

March 84

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

I dare say most of you wondered what happened to your Leader's comments last month, so I will make a quick explanation. A news letter was written and dutifully delivered to be typed, but nobody told me one had already gone out and was typed some 12 hours before. Sorry about that, chaps.

It's come to my notice that we are slowly drawing some more members into the Club and some of the vehicles are most unusual. For example, chatting with one member the other day, he comes out and asks if I had a spare V8 engine. Naturally, I asked what Rover he owned, and he said "Nothing really, just a Formula 5000 Racing car!!! He has now joined and promised to bring the car to any exhibitions we may attend. I also notice that we have some rather nice vehicles coming along. So hopefully when you read the list of events at the end of this, you can bear this in mind and come along and support us. All help is welcomed. Anyway, enough of this - let us proceed.

YEAR BOOK. This is slowly coming together and we shall be typing this very soon. What we do need still is articles, tips, photos etc. As an example there is something on engine tuning, aerodynamics, Rover history, recommendations etc. So thinking caps on chaps, please and let's have those ideas in. Who knows, you could be famous.

NATIONAL RALLY 22nd July 1984.

This year as promised will be a weekend event, and the site is Priors Hill, Petersfield. It is a bit awkward to find but well worth the effort. We have a large field available to us and excellent facilities. Camping on Saturday night and what's more the site is next door to this lovely old pub. Only thing is, there is a wire fence between us and the pub. Because camping is available this means that those who wish to come long distances can do it in two easy stages. So if our West Country members are reading this, I hope you can make it.

Sunday will be Driving Tests and Condition Awards, and also a section for those who wish to go Green Roothing. I hope you can make it.

MONEY GRABBERS REPORT.

Sad news. Some of our members who used to come to our first pub, The Wellington Arms will be sorry to hear the landlord Colin Harris was found dead about a month ago, and our sympathy goes to his widow.

In our last News letter we were going to have a stand at the NEC. Well, when we got the costs - boy oh boy - nearly £200 and that was without any expenses to people attending, so as the Club is not that well heeled, it could not be justified. So Andy has written and we have pulled out. Maybe next year. At the time of writing we have 34 members and about £90 in the bank (so far we have not paid any printing costs). We are in the process of having leaflets printed. Six each will be put in the News letter for you to stick under local Rover car wipers (idea from Mike Burkitt).

The photo session did not take place for two reasons : one, not enough cars, and two, the video of the Landrovers green roading was wiped off.

COMING EVENTS. Newbury Motor Pageant - Sunday 13 May (details from me)
Auto Sunday Easthampstead - Sunday 1st July (details from Andy).

Navigational scatter in May, one Sunday - details later.

Next meetings : Wed. 11th April Sunday, 22nd April.

A.R.C. National Rally

As I write we are not yet members of the Association of Rover Clubs but read the rest of this newsletter carefully. If anyone is looking for something to do over the Spring Bank Holiday (May 26 - 28) I can recommend the ARC National. Although Land Rover orientated there is usually a fair saloon showing. Applications for tent/caravan plots and entries have to be in by May so if you submit them to me by Easter I can send them all in together and get adjacent plots. I know some members are going through their membership of other ARC clubs but we can still submit them together and get an HBRO section. If you bring your entries with money to the Hinds Head in April I won't be there, but Ian Stewart will collect them and pass them on. If anyone wants to know any more about it, phone me on Hackwood 6227.

Being well into the 2nd page, I'd better stop now as I had not intended to take over this newsletter, especially as it is mainly repeats.

FUTURE EVENTS

- 1st April. Green Roding. Meet in Basingstoke at 09.30, opposite Viabes Craft Centre (see January newsletter for directions).
- 21st and 22nd April (Easter) AWDC/ARC Bovington 150. See above.
- 29th April. The Ridgeway. See above, if you are bringing a friend please make sure he has read it. Meet in Newbury at 09.00 in the Wharf car park (by the museum). The plan is to join the Ridgeway at Overton Hill (GR 119681) on the A4, at 10.00 finishing at Streatley in the evening.
- 26th to 28th May. ARC National Rally, Leighton Buzzard. See above
- 3rd June So far, Mike Scott has offered to show us more of the Basingstoke area. If you want to go other than the Basingstoke area, it is up to you to lead us round. Get in touch and we will sort something out.

RED LEADER.

As I have been asked nicely by my husband, your Money Grabber to type the newsletters I have taken the liberty of getting a Treasure Hunt from a member of a Cricket Club, which I will pass on to the committee. So, more details of this in the next newsletter. Regards

Kathy Vyse.

Early this month found us down at Petersfield for an interesting day in the south of the county. Simon had a good day laid on for us, and we had a number of new faces to enjoy it. We were a bit delayed by a snapped Range Rover drag link, the real delay being waiting for the farm manager to return from church to allow us to use his welder, but more than made up for it in the afternoon.

We seem to be attracting more and more people to our trips and I feel that leaders should be thinking of splitting us into smaller groups to avoid adverse attention. This will be made easier if people bring maps.

The Ridgeway

I covered the Ridgeway in a recent newsletter, but make no apology for doing so again. The Friends of the Ridgeway are a group with the admirable aim of preserving the character of the Ridgeway. Unfortunately one of their aims is to get a ban on the use of vehicles for recreation. Whilst there is probably a hooligan element on both two and four wheels there should be no reason why responsible off roaders and other users cannot co-exist. To this end a code of voluntary restraint has been drawn up, but as far as the HBRO is concerned this code should be considered compulsory.

CODE OF VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT

AVOID USING THE RIDGEWAY ON SUNDAYS AND BANK HOLIDAYS FROM 1st MAY to 31st OCTOBER INCLUSIVE.

AT ALL OTHER TIMES

- Keep vehicles well tuned and quiet
- Keep at reasonable speeds (25mph max)
- Ride or drive in small groups (no more than 4)
- Slow right down for people on foot, horseback or on bicycles

I know that some members feel that, in view of all this, the best course is to avoid using the Ridgeway altogether. I disagree as I feel to do so would be to admit defeat and open the way for a ban. To prevent this we must show that the Ridgeway is used sensibly. Of course strict observance of the code of restraint is essential. It is important to realise what is at stake here. Loss of use of the Ridgeway would be unfortunate, but it would almost certainly be followed by similar action on other historic roads, then less historic roads until it will be illegal to take a vehicle off metaled roads.

To lighter things. It was nice to see several off roaders taking part in the recent treasure hunt, I'm sure our comparatively low position in the results was due to our drivers' refusal to use the shortest route and stick to the roads

One member who has been doing other Land Rover things is Hugh Glossop. Last year he took part in the All Wheel Drive Club's competitive safaris with John Griffith, ending the season in a respectable 20th place. Unfortunately John has had to pull out this year but Hugh is continuing this season and has invited me to co-drive for some events (the fool). We had best draw a veil over my first event at Slab Common, those who went to the Hind's Head will have seen the piston. His next event should be Bovington at Easter, with Alan Tew co-driving. If anyone is at a loss for something to do I can recommend it, there will be a trial on Saturday and the comp. safari (starting at midnight) on Sunday. If you're there, or at any other safari, look out for blue Land Rover no.20.

Some of the other Rover clubs have been sending us their newsletters, if you wish to read them contact Andy.