



# SOUTHERN NEWS

ISSUE 11 – MARCH 2025



Recognised  
Club



**ASEMC**  
ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH EASTERN MOTOR CLUBS



Let's start on a positive! As I type, the sun is out and we are in the double figures for temperature. Yes, summer is coming and fingers crossed we can finally get out and start playing in the mud!

What has been happening since the last newsletter then? Well..... We had the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual SROC AGM, some SROC CCV drivers went out and played with our off-roading cousins over at Southern Counties and the ALRC AGM happened. There was of course the March committee meeting which was mainly focused on the AGM set for just 3 evenings later. More on that further into this publication.

We are very close now to our first planned event! The Easter trials weekend at Earle Farm near Wadhurst is booked and site opens Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April and the last events will run Monday 21<sup>st</sup>. Camping is available for the event also! Online entries are currently open and are due to close on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April.

## EASTER @ EARLYE FARM

Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> April –	RTV – Clerk(s) Freya & Keith Luxford
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> April -	CCV – Clerk(s) TBC
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> April -	TYRO – Clerks(s) TBC

If you can help Officiate and/or Marshal any of the events over the weekend, please make contact with a committee member.

Onwards to Easter it is then. See you at Earlye!

John Jennings





## 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/](http://www.sroc.co.uk/about-the-club/joining-sroc/) and follow the easy steps to **JOIN** or **RENEW**.

Our membership year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> 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)**

# COMMITTEE NEWS

## CHAIRMAN'S CHIT CHAT CORNER

We have a NEW chairman. Though he is yet to do anything Chairmanish. As many of you will know, Mark Baitup had reached the end of his 3-year tenure so a new candidate was needed. Mark remains on the committee as Club Secretary and will no doubt be out trialling his V8 90 in 2025, so still very much in the mix with the club. Thanks, Mark, for all your efforts over the past 3 years!

The week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> March was certainly a busy one. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> committee meeting of 2025 on the Monday, followed on the Thursday by the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting. As a result, we come away slightly re-giggled with some faces missing but with no "New" faces. A list of names and positions is published today the end of this issue.

Aside from the usual AGM procedural topics and voting, the main point of discussion was around the heading of :- Land Fee's :- Event entry Fee's :- Membership Fee's. Yes, it's all to do with Money, but please bear in mind that everything discussed was to ensure the future stability of the club and to obtain new, additional and varying land for trials and events year-round. Indeed, it's the latter that falls true in past years in terms of "Winter" or "All Weather" sites. We "The Committee" will continue to operate with the members interests in mind, and I am sure the topic will continue to be a main point of discussion for meetings going forward.

Our all-new club website is progressing well behind the scenes, Dave Canham provided a brief demonstration at the AGM which provoked some insightful questions and feedback. By the next Southern News, the site should be up and live! Although from the outside it will look very similar!

Membership levels are a tad low, likely to be down to the lack of events leading up to the AGM. Hopefully the promise of the first event coming up soon will fill in the blanks. Jump back a page for information on how to Join or Renew 😊

That's it for now. See you in the scenery.

John Jennings

# **THE AGM**

## **– Can you ever retire?!!**

The AGM has just taken place at the Rose and Crown in Tonbridge. A very good meeting with a presentation and much discussion about the events and fees, plus a viewing of the new website with an explanation of why the Club is having to do this. These were presented by Dave Canham using a laptop and projector. Dave had worked out the costs for each entry against the expenses for the event based on the average entry figures over last year. We had an average of 9 entrants over the Tyro, RTV and CCV, and with the entry fee income compared to the expenses it showed the loss that occurs if nothing is changed. The clever bit was that figures could be altered which automatically updated the results. Basically, we need either more drivers to enter or an increase in fees. An increase in fees carries a risk of losing a few entries, which with such a finely balanced budget makes it even worse. The other part of the equation, more drivers, is something the Club cannot directly control. A lot to debate for the new committee who would welcome any views on the subject from anyone not there.

Mentioning the new committee a number of changes took place in the committee roles with Freya and Keith Luxford officially taking over the membership from Joy, who has done this, and the Club Shop before it, for 24 years! Also, John Jennings is now our new Chairman, taking over from Mark who carries on as Club Secretary, Other Committee members have multiple roles; Jean covers 4 jobs for example, Dave Canham also has more than one and would like to find a new candidate for the Scrutineer role. Also, the Logistics job is still vacant, along with the Awards role. The Awards one is because I have now stepped down from Committee along with Joy, because of us moving away to Newport Pagnell. Yes how thoughtless of us!!

But having come onto Committee in 1978 as a temporary Events Secretary Assistant, I found myself becoming Events Secretary when Dick Truscott stepped down. I think he was moving from Bexley up to Hertfordshire with his job.

In those days the role covered every aspect from calendar planning, landowner contacts and permissions, permit application, rally officer and all the on the day paperwork admin and awards. No wonder we divided the job up in later years!! After events I took on Membership, a card index box system until computers made things easier. Having met Joy at club events we took over the Club Shop and I was then doing the Awards and Non-Competitive events roles, the Club routinely putting on Club stands at transport shows, LRO type shows and so on. Interest in attending these dwindled over the years until I took to just listing them in the magazine for information. The awards job continued but this has changed over time, most drivers now just having engraved plates to fit onto a wooden plaque that can be bought from the Club shop. There are "at event" awards to be kept track of, and the engraving of these and the AGM ones is done by a local shop. The AGM trophies are normally gathered in at the January or February events but lately these have not happened due to the weather leading to other arrangements being needed. There are a number of awards not currently in use, often due to the vehicle types moving on, or us not currently running the event type.

**PTO...**

**The Perseverance Cup for the most entries in a standard Series 2 or 3 being an example, or Team Recovery and Comp Safari awards another.**

**The Club really needs volunteers to step up to the vacant roles. Any questions on the Awards job I will be happy to answer, just give me a ring on 07711 491544.**

**At our last AGM as committee members, a real and wonderful surprise was to be given a super hamper by the Club as a retirement gift. This was much appreciated by both of us, and we could hardly wait to take a peek inside!!**

**The drive home was made more interesting by the M25 being closed from J25 to J 23 (we should come off at J21!) resulting in a detour through a number of villages and country roads courtesy of the Sat Nav.**

**Eventually we got to the M1 and home a bit after 1am!! What was in the hamper? Lots of very interesting, yummy things, that's what!!**

**So, thanks to all our Southern Friends, we will be down when we can to events but will hopefully see a lot of you at the National.**

**Remember – your Club Needs You!!**

**Phil (& Joy)**



**2024 Trophy Winners – Presented at the 2025 AGM**

<b>DAVE ETHERIDGE AWARD WINNERS CUP</b>	<b>Elim Lillywhite</b>
<b>PAULA ESMOND TROPHY</b>	<b>Keith Luxford</b>
<b>PRESIDENTS SHIELD</b>	<b>Alan Taylor</b>
<b>DUNSFOLD CUP</b>	<b>Steve Newland</b>
<b>CHAIRMAN'S CUP</b>	<b>Simon Barden</b>
<b>MIKE &amp; JUDITH HIBBINS TEAM TRIAL CUPS</b>	<b>Freya Luxford Keith Luxford</b>
<b>WEALDEN RTV CUPS</b>	<b>Debby Darby Jon Darby</b>
<b>NORTH DOWNS CUP</b>	<b>Terry Buss Harry Powell (joint)</b>
<b>WOODLAND CHALLENGE CUP</b>	<b>Alan Taylor</b>
<b>CHRISTMAS CUP</b>	<b>Mick Chick</b>
<b>FAWKHAM FORGE PLATE</b>	<b>Simon O'Leary</b>
<b>SOUTH DOWNS TROPHY</b>	<b>Alan Taylor</b>
<b>PAT &amp; PETER NEW TROPHY</b>	<b>Harry Powell</b>
<b>BRIGHTLING MOTOR'S SHIELD</b>	<b>Freya Luxford</b>
<b>RON ATKIN'S TROPHY</b>	<b>Mick Chick</b>



**Pictures above (Left to right)**

**Alan Taylor receives 1 of 3 of his awards – Mick Chick receives the coveted "Ron Atkins" trophy – Keith Luxford receives another for his cabinet**

**2024 League Winners – Presented at the 2025 AGM**

<b>RTV GROUP TWO (SWB)</b>	
<b>1st</b>	<b>Mark Baitup</b>
<b>2nd</b>	<b>Charles Darby</b>
<b>3rd</b>	<b>Kevin Filmer</b>
<b>RTV GROUP FIVE (LWB)</b>	
<b>1st</b>	<b>Alan Taylor</b>
<b>2nd</b>	<b>Dave Green (Ashford)</b>
<b>3rd</b>	<b>Tom Constable</b>
<b>CV GROUP FOUR (80")</b>	
<b>1st</b>	<b>Harry Powell</b>
<b>2nd</b>	<b>Terry Buss</b>
<b>3rd</b>	<b>Shaun Stocking</b>
<b>CCV GROUP FIVE (86 + 88")</b>	
<b>1st</b>	<b>Simon Barden</b>



**Pictures above (Left to right)**

**Mark Baitup receives 1<sup>st</sup> in RTV Group 2 – Tom Constable receives 3<sup>rd</sup> in RTV Group 5**



Photos from Ian R Davies



## SROC Members @ Butchers Wood

A few of our CCV drivers took a run out to a SCOR (Southern Counties) open trial @ Butchers Wood near Uckfield on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March. Their approach to trials is quite different to ours in that they allow any make/model of 4wd to compete all together. They run 10 gate sections with "Mermaid" gates for those with axle diff locks.

I took the family down for a few hours with the assistance of a McDonalds lunch bribe and freshly charged batteries for the boys RC Crawlers.



Knowing that Pete Parris was entered, we also found Richard and James Cheeseman as well as Dan Lillywhite driving the event. It was good to see them out playing, especially Richard and James in a freshly acquired TDI QT from another SROC members stable.



Another SROC member in attendance was Paul Barton who, in an official capacity was onsite to try and secure the site for our own interests for future events. Though we managed to miss Paul, it was great to see SROC members out in force!

The Jennings FAMILY (John, Bev, Jack and Joshua)

# THE 2025 SROC COMMITTEE

Elected 20<sup>th</sup> March

<b>Chairman</b>	-	<b>John Jennings</b>
<b>Magazine Editor &amp; Social Media</b>	-	
<b>Club Secretary</b>	-	<b>Mark Baitup</b>
<b>Vice Chairperson, Treasurer &amp; Company Secretary</b>	-	<b>Jean Gower</b>
<b>Event Planning</b>	-	<b>Paul Barton</b>
<b>Minutes Secretary</b>	-	<b>Ian Davis</b>
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	-	<b>Freya &amp; Keith Luxford</b>
<b>2-Day Event Director</b>	-	<b>Dawn Davis</b>
<b>ALRC Representative, League Co-Ordinator &amp; Club Scrutineer</b>	-	<b>Dave Canham</b>
<b>Webmaster &amp; Rally Officer</b>	-	<b>Thomas Constable</b>
<b>Safeguarding officer</b>	-	<b>Sharon Baitup</b>
<b>Event Staffing</b>	-	<b>Jake Farrington</b>
<b>No Portfolio</b>	-	<b>Rod Catt</b>
<b>Event Secretary</b>	-	<b>VACANT</b>
<b>Non-Competitive events Co-Ordinator</b>	-	<b>VACANT</b>
<b>Logistics</b>	-	<b>VACANT</b>
<b>Trophies and Awards Co-Ordinator</b>	-	<b>VACANT</b>
<b>Club Shop</b>	-	<b>VACANT</b>

# NEXT SROC EVENTS

Apr 18 at 12 PM – Apr 21 at 4 PM

## Wadhurst Easter Trials Weekend April 2025

May 2 at 8 AM – May 5 at 4 PM

## "Provisional" May Bank Holiday Events Weekend "NEW SITE"?

Sunday, June 29, 2025 at 8 AM – 4 PM

## "Provisional" Bines Farm Tyro Trial

Previous "Southern News" issues available from the members area of

# [www.sroc.co.uk](http://www.sroc.co.uk)



**"Nobody is born with a steering wheel or a gear shifter in their hand. Its something you choose to do or you don't"**

**Mario Andretti**