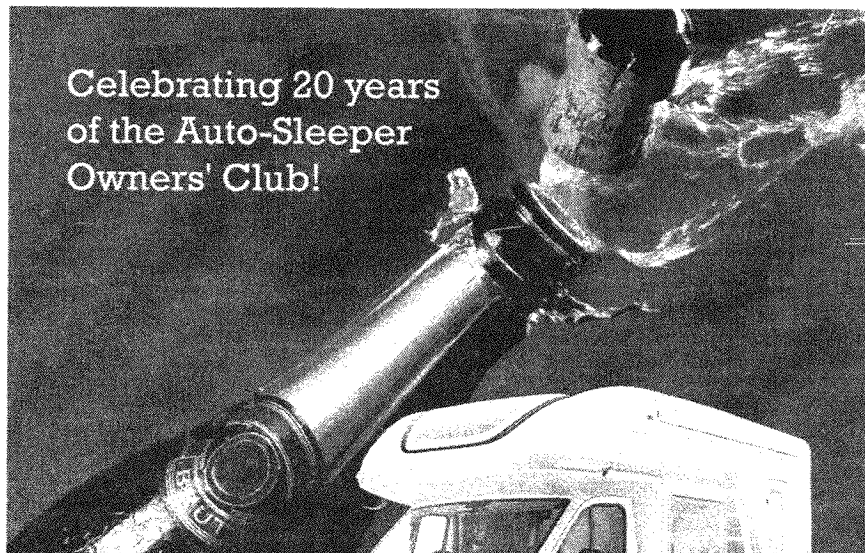
Why do doctors leave the room while you change?

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Facing Page:

Everyone will be aware by now that this year is the Club's 20th Anniversary year, but you may not be aware that AS are producing 20 special Nuevos to commemorate this event. Thought we'd give you a look at the ad.

Celebrating 20 years  
of the Auto-Sleeper  
Owners' Club!



To commemorate 20 years of the Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club (ASOC) we have selected our best-selling Nuevo model and built 20 very special motorhomes indeed!

To compliment the already high specification, we have added the following features worth over £2500:

- ◆ 18" Television with built-in DVD & 'Freeview'.
- ◆ Solar Panel,
- ◆ Garmin Satellite Navigation System with European Mapping,
- ◆ Microwave Oven,
- ◆ 1 Years' free insurance with Caravan Guard.
- ◆ 1 Years' membership of the Caravan Club,
- ◆ 12 months subscription to MMM Magazine,
- ◆ Special Graphics and Numbered Commemorative Badging,
- ◆ Numbered Certificate of Authenticity,
- ◆ Upgraded 3500kg chassis, giving extra 200kg payload.
- ◆ 1 Years' membership of ASOC.

AND the built-in care & craftsmanship you can only expect from Auto-Sleepers.

All our prices only £37,699\* (2 berth model); to £39,899\* (4 berth 23 model) \* plus £1,200 on the main costs and charge of VAT to cover the cost of number plates, all delivery charges, 12 month road fund licence and 50% registration tax.



Auto-Sleepers  
MAINTAINED BY EXCELLENCE

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Neorples Derby  
Derbyshire  
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Richard Baldwin Motorhomes  
West Yorkshire  
Tel: 01422 364222

Spawley Motor Caravans  
Cumbria  
Tel: 01477 338806

West Country Motorhomes  
Wiltshire  
Tel: 01293 728888

Marquis - Essex  
Essex  
Tel: 01220 522873

Marquis - Northants  
Northampton  
Tel: 01554 466884

Prentishaw Caravans  
Northampton  
Tel: 01551 420212

Spawley Motor Caravans Centre  
Hertfordshire  
Tel: 01492 861036

Todd's Mobile Leisure Limited  
Lancashire  
Tel: 01772 336340

West Country Motorhomes  
Somerset  
Tel: 01274 701200

You may have noticed we're a little light on copy this month so we're taking the opportunity to include some of Brian Ellis's Dingbats. Obviously if you were at Burnham this year you will be familiar with them, but if you weren't they'll provide some fun.

If we remember, we might even give you the answers next month.....

<p>3,4,2,4 good spinster good spinster 1/</p>	<p>7,6 <b>DANGER</b> 2/</p>	<p>2,2,6 No No Veil 3/</p>	<p>4,4 13579 4/</p>	<p>4,2,6 <b>SCISAB</b> <b>SCISAB</b> 5/</p>
<p>6,2,3 Gibraltar &amp; Swiss 6/</p>	<p>3,5,8 <b>S</b>CAPE 7/</p>	<p>4,5 ordersordersord erordersord sordersord ersorde 8/ <b>orders</b></p>	<p>5,3,4 <b>LLOYDS</b> 9/</p>	<p>2,2,3,4 <b>run</b> 10/</p>
<p>6,8 <b>YEARDLY</b> 11/</p>	<p>7,3 ABCDEFGHIJ KLMNOPQRS 12/TVWXYZ</p>	<p>1,3,2,4 minstichute 13/</p>	<p>4,2,3,6 <b>SHOW</b> 14/</p>	<p>4,2,3,6 <b>OT 2025</b> 15/</p>
<p>3,2,7 orOorOorOorO orOorOorOorO orOorOorOorO orOorOorOorO 16/</p>	<p>9,6,2,3,8 <b>EVILS</b> 17/</p>	<p>19,2 brassiere jockstrap 18/ </p>	<p>10 <b>POP</b> 19/</p>	<p>4,5 <b>EE E</b> <b>PP E</b> 20/</p>
<p>4,6 <b>BURNHAM</b> 21/</p>	<p>3,6 <b>MATE</b> 22/</p>	<p>4,5,4,2 <b>kiss</b> 23/</p>	<p>4,5 <b>CASH</b> 24/</p>	<p>4,1,3 Maiden 1760 yds 25/</p>
<p>1,4,5 Whiskey escaped 26/</p>	<p>7,8 <b>RAEG</b> 27/</p>	<p>7,8 Chinese minus 28/</p>	<p>18 <b>BIS HO</b> 29/</p>	<p>18,2,5 <b>Lead</b> no no no no 30/</p>

## WANTED

An insulated external windscreen cover for Peugeot Boxer 2004 (Nuevo).  
**Contact: W.A. Holmes. Cambridge (01223) 842871**

*Thank you to Les Fouracres for his donation. He was given some crockery for his AS and agreed a donation.*



**AS Legend Ford 2.5**  
Turbo diesel. Dec97  
Excellent Condition  
38,000 miles. Taxed  
and Tested. Alarm,

central locking, cd, radio, cassette.  
New tyres, new cambelt & service.  
New brake discs & pads. Top box  
and Tow Bar. Air suspension.

**£17,995 ono (part ex.**

**Considered) Contact Rae &  
Philip Gledhill 01484 654180 or  
07831 456689**

**Peugeot Nuevo 2008 2.2 130 bhp**  
6 speed 4,000 miles. Low profile,  
swivel cab seats, radio/cd, aircon,  
remote central locking, alloy  
wheels, oven, fridge, gas/electric  
heater, extractor fan 15" TV/DVD  
with Freeview. Refillable gas  
bottles, new swing wall bathroom to  
give separate shower. Cycle rack,  
awning, non-smokers, no pets.  
Taxed March 2009 **£32,950 ono.**  
**Contact Tim Pritchard 01934  
852568 (Somerset)**

**A Valiant** gas water heater from an  
'E' reg Renault Rapport II - MAG  
125/7/ATZB. Output 8.7 kw. 3000  
btu, B bar, Butane 28 mbar.  
Propane 37 mbar removed from an  
Auto-Sleeper. Offered **Free.**  
**Contact Roger Russell 01392  
257759 (Devon)**

**Peugeot Boxer Autosleeper**  
**Symbol Sep 04 2.8HDI TB-Turbo**  
Chipped 155BHP 25000 miles  
Sparkling performance Hill climbing  
now easy. Fuel consumption 25  
mpg including running around.  
Excel fuel log available. All normal  
facilities, cooker, grill, oven, fridge,  
toilet, shower, drinks locker, 2  
single or 1 double bed, 12 cd  
autochanger stereo MOT Sep-09  
Unique Silverstone green Colour  
coded bumper/rubbing strip paint  
Cruise control Locking wheel bolts  
FSH Diesel heating with extra vent  
to front. Extra locker fitted in rear  
wall of toilet/shower compartment.  
Fitted seat covers Secondary  
carpets Electric windows and  
mirrors Alloy wheels  
Awning. Cycle rack and gold  
"silver " screen. **email for Word  
document with pics  
[piair@talktalk.net](mailto:piair@talktalk.net) 07967 106687,  
01543 377777 Pete Fisher**

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