

THE TRECKER



Issue No 92

November 2021

Editor's Corner

I think it's fair to say that we've not had the best summer on record here in the UK, but we were able to enjoy some fine weather in September during the *Nudecamp* event at Thorney Lakes in Somerset and the sun also shone on us for the first of our winter rallies at Greenhill Park in early October. You can read more about our week at *Nudecamp* later in this issue, including a bit about how yours truly got to do his first ever interview on local radio!

As the days grow shorter and we head towards the festive season and spend more time socialising indoors, I'm keeping my fingers crossed that increasing Covid infection rates don't interfere with our winter rally plans again. By now many of us have had our booster vaccinations, or will do very soon, so we're in a much better position than we were this time last year. On behalf of the committee, stay safe and have a lovely Christmas.

Geoff Heyes
PPO

Chairman's Chat

Hello everyone

Sitting at my computer typing this missive to all you good Suntreckers, I can't help noticing the Autumn leaves falling, or should I say being blown down by what seems to be a force 10 gale. That, combined with the horizontal rain strongly suggests that summer has finished. But ever the optimist, it's just getting the bad weather out of the way now for you all to attend the winter programme that Terry Gascoyne has organised.

Eddie, our new national rally organiser, has put forward a first-class rally programme for 2022 and you should by now have received your copy (fingers and toes crossed that they will go ahead pending any new government restrictions). I would ask that you all respond, not only by attending the rallies in good numbers but also to help by being a rally officer at one or more of the rallies, so we can avoid cancellations.

Regarding rallies, in particular the Gala Rally, we can no longer go to Nunnery Farm. Paul the farm owner needs the field for other reasons connected with farming and not events so no rallies will be held there for the foreseeable future. But please don't despair as your committee are actively searching for new Gala sites and we will let you all know where the Gala will be held in plenty of time.

Speaking of the committee, our new members are settling down well and our new Treasurer Sylvia Caldicott is up to her armpits in receipts and invoices and has got stuck in. We also have a new Equipment Officer in Terry Gascoyne so if you want equipment etc his email address is equip@suntreckers.org.uk and he will do his best to obtain whatever you want. Martin Hodgson has also joined the committee and is our second general member.

The committee is working hard on your behalf, but like all committees, as well as making some excellent decisions which have benefited the membership, we have also made a few mistakes, taken some wrong decisions and no doubt on occasions upset some of our members. I can't always undo or make amends for those decisions but what I can assure you is that we will do our utmost to serve you as well as we possibly can in future.

Well that's all from me and as always all I ask is that you enjoy being a member of Suntreckers and go to as many rallies as you possibly can in the 2022 season.

Steve Wagstaff
Chairman.

Rally Organiser's Report

Flags and signs

If you are an ex-rally officer and are holding on to a Rally Officer flag or direction signs – or any other appropriate regalia, please return them to me. They are both expensive and in short supply, so if you could pop them in a Jiffy bag and post them to me:

Eddie Silk, 21, Castlefield Close, Eastleaze, Swindon, SN5 7EG

I would be most grateful. If you need reimbursement, please just put a slip in with the goods and I'll happily deal with it immediately. Thank you.

2022 rally programme

The call for Rally Officers was distributed by John Furley on October 16th. We are still nowhere near to having a full house of rally officers with 30 still needed. There's still time for those of you who haven't yet volunteered to get in touch with me for an update of vacancies so, please feel free to do so at any time. Remember, the only way to guarantee your place on any rally is to run it.

The year planner shows quite clearly where we have a less than adequate spread of rallies, particularly in May. It also illustrates the lack of balance across the country; a look at the map on the website shows the black hole in the heart of the country. I am addressing both problems, but I need help – a lot of help.

We have lost Nunnery Farm as a venue so 2 ordinary rallies are lost as well as the Gala which is yet to be relocated. Losing Nunnery only deepens the black hole in the heart of England.

Pages 15-16 of the yearbook are devoted to "New Rally Sites Area Officers". Of the 21 areas, 11 are marked "Position Vacant", an all-too-familiar story. So, please don't be shy: offer your assistance and get out there searching for new sites. Vacancies are as follows:

- 1 Somerset, Bristol & South Gloucestershire and Devon east of the Exe Valley, A396
- 2 Dorset, Bournemouth & Hants SW of A36
- 3 Gloucestershire E of River Severn, Oxfordshire & Warwickshire
- 4 Gloucestershire W of River Severn, Hereford & Worcester & adjoining areas of Powys
- 5 Cheshire NE of A51/M53, Manchester, Liverpool, & Lancashire
- 6 York & Yorkshire, East Riding, N, W & S
- 7 Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire & adjoining areas of Greater London
- 8 Norfolk
- 9 Hampshire NE of A36 & Southampton
- 10 Wiltshire & Berkshire
- 11 Northamptonshire & Milton Keynes, Bedfordshire & Buckinghamshire

If you've been to a site that looks like it'd make a good rally site for us, please, please, tell us about it. Don't be afraid to approach the management with a view to sowing the seed. We've gained one site this way this year, Woodside Field.

There are other vacancies, too. Page 27 of the yearbook shows that the BN Liaison Officer, Winter Rally Organiser and Continental Rally Organiser posts are still vacant. To those of you who do not want to be a rally officer, how about taking on another important role?

I'm happy to report that all five continental rallies in 2022 now have a rally officer. Many thanks to Monty Toplis for once again organising them. He had resigned from the post of Continental Rally Organiser but did it anyway. However, we do need someone to step forward and take over that position, otherwise there may be none in 2023.

Eddie Silk
National Rally Organiser.

Rally Reports

Rally 40 – Heritage Naturist Club, Crowthorne

Editor's note: This report should have appeared in Trecker 91 in August but failed to do so because of an oversight on my part. Apologies to the authors and all concerned.

On Thursday 1 July Suntimeckers arrived for the Heritage rally. The pool was open and looked very inviting. The Friday BYO coffee morning was a notable affair, being one of our younger member's special birthday, celebrated with a rich chocolate birthday cake.



The Birthday Boy

This was followed by a shuffleboard competition, a new one to most members. The evening was spent by the pool with Heritage members and Suntimeckers taking part in a quiz. Heritage won and were awarded a major prize.

On Saturday, a boules competition was held in the afternoon and the evening was spent watching the England match against Ukraine.

One of the Heritage members kindly set up his TV on the lawn so we could all watch together. We joined in with all the "Sweet Carolines" and much singing, cheering and clapping kept us warm on a chilly evening.



The Match

Coffee Morning Under Shelter



Rain on Sunday morning did not deter us from holding our coffee morning as Grahame and Maureen offered shelter under their de-luxe canopy and the sun came out for the afternoon boules session.

Monday saw another game of shuffleboard, but the showers came in later in the day meaning that our fish and chip

supper was held in the pavilion giving us the opportunity to finish off any surplus wine!

Heavy rain overnight left the rally pitches rather soft, but everyone managed to get away without a hitch.

David and Noreen Whitaker

[Rally 57 – Yorkshire Sun Society](#)

We purchased our Autotrail Tribute 670 in November 2019 and were looking forward to many excursions - little did we know what was going to happen in 2020. We had only one rally in 2020, at Greenhill Park and managed two this year so this is our fourth rally. This was also our first time as rally officers, having been on the three previous ones. From my point of view I wanted to go to the YSS because it was near to Hull, the place where we grew up and have family in the area. I made initial contact with Chris Darbey, the club secretary, in May, when it looked like there was a good chance of having a rally. We had a few more phone calls as well as an exchange of emails. When we were at Greenhill Park I had the opportunity to talk about the documentation required and I was provided with a spreadsheet to assist with the documents. I have since done some work on it and it now has links in it to reduce the amount of copying details from one sheet to another. I also had some advice from Eddie, who ran the Manor Farm rally, but there's nothing like doing your own. What you think is obvious may not be for others. It was good that this was a small rally because communication within the group was relatively easy. However, I think a larger group would require some sort of notice board to improve communications. After my first

rally officer experience I will gladly volunteer to run some next year because, without the officers we have no rallies.

Now to the rally itself. We were greeted by Chris on arrival who showed us the facilities and where the pitches were. There were six hookups in groups of two and a single space for off-grid which did mean we couldn't all be together. Two of the hookups were on grass which proved to be quite soft. As we all arrived at different times Chris was kind enough to let everyone in, this also included some training on how to open and close the gate. We were also provided with five sets of keys, which had to be returned to a box near the gate at the end of our visit.

On the Friday Chris joined us at our morning meeting to take the payments, by either cash or bank transfer. It all went smoothly as I had informed everyone of the procedure in advance. Formalities over, we introduced ourselves. Biscuits were provided. I had purchased a couple of bottles of both gin and whisky with intention that we would have a drinks tasting evening. Little did I know that Monty would bring his wine fountain as well as various alcoholic liqueurs. The evening went down very well to a point where it was nearly midnight before we were in bed. During the afternoon we joined in the water volleyball in the swimming pool, which was great fun, the members of the club are very friendly and engaging.

On Saturday night the club had a meal and some entertainment, they were celebrating birthdays and anniversaries. We were invited to join in and for £5 a head including the meal and entertainment it was a very enjoyable evening. Beer was £2.40 a pint, two double gin and tonics and a small glass of wine for a fiver. Sunday was a quiet day for me but some joined in the water volleyball and boules. My wife went to spend some time with her sister.

On Monday Anita and I took the opportunity to visit my brother and his family. Unfortunately, my inhaler ran out, I usually pack a spare but, not this time. It's now on my packing list. To get a replacement I had to call NHS 111 who then arranged for me to collect one at a nearby pharmacy, problem resolved.

On Tuesday evening we planned a fish and chip supper. I knew of quite a good one and went online to get the contact details. As well as the prices I needed to confirm that they would be cooked in oil as we had a vegetarian in the group. Anita then gathered the orders with the proviso that everyone should have a Pattie - a local Hull specialty, made from potatoes and herbs, battered and deep fried. They even helped us to carry the fish and chips to the car, great service. The supper was eaten in the club house using their plates and dishes and more alcohol flowed.

Anita had to go home Wednesday because she had to work the next day. On Tuesday we packed our awning away and put it in the back of her car. There was I thinking that I would have to open a tin of all day breakfast for my Wednesday evening meal when Val invited me to a cooked meal, a very tasty one at that. This was again eaten in the club house, only a little alcohol was consumed, for digestive reasons.

Thursday morning was time to part our ways, some were going to White Rose, as for me homeward bound.

We had Guinness, our dog with us, which did mean lots of naturist walks around the site, plenty of rabbits about plus a few moles causing problems. One boundary was the Holderness Drain which made a very enjoyable river walk. We really enjoyed our stay and look forward to doing another one next year.

Martin Hodgson

Rally 61 – Apollo Sun Club

Apollo No 3 (September). The weather had been dire; would we be walking about in



Evening sunshine outside the chalet

rainwear, and huddled under awnings? What luck! The sun came out for the week and made the rally a highlight of the year for us. (We usually meet friends at rallies in France on our way to or from Spain and it was eleven years since we had joined one in the UK).

There were eight units gathered, 7 on the field and one (us) in the chalet. We had been warned of the noise from the road. I just told my brain that it was falling water, as from a waterfall or fountain – problem solved! One of the delights of this site is the long view, from where the camping pitches are, down to the wooded southern end. The swimming pool cover waited for the sun and the keen swimmers waited eagerly for the cover to be rolled up. Competitions for Boules and PingPong (from what I saw I couldn't call it table tennis!) were held and most of us took part in the ASC's Quiz with our Rally Officer giving out the questions. My choice of team name 'Hurst First' led to an inevitable result.

The picture is of an early evening meal at the end of the rally held in front of the chalet – it was the only area, at that time of the day, to have the sun.

Peter Perkins

Rally 66 – Marsh Farm

We were blessed with good weather and good company at the Marsh Farm Rally near Saxmundham, Suffolk in the second week of September. There were 21 *Treckers* in 11 units (nine caravans and two motorhomes) and four of our canine friends. We had use of the upper camp site, which is all grass, has a lovely lake in the middle and is surrounded by farmland. Super location.

Most folk arrived on the Thursday morning, got set up and spent the rest of the day (chatting and chilling; Carl even enjoyed a few successful hours fishing in the lake. Organised activities began on Friday with coffee in the morning and 'field-games' (Finska, Badminton, Boules & Kubb in the afternoon). In the evening we gathered in and around the Gazebo for a few rounds of Prize Bingo, with Janey doing a sterling job as 'Mistress-of-the-Balls' and 'Caller' rolled into one.



Janey calls the Bingo



Is that a full House or a full Gazebo?

Another coffee morning was had on Saturday, followed by more field games and, would you believe it, open-air table tennis. This must be a first for a Suntreckers rally, so many thanks to Dell and Thalia for providing the equipment. In the evening we all enjoyed a Fish 'n' Chip supper followed by a two-part Quiz. Though the questions were generally thought to be too hard, (e.g. what's the chemical symbol for Potassium?) with no one getting more than 12/20, the picture round was more warmly received, with most having great success identifying 'big brand' names from parts of their logos.



Table tennis – au naturel



Fish 'n' Chips – al fresco

Sunday morning was restful for the ROs, as some people went to church whilst others explored the local car-boot sale. Karl & Carole organised a boules competition for the afternoon which was enjoyed by both spectators and competitors alike. Trophies were awarded to the winning teams, with Cindy & Janey taking 3rd place, Karl & Hilary taking 2nd and Alan & Carole stepping onto the podium to take the 'Gold'.



'Top Teams' in the Boules



Watching the wildlife

Thankfully it stayed dry and sunny on Monday, allowing some to go for walks in the morning while Roger had a peaceful hour watching the wildlife by the lake. Even the dogs got together for a 'supervised social' after lunch, and clearly enjoyed each other's company. The final event of the rally was Janey's afternoon tea-party, with lots of fairy cakes, fruit cake and several re-fills of the tea pot. The evening was left free so people could take down awnings and pack away before setting off on Tuesday morning.

Janey and I had great time as Rally Officers, the first one we've done together. But a rally is nothing without *Treckers* who are willing to join in and take part, so many thanks to all the *R66'ers* who made our time very rewarding, namely David & Hilary, Alan & Cindy, David & Margaret, Dell & Thalia, John & Amanda, John & Aileen, Karl & Carole, Steve, and Carl & Anita. We look forward to catching up with you again.

Roger Coggan

Rally 68 – Thorney Lakes / Nudecamp

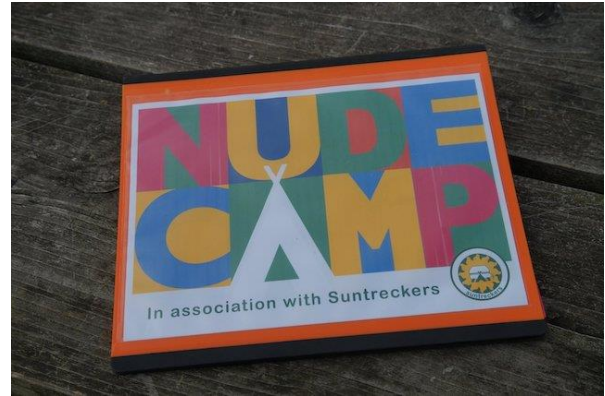
Suntreckers got together with *Bare West Events* for this one, a newly formed organisation this year arising from the team who used to organise BN's *Nudefest* event. With over 100 units on site, this was a much bigger event than our normal rallies, but nevertheless considerably smaller than *Nudefest*, which often has around 500 campers staying overnight.

The Treckers had quite a large presence, with around 30 units in total. We'd planned this one as an invitation rally, with Jenny and Peter acting as rally officers and John and Lyn hosting the invitation side of things. Not exactly a standard invitation rally, as the Treckers were heavily outnumbered by the others, which gave us a lot of potential new members to recruit. With seven new units signed up on the rally, I think we can judge that a success.

Immediately after the event, John sent a short survey to all the Treckers who had attended, which got a very good return rate. The feedback was extremely positive, with 88% of respondents rating the event as excellent or very good. Good weather for most of the week obviously helped and many positive comments were received about the site itself, the reasonably priced bar, availability of takeaway meals, evening entertainment, relaxed atmosphere and opportunity to join in organised activities or just chill out.

Focussing on the events organised by Suntreckers, I think it's fair to say that some things worked well and others didn't. Eddie's quiz evening was very well received. The pétanque sessions, organised and supported by John, Lyn, Eddie and Pat were a great success. "Come and play" sessions ran every morning and were all well attended. The knock-out competition on the Saturday went really well, with Terry Jackman and Eddie Silk being

narrowly beaten in a keenly contested final by Ian and Annie Mackay, who are not Suntreckers but are well known players who regularly do well in the BN national competitions. At one stage it was beginning to look like a whitewash, with Terry and Eddie 6-0 down, but they fought back valiantly, taking the lead at one point before eventually succumbing 13-10. All entrants were presented with Suntrecker score cards, kindly designed and produced by David Whitaker.



Pétanque area nicely set up and open for business. Photos by Mark Berry.



Atmospheric view of the site. Photo by Mark Berry.

One the other hand, the “meet and greet the Treckers” afternoons were not a great success, despite a lot of hard work from several of us (Pat and Eddie, not to mention their car, deserve a special mention for all the fetching and carrying they did). The location and times we were given by the organisers didn’t help. We were in the marquee, and after lunch on Wednesday we set up the urns to offer teas, coffees and biscuits to allcomers, but unfortunately this was located next to the bar, and on a hot afternoon it was hardly surprising that cold beers in the sunshine were a lot more popular than hot drinks in the marquee. We tried to make the best of it by chatting to as many as possible outside as well as giving out Suntrecker leaflets and pens, but overall it was rather disappointing.

The organisers had given us another slot the following day, but we saw no point in repeating it so soon, and instead opted to delay it until Sunday afternoon, hoping there would be more people on site with new arrivals for the weekend. This time we would be

armed with a new weapon – cakes! However sometimes even the best laid plans go awry, and this one definitely did. We found out late on Saturday that the organisers had invited a mobile coffee company to serve coffee and cake on the following afternoon, in the same area and at the same time as we had planned our event.

We took the sensible way out, cancelling our “meet and greet” session and having our own coffee morning instead, to ensure that the cakes didn’t go to waste. However all was not lost from a publicity point of view. BBC Radio Somerset had turned up to do a four-hour music and talk show live from the site and we were informed that they were keen to talk to someone from Suntreckers. Which is why, probably because I couldn’t run away fast enough, I found myself being interviewed on the radio in my birthday suit. At least it wasn’t TV. Joking apart, it was a great opportunity for some free publicity, with the interviewer allowing me to talk freely about who we are and what we do, as well as asking some sensible questions about Suntreckers and naturism generally.

As we go to press, we think that a similar event will be held at Thorney Lakes again next year, possibly a week earlier. This may or may not be decided in time for it to be included in the 2022 yearbook but if it is repeated, I think there would be a good case for Suntreckers being involved again. No doubt both we, and the organisers, would learn from some of the mistakes made this year. It’s easy to criticise when things go wrong, but the organisers, who are all volunteers, did work incredibly hard, had to react quickly to changing circumstances and were sometimes let down by external suppliers. The main thing is that we all enjoyed it.

Geoff Heyes

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Winter rally update

Good news! We now have an addition to the winter programme with another rally at the beginning of March. The remaining winter rallies are:

Rally 76 GREENHILL PARK, BEARLEY, STRATFORD UPON AVON, B95 6DN Fri 3 Dec – Mon 6 Dec

Pre-Christmas Rally. £10 per night plus a per head fee for the ‘chicken shed’

Showers now available from 20p

Rally Officers: Terry & Lesley Jackman, Yew Tree Cottage, Oxford Road, Donnington, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 3AG

T: 01635 529823 M: 07505 997533 Email: jackman.lesley60@gmail.com

Rally 1 TELFORD NATURIST CLUB, TELFORD, SHROPSHIRE, TF2 9PB

Fri 28 Jan – Mon 31 Jan 2022

Burns Night Rally (Max 10 units) – *NOW FULLY BOOKED.*

Rally Officer: Terry Gascoyne, Leaholme, 159, Derby Road, Marehay, Ripley, Derbyshire DE5 8HU

T: 01773 436773 M: 07974 558573 Email: tkg@potter5.co.uk

Rally 2 FORTWAY FARM, STONEY STANTON, LEICESTERSHIRE, LE9 4JA

Fri 4 Mar – Mon 7 Mar 2022

Website www.fortwayfarm.co.uk

Mad March Hares Rally - This is a commercial campsite so extra days before or after can be arranged.

Current prices are £10 per unit per night plus £3 for EHU. (Limited numbers)

Rally Officers: Malcolm and Maureen Burland

M: 07946 575105 Email: mjandmjb@hotmail.co.uk

Please contact Malcolm & Maureen BEFORE 31st January if you want to go. They will confirm that the rally is on, but as the site only accept individual bookings, M&M will give you the ok to book once we have 3 members wanting to go.

Details of any activities etc. will be available nearer the time and are likely to be centred around food and drink!

Adventures of Fiona the fridge

Help! My fridge isn't working...

Fiona fridge was lazy and lonely. Her owners left her all alone for weeks on end, then expected her to work when they decided to go on holiday. But Fiona was cunning. She waited until they were far from home, the south of France, or maybe the Outer Hebrides – and then she got her revenge.

Derek (not his real name) was very thirsty and wanted a cool beer on arrival. Fiona refused to open!

“Merde!” shouted Derek. He punched the control panel so hard it fell off. After the end of a rally Fiona and her owners spent several extra days on a French campsite waiting patiently for an engineer to turn up. 360 euros and numerous drinks of water later Fiona began to work again.

Derek is very kind to Fiona and gently coaxes her stubborn door open with a rod. The only way it will open. He reads her a story every day and sometimes sings to her, so she isn't lonely.

Be kind to your fridge as we all need its contents. Especially beer and wine and maybe milk for our tea.

Anonymous

Editor's note: Possibly written using information supplied by Noreen Whitaker.

Welcome!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members, who have joined us recently. Those marked with an asterisk having signed up at *Nudecamp*.

Names	County	NudeCamp
Jim & Angela R	West Midlands	
Richard & Susan R	Hampshire	
Martin P	Leicestershire	
Ian & Cynthia E	Shropshire	
Chris & Penny C	Gwynedd	
Martin & Clare A	Derbyshire	
Steve & Helen L	Norfolk	
Terry & Ruth H	South Gloucestershire	
Edward & Margaret P	Gloucestershire	
Michael A & Ann L	Nottinghamshire	
Olly A	North Yorkshire	*
Graham T	Essex	*
Michael W	South Gloucestershire	
Trevor H	Cwmbran	*
Nigel & Carole T	Somerset	*
Rob & Dee J	Somerset	*
Chris & Caroline W	Somerset	*
Colin T	Torfaen	*
Nigel & Louise P	Hampshire	
Geoff & Sheelagh C	Worcestershire	
Steve C	Lincolnshire	

A fond farewell

We were sorry to learn that Eric and Denise Webster will not be renewing their membership next year. Having been members of Suntreckers for over 30 years they have finally decided that age is catching up with them and have now sold their caravan. Eric emphasised how much they have enjoyed visiting many UK sites and meeting a lot of nice, friendly people and he also wishes to thank the committee for all the hard work they have done, particularly Steve and Tess for organising the rally programme and for running many of the gala rallies. Finally, Eric wanted to thank everyone who has attended their rallies over the years.

We'll certainly miss them and we all wish them well.

A couple of suggestions

Permission to send messages by email

Next year's provisional rally programme has now been sent to all members, with the usual appeal for rally officers. Whereas most of these are sent by email, 35 were sent out by letter post. Of these 35, 21 member units have provided an email address, but not given us permission to use it for sending out group messages and reminders.

Once again, we would like to appeal to these members to allow us to contact them by email, saving us not only cost but also the time spent stuffing and addressing envelopes and taking them to the post office. If you are willing to do this please send a short message to John Furley at mem.sec@suntreckers.org.uk

Tell us who you are!

Going back a few years it was common practice on rallies for all units to display the first names of their occupants on a window of their caravan or motorhome. Given the number of new members and first-time ralliers these days we thought it would be a good idea if we all got into the habit of doing this again. It might also help those of us who are getting older (and occasionally a bit more forgetful)!

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

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 Alan for putting it on the website.