



# Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club NEWSLETTER

December 2024



## Merry Christmas from the Auto-Sleeper Owners Club.

As the festive season approaches, we would like to take a moment to wish all our members and fellow Auto-Sleeper owners a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Whether you're spending the holidays at home or out on the road, we hope that you find time to relax, reflect, and enjoy the company of loved ones.



## Editors Edit

Dear Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club Members, 2024 has been an incredible year, full of adventures, new friendships, and a shared passion for life on the road. It's been wonderful to see our community continue to grow, and we're excited for what 2025 has in store.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank all of our members for your continued support and participation in our Rallies, events, newsletter contributions.

As we look forward to the New Year, we're already planning some exciting events and updates to make next year even better. Stay tuned for more details in the coming months. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, filled with adventure and new memories!

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Auto-Sleeper



NEWS

The Newsletter of Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club

## ***Chairman's Chat***

The end of the year is nigh.... time to reflect on 2024 perhaps. A good year apart from the sometimes quite abysmal weather, but we attended several rallies during the year – Whitmead, The National (well that was pretty mandatory but nevertheless enjoyable), Rüdeshheim, Redcar, Whitby, Hampton Ferry and Shrewsbury. Not as many as some years but then we did spend 4 weeks in Northumbria in September, which was great: we ran into a couple of other ASOC members we know quite well, both at Beadnell Bay for 5 days and all said they thoroughly enjoyed it – who wouldn't? it's a spectacular part of the coast.

As for Shrewsbury, this site is just a short walk along the riverbank into the town where there are plenty of restaurants and shops, plus the castle, museum and cathedral. This was part of the ACCEO National Rally. You may be aware that ACCEO member clubs take it in turns to host this rally for them and this year ASOC has volunteered to be host. A huge THANK YOU to Glyn and Sue Tomkins for agreeing to run it on our behalf. So, let's have a good turnout – it's a great opportunity to meet and compare notes with other owners' clubs. Details for this event are in the 2025 Event Brochure: booking opens in March.

I would just like to assure you all that although it sounds as if we've spent the year travelling around enjoying ourselves, which we have – what else do you do when you've retired and have a motorhome? I have found time to be part of the committee, helping to run the Club and dealing with whatever arises.

I'm happy to report that Carol Grain has been co-opted onto the committee to take On Rally commitment, with immediate effect.

You have a good team doing a sterling job on your behalf, and I know you all appreciate their commitment. We're looking forward to next year's National and AGM which gives us the opportunity to catch up with friends and welcome new members, do the formal bit, and air our views. Not to mention the entertainment and everything else that goes on during the week-end.

As far as Christmas is concerned, Peter and I have decided to 'bite the bullet' and try a Christmas Cruise this year. The family is now too big to accommodate everyone over Christmas and anyway the grandchildren are older and not wanting to spend time with boring old fogies, who can blame them? It will make an interesting change for us, but who knows whether we'll want to repeat it – I'll let you know how it went sometime.

It just remains for me, on behalf of the Committee, to wish you all

**A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY AND ENJOYABLE NEW YEAR.**

***KEEP RALLYING.....*** Chris Brown

## STILL TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

**NOW £25 FOR 2025**

Membership of ASOC becomes due for renewal on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024, except for those joining after September 2024 as their membership is valid until the end of December 2025.

### Members who do not renew

Any renewals not received before 10 January 2025 will no longer have the ASOC News posted to them and will no longer have access to the member area, benefit from the various discount schemes or be able to take part in the rally programme.

**Please take this opportunity to advise me of any changes to your details during the year.**

Email me at [membershipsec@asoc.uk.com](mailto:membershipsec@asoc.uk.com). For those members who do not have email my address is below.

### OUR PREFERRED METHOD OF PAYMENT IS BY BACS

For members new to BACS or who do not use internet or on-line banking, BACS payments are simple. You can either make BACS payments online through your internet banking system or go to your bank and ask over the counter to make a BACS payment.

The information the Teller will need is your bank account number and sort code (printed on your cheques) and the Bank name, account number and sort code of our club bank, together with a payment reference.

When submitting your BACS payment please use, as the payment reference, your ASOC **membership number first** followed by your **surname**.

Any other inclusions in the reference box may delay you receiving your new membership card(s). This is how we will identify your payment (eg. **1234 Smith**).

Our bank account details are:

The Auto Sleeper Owners' Club

National Westminster Bank

Sort Code 01-01-78

Account Number 19654375



### PAYMENT BY CHEQUE (NO CASH ACCEPTED)

You can still pay by cheque if you prefer, and if you do, you must **put your membership number on the back of the cheque**. That is all we need as your name will be printed on the front of the cheque. To speed up the process please do not send your payment to Willersey.

Cheques should be made payable to **AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB** and posted to me at:

Jean Downie

ASOC Membership Secretary

88 Portreath Drive

Allestree

Derby DE22 2SD

Do not use any abbreviation of the club name on your cheque. Using ASOC will result in the bank rejecting your payment and delaying your renewal.

Your new membership card(s) will be sent out as soon as possible after your payment has cleared.

Thanks Jean ( Membership Secretary)

## **Merry Christmas from the Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club**

As the festive season approaches, we would like to take a moment to wish all our members and fellow Auto-Sleeper owners a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Whether you're spending the holidays at home or out on the road, we hope that you find time to relax, reflect.

### **A Year of Adventure**

2024 has been another fantastic year for the Auto-Sleeper community. Many of you have shared your journeys with us, whether they've taken you to the coast, the mountains, or exploring the beauty of the UK and beyond.

We're proud to be part of a community that values not only the freedom of travel but also the spirit of friendship and camaraderie. The Auto-Sleeper Owners Club has been a fantastic place for members to connect, share tips, and offer advice, and we've been thrilled to see so many new faces join the family this year.

### **Looking Ahead to 2025**

As we look ahead to 2025, we're excited for another year of adventures, gatherings, and new experiences. The Auto-Sleeper Owners Club will continue to be a place for knowledge-sharing and connection. We have some exciting events planned for next year, and we look forward to seeing you at one of them!

[If there is only ONE event you can get to, make sure it's the National Rally & AGM, 1 – 5 MAY 2025.](#)

Thank you for being part of this wonderful community. We're so grateful for the friendships that have blossomed, the experiences that have been shared, and the journeys yet to come.

From all of us at the Auto-Sleeper Owners Club, we wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and many more miles of happy travels in 2025.

Warm regards, The Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club

# The Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club National Rally & AGM: An Event Not to Be Missed! 1st – 5th May 2025

If you're an Auto-Sleeper van owner, there's one event you absolutely shouldn't miss in 2025 – the Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club National Rally & AGM. Running from 1st to 5th May 2025, this gathering promises to be the highlight of the year for members and enthusiasts alike.

Why You Need to Be There:

## 1. A Celebration of All Things Auto-Sleeper

The Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club National Rally brings together fellow Auto-Sleeper enthusiasts, creating a vibrant and welcoming community. Whether you're a long-time member or a new owner, it's the perfect opportunity to meet like-minded people who share your passion for adventures..

## 2. Exclusive Access to the AGM

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is an important part of the event, allowing members to get updates on the club's activities, future plans, and the overall direction of the Auto-Sleeper community. It's a chance to voice your opinion, ask questions, and contribute to the decisions that shape the future of the club.

## 3. A Weekend Packed with Activities

In addition to the AGM, the National Rally is brimming with fun events. Expect a mix of social gatherings, product showcases, live entertainment, and educational workshops. Whether you're interested in upgrading your van, learning new tips and tricks for the road, or simply relaxing with fellow owners, there's something for everyone.



# The Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club National Rally & AGM: An Event Not to Be Missed! 1st – 5th May 2025 (Cont)

## 4. Exhibitors and New Products

One of the most exciting parts of the rally is the opportunity to explore motorhome accessories. Many manufacturers and suppliers will be on-site, showcasing the latest products and innovations in the world of motorhomes. You might even discover something that enhances your next adventure!

## 5. Stunning Location and Facilities

The rally will be held at a prime location with excellent facilities, making it a comfortable and enjoyable experience for all. Whether you prefer to stay in your own van or take advantage of local accommodation, you'll have everything you need to make the most of your visit.

## 6. A Chance to Explore New Destinations

Aside from the rally itself, the event's location offers ample opportunities to explore nearby attractions. Whether you're looking to discover scenic routes, visit local landmarks, or just enjoy the beauty of nature, the area will have something special for members to enjoy.

**7. This rally was a great success in 2024, which celebrated our 35th anniversary. So why not come along for the 36th? It will be held at the Newark Showground, Nottingham, NG24 2NY and will provide a full program of events, including exhibitions, a Quiz Night, entertainment on Friday and Saturday nights, meals available to book every night and so much more..**

This event is the perfect chance to meet fellow enthusiasts, explore the latest in events, and celebrate the lifestyle we all love. So, make sure to save the date for 1st to 5th May 2025 – and get ready for an unforgettable experience at the Auto-Sleeper Owners Club National Rally & AGM.



# *The Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club*

[www.asoc.uk.com](http://www.asoc.uk.com)

Dedicated to the encouragement or promotion of recreational  
or instructional activities via camping and caravanning

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## **---NOTICE**

### **THE THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB**

**Will be held on Saturday 3rd May 2025 at 10.30 am,**  
during the National Rally, in the Cedric Ford Pavilion of the  
Nottinghamshire Agricultural Society Showground, Winthorpe,  
Coddington, Newark, NG24 2NY

Please be informed, non-attending members have a right to appoint a proxy for voting purposes.

Proxy appointment forms, Nomination forms for election to the Management Committee and for appointment of the Honorary Examiner are included with this Notice or are available from the Secretary, who requires that nomination forms for Committee elections and any resolutions for consideration at the meeting be received by him, on or before **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025**.

In the case of Proxy appointment forms they should be duly signed and received, by the Secretary. **NO LATER THAN Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

Members are reminded that admission to the Annual General Meeting is subject to proof of membership, and that current membership cards should be carried at all Club events.

**Dennis Downie,**  
**Secretary**  
**88 Portreath Drive**  
**Allestree**  
**Derby**  
**DE22 2SD**



## **AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB**

**Is holding its 36<sup>th</sup> National Rally**

**& AGM**

**1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**At Newark Showground**

**Nottingham**

**Friday Night**

**BOOKING IS NOW OPEN**

There will be exhibitions in the Sir Stuart Goodwin Pavilion

Meals available to book each evening

Entertainment on Friday and Saturday nights

And lots, lots more

Booking forms are available on- line and enclosed with this magazine, containing all the information you need.

Liz Irvin and the National Rally Team will be on hand throughout to help you in any way they can.

Applications to Chris Brown as soon as possible (event and contact details on the booking

form)

## **THE CONSPIRATORS**



**Saturday Night**

**Looking forward to another great event**

## Lothian bridge Caravan site near Edinburgh

Tuesday saw us arriving at Lothian bridge Caravan site near Edinburgh which nestles beneath an impressive Railway Viaduct. Where we were warmly welcomed by Moira and Allan. Wednesday saw us walk up to the village to visit the Mining Museum which is apparently the only Grade 1 mining museum in the country. We were guided around by an ex-miner who explained the whole process to us. Even the bricks used to construct the Mine Buildings were made 2 miles away. On leaving the museum we walked into the village where we had a lovely meal at The Dean. Thursday saw us catching the bus into Edinburgh where we ( Ian, me, Carolyn and Les ) took in all the main sights The castle (outside only ) the up and down The Royal Mile ( lots of Touristy type shops ) where we visited the Wynds and Closes then a quick refreshment stop at Wetherspoons before we visited Greyfriars Church and Bobby then on to the Museum where from the roof you have a great view across to Arthurs Seat. By this time we were a bit weary so we caught the bus back (queueing seems an alien concept and it was everyone for themselves )The bus ride back took much longer than the journey (in rush hour)but at least someone else was doing the driving. Friday I was introduced to - Caramel meringues. We walked up to the village for some supplies and Moira /Allan asked us to bring the aforementioned back if possible. Confession time - I bought them and loaded them carefully into my rucksack however when I checked a short while later, they were a little bit battered. So I bought some more which we carefully carried back - both hands. Obviously, the other meringues couldn't be wasted - a sacrifice but one I was willing to make - delicious.

**Saturday** saw us depart for Callander and people chose varying routes to get there. We chose to head north and then west via Crieff and Kenmore where we stopped to visit The Crannog Centre - first disappointment - no Crannog ( it burnt down in 2020) However when the funds raised to replace it they got more money than they needed £5 million and decided to build a whole village. Really interesting and well worth a visit - the Crannog is still to be built and will take another few years.

## Lothian bridge Caravan site near Edinburgh (Cont)

**Sunday** we walked into Callander lots of lovely shops and riverside walk. Called in at The Old Rectory for an Epic Sunday Lunch - 3 x courses for £12.95p (being Tykes we approved of the price )for my dessert I decided on a Tunnocks Sundae ( a Scottish speciality) 2 x scoops of Ice cream, a Tunnocks snowball, cream and chocolate sauce, Yummy.

**Monday** we walked back into Callander and got a bus up to Loch Katrine where we boarded the Sir Walter Scott for a 2-hour boat trip on the Loch . Most - due to - the Scotch Mist took refuge indoors but a few hardy souls stayed on deck where thanks to Janice they were kept warm under fleece blankets. A bus then took us back to Callendar.

**Tuesday** another bus ride - this time into Stirling which as well as the Castle and Museum has lots of old interesting buildings to look at . Tuesday Evening saw us ensconced in The Puddingstone Cafe where we had a 2 x course meal. Mine was called a Kilted Chicken and it seemed to be wearing a whole Haggis as a Kilt !!! Tasty though.

During our stay there when not sightseeing there were games of Horseshoes, Lawn Darts and the Skittles which were won by Shirley. Prizes were given out at the cafe .

**Wednesday** we took our leave footsore and weary and homeward bound.

It was very sad to hear that they will not be running anymore ( time for someone else to step up ).

We would just like to say a HUGE thanks to them for all the Rallies they have run over the years. They have given us so many Memories , whenever I am feeling a bit down in winter I know I can conjure up all the happy times one of my favourites is Falkirk and the Ceilidh and my partner in crime dissolving into tears of laughter (what happened in Falkirk stays in Falkirk ). and many more in fact too many to recount here .

Thankyou - Thankyou - Thank you

Jean and Ian Sellers 1051

## SCOTTISH RALLIES. 3-11. SEPT

We arrived to a warm welcome at Lothian Bridge from Moira and Allan, only to find after filling up with water we had an airlock despite the pump working. Helpful members soon came to our aid with various suggestions for resolving the problem. One suggestion, which worked well for us, was to unscrew the shower head and blow hard down the flexible pipe after dropping some of the water from the freshwater tank.

All worked well until we moved to the second site at Callander, where the same problem occurred again! However the same routine enabled us to have a trouble-free stay at Callander. There have been no problems since with airlocks, so we wondered if Scottish water was to blame!!! ( This may be of help to someone else having the same problem) , The railway viaduct at Lothian Bridge was very high, but did not intrude on the site.

On a very sunny and warm day we visited HMS Britannia moored at Leith, and had an informative and interesting day on board including a delicious lunch in the restaurant. Unfortunately the following two days we had mist and fog. But we still caught the bus to visit Edinburgh City and just about saw the Castle, Holyrood House and Princes Street through the mist!!

Moving on to Callander the sky cleared, and we arrived in warm sunshine to be greeted again by Allan and Moira. A beautiful quiet site with new facilities. Some of us took the bus to Lake Katrine for a two-hour sail on the Sir Walter Scott Steamship. A great day despite the Scottish mist!

Callander was an interesting town to explore with several cafes and unusual shops, as well as a pleasant riverside walk.

On the last night we had a taxi to take us to a farewell meal which included some Scottish fare and was enjoyed by everyone.

Many, many thanks must go to Allan and Moira for organising this two-centre rally, and also so many other previous Scottish rallies. We were all very sorry and sad to hear Allan announce that this would be the last one they would organise, and we presented them with a card to celebrate that.

Janis and Mike Wood. 4201

## Our 2024 adventures with ASOC Val and Mike Pippard 8862

Thought we would put pen to paper (or fingers to keys) to comment on our 2024 adventures with ASOC members.

Firstly we would say a big thank you to all the Marshalls and helpers who made each visit so memorable.

We started with the usual first rally at Whitemead. Always good for catching up with friends made on rallies in previous years. A short walk to the steam train with a last minute decision (on our part) to join everyone else for a short trip.

Unfortunately not enough cash to pay for our tickets (cards not accepted) so thank you to “the bank of Les” for a sub - and not charging any interest !

Newark AGM – never boring, was the next visit. It always falls on Mike’s birthday, so a few were lucky enough to share a piece of birthday cake – not home so no danger of after-effects. The usual visit to SMC for more cake and tea and to look at new motorhomes, which are now far too expensive and not as suitable, for us, as our Broadway EB.

Wigginton – the highlight was winning £25 on the bingo, the lowlight was visiting the York Railway Museum on the one weekend that it was closed !

Beverley Rally followed on from Wigginton. A lovely little town bustling on Market Days / Folk Weekend – we have not seen so many bells and hankies for some time. Beverley Minster is well worth a visit. Enjoyed the games provided by Double-L Allan ably assisted by mathematician Moira.

Malvern Country and Western Show. Wine and nibbles thanks to Gary’s birthday – who thought that Gary was seventy ? We usually buy toilet fluids at the show but this year bought another pair of lounge chairs. Why ?.

Winchester followed on from Malvern, this was an easy trip for us as it is local to home. Enjoyed a (free) lunchtime recital by a classical guitarist at the Hospital of St Cross nearby.

Evesham had very favourable reviews from 2023 so eagerly booked it this year. However due to last minute changes by the owners we were moved to another field further along the river which was nowhere as convenient. Despite this, being so close to the river and towpath walk was lovely. We have thoroughly enjoyed the rallies this year and are looking forward to next year’s listings.

Wishing everyone a very merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

## 2 Sites Scottish Rally September 2024 (Moira & Allan Blackstock 4067)

Once again we enjoyed organising a Scottish Rally. We had a few hiccups to start. After we started getting applications, we also started getting cancellations, five in all, and all health related, one being a dog. We hope all concerned have recovered.

From Lothian bridge many visited Edinburgh, one declared she didn't believe there was a castle as she couldn't see one - it was very foggy. Some visited the Royal yacht Britannia. Nearby Rosslyn Chapel and the National mining museum proved popular. One couple drove to Dunbar to take in the Belhaven brewery tour.

Onward to Callander where the bicycles and walking boots were put to good use. An organised trip on Loch Katrine on the SS Sir Walter Scott, built and named in 1899 in honour of the writer who, inspired by the beauty of the loch and surroundings, penned the well known poem 'Lady of the Lake. The area is also known as Rob Roy Country where the outlaw frequented.

The weather was not very kind but it failed to dampen the spirits of the Hardy ASOC members. The captain kept up an interesting dialogue on the history and geography of the surroundings.

Loch Katrine is the source of Glasgow's fresh water supply.

Queen Victoria attended to formally open the sluice. A cottage by the lochside was built for her to stay for one night. Unfortunately the Queen was unable to use said cottage as when they fired a 21 gun salute the blast blew out all the windows.

Enough of the history.

We ended our rally with an excellent 2 course meal on the evening of 10th September at a little restaurant 'Puddingstone Place in Callander.

Prizes for this year's quiz were given out and final farewell by Moira was given causing a bit of long faces when she announced this would be our last Rally.

We take this opportunity to thank all who have attended our rallies in the past and to say a fond farewell to the club where we have met and made friends with so many lovely people.

## Redcar Rally

We attended the Redcar Rally which was held at the Rugby Club. On the 10th we walked along the Green Lane to Marske on Sea where we visited the Small but very informative Museum - Winkie's Castle.

On the 11th we went to Saltburn for a delicious meal at a Posh Fish Restaurant. After which we walked to the Funicular Railway - unfortunately it was out of action due to a fire which necessitated a struggle back up the cliff.

The 12th saw us walk along the Promenade to Redcar where we partook of a coffee at the Boathouse Cafe and then walked through the town ( looking a bit tired) to the RNLI Museum which houses the oldest Lifeboat - The Zetland . We caught a bus to Guisborough which is a small market town . We went to the museum only to find it closed - however a very kind volunteer insisted on opening it for us. Really good local museum.

There were also quizzes and Play your cards Right hosted by Ozzie and Martin .

We would just like to say thank you to Ozzie and Martin for hosting us we had a great time.

Ian and Jean Sellers 1051

## HAMPTON FERRY RALLY



Not your normal run of the mill rally. Liz booked the field – the owners changed it WITHOUT actually letting her know..... There was a lot going on over the weekend – a charity run and a fun day. Where we were pitched was about as far from the Elsan disposal point as it was possible to be. Did all this phase anyone??  
ABSOLUTELY NOT.

One of our members entered the run – well done Jan Nash, she keeps saying she's very unfit but she did very well in her class. The fun day provided entertainment in the form of a very good group in the afternoon. Trolleys were provided to assist in the transporting of the cassettes for anyone who needed them.



The only downside was that Raphael's did not live up to its reputation for good food, nevertheless, we had a very good last evening plus group photo on the veranda outside.

However, the main focus of the rally was Friday morning's visit to the Bugatti Museum at Prescott Hill near Cheltenham, where we were greeted by our President, Charles Trevelyan, together with Thelma who welcomed us, Mark who, as Archivist provided the detail and David, who guided half our group through the museum – Charles shepherding the other half.

The morning started off with coffee, then a welcome from Charles with some reminiscences of early ASOC days. He then went on to give us a precis of the history of the Bugatti family in general and Ettore in particular.

This was followed by an in depth, guided tour around the museum – which is not large, but extremely interesting. I now have a full understanding of how the engines were developed, produced and powered the Bugattis (*of course I do.....*) but I did find it interesting; how the long races were in the 1920s, the 1920s female racer Elizabeth Junek – shame on you for not mentioning her Charles - and just how heavy all the components were.

## HAMPTON FERRY RALLY (Cont)

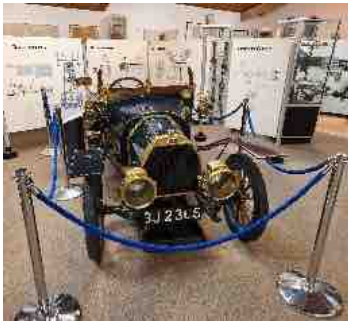
As well as Ettore Charles also touched on the rest of the Bugatti family, who were also talented in their own right – his grandfather Giovanni an architect and sculptor, his father Carlo, who produced Art Nouveau furniture and jewellery, his younger brother Rembrandt – a renowned but troubled sculptor who died young. He also told us of the tragic death of Ettore's son Jean, who shared his father's passion for automobiles but died avoiding a careless cyclist during a practice run for a forthcoming race.

So, the rally did go smoothly, in spite of some initial hiccups, and everyone had a good time.

I would just like to mention Liz's new assistants – Alec and Sharon Avery, who, never having done this before, got stuck in and went a long way to help making it a good rally. Also, Richard and Gail Cox who took over from Alec and Sharon – who had to leave early to get over to the Isle of Wight. And finally, thank you to Liz and Charles for co-ordinating the Bugatti visit.

Chris Brown

Elisabeth Junek: the pioneering  
Miss Bugatti



# Whitby Rally

Following on from the Redcar Rally we drove down the coast to the Whitby Rally . The venue was a new one this year at Caedmon College . The site is closer to the town which made it easy to access.



Friday saw us walk down into Whitby where we opted to walk along the east side of the Harbour where it wasn't quite so busy . We then visited The Fishermen's Wife for fish and chips ( well when at the seaside you really have to ). On Saturday we caught the bus to Scarborough where we walked along the South Bay and then caught the Funicular

Railway down to the Spa before making our way back to Whitby .The drive there is spectacular.

Sunday saw us walking into Whitby again and on to the West Cliff where we watched the Regatta and also saw Classic Cars and Showman Lorries. We walked back to the college via Pennant Park where we watched Morris/Clog and Sword Dancers .



On the final day we watched more boat races from the West Cliff where we could see the Fun Fair which took over The Harbourside judging by the screams it was very exciting. There were more classic motor cycles to look at and we enjoyed just sitting and people watching .

A thoroughly enjoyable Rally - Tiring but never a dull moment .

Thanks to Liz - Chris and Peter



## Scotland Sept 24



We've visited Scotland a few times now, making up our own tours sometimes based on suggested tours from Scottish Tourist Board. We have done tours based on the NC500, the SW300, and our own ideas for Fife/Aberdeen and Moray Firth coast. This year another trip was planned for areas and sites not previously visited.

We left home on **Friday the 6th**, heading for 1-night stay at Englethwaite CAMC site. Stayed there 4 times before, using it as a stopover for any previous trips to Scotland. This time I noticed a sign on the reception door that fishing is available (not owned by the club but a short walk through woods) , not likely to make use of it on a 1 night stay but worth noting for the future. This is one of their no-toilet block sites but unlikely to close it like many other similar sites as its always busy with quite a lot of seasonal pitches.

**Saturday 7th** - blue sky, bright start. About 140 miles to Crieff. Stopped at Gretna Outlet Village for coffee. Motorways are so quiet up here so it's a pleasure to drive until we hit around Glasgow where they got busy. Stopped at Cairn Lodge services to pick up sandwiches and cake for lunch , then onto Parkhouse CL in Crieff. Neat CL, water and hook up to each pitch and cdp, waste water, and bins at far end, £23 per night. Views around were lovely with Crieff to one side, hills to the other.

**Sunday 8th** - we slept well and were late getting up. We walked to Crieff Visitor Centre which is really an outlet for Caithness Glass and Dartington Glass with a restaurant, gift shop and plant centre. Much duller with mist covering hills and light rain started late afternoon.

**Monday 9th.**- walked into Crieff Town. As with many towns, lots of empty shops or Turkish Barbers, nail bars and vape shops. The few occupied shops were very up-market expensive ladies and gents clothing, Crieff Food Centre which is quite expensive but full of unusual foodstuffs and local produce. Co-op supermarket for provisions. At start of High St there is a sculpture of thistles and a sculpture of Highland cattle at the end, made by Kev the blacksmith featured regularly on the daytime TV show Money for Nothing.

## Scotland Sep 24 (Cont)

**Tuesday 10th** sees us heading to Arbroath. We stayed at Elliott Caravan Park which is a static van site with tourers on a small lawned area. Vans were far too close together with only 2.5 metres between, it really should have had no more than 3 vans but it had 5. We were shown where the facilities were, toilets and showers immaculate but showers were £2 for 10 minutes. Fresh water tap was also the tap for the cdp, not acceptable, so I filled the container from tap in the laundry. £20 per night.



**Wednesday 11th** - 20-minute walk to town. Popped into Signal Tower museum, all about Bass Rock lighthouse. Very run down town centre, even the cafes were uninviting, we got lunch from Greggs and sat on a bench by the sea wall to eat it. There is a specific motorhome stopover area for about 6/7 vans but a dozen more were parked up beyond this area. No fishing fleet there now just a couple of crab/lobster boats, presumably fish is brought in from elsewhere for the Smokies.

**Thursday 12th** - moving on again, headed for Grampian Transport Museum. Small collection of cars, lorries, bicycles, motorcycles (including Billy Connellys trike from his Australian TV tour), a couple of traction engines etc. Cafe/antique centre next door. Then onto Cullen to a community run motorhome stopover, a superb location right on the edge of beach. Dinner was fish and chips (the chip shop is the first shop you come to).



**Friday 13th**- walked into Cullen Town, small with a few shops, antique shops cafes and convenience stores. This is the birthplace of Cullen Skink (a potato and Leek soup with smoked haddock) and a world championship takes place in the town every year, this year's champion was Katy's Kitchen in the town where we had lunch. In the opposite direction from the stopover there is a further beach and the golf club. The sea really rough so waves crashed over the harbour wall and the rocks in front of the stopover.

## Scotland Sept 24 (Cont)

**Saturday 14th**- dull start as we move onto Nairn C&CC site for a 3 night stay. The site is in a forest, with pitches between trees, no pitches level, and very few caravans as they can't erect awnings (just 4 seasonal pitches with awnings). Facilities need massive investment, the old toilet block is almost derelict with only the cdp and dishwashing open. Another disused cabin even had grass growing from the gutters. Toilets and showers are in portacabins and so small with no stools. There's a second toilet-only portacabin at the other end of the site but even this is 'closed for the moment ' the sign says. This has been the situation for over 4 years now. Bus stop outside, buses running every 30 minutes to Elgin in one direction and Inverness in the other.

**Sunday 15th** - drove to Brodie Castle, you can only view by a booked tour which we did having been unable to visit a couple of years ago as they were fully booked.



**Monday 16th**- The weather is now beautiful, got the bus into Nairn, and walked to beach, 2 blue flag beaches, children off school due to training days so they were having a great time playing in the water park. Walked into town, another disappointing town centre, and managed to find a decent bakery with a cafe for lunch before returning on the bus back to site.

**Tuesday 17th** - leave Nairn , now heading to Glencoe C&CC site, follow the road down the side of Loch Ness, stunning scenery all the way to Glencoe through Fort Augustus (rammed with visitors) and Fort William. Good o2 signal but no TV at all at Glencoe. 20 minute walk to local village (that's what site leaflet says but make that 30).

## Scotland Sept 25 (Cont)

**Wednesday 18th** - at Glencoe simply enjoying the weather and the views.

**Thursday 19th**- moving onto Moffat C&CC site. Super scenery , stopping for lunch at the quiet Bothwell Services. Temperature 21 but feels even hotter. Moffat site has changed beyond recognition since our last visit about 12 years ago. Town also changed a lot. Just the Moffat Mill remains the same, a huge basically Edinburgh Woollen Mill with cafe.

**Friday 20th** at Moffat visiting the town and the Moffat Mill for lunch.

**Saturday 21st**- left Moffat heading for a Motorhome Stopover just outside Penrith. Tollbar Paddock takes 5 vans and is now a Campra CL. Just off A6, and a roundabout but no noise from road. Fresh water, drive over grey waste and rather unconventional cdp and a portalo, £10 per night (even offers a fill and dump service for £5). Even provides grid mats for each pitch in case of wet conditions.

**Sunday 22nd** - off home, around Preston the rain started and continued all the way home.

Paul and Carol Shaw 10087



## Martin Ross

**“It is with very great sadness that we have to tell you that Martin Ross passed away during the evening on 14th November 2024. Martin retired from the committee due to ill health at the beginning of November, but unfortunately his health deteriorated very rapidly. He will be missed by all who knew him, particularly the rallying community which he was an enthusiastic part of. Our thoughts are with his family at this sad time.”**



# RALLY INFORMATION

Points to remember: Marshals should let the rally coordinator know when their rallies are fully booked.

Always carry your ASOC membership card when attending rallies.

Inform the marshal if you plan to bring a car, tent or trailer to a rally.

All rallies start at 12 noon unless otherwise stated in the rally information.

Running a rally: If you would like to run a rally, contact the rally coordinator for "Guide for Rally Marshals". When a date and venue is chosen you will receive the "Rules for Rally Marshals" and asked to sign a marshal's declaration which should be returned to the rally coordinator. Assistance and advice is available from the rally coordinator or a committee member.

If you would like to assist a rally marshal to see what is involved in running a rally, or interested in the details of possible rally sites we have, contact the rally coordinator. Important: All potential rally dates and venues must be checked with the rally coordinator, who will check that the club will be able to comply with regulatory and insurance requirements.

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## **10-14 March 2025 (4 nights) Whitemead Forest Park**

Parkend Near Lydney. Gloucestershire GL15 4LA

Rally Marshals: John and Jackie Moss, Jan and Paul Nash

Site fee: £84

Rally fee: £5

Limited to 30 vans.

Booking open 2 January 2025

Please send rally slip and cheque for £89 payable to:

J Moss, 34 Cocksparrow Street, Warwick CV34 4ED

Telephone: 01926 497309 mobile: 07508 200336

Please send SAE or CLEAR Email address for confirmation We are on the Meadows which has hard standing and hookups.

The site has a swimming pool gym restaurant and bar.

We have booked the venue for Monday and Thursday evening for social gathering. Good walking and cycling area . NO ARRIVALS BEFORE 2.00 PM

## MORE GOOD REASONS TO VISIT TURCKHEIM IN 2025



If you would like to spend 10 days in the Alsace in France, then you will need to get your booking in early.

It's a lovely area in the foothill of the Voges mountains; you'll be able to join the Night Watchman on his rounds; watch the Storks' antics as the young ones try to get their wings working and visit any number of places in the area using the railway station, buses or of course cycling.



### **BOOKING IS NOW OPEN**

**15<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025** Camping Le Medieval, Turckheim.

Rally Marshals Chris and Peter Brown, Dave and Sarah Pollard.

Any queries contact Chris on 07919 538622.

Full facilities available E215 for 10 nights **ONLY 20 PITCHES AVAILABLE.**

£25 rally fee payable on booking (not refundable if offered a place).

A deposit of £10 will be required in February payable to Chris and Peter Brown as a deposit for the pitches; the balance to be paid on arrival direct to the camp site.

Please send your rally applications by email to [cab9jj@btinternet.com](mailto:cab9jj@btinternet.com) Payment must be by BACS – we'll forward bank details as soon as we get your application.

## Rally List 2025

10-14 March 2025 Whitemead Forest Park

**Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club is holding it's 36th National Rally & AGM**

**1 - 5 May 2025**

15-25 June 2025 Turckheim, Alsace, France

15-20 June 2025 Wiggington Grasshoppers FC 82

20-25 June 2025 Beverley

28 June – 2 July 2025 Chatsworth

15-19 July 2025 Stafford Boat Club

10-15 July 2025 Leon's Field, St. Ives, Cambridgeshire

11-15 August 2025 Settle

14-17 August 2025 The Western Motorhome & Caravan Show, Malvern

8-12 September 2025 Winchester

14-19 September 2025 Briarfields, Cheltenham

18-21 September 2025 The Motorhome & Campervan Show, Seasonal  
Finale, Lincoln

1-6 October 2025 Shrewsbury

Full booking details and further updates to follow

## **Another good man gone.**

Peter Murphy 6527

OBITUARY DAVID ABBOTT

David passed away in his sleep on the 25th of August after being unwell for some time.

David and his wife Kate were keen ralliers in their Talisman, which they sold last year due to ill health.

David had a large loving family spanning many generations. They have all gathered around to help and comfort Kate. David was a great gentleman, well read and educated, and excellent and very amusing company.



We never met David until Janet and I shared a table with him and Kate at a Rally some years ago. However he was born in Anfield, Liverpool, two streets away from me, and we both attended the prestigious Liverpool Collegiate School.

When he was younger David worked for the Foreign Office in both Brazil and Italy, and later on VIP Security in

Whitehall.

His passing is deeply mourned by his family, by Janet and I, and by his many friends in ASOC.

Peter and Janet Murphy 6527

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## **JAMES BIRTLIN**

We're sorry to have to tell you that James Bertlin died during the night of 16th November 2024. Many of you will remember James as the Chairman's PA when Jill Bertlin was our Chairman. Our thoughts are with Suzie and the girls at this sad time.

# The Association of Caravan and Camping Exempted Organisations (ACCEO)



ASOC is one of the member clubs of ACCEO.

ACCEO hold an Annual General Meeting on the first Saturday of October each year. An event (rally) is arranged to run from the Wednesday before the AGM to the Monday following. Any member of any member club (eg ASOC) can attend the event during which social evenings and professional entertainment is provided. The event tends to move to a new location every couple of years for variety, for next year it will again be on the West Midlands Showground that is fifteen minutes walk to the centre of Shrewsbury and that was a great success in 2024. ACCEO also provide a coffee lounge during the October Caravan show at the NEC in which they offer free refreshments to members of ACCEO member clubs.

Recreational organisations like ASOC that have as an Object encouragement or promotion of recreational or instructional activities via camping and caravanning can apply to government for an exemption to camp without a site licence or planning permission. ASOC holds one type of Exemption Certificate and uses the rights granted by it to set up pop up campsites on, for example, a sports ground, school, farm field, etc.

ACCEO was set up to put caravan and camping clubs that had been granted Exemption status by the government in a stronger position to represent their interests to government and other organisations in any matters that could affect their status as holders of Exemption Certificates.

ACCEO has over 100 member clubs with collective membership of around 80,000 individuals. The member clubs have agreed a Constitution for ACCEO and elect 12 committee members to serve the Association.

ACCEO can facilitate exempted events for clubs that don't themselves have the necessary certificate and also obtain the relevant permissions to hold an event in a National Park.

# The Association of Caravan and Camping Exempted Organisations (ACCEO) Cont.

ACCEO have selected an insurance broker to facilitate a cost effective Public Liability Insurance for ACCEO member clubs, including ASOC, that is tailored to the needs of caravan and camping clubs.

ACCEO is regularly asked for advice on Exempted matters, Constitutions, Code of Conduct, etc by member clubs and also supports clubs who wish to attain Exempted status and landowners who are willing to let their land be used for Exempted events.

If you are interested in knowing more about ACCEO and/or its activities contact Peter Brown at [pcb7ty@btinternet.com](mailto:pcb7ty@btinternet.com)  
<https://acceo.org/>



The image shows a screenshot of a web browser displaying the ACCEO website. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'acceo.org'. The website features a navigation menu with links for 'Home', 'Services', 'News', 'Clubs', 'Membership', and 'Contact'. A large banner image depicts a caravan park with several white caravans parked on a grassy area under a cloudy sky. Overlaid on the banner is the text 'Welcome to the ACCEO website' and a green button that says 'JOIN US TODAY'. Below the banner, there is a paragraph of text: 'ACCEO is the Association of Caravan and Camping Exempted Organisations. We represent Caravan and Camping Clubs that hold a Certificate of Exemption issued by one of three authorities - Natural England which is an executive public body sponsored by DEFRA (The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Activities), or The Welsh Assembly Government (Planning Division), or The Scottish Government (Housing Markets Supply Division).'

# NEWS

## MEMBERS WEBSITE AREA

The login details will change early January 2025

New details will be sent to you by email when the change is made

Any member who does not renew for 2025 are automatically removed

Regards

John

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## ASSISTANT MARSHAL WANTED

Stafford Boat Club Rally 5 nights, Tuesday 15th July 2025, leaving Sunday 20th July 2025.

We are short of an Assistant Marshal/s for the 2025 Stafford Boat Club Rally.

Green field site, £20 per night plus £5 max rally fee. It will, we hope, follow on directly from the Cambridgeshire St Ives Rally.

Nothing much to do except to be there when the Rally Marshals go off site, meet and greet, and have the confidence to possibly assist in running a few games and quizzes on the field and in the bar, plus helping laying out the pitches for 25 vans maximum.

All help and information from us and the rally coordinator.

Would suit anyone wanting to get experience to join the Marshalling team.

Subject to final confirmation from the new Rally Coordinator.

Show an interest by email to [Peter.murphy@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Peter.murphy@hotmail.co.uk)

Janet and Peter Murphy

# committee search

S	E	L	D	L	N	E	D	S	C	I	M	R	R
N	E	O	I	D	B	Z	N	E	R	D	D	T	N
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- DENNIS
- LIZ
- DAVIS
- AVERY
- GEESON
- CHRIS
- ALEC
- MORRIS
- PHILL
- BROWN
- DAVID
- LOWE
- DOWNIE
- MARTIN
- STEWART
- ELIANE
- JOHN
- JEAN
- THOMPSON
- IRVIN
- ROSS

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/7503764/>

## Club Committee Contacts

**President:** Charles Trevelyan

**Chair:** Chris Brown *chairman@asoc.uk.com*

**Vice Chair:** David Thompson *vicechairman@asoc.uk.com*

**Secretary:** Dennis Downie *secretary@asoc.uk.com*

**Treasurer:** John Geeson *treasurer@asoc.uk.com*

**Rally Coordinator:** Carol Grain *rally@asoc.uk.com*

**Technical:** Alec Avery *technical@asoc.uk.com*

**Club Shop:** Elaine Davis *shop@asoc.uk.com*

**Publications:** John Morris *publications@asoc.uk.com*

**Members Secretary:** Jean Downie *membershipsec@asoc.uk.com*

**Editor:** Phill Lowe *editor@asoc.uk.com*

**Exhibitions:** Liz Irvin *exhibitions@asoc.uk.com*

**Minute Secretary:** Liz Stewart *minutesec@asoc.uk.com*

**National Rally:** Liz Irvin *nationalrally@asoc.uk.com*

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### AUTO-SLEEPER OWNERS' CLUB

A Company Limited by Guarantee

*Registered Office:*

Orchard Works, Willersey, Worcestershire WR12 7QF Registered No: 4616969

### Helpful Tip:- They don't always tell you.

Before winter arrives, grease all external door hinges, all step joints, front door hinges.

A big one, check any under-slung spare wheels, check tyre and wheel for deterioration and age of tyre. Also check and grease the release mechanism for the wheel (its in an exposed location and is only ever required in an emergency)

Easiest and cleanest way to grease points is to use spray Lithium grease, with spray nozzle.

**32 ASOC Dec 2024**

Auto-Sleeper



## WEBSITE

We have a wealth of information in the members area of the website.

To access this, you will need to subscribe to the member area in order to receive login details.

Please NOTE:-  
The Website Address is :-

[www.asoc.uk.com](http://www.asoc.uk.com)



# Rally Events 2025



Full details of rallies and booking details can be found in issues of the Club magazine and the member area of the website.

Although details are correct, they may be subject to change. For up-to-date information please go to the member area of the website where we will try to keep them updated regularly.

The Rally Coordinator can be contacted by using the contact form on the website.

**Please note:** rallies may be subject to change. Keep checking the magazine and website member area for any changes.



Full rally details are posted in the magazine and the member area of the website when they become available to apply.

Application forms available to download from the website.

#### **RALLY INFORMATION - Points to remember**

Marshals should let the Rally Coordinator know when rallies are fully booked.

Always carry your ASOC membership card when attending rallies.

Not able to attend a rally you have booked, please inform the Marshal as others may want to attend. Inform the marshal if you plan to bring a car, tent or trailer to a rally.

All rallies start at 12 noon unless otherwise stated in the rally information.



#### **10-14 March 2025 Whitemead Forest Park**

A wonderful site in the heart of the Forest of Dean. You can explore the Forest's industrial heritage and there are enough walking and cycle paths to satisfy the most ardent enthusiasts. The site itself has full facilities plus an on-site restaurant and leisure centre which includes a swimming pool, jacuzzi and gym. There is also a small shop providing all the essentials.

# Auto-Sleeper Owners' Club is holding it's 36th National Rally & AGM

1 - 5 May 2025

This rally was a great success in 2024, which celebrated our 35th anniversary. So why not come along for the 36th? It will be held at the Newark Showground, Nottingham, NG24 2NY and will provide a full programme of events, including exhibitions, a Quiz Night, entertainment on Friday and Saturday nights, meals available to book every night and so much more.

BOOKING IS NOW OPEN – SEE MAGAZINE FOR DETAILS.



## 15-20 June 2025 Wigginton Grasshoppers FC 82

Situated just outside York, but with a good bus service into the city. Held in the grounds of the Rugby Club and having access to showers and toilets, plus the use of the club room for socialising. Of course, York is itself a place of enormous historical interest, with numerous sites to visit. The site is also convenient for cycling both locally and in York.



### **15-25 June 2025 Turckheim, Alsace, France**

We have held events at Campling Le Medieval before and they have always proved a great success. Turckheim is situated in the Alsace in the foothills of the Voges Mountains with architecture reflecting it's German as well as French heritage. There are good bus and rail services providing the opportunity to explore the surrounding area. **BOOKING IS NOW OPEN – SEE MAGAZINE FOR DETAILS.**



### **20-25 June 2025 Beverley**

Situation in the East Riding of Yorkshire, it boasts an historic Minster and has a market in the town on a Saturday. There is a bus service into Hull, walks and cycle rides around the area, and a Plant Nursery and Café about a quarter of a mile way, plus a Garden Centre and Restaurant about three quarters of a mile away.



## 28 June – 2 July 2025 Chatsworth

The site is situated within the parklands attached to Chatsworth House and offers the opportunity to visit the house and gardens if you wish. It's situated within the Peak District National Park and is a short walk into Baslow. There are walks within the park where you may spot deer.



## 10-15 July 2025 Leon's Field, St. Ives, Cambridgeshire

Situated in a meadow close to the river Ouse it's just 200 yards from the picturesque town centre. There are markets on Friday and Monday and pubs, restaurants, cafes and shops. There are numerous walks and cycle paths along the river, particularly to an historic mill not too far away. The bus takes you into the centre of Cambridge and runs every 10 minutes, most of the journey via a guided busway.



### **15-19 July 2025 Stafford Boat Club**

This site is situated between the marina on one side and the Stafford and Worcester Canal on the other. We have use of the Clubhouse in the evening for socialising; fishing is available for enthusiasts. Stafford, with its numerous shops and amenities can be accessed by foot, on bike or by bus. The bus stop is nearby, but there is quite a steep hill to access it.



### **11-15 August 2025 Settle**

A lovely Market Town in North Yorkshire, ideal base for tackling the three peaks of Penyghent, Wherside and Ingleborough for those with the stamina – pretty to look at for those without. It's also noted for having some of the best waterfalls in the Yorkshire Dales.

### **14-17 August 2025 The Western Motorhome & Caravan Show, Malvern**

- Numerous exhibitors for all those things you didn't know you needed
- Entertainment both during the day and in the evening
- New and used motorhomes for sale

## 4-8 September 2025

### The Southwest Motorhome & Campervan Show, Shepton Mallet

- Exhibitors
- Evening entertainment
- Motorhome Sales

## 8-12 September 2025 Winchester

A lovely setting surrounded by trees and with access to a river walk into the city. There is also a bus stop just outside the site. From Winchester Bus Station services are available to Romsey, Alresford – for the Watercress Line and various other destinations. There is plenty to see and do in and around the area, not forgetting of course, the famous Winchester Cathedral.



## 14-19 September 2025 Briarfields, Cheltenham

An adults only site with full facilities, hardstanding and electric hook up, the site is ideal for visiting Regency Cheltenham or Historic Gloucester, with its film star Cathedral (Harry Potter was filmed there). There is an excellent bus service which runs frequently from just outside the site giving access to both Cheltenham and Gloucester.

## 18-21 September 2025

### The Motorhome & Campervan Show, Seasonal Finale, Lincoln

- Motorhome Sales
- Exhibitors
- Evening entertainment

## 1-6 October 2025 Shrewsbury

Being held on the Showground within a 15 minute walk of the Town Centre, along a river path. This rally is part of the ACCEO National Rally, which is open to all Member Clubs and offers an ideal opportunity to get to know people across a wide spectrum of our leisure activity – caravaners as well as motorhomers



THE EVENTS LISTED BELOW HAVE YET TO BE CONFIRMED

Keep checking the events page of the website for details

### **Redcar**

A level grass site within the Rugby Club grounds, 5 minutes walk from the beach and promenade into Redcar, there is also a regular bus service providing access to Marske, Saltburn (and hopefully the funicular will be repaired by the time of the rally). Staithes, Runswick Bay and on into Whitby. Buses also run into Redcar for access to a supermarket, pubs, Cafes and Pacittos – famous for its lemon top ice creams. The clubhouse is open each evening for drinks and food is available some evenings.

### **Whitby**

A lovely site on a school playing field, not too far away from the town centre and harbour, although a regular bus service runs from just outside the site into town. Access to the Cinder Track is next to the site, providing walking and cycling into Robin Hoods Bay. Lots to see and do at this popular destination



The Rally Coordinator has a list of suitable venues to hold rallies if you do not want to find a venue yourself for the first time.

He is happy to give you any help you may require. Why not assist a Rally Marshal to see what is involved?