



SWIFT

**MOTORHOMES
OWNERS CLUB**

Newsletter No 131 - Spring 2023



2023 SMOC RALLY PROGRAMME

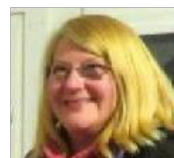
<u>Feb</u>	14 th - 21 st	Wyton Lakes, (Wyton, PE28 2AA)
<u>March</u>	9 th - 16 th	Harrogate Caravan Park, (Harrogate, HG2 8NZ)
	29 th - Apr 5 th	Swift Group Rally and Factory Tour Driffield Showground (Driffield, YO25 9FB)
<u>April</u>	20 th - 24 th	National Motorhome Show (Peterborough, PE2 6XE)
<u>May</u>	10 th - 17 th	Briarfields Touring Park (Cheltenham, GL51 0SS)
	18 th - 22 nd	The Southern Motorhome Show (Newbury, RG18 9QZ) <i>(Follow on meet – Please book independently)</i>
<u>June</u>	5 th - 23 rd	Overseas Rally (France & Northern Spain) <i>(Details to be finalised in late October)</i>
<u>July</u>	12 th - 19 th	Minehead Rugby Club (Minehead TA24 6TR)
	19 th - 24 th	Uphill Marina & Touring Park, (Weston-super-Mare, BS23 4XR) <i>Follow on meet – Please book independently</i>
<u>Aug</u>	6 th - 9 th	Morton Hall Caravan & Camping, (Edinburgh, EH16 6TJ) <i>(Meet only – Please book independently)</i>
	9 th - 16 th	Alnwick Rugby Club (Alnwick, NE66 1BE)
	17 th - 21 st	Malvern Country & Western Show (WR13 6NW)
<u>Sept</u>	1st - 4th	Truckfest, Royal Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet, BA4 6QN) <i>(Meet only – Please book independently)</i>
	13 th – 20 th	AGM Rally, Rutland Caravan & Camping Park (Greetham, LE15 7FN)
	21 st - 25 th	Lincoln Motorhome Show (Lincoln, LN2 2NA)
<u>Oct</u>	10 th - 17 th	Cardiff Caravan & Camping Park (Cardiff, CF11 9XR)
<u>Nov</u>	22 nd - 29 th	Thorntons Holt Camping Park, (Stragglethorpe, NG12 2JZ)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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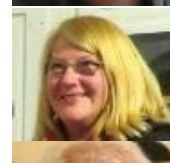
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CHAIRPERSON'S CHAT

Welcome to all members,

Well a belated "Happy New Year" to all, although with rising food prices, increased heating bills and trains still not running and ambulance, nurses, and teachers on strike it's not been an easy start to 2023. Glad we all have a motorhome to get out and enjoy what our country has to offer from our Moho windows.

I'm sad to say that we have a few members who have not been in good health recently and I would like to pause for thought and wish that they have the support and kindness of others to help them through difficult times and for those having operations I wish them a speedy recovery.

We have the Kings coronation to enjoy this year, I'm sure there will be lots of pomp and ceremony for us all to watch wherever we are. The Driffeld Rally, held in early April had the theme of "The last night of the Proms" and we all did a lot of flag waving, watch for the report in the next newsletter on how we got on in the table decorating competition!

We have a wonderful list of rallies for you to come to in 2023 and by the time you read this we will have enjoyed our first two or three already! You can read all about our adventures on our first rally of this year, Wyton Lakes in Huntington in this newsletter. Our overseas rally to France has been well subscribed with 17 Motorhomes crossing the channel in June. The remaining Rallies for 2023 are now available to book, with further details to be found in this issue.

As always, our AGM is in September with all committee members requiring re-election at this event, so if anyone is interested in a position on the committee, please let Val Dobbin our secretary know, further details are in this issue. For those not able to attend the associated rally there is availability to park overnight at the AGM venue if you wish to attend for the meeting and the accompanying social evening, there is a small charge but if you are interested, please contact me.

Now all there is left for me to say is please come to the rallies, give them a try, they are great fun. Also please remember it's your club, so any suggestions you would like to make are most welcome, or if you wish to be involved in organising any trips or meals, please let the marshals know and these can be incorporated into the relevant rally program.

Andy & I look forward to seeing you all on the Rallies and thank you for making Swift Motorhomes Owners Club a happy and welcoming one.

Best Regards

Heather (Chairperson)

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the spring edition of the newsletter which is a little later than planned due to some technical issues! Hopefully everyone's vehicles are now well shaken down after the cold spells over the recent winter months and there have been no serious issues. We already have 3 thoroughly enjoyable rallies under our belts and looking forward to Peterborough, Briarfields and France, where we will be for nearly a month. This is followed by visits to Minehead and Alnwick (both rugby clubs).

Unfortunately the planned rally to Welland Steam Fair has had to be cancelled as the site is no longer able to accept large groups, we did look at other options but without success, so we will have to wait until 2024 to enjoy the old engines together again. Please also note that whilst we tried to get a rally at Truckfest they will not now accept group bookings so this will now be a "Meet Only event, so please book separately.

As previously communicated the original dates for the AGM rally in September were incorrect and the list in this edition reflects the new / correct dates.

Finally whilst we continue to enjoy the 2023 rally program my attention turns to next year and where to go together. A consideration is a "Return to the Best in 2024" with some old favourites returning along with a few new ones! I will be contacting everyone who has rallied in the last 4 years to gain a view on your favourites. This program will once again be enhanced by our overseas rally, with more details due to be communicated soon.

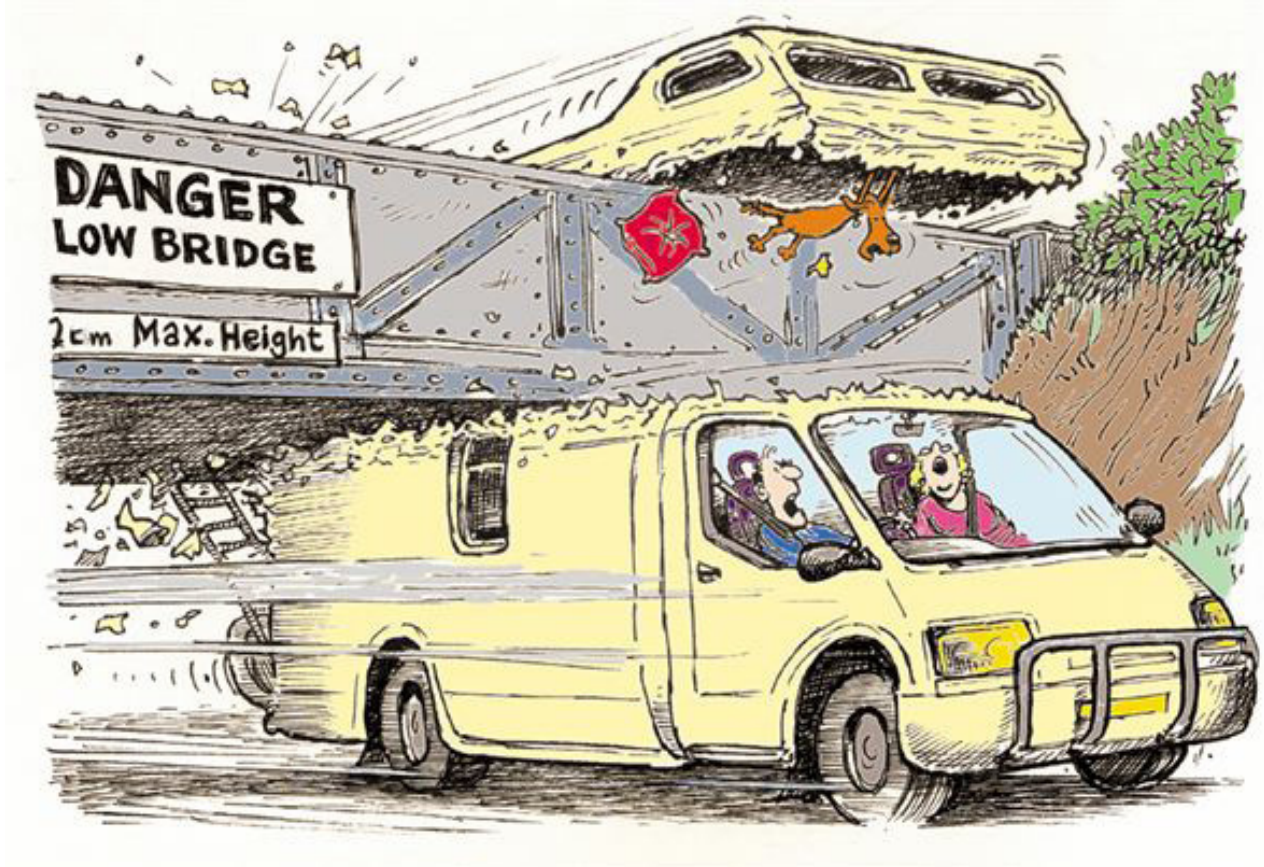
Happy & safe travels

Andy

Letters and other contributions published in the SMOC Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or the Committee. It is a condition of publication that all contributions may be edited for grammar, length and/ or clarity

A very warm SMOC welcome to our new members
We look forward to seeing you on a rally soon

Christopher Fisher from Chellaston – 3495
Nigel & Susan Williams from Stoke Gifford – 3496
Ann & Keith Robinson from Mullion - 3497
Paul & Jane Ealson from Windlesham – 3498
Marie Wood from Stoke Poges – 3499
Pat Bradley from Chapel-en-le-Frith – 3500
Julia & Gary Eastwood from Seamer - 3501
Ray & John Clark from Hanslope – 3502
Chris Deacon from Kings Worthy – 3503
Susan & Jonathan Tarff from Haxey – 3504
Yvonne Hale from Plumpton - 3505
Joan & Alan Higgins - 3506



Exercise for the over 60's!

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side. With a 5-lb potato bag in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax.

Each day you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer. After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb potato bags. Then try 50-lb potato bags and then eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute!

After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each bag.

A Familiar Story!

While on a trip in their motorhome, an elderly couple stopped at a roadside restaurant for lunch. After finishing their meal, they left the restaurant, and resumed their trip.

When leaving, the elderly woman unknowingly left her glasses on the table, and she didn't miss them until they had been driving about forty minutes. By then, to add to the aggravation, they had to travel quite a distance before they could find a place to turn their motorhome around, in order to return to the restaurant to retrieve her glasses.

All the way back, the elderly husband became the classic grouchy old man. He fussed and complained, and scolded his wife relentlessly during the entire return drive. The more he chided her, the more agitated he became. He just wouldn't let up one minute. To her relief, they finally arrived at the restaurant. As the woman got out of motorhome, and hurried inside to retrieve her glasses, the old man opened his window and yelled to her,

“While you're in there, you might as well get my hat and the credit card”.

The Payload Question

If you've owned a few motorhomes over the years, you'll be aware that they have been steadily increasing in bulk and levels of equipment. Just like humans, leisure vehicles have been getting heavier with time! The main reason for this is the extra equipment fitted as standard on many motorhomes, crash legislation and the constant marketing demand for new vehicles to be better equipped than their predecessors.

Motorhome payloads are always pretty tight and adding a couple of bikes can easily exceed them. Twenty years ago, electric windows, power steering, turbocharged engines and air conditioning were a rarity, while today, they're commonplace. In the habitation area, electric flush toilets, spacious washrooms, ovens, multi-burner hobs and 100-litre water tanks have become the norm.

Base vehicles have become chubbier, too – owing partly to improvements in safety and beefier crash structures, partly to ever-tighter emissions laws that involve extra engine components and AdBlue tanks, and partly to simply becoming physically larger.

An added constraint for motorhomes is the 3500kg MTPLM limit for drivers. Drive a heavier vehicle and you'll need the C1 category on your licence (which allows you to drive vehicles weighing a maximum 3500-7500kg), something those of us who acquired our licenses prior to 1997 have enjoyed. But for those who did so after then they have had to do a test to drive anything over 3500kg, there is however talk that this may be removed over the coming months. For drivers over the age of 70 maintaining your C1 licence involves having a medical and renewing it every three years and many people don't want the hassle of this additional paperwork, or might not be medically able to do this. So to make your vehicle appeal to the maximum number of buyers, ensuring its MTPLM is no more than 3500kg is hugely advantageous. But customers always want more kit on their new motorhome, and the base vehicles are getting heavier. So this is a balancing act between engineering considerations and marketing needs for brands. For this reason, payloads are always fairly tight and not all 'vans have as much payload as is ideal.

While you could weigh each and every item of your touring kit and work out the weight of every accessory on your vehicle, it's a long-winded process and assumes you have an accurate figure for each item. But this calculation is never going to be that accurate – you will invariably miss an item, and updated parts can skew things, too.



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The only way to get a really accurate weight figure is to put your motorhome on a set of scales. Trucks are commonly weighed on a weighbridge at scrap metal merchants, agricultural firms and at public weighbridges. Search online for your local public weighbridge and make sure you visit one. They will typically charge a small fee for this.

It's essential to weigh your motorhome axles individually on a weighbridge. Drive to your local weighbridge with empty water tanks, a full tank of fuel and all of your normal touring kit on board. Bear in mind the weight of all of your passengers, too – that also has to come off your payload.

You need to weigh your front axle first, by just driving your front wheels onto the weighbridge plate. Then weigh either just your rear wheels (both sets if you have a tag-axle) or drive the whole vehicle onto the weighing plate. If the whole vehicle is on the weighbridge, your rear axle weight is the total weight minus the front axle weight. The weighbridge operator will give you a printout of these weights – keep hold of this, because it's important. Armed with your accurate weighbridge figures, you now need to compare them with the maximum weights detailed on your vehicle's chassis VIN plate for the front and rear axles. There are several possibilities here. Either both your vehicle's front and rear axles are under the maximum limit, or one or more axles is overweight.

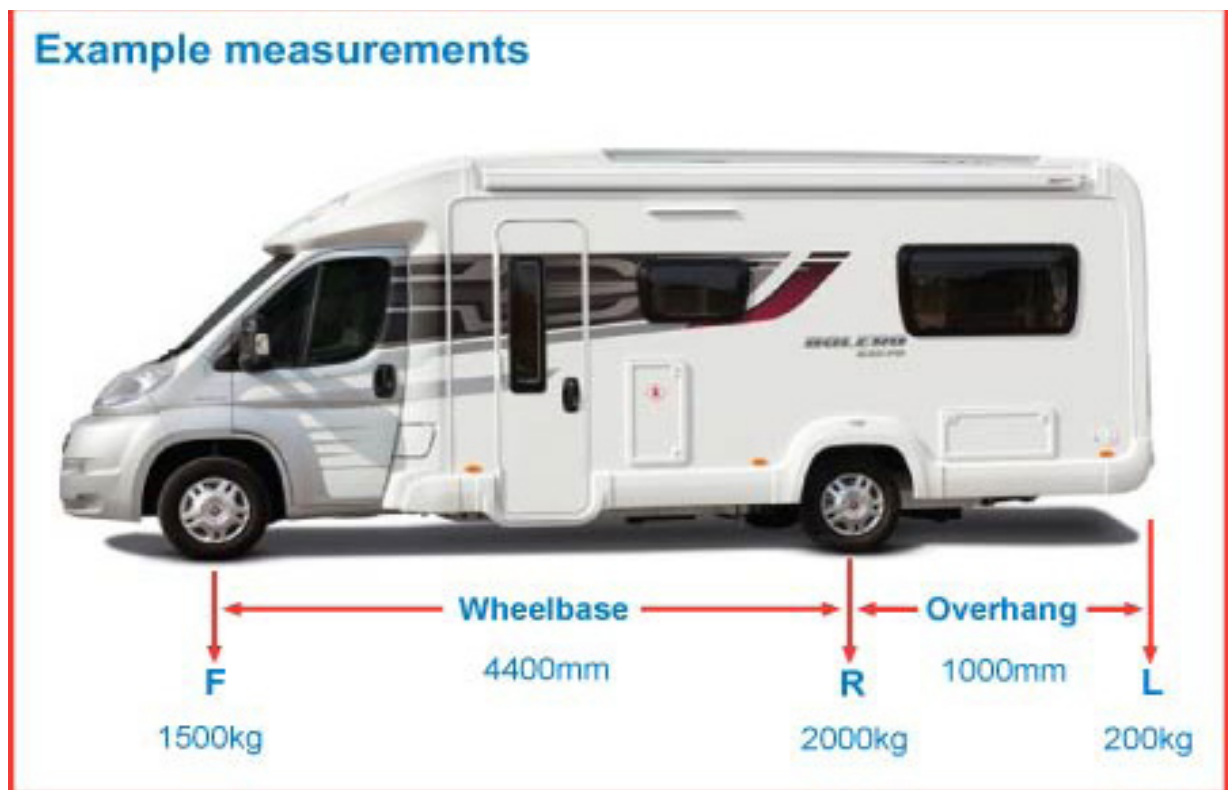


If one axle is slightly over the MTPLM stamped on the VIN plate – usually the rear one – you can either slim down your kit over the rear axle, or move it further forward in the vehicle. Instead of carrying water bottles in the garage, move them into a low kitchen locker, for example. The other possibility is to decant some of the equipment you normally carry inside the vehicle to a small trailer (assuming that you have a tow-bar or the payload to add one).

One factor that can play a big part in creating an overloaded rear axle is if your motorhome has a large rear overhang and you add a bike rack. A big overhang creates a cantilever effect on the rear axle and can magnify the weight you add to the rear. Bike racks exercise a cantilever effect on your motorhome's rear axle and can increase the loading more than the weight of the bike itself.

For example, it's not uncommon for a 150kg scooter to exert over 200kg on the rear axle, owing to the cantilever effect caused by its distance from the rear axle. This results in a corresponding 50kg reduction in weight on the front axle, which can lead to stability issues.

There are several online calculators for the overhang and cantilever effect, but there really is no substitute for visiting a weighbridge and obtaining an accurate, provable figure.



To work out the effect this will have on the motorhome's front and rear axle loads we can use the formula, and simply replace the letters with the values in the example diagram above.

The new front axle load (which we'll call "new F") is:
 $1500 - [200 \times (1000 \div 4400)]$ which equals 1454.54kg.

So we now know that new front axle load once the new overhang weight is added works out at 1454.54kg and can then use this figure to work out the new rear axle load (which we'll call "new R").

The new rear axle load ("new R") is:

$2000 + 200 + (F - \text{new F})$ which equals 2245.46kg

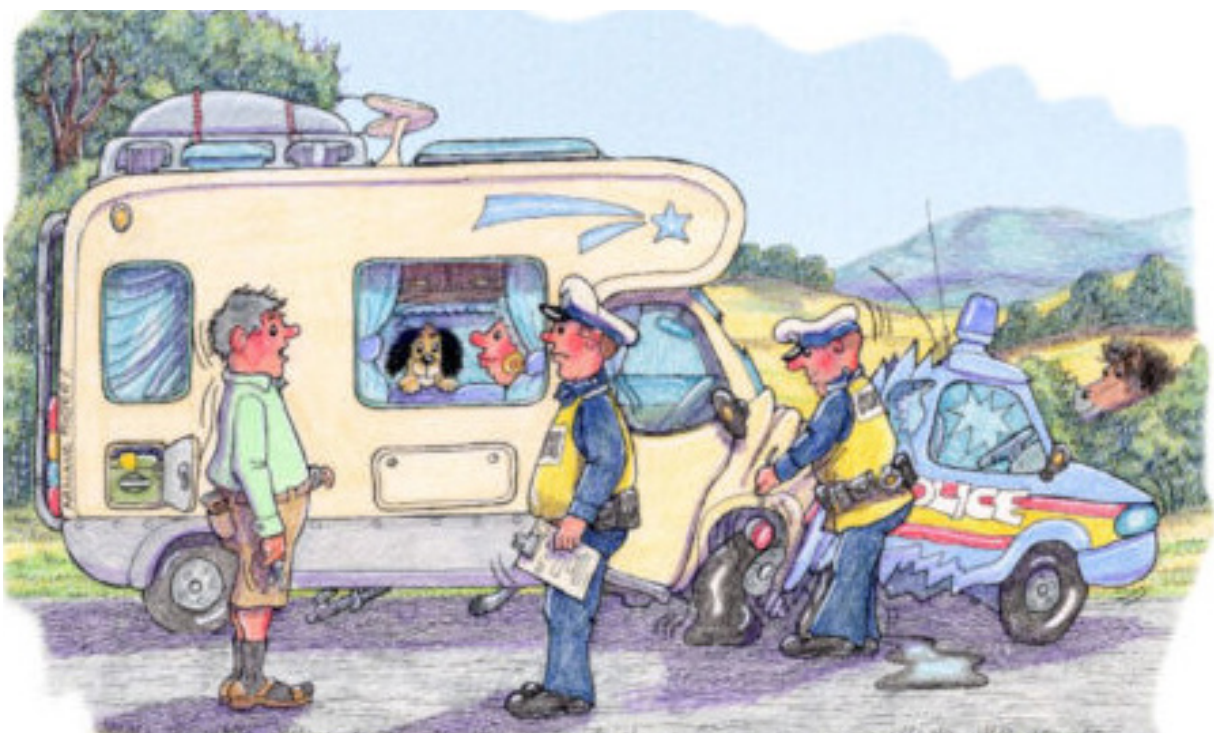
In other words, for this motorhome adding a new overhang weight of 200kg (perhaps a motorbike rack) would add 245.46kg of load to the rear axle, whilst taking 45.46kg off the front axle load.

So if the maximum permissible rear axle load was 2400kg and the MTPLM was 4250kg, as per the chassis plate in the photo further up, then adding 200kg to the rear overhang would still be well within the permissible limits.

So what can you do if one or more axles is significantly overweight and can't be solved by moving your kit around or draining a water tank? Well, if a major cull of your touring kit still isn't sufficient to solve the problem, you will have to consider uprating the weight limit of your vehicle.

But don't just ignore it if your 'van is overladen. Not only can it be highly dangerous to drive a vehicle in this condition, it's your legal responsibility to sort the problem out. The penalties for being caught while driving an overladen vehicle can range from £100 (less than 10% overladen) to £300 (if you're over 15% overweight). If your motorhome is found to be more than 30% overladen, you will be issued with a court summons.

The UK currently has several "Weight In Motion" Sensors on the motorway systems and whilst these are essentially designed to monitor HGV it's not the realms of possibility that in time attention may turn to other overladen vehicles with the consequences that could mean to us who enjoy motorhoming.





ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

This is to advise the membership of the Swift Motorhomes Owners Club that the 33rd Annual General Meeting will be held at 10.30 a.m. on Saturday 16th September at

**Greetham Community Centre,
Greetham LE15 7NG**

NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION TO THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Secretary must receive nominations for election to the Management Committee no later than 5th August 2023. I am quite happy for nominations to be emailed to me, but they must be followed up with form and signatures at the AGM. All nominations must be signed by the Proposer, Secunder and Nominee. (See Overleaf for Nomination Form)

MOTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN THE AGENDA

Motions for inclusion in the Agenda must be received in writing by the Secretary no later than 5th August 2023 and must include the Name and Membership number of the Proposer and Secunder.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE AGENDA, TOGETHER WITH THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2022/2023 WILL BE CIRCULATED BY 12th AUGUST 2023

Only full and family members shall have the right to attend, speak, vote and stand for office at the AGM. Associate Members shall have no voting rights.

Val Dobbin - Hon. Secretary



**The following Committee posts need to be filled at the next AGM
and nominees duly elected.**

Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice Chairman, Rally Secretary,
Membership Secretary, Newsletter Editor/Webmaster, Regalia
Organiser, N.E.C. Events Organiser

Post:

Nominee: Memb.No:.....

Signature:

Proposer: Memb.No:.....

Signature:

Seconder: Memb.No:.....

Signature:

Please send completed forms to :

**Val Dobbin, Swift Motorhomes Owners Club,
4 Ranleigh Drive, Newburgh, Lancs, WN8 7NA**

www.swiftmotorhomesownersclub.co.uk

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CAMPING AND PARKING IN SPAIN

P PARKING

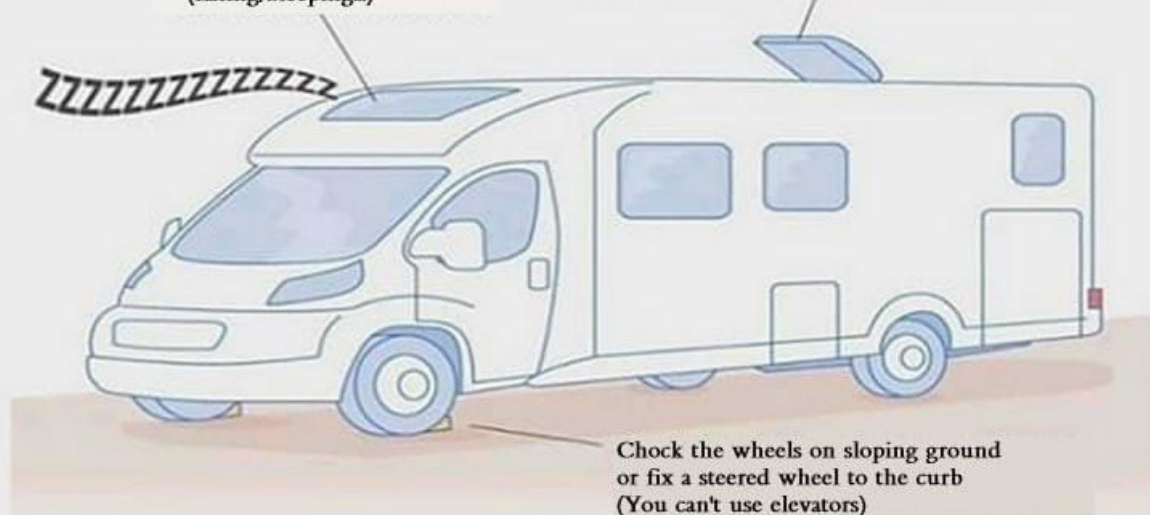
If you follow all of the steps listed below
your motorhome will not be considered
to be camping.
National traffic regulations apply



Either day or night

Occupants inside
(Eating/Sleeping...)

Raised pop-up roof or open skylights
(if you do not exceed the perimeter of the vehicle)



Chock the wheels on sloping ground
or fix a steered wheel to the curb
(You can't use elevators)



The rules above will only be applicable unless
your vehicle is correctly parked.



**POLICÍA LOCAL
TARIFA**



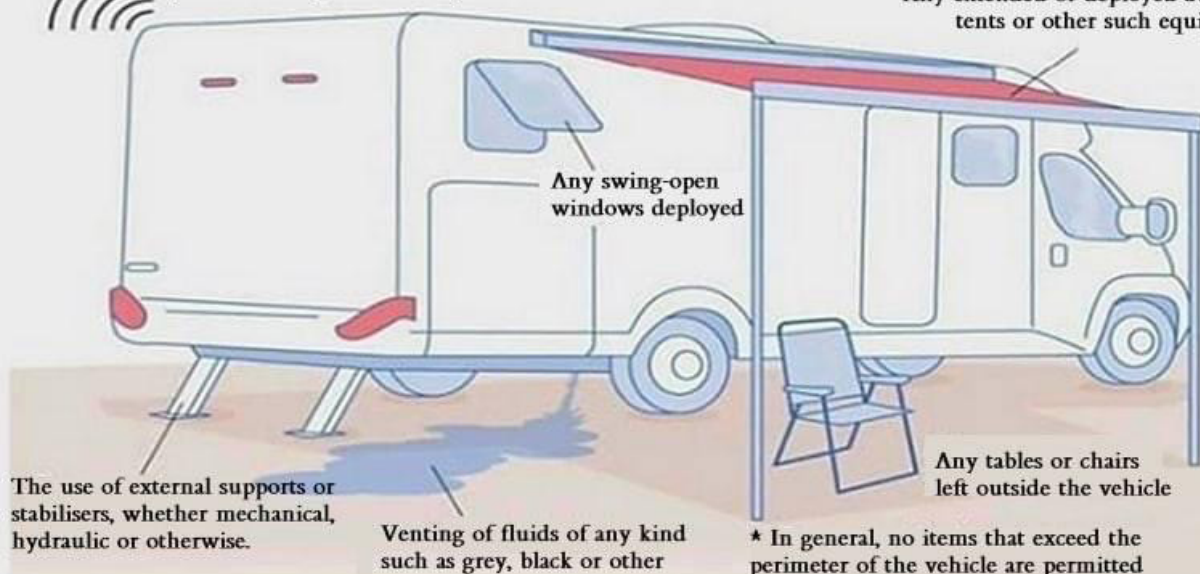
CAMPING

If any of these actions are in place, your
vehicle is considered as camping.
Regional regulations on camping will then apply



The emission of noise that may disturb others.
(Loud music, generators etc.)

Any extended or deployed awnings,
tents or other such equipment.



Any swing-open
windows deployed

The use of external supports or
stabilisers, whether mechanical,
hydraulic or otherwise.

Venting of fluids of any kind
such as grey, black or other

Any tables or chairs
left outside the vehicle

* In general, no items that exceed the
perimeter of the vehicle are permitted



To use any of these options you should
be in a camping permitted location only



**POLICÍA LOCAL
TARIFA**

Poston Mill, Hereford Christmas Rally

With memories of floods at the last Poston Mill rally and much rain forecast for this one, it was with trepidation that we left home on the Tuesday afternoon to get a few miles under our belt and an easy ride on Wednesday.



We needn't have worried, right from the "off" Andy and Heather had everything under control "Welcome hot dogs" were all ready for collection to be eaten in the warmth of the Moho instead of in the rain. The first evening's entertainment got off to a good start with a "fun" quiz set by Andy. It was quite really difficult!!! We were generally in groups of six but the highest marks were 50 something out of 74!!! Our group were pleased to manage 24.5 {[that half was so important] But had I done it by myself I think 2 out of 74 would have been my total. Thank you to Keith, Sue and their table for sharing the large box of chocolates with everyone.

Thursday as promised was wet and miserable but some members ventured out to Hay-on-Wye, famous for its book stores, whilst it was a catch up with sleep and a good book for others. However as they say "the sun shines on the righteous and it was bright and dry for the sampling of mulled wine and hot mince pies around Val and Dave's Moho [It took dedication to do the sampling to get them just right and so tasty]. Thank you, Jan, for the help with the heating of said refreshments.



Thursday evening was a "new version" of pass the parcel, called not pass the parcel!!! Where did Heather find the questions? This game consists of members winning prizes by correctly answering questions, however these prizes could subsequently be passed to members on the left or to the right or even stolen!!! A good laugh and great fun had by all.

Friday was forecast to be a good day, so we were up early and caught the 9.32 [note the time that our bus passes are valid!!] in to Hereford and headed for Marks and Spencer for some purchases [our local one long gone], then off to the Cathedral to view the Mappa Mundi one of the world's unique medieval treasures. The map is listed on UNESCO's Memory of the World Register and described as the only complete example of a large medieval world map intended for public display. The map dates from the 1300's and is a map of the world as the medieval mind perceived it. We also saw the largest surviving chained library in the world in the Cathedral. All the books are kept under lock and key in their original chains exactly as they had been from 1611-1841. This was done to protect the large investment in time and labour to produce books before the advent of the printing press.



Many, many thanks to Heather and Andy for all their hard work, which went into giving everyone a Christmas Rally to remember.
Phyllis and Bill

Hi, this is Heather taking over the writing of the rally report as unfortunately Phyllis was very poorly on the Sunday so could not complete her early musings and went home early, thank you for the above report and a speedy recovery.



During the Christmas Rally we encouraged a best decorated Christmas motorhome, which many members and guests participated in. We are glad to announce that Kevin and Marilyn with their reindeer and lights theme won the first prize, Mark and Jackie [first time Ralliers] with their multi-coloured electronic light show came second and third was Nick and Anne with their environmentally safe decorations! Thank you for all participating in the fun.

Friday night was fish and chip van night, especially arranged for our members, so we all enjoyed this together in a room that Daniel the pub owner allowed us to use all the time we were there, which was fantastic. The fish and chips were great as well as the company. The evening was also meant to be The Panto night, but some big event called football got in the way, England versus USA!, Some people watched the football on the TV in the Pub with a beer or gin or two, we all know how that game ended.



There was a walk from the site to the nearby village of St Peter's, although at this time of year it tended to be a bit muddy and according to Barry, Jane and Bob not very nice, especially when a downpour on the way back caught them out, arriving back a little wetter than expected. In the village which is tiny, there is a church with a coffee shop "The Hub" serving teas and light snacks, some comfy chairs and a nice atmosphere, very welcome for those that braved the weather.

In the churchyard is the burial place of Private Robert Jones, V.C. who was a recipient of the Victoria Cross for his actions at the Battle of Rorke's Drift in the Anglo-Zulu war in January 1879 and immortalised by the film Zulu. He helped save six out of seven patients from the hospital at the outpost, by cutting a hole in the wall. Robert was wounded but survived. Sadly Private Jones took his own life after returning home, an early example of PTSD.

Many thanks to Keith and Sue for being our chauffeur's, it was lovely going round the quaint shops in Ross and Hay on Wye and experiencing the Christmas feeling. We found some lovely coffee shops too and of course had to sample lunch as well.



Whilst on the rally we also had a best Christmas dress competition for the dogs who were with us, the three winners were Kevin and Marilyn's dogs with their fancy coats and reindeer antlers, Sue and Merv's with a doggy Santa outfit, and Alistair and Gwen with bright hoops on their dogs, they all won a choice of doggie treats or balls.

The Christmas meal was enjoyed by everyone with a 5-course meal with wine and music and entertainment provided by Graham, who kindly brought along his karaoke gear, he gave us some lovely songs after we had finished our meal. Thank you, Graham.

On Sunday we had a leisurely start to the day, with a raffle, kindly run by Val and Dave. We had lots of wine, biscuits, chocolates, cakes and other lovely gifts donated, all ideal for Christmas. Tony and Barbara

sorted out Sunday lunch for those that wished to participate at the pub, once again there was good reports on the food.



In the evening “Murder at the Panto” was performed by the Thespians among us, this resulted in much laughter and fun at the somewhat racy jokes. Obviously nothing



was spared on the costumes, as you can clearly see by the photo's. As always thank-you to all those that volunteered (press ganged), Janet and Jim, Ann, Graham and Pauline, Gwen, Ian and er Andy!

Finally it was time to leave Poston Mill and all the fun we had. I would like to thank everyone for coming, we had a lovely mix of new

members, guest members and regular members attend this Christmas Rally and whilst the weather wasn't brilliant, it was cold and wet a fair amount of the time, all of you made it so welcoming and enjoyable, hope to see you all next year.

Heather and Andy



Wyton Lakes Rally: 14th – 21st February 2023

Just what can you do on February 14th, Valentine's Day! Go on the first SMOC rally of the year. We arrived at Wyton Lakes campsite around midday and were greeted by our lovely rally marshals Heather and Andy. This was our first trip out since 5th November 2022 due to me slipping and managing to break 9 Ribs ouch!!! So it was great to catch up with everyone again.

The site ticked all the right boxes close to a bus stop, Dobbies garden centre just across the road and 2 pubs just a short walk away. It was nicely set out with most



motorhomes parked by the fishing lakes, a beautiful area with lovely sunsets. We all gathered for our meet and great and decided that some of us would meet up at the pub later that evening. It was still too cold to sit outside our vans at night, but one afternoon several members sat outside and enjoyed the fresh sunny air around our van.

On the following days many folks took off in varied directions by bus, feet, or car, visiting some of the local towns of Cambridge, St Ives, Ely, Huntingdon, and Duxford. St Ives is a small market town with many tourist attractions and picturesque oldy-worldly properties along the riverside, with a 15th century bridge and a statue of Oliver Cromwell born on 25th April 1599 in Huntingdon.



The Danes, Henry VIII and Oliver Cromwell all had their turns in making Ely Cathedral what it is today, i.e., by wrecking it, that's your history lesson.



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Wyton Lakes is a good place to stay if you like fishing and walking, with many walks from the camp site. One starts at Houghton Mill, and heads towards the lock (which is actually in Hemingford Abbots) and from here there is a pleasant walk or cycle ride to Hemingford Grey or even Godmanchester and back by the river to Huntingdon.

On Thursday afternoon Heather and Andy had arranged with Dobbies Garden Centre for afternoon tea and we all sat at one long nicely laid out table. Then the three tier plates arrived consisting of tasty dainty sandwiches at the bottom followed by the 2nd tier with four scones, jam, and clotted cream then finally the 3rd tier filled with macarons, cakes, and pastry tartlets. This was all washed down with many refills of tea or coffee; I think most of us came away with takeaway leftovers.

Friday night most of the members went too Hartford Mill pub & carvery for fish and chips, once everyone got their food and the right platter, they enjoyed their meal.



Saturday night was a liquid dinner down at the Three Butchers at Houghton, I think 4 members had a more substantial dinner that evening, but most of us only saw the empty plates that they had on the table. They were all saying with glee, it was good food. I might add most members ate in their motorhomes on Saturday night, then went down the pub.

I think anyone reading this report who doesn't belong to the club must think we do nothing but eat and drink when we go on a rally. Although to reinforce this impression we also went to the Hartford Mill for a lunchtime carvery, with most folks having the carvery. This included gammon, beef, or turkey, with as many vegetables you could get on your plate. The standard carvery was £9.78 and the large carvery with a bit more meat and an extra Yorkshire pudding was £11.29.

Most people who had the large size said “I should have had the standard” as they waddled out of the pub an hour or two later. Some members had to leave that afternoon as some still work for a living. Many thanks to Heather and Andy for all their running around getting these meals organised.

Bridget Hubbard
Membership No. 3177

Pensioners Treat (Bus Pass)

The Kelly's and I set off from sunny and warm (13 degrees) Norfolk but by the



time we reached Cambridge down came the fog and the temperature (4 degrees), it didn't get any better the rest of the way to Wyton Lakes our home for the next 6 days. We were welcomed by Andy and Heather and set up. Later that afternoon we attended the welcome get together, time to catch up with a lot of familiar faces and 4 new members.

Day Two. Taking advantage of our free bus ticket we caught the bus into

St Ives, which conveniently stops right outside an antique shop which has focused in the program Antique Road Trip. Whilst in there, Jane spotted a bargain, a soft brown Leather Gucci handbag and couldn't resist it. We had a stroll around town with a compulsory pit stop in Greggs then a bit of window shopping and a stroll down to the river where the harbour used to be. Back on the bus and then a walk over the road to Dobbies Garden Centre, something for everyone there. Clothes, shoes, butchery, plants, and fish but not much in the way of machinery.

Day Three. On the bus again, an early start as we went into Cambridge. They have a new-fangled bus track leading from St Ives to Cambridge, bit concerned when we looked at the driver reading the Sun and drinking coffee. It still took an hour to get there and from the upper deck there were spectacular views. We have never seen so many large lakes in one journey, apparently quarries used for stone extraction.

As we arrived at our first stop in Cambridge, The Regional College, a lady in a hire car decided she liked the look of the Bus track and despite deep anti car gulley's managed to bounce her car through them. Despite numerous people trying to point out the error of her ways she carried on, only to find out it was a dead end and she had to go round the roundabout and back the way she had come in. A pleasant few hours were spent wandering round the city where on a previous trip to Wyton Lakes we had done the escorted tour, Punts included, and the city walk.



Day Four. On the bus again for a trip in the opposite direction to Huntingdon. On our previous trip we had transited through there as we caught what we thought was the correct bus home, only to find out that alternate buses go via RAF Wyton and miss our stop out. The joy of a bus pass, wait a few minutes and catch the correct bus going back the correct way. Once there we visited Oliver Cromwell's Museum very interesting and free. This was followed by a stroll round town and then back to the MH to spruce ourselves up for the Fish and Chip get together in the local Carvery, which was very well attended with enjoyable food.

Day Five. Unfortunately, Jane wasn't feeling too good, so Barrie and I had a stroll down the village to check out the Caravan and Motorhome site down there. We also had a look round the mill which forms part of the entrance to the site. On the way back we spent a while looking in the Antique shop and the local garage which specializes in M sports car. This made us extremely thirsty, so on the way back we very fortunately passed a pub and felt obliged to call in. Here we were entertained by a couple at the bar who were sampling the local cocktails those they didn't like we helped them with.

Day Six. A leisurely start as we had the raffle at 10:30, lovely weather as Bridget had organized both the raffle and the weather, this was followed by the get together at the Carvery for Sunday Lunch. A good turn out again and the food was very enjoyable, but the pub was packed. On the short walk back to the site we decided to check out the Garden Centre again because they had just opened a Waitrose store in there the previous day and there might be some bargains. We didn't spot any but picked up the Sunday papers for a quiet read and a glass of red.

Day Six. Up early as Barrie and I had a Masonic meeting that evening and needed to set the bar and Temple up ready for the evening. A few fond farewells and a safe ride home. A very pleasant Rally. Great to meet up with friends again and a site that most of us would willingly return too.

Bob Shaw

Membership No. 3155

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Harrogate Caravan Park 9th -16th March 2023

I, personally was looking forward to this rally, as it was a return to the area where my parents both originated from and often spoke of Fountains and Bolton Abbeys. Harrogate though was new to me. It mustn't have been on a direct train line from Shipley where my Grandparents lived.

Nick and I had decided to travel over 2 days, so stopped at Poolsbrooke CAMC site, on the edge of Chesterfield, leaving a relatively short trip to Harrogate. We



were so glad we did! The morning of departure, we awoke to about an inch of snow and still snowing.

The forecast indicated that the midlands and the south had the worst. Roads were clear so off we set. It was a very grey and wet journey, but roads were clear so arrived just after the accepted time of arrival. We have visited the site before so we quickly found a pitch and made ourselves comfortable for the rest of the day as it was still snowing outside. The forecast

for the following day was worst for the midlands and the north but not till later in the

day. We rang the Harrogate site to see if there was anywhere near the site where we could park up till they could accept new arrivals. As it turned out we weren't the only ralliers that had done this. The site were more than happy for us to book in early, ahead of the bad weather, despite the fact that they were busy accommodating a number of visitors that had arrived for a function, expecting a campsite only to find there wasn't one! They were very welcoming despite all that was going on.

I am now going to take the opportunity to apologise to our rally marshals, Val and Dave. Having been given our pitch number on booking in, we made a beeline for it, merrily sailing right passed their pitch. Poor Val had to walk over to us, huddled in a thick coat, to deliver our welcome pack and invite us to the welcome meeting at 5pm. So, sorry Val and Dave, we will make sure we behave better next time.

The site is adjacent to the Great Yorkshire Show Ground and Event space, within walking distance of Harrogate. There was a farm shop and café next door and a large supermarket at the end of the lane, both of which we were quick to take advantage of. The café for a very nice lunch and the supermarket for supplies (a 7 minute walk from our van, morning papers sorted).

The site itself was very peaceful with a view of fields. The pub was just across these fields accessed via a tarmacked cycle path and buses to Harrogate or Wetherby by the supermarket on the main road. Everything available for a really good rally.



The snow held off long enough for us all to gather at Val and Dave's van for the welcome gathering with our mugs of warming drink to have with homemade cake and some biscuits. Our first time ralliers were introduced and welcomed, raffle organiser and report writer sorted. Then followed an invitation to Sunday lunch at the pub across the field, following on from the raffle drawing gathering earlier that morning. After a good catch up, the cold was getting too much so we dispersed



to our vans to warm up. Then it started to snow in earnest and even Nick decided that night that the pub was just one foot too far.

We awoke on Friday morning to about 10cms of snow covering the site, but it was dry and the sun was coming up. The snow also meant that there were no newspapers available that day too! I think all delayed their plans for the day

slightly, but the roads were soon cleared and those that were on foot had fields of snow to find their way through, while the sun shone from time to time. We made our way to Wetherby for a look round while others went into Harrogate or took one of the numerous walks from the site, such as to the Crimble Valley viaduct.

Later in the afternoon we gathered outside one of the vans for an afternoon drink and natter in the sunshine. That evening we met up the nearby pub, The Travellers Rest. We just had to take care to miss the ice on the walk back to site.



Saturday followed bright and dry. We had identified a free walking tour of Harrogate which started by the war memorial. We were introduced to Harrogate by a very enthusiastic guide who took us through the streets, explaining how Harrogate had developed into a popular spa town due to its various sulphur and mineral springs. Starting with pump rooms, quickly followed by Hotels, a theatre and gardens, all of which still exist

today. Even if the winter gardens is the location of the local Weatherspoons. We could have taken a 2nd walk in the afternoon, but by lunch time Nick had had enough history for the day. There had been a problem with the hot water in the wash rooms and showers but the wardens had managed to get it fixed by the evening, so we could look forward to hot showers on Sunday morning.

There was an early wake up on Sunday morning due to a rather large number, 367 to be precise, of tractors passing by the site as the Knaresborough tractor road run was to start from the event area at the end of the lane. A few of the ralliers gathered to watch them leave at the beginning of their road run. Nick



being one of them, while I watched through the back window of the van in the warm. The weather was on our side though as it was almost 10x warmer than the previous couple of days, but at 10C x10 wasn't difficult. It remained this way while we enjoyed a good cup of tea/coffee, biscuits, the raffle, which again successfully boosted the club funds, and a natter. A smaller group met up later, one or two had other places to go, to walk over to the pub again for Sunday lunch. It was nearly tea time when we returned to site having had a lovely lunch and good company. We said cheerio to one or two of the ralliers by the end of the day.



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We got rather wet on Monday in Skipton, as the warmer temperature was accompanied by wind and rain. Had the weather been finer we would have taken a look at the Castle but we found the nearest coffee shop and then popped in and out of some interesting shops and an early lunch.

Nick took advantage of the dry weather on Tuesday morning with an alfresco full English on the BBQ before we set off for Fountains Abbey. Owned by the National Trust with English Heritage taking care of the Abbey ruins, it is a great place to visit. There was far more to see than when I had visited as a child, with an old Hall and a water park (a designated UNESCO world heritage site), and more. We weren't the only ralliers to make this visit as others visited at other times during the rally. We were fortunate to see it all in the sunshine, only getting caught by a short snow shower as we were making our way back to the car.



The last place we visited was Knaresborough with its river waterside, viaduct and castle remains. Wednesday was market day too. A bit chilly but dry. We had a wander round the market, found our way to the castle from where we made our way down through some gardens to the riverside where we found a nice café to have a coffee, before making our way back up the hill via the station into the town. Lunch followed then we made our way back to site for an afternoon tea and snooze for Nick, in preparation for the final evening with the remaining ralliers in the Travellers Rest. Unfortunately by the time I was able to join Nick and everybody, last orders had been called. I had to participate in a Teams meeting which on this occasion went without any IT hitches, as the site has very good IT connections. Over the week ralliers were able to find plenty to do with or without their own transport. One couple visited Thirsk and Herriot country, another visited Bolton Abbey all being relatively close to the site while others did go further afield such as the east coast. Nick and I enjoyed the area very much and, as we have always found, great company.

The wardens expressed how much they would like to see us again, either as a group or independently. We had obviously behaved ourselves. They suggested that we book by phone and mention SMOC as there was nearly always a pitch to be found, which may not show on-line.

Ann & Nick Halford
Membership no. 3116

“Members Portal” - Online Rally Bookings

As you know all rallies can now be viewed and booked via our Online “Members Portal” the system also allows you to track rally payment progress and other activities related to specific rallies.

To book a rally simply select “Book Rally” and you will then be taken to the booking page. Please carefully follow the guidance provided and remember to wait for the Shopping Basket to close before moving to the Rally Fee payment page, don’t forget to ensure you include the £1 per person rally fee payment.

At checkout please remember to select your payment method (BACS or cheque) and ensure you reference your unique “Bank Reference Code” and the system generated “Order Number” as these are important in making sure your payment is recorded and your order is processed correctly.

After checkout you will be taken to a simplified “Rally Booking Form”, Occasionally you may also be taken through your individual profile pages and communication preferences (applies to all family members) which we may ask you to review & complete as necessary.

On completion of a rally booking you will receive a confirmation email from the “Members Portal” detailing the nights booked and the information you have provided on the “Rally Booking Form” please check these to ensure everything is in order.

Once payment (BACS or Cheque) has been cleared into the Club’s account our Treasurer will mark your Rally Booking Order as payment received and you will get another confirmation email, which will include the following items,

- The items you ordered
- Your rally form information
- Tickets for each night booked (these are for information only and are not required and we suggest you don’t print them off)

The process for Warners shows is slightly different as you will need to make your booking via the Warners “Out and About” website and then also place a rally booking order on the “Members Portal” This helps us to track bookings, as we do not get a list from Warners until their bookings close. Please ensure you make the required rally fee payment via BACS

If you do not have access to the Internet you can complete either an electronic or paper rally form and email or post this to the Rally Secretary (details on the front of the newsletter). Please make sure you also pay your applicable pitch and rally fees either via BACs or cheque.

If you have not yet signed into the portal or haven't previously provided an email address but would like to please contact the Rally Secretary (contact details in the front of this newsletter)

We do hope you are finding this new way to view, book and pay for upcoming rallies useful, however if you need any further information or have any feedback on the "Members Portal", rallies or the club in general please do not hesitate to contact any member of the committee.

Managing your Personal Details and Membership Subscriptions on the Members Portal

The "Members Portal" is now used to manage all of our members personal details as well as their membership subscription data. You will notice that all the membership subscriptions have been standardised to the first of the month to make administration a little easier for the Membership Secretary.

One to two weeks prior to your Membership Subscription renewal date you will receive an email reminder, this will invite you to renew your Subscription via the "Members Portal" which we kindly ask that you do as it allows you to check your personal information and your communication preferences etc., ensuring the data we hold about you is correct. Please ensure you check this information for all family members as applicable.

Once you have submitted a membership subscription renewal order you will be asked to ensure payment is made, this can be by one of the following methods.

by one of the following methods.

*** BACS**

Please remember to use Swift Motorhomes Owners Club as the payee

Also note that this is a business account

The reference should be your Unique Bank Payment Reference Number (10 digits) plus your Subscription Renewal Order number)

*** Regular Standing Order**

If this is your payment method please ensure you still renew your Subscription details online

*** Cheque**

Payment should be made to "Swift Motorhomes Owners Club" please also add your membership number to the reverse of the cheque

We would appreciate payment before the 14th day of your renewal month.

You will receive a few email confirmations, firstly when you place a subscription renewal order and once your payment has cleared (marked as paid by our Treasurer). Your membership card will be posted to you once we receive confirmation of your membership subscription renewal and the appropriate payment.

Should you need any help with signing in or have any concerns or problems with the portal or the above process, please do not hesitate to contact us via the email addresses in the newsletter. Also if you have any suggestions for improvements to the portal, we would love to hear your thoughts.

Sudoku #1327 (Hard)

							2	
			7	1				
		5		9		7		
	7				6			9
2	9					6	1	5
	1			8				
		2	3		5			8
		3		2	1	9		6



FUTURE RALLIES

Minehead Rally
Minehead Rugby Club TA24 6TR
Wed 12th – Wed 19th July 2023

Minehead has long been known as “The gateway to Exmoor” and is a beautiful place to explore at any time of the year! The shops and town centre are just a short distance from the site and the sandy beach and historic harbour are only a 15-minute stroll away. There’s a 14th Century church on the hill and the much-photographed historic Church Steps, you can also take a walk down the tree-lined Avenue and visit the selection of tea rooms, pubs, and independent shops in the town centre.

Alternatively just rest a while and enjoy the flower-filled Blenheim Gardens, which can be found just off the town centre. The town has its very own museum, where you can find some very interesting facts about Minehead which you may need later!

Perhaps you can follow one of Minehead’s Storywalks, these are simple (free) digital trails, which are accessible through the browser in smart phones and tablets. Each trail is unique with a carefully crafted narrative, you just follow them like a bread crumb trail. In total there are 6 trails covering the towns Hidden Histories and Secret Stories. Pop into the Minehead Information Centre to find out more.

There are many coastal walks nearby and Dunster Village and the stunning Dunster Castle is just a short drive (even long walk away!). For those venturing a little further, Porlock and Lynton and Lynmouth are also home to some picturesque views.

The rugby club at Minehead provides a wonderful touring base for this area and the pitch whilst on grass includes EHU and use of the clubs’ showers and toilets.

Pitch Fee: £21 per unit per night (includes EHU))

Rally Fee: £1 per person (Guests £10 per unit)

Rally Marshals: Andy & Heather Hartell

Closing Date for bookings: Wednesday 31st May 2023

No arrivals before 1pm on any day



Alnwick Rally
Alnwick Rugby Club NE66 1BG
Wed 9th – Wed 16th August 2023

Visiting Alnwick, pronounced to sound like ‘anick’, is like stepping into a fairytale, where you can dine in the twinkling treetops of one of the world’s largest treehouses, fly a broomstick at Alnwick Castle, and visit a sleeping Giant at The Alnwick Garden.

Make sure you also visit The Alnwick Garden, the enchanting site that holds 4,000 different plants, a Grand Cascade, a mysterious Poison Garden full of deadly plants and a seasonal cherry orchard. Explore The Alnwick Treehouse, where indoor branches are intertwined with sparkling fairy lights and a flickering open fire takes centre stage.

Situated close to the Northumberland Coast, Alnwick is a great base to explore the surrounding areas and other great attractions, such as Embleton Bay and Howick Hall, the home of earl grey tea. Within 5 miles of Alnwick lies the picturesque village of Alnmouth, with its huge sandy bay and fascinating history. For a true coast and countryside experience set aside a day to head inland to the Northumberland National Park. Buses are available close to the site and go to Newcastle and other towns in the surrounding area.

Reasonably close to Alnwick town centre (a good 30-minute walk) the rugby club campsite offers pitches around the edge of the playing field. The clubhouse will be open every evening except Sunday/Monday and there are toilets and shower facilities on-site.

Please note that pitches are all on grass and there are only 12 EHU’s, these will be prioritised for those members staying for the duration of the rally, with any remaining availability allocated as appropriate.

Pitch Fees:

£21 per unit per night (includes EHU)

£16 per unit per night (excludes EHU)

Rally Fee: £1 per person (Guests £10 per unit)

Rally Marshals: Andy & Heather Hartell

Closing Date for bookings: Wednesday 28th June 2023

No arrivals before 1pm on any day

The Western Motorhome & Campervan Show
Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcs, WR13 6NW
Thurs 17th - Mon 21st August 2023 (4 nights)

Join us at one of the UK's leading Country & Western weekenders, a must visit event for all Country Music lovers. So join 6000+ people at Warners largest camping rally of the year and enjoy live music each night of your stay with entertainment across 3 venues provided by 21 bands. Saturday's headline acts are Cash Revisited, Jodie McKay and Clint Bradley Band, please note that is an additional charge at the time of booking.

Get in the spirit of the festival with authentic living history displays, educational workshops and live-action performances based around 19th Century Western America. Several of our members regularly go the whole hog and dress up in authentic western gear, will you! With hundreds of new and used Motorhomes to view and over 200 stalls selling everything from awnings to zip ties there is plenty to while away your time and money!

Booking is via the Warners site, but please make sure you quote Swift MHOC on the drop-down menu for club camping as this will ensure you are with the SMOC group. Also remember to place a rally booking order, with the appropriate payment via BACS on the new online "Members Portal" or alternatively send in your rally slip to the Rally Secretary (details on the front of the newsletter) as well as your applicable rally fee.

As usual to ensure we are all pitched together as a club we need a minimum of 10 units so be sure to book early.

Show Camping Fee:

For a 4-night stay (Thursday arrival) £78 per unit. 3-night stay (Friday arrival) £75 per unit.

Rally Fee: £1 per person (£10 per guest unit)

Rally Marshals: Fred & Silvia Morris

Closing Date for bookings: 2nd August 2023

No arrivals before 09.00 on any day



AGM Rally
Rutland Caravan & Camping Park, Greetham, LE15 7FN
Wed 13th – Wed 20th September 2023

Situated in the heart of Rutland, England's smallest county, the campsite is just a short 10-minute level stroll (via a gravel path) to the village of Greetham. The Village has 2 pubs, a village store and post office, a thriving community centre and regular bus services to Oakham, a lovely town with a good range of shops. Buses also run to Melton Mowbray which has a wide array of visitor attractions.

The site built on limestone is exceptionally well drained and has two heated shower blocks, all fully serviced H/S pitches with EHU and a heated indoor swimming pool (open all year) which is available for a small additional charge. Next to the site at the main entrance is an independent café. The location offers you the opportunity to explore England's smallest county (just 20 miles across) with the motto "Multum in Parvo" which means "Much in Little" The county is renowned for its picturesque villages and towns and also Rutland Water, which is nearby, with its sailing, cycling, fishing, nature reserve and many other activities. In addition below are just some of the other nearby attractions:

Greetham Valley Golf Club, Bernsdale gardens - Geoff Hamilton's TV Garden, Oakham Museum, Rutland Falconry and Owl Centre, Oakham Castle, Rutland Railway Museum, Burghley House, Belton House, Belvoir Castle, Rockingham Castle, Grimsthorpe Castle, National Space Centre,

There are also several local markets nearby in Melton Mowbray (Tuesday/Friday), Oakham (Wednesday/Saturday), Stamford (Friday), Grantham Saturday)

The AGM will be held at the Greetham Community Centre, Great Lane, Greetham, Oakham, Rutland LE15 7NG on Saturday 16th September @ 10.30am.

Please note that EHU pitches are a mix of harstanding and grass and will be allocated as appropriate.



Pitch Fee:

£24 per unit per night (includes EHU)

£21 per unit per night

Rally Fee: £1 per person (Guests £10 per unit)

Rally Marshals: Andy & Heather Hartell

Closing Date for bookings: Wednesday 2nd August 2023

No arrivals before midday on any day

A View On Life

On the first day, God created the dog and said, "Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past.

For this, I will give you a life span of twenty years."

The dog said, "That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll give you back the other ten?"

And God saw it was good.

On the second day, God created the monkey and said, "Entertain people, do tricks, and make them laugh. For this, I'll give you a twenty-year life span."

The monkey said, "Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How about I give you back ten like the dog did?"

And God, again saw it was good.

On the third day, God created the cow and said, "You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family. For this, I will give you a life span of sixty years."

The cow said, "That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. How about twenty and I'll give back the other forty?"

And God agreed it was good.

On the fourth day, God created humans and said, "Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this, I'll give you twenty years."

But the human said, "Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back, and the ten the dog gave back; that makes eighty, okay?"

"Okay," said God, "You asked for it."

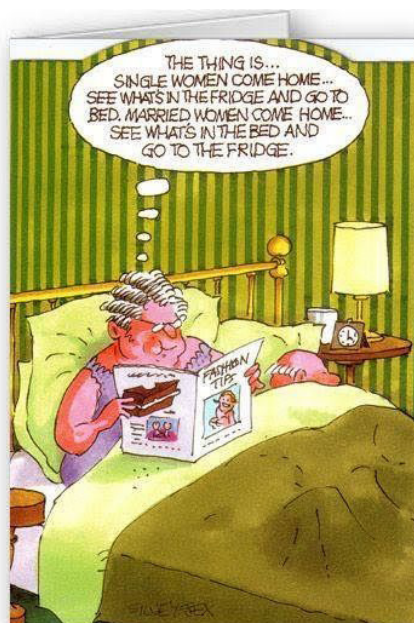
So that is why for our first twenty years, we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves. For the next forty years, we slave in the sun to support our family. For the next ten years, we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren. And for the last ten years, we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone.

The Hat

Jackie, an elderly lady was standing at the rail of the cruise ship holding her hat so that it wouldn't blow away in the wind. Edward, a gentleman approaches her and says, 'Pardon me, madam, I do not intend to be forward but did you know that your dress is blowing up in this wind?' 'Yes, I know,' replies Jackie firmly, 'But I need my hands to hold onto my hat.' 'But madam,' remarks Edward, 'you must know that your derrière is exposed.' Jackie looks directly at Edward, after a quick glance down and retorts, 'Sir, anything you see down there is 85 years old, but I just bought this hat yesterday.'

Ode to Memory

My forgetter's getting better, but my rememberer is broke
To you that may seem funny, but to me, that is no joke
For when I'm "here" I'm wondering if I really should be "there"
And, when I try to think it through, I haven't got a prayer!
Oft times I walk into a room, Say 'what am I here for?'
I wrack my brain, but all in vain! A zero, is my score.
At times I put something away where it is safe, but, gee!
The person it is safest from is, generally, me!
When shopping I may see someone, Say 'Hi' and have a chat,
Then when the person walks away I ask myself, 'who in the world was that?'
Yes, my forgetter's getting better while my rememberer is broke,
And it's driving me plumb crazy and that isn't any joke.



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[SmartBox DUO]

***NEW** for October 2019 TowAFrame in partnership with Tow bar Solutions Wales and Wessex Nissan are pleased to announce our exciting new offer. We can now supply a Brand New Nissan Micra – supplied ReadyToTow with TowAFrame.com system installed & Nissan Wessex Finance options available. View the new Demonstration RTT Nissan Micra in the Atrium area Site E.

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[Tow GLIDE]

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