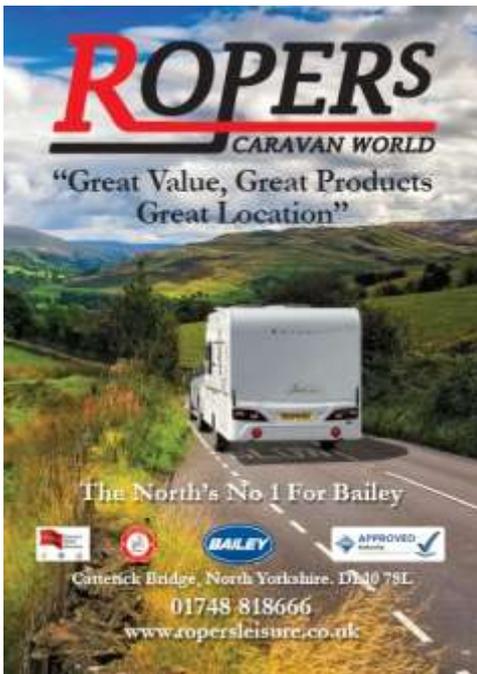




Spring
2020



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**INTRO - MORE THOUGHTS FROM THE
LAPTOP!**

Times they are "a-changing"!

It is difficult to look back to the time when I was writing the Winter Newsletter and accept the changes that have occurred with the appearance of Coronavirus.

Current guidance, as I write this in mid-March, is that we should all (if not "key workers") be self-isolating and "social distancing" when we must go out. Stay home and stay safe!

All Club rallies up until the beginning of July have been cancelled. Later rallies may be cancelled depending upon the progress of the virus - the Committee will be reviewing the developing situation and will update you accordingly. The cancelled rallies includes the National Rally at Thoresby - the charity fund-raising, which usually starts at the National, will now take place at the AGM Rally.



MEMBERSHIP

Current membership of the Club stands at 19.

COMMITTEE VACANCIES

I've previously written about the vacant positions on the Committee - nothing has changed. The Committee is currently running with two vacancies and a further vacancy will occur when the General Secretary (Gaynor) stands down at the AGM in 2020.

Please take this opportunity to help your club - anyone interested in covering the vacant posts should contact the Committee as soon as possible.

RALLY PROGRAMME 2020:

The program for 2020 is published on the website and has been updated to show the changed programme including the cancellations.

RALLY REPORTS

There are no Rally Reports for the period covered by this Newsletter.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

ACCEO AGM - Ludlow Racecourse - Wednesday 30th September to Monday 5th October 2020.

HOSTED BY ALL YEAR ROUND CARAVAN CLUB

Wednesday

Arrival Date, chance to meet up with friends new and old.

Thursday

Social Evening in the main hall with a quiz and some background music



Friday



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT from female vocalist **EMILY ABBISS**

Saturday

AGM in the afternoon

EVENING LIVE ENTERTAINMENT from the brilliant

"THE SOUNDATIONS BAND"



Sunday

Coffee Morning with announcements and prize draw.

Evening get together in room



TECHIE STUFF:

This section is written as a guide only - I'm no expert and I am willing to be corrected if any of the statements are wrong or misleading but all endeavours have been made to confirm the accuracy of the information. While I accept that most members will already know this information it sometimes pays to be reminded as it is all too simple to overlook some of these issues.

Care for your caravan

So, the restrictions introduced by the Government in their attempt to protect the NHS and the population from the affects of the Coronavirus have meant that our caravans and motorhomes will probably be stood for far longer than "normal". In view of this I make no apologies for repeating the "Techie Stuff" guidance as written in the Winter 2019 Newsletter.

No matter where you store it, there are lots of things you can do to ensure that everything is in good working order when you get it out again.

Much of this relates to draining down water systems, ensuring best possible ventilation around the 'van, and checking the internal and external fabric is set-up for long-term storage.

Where to store?

It's up to you where you choose to store your caravan, but generally the choice boils down to outside your home or at some kind of remote storage compound – a campsite, specialist storage site, local farm or similar.

Caravans are of course designed for use outside, but it's not ideal for them to sit around in one place for long periods. Shelter can be great, but it's not a good idea to be directly under a tree. Leaves, branches, bird droppings... indeed anything that could drop out of the sky is a potential cause of damage to your caravan. There are a few sites that offer undercover storage, but these are rare. Before signing up, visit the site and check out how and where the caravan will be stored.

The plots on some sites can be rather close, limiting the use of your towcar and requiring a good deal of manoeuvring to get in place. This can be reasonable if the surfacing is hard, but if the surface is loose gravel or grass, without a motor mover you may find parking hard work. Also check out the written conditions and facilities – some sites will park up the caravans for you, some may have restricted access times, some may have battery charging and cleaning facilities available. Ask if the site has a vermin-control programme in place – infestation with mice can ruin a caravan and such damage is excluded from the majority of insurance policies.

Taking care of the bodywork

Thorough cleaning of the body provides the opportunity to inspect the bodywork for any kind of damage.



Always use proprietary caravan cleaning agents that are designed to be kind to the various materials used in caravan construction. Beware the use of pressure washers. These are often powerful and can direct spray under trim and damage bodywork and seals. Pay particular attention to removing any signs of green or black mould.

Also, take a personal-safety-first approach to cleaning your caravan. Be careful about stretching and using ladders, especially when it comes to cleaning the roof, which might not appreciate your weight on it!

Of course, there are other external aspects to consider:

- Tyres – these do not like standing around on the same piece of tread for long periods
- Check your car-to-caravan connector
- Consider turning the wheels, say every six to eight weeks and raise the pressure to help alleviate any problems, but don't forget to drop the pressures down when you go on the road. Ideally shield the tyres from sunlight to help prevent degradation of the rubber but avoid using plastic bags that seal the wheel and bearings and may cause condensation in the hub.
- Fit any security devices carefully
- Security – remember to fit hitch locks, wheel clamps and the like, especially if required by your insurer. If nothing else, these act as a visual deterrent.
- On older caravans, exterior light fittings can benefit from the removal of the lens, a quick clean of the seals and lens (inside and out) and the checking of any electrical connections, before replacement.
- Check your 13-pin or 12N and 12S (7-pin) car-to-caravan connectors for any signs of wear or damage.
- A jockey wheel cover gives protection from the elements
- Electrical contacts should be cleaned and wiped over with petroleum jelly or sprayed with a water dispersant such as WD-40 (after checking it will not affect the plastic).
- Ideally, store your caravan with all corner steadies down and the handbrake off, to prevent it sticking. Use wheel chocks if necessary.
- Apply grease to any moving mechanical parts or linkages, such as corner steadies' rotating screws and the spare wheel carrier.

Interior actions

- Spring-loaded blinds are best left in the open position
- Vacuum clean and wash down your caravan's interior throughout. As well as getting everything clean, it's a great way of checking you don't leave anything untoward in a cupboard or seat base. Creating best possible air circulation is the key to keeping your interior damp free.
- Cleaning the kitchen thoroughly should prevent any mould appearing here, although for the fridge it is also essential to leave the door ajar – there is usually a special catch provided for this purpose. Use products designed for caravan use, rather than normal domestic cleaning fluids, as these may cause damage to surfaces and seals in a caravan.
- Cushions are best left standing upright away from the caravan walls after vacuuming. This helps aid air circulation and prevents mildew occurring, especially in units with solid ply bed bases (as opposed to slats). A further measure to keep upholstery in top condition is to cover with a breathable material such as old cotton sheets to keep the dust off. Ideally if you have room, store cushions at home in the warm, which is also a deterrent against caravan theft.
- Move cushions to an upright position in the 'van, or take them out and store somewhere dry and well ventilated, especially in 'vans with solid ply seat bases
- Fixed beds are best left in the open position. Again, this aids air circulation.



- For blinds with any kind of spring mechanism, it's best to leave them open, otherwise the springs are gradually stretched over a period of time and subsequently fail to work efficiently.
- Leaving locker and wardrobe doors open optimises ventilation.
- Make sure all roof lights and windows are fully closed.
- Lightly coat hinges with thin oil or water dispersant such as WD-40 to protect against rust, taking care to avoid contact with door surfaces.



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AND FINALLY:

Here's wishing you all a happy and safe Spring.

We can't enjoy our caravans and motorhomes at the moment - when the time comes for us to get out and about again I'm sure that we'll all better appreciate the freedom and opportunities that we have.

Thank you for your continued support.

Peter Cook

Publicity Officer



POSTSCRIPT:

If anyone has any items that they are wanting to sell, or are looking for help on any club related issue please contact the Newsletter and we'll do our very best to help.