

# THE TRECKER



Issue 82

June 2019

## Editor's Corner

The old jokes are often the best aren't they? I was thinking recently about someone who once said that life is a bit like a toilet roll - the nearer you get to the end, the quicker it gets used up. And this year seems to be flying by quicker than ever. When the last *Trecker* appeared back in March I was just starting to get over my prostate cancer operation and I'm pleased to say I've now recovered well enough to have booked a couple of rallies this month, the first of the new season for us and we're really looking forward to meeting some of you again.

We've had quite a few new members joining us recently and are trying hard to raise our profile. We'll be at Thorney Lakes for Nudefest again this year and will be running a Suntreckers pétanque competition. Ron our chairman had a letter published in a couple of camping magazines earlier this year and three new members have mentioned the article in *MMM* as to how they heard about us. We also have an article on Suntreckers in the summer issue of the BN magazine and BN are again giving us a mention in their various regional newsletters so let's hope some of these bear fruit.

Geoff Heyes  
PPO

## Chairman's Chat

A lot has happened since my last chat. Just a few days before the March committee meeting I injured my back, something which happens from time to time, usually when it's most inconvenient. Painkillers, resting in bed followed by easy walking around the house are the only option. I had no chance of getting to the meeting, so thanks to Steve for chairing it in my absence.

Then we started thinking about the Easter invitation rally and our visit to France to join one of the Suntreckers continental rallies. Time to get the van serviced, MOT-tested, and habitation-checked, which all went ok apart from brake cylinders needing replacement.

We had an early opportunity to check it all out as we were running the Caravan & Motorhome Club's Blue Nose rally on the Isle of Wight. Unfortunately all was not well. As soon as we had filled up with water and fired up the heating system we noticed a leak and would be without heat and hot water until we could return it to the firm who did the habitation check. We managed this with four days to go before we had to set off for the

invitation rally at Broadlands. They located the source of the leak - a faulty valve on the heater unit and also found that the pump had failed, which they were able to replace. However neither they, nor anyone else on the island could fix the valve. Two days before our ferry departure I rang the heater agents in Norwich, and yes, they could fix it if we went straight to their workshops on our way to Broadlands.

So this we did travelling overnight to get to Norwich as they opened. We had breakfast at a nearby workers café, and then a little stroll around the industrial area before returning to find all was well again. We thanked them for their help, paid up and set off for Broadlands, arriving in time for lunch.

We pitched near rally officer Monty and set about preparing for our members and visitors to arrive. Ann and I did our best to greet the new people with welcome drinks and provide them with information on Suntrecker membership. All three units joined at our first get-together and we discovered that we had a couple on their first rally, having joined in response to my letter in one of the camping magazines.

The weather was kind to us throughout the rally and Monty did an excellent job organising games, quizzes, joke-telling sessions and group meals as well as arranging for us to join the Broadlands members for their entertainment evenings. Our impression as we left was this had been an excellent rally - Broadlands made us very welcome, the ralliers all seemed to have enjoyed themselves and all our visitors joined Suntreckers.

We took a wrong turn soon after we left the club and had to retrace our steps but the van was performing well so we can start looking forward to setting sail for France and then the gala rally, where we hope to see lots of you.

Ron Twining  
Chairman.

## **Rally Organiser's Report**

The months are flying by, summer has officially arrived, but the weather has been variable to say the least. From the feedback I've had, the rallies so far attended have been enjoyed (thanks in the main to the hard work of the rally officers). We have cancelled several rallies due to lack of rally officers and ralliers. Unfortunately Hyde Farm, a site that has welcomed us for a number of years, is now no longer naturist-friendly because the physical aspect of the site has changed. This has resulted cancellation of rallies 31 and 73 and relocation of rally 52 to Greenhill Park.

Steve Wagstaff  
National Rally Organiser

## **Gala Rally - Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> till Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July**

I've been busy organising the 2019 GALA RALLY together with my wife Tess and our assistant Terry Gascoyne. Once again we'll be at Nunnery Farm, Rothwell, Northamptonshire and we're planning to use the tried and trusted method of making sure all who attend really enjoy themselves and become immersed (literally) in the games and entertainment.

There will be a round-the-caravan quiz and other quizzes to keep your minds active and a wide range of Easter-themed games including net a duck, chicken throwing, an egg & spoon race, shoot the Easter bunny (that's where the immersion comes in) and get the rabbit into its hole. All will be explained when you get there. Other activities will be Easter bonnet, Easter egg bingo, Easter egg hunt and Easter egg painting as well as the usual

raffle, fancy dress parade and best-decorated caravan competition. We are still thinking of new ideas and if you have any then please let us know. You can always help by running one of the games. There will of course be prizes galore.

There will be a table top sale instead of the usual auction for those of you who have items to sell. It will involve a leisurely walk around to see what's on offer and negotiation with the item's owner, with the usual 10% going to club funds. We'll also have a book swap (including CDs and DVDs) throughout the rally so don't forget to bring anything you'd like to exchange (small fee to the club).

If you haven't done so already get your booking forms off now. It's the biggest rally of the season, your fees help to pay for it, so come along and enjoy.

*THE GALA RALLY BOOKING FORM IS IN THE YEARBOOK BUT IF YOU CAN'T FIND IT THEN JUST EMAIL OR PHONE ME AND I WILL BOOK YOU IN TO THE GALA RALLY.*

## **Provisional Programme**

### THURSDAY:

Arrival day for most of you, where there will be tea and biscuits etc to greet you. Wine and nibbles in the marquee in the evening so you can catch up with all the gossip from friends old and new.

### FRIDAY:

In the morning there will be the start of the boules competition and usual coffee morning followed by some Easter-themed games in the afternoon. Easter egg bingo in the marquee in the evening.

### SATURDAY:

Boules competition continues and coffee morning. Then instead of the usual auction we will be having a table top sale in the marquee, so bring anything you would like to sell, with 10% to club funds. Boules final and hopefully egg painting competition in the afternoon so make sure you have a few eggs with you - we will bring the paints.

We also hope to have an Easter egg hunt and an Easter bonnet competition and as many Easter related things as we can think of.

If you want to put on something along those lines please come along and we will gladly find you a time slot. Otherwise come and enjoy and help out as much as you want to.

Before the festivities get underway why not have your evening meal with others in the marquee? This will be followed by the main entertainment from *Sounds Familiar* as well as the usual fancy dress parade and competition. Please try and decorate your vans with an Easter theme as well to stop that competition from dying out.

### SUNDAY:

Coffee morning, raffle and prize giving. AGM to follow at 1pm with tea and cake afterwards. Don't forget to bake a cake for the cake competition.

Sunday evening entertainment to be arranged by anyone willing to step forward but we will bring a quiz just in case nobody offers.

### MONDAY:

Packing up and going home.

Look forward to seeing you all.

Steve Wagstaff

National Rally Organiser.

## Webmaster

We were rallying over on the east coast a few weeks ago and at a coffee morning I decided to chat about the Suntrecker website. I was surprised by the number who didn't know that the rally information was available there and they could book rallies online. It is very quick and simple. Before the day was out two units had registered on the website and will now be booking future rallies online whenever they can. Feedback from those who have seen or used the online booking have been very positive.

It got me thinking how many members are unaware of the Suntrecker Facebook group. It's a place to share all things Suntreckers be it drumming up interest for a rally or relaying a story or picture from a rally you have been on. The group is "closed" which means that if you are not in the group you cannot see who is a member. Your membership of the Suntrecker Facebook group will not be seen by non-members. John Faber (aka John Furley) is the admin for the group and will process applications to join the group.

Both the website and Facebook are places to keep up to date with Rally (or other) changes that happen throughout the year as well as loads of other information. They are often printed here, in the Trecker, but they can be listed on the web ahead of the next edition as an extra.

Alan Ingram  
Webmaster

## UK Rally Reports

### Rally 5 - Manchester Sun & Air Society

We arrived on the Thursday afternoon which was probably a mistake as for once the weather forecast was correct – it started raining at 1pm and just got worse, finally stopping at midnight. We decided to go for a meal. The Crown just up the road was closed for renovations so we found one called "The Park Gate", where the food was good, the locals were really friendly and the beer was cheap.

We had three units booked in and all turned up on Friday. After they had set up I gave them details of surrounding points of interest and an "Anagram Quiz" and invited them to join us in the club house that evening for a meet and greet, where I informed them of what MSAS had organised – a fish and chip supper Saturday evening followed by karaoke.

Saturday morning we had the usual meet and greet in the club house with tea, coffee and "posh" biscuits (all chocolate). To our great surprise MSAS had reduced the price from £25 per night to £20 per night. This offer is only for Suntreckers and providing there are 4 or more units. It would be good to have another rally there next year.

Saturday afternoon the sun shone and it was warm enough to sunbathe. I even considered going in the pool but as the heating had only just been turned on the pool was still cold. In the evening we all met up in the club house for the fish and chips and later Wendy and I gave a few songs on behalf of Suntreckers at the karaoke.

Sunday was was another warm day and I gave the prize of an easter egg to Tom and Angie for completing all 20 anagrams. We said goodbye to them as they unfortunately are still working. In the evening I had organised a quiz. MSAS joined in and I gave out more easter eggs as prizes. (Suntreckers got the booby).

Monday evening I invited the remaining two couples to our awning to play cards and for another natter.

Tuesday we said goodbye to Dave and June as they were leaving for Norfolk which just left us and John and Janet. In the evening the 4 of us decided to go out for a meal and we took them to the pub we had found on the Thursday.

As this was our first time as rally officers we were glad it was a small meet as it made it easy to organise. We are both looking forward to our next time. I thanked MSAS for the reduction and I thanked Patrick and Frank in particular for their help. They could not do enough to make our stay an enjoyable one.

Ken and Wendy Warburton

## Rally 9 - Hyde Farm

The photo below shows a group of us at an evening in the "escape tent" at Hyde Farm - my thanks to Terry and Lesley for the loan of their event shelter as an extension to our awning.



The outside temperature was rapidly approaching -(minus) 2 degrees!! We were not deterred. With a bitterly cold north wind and arctic temperatures we soldiered on and managed a couple of games of boules wrapped in our winter woolies. We had daily coffee mornings and afternoon teas. Hot drinks helped to keep out the cold. The escape tent was declared a "no Brexit zone" at the evening get togethers. Other politics and affairs were discussed and it became obvious that Treckers could easily run the country

Roger and Libby Cook

## **Rally 11 - Kingfisher Farm and Wedding Bells!**

Many thanks to everyone attending the Easter Rally at Kingfisher Farm where everyone enjoyed their Easter eggs. The Rally Officers brought a large hamper of Easter goodies as a raffle prize and the money made went to a young girl who is going on a trip to the USA to take part in a sky diving course with the army cadets, and is having to fund some of the cost herself.

Luckily we had good dry weather during the weekend and on Sunday we all enjoyed lunch at a local eatery. We had to leave early on the Monday to give us time to prepare for



our wedding on 1st May. What a wonderful day that was with fine, warm weather as a bonus. Then on 3 May we set off for our honeymoon on Skiathos, two weeks of sun, lovely quiet beaches, fantastic food and wonderful boat trips - a perfect holiday.

Once again thanks to all the club members who wished us a very happy marriage.

Eric and Crystal Hill.

## **Rally 30 - Tando**

As with most rallies this year I guess, we had mixed weather, but managed to have a great rally in spite of this. It was just a bit galling to know that on the first Sunday a lot of the country was enjoying a brief day of high temperatures whilst we were still in the

'murk'. Mike (secretary of Tando), and Ursula, welcomed us and were extremely helpful. We met in the Pavilion most evenings, lovely and warm with their wood-burning stove, and the sauna was also used most evenings.

The club had a social evening in their nice warm Clubhouse on Saturday, and we all got a chance to 'air our knowledge' with a quiz, which we all enjoyed (won by a team of our members of course!), then Ken and Wendy treated us to a game Ken had invented, called 'Ey'Up!', which involved shouting this phrase when you won, and Charlotte was the lucky winner of a bottle of wine. However, in deference to our hosts, who found difficulty with this Yorkshire phrase, we agreed to shout 'Why-Aye!' for the second round!

We did manage to get together for a barbeque, joined by Mike and Ursula, on Sunday, though we weren't sure until the last minute whether we would have to go down to the Pavilion for this. Luckily the weather took up for just long enough for us. Of course, I was enjoying myself and forgot to take a photo! We also had a get-together on Monday and had some fish and chips from the local shop, and managed to have a game of boules, just six of us and one game to each team, so 'honours even' and good fun.

People explored the area, and we went to Housesteads Fort one day, well worth visiting, then found a leaflet in the Pavilion advertising that Dippy the Dinosaur was on tour at Northumberland Natural History Museum, so Chris and I went there, and found it extremely interesting - fossils galore and a great display of Roman artefacts and history of Hadrian's Wall. On our last day there were only us and Diane and Cliff left, and as they wanted to spend the day packing up, we went off to Craster and had a walk along the cliffs to Dunstanburgh Castle, enjoying lovely views of the Northumbrian Coast. We bought kippers and a crab to take home, and then had kipper fillet in a bun and scone with jam for lunch from a little kiosk. We know how to live!

Although the weather wasn't brilliant, it didn't rain all the time, and the welcome we received from this excellent club made it a great rally. I hope to go back there again, and would recommend this area as well worth a visit.

Kathy and Chris Genn

## **National Pétanque Competition**

Four Suntrecker teams competed in the BN National Pétanque at Broadlands on 3-5 May 2019. Overall winners were Suntreckers with Phil & Marion and Karl & Carole finishing first and third. (Lyn and I were 12th out of 13 teams). Hopefully there will be three Suntrecker teams going to Turin for the INF International at the beginning of September.

John Furley

## **Boring but important**

This time we're looking at how Suntreckers define a 'membership unit' and what it means for individual members wishing to attend a rally together and share accommodation. Up until last year we used the term 'family member', which we defined as either a person's spouse or civil partner, or as any other person (opposite sex or same sex) with whom the person lives in an enduring relationship. At the 2018 AGM this definition was changed from 'family member' to the more inclusive 'connected person', defined as any other one person with whom that person wishes to attend rallies as a combined unit and share a single accommodation unit.

An interesting case has arisen this year, where two individual members decided to attend a rally together and share a single caravan, rather than each bringing their own. Does this

mean that they should use a single booking form and pay one rally fee between them? The question is perhaps more complex than it appears. Assuming they each have their own individual membership and Suntrecker Yearbook and plan to attend other rallies individually or in separate accommodation units then the answer is clearly no, they must each provide a booking form and pay their own rally fee. (They will however benefit by only paying one site fee as there is only one accommodation unit and one pitch involved.)

They could, however, opt to become a single membership unit, where one of them would be a 'connected person' to the other. There is no need for them to live at the same address to do this and whether they are male, female or gender-neutral has no relevance. This would enable them to use a single booking form and pay only one rally fee, but they would no longer be entitled to attend rallies separately and would receive only one yearbook between them.

Clearly we need to be very careful with the word 'unit' here as its standard use by campsites refers to an 'accommodation unit', meaning a tent, caravan or motorhome etc and we are also using the term 'membership unit', which as a completely different meaning. Still confused?

## **A sad farewell**

Hilary Mackley informed us that her husband Keith passed away on 4 April after a long illness. Keith had been a Suntrecker member for 23 years.

## **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 [ppo@suntreckers.org.uk](mailto:ppo@suntreckers.org.uk)

Thank you to John for sending this newsletter by email, and to Malcom and Maureen for printing and sending out the paper version. Also thanks to Alan for putting it on the website.