

## Chairman's Chat



I joined the Camping and Caravanning club back in 1991. The reason I joined was that my parents had joined the club some months earlier, and we intended to camp on club sites. I received the club magazine and Out and About, and to be honest, did not pay either much attention. In the spring of 1992, Rapkins had its tent and equipment show, and West Sussex DA were camping in the field behind. After visiting the show, we walked down to the DA lines, where we met Berrice and John Johnson, who duly offered us a cup of tea and generally introduced us to the DA way of life. We went away from Rapkins having decided that this was the sort of camping we wanted to do, and we were keen to camp with West Sussex at the earliest opportunity. The first meet we attended was a THS at Ecclesdon Farm, Angmering. We were greeted with such enthusiasm that we never looked back.

A couple of years later, I joined the committee of West Sussex, helping out where I could, and stayed on the committee until 2002. In my time on the West Sussex committee I have held many positions including the post of Secretary and Treasurer. My first year as WSDA Treasurer was unfortunately for me, the year VAT was introduced. As you can imagine the first year was a little confusing, with green papers and letters flying up and down to head quarters trying to sort out what we could and could not claim, and also what we had to pay VAT on, and at which rate.

In the spring of 2000 (again at Rapkins) I was approached by Steve Denyer and Kevin Cooper and asked if I was interested in taking on the role as Deputy Treasurer for the NFOL 2001. At that time John Johnson had taken over the role as Treasurer of the NFOL due to the sad death of Frank Pratt, and was not fully up to speed with the requirements of VAT and how they impacted on the accounting system. As such John and I worked together as a team producing the accounts / budgets / financial reports etc for the NFOL. Another of the tasks John took over was the Southern Region Treasurer position, where again we worked together producing the accounts.

After the NFOL accounts were completed, John Johnson decided that he would step down as Southern Region Treasurer, and I was asked if I would like to take on the, which I duly did, and held that position until 2005, at which time I took on the role as Vice Chairman. I had expected to have a long apprenticeship especially since we were moving house down to the Southampton area in 2006. Unfortunately this was not to be the case and in 2007 I became Southern Region Chairman.

The Last year has been a challenging year, with plenty to keep me busy. I have found that there is not enough time to do all the camping I would like, and I must apologise for those DA's I have not yet manage to camp with. Hopefully I will camp with you before the end of this year.

Paul Adams

### Newbury Show 2008

The Newbury Show went very well this year, despite a decrease in numbers, but thanks to my team we enrolled 55 new members.

Trev Warren PRO



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### Region Websites

Southern Region

[www.southernregion.org](http://www.southernregion.org)

Isle of Wight DA

[www.iowda.co.uk](http://www.iowda.co.uk)

Loddon DA

[www.loddonda.co.uk](http://www.loddonda.co.uk)

Royal County of Berkshire

[www.rcbda.org](http://www.rcbda.org)

Solent Da

[www.solentda.org.uk](http://www.solentda.org.uk)

Waterside DA

[www.watersideda.co.uk](http://www.watersideda.co.uk)

West Sussex DA

[www.westsussexda.com](http://www.westsussexda.com)

Hampshire DA

[www.hampshireda.co.uk](http://www.hampshireda.co.uk)



### CAMPING IN THE SOUTH DOWNS

The Government started the process creating a South Downs National Park over seven years ago. However, it now really does seem likely that a decision will be reached soon.

The area extends from Eastbourne to Winchester – about 72 miles. It is only about 5 miles wide at its eastern end - from the A27 to the sea, but widens towards the west to about ten miles between Bishops Waltham and Alton although it is possible that it might extend as far as Haslemere following a recent Public Inquiry

There is more information on the DEFRA website at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/issues/landscap/natparks/sdowns/index.htm>

All the other major Camping and Caravanning Clubs (including ours) have agreed to give advance notice about all of our camping events within a National Park including proposed National Parks. A Club Green Paper requires Sites Secretaries to notify the local National Parks Sites Officer of their proposed events in the National Park by 1st May in the year preceding the event.

The proposal to create a South Downs National Park should not to be taken as a signal to cease camping in the Downs Area. One of the criteria for creating a National Park is that there are significant opportunities for recreation there. A National Park is not just about conserving and enhancing natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage, but also about the promotion of the understanding and enjoyment of the area. National Park Authorities also have a duty to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of their local communities. Almost all of the South Downs area is within designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) with strong emphasis on conservation but lacking the second purpose of enjoyment. So in theory at least, we in the Club will be in a stronger position to enjoy our chosen recreation in a National Park than within the old AONBs. And don't forget the "fostering the economic and social well-being" bit. Club HQ reckons that we spend nearly £30 per unit/night when we are out and about and many rural shows or village festivities would fail without our support.

So I look forward to hearing about lots of events in the South Downs for 2009, 2010 and beyond.

Enjoy!

Peter

### Southern Region Bridge Group



### Treasurer, Chairman, Vice Chairman



## FICC 2009 Trinity Park, Ipswich, Suffolk 31st July 2009 to 9th August 2009

The organising committee would like to involve all regions and sections of the club in this event, and to that end we are inviting each region/section to provide 3 couples to act as Chief Steward and assistants for an area at the rally.

The ability to speak a second language would be advantageous. We would require the stewards and their assistants to arrive on the Wednesday prior to the event.

We are also looking for any members with plumbing skills who would be prepared to join Ken Fox and Tony Powell's "Plumbing Team" on the working party.

For further information please contact [secretary@southernregion.org.uk](mailto:secretary@southernregion.org.uk)

### Southern Region Summer Meet

This year's summer meet was run by the Royal County of Berkshire District Association. The theme was Circus Royale and as such the marquee was decorated as a big top complete with circus ring. On the Thursday night background music was provided for us all to enjoy. On the Friday evening the opening ceremony was held followed by a circus Cannon act which was ran by RCBDA members. The act lasted approximately 30 minutes and was hilarious. The sight of Mel Plumpton (Vice Chairman) dressed in lycra will stay with me for years. After the Cannon act there was music, which we all enjoyed.

On the Saturday we had horseshoes, Boules and volleyball competitions. In the afternoon we had an "It's a Knockout" competition which was competitively fought over. The Youth ran a Cream Tea stall with profits going to the youth funds. In the evening the entertainment was by a band called the Monty who played a very good selection of music and really get the audience dancing. The evening dancing was intervened with fancy dress competition with some very good entrants.

Sunday morning saw all the DA Committee members and Region council members meeting to discuss DA / Region matters. This meeting was very well attended and aid's communication within the DA,s. After the get together the finals of the Boules, Volleyball and horseshoe where very closely fought over.



To finish the event we held the closing ceremony where we had the pennon parade.

All those that stayed behind in the Sunday to help clear the site were entertained on Sunday evening by an adult theme clown, who although did not say a word, his face and expressions was absolutely hilarious.

This years Summer Meet is going to be a very hard act to follow. But Solent DA has volunteered to take up the challenge.

Southern Region THS Purbrook Park School  
1st—29th August



The SR PRO (Trev Warren) organised a new Summer THS at Purbrook Park School. It was well attended throughout the month, with in excess of 225 camping nights. I spoke to quite a few fellow campers, some of whom were local and others that had travelled 100's of miles, some stayed for a week or more, others stayed for one night on an overnight stop to, or back from France. But many said the same thing " We will be back next year", "it's a great site", " I will tell others what a great site it is". The only downside was the weather....but hey what do you expect in August !!!! We even had music and bingo too...

Well done to Trev and all his more than helpful assistants...

Paul Elliott

Closing date for next edition entry 31st November 2008

