



SOUTHERN NEWS

ISSUE 11 – FEBRUARY 2025



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Club



ASEMC
ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH EASTERN MOTOR CLUBS



Well, lets get it out in the open immediately. It's been another slow starting year. Once again as a club we find ourselves encountering difficulties with landowners, district councils and of course the big W that we can simply not avoid. WEATHER!!

Needless to say. The committee are doing their best to work with the "tools" they/we have. But. And it's a big BUT!! To enable a robust solution going forward, we NEED as many of you to come along to the AGM on March 20th to help find solutions and bring new, fresh and valued ideas to the table. More on the AGM in the next page.

By now the National Rally entries are well and truly open. And I am in no doubt that Southern will be well represented across the event disciplines. The ALRC are using their social media and new website platforms more effectively than previously, so no excuses for not entering a?!

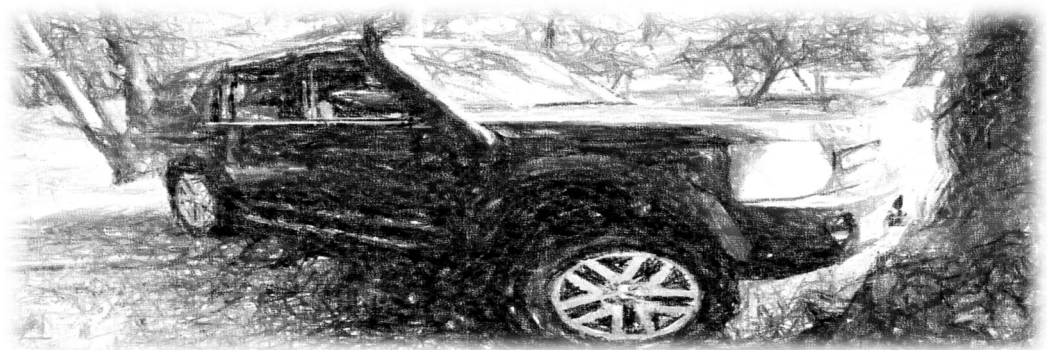
Our new www.sroc.co.uk website is "COMING SOON"! I have to say it looks very good and will no doubt benefit us all as a club!

Personally, I have just had the Disco re MOT'd with just 1 advisory for some worn from suspension bushes. Don't worry, "I have a man for that!" But I did have to repair the advisory from last years MOT the day before test. Ooops, naughty boy. Still, its not like the fuel tank actually fell out a.

I am chomping at the bit to get back out in the woods with Bev and the boys, to catch up with many of you. Hopefully, fingers crossed it'll be not much longer a.

Onwards to the AGM then. See you there?!

John Jennings



COMMITTEE NEWS

CHAIRMANS CHAT

The last 2 committee meetings have mainly been taken up with AGM business, planning problems and the new website development.

There are several roles on the committee now we are lacking in volunteers to take up the baton. This now extends to the Chairman role, which is time limited to 3 years. To ease this situation, we are planning to have a short EGM before the AGM to relax this rule, hopefully just temporarily.

For the 2nd year now, we have the unfortunate situation with the ground being too wet for any of our Landowners being able to welcome us for the winter months. There are also council planning permission issues and neighbour complaints at some sites. The complaints are where the sites are used by other clubs and others uses rather than any issues we cause.

There have been suggestions of using sites that a further afield, but it is unknown how far members are willing to travel for events. This will be an AGM discussion point. There is also the issue of getting the equipment trailer to and from events. Currently we struggle getting volunteers to move it between the sites we currently use, let alone further afield. We plan on showing a breakdown of costs and fees for each trial and asking how much we are willing to pay for land and therefore how much event entry should be.

The new website is shaping up quickly. Hopefully we may be able to demonstrate it at the AGM. Each member will have their own login and will be able to save vehicle details and next of kin details, which can then be used to quickly enter events online, which can be done from the calendar. Adding photos and other news updates is much simplified as well, so it should be more dynamic and easier to keep updated.

Mark Baitup



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Home SROC ▾ Chairman's News SROC Events ▾ Latest Photos 2024 2-Day CCV Team Trial ▾ Club Shop

IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR SOUTHERN ROVER OWNERS CLUB MEMBERSHIP FOR 2025.

Head over to www.sroc.co.uk/about-the-club/joining-sroc/ and follow the easy steps to **JOIN** or **RENEW**.

Our membership year runs from 1st January to 31st December in any given calendar year.

There are three main types of membership:

FULL. - This is the normal type of membership and entitles you to attend and enter events (driving or as a passenger), stay on camping weekends and vote at the AGM. The Full member is responsible for their associated Family or Junior members.

Cost £25 (Aged over 17)

FAMILY. - Is for relations of a Full member living at the same address. They have all the same entitlements as the associated Full member.

Cost £14

JUNIOR. - This is for the younger relations of a Full member aged between 8 and 16 years inclusive. They can enter in the Junior Trials Vehicle (JTV) events and subject to the rules in place, from 13 years old they may drive in Tyro Trials, from 14 they can passenger in RTV & CCV events and from 15 they can drive in RTV & CCV events after completing the pre-requisite qualification events.

Cost £5 (Aged 8 to 16)

Whaddon 29th December 2024

GRAHAM BRIDGLAND

Ed Barnes' sections were described by someone as 'Compact and Bijou'. Well, compact they were, with most sections being concentrated in small areas, not necessarily short but with gates easily visible for the benefit of the marshals. 'Bijou', meaning attractive and pretty they were not. The only thing pretty about them was that they were all pretty well knee deep in mud or water.

With an entry of 27 running in two groups it was pleasing to see that both groups exhibited similar scores meaning that the sections held up throughout the day and both groups whether first or second on section both faced similar challenges. In hindsight, perhaps the gates could have been set a fraction wider to allow for the slippery conditions. Sliding sideways into a cane is annoying at the best of times. The three CCV drivers from Southern, Mick Chick, Peter and Joe Parris were all in the second group and I was fortunate enough to marshal with them all day.



It would appear that AROC have the same problem as most other clubs. Before the start they only had 3 marshals, and with three classes all running on the same day, CCV, RTV and Tyro, the clerks had to go around and almost bully people in to assisting. One young lady was tasked with signing on all the 46 competitors in attendance on her own. As a result of all of this the trial was late starting and we were hard pushed to complete it in daylight.

Our group started on section 4, a narrow track with a slope into a ditch on the left at 10 caught a few but for Alan Roberts this first section proved to be a major setback scoring an 8 with an uncharacteristic stall. Team Southern all got off to a positive start with a 2.

5 Was a minor ditch with multiple crossings that concentrated the mind. Easy to watch and marshal from one viewing area whilst waiting for the vehicles to loop out before returning for the next gate which was often situated alongside the previous one.

6 Another example of a single ditch being utilised to the full. This twice included pairs of offset gates that required a tight turn upon entering and another upon leaving. The first caught out a lot of the runners. Pete being amongst them, but both Mick and Joe ventured on to where the highlight, as far as spectators were concerned, featured a deep waterfilled ditch between the 2 and the 1 that required a very gentle approach with a turn in the bottom. Mick was second away on this section and did everything right, very tentatively dropping into the ditch but just couldn't climb out. Joe, running two places behind, tried a similar route but also to no avail.

PTO...

Section 7 exhibited another water filled pit smack in the middle of a gate. There was just about room to attack it from either side, but this meant running extremely close to the canes and the danger of a cross axle by running around the edge of the hole. Joe, who was second off the line this time, ended his run here as did the two drivers who followed him. It then took the current National champion, Allan Roberts to show us all that it could be driven to fruition by going straight through the middle!



8 Was in the very wet area used for the 2019 National team recovery event. Unusually, this section started with a downhill mud run. There wasn't a definitive line so the favored route was very much a 'trial by error', and both Pete and Mick got bogged down on leaving the start line. It was here that we had an indication that Mick had dispatched yet another gearbox and his day had come to an untimely end. The results showed that the second group didn't fare any better on this section with quite a few drivers also posting an 11. Joe, however showed some excellence in being one of only four drivers all day to safely progress to the end of this one. That was our last before a short lunch break due to the light already fading and we still had the remaining three section to do, all of which had been run already by the other group and now exhibited a lot of slippery surfaces. (See my observation of earlier)



PTO...

1 Once again a compact section, so much so that the 7 gates impeded the optimum route from 9 to 8 and collected a large proportion of the field. The Parris pairing also both failing to negotiate this impasse.

2 A quick walk of the section revealed a lack of tyre tracks on the latter part of the section implying that the problem area was to be found early on. Sure enough, a tricky gate atop of the first hill saw exactly half of the field, including our two remaining runners, failing to negotiate another tight turn from 10 to 9. That man Roberts being the only driver all day to get within a cane of the finish.



3 Our last and both Pete and then Joe found form once again with a creditable 2. When the scores were tallied the trophy went up the road to Norfolk with the remaining silverware staying local.



Shaun Lillywhite was our sole representative in the RTV category and successfully piloted his Range Rover to a worthy first in class. His only high score coming on section 7 where the canes were set unfavourably for anyone piloting a 'Long Wheelbase' with an almost impossible turn early on at the 11 gates. However, during the rest of the day's activities the 'Sport' impressed the audience with its agility in the hands of Shaun.

Graham Bridgland

Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 7 PM

SROC AGM March 2025

Tonbridge

LOCATION: **Rose and Crown Hotel**
 125 High Street
 Tonbridge
 Kent
 TN9 1DD

TIME: **8:15PM**

Prior to the AGM will be an **EGM @ 7:45PM.**

Please do all you can to attend and support your club. Parking is offsite, the closest public car park is the "Upper field car park" Post code for the car park is TN9 1HW.

Previous "Southern News" issues available from the members area of www.sroc.co.uk



Unless I'm very much mistaken.... I am very much mistaken!!
Murry Walker