

# THE TRECKER



**Issue 89**

**March 2021**

## **Editor's Corner**

Looking back at what I wrote in Issue 85, published in early March 2020, it's clear that I had no idea of what lay ahead. After a few mutterings about the weather, I mentioned how much I was looking forward to the new rally season, with plans to head across the Channel to France and Spain as well as getting to as many UK rallies as possible. Little did I know that before the month was out we'd all be worrying about much more important matters, like staying safe from a new virus and how to get hold of essential supplies as supermarket shelves rapidly emptied.

One year on, we still seem to be living in a very different world. But things are looking up. Given the age range of our membership, I'm sure that very few of us are still waiting for their first dose of one of the vaccines and several of us will already have had their second jab. We can also look forward to being able to meet up with family and friends soon, initially outdoors, but also in limited numbers indoors a bit later, provided we can keep a lid on the infection rate. And last but not least, we should be able to resume our UK rally activities before the end of May.

We do, however, have other threats to the wellbeing of Suntreckers and I would ask all of you to read the article "Your Suntreckers Needs You!" later in this newsletter very carefully and consider whether you could take on the job of national rally organiser, continental rally organiser or winter rally organiser. The club we all love can't continue to function without volunteers.

Geoff Heyes  
PPO

## Chairman's Chat

Hello everyone and welcome to this spring edition of *The Trecker*. I hope like Jenny and myself that you are all looking forward to the coming rally season.

I'm sure you will all know by now that we intend to start our 2021 rally programme with Rally 22, Cam Bridge Barn on 20 May. The decision was taken at our committee meeting at the end of February, when we concluded that it would not be practical to hold any rallies before 17 May, at which time the government intends to move to Stage 3 of the route out of lockdown, allowing most businesses to reopen and permitting groups of up to 30 to gather outdoors.

It's great to have something to look forward to after what has been a really difficult time for all of us. Jenny and I have not had an easy year. It seemed a very long winter, and we both missed the social side of the winter rallies we would normally have attended.

Despite conforming to government Covid regulations and shielding at home for long periods, we both managed to catch the virus at the beginning of December. We suspect it came in with our shopping from a major supermarket, but of course we will never really know. Thankfully we have both recovered now, although I do seem a little more breathless than I was before and really struggle when wearing a mask on the few occasions when I have to go out. The year has taken its toll on Jenny and she has decided that she will be stepping down from her committee role as company secretary at this year's AGM. I still plan to continue as chairman until the end of my term in July 2022, unless someone else is keen to take over.

Enough about our woes and let's hope that after a slightly delayed start this season turns out to be one of our best ever. Hopefully one of long, hot, lazy days sat in the fresh air chatting to friends outside our units.

Peter Chapman  
Chairman

## Deadline For Membership Renewal

The date for lapsing membership is currently set at 28 February. After that date a late renewal fee of £10 is payable in addition to the annual subscription. This allows a 'grace' period of 2 months after membership expires at the end of December before the membership lapses and the £10 fee 'late renewal fee' is charged.

This year the Yearbook pages were dispatched on 1 February to the nearly 90% of members who had renewed by that time and there seems no reason to grant such a long period before the additional fee is charged, especially now that nearly 70% of subscriptions are paid by bank transfer.

The process of sending the Yearbook pages goes like this: print the address labels, stick the labels on the envelopes, print and trim the membership cards, put a set of Yearbook pages and a membership card in each envelope and seal the envelope. With help from Lyn, this takes a few hours and the whole batch is then taken to the local Post Office, who kindly print and apply the postage labels before dispatching the packages. The subsequent individual renewals obviously involve the same process for each renewal, which then must be repeated every day or two as further renewals arrive. The work involved can be greatly

simplified if all renewals are completed before the Yearbook pages are printed and the whole batch can be processed at once.

The renewal invitations are normally sent out in early December, with a reminder sent to those who have not yet renewed in mid-January. **With effect from 31 December 2021 an additional reminder will be sent before the lapse date and the grace period will be reduced to 1 month, which means that the lapse date will become 31 January, after which renewals will be liable to a £10 late renewal fee.**

John Furley  
Membership Secretary

## Rally Organiser's Report

Happy New Year everyone - a strange way to open a report I agree, but we can at least start to look forward to starting our new rally season, albeit it a bit late. Lockdown is still in force but the roadmap out of it has been published by the government and as long as things continue to go in the right direction, May will now be the start of our new season with rally number 22 at Cam Bridge Barn kicking it off. Hence the Happy New Year!

Although there will still be restrictions regarding gatherings, we should with care be able to enjoy rallying again, as long as we follow the rules. I cannot emphasise this too strongly – if we flout the rules we could lose our Natural England camping/caravanning exemption certificate, meaning that we would no longer be able to use a lot of our field sites.

It is sad that I have had to cancel all the continental rallies for 2021, but hopefully they will be reinstated in 2022. I'm not going to detail the cancelled rallies but cancellations due to lack of a rally officer are very low, which is a testament to all of the 'veteran' rally officers as well as the new ones who have stepped up to the mark. Keep an eye on our website or the Suntrecker Facebook group for updates regarding rallies etc. (If you are not already a member of the group just send an email request to either the Membership Secretary or the Webmaster asking to join.)

So now I come to one of my favourite topics, the Gala Rally, which in 2021 will again be held at Nunnery Farm in Rothwell. Lesley and Terry Jackman are again running the raffle so please support them by buying your raffle tickets.

This year's theme is 'Harry Potter' and the Ken Webster photographic theme will be 'Travel' which should give all you budding and experienced photographers out there a substantial subject to get your teeth into.

Talking about the gala programme - we hope to have a get together on the Thursday evening with wine and nibbles, the Friday night entertainment is hopefully going to be Dick Brice but this is not confirmed as yet. On Saturday evening we will have our usual great live entertainment. So please book up for the gala and enjoy what will be a fantastic night all supplied at no extra cost to you.

There will be something happening every day and the book and CD stall will be back. If you want to do something different then let us know and we will try to accommodate it. We will also be having our normal cake baking competition so get your baking skills honed.

Now you all know the gala rally theme, there can be no excuse for failing to decorate your caravans, tents and motorhomes. There will be a prize for the best dressed unit.

That's all the good stuff and I really do hope you will enjoy (with many fingers and toes crossed) the coming season including the Gala.

I said last year that I was going to stand down as National Rally Organiser at the 2020 AGM but because of the pandemic I and the rest of the committee stood for an extra year. It is however, my renewed intention to stand down this time, so I urge one of you to step forward and take over my role.

That's all from me now folks, I hope to see some of you at the rallies in the near future. Many of them are booking up quickly so you know what to do if you don't want to miss out!

Steve Wagstaff  
National Rally Organiser

## **Rally Officers' Paperwork**

I realise that it is some time since you have had to fill in the documents that need to come to me the Treasurer at the end of each rally. So, this is just a reminder to all Rally Officers with regards to the correct way that they need to be completed.

I think most ROs know how the money side is worked out using *Rally Report Form B – Finances*. However, several of you forget to send me *Rally Report A – Ralliers*, with a full list of all the ralliers who attended.

It is essential to send Rally Report A to me as the information is needed by the Stats Officer to work out who will be awarded winning plaques as the AGM. It must have the names and membership numbers of all the ralliers as well as the number of nights they spent on the rally.

Also, I would be grateful if ROs would use the forms provided and not odd sheets of paper. If you wish to send them electronically and pay any money due direct into the Suntreckers account that's fine.

So, fingers crossed for a good summer and plenty of sunshine for us to get out and about.

Iris Montgomery  
Treasurer

## **Request For Return Of Equipment**

It occurred to me that some of you may be hanging on to Suntreckers signs and flags, which you no longer need. Maybe you have used these in the past when acting as rally officers but now are not planning to do so again. In this case could you please make arrangements to return them to a committee member, ideally when you next attend a rally.

Terry Gascoyne  
GM3

## **Disposal Of Grey Water**

Now that we should be able to start rallying again soon, I just wanted to remind everyone to always dispose of grey water correctly. Arrangements may vary from site to site (for example large sites may have motorhome service points with drive-over drains, whereas on small field sites the requirement is often to use the nearest hedge) but you should never choose to discharge grey water directly onto your pitch.

Lyn Furley  
GM1

## Rally News

### Rallies booking up quickly!

All the signs are that many of the rallies are booking up quickly this year, perhaps not surprising after all of the lockdowns we've had to endure in the last twelve months. Time to act if you want to avoid disappointment. Online booking is always the most efficient method but if you prefer to send a booking form and cheque by post it might be worth contacting the rally officer in advance to check that spaces remain first.

### Cambridge Outdoor Club

A proposal was made to reschedule the cancelled Rally 20 to a time outside the lockdown. We made some suggestions to the club but had to warn them that there was little appetite among the disappointed Rally 20 bookings.

The COC committee met on 10 March and decided against running a formal rally but offered 5 spaces at any time after 17 May, not for a formal rally but at rally rates.

Any interested members should book directly with Jenny the secretary of COC at [coc.secretary3@gmail.com](mailto:coc.secretary3@gmail.com)

There's still space on Rally 49 in August.

Eddie Silk

### Thorney Lakes

The rally at Thorney Lakes in Somerset from 13-20 September will coincide with *Nudecamp*, an event being organised jointly by Suntreckers and the Nudecamp management team, all of whom have previously been involved in organising BN's Nudefest event. This will be a relatively low-key event, probably with a maximum of 80-100 pitches available.

Up to 30 pitches will be reserved for Suntreckers members, at an expected cost of £19 per night for singles and £23 per night for couples, with EHU £3 extra per night. This is slightly more than the original price in the Yearbook and the booking details have not yet been finalised with the site. Stays of any length can be booked, but EHU will only be available to those booking for the full 7 nights. Suntreckers will take bookings as usual and rally fees/deposits up to the 30 limit and then maintain a waiting list if necessary in case any members drop out or more pitches become available. Approximately half of the 30 places have been booked already.

**Pitch fees will probably need to be paid well before the rally date, direct to the site through their booking website or by telephone, before bookings are made available to anyone other than Suntreckers. In order to guarantee Suntreckers pitches, payment is likely to be required before 10 May if bookings open on 17 May as expected.** The rally officer will get in touch with all members booked on the rally nearer the time, to explain how to make the payment.

Peter Chapman

Thorney Lakes RO

## Your Suntreckers Needs You!



Steve Wagstaff, our illustrious National Rally Organiser, has completed the rally programme for 2021 with a full list of events. How that will pan out is anybody's guess but, at least, we shall have a full programme to go for.

But what of the future? Steve has been organising our rallies for 14 years and is retiring at the AGM in July. Without a replacement, 2022 would have no rallies. No rallies would mean no Suntreckers. This is an appeal to all members to consider taking on this vital role to enable us all to continue what we love doing. Rallying!

For anyone who feels they may be able to take it on please phone Steve (contact details in the Yellow Book) to discuss what it entails. The phone call would not commit you but may prove that it is not as daunting as you may think.

Steve is happy to make available as much time as is needed for an orderly handover and is happy to help out during the first year to ensure all goes smoothly.



*Enjoying some evening sunshine at Tything Barn last September. If we wish this to continue, we need someone to take over as national rally organiser.*

In a similar vein, we also need a new continental rally organiser and a winter rally organiser, if we are to continue as previously. Sadly this year's continental rallies have had to be cancelled because of uncertainty about overseas travel and unless someone is willing to take over from Monty, we will have none in 2022 and beyond.

Although the UK rallies will always be the backbone of our club, both continental and winter rallies have devoted followers and both would be sorely missed. The job of organising a programme shouldn't be too burdensome, as we have a list of tried, tested and well-loved sites for each. Please get in touch with a committee member if you think you could help or just want to know more.

## **Committee Members Due For Election At The 2021 AGM**

The following posts are all due for election at this year's AGM on 25 July.

Company Secretary	Jenny Chapman	known to be standing down
Membership Secretary	John Furley	
Rally Organiser	Steve Wagstaff	known to be standing down
General Member 2	Tess Wagstaff	known to be standing down
General Member 3	Terry Gascoyne	

It is essential that we find replacements for the three officers who are standing down. Our club cannot continue to function without a company secretary and a rally organiser. The company secretary must receive nominations for these posts no later than 31 May 2021. Please speak to a committee member if you would like more information on these roles.

## Welcome!

We would like to give a warm welcome to the following members, who have recently joined Suntreckers:

Nick P	East Sussex
Antony H and Marie M	Leicestershire
Chris and Susan A	East Yorkshire
Graham and Julia H	Cornwall
Michael R	Hampshire
Geoff and Linda P	West Yorkshire
John C	Lincolnshire
James D and Carol C	Somerset
Rob and Barbara B	Worcestershire
Stephen and Gillian W	Hampshire
Graham and Gillian W	Lancashire

## Leavers

And a fond farewell to the following long-term members who have not renewed this year:

Stan Hider  
Shirley Wade  
John and Anne Stephens  
Rita Wragg  
Bob and Vera Logan  
John and Jill Houliston  
Mike and Lynne Ward

## 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, as well as for printing and sending out the paper version. Also thanks to Alan for putting it on the website.