



SE NEWS



Obituary

It is with great sadness that I start this newsletter by advising of the passing of Barry Rook on the 14th of October 2017. Over very many years Barry was heavily involved with the running of the Club including being a current Vice President and Club Archivist and a previous club Chairman. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him and our thoughts are with Pauline and his family at this difficult time.

We are also sad to note the passing of Margaret Hawkins who many in the Region will remember. We send Kevin and other family members our deepest sympathy at the recent passing of his mother and earlier this year his father (John).

Other Sad News

You may already be aware that Sussex Caravans East suffered from a huge fire on Monday 09 October 2017 destroying 20 units albeit the fire service managed to save 40 units.

This is a family run business and many of our members have purchased their unit from them in recent years. It was particularly devastating for them as they had a special weekend planned for the following weekend to exhibit the 2018 models most of which were destroyed in the fire.

This dealership had also agreed to allow the South-Eastern Region to market ourselves over the weekend which would have been a first time at this location. Not only that but they went the extra mile and more to ensure that we would have a good location and would be very well looked after.

Whilst delighted that they have managed to keep trading our deepest empathy goes out to the family and all who work at the site and we wish them a speedy recovery to normal business for the time of year and hope that they can run the special weekend event at some date in the future once they have been able to procure replacement units.

NFOL 2017

So much time in the preparation and it is all over in a flash. After such a poor summer and given the poor weather leading up to the event we were blessed with superb (HOT) weather for the event (One camper even asked me to turn the heat down).

A reduced working party of just 80 people worked tirelessly throughout the event to make it a very special event which was reflected in the positive comments made by regular attendees and in particular senior members of the National Council.

Many regular workers at Nationals around the country commented about how warm and friendly the event had been.

The number of units on site was extremely disappointing and of course there were the usual little hiccups at the start which were resolved with great alacrity.

The children's entertainment was extremely popular and the evening entertainment was very well received. It was of note that the home-grown entertainers (as previously requested by members) of Abacus, Folk Dance and Song Group and the Club band were all very popular and most enjoyable.

Ali Ray demonstrating eat local always had a good sized and interested audience.

The Mardi Gras was as always very eclectic with some superb outside the box thinking like Chasing time and Snail racing to name just a couple.

A highlight of the event was the lighting up on Saturday evening and what superb displays there were, additionally Solent DA collected money for the two charities totalling £54.00. How wonderful that a brand-new member who knew nothing about lighting up their unit until they arrived on site managed to win the individual competition.

Both Charities have benefitted to the tune of circa £700.00 each plus what they made at their stalls as well as making new connections with camping businesses.

A late replacement Ice Cream seller sold out of all stock very quickly each day. All Food outlets were reasonably priced and very popular, plus the Farmyard Kitchen and Garlic Wood Farm procured and sold essential items when the pop up shop failed to arrive.

We had promised that it would be the best National in 2017 and it certainly was.

Thanks go to all who were involved in the organisation, working party and the attendees for making it such a wonderful event. A special mention should also be made of the NFOL Chairman Allen Russell for controlling things so well and his wife Ros who catered for the committee meetings and worked tirelessly in the background as well as supporting Allen and keeping him sane when things were not going too well.

TOMBOLA NFOL

Thanks must go to everybody for all the donations I received many which were passed on to the raffle (too good for tombola). One prize in particular given by Chichester Caravans was a lotus grill/BBQ valued at £140 and was raffled separately and raised £167 for the charities. A big thank you to Carol Harris for selling the tickets over the weekend.

Thanks to my small team Darrell, Maureen, Rosemary and Ann they all worked every day some all day. Must not forget Jane for helping one morning putting all the prizes out. It would have been nice to have some more volunteers so that we could have enjoyed the NFOL.

Chris Armstrong

NFOL Acrostic

Hot hot hot
In the tea tent. "do you have camomile tea"
Children's entertainment - brilliant
Country **K**itchen - very tasty breakfast
Sunday Evening - Last Night of the Proms - fantastic
The Stadium Bar on Friday - a rocking evening
Excellent MC
Abba Tribute Band - great
Did I mention the excellent MC

Val & Terry Nunn

A Note from a retiring Councillor

After thirty years on Regional Council I have had to stand down. Recently my limited mobility has restricted my activities due to an "osteo arthritic hip". You will all have seen me limping around the camping field. Five years of missed diagnoses was finally overcome by an alert Nurse Practitioner who arranged for an X-Ray which revealed the true nature of my problem.

Also, the "children" (aged 40 to 56) decided that we should go to live with our youngest one who is 220 miles away in Devonshire. Significantly we shall still be among friends due to the structure of the Club for we know many people in and around our intended destination a few miles North of Exeter.

The District Associations around there and the Sections to which we belong are more than adequate for our entertainment and we also have grandchildren who are learning to sail at Wimbleball Lake (*not yet frequented by the Boating Group*) and where my dinghy the "Wildflower" is already berthed having been gifted to the youngest son.

The bad news for all of you is that 220 miles is not much of a barrier and many of you will hopefully see us particularly at the Anniversary Meet, the Dinner Dance and a THS or two.

We have the complications of selling two houses to buy one bigger one and the restrictions of my rehabilitation which can be almost immediately resolved or possibly drag on a bit. Watch this space.

Rex Knight

Editor's Note:

I am delighted to report that Rex has had his hip replacement and is now recovering well at home. The SER Council (and I am sure all our members) would like to thank Rex for all his work and friendship over the years and we wish him a very happy and safe move to Devon albeit we look forward to his popping back to join us at the Dinner Dances and Anniversary Meets.

DA/ Section Reports

Surrey District Association
Rectory Farm Bosham
Pre- & Post the NFOL THS 2017

George and I arrived Wednesday 9th August to prepare the field for the opening of the THS on Friday. We stopped on the hard stand and chatted to Richard the farm owner. Richard and his Son Alastair had just managed to get the last of their crop in by 2am that morning, before rain which was forecasted. We looked at the field with the grass very long realising that they obviously not had time to cut it, the following day Alastair as promised came and cut the grass. Unfortunately, we had pitched our caravan and put the awning up, so underneath our unit the grass was very long.

Friday the weather was windy but thankfully dry. First to arrive was a camper called Michael who had booked to camp with us for the whole holiday, he was an interesting man with many stories and he had many cups of tea with Surrey DA's campers. By the first night we only had eight units in, by Monday more campers arrived including Norman Hemsley the Countryside Care Officer from H/O with some of his friends who would be going onto the NFOL at Hickstead Horse Show Ground. Late Tuesday afternoon Mel Hill (Our Club Chairman) arrived to stay for a week's holiday before going onto the NFOL, also five other units camped with us prior to the NFOL.

On Wednesday the wind got up, we were being battered by the tornado which came up from America and brushed along the west side of Britain. Kevin and Kath Rose awning lifted and it took all of us to hold it down. This very strong wind lasted for about twenty minutes???? then calmed down.

Coming up to the bank holiday the field was filling up, the weather was promised to be good and by Friday we were full. Everyone was enjoying walking to Bosham and cycling around the area.

Over the weekend my phone did not stop ringing, with camping members enquiring if we had space for them following the NFOL. By Monday evening we had to open a second field to take some of the twenty-two units which had arrived, one of which was a very large fifth wheeler. By the evening both George, Frank and I were extremely leg weary???? seeing campers to their pitch. Thanks to Joseph our Grandson who helped by showing campers into the second field on his bike. (Thank goodness for young Legs). Towards the end of the holiday the field started to empty out, though good weather forecast had yet again campers arriving for the last weekend.

As I said at the start of our THS we pitched on long grass, unfortunately we had a visitor each night first discovered when I went to get the Weetabix out. Yes, we had a field mouse or mice getting into our van. Each night we could hear them scratching about and chewing things. We got some mouse traps and set them up around the unit and in the front box. We managed to catch one and they had eaten the bate we had put down, hopefully that would have solved the problem. No, they kept coming in each night. Scratch, scratch on and off all night, not much sleep was had. So, we were resolved to have to take the mice home with us. When we got home we stripped the caravan completely of all items of food bedding and cushions leaving it totally empty and placed mouse traps and bate out. Looked in the caravan the following morning nothing had been taken, the same for the next three nights. Thankfully the mice had decided to stay at the farm.

At times it was tiring however we enjoyed the meeting of camping members, making new friends and enjoying the surrounding area, we are looking forward to doing it all again next year, hope to see you all there.

Sue Moore

South Eastern Region
Maplehurst Farm
Pre- & Post the NFOL THS 2017

Not the most auspicious start to the meet as we damaged a caravan tyre not too far from the site and given it was a narrow road for safety we had to proceed on three wheels and change the wheel on site – not easy on soft ground.

Inclusive of the Stewards there were 174 camping nights comprising: 36 Caravans, 12 Motorhomes, 1Trailer Tent and 1Tent

The landowner apologised for the length of the grass however when trying to top it the weather had been bad and all that was happening was that he was spraying water.

The first two nights we were alone however Sunday brought a few members three of which left the following day to start some pre- works for the NFOL. As time went on more did arrive not all of which were attending the national.

Post the National the sign showing the entrance to the field had been removed and before a replacement could be manufactured and erected one unit went past and had to turn around some distance down the road (they were not happy).

On the Tuesday the main road was closed just after the site access road; unfortunately, the workmen had half barriered the road from the A272 with signs saying, "Road ahead closed" as a consequence one unit ended up doing some 30 miles instead of 8 and were not too happy when they eventually arrived. It is possible that others went elsewhere when they saw the road closed sign.

On the plus side feedback from those that stayed (including the CCC Vice Chairman) and the two units who had difficulty in getting there post the NFOL was very positive

We are extremely grateful to John & Val Cooling of West Sussex DA who covered the last 24 hours before the NFOL and the final weekend prior to closure.

Harry & Yvonne Leach

East Sussex DA
Laughing Fish Isfield
07-09 July 2017

What a smashing weekend. On Friday evening everyone went to the pub to watch the Morris Men, some energetic campers even joined in.

It was so hot on Saturday afternoon that the planned Horseshoe competition took place during the evening. The last games were played by moonlight after which we had an impromptu "concert" by Ken with his guitar, from West Sussex. A lovely evening.

Thanks to Sue and Pete who stewarded for the first time - hopefully it won't be the last.

Val & Terry Nunn

East Sussex DA
Roy Hill Wood, Blackboys
20-24 July 2017

It was great to catch up with everyone. We also had some campers from the Caravan Club - let's hope we didn't frighten them away and they come again.

A boules match was planned for Saturday afternoon but the weather was terrible. Some hardy souls got soaked walking back from the pub, but others came back by car.

The sun shone for the coffee morning on Sunday after which some people left but some were able to stay until the Monday.

Thanks to Sue and Laurie for a lovely weekend.

Val & Terry Nunn

What's on in the South Eastern Region DA's/Sections

Whilst we may be coming towards the end of the camping season, it is not over yet. Please see noted below some special events which are taking place before the final Christmas parties etc.

BCC Kent

27-10 to 29-10 - Painters Forstal, Faversham, ME13 0EJ – Halloween

East Kent DA

19-10 to 22-10 – Painters Forstal, Faversham, ME13 0EJ - Halloween

East Sussex DA

Nothing of note to report

Folk Dance & Song Group-SE

Nothing of note to report

London DA

Nothing of note to report

MCS Kent

Nothing of note to report

MCS Southern Area

27-10 to 29-10 – Tillingbourne School, Guildford, GU4 8NB 'Halloween'

South Downs DA

Nothing of note to report

Surrey DA

03-11 to 05-11 - Pondtail Farm, Brockham RH3 7AX – Village Bonfire

Trailer Tent & Folding Camper Group

Nothing of note to report

Looking forward to 2018:

South Eastern Regions Dinner Dance Saturday 20th January 2018

All are invited.

The nights are closing in, camping is nearly over for some of us, we are now looking forward to Christmas which is only two months away and maybe you are even planning your next year's ventures out in the field.

Why not blow the winter cobwebs away and join us at the Region's Annual Dinner Dance to celebrate the start the Region's 70th Anniversary, over the weekend of the 19th-21st January 2018 being held at the Cumberland Hotel Eastbourne.

We are offering a flexible weekend package consisting of: -

- Full weekend break for £105.00 per person, which includes, 3 course dinner Friday evening, bed and full English breakfast Saturday morning.
- 5 course Gala Dinner Saturday evening followed by dancing to 'Heartbeat' plus bed and full English breakfast on Sunday.
- Saturday night only for £65.00 per person, which includes, 5 course Gala Dinner Saturday evening followed by dancing to 'Heartbeat' plus bed and full English breakfast.

Or

- Just come for Saturday evening's 5 course Gala Dinner followed by dancing to 'Heartbeat' at £38.00 per person. Carried at 12.15am.

This year we are offering optional extras.

- for £37.00 per person you can partake in the hotels Sunday carvery lunch then extend your stay Sunday night with full English breakfast Monday morning.

Or

- for £13.50 per person, you can partake in the Sunday lunch carvery before commencing your journey home. Come join us, looking forward to meeting you there.

Booking forms have been sent to all DA's and Sections or can be downloaded from the South Eastern Region Website.

SER 70th Anniversary Meet,
West Cross Park, Hole Park, Rolvenden, Kent TN17 4PG
17th to 21st May 2018

This is the 70th SER Anniversary meet and as such we are setting out to make it a very special one. The SER Council has approved sponsorship to the tune of £1k to facilitate enhancement of the programme.

As the event is linked to a THS which follows on, the same camping fee of £10.00 pun (plus the relevant charge for any additional persons over 12 years [excluding CCY under 18 years]) must be charged for both events. Taking due cognisance of this and with the intention of giving our members a better deal the subcommittee has agreed to offer a discount of 25% pun only for pre- booking (including payment) for the nights of: Thursday 17th, Friday 18th, Saturday 19th & Sunday the 19th. Vis; if you pre- book and pay, the main event nights stated above will be at the rate of £7.50 pun only. Pre-booking must be received by the booking officer not later than 9th May 2018.

As a guide and still subject to change the outline programme will be:

ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE			
	MORNING	AFTERNOON	EVENING
Thurs	Pennon Competition open		Quiz with David Croney
Fri	Sports	Sports 3pm tea and scones	Gnome Racing
Sat	12 noon Close Pennon Comp Sports Eat Local – Cadac Cooking Competition	12.30pm buffet lunch Incidental music all afternoon 2.30pm Craft, Children’s Sand Pictures and Sports	7pm Fancy Dress 8pm Evening Band Vote Pennon Comp
Sun	10am Church Service 11am SER AGM	1pm Table Top Sale Completion of Sports 3pm Prize Giving, Closing Ceremony and Raffle	6 pm Bring your own BBQ and food outside marquee
Mon	SER Anniversary Weekend closed – follow on THS at same venue		

Items we need to make this all work:

At this year's Anniversary Meet the Region would like to bring back the Craft show, with your help!

I am hoping to vary the exhibits by including contributions from all camping members; male, female and children, producing the widest possible variety of hobbies to view.

I am inviting all crafty people to show and tell their particular talents to encourage members who may be considering taking up a new hobby or just happy to view the work of others.

Craft groups could include Woodwork, Metal work, Fishing, Painting, Oil or Water, Pencil Drawing, Calligraphy Ink work, Computing, Sugar Craft, Bead work, Card making Knitting and wool work, needlework including embroidery, dressmaking, patchwork, quilting, tapestry, cross stitch, glass painting, jewellery making, Map reading/Orienteering; the list is endless.

There are many talented people out there, some may lack the confidence to demonstrate their skills but would be happy to have a natter about their hobbies with like-minded friends.

Please can you help?

I would appreciate a call or e-mail to let me know how many and what hobbies I could expect, so that I will know how to set out the marquees for the craft show.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Kind regards



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jencronney@btinternet.com.

We also need to borrow a strong waterproof 4-sided gazebo to house the raffle and an event shelter to provide shelter for dogs and their owners should the weather be particularly kind. Please contact Harry Leach on the email address below if you can help with either of these items.

Book the dates in your diary now and don't miss out on what is going to be a special weekend in our 2018 calendar.

A Brief Synopsis from the SER Council Meetings **03 July 2017**

The SER Council meeting of 03 July 2017 was largely taken up with the NFOL 2017 however detailed below are the other salient points: -

- a. It was announced that Bernard Davey had sadly passed away following an accident on holiday on the same day as he was elected as a Regional Councilor, the SER would be represented at his funeral.
- b. A suitable location for the 2018 Seminar is still required
- c. A new location for the storage of the two trailers is required following the loss of the Great Wigswell Barn storage
- d. The following councilors are due for re-election in 2018 (should they agree to stand): -
 - i. Alan Armstrong
 - ii. Jill George
 - iii. Sue Moore
 - iv. Michael Froude
 - v. Harry Leach
 - vi. Additionally, there are vacancies of 2 for 2 years and 2 for 1 year
- e. Marketing will be covered under PRO

02 October 2017

Below are the salient points from the SER Council meeting of 02 October 2017:

- a) SER Seminar now deferred to 2019 – location with halls and camping still required
- b) Rex Knight is standing down from SER as Boating rep following hip operation and he will be moving to Devon

- c) Three complaints had been received at Exempted camping regarding the lack of dry waste disposal at SER members THS's
- d) Request that Section/DA minutes were identifiable in their emailed title
- e) Exempted council looking at the definition of pup tents following complaints that families are using substantial tents for youth and only expect to pay a single unit price. The committee agreed that this was necessary as it had been noted that families with teenage children sometimes had multiple units and that the teenager's tents were quite large.
- f) Reminded of need to get sites lists and adverts to Trevor Wilson PDQ SER THS and Anniversary meet booked at Hole park 17th May to 05 June, Anniversary meet 17 to 21 May, AGM Sunday 20 May 2018. These dates will be replicated at the same location in 2019
- g) 4 youth members camped in the Youth area at the NFOL. • 2x South Down • 1x East Kent: Joined at the weekend • 1x East Sussex: Joined at the weekend
- h) Bookings for Dinner Dance going well, if you have not booked please do so ASAP
- i) Agreed to purchase bags to protect the marquees and for some repairs to the trailer
- j) David Crony was elected as treasurer for another year and Alan & Coren Moore were elected as RYLO for another year.
- k) Anniversary meet draft budget approved with a £1000.00 donation from the SER.

The next newsletter is not due out until late January 2018 thus the editor wishes all members a very happy, healthy and successful 2018 with great camping opportunities, new friends and happy memories.