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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*



2012 Wallingford Rally Field

## ***NEWSLETTER 293***

### ***February 2013***

## From the Editor



As I write this editorial, at generally the quiet time for the club, we can look forward to the rally season and hopefully some decent weather. This month I have been able to include a few articles that I have had to hold back on, as I have been well supplied with essential club messages as well as rally reports and items of a technical nature. I have only received a couple of items this month so I would be pleased if you can write something up for next time please!

I recently got my new Caravan Club handbook and a read through this prompts ideas on what to do in the summer months. The technical section at the back is always a good read and I was reminded that if you show your CC or CCC membership card to the M6 Toll booth, you get a reduced price for your motorhome!

Anyhow, you will find enclosed two holiday reports which should prompt some ideas for that next summer holiday.

Hopefully those that are attending the National Rally will have sent off the paperwork and enclosed in this month's newsletter are details of the Photo competition and the Digital workshop that will be taking place over the weekend and a reminder of the programme.

**Deadline for the March Newsletter is February 10<sup>th</sup>** and you can send your articles to me at [daveatasoc@virginmedia.com](mailto:daveatasoc@virginmedia.com) or write to me at my address (details on back page)

*David Mayne*

**I have the following three items going free for collection** if anyone is contemplating going to Norway:-

Maps

– Freytag & Berndt 1 :250000 Norway South (Oslo, Bergen, Stavanger)  
“ “ “ “ “ “ Mid (Trondheim, Lillehammer,

Alesund)

The Rough Guide to Norway 5th edition 2009.

We had a great trip there in 2011 but very wet.

I can be contacted by phone on 01454 414259

Maureen and Derek Moras 5149

## **Sedgemoor Carnival Burnham On Sea**

If anyone has looked at the Burnham Carnival web pages they will be aware that changes have been made to the day and date of the event. Each of the seven towns on the Carnival circuit has their own Carnival committee. Bridgwater is where the carnival first began and has always been the first.

Burnham Carnival 2013 was set and advertised as Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November. Now the committee have decided to change from the traditional Monday to a Friday evening.

They sent an invitation to the carnival clubs to vote on the option of changing to a Sunday or a Friday evening. It seems they weren't told of the intention to make it Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November BEFORE Bridgwater. This has caused some bad feelings.

With a lot of local press, web pages and face book activity over this issue, there may be a re-think, possibly reverting to the original date and day.

We can only wait into the New Year and see.

The Carnival will be in November but the dates will have to be confirmed  
Linda & Brian Ellis  
Burnham On Sea  
P.S.

The good news is that I have taken advantage of the Christmas break to complete 2013's Dingbat quiz. This has to be the fastest I have put one of these together which just shows how much easier it will be this year.

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## **TULIPS AND AMSTERDAM**

A week in April 2012

Having stopped briefly in Holland a few years ago on our way back from Denmark we had decided that a return visit was necessary.

So on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April this year we crossed from Dover to Dunkirk on the DFDS Line and made our way up through Belgium and around Gent and Antwerp and arrived at our chosen site of Camping De Mulderije just after 6pm

The next day we went to Gouda. There was a large market in the town square, very handy for some fresh croissants, bread and cheese. The sun

came out so we explored and went into the St.Janskirk to see the wonderful stained glass windows.

We awoke to sun on Sunday morning and set off to see the Kinderdijk Windmills. We arrived at Kinderdijk at about 10.30. All the car parks were full and no on street parking suitable even for our Symbol. We were advised to go to the "overflow" car park just down the road. We found it over 2 miles away, it too was full and as we didn't fancy a two mile walk decided to leave the visit to another day.

The next day we went to see the Keukenhof Gardens which was the main objective on this trip. It rained all the way there but as we arrived the sun came out. It is very well organised and the gardens are beautiful, the variety of tulips, hyacinths, narcissi and daffodils were quite breath-taking and the scent pervaded everywhere. It is impossible to describe these gardens – they have to be seen to be believed. If you like flowers and garden design then this is a MUST VISIT place.

Five o'clock closing time came too soon and as we pulled off the grass onto the road we found that we had a flat rear tyre (lovely!). Having parked at the side of the road I got out and kicked the tyre. It didn't do any good but I felt better. Out came the jack and tool box and I crawled under the van to release the spare wheel, no problem there just time consuming and we managed to change the wheel and pack everything away within about 40 minutes.

Our next site was Camping Vogelenzang. We found it surrounded by fields of tulips arranged in different coloured stripes and the scent from a field of hyacinths was wonderful.

Tuesday dawned, still raining .We drove up country to Alkmaar and then back down following the coast line as far as possible. Despite the continuous rain we had a good trip.

Our next site was Camping De Leider just outside Haarlem which was close enough to a rail station for us to walk from the site. At the station there was only a ticket machine and we didn't have enough cash for two tickets. When the train arrived I spoke to the guard who let us on the train on the strict promise that we buy a ticket when we got to Amsterdam. On arrival we immediately went to the ticket office but the assistant there couldn't sell us a ticket for a journey already completed so all we could do was buy two singles for the return journey.

We enjoyed our boat trip around the canals of Amsterdam. After lunch we decided to explore on foot and obtained a street plan from the Tourist Office. Off we went and discovered that we have difficulty in telling left from right on street plans and we ended up in the Red Light district, very interesting but no further comment. The rain started again so we returned to the station for the train ride back to Haarlem.

Friday 27th April and it was still raining so we set off on our return journey to Dunkirk to catch the ferry back home.

To sum it all up – very wet and windy but the sun shone at the right time and we both agreed that we had enjoyed our adventure in spite of the weather.

If you like flowers and gardens then a visit to the Keukenhof Gardens is a must.

*Derek Moras*

### **Photographic Workshop**

Sunday 5th May 2013 2.30pm to 4.30 pm at the AGM,

Jean and Dave Hollingsworth will run a Photographic Workshop.

Bring along your digital camera and learn how the pictures can be enhanced or improved on the computer provided.

These workshops are suitable for everyone and all abilities.

If you have a specific topic or issue to explore please indicate or bring along an image that requires enhancing.

Please complete the application form in your AGM information.

Mrs J Hollingsworth  
24 Norton Grove  
Kingston upon Hull  
HU4 6HL  
jaholly1@gmail.com  
Telephone number 01482 572682

## **Photographic Competition 2013**

Photos judged at the AGM and will all be on display.  
Set Subject category

MUST contain at least 1 Auto Sleeper Motorhome. On or off a rally but preferably on.

Open Subject

Anything at all on or off a rally.

Up to 2 images can be entered in each category. ONLY Sizes either 6 x 4 inches or 7 x 5 inches.

In each category there will be:

*1<sup>st</sup> prize £15.00 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £10.00 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize £5.00.*

During the AGM: an overall winner will be selected by attending members voting for the winner with a £20.00 prize.

Closing date: April 18<sup>th</sup> 2013, no entries can be accepted after this date.

Got to be worth entering with a possible top prize of £35.00.

Photos to be sent to :

Jean Hollingsworth

24 Norton Grove

Kinston upon Hull

HU4 6HL

Please ensure the correct postage otherwise I need to go and collect from the post office and pay additional postage charges.

## **The Outer Hebrides are "Wow"**

Otto, the Auto-Sleeper Clubman, thoroughly enjoyed a fortnight's travelling on the islands of the Outer Hebrides this autumn, from the Butt of Lewis in the North to Castlebay on Barra.

We took the ferry from Uig on the Isle of Skye to Tarbert and were fascinated to be part of a Coastguard exercise which was practising landing a man on deck and taking him off again while we were under "full steam ahead"! Typically, our camera was locked up in the car deck!

We established ourselves in a Stornaway holiday park with excellent facilities and toured Lewis, visiting interesting stone circles at Callanish and a Black House at Arnol. This consisted of a low stone building with an unsupported thatched roof and a peat fire in the centre of the floor.

Our main impressions of the Islands were of superb empty beaches, offset by treeless mountains, traffic-free single-lane roads and colourful seascapes, supporting many seals, migratory birds and sheep of all colours who, surprisingly seemed to have read, learned and digested The Highway Code! We even spotted a Golden Eagle and her two juveniles and later on a pod of Dolphins close to our headland campsite.

The September weather was a very changeable succession of Atlantic Depressions culminating in a 36 hour Force Ten with torrential rain, which was the tail-end of Hurricane Sandy from the Caribbean and which kept our heads down for a day-and-a-half!

Diesel prices ranged from "high" to £1.56 per litre, but we forgot about that when enjoying the marvellous fresh fish and seafood meals, along with the many friendly meetings in the small, but adequate campsites. Our ferry crossings were all very smooth and in the efficient hands of Caledonian McBraine.

One of our highlights was watching an Otter aircraft land and take off on the sand beach of Barra airport, and the other was actually finding a Co-op open on a Sunday afternoon, as most places were observing The Lord's Day!

All-in-all, a truly memorable holiday.

*Richard & Ivy Birch.*

"John Hill wishes to thank the many club members who by way of cards and letters have expressed their sympathy and support for him over the recent passing of his wife, Linda."

*John Hill*

## **Assistant Rally Marshals Wanted**

Whitby Rally at Eskdale School 8<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> August 2013

Assistant Marshals wanted for this well established rally, now in its seventh year. If you are thinking of running your own rally, but are not sure what is involved, assisting at a rally could give you experience.

Of course the assistant marshals are guaranteed a place on the rally!

If you are interested, please contact Liz Irvin 01482 658345 Mobile 07711271568 or email [irvin@irvin.karoo.co.uk](mailto:irvin@irvin.karoo.co.uk)

## **ELECTRIC HOOK UPS**

The October newsletter contained a plea from our editor for more contributions, so this was an invitation to bore you all with some more of a subject which I feel is important but often not well understood.

We didn't have many customers at the technical information stall at the National Rally this year, so there was time to browse through the recent "Ideas Sheets". One of these was a comprehensive and complete instruction so that any member can buy the necessary bits and with a few small tools can make an adapter to reverse the live and neutral supplies when using a mains hook-up abroad.

This is of course an important safety issue, so we are told.

My question is, if this is a safety matter, why do we have to DIY this instead of just buying it ready-made from Brownhills or Towsure etc, complete with British Standards approval? The surprising answer is that no-one wants to market such a product because (a) It is unnecessary, and (b) This home-made adapter simply adds to the number of things that can go wrong.

For some 20-odd years I was an engineer with a famous Dutch electrical equipment manufacturer. As part of my job, I would be sent on a regular basis the UK version and the European version of the same model of equipment. I had to be sure I was fully aware of any differences between the two.

Now think about it! What happens when not as many units are sold in country A as was hoped, but in country B they have sold all their allocation and still have outstanding orders? The greater the differences between the two, the greater the expense of converting the standard.

An example that I was involved with concerned a CD player. The production run was for 100,000 units, of which 95,000 went to mainland Europe and 5,000 to the UK.

In the event 2,000 UK units were unsold, (they were quite expensive) but the French had sold all of theirs. All were fitted with single-pole on/off switches, the only difference being the European one had a 2-pin Continental plug fitted on the mains lead which was detachable (and reversible), so this was an easy job to fix. The instruction book was printed in English (of course) and French, German, Dutch. Italian and Spanish. And the "experts" tell us that to save money, single-pole switches are only fitted to UK equipment! For the record, some European equipment IS fitted with a double-pole on/off switch.

Not only will the same item in the UK also have a double-pole on/off switch, but the instruction book will also tell you to wire up the plug in the correct way.

I hope to be at the National Rally next year and I will be happy to answer members' queries. If required, I do possess examples of the equipment to confirm the above statements.

*Albert Brown (0294)*

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**FOR A FUN PACKED WEEKEND COME TO NEWARK  
SHOWGROUND**

**THE NATIONAL RALLY 2<sup>nd</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> MAY 2013**

**This will be the 24th AGM**

**Meals are available each day. The menus are included with the application form.**

**These are optional.**

**The proposed Programme is as follows:**

## **The Cedric Ford Pavillion**

### **Thursday**

Evening Meal followed by a get together to meet or make friends.

### **Friday**

Gentle Exercise - Question & Answer Session with staff from Auto Sleepers - Line Dancing

**Evening Meal followed by a Quiz. The results of the Photographic and Cake Competitions**

then the Cake Auction

### **Saturday**

Gentle Exercise - **AGM** followed by **Open Forum** - Line Dancing

Evening Dinner followed by The Raffle Draw and Dancing to **VIVO Party Band**

### **Sunday**

Gentle Exercise - Sunday Service - Presentation of cheque to the chosen Charity

Followed by Tea and Coffee - Carvery Lunch - Egg Bowling Competition

Evening entertainment provided by **Martin Barry**

## **Stuart Goodwin Pavillion**

### **Friday & Saturday**

Hobbies – Crafts - Produce - Bring & Buy Jigsaws - Books and Regalia Stalls - Technical Advice - Photo and Cake Competitions. Tea & Coffee will be available

### **Sunday pm**

Photographic Workshop

A free minibus service will run on Saturday and Sunday afternoons to 'Southern Motor Caravans' to see motorhomes for sale. There is also a small accessory shop. Some refreshments will be provided (to be confirmed).

# Technical Group & Website



**Webmaster and Chairman Technical Group:** Baz Wellard can be contacted at 18 Greenwood Close, Fareham, Hants PO16 7UF or email : [baz.wellard@virgin.net](mailto:baz.wellard@virgin.net)

## **Tyres:**

There are varying recommendations regarding replacing tyres but generally it is often quoted as being between 5 and 7 years max. If you need to change your tyres this coming year I strongly recommend that you do so before the spring buying rush comes.

Most years the supply runs out early and there is often a long delay to wait for the next shipment. Spring 2012 was no exception.

**'One-Stop' Regalia:** As Auto Sleepers no longer market their own regalia I have removed the hyperlink from the Club's website. However there is still a wide range of Club regalia available - see the website regalia page. John Jones (Regalia Officer) will respond to your requests - his contact details are on the same website page.

## **WiFi:**

In the halcyon days, when away from home, communication was slow using 'wish-you-were-here' postcards often depicting very large colourful adults with 'double-entendre' messages! Nowadays, however, it's all immediate & electronic.

As an example, we use a laptop and iPad but as neither of them has 'built-in' WiFi we use a simple/cheap WiFi option. We bought an unlocked Huawei "Mobile WiFi" costing £61 through EBay, which supports up to 5 'devices' and is the size of a small mobile phone.

Being unlocked means that we can buy any preloaded 3G Data sim card. In UK it only costs around £5.99 (on EBay) for a 1 month duration or 1Gb which ever comes first. That size satisfies our requirements - but there are larger capacity ones available.

On our recent holiday abroad we bought a 'local' 3G Data sim card for the equivalent of £10 as against the hotel WiFi costing £10 a day. However prices do differ from country to country and we have yet to check out the prices on the continent. In true BBC style: - "There are, of course, other mobile WiFi options available"!

**Website Update No. 01/13 & 01a/13\* contained;-**



- **AGM & National Rally:**
  - **AGM: Notice of the 2013 - 24<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.**
  - **National Rally: See January Newsletter for details. Early booking appreciated. Latest dates:- special needs by 28<sup>th</sup> March; normal applications by 11<sup>th</sup> April**
- **Rallies:**
  - **2013 rally list and spreadsheet.**
  - The following rallies - approved since the Jan newsletter list - are included in the above spreadsheet -
    - 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> May Guival Cricket Club, Nr. Penzance, Cornwall
    - 9<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> June Old Barn T.P., Nr. Sandown, Isle of Wight
    - 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Nov Riverside C.P., Southport.
- **Technical:**
  - Technical library – new page.
  - Fuel statistics :-
    - Nuevo II 2012 & Executive 2010 both Euro 4 compliant
    - \*Executive 2007; Legend 1998 & Bourton 2012 Euro 5 compliant

Also issued was the annual catalogue of the 'hints&tips'. E-mail me if you would like a copy.

**And finally: Spray on Tyre chains** (*there are several marketing descriptions*). Does anyone have experience on the effectiveness of aerosol cans of the 'sticky tyre solution' for use in snow and ice conditions? Email to me would be appreciated, please. *Baz*

## **A Warm Welcome to New Members**

Membership Numbers from 8149 to 8189

Bob & Margaret Wright

Dover

Symbol

Bob & Jill Adams

Redditch

Talisman

Brian & Sheila Couch	St Ives	Clubman
Eric Waterhouse	Keighley	Northants
Simon & Jeanette Morris	Maulden	Nuevo
Brian & Joan Patefield	Keighley	Broadway
Barry & Diana Clark	Heathfield	Broadway
Malcolm & Janet Scott	Ipswich	Trident
Peter Arran	Penrith	Stratford
Brian & Denise Lawrence	Milton Keynes	Broadway
Stephen & Margaret Shaw	Malton	Sussex
Dave & Sandra Simes	Kelso	Worcester
Buster & Pauline Maynard	West Chilton	Devon
Frank & Del Parker	Lancing	Symbol
Kevin & Karen Forrester	Seaton	Executive
Peter Pitman	Wigan	Symbol
Ian Punchard & Carol Brooker	Camelford	Cotswold
David & Sharon Revitt	Sheffield	Nuevo
Harry & Jan Wyatt	Leatherhead	Nuevo
John & Joan Davies	Great Missenden	Sussex
Andy & Wendy Evans	Malvern	Broadway
George & Linda Blenkiron	Chester-le-Street	Nuevo
Jimmy & Carol Fletcher	Bolton	Gloucester
David & Chris Hutchman	Bourton on the Water	Wiltshire
John & Mary Brooks	Birmingham	Trident
Tony & Paulette Hall	Peterborough	Broadway
Phil & Mavis Lamond	Ipswich	Broadway
Brian & Ann Davies	Swansea	Symbol
John Hatgioannides & Marika Karanassou	Hastings	Topaz
Paul & Jill Williams	Bradley Green	Broadway

Dave & Val Hutchinson	Adlington	Duetto
Stanley Oakley	Coventry	Broadway
Ed & Judy Brown	Boldon	Devon
Ken & Dorothy Scott	Norwich	Symbol
George & Sheila Smith	Beccles	Duetto
John & Jean Bain	Budleigh Salterton	Dorset
Mal & Jan Jameson	Southport	Berkshire
Neil & Caroline Rhodes	Ross on Wye	Nuevo
Nigel & Jacky Smith	Northampton	Warwick
Keith & Sheila Brocklebank	Northampton	Broadway
Roy Harding	Godalming	Pascara

**Membership Secretary:** Jill Bertlin, The Rockeries, Sunny Terrace, Lindale, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria, LA11 6LQ or email: [jbertlin@aol.com](mailto:jbertlin@aol.com)



Thanks for your  
Donations .

### **Autosleeper Topaz 2011 Auto**

6008 miles  
2.0 Litre 140 BHP Volkswagen T5  
Cat 1 Alarm. Air Con.Fitted Awning  
Avtex TV/DVD/Radio  
Shower/Hot water system/Hob/Grill -  
UNUSED  
Side Chrome Bars. Parking Sensors  
Mud Flaps.Cab Swivel Seats  
Diesel Heating.Alloy Wheels  
Twin Airbags Fitted Cab Curtains  
Fitted Smoke/Carbon Monoxide  
Alarms  
Candy White £41,995.00  
Herts 01442263434

### **For Sale:**

Mains Supply Cable  
TV Connecting Cable  
Ventilated Roof Vent for 400\*400mm  
Opening. Mains Inlet Socket  
Interior Fluorescent 12V 550mm 13  
Watt tube. Interior twin tube  
(2\*8Watts) clear lens.  
£80 the lot but will sell seperately.  
All are new with some in original  
packing. Tele: Peter Beaney  
01604 766354. Northampton

For Sale: **Protec Cover** to fit A/S  
Pascara. Under a year old £300  
O.N.O

**Taylor Made Bonnet cover** to fit  
Peugeot Boxer as new £30  
Contact Norman Smith 01784  
436894



Thanks for your  
Donations .

**Auto-Sleeper Nuevo 2008**, Peugot 2.2 (130 bhp), 34,930 miles,VGC. 1 owner

FSH; tax, MOT & habitation to 6/13; sleeps 2 (2 sgl or 1 dbl); Thatcham cat.1 alarm; full Gaslow tank; cruise control, cab aircon, awning, bike-rack, reversing camera, roof bars & ladder, mirror protectors, solar panel, TV with freesat autosearch, separate shower, full gas cooker, gas & electric hob, fridge/freezer; gas/electric fire, heating &HW; electric step, exc storage.

£25,000 ono

S Quinlan, Nr Glastonbury,  
Somerset. [suzie.que@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:suzie.que@tiscali.co.uk);  
tele:01458 851 224

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**A-S Nuevo. April 2008 model.** 2.2 diesel. 6170 miles. One owner.  
Taxed/MOT until April 2013. Usual AS Layout (2 berth)  
£24,500.

Contact Alan / Barbara Potter  
01844 274021.

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**Millenco 16" wheel clamp** in v.g.c. suitable for Boxer/Ducato etc.  
**Taylormade exterior thermal blind set** suitable for AS Symbol etc.  
Both items are free of charge, please make a donation to ASOC. Buyers collect (Southampton area)  
Peter Donnison 02380 738710  
[peter.donnison@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:peter.donnison@yahoo.co.uk)

## **AUTO-SLEEPER WORCESTER**

reg, 14.9.2012. Sprinter 316CDI chassis. DIESEL. 2 berth.

Automatic. Cruise control. Alloy wheels. Fridge,freezer, microwave, tv etc. Maxi dome satellite self finding (cost £1.400). Awning. Reversing camera.

Tow bar with electrics.

Crockery/glassware/oven never used. HAL-LOCATE tracker fitted. 3 year warranty. none smokers.

3 year warranty. Excellent condition. £49.500. Brenda Barrett. Tele: 01768 870891 (Penrith)

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## **2002 Autosleeper Executive**

2.8Hdi diesel, 37000 miles, 4 berth, VGC, usual Executive inventory plus cruise control, bike rack, tow ball, flipper, and single electrics on a full width protective bar, new batteries (2), electric flush toilet, cd/radio, central locking, reversing camera, awning, Gaslow refillable gas system, electric fan omnivent in kitchen rooflight, unused Silverscreen, Cobra security alarm £20,000 ono

Arrival of another grandchild requires a different internal layout for us.

Contact Richard Salliss on 01453 884244 or  
email [gone.awol@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gone.awol@yahoo.co.uk)

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### Committee Members

President	Charles Trevelyan	
Chairman	Andy Cavell	01635 201976
Secretary	John Osland-Jones	01217 448065
Treasurer	Peter Brown	07771 827711
Vice-Chairman	Jill Bertlin	01539 534500
Rally Co-ordinator	Neil Rogers	01325 374540
Webmaster & Chair, Tech.Group	Baz Wellard	01329 231259
Regalia Officer	John Jones	01623 627903
Newsletter Editor	David Mayne	07964 532936
Membership Secretary	Jill Bertlin	01539 534500
Chairman, AGM Sub-Committee	Al Buckett	01304 369149
Minutes Secretary	Alan Waugh	01392 271955
Committee Member	Mike Valentine	02392 482818
Committee Member	Gill Hopkins	01244 675180

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Items for the newsletter **MUST** reach your Editor by the **TENTH** of the month. You may post them to 27 Mentmore Rd Leighton Buzzard Beds LU7 2NY or email to [daveatasoc@virginmedia.com](mailto:daveatasoc@virginmedia.com).

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