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AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

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Registered No: 4616969*



**Presentation to Charity at National Rally
Photo by Jean Hollingsworth**

NEWSLETTER 309

June 2014

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From the Editor



We have just returned from another successful National Rally and apart from Thursday the weather was as good as last year with many members sitting out and sunning themselves during the day.

The Open Forum this year consisted of discussions about the newsletter and the rally supplement.

It was decided that we continue with a monthly issue so I do expect that you will all consider sending articles in so that we have better content as it has been very thin of late.

It would be nice if there were some articles (not time sensitive) that I can fall back on during the quieter months too. There are quite a few good ones this month plus the usual articles and reports associated with the National.

Some I will have to hold over to another month (thanks to those members that responded to my plea at the Open Forum)

Please remember this is your newsletter and all I do is edit it and put in the odd twopenneth!

Deadline for the July newsletter is 10th June. Contact me by email at daveatasoc@virginmedia.com or by post to the address below.

David Mayne

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.

Any item appearing in this Newsletter may be freely used by other publications.

Please acknowledge both author and source.

Chairman's Chat

As celebrations go that has to be one of the best! The Club's silver anniversary was celebrated in splendid style at Newark over the Mayday weekend with a record turnout of Auto-Sleepers and some really splendid events.



Our grateful thanks go to Al & Barb and the sub-committee for all their hard work in running the rally and to all the marshals, raffle ticket sellers and everybody else who gave their time and effort to make the weekend such a success.

At the Annual General Meeting on Saturday morning the resolution to amend our Articles of Association to allow A-S caravans to join the Club was defeated by a substantial majority, drawing a line under that discussion and clarifying the way forward.

Hopefully the weather will continue it's recent improvement and give us all a chance to get out and about and enjoy our vans even more.

See you down the road.

Andy

It is very important that we remember that fund raising for our chosen charity would not be anywhere nearly so successful without the generous support of the companies who donate prizes for the raffle.

This year they were :-
Motor Plus Motorhomes
Brittany Ferries
Don Amott Parks
Auto-Sleeper Service Centre
Cotswold Motor Caravans
Robsons of Wolsingham
Mercedes Benz

Our grateful thanks to them and to everyone else who donated a prize.

Andy Cavell

Another Silver Anniversary!

A couple of weeks before the National we became aware of another Silver Anniversary – our president Charles and his wife Angela were celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary on 29th April, just before the National started.

The committee decided we could not let this pass unnoticed, so on the Friday night we duly presented them with a silver photo frame, a splendid bouquet (kindly prepared by Mo Valentine) and a card signed by all the ralliers (kindly made by Jean Hollingsworth). I have subsequently received a charming letter from Charles which he has agreed we can print :-

Dear Andy

Angela and I were so very touched and indeed most honoured to receive such lovely, and quite unexpected gifts from all Club Members on Friday evening. It all came as a complete surprise; the engraved picture frame is quite delightful and a constant reminder of so many happy memories of the Club.

Alongside the quite fantastic bouquet of flowers is still in full bloom – indeed never has Angela ever received such a fantastic display.

We both are enormously touched at the kindness we received and the signed 25th anniversary card is quite, quite special. Thank you all so much, not only for such special gifts but for an amazing weekend as well.

All was meticulously organised from the special and most imaginative meal on the Friday night to the wealth of displays by such loyal club members. The albums of past rallies, the Club and Company events at Malvern in particular reminded one of some most memorable events – and a reminder of how much younger we all looked too!

So, through this letter might I pass on our heartfelt thanks to all Club Members for making our 25th Wedding Anniversary such fun and so very memorable. We truly couldn't have had a more enjoyable time amongst so many friends.

We send our very best wishes and thanks, to all Club Members.

Yours Ever

Charles.

National Rally 2014

As you all know the 2014 National Rally was a celebration of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Club. We were again lucky to have good weather and a very well supported Rally.

However it would not be possible to run the rally without help and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the National Rally Sub Committee for their efforts throughout the year and also on the weekend of the Rally itself to help make it run as smoothly as possible. I also thank the Club committee for their support.

There are many other people who help over the weekend marshalling, marking out the pitches, selling tea coffee, folding and selling raffle tickets and manning and running stalls in the Stuart Goodwin Pavilion and many other helpers. I would like to thank them all.

Thanks also to Angie Cavell who spent many hours compiling the Friday evening quiz and for battling through despite not feeling well to deliver it on the evening. I would like to thank Brian Ellis for providing the quiz for the welcome packs.

The amount raised for the charity Motor Neurone Disease totalled £2765.93p. a fantastic amount so thank you all for your generosity. Finally I would like to thank the Auto-Sleeper factory for their very generous donation towards the running of the Rally.

I hope all those who attended the Rally enjoyed yourselves and we hope to see you all again next year.

Al Buckett.

Thanks to the "Tea Ladies"

On behalf of those of you who visited the Sir Stuart Goodwin Hall to partake of a cup of tea or coffee at the National Rally I would like to thank Dorothy, Celia, Gill, Jean and Pat for their hard work behind the "Bar". Also many thanks to Stuart for keeping the urn topped up, which seemed to be a never ending task this year.

A big thank you must also go to you all for your generous donations to the charity.

Pauline Rogers.

Thanks to Rally Marshals

We would like to thank everyone who helped with the marshalling at the National Rally.

Your assistance in very cold conditions-especially on Thursday afternoon made the task run smoothly and our workload much easier

Once again a big thank you to everyone.

Jan and Vic Hicklin

2014 National rally

We have just got back home after the National rally and what a good weekend it was. We would like to thank all the raffle sellers who sold enough tickets for a record amount. We only had just enough books of tickets to sell as you dug deep into your pockets to buy them.

We would also like to thank all the ladies who went to help in the folding of the raffle tickets.

We would like to thank the assistants who helped to swiftly hand out the prizes after they had been picked.
Also a thank you to all who donated raffle prizes.

We would like to thank the members who demonstrated their hobbies and crafts in the Sir Stuart Goodwin Pavilion, also those that donated to and bought from the jigsaw, books, and bring and buy stalls.

Next year at the National we are going to need pictures to hang, from the artists among you, so please get painting. You do not need to be a Picasso and nobody will judge your work, a good picture is one you have enjoyed painting .

Also next year we will be asking for you to demonstrate your hobby or craft, again something that is of interest to you and will bring interest to others.

Yvonne and Stuart Wood.

Rally Reports - The National

150 units assembled at the Newark Showground between the 1st and 5th May to celebrate this momentous event and at 12 noon on Thursday the vans started coming in thick and fast, with the National Rally Marshals leaving no-one in any doubt as to why they were there. Silver was the order of the day - hats, sash and wellies!!



Thursday night's jacket potatoes were followed by an egg rolling competition, which in turn was followed by a new event **The ASOC National Handicap**.



Each table was allocated one of the horses and riders and the event was won by White Lightning 'ridden' by Jan Hicklin, who was duly

presented with the cup. The event itself involved wooden horses, long pieces of string, a lot of winding and unstinted encouragement from the crowd.....

Friday night's entertainment included a free buffet consisting of food representing overseas rally locations, Andy Cavell formally opened the rally followed by a short speech from John Normandale kicking off the celebrations and a toast made by Charles Trevelyan.

This was followed by a themed quiz put together by Angie Cavell, who kept everything relevant to 25 and/or silver - gave me a headache just thinking about it!!



The AGM on Saturday didn't take long, as usual, and was followed by the Open Forum.

The old favourites were still around - the cake competition won by Brenda Jarvis, with Ozzie Osland-Jones second and Margaret Dunball third.

The photograph competition open section was won by Maureen Emblen, Phil West won the rally section and the overall winner was Baz Wellard with a photograph entitled 'L'Escalier Paris'. For those with energy to burn Steve Earnshaw was on hand with Tai Chi and Pat Mayne put everyone through their paces at Line Dancing.



Saturday night's Annual Dinner saw a significant number of silver outfits, accessories and 'no-dads' (waistcoats to you and me) and was followed by the raffle and dancing to Ashby Big Band. Sunday's entertainment consisted of tributes to Tom Jones and Neil Diamond by Ian Scott, who I have to say, went down a storm.

The Tea Ladies were there whenever the Stuart Goodwin pavilion was open and those cakes that weren't raffled on Friday were available (sliced) to enjoy with your cuppa on Saturday afternoon.

All in all another very successful rally put together by Al and Barbara Buckett, their team and numerous volunteers, with a fair sprinkling of silver throughout the week-end. **AND** during all this fun and frivolity we managed to raise **£2,765.93** for the Motor Neurone Disease Association -

WELL DONE EVERYONE.

Chris Mawdsley

National Rally

Hi, after a not so gentle hint re lack of content for the newsletter, here I am writing about our second rally, The National held at Newark showground. Firstly I would like to say how welcome we were made to feel from the moment we arrived on site Thursday and were shown where to park till we eventually left on Monday morning. Very impressive turnout of some 150 Autosleeper vans parked in one place, making quite a sight ! Festivities began after arrival on Thursday with an informal get together in the Cedric Ford hall to share a supper or just have a drink and a chat. Amazingly we found a few familiar faces from our first rally last year at Burnham on sea and time passed very quickly.

Friday dawned bright and sunny so we strolled off to join others at a craft display / coffee morning where members were invited to vote on the photo competition and enter their cakes for a later judging. The afternoon was spent investigating a nearby air museum with its many interesting aircraft and artefacts then getting back on site to enjoy an hour of free line dancing with tuition for us beginners before another get together over a free buffet which was delightful and an "easy " ????? Quiz!! Think I must have forgotten to pack my brain cells or they fell out when line dancing!

Once again Saturday was a bright day of sunshine to be enjoyed after a short but interesting AGM with an open forum and then an afternoon at the local motor home dealership of SMC who offered not only free transport to and fro, along with refreshments but also a generous discount on any items bought. For me the evening was the highlight of the weekend as we all tucked in to a very good meal which was then worked off dancing to the melodious sounds of the Ashby Big Band. Fantastic!

Sunday was treated with more respect and I enjoyed a lie in whilst others attended a service by the salvation army. We wandered off to explore the showground and found there was also a Land Rover owners club meeting here and a dog show in progress as well as an all day rave on site (not that we could hear or see it from our pitch). Relaxed all afternoon following a sumptuous carvery roast dinner in readiness for another evening of exercise, dancing to the sounds of a brilliant singer paying tribute to both Tom Jones and Neil Diamond.

All too soon our weekend of fun was over and time to say goodbye to the many new friends we had made along with promises to meet up again soon. We really don't understand why it's taken us this long to get involved with our friendly owners club.

So much we have missed but hey !!! -so much more to look forward to for the rest of the rally season. Come on it's your club come and join in and you'll wish you'd done it sooner .

Les and Geoff 7252

The 25th Anniversary.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Al, Barbara and all the team for putting on such a great weekend. We can't begin to imagine the hours of hard work that went on to make it all happen.

There was so much to see and do and it was lovely to see smiling faces everywhere.

Well done to everyone, including the Weather Gods!!

Jill and Tony Showell 4138

What a great celebration.

We have just arrived home from an excellent weekend which we both really enjoyed. The fact that everything ran so smoothly is testament to the amount of hard work and planning put in by Al Buckett and his Committee, and by everyone else who contributed in many different ways. Our thanks to all concerned.

Margaret & David Dunball7954

What a wonderful week-end

we have just had at Newark Showground - so well organised and so much going on. For us it was the first time we have camped for the week-end of the A.G.M., so that we could be part of the 25th anniversary celebrations.

Other years we have driven the 35 miles or so from Leicester in our car just to attend the A.G.M. The reason for this was because our VW Club (Leicestershire and Warwickshire) always have a one day event (since 1976) on the Sunday of this same week-end. So we have gone home from Newark in the afternoon after the A.G.M., changed vehicles and gone on to Stanford Hall, near Lutterworth. All the preparations have been done before we get there, but early the next morning we have manned a gate into the park, for up to 4 hours. This year we said "you'll have to do without us" (and

they did miss us)!!

Back to the Autosleeper week-end - as a past Cookery teacher I was rather amazed at the fact that the cakes in the competition only seem to be judged by their outward appearance. Surely something like a cake must be cut to see the inside texture and distribution of the fruit, and tasted to get the flavour. Even Brenda, who was the winner, agreed with me. I forgot about bringing it up at the Open Forum. I can only suppose that they would not be easy to auction off if they had a piece cut out of them. After all "don't judge a book by its cover", which could be applied to a cake.

Even before the week-end began a lot of work must have gone into the contents of our envelopes full of information, a programme, a quiz, slips for the meals and paper we had ordered. It was very evident that a lot of people worked very hard all week-end to keep things running as well as they did. We think it was a very successful week-end and a lot of thanks must go to the organising Committee, headed by Alan and Barbara Bucket, and anyone else who helped along the way.

Elizabeth and Bill Grimsley. 2080

25th Anniversary Rally

We would just like to say a big "Thank you" to Al, Barbara and all the team for all their hard work in making the rally successful.

The hall was tastefully decorated with helium filled silver balloons to each table, the food and service was good, the entertainment was good and even the weather was good. All in all it was a jolly good weekend. We would also like to thank Angie (whom we hope is feeling better) for an excellent quiz (maybe I'm slightly biased, as we were part of the winning team!). We appreciated how hard it must have been to incorporate Autosleeper, 25 years and silver into the questions.

The only downside to the weekend was the "Rave" going on 11.00am - 11.00pm in another hall. Thankfully it did finish promptly at 11.00pm as promised. Perhaps if it is running next year Al could obtain free tickets for the geriatrics who wish to attend!!!

Jackie and John Moss (5639)

ASOC National Rally Photographic Competition 2014

Thanks to all the ASOC members who entered the competition this year. Both categories, where judged by an Auto-Sleeper company representative during the rally.

The winners in the Set Category are as follows:

- 1st "Towing boats in Ireland" by Phil West
- 2nd "Bear on tour" by Maureen Emblem
- 3rd "Scrumpling in Italy" by Polly Hill

The winners in the Open Category are as follows:

- 1st "Reflections on Loch Feochan near Oban" by Maureen Emblem
- 2nd "L'Escalier, Paris" by Baz Wellard
- 3rd "Wow, Portsmouth Spinnaker" by Dorothy Huntingdon.

The overall winner, voted for by the rally attendees was Baz Wellard with his "L'Escalier".

Congratulations to the winners and to all those who entered their images. The winning images can be seen on the clubs web site.

Jean Hollingsworth 5968

National Rally Cake Competition

Thank you to all those that took part, we had ten entries, maybe we could double the numbers next year! After all the monies go to swell the chosen Charity donation.

The winners this time were:-

- 1st Brenda Jarvis
- 2nd 'Ozzie' John Osland Jones
- 3rd Margaret Dunbell

These three cakes were auctioned off during the Friday evening get together and raised £87

The other cakes were cut up and sold to members with cups of tea/coffee in the Stuart Godwin Hall, raising a further £50

Congratulations to the winners and to every one who took part.

Mo Valentine

Spot the Difference Competition

Our chairman Andy Cavell drew the Spot the Difference competition winner that was held at the rally. There were 5 correct entries, the winner being Phil West. Thanks to everyone who took part as it raised £100 for the chosen charity.

David Hollingsworth 5968

More Thanks

I would like to thank Lesley & Geoff and Janet & David for taking the time to talk to my wife and myself about going to France for our first visit. They answered our advertisement on the National Rally notice board. Thanks again.

Veronica / Malc . 8515

UNITY Holiday resort September Break Brean Sands, Somerset near Burnham On Sea.

Monday 15th up to Sunday 21st, September 2014 (5 nights)

Unity Holiday Resort is a full facility site in an area well worth exploring. It is ideal for walking or cycling as the area is fairly flat with 7 miles of beach, plus the Brean Downs.

There are buses to Burnham On Sea and Weston Super Mare. Bus stops outside the site entrance.

Brean is just 26 miles from The Royal Bath and West Show Ground rally at Shepton Mallet and 91 miles from Little Cotton Dartmouth rally. Or just take it as a September break.

Dogs are welcome on this site

Grass pitches with electric hook up, superb toilet and shower facilities, Site wardens, Club, bar, swimming pool and other facilities.

The rally starts midday Monday 15th September,
Rally ends midday Sunday 21st September
Full Details in July Rally Supplement

Brian Ellis

Croeso i Gymru – Rhualt Country Park, Rhualt, N. Wales

Last month we had occasion to spend a weekend in North Wales – nothing extra special about that, other than, from our perspective, attending ‘an old boys luncheon,’ fine dining and enjoying the lovely and peaceful area of outstanding beauty. After receiving an informative welcome, “SuToo” was sited comfortably on a fully serviced, hard-standing pitch close to a huge, very warm, immaculately clean, amenity block which included bathrooms available for hire, all for a charge of £23.00 per night.

The bonus for MotorHome owners whose chief cook and bottle-washer is often off duty on such outings, was that adjacent to the site is the White House Restaurant offering an excellent menu, acceptable standard of food preparation and the delivery of very good service.

Rhualt Country Park opened in March 2014, is the home of the ‘Fifth Wheel Company’ and just minutes from the A55 expressway close to St. Asaph, awarded city status as part of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee celebrations and home to the smallest ancient cathedral in Britain.

For those who like the highlife and seaside, it is only an estimated twenty minute drive away. So as the owners would no doubt say - ‘Welai di yn fuan’ – See you soon!

James and Jill Bertlin - 2770

Our early ASOC days

After reading Nora Venables article in the May magazine, followed by our annual visit to Newark for the 25th National rally, we were prompted into reminiscing about our own early days in ASOC. We weren’t in at the very beginning, but joined at the end of 1991, after buying our first Autosleeper (a VX50 later named the VW Trooper). This was our third VW campervan, and although we had bought second hand, it was a lot newer than our two older models. At the time our daughter Ruth was still in primary school and, although she had grown up with campervan holidays, we wondered whether rallying with the club would suit her. As an only child her priority had always been to seek out new friends on every campsite we visited! However, our concerns were unnecessary when we attended our first rally at Honeybourne in April 1992 where we met the Tidbury family with their two children.

In June we went to a rally in Denbigh and she met up with Kirsty from Cumbria, so while membership of ASOC has always been predominantly older couples, we soon settled into attending rallies as often as we were able and she enjoyed them all. In those days we were both working full time and most rallies were arranged for weekends which suited us ... among many we have happy memories of Fell End in March, Wicksteed Park for the AGM in April, Beverley Racecourse at May Bank Holiday, Lytham Lions Club also in May, and then Club and Company rallies at Malvern just before we set off for our family trips to France.

Then at the end of the year came the fireworks and Blackpool illuminations rallies at Eastham Hall. When we began to run rallies ourselves Ruth enjoyed helping out, and we always seemed to attract any other club members who had children at that time.

The years passed, Ruth grew up and circumstances changed work pressures for us both, plus demands of caring for elderly relations, along with increasing numbers of rallies held midweek, meant that active participation in ASOC reduced considerably. We still managed the AGM rally each year and our Autosleeper was still well used. She was in our ownership for 14 years and she still had plenty of life left when we sold her.

We have now moved 'up' to the 'Clubman' in our retirement and are once more participating in club rallies. Life has come full circle this year as just the week before travelling to Newark we celebrated Ruth's wedding and we were both so pleased when the happy couple chose an old VW campervan as their wedding transport – happy memories for us all this year!!

Helen and John Greenwood 1080

Urgent action Required

Bristol City Council decided behind closed doors to close Baltic Wharf campsite and use the land for a school.

The local traders didn't know anything about it until the decision had been made.

Now they know, the traders who rely on tourism are extremely angry, particularly Bristol Ferries (who have a ferry stop there) and SS. Britannia

both of whom say that they rely on the campsite for their 'bread and butter' during the winter. A point that been totally disregarded by the council.

They only need 3600 signatures on their petition to force the council to have an open meeting about it.

It has enabled Bristol Ferries to keep running during the winter and therefore keep their employees on.

Its a great campsite and will be a great loss to camping if it is allowed to close.

So please can you sign the petition below and send on to other forums etc you belong to.

Thanks.

http://epetitions.bristol.gov.uk/epetition_core/view/Campsite

Peter

Newsletter & Rally Supplement.

Following considerable discussion at the Open Forum, held during the recent National Rally, it was agreed that there would be no change to the distribution arrangements of the Newsletter.

The addition of the Supplement, with Rally details, is provided to enable Members to book rallies and it is important for security reasons that Rally Marshal's details are confined to Members only.

Former Members may continue to purchase the monthly Newsletter, without the supplement, by completing the Renewal Form and paying the subscription as stated.

However, the committee has decided that the provisional Rally List, noting dates and venues of proposed Rallies, will be included annually with all Newsletters. This list is updated regularly on the Website.

Replacing Nuevo bathroom sink

I have the early Nuevo which I believe is now branded as classic? Sometime ago the sink split around the waste half way through the season and Auto-sleepers could no longer supply a replacement.

So as a temporary measure I fibre glassed an insert, not pretty, but saw me through for the time being. Next I made a mould of a drop in sink and made a fibre glass one and this was dropped into a mahogany base.

Removing the original sink took a bit of time as all the mirror and light fittings had to be removed. The mirror unit had been double-sided taped to the wall. The sink was spot welded to the front unit so had to be cut off, and the rough top edge of the front unit was covered in cable sleeving for the new sink unit to be fitted over the top.

This looked ok, but I wanted to have an original looking sink. Luck would have it I kept the old sink, which had also gone yellow, so I started to make a repair around the waste area with car body filler. Off to my local fibre glassing company for the materials, but found they could do it for not much more than the material cost. They cast the mould from the original sink, although I had made a few changes, and then produced a new sink for me to fit. I have not done this yet and will probably wait until the end of the season, it should directly replace the one I am using at the moment.

I have a photo of the sink in the van at the moment and of the original sink, mould and new version, if anyone would like to see them, let me know. jmorris@redwink.co.uk
Also as a bonus, if you need to get to the fittings in the unit, you only need to remove 4 screws and the unit lifts away leaving the sink unit in place. So I have a mould to produce new sink units if anyone needs one.
Next item will be the unit doors. They have cracked around the hinges and have made temporary repairs using car body filler

John Morris 2388

Waste outlet on our two year old AS Dorset ES.

When the discharge pipe fell off I noted that AS had connected it to a push fit 28mm bulkhead fitting (shown in white) which had been installed some distance from the bottom of the waste tank.

The intended discharge point is from a 28mm sump outlet which would guarantee complete drainage from the waste tank. However as you can see, the proximity of the lower rear leaf spring precludes a waste attachment at this point.

I was surprised to see this design solution particularly after pulling out the mastic stuffing up the sump outlet as shown.

I now understand why we have been getting persistent smells from the shower drains - there has always been residual grey water in the waste tank through incomplete drainage.



I am working on a fix. Any comments/solutions appreciated.

Bob Benton 7618

I have not had this reported before so I contacted Alan Curry (A~S Customer Service Manager), who promptly replied as follows:-

“I can advise that this installation is typical of those made at the time and I am afraid there is no easy solution.

Bob has correctly identified the reason why the preformed outlet couldn't be used – the rear spring gets in the way - and all our efforts at using this outlet ended with the fittings being guillotined by the spring as soon as the vehicle was driven. The final position for the outlet was the best alternative.

I am aware that two other owners have carried out the following modifications.

Fitting a large brass sump fitting* - as available at B&Q – in the bottom of the tank. This is really the only fitting that can be fitted to the underside that has any chance of surviving the rigors of its position; anything less robust gets swiped off on the first trip out.”

B&Q items are- PlumbSure Compression Blank Capnut 22mm £1.48 and PlumbSure Connector 22 x 19mm EAN 0000003890028 £3.48.

I have sent Alan’s response direct to Bob, and if he can successfully adopt the fitting we can produce an Ideas Sheet.

Incidentally, the Dorset van conversion is no longer produced.

Baz

Waste Drains generally- The output on my tank is at the bottom at the back but without a sump. This means that about 1 ½ gallons is left in there until I go up a hill with the waste tap open. My fresh water tank is the same so I need to go for a run at the end of the season to fully empty that – usually on the last rally or weekend that I am away.

We have stopped any smells by doing two things. Firstly keep the shower floor plugs in place. Secondly empty any serious dish washing directly into a bucket for disposing at a Waste Water Emptying Point if on a Campsite, or take water directly to hedges and trees etc where you are able to do so....*David Mayne*

Technical Group & Website



Webmaster and Chairman Technical Group: Baz Wellard can be contacted at 18 Greenwood Close, Fareham, Hants PO16 7UF or email : technical@asoc.uk.com

National Rally – Technical:

This year the Technical Table was the busiest we have seen for some time and hopefully, with the help of Alan Curry (A~S); Albert Brown and Peter Brown, we managed to resolve the majority of the many problems and queries.

The Q&A session was also the busiest we have had for a while with over 140 members attending (*148 motorhomes*). My thanks go to Dave Williams (A~S Sales Director) & Alan Curry (Customer Sales

manager) for taking the time from their busy schedule to come to the rally and respond to all the questions raised. The notes of the session are available on the club website - on the 'Stop Press' page.

Deals for Members: Now there are 19 dealers, who offer Club discounts, please check the agreements I have negotiated before contacting a dealer. This should prevent any misunderstanding or disappointments. Please remember you need to show your membership card when you arrive at the dealer.

Excise duty changes:

I understand that changes in the excise duty that come into effect in October are :

- It will no longer be necessary to display the paper tax disc on the windscreen. In future conformance checks will be made using the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) electronically.
- On selling a vehicle the outstanding value of the excise tax will be refunded. Therefore vehicles will no longer be sold including any tax paid.
- Using SORN (when storing a vehicle off road) there is no longer any need to re-new annually. The SORN will stay valid until it is cancelled, e.g. by re-taxing or selling.

Electric Hook-Up Cables:

Occasionally I notice that some members have their electric hook-up cable still wound on a cable drum when in use. In 2011 there was the following sad case:-

“At an inquest into the death of two people who died in a caravan fire it was decided that the cause of the fire was the ignition of the supply cable which was coiled up under the van”.

In view of the serious danger I would strongly suggest that you fully unwind the cable every time.

Website updates:

- **02/14 - AGM & National Rally – report & photographs**

- **01g/14 - Technical:** (*Supplementary*) – Ideas Sheet 233 added – Mudflaps for models with running boards
- **01f/14 - Deals for members:** (*Supplementary*) – **Motorhome Essentials added.**

And finally – Mea culpa:

VW aficionados will have noticed, (*and commented*), that the photo I sent to the Editor for the May cover does not show John Cox's VW. It is a Ford, Renault or Talbot, it's difficult to tell from the rear view!

However, as there have been 107 differing models (*let alone the many model variants*) I hope I'm excused the occasional error?

Baz

A Warm Welcome to New Members

Membership Numbers from 88708 to 8745

Gordon & Marion Ashton	Grange-over-Sands	Topaz
Tony & Linda Green	Filey	Nuevo
Dave South & Louise Ansell	Selsey	Berkshire
Paul & Christine Hankins	Truro	Gatcombe
Clive Harward	Cambridge	Broadway
Stephen & Oli Williams	Blackpool	Duetto
Neil & Sue Paterson	Rayleigh	Warwick
John Holmes	Scunthorpe	Mezan
Brian & Cynthia Oates	Truro	Burford
Desmond & Barbara Ward	Tean	Nuevo
Paul & Susan Day	Birmingham	Warwick
Alan Hanson	Church Stretton	Beckford
Terry Barrett & Carol Hooper	Newton Abbot	Broadway
Ken & Joy Blowers	Watford	Trophy

Martin & Jill Ellis	Newport, I o W	Symbol
Edward & Heather Bartle	Skipton	Broadway
John & Florence Bell	St Asaph	Kingham
Derek & Lesley Garrett	Beaworthy	Nuevo
Donald & Diane McClelland	Worcester	Broadway
Geoff & Pamela Masden	Doncaster	Wiltshire
David & Linda Simmonds	Basingstoke	Broadway
Gerald Young	Northampton	Symbol
Ray & Annette Bower	Thetford	Broadway
Juliet Johnstone	North Berwick	Windrush
Peter & Barbara Ball	Brockenhurst	Broadway
Ian & Julie Herst	Camberley	Broadway
Philip & Sandra Sanders	Billericay	Broadway
Dave & Julie Bassett	Peacehaven	Kingham
Richard & Margaret Hall	Glusburn	Broadway
Jane Hancock	Tamworth	Nuevo
Michael & Ann Jones	Aberdare	Nuevo
Ian & Mary Scott	Fareham	Nuevo
Andrew Woolley & Carol Hale	Great Wyrley	Burford
Garry & Janice Curran	Crowthorne	Warwick
Ken Robinson	Whitby	Executive
Malcolm & Roslyn Sach	Hull	Executive
Aidan & Nichola O'Farrell	Northwood	Stanton
Laurence & Caroline Slater	West Malling	Broadway

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



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