

# THE TRECKER



Issue No 93

March 2022

## Editor's Corner

By the time you read this, our new summer rally programme will be underway. Nothing startling here you may think, but I'm writing this on the second anniversary of the first Coronavirus lockdown, which delayed the start of the 2020 season until August. Last year's season also started late, and we lost all the continental rallies during the last two years.

It's great to have a full programme to look forward to again, thanks to Eddie's hard work in organising over 70 UK rallies and to Monty for sorting out the continentals. The world can seem a hostile place sometimes. I'm sure our thoughts are with the poor people of Ukraine and we're all desperately hoping that the appalling situation will be resolved as soon as possible.

I think it's more important than ever to take advantage of what we have and get out there and enjoy ourselves. We're so lucky to have such a choice of rally destinations, be it a simple field site not too far from home, a well-equipped club site, or a continental rally if you're prepared to bite the bullet and spend an arm and a leg on fuel. Which ever you opt for, getting together with fellow Suntreckers is a great way to forget your troubles and have some fun. Let's book as many rallies as we can and celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our great club.

Geoff Heyes  
PPO

## Chairman's Chat

What a way to start a year, with the UK having suffered storm after storm after storm, but now with the spring weather upon us and hopefully, apart from a few April showers, the weather will begin to show signs of real improvement.

The rally fields just like the rally officers have been dusted off, cleaned up and are eagerly awaiting the arrival of Suntrecker ralliers. That's a cue for you the members to book up the rallies either via the booking forms or online and get out there and enjoy yourselves. Better weather and times are coming - I can feel it in my bones.

The main item on this year's agenda is the Gala rally. It's been put off for a couple of years, and this year we lost our normal gala site due to matters beyond our control. We have now booked another site, Candy Farm in Doncaster. Some of you may know it as the venue for BN's *Nudestock* event. There is plenty of room at Candy Farm and it would be lovely to see as many of you there as possible. We are also looking at a more central location for 2023 and beyond and news of that will follow.

I now have to look both inwards and outwards. Inwards because several committee posts are up for election at this year's AGM. As identified on page 4 of the yearbook these are: Chairman, Treasurer, PPO, Webmaster, National Rally Organiser and one general member. Tess will be standing down as Company Secretary, but we do have a volunteer to replace

her as well as one to take over as National Rally Organiser. The Treasurer has indicated that she will stand again. New blood will be needed to fill the remaining posts, so I need to look outwards to you the membership to volunteer and keep this great club of ours together and moving forward with new ideas and initiatives.

Talking about moving forward, there have been discussions during committee meetings regarding separating the Gala rally from the AGM. The AGM could then be held in the spring as a Zoom meeting, leaving the Gala rally to stand on its own. Presentations of long-service plaques, medals and cups for various competitions, together with the raffle, could be dealt with on the Sunday as normal but at a more leisurely pace throughout the afternoon, culminating in the evening entertainment.

This is not something the committee can decide on alone, but would, after a wider discussion with the members, either face to face at the upcoming AGM at Candy Farm, or by social media i.e. Suntrecker Facebook page, or email to any committee member etc. All the committee would welcome your views and I promise you they will be discussed when we next meet. This may well culminate in a formal resolution at the 2023 AGM.

Apart from that enjoy yourselves at the rallies both in the UK and Europe and I hope to see you at some of them.

Happy rallying

Steve Wagstaff  
Chairman

## Rally Organiser's Report

The yearbook was published on time thanks to John Furley, with the year planner being sent out some time later. A few minor corrections had to be made – these are on the website and repeated here in this *Trecker*. New Rally Officer flags have been sourced and were included in the new R/O packs.

The extra-popular rallies filled within days of the opening of bookings but for the majority the rate of booking has been disappointing; a rush in the first 2 weeks then less than a trickle since. So if you're holding off, do the Rally Officer a favour and make your booking in good time so that the sites can be kept adequately informed.

Now we wait to see if this beautiful spring weather continues to give us a fabulous rallying season.

Eddie Silk  
National Rally Organiser.

## Corrections to Yearbook

The following are corrections to the rally pages in the 2022 Yearbook:

p30 Rally 4 Broadlands:- does accept dogs

p33 Rally 10 Willows:- Rally Officer email should be [steve.wagstaff70@gmail.com](mailto:steve.wagstaff70@gmail.com)

p35 Rally 13 Telford:- book-by date 17 March

p43 Rally 29 Domaine de la Gagère:- does accept dogs

p49 Rally 42 Broadlands:- does accept dogs

p64 Rally 61 Apollo:- ends Wednesday 7 September

p73 Rally 78 Telford:- change of Rally Officer and latest booking date is now 18 August

Rally Officer: Terry Gascoyne

Leaholme, 159 Derby Road, Marehay, Ripley, Derbyshire DE5 8HU

T: 01773 436773 M: 07974 558573 Email: [tkg@potter5.co.uk](mailto:tkg@potter5.co.uk)

## Email problems

Some members have recently reported not seeing Suntreckers emails sent to their Yahoo! Mail addresses. If the email is being received, but is being put in your Spam folder, there are a couple of things that may help prevent this happening.

*To whitelist an email address with Yahoo! Mail you should sign into your account at Yahoo! Mail and do the following:*

- a. *Add the email address that is sending you email (eg **mem.sec@suntreckers.org.uk** and **webmaster@suntreckers.org.uk**) to your Yahoo! Mail Contacts. Yahoo! will usually correctly deliver email from addresses that are in your Contacts.*
- b. *Add a filter. Click the Settings menu icon (top right) and click 'More settings' Click 'Filters' on the left hand list and then 'Add new filters' Enter a Filter name eg Suntreckers Under 'Set Rules, From', click 'Select a filter criterion' and choose 'ends with'*
- c. *Enter the domain (**suntreckers.org.uk**) of the email you want to whitelist in the 'Type a filter value' field Under 'Choose a folder to move to' select Inbox as the folder to deliver the email to Click Save*
- d. *Check that the new filter is listed under 'Your filters'. It should read:*  
**Suntreckers**  
**Deliver to "Inbox" if From ends with "suntreckers.org.uk"**

*A similar procedure can be carried out for most email accounts with slightly differing instructions.*

John Furley

## Rally Reports

### Rally 76/2021 – Greenhill Park



It was great to be able to hold the ever-popular pre-Christmas rally again this year and socialise indoors again having endured many months of Covid restrictions. An added bonus was that the ground was fairly dry for this time of the year and therefore unnecessary for motorhomes to be parked on the roadway. Many of us took full advantage and arrived on the Thursday to enjoy an extra day. The only disappointment was that the recently installed central heating

in the Chicken Shed was on the blink and we again had to resort to portable gas heaters and the dubious pleasures of condensation running down the windows.

This is the rally where Friday is Christmas Eve, Saturday is Christmas Day and Sunday doubles up as Boxing Day and New Year's Eve. As usual our regular rally officers Terry and Lesley organised a range of activities for us to enjoy, including various indoor games, the usual Secret Santa and a make-a-decoration competition. This year's theme was "something to go on the top of the tree", for which the clear winner was Roger, with his very witty "Fanta Claws" – see the picture.

I'm not sure how pleased Roger was to win it though, as he was presented with a very familiar trophy. Take note if you're planning to attend the Couderc rally in France this year as I'm sure he's planning to hand it on then if he hasn't managed it already!

## Rally 01/2022 – Telford Naturist Club

Sheelagh and I are new to naturism, our first experience apart from the occasional beach being when we joined Telford Naturist Club in the middle of last year. I am the naturist; Sheelagh is tolerant and working on it. Telford has been good for us with its friendly clothing optional attitude as well as being a comfortable drive from our home in Kidderminster.

Having established our naturist home turf, thoughts moved on to touring. We were enjoying our new clothing freedom, but we did not want to stop exploring with PK, our caravan. I had become a member of British Naturism prior to joining Telford, their website is a wealth of useful information and it brought Suntreckers to our attention, it looked like a good choice for us, a chance to visit naturist sites with a friendly group. Joining was friendly and efficient, giving us confidence that the decision was a good one. Our yellow book arrived and we eagerly looked for a rally to cut our teeth with. Fate smiled on us, the first rally that we could attend was at Telford Naturist Club, and we had already booked to be there on those days! A couple of emails confirmed that we could join the Suntreckers group and we were off to our first rally.



*Boules in the winter sunshine at TNC - idea for a new "spot the ball" competition?*

Both Sheelagh and I felt welcome in the group and the rally seemed to go very well. We paid our dues to Terry, enjoyed the chocolate cake and coffee at the coffee morning and received our first rally badge. Our thoughts turned to how we would display the badge and many more, if things stayed this friendly we expect to collect a lot. Telford offered a cooked meal on three days over the weekend. Friday evening served up an excellent fish and chips, Saturday evening was curry night and Sunday lunch was a beef roast. Richard and his kitchen team worked hard all weekend, Sheelagh and I reverted to Telford members for a while on Saturday morning to peel potatoes.

We discovered that Suntreckers are committed Boules players. It was announced that there would be a match on Saturday afternoon, we had never played but decided to drop in to find out something about it. Here was an odd number and Sheelagh volunteered to make up one of the teams. Appreciating that she had never played before I think she did remarkably well, but of course I am biased. I put my photography hat on and asked if I could take a few pictures. Approval was tempered with an apology; they were not going to take their clothes off because there was a bitter winter wind blowing. I am sure there will be more opportunities.

In conclusion, Sheelagh and I are happy that we made a good decision to join Suntreckers. We are now looking forward to future rallies and, as soon as we can make it, a trip to France. At present we are both working and this limits the time we can commit, but that changes next year and we hope that our slow start will accelerate.

Geoff and Sheelagh Cooke.

## 2022 Raffle

All tickets purchased for the cancelled Gala rallies in 2020 and 2021 should be kept as they will still be valid. This doesn't mean you can't buy more though!

The prizes will be as they were going to for the two previous cancelled rallies - Safari Chef Barbecue, Kindle and a set of competition Boules.

We are also looking for ticket sellers, the more there are the more rallies that will be covered. Anyone willing to do so please contact us Terry & Lesley Jackman either by email or phone and we will get tickets sent to you.

Terry & Lesley Jackman

Email: [jackman.lesley60@gmail.com](mailto:jackman.lesley60@gmail.com)

Mobile: 07505 997533

## Down memory lane part 2

We're grateful to Rob and Dee, a couple of lapsed members who re-joined us at the *Nudecamp* event at Thorney Lakes last September. When browsing through *Trecker 85* from March 2020, they recognised their own signatures in the picture of fabric sent to us by Alan Judge.



“Deirdre, Robert, Tanya, Michelle and Noel. We were members from about 1992 to 2002. However, we can't recall at which rally we would have signed it. We think it was taken around from rally to rally, judging by the number of names. Could it have been to celebrate the 10 or 15 year Suntreckers anniversary?”

## Adventures of Fiona Fridge

*Continued from Trecker 92*

Fiona Fridge has been up to her tricks again. After behaving impeccably throughout last year's rally season, she decided to misbehave at the end of a short stay at a commercial site in the South Downs. When Gerald (not his real name) disconnected the ECU prior to leaving the site, Fiona hatched her cunning plan. Her control panel became a mass of flashing lights and error messages after the gas had failed to ignite. On the way home, she started working again on battery power and, mysteriously also worked normally on gas after the engine had been switched off at home. Gerald was pleased and uneasy at the same time.

He then made a big mistake and ignored Fiona over the winter months. Fiona gets lonely when left unattended for any length of time and understands just how to punish her owners. Gerald finally decided to check up on her towards the end of the winter and got a nasty surprise. No amount of trying, talking to her nicely or shouting at her could get Fiona's gas burner to ignite.

Gerald then treated the van to a habitation service and was delighted to find Fiona working perfectly again afterwards. The mechanic explained that it wasn't unusual for three-way fridges to be a bit stubborn after a long winter layoff. "You just need to be patient and wait long enough for the gas to come through again," he added.

Gerald was pleased, but uneasy at the same time, wondering what Fiona had in store for the coming season. To be continued...

Anonymous

## BN National Petanque

The BN National Petanque Tournament is open to all BN members and Club members.

Date: 29th April to 2nd May 2022

Venue: Blackthorns Sun Club, Sharnbrook, Bedford

Please contact Blackthorns to request a registration form and further details with regards to the weekend accommodation and meals.

Tel: 07879 714455 Email: [pro@blackthorns.org.uk](mailto:pro@blackthorns.org.uk)

## Welcome!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members, who have joined us recently:

Graham S	West Midlands	Mark H	Derbyshire
Ken & Karen P	Lancashire	Alun & Helen R	Cheshire
Adele H	West Yorkshire	Alan & Angi D	Devon
Chris & Mo T	East Yorkshire	Andrew & Nikki G	Devon
Colin G	Hampshire	Jennie H & Peter R	Essex
David R	Lancashire	Eileen & Richard B	Suffolk
Nigel & Carol T	Warwickshire	Tim C	East Yorkshire
Mike G	Isle of Wight	Graham & Jean P	Essex
Colin & Kim W	Devon	Richard & Carole N	Oxfordshire
Brian & Gill W	Devon	Shaun & Sallie M	Dorset
Steve D	Devon	Barrie & Sandra C	Shropshire

## A fond farewell

It's time to say goodbye to the following members, who have not renewed this year and are leaving us. Only those who have been with us for at least 7 years are shown:

Russell Ferne	36 years
Pam Wilson	36 years
Avril Gorham	36 years
Eric & Denise Webster	30 years
Phil Boarder & Marion Halsey	30 years
Bob & Rosemary Barwick	24 years
Brian & Barbara Morgan	22 years
Alex & Margaret Melrose	19 years
Peter & Chris Preston	16 years
Brian Delamere	15 years
David & Rosemary Jones	13 years
Gordon & Ann Neve	11 years
Mike & Lynne Ward	11 years
Michael & Susan Betts	11 years
Crystal Hill	10 years
George & Elizabeth Brassington	8 years
William Boardman	7 years
Malcolm & Sue Shelley	7 years
David Le Maistre	7 years

Two long-term members from the list above have written to us to say a personal "goodbye":

*Having joined Suntreckers in 1985 with my late wife Sylvia, it is with deep regret I have had to sell my caravan due to a very poorly heart. Although not so active in recent years, in our prime we attended rallies all over England and Wales and were Rally Officers many times in the Home Counties. I shall miss the friendship and comradeship of Suntreckers and after 36 years I say farewell to all my many friends.*

*Russell Ferne*

*Dear all who know me,*

*After nearly 36 years of membership I am afraid it is time for me to retire. Together with my late husband Colin, we were there at the beginning of the movement and since then have thoroughly enjoyed the many 'ups and downs' over the years.*

*From the bottom of my heart I thank everyone for all the hard work that has taken place and wish Suntreckers every good prospect for the future.*

*Avril Gorham*

## Some sad news

Sadly, the following are no longer with us:

Denise Thwaites – she and her husband Alan were members from 1999 until 2017, when it is believed that they sold their motorhome.

Eric Hill – a popular member for 10 years who had acted as a rally officer on several occasions, mainly at Kingfisher Farm.

Ivor Jones – for whom we have received the following obituary, written by Fritz Henning:

*It is with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Ivor Jones, aged 86 in January 2022. Ivor and wife Viv were keen Treckers for many years both at home and abroad. After Viv's death, Ivor was the first to admit how much he relied on her and there was more to this Trecking lark than going off to play boules all day long. Ivor was successful at the latter displaying no little skill but also a fierce competitiveness. In earlier years he had been a keen, and high scoring batter in club cricket, and opened the batting with John Murray the England cricketer, for his national service unit.*



*Ivor also had a waspish sense of humour. Few who saw it will forget his maniacal portrayal of an ice-cream salesman in a sketch which the travelling Treckers performed both in France and at the Gala. He had a fine voice and particularly loved singing his favourite song, Annie. He was also an accomplished ballroom dancer.*

*I travelled with Ivor down to one of the Croatian rallies and it was good to share with him the delights of the Black Forest, Austria, the Brenner Pass, the Italian Lakes, Venice and on our return the Romantische Strasse in Germany. He was already showing signs of the illnesses which beset him in later life, but he never let these dampen down his enthusiasm for news of Suntrecker friends. If you had a spare hour or three he would happily reel off all the Grand National winners since Ben Hur won in the Rome Colosseum. As a youth, he had wanted to be a jockey, practising by sitting on the arm of the family sofa.*

*He will be sadly missed, not least by his four children and 10 grandchildren, But he will be remembered as an engaging companion and for his distinctive style of playing boules.*

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