

THE TRECKER



Issue No 98

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Editor's Corner

Since the last issue of the Trecker popped into your inbox or landed on your doormat in April, our new publicity officer Geoff Cooke has been sending out regular newsletters, packed with notices about upcoming rallies. This is an excellent means of keeping members informed as well as promoting rallies in need of a few more bookings and giving advance notice of any rallies already full or nearing capacity.

Another change you'll notice is that this issue of the Trecker is a bit on the short side, as we've received fewer contributions than usual. It's perhaps a bit early to say whether the two are linked but it could be that the newsletter will become the main communication tool and the Trecker will evolve into something a bit different, nothing wrong with that in my opinion. As ever it would be useful to have your views, just email me on thetrecker@suntreckers.org.uk to let me know what you think.

Geoff Heyes
Editor

Chairman's Chat

Well, after what seemed like a long cold and damp start to our season it appears that summer may have finally arrived! As I sit here at the end of the rally at Lower Poulza Post we've just had wall-to-wall sunshine with many days 20 degrees plus for the last two weeks. I hope it continues for some time for us all to enjoy. We have been on several rallies so far this year and had great time with other Suntreckers. I hope you too are getting out there and enjoying yourselves.

Having been doing my best over the last seven years, I announced to the committee a couple of weeks ago that I will be stepping back from all committee work after the AGM. I would like to thank you all for the support and encouragement you have given me.

Have a great summer!

Alan Ingram
Chairman.

Rally Reports

Rally 17 – Highland Farm

Rally 17 took place at Highland Farm near Newark in a field awash with dandelions with views across farmland. David, the owner of the site, was friendly and welcoming. By 4pm on Thursday we had all arrived and arranged ourselves around the flatter, top part of the field.

The weather forecasters proved, once again, that the only thing predictable about British weather is that it is unpredictable. While we had some of the showers and rain that were

forecast, we were also blessed with lots of sunny intervals that seemed to coincide with our many get-togethers. We managed coffee mornings on all but Monday and even united most evenings for a BYOB that usually involved a bit of sampling the rally officer's rum collection! In the best competitive traditions of Suntreckers, Union Flags and yards of bunting appeared for our, ad hoc, 'best dressed unit' contest which was declared a draw (mostly owing to the lack of a prize for the winner!)

On Saturday six of us ventured out to a very well attended naturist swim at nearby South Forest Leisure Complex in Edwinstowe. We received a friendly welcome from both the staff and regulars in a pleasant complex with a popular hot tub and a sauna. Sunday afternoon saw us assemble for our coronation celebration 'big lunch/street party'. The tables groaned under the weight of food and treats that had been contributed and there was even bubbly for those that wanted it.



Coronation tea party (or big lunch)!

The event went so well that the last rallier didn't depart until nearly five hours later! Monday delivered the forecast bleak weather resulting in everyone taking the opportunity to prepare for departure. In the evening volunteers fetched fish and chips from nearby Tuxford, which were eaten under cover during yet another fortunate lull in the weather. Our meal was followed, inevitably, by the odd sip of rum!

Frank Dickson

Rally 20 – Cambridge Outdoor Club

This was the first time Karen and I have acted as Rally Officers and we would like to thank all the Suntrecker members who attended as well as the members of Cambridge Outdoor Club who helped make the rally a success.

We had planned a few activities in advance, which we outlined at our first coffee morning, where we encouraged the ralliers to get involved in deciding which they wanted to take part in and when they would like to do so. After all, the rally was being run for them, not us. Volunteers agreed to help with arranging both the boules competition and the BBQ, with no press gang required!

Friday evening was our first planned event, a fish and chip supper, which went very well with good-sized portions all served hot. On Saturday we were fortunate in that Aldreth, where the club is located, had its annual fete, which many members visited. The highlight for many was a fly-past by a Lancaster, which passed almost directly over the club site three times.

On Saturday evening Suntimeckers were treated to a meal provided by the club, which was to their usual high standard and enjoyed by all who attended. In the spirit of inclusivity and to save Karen or me the task we had a first time rallier Peter Shaw 'volunteer' to give the vote of thanks, which he did with the aplomb of a toast master. The meal was followed by live music and singing from Suntimecker Jeff Mason - much appreciated by all present.



Sunday was the second coffee morning followed by the completion of the boules competition and preparation of foodstuffs for the BBQ. We were lucky in that the sun made another appearance and we could have the afternoon BBQ outdoors. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped here. Karen had organised a quiz for the evening with both Suntimeckers and club members taking part and yes Suntimeckers took pole positions!

Monday's activity was a wine and cheese afternoon with frequent walking to the table to replenish glasses and take more cheese and biscuits. This was followed by a presentation to the winners of the boules and quiz, and a thank you to Jeff for his entertainment on the Saturday.



All in all a good rally for all and a final thank you to all Suntimeckers and host club who helped us out.

Joe and Karen

Gala Rally

It looks like this will be a great get together with lots to do, reunions and general fun. It's not too late to book up and come and join us – just £60 for all 5 nights camping! (All EHUs have now been booked). A few people have offered to demonstrate and talk about their crafts or hobbies - if you have a craft or hobby and wish to take part please let me know.

Here is a quick memory jogger of some of the things going on that you may wish to prepare for:-

Photo competition

Decorated caravan / MH

Fancy dress – Sat evening

Pet parade

Cake competition

Craft & hobby – show tell

UV items for the disco – bangles, crayons, paint etc, let's light up the night on Friday!

(You can use them again on Saturday night too)

Candy Farm has carried out many improvements to the site with new showers, disabled toilet facility and new fencing as well as a general tidy up. We will again have use of the grain store for our evenings but don't forget no glasses or bottles are permitted.

Come along and be part of the party rather than hear what a great time you missed later in the year.

Alan, Jackie & Terry

Your Gala Rally Officers

BN National Pétanque Competition

The BN National Pétanque Competition was hosted by Broadlands again this year from 28 - 30 April and Suntreckers competed as usual. Attendance was down on previous years, with only 12 couples from various clubs competing this time. Each pair of players would normally represent their landed club or be an 'Independent', but we were able to persuade Karl & Carole to declare for the Suntreckers team even though they are also members of Springwood club. The Suntreckers team consisted of Ken & Rae, Lyn & John and Karl & Carole.



Team Suntreckers

After the draw on Friday and an excellent evening meal of fish and chips prepared in the Broadlands kitchen, play took place over Saturday and Sunday with everyone playing 7 games to decide the two finalist couples. The weather was rather better than expected, though the air was too cold for much outdoor naturism, except when the sun shone. All meals were available through the weekend if wanted and evening entertainment was laid on, all provided by Broadlands Sun Association.

The final on Sunday afternoon was between Elaine & Steve from Springwood and Karl & Carole, who were victorious in a very good game watched by the other competitors and Broadlands members. The presentations took place immediately after the final, with prizes for the finalists and the best team as well as a special Suntreckers shield, presented to the highest placed Suntreckers.

Placings were: Karl & Carole 1st, Rae & Ken 6th, John & Lyn 10th. So, thanks mainly to Karl & Carole and Rae & Ken, the Suntreckers team won the overall competition and were presented with the winner's shield by Barrie and Glyn, who have organised the competition for several years.



The Winning Team

Photos by Tom Gilks, Company Secretary for Broadlands Sun Association and official photographer

The BN National Competition is a qualifying round for the International Naturist Federation competition later in the year, where teams from various countries compete, which this year will be hosted by Hungary.

John Furley

A warm welcome

The following members have joined us since the last *Trecker* was published in April:-

Jack & Joan P	South Yorkshire	Jim & Jo W	Worcestershire
Ian & Joyce G	West Midlands	Michael S	Hampshire
Wendy H & Darrell P	Dorset	Susan P	Staffordshire
Martin & Janet S	Suffolk	Tom M & Vita S	Pembrokeshire
Mike D	Yorkshire	Mike G	Derbyshire
Robert C	Lincolnshire	Larry E & May H	Dorset
Chris H	Hampshire	Mike O	Derbyshire

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 Alan for putting it on the website.