



# SE NEWS



## **HAPPY NEW YEAR & welcome to a new decade**

**May 2020 bring all our members good health and happiness with plenty of fun filled camping.**

2019 ended with mixed emotions, it is with great sadness that we note the passing into the great camping ground in the sky of two former club presidents, Lord Baden Powell Junior, and David Bellamy. At the same time the SER seminar on Saturday 23 November was well received (more later).

**Wow! What a way to start 2020 with a fabulous dinner & dance, and there is much more fun to come during the year.**

On the weekend of 17 to 19 January members from the South Eastern Region gathered at the Cumberland Hotel in Eastbourne for a fabulous weekend and after the storms earlier in the week the weather couldn't have been better, cold, light breeze and wonderful sunshine.

Whilst some members stayed for the full weekend some stayed Saturday and Sunday nights whilst others just stayed on the Saturday night and a small number just attended the function.

We were delighted that members from HQ chose to come and join us and consequently we were delighted to welcome Keith Jackson (Vice President), Steve Harris & his wife Carol (Club Treasurer), Jane Read and her husband John (Elected National Councillor and member of the Management Committee).

After a champagne reception all the attendees were welcomed into dinner by the Chairman, Vice Chairman, President and Vice President and their wives. We were then treated to a most succulent five course meal at the end of which we managed to get the chef's and waiting staff to join us for a well-earned and hearty round of applause.

The chairman then wished everybody a Happy New Year before he introduced the President, Vice President and HQ members, welcomed and thanked all attendees and went on to thank Jenny Croney for all her work in organising the event, she was presented with two beautiful Orchids by the chairman's wife on behalf of all the attendees which was accompanied by a long and very hearty round of applause, finally in keeping with tradition the chairman presented his wife with a lovely miniature Rose bush. One man from each table drew a lady's name out of an envelope and that lady became the lucky owner of the table decoration.

We then all slowly migrated downstairs to be entertained by "The Look" who had our members up and dancing almost immediately, even the chairman was seen to be dancing (wobbling around the dance floor) on several occasions.

During the interval the raffle was drawn and what a fantastic selection of prizes were available. Our thanks go to all our DA's and Sections who donated prizes as well as many of our hobby related traders, including the star prize of a large 12/240v cool box which was donated by Camping World at Horsham.

After the short interval it was back to the dance floor and all too soon it was time to leave and return to our rooms for a good night's sleep before a large traditional English breakfast. Whilst many then left to return home taking time around the foyer to say their fond farewells, twenty-six stayed on for a restful day and more excellent food before they left for home on the Monday.

Many accolades have since been posted on Facebook and directly to Jenny. We can now all look forward to a great year of camping and the next Dinner & Dance in 2021.

Thank you, Jenny and David, for all your efforts on our behalf, it was a splendid weekend.

# Your DA/Section needs you

## DA & Section AGM's

In recent years the South Eastern Region has lost two long standing DA's because they could not raise a committee. It is crucial if we are going to continue to enjoy our social camping that every DA and section has a minimum of 6 (six) members to form a working committee. All committees must have a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Region Representative or it is not a working committee and the unit will need to go to an EGM with the potential of closure. Other vital roles which do not have to be elected committee members are: - Sites secretary, Equipment officer, Webmaster, Facebook administrator, PRO, and nice to have roles are: - Countryside Care officer, and trained, qualified Youth Leaders.

I would urge every member to attend their DA/Section AGM and consider what they can do to support the vital work of the committee including **and especially** joining the committee. The more members a committee has the less amount of work each member has to do, so do please give serious consideration to what you can do for your DA/Section.

Whilst on this theme, it has been increasingly noticeable that committees are struggling to get members to steward their arranged meets/THS's. If there is nobody willing to steward a meet it will most likely get cancelled which upsets landowners and everybody misses out on a nice weekend away. The same principles apply to THS's however these attract members from around the country as well as generating the necessary cash surplus to facilitate the running of the DA/Section and therefore they are a vital asset in both financial terms and countryside esteem. Cancellation of these events reflects badly on the originating unit and has a very negative effect on the finances of the unit. **Please do consider stepping up to support your unit by stewarding a meet and/or co-stewarding a THS.** It is not difficult; it is extremely sociable and helps to make new friends and acquaintances.

In date order the AGM's are as follows: -

DA/Section	Date	Time	Venue
East Kent DA	Sat 22nd Feb	5pm	Reculver Primary School. Herne Bay, Kent CT6 6TA
BCC-Kent	Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> March	11am	The Lower Bell Public House, Old Chatham Road (Off Blue Bell Hill), ME20 7EF
Folk song & Dance Group	Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> Mar	3pm	St Nicholas Youth Centre, Godstone RH9 8DT
Surrey D.A.	Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> Mar	2.30pm	The Royal British Legion, Shortfield Common Road, Frensham, Surrey, GU10 3 BJ.

DA/Section	Date	Time	Venue
MCS S&SL	Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> Mar	3pm	Tillingbourne School, New Road, Tillingbourne, Guildford GU4 8NB
South Downs DA	Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> Mar	3pm	Raystede Animal Centre. Ringmer, East Sussex BN8 5AJ
TTG & FCG <b>EASTER</b>	Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> Apr	11am	Oasis Academy East. Minister Road, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 3JQ
MCS Kent <b>EASTER</b>	Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> Apr	11am	Oasis Academy West. Parade. Sheerness, Kent ME12 2BE
MCS Southern <b>EASTER</b>	Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> Apr	3pm	Oasis Academy, Marine Parade. Sheerness, Kent ME12 2BE
East Sussex D.A.	Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> Apr	2.pm	St Luke's Parish Centre, Rattle Rd, Stone Cross, Pevensey BN24 5EB

Whilst looking forward here is another one for your diaries: -

**The South Eastern Region  
72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Meet & Annual General Meeting  
14 to 18 May 2020**

**West Cross Park, Hole Park Estate, Rolvenden, Kent, TN17 4PF**

Planning is well underway for another fabulous celebration weekend, there will be a light-hearted quiz on Thursday evening, Disco on Friday evening and live music by "The Average Weight Band" on Saturday evening. Welcome teas and coffees will be served on Thursday, Friday and Saturday morning.

Friday daytime will be games for fun whilst Saturday the challenge games will take place – full details will be published in the next edition together with the rules to which the games will be played.

Also, on Saturday there will be the usual arts and crafts and children's entertainment in the morning and a face painter will be on site in the afternoon. The afternoon will conclude with the usual mardi gras with this year's theme of under the sea.

**N.B. The statement on page 13 of the sites book advising that there will be a cream tea is in error. There will not be a lunch or cream tea this year.**

Sunday will commence with a church service followed by the AGM and Open Forum.

Get your bookings in early and ensure that you can claim a £2.00 discount per unit night. Booking forms can be found in the sites book and on the region website.

**Please bring your DA/Section Pennon to be displayed in the marquee throughout the weekend. Don't forget to bring your membership card with you to the AGM.**

Don't forget to enter the pennon competition which will set the 2021 theme, full details regarding the competition are in the sites book.

Full details including a programme of events will be published in the next newsletter.

### **HELP NEEDED!**

Assistance is required on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> of May to mark out the pitches.

A parking team of at least three fit people is required on Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup> and Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> plus one person for Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> of May.

Organisers and referees are required for the fun games on Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> and competitive games on Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> of May.

If you can assist with any of the above please contact Allen Russell, his details are on the booking form.

**N.B. The region council needs the following new personnel: -**

Vice Chairman – at the AGM in May 2020

Treasurer from January 2021 to be nominated in October 2020

Sites book editor from late October 2021. Ideally if one can be identified soon they will be able to shadow Trevor & Pauline as they produce the 2021 sites book.

## **Marketing 2020**

### **HELP NEEDED!**

As you will be aware for the last 6 years, we have been attending several camping/caravan outlets marketing the club and in particular the benefits of DA Camping. It is our intention to continue this through 2020 whilst we are extremely grateful to those members who have already offered their services we can only continue if we get some more volunteer helpers, please consider if you would be able to assist at any of the following: -

Caravan Tech @ Robertsbridge – 28-29 March 2020 – Trevor and Pauline Wilson

JC Leisure @ Rye – John & Doreen Woolgar

Other dates at Caravan Tech, JC Leisure & Sussex Caravans East are TBA.

Camping World @ Horsham: -

07 & 08 March – Allen & Ros Russell

04 & 05 April ???

02 & 03 May ???

04 & 05 July ???

08 & 09 August ???

01 to 04 October – The big Awning show now in its second year – Harry & Yvonne Leach plus ???

## **Late 2019 Reflections**

### **Seminar - Feedback**

Held at Hadlow College on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

Altogether 24 members attended: 12 from DAs, and 12 presenters or helpers.

Only 18 forms were completed and some of these did not have every question answered

Overall, the Seminar was successful with 14 stating that they enjoyed it overall and that they would recommend the Seminar to others. The Forum was less positive: seven helpful, four unhelpful and three 'so so'.

The Forum Summary on 'How to Keep your DA Alive': Keep the programme interesting; keep people involved at every level; members encouraged to sit on committee or to assist with events; encourage members to work together to breakdown cliques; committee to welcome all new members; regular forums to ascertain what members want; book meets to coincide with external events; advertise programme; set aside youth area. Final comment 'Grass root volunteers are not paid because they are worthless but because they are priceless'.

#### Conclusion

Looking at previous surveys, the most successful survey was in 2014 when it was held over the weekend of 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> April 2014. At this Seminar 49 surveys were returned.

It suggests that we should offer a weekend of camping and some sort of entertainment to encourage members to attend when the weather is not too cold.

It was further suggested that it may be helpful to take a 'road show' around the DAs. The logistics of where to hold such a meeting in inclement weather was discussed, but it was agreed that this should be investigated further as other Regions have had great success taking this route. This will be investigated as a potential alternative solution for 2021.

**Regrettably again there is a shortage of copy for the newsletter despite there being some great meets since the last one. Please do send me copy to reflect on superb meets or to advertise special meets which you have planned. The next newsletter is due out in April 2020**