

THE TRECKER



Issue No 106

June 2025

Editor's Corner

Not everything has been going to plan for us so far this year. With no winter rallies to whet our appetites we had been looking forward to the Telford rally in April but things at home got in the way. We needed some work done in the garden and the only time we could get it done meant we had to give up our place at TNC.

We had also booked the first two continentals, Relax-Nat on the Costa Brava, from where I'm writing this in the sunshine, and Mas de la Balma in the French Pyrenees, where we'd volunteered to be rally officers. A distinct lack of bookings resulted in the cancellation of the French rally and then our motorhome developed a fault with the Sargent controller which cut off the 12v supply. A repair was organised but couldn't be done in time for our departure.

We missed out on a Relax-Nat rally in 2020, when the pandemic intervened and we really didn't want to miss this one as well. Luckily, we were able to book a chalet on the site and arrived by car instead. The driving was a bit easier (and quicker) but we are missing the motorhome!

Geoff Heyes
Editor

Chairman's Chat

What a difference this year has been compared to recent years where we have seen one and often more rallies cancelled because of an extremely wet start. This year there has been glorious sunshine and good temperatures which has enticed a number of you out on rallies but probably caught many of you by surprise and still in winter mode! Let's hope the good weather continues, wakes up all the Suntreckers and get the rally attendances buzzing.

The committee have been working hard over the last few months to raise the profile of the club with the ultimate aim of increasing membership and thus units on rallies. The website has been refreshed, a series of adverts has been placed in two publications as well as online. We are looking at having our Suntrecker leaflets distributed at Naturist events, three invitation rallies planned etc. We, the committee, are doing what we think will get the best possible results but we, as always, appreciate help and comments from you the members. Where could we do more or do things better? It doesn't mean you will get roped in, we just need your input so please do get in touch with any of the committee with your thoughts and ideas.

Jackie and I have booked several rallies this year so looking forward to seeing as many of you as we can. Hope we all have a great summer.

Alan Ingram
Chairman

Rally Organiser's Report

We've had quite a few rally cancellations this year already. This includes three of the four continental rallies - one because of lack of numbers, one due to personal problems and one with no rally officer. It's such a shame when this happens, especially as Monty took the trouble to canvas opinions at last year's gala rally and put together the sort of programme that those attending said they would support. It's not really fair on Monty who put in a lot of work contacting sites and it's not doing Suntreckers reputation any good when we let the sites down. I don't know what the solution is but if you have any ideas, please let me know.

A few UK rallies have been also cancelled and I'm expecting some more to follow, we shall see. Sadly, I have had to reduce the number of rallies over the past few years because of the limited attendance and frequent cancellations. The Bare West event has made it more difficult to find rally officers around early September so this will have to be taken into consideration when planning rallies around this period next year.

On a personal note, our current family commitments are making it difficult for us to attend rallies and it has made it very difficult for us to get to the gala. Our plan is to at least be there on the Saturday and Sunday.

Martin Hodgson
National Rally Organiser

Rally Reports

Rally 7 – Dolcoed

The site had only allocated three pitches for Suntreckers and we were lucky to get an extra one, making four in total, so I had to cancel those who booked late. We arrived at the end of an unseasonal hot and dry spell and while some parts of the country were welcoming rain, it was not good for us at Dolcoed. We even had the caravan heating on for a couple of nights! Thankfully the weather improved as the rally progressed giving us a few days of sun and even a game of Molky.

Monty Toplis (Rally Officer)

Rally 9 – Tything Barn

Here we heard the sad news that June had passed away. She always used to be around either in the tunnel or tending to the plants and fish. She will be missed.

The weather was back to hot and very sunny and two of us with small motorboats used the ponds to practice recovery skills - mine had problems! The croquet court was set up and we played a couple of games, with simplified rules. More Molky followed, it's got to be used! There may hopefully be a couple of new members, who liked the way we enjoyed ourselves. We also had a birthday party and were lucky enough to see one of the high tides. It's amazing to see the vast space of water cover the land.

Thanks to Joe, Fran and Dan for an enjoyable rally in difficult times.

Monty Toplis (Rally Officer)

Rally 17 – Cambridge Outdoor Club

Rally 17 has been consigned to history and we hope it was successful. Everyone seemed to have a good time and we were blessed with some glorious sunshine and good company, based on quality not quantity with only 8 units and 13 members attending.

We met on the first day for a coffee morning to decide what the ralliers wanted to do and sort an agenda for the rally. It was decided to have a coffee morning each day and run a quiz and boules competition in addition to some other functions.

Friday was a fish and chip supper evening which was supplied by a local chippy and of great quality and portion size. An impromptu quiz took place after the meal which members of COC also joined in.



Mary and Joe playing the Boules final.



Worthy winner and trophy for display at home



Jeff Mason providing the entertainment after the meal

On Saturday evening COC prepared an evening meal which was enjoyed by all and Jeff Mason, an accomplished musician, played his clarinet/saxophone and sang for us after the meal. Thank you Jeff.



Afternoon tea with scones and cakes from Karen

On Sunday after a dull start to the day the sun broke through and we had a BBQ with COC members. Karen Grun provided homemade sweets to round off the event. Thank you Karen.

Monday gave us our last chance for a coffee morning - the rally had gone so quickly. We also had an afternoon tea with scones and cake all freshly prepared by Karen so another vote of thanks to her- it all went down very well.

Monday evening was the last event of the rally, a quiz in two parts. There were four teams, two from Suntreckers and two from COC. There are no winners or losers but Suntreckers came in third and fourth and their report reads 'must do better'.

Monday was also the prize giving for the winner of the boules, a worthy winner being Mary Filtness who beat Joe Grun 2-1 in a best of three final, well done Mary. Mary's husband Kevin adapted a spare rally plaque to fit her winners' cup which I understand takes pride of place in their trophy display unit at home.

So ended the rally - thank you COC and all those who helped make it pass smoothly and we hope successfully.

Joe Grun (Rally Officer)

Rally 20 – Relax-Nat

Rally Reports are best kept short I'm told, so:

- Perfect weather every day
- Excellent site
- Friendly group of Suntreckers
- All the usual Suntrecker activities
- A really classic Continental rally!

Relax-Nat is a large, well-run site in north-east Spain, not far from the French border. The ground is thinly wooded with generous pitches and a good mix of sun and shade. The big swimming pool is next to the bar-restaurant, and there's a big outdoor jacuzzi near the cabins which two of our couples were using rather than the camping area. In all we were one single, six couples, and one dog. The dog, George, was well behaved and certainly deserved his own rally plaque to display proudly on his basket.



The group enjoying drinks and nibbles in the sunshine

The site is linked to a big sandy beach by a couple of miles of cycle track, an old narrow-gauge railway. One morning it made a pleasant shady walk for a group of us to the beach bar. Three of us also joined the handful of naturists on the beach for a dip in the sea. Already in late May the Spanish sun is very strong, so both the sea and the site pool were a comfortable temperature for a refreshing swim. Other activities were coffee mornings (twice), an afternoon tea, drinks and nibbles (twice), a quiz, and a boules league of mixed doubles. Five teams allowed 10 different matches, all keenly played, leading to Jeff and Tricia's triumphant victory.



Jeff and Tricia - worthy winners of the boules competition



Walking group waiting for refreshments at the beach bar, some of them looking forward to a skinny dip

The Sontrecker rallies on the Continent have always been special. This may be the only one run this year, but so enjoyable that we all hope the tradition can be maintained.

John and Sue Cole (Rally Officers)

Upcoming Rallies

Rally 32 – Kingfisher Farm

We still have room for more units at Kingfisher Farm, rally 32 at the end of June. Site owner Terry has a great collection of motors and is a very good engineer with many projects on the go so there's always loads of interesting stuff to see.

There will be home-made wine tasting and a taste of gin flavoured with bullaces from Terry's hedgerows. We will also fire up our gas BBQ on Saturday evening.

We will also be running the Sungrove rally at the end of August – always a good weekend.

Finally please note our phone number given in the yearbook is wrong – it should be 07359 299963.

Richard & Stella - Rally Officers

Rally 39 – Candy Farm - Gala and AGM

Full details of our flagship rally can be found on page 48 of the yearbook. This year's theme will be *Sport* and the charity we'll be supporting is Motor Neurone Disease. By the time you read this the "early bird" discount will no longer be available, but you can still book your place for £70 – still really good value for a 5-night rally with loads of entertainment provided including professional musicians and a comedian.

Gala Raffle

Don't forget there's still time to buy more raffle tickets – not only will you have the chance to win some great prizes but you'll also be supporting a very worthwhile charity. If you're not sure how to get tickets just contact Lesley: jackman.lesley60@gmail.com

Because of Lesley's health, Terry and Lesley have decided that this will be the last time they can run the raffle, so we'll be looking for someone to take over for next year.

A warm welcome

To the following members who have joined us recently:

Names	County	Date Joined
Wayne H & Susan W	Essex	21-Mar-25
James B	West Midlands	09-Apr-25

And finally...

Members' contributions for *The Trecker* are always welcome, as are photographs, which should be sent as separate files and not embedded in a document. Please remember that you need permission from everyone in your photograph.

Please send all contributions to thetrecker@suntreckers.org.uk

Thank you to John for sending this newsletter by email, as well as to John and Lyn for printing and sending out the paper version. Also, thanks to Steve for putting it on the website.