Southern Rover Owners Club Newsletter

Late Summer 2026 • Edition 1

Welcome!

Hello everyone, and welcome to the Southern Rover Owners Club newsletter. This is designed as an additional resource for members between the more beautifully produced Club News publications.

Club News from the AGM

The AGM was well attended and resulted in a significant change in the Club Committee. At the meeting, four of the existing committee members expressed their intention not to stand for re-election – Mark Baitup (club secretary), Sharon Baitup (club safeguarding officer), Dave Canham (loads of jobs, including ALRC Rep, Leagues and PRoW) and Dawn Davies (2 day trial event director). During the year, Phil and Joy Newland had also left the Committee as they have moved away from the area. Phil's 'bird boxes' for the trophies will for ever remind us of his dedication to the task of trophy management that he had undertaken for many years. That left a few gaps to fill! Your Club Committee, as voted at that meeting are:

John Jennings – Chairman
Rod Catt – Vice Chairman
Jean Gower – Treasurer
Keith Luxford – Membership Secretary
Dave Powell – Logistics
Jake Farrington – Event Staffing
Tom Constable – Web Master
Paul Barton – Event Planning

At the meeting, Jon Darby was co-opted to fill the Club Safeguarding Officer role, which is a MSUK mandatory requirement and Freya Luxford agreed to remain on the Committee.

Following the meeting, the new committee co-opted Charles and Debby Darby to undertake MSUK and ALRC Rep and the Club Secretary/League Co-ordinator roles.

Paul Barton has since left the committee.

The new committee is grateful to the outgoing members for all their work over many years – their combined service runs to a very large number.

Club News

Club News is posted on the website which has a specific news tab so it's worth keeping an eye on that for updates as we go through the year.

Sad News

It is with sadness that we report the recent death of two of our club members.

Bill Gingell, the landowner at Earlye Farm. One of the things that made trialling at Earlye Farm such a joy was meeting Bill and his family who always took such an active interest in our events.

The Club will continue to visit Earlye Farm for events and our thanks go to Celia Gingell for allowing us the privilege of using the land.

Katy Morris. Some of our members will remember Katy Morris and Paul Fillery, who trialled with Southern a number of years ago. Katy has recently passed away, having been ill for some while.

Event News

This year's events have been a real mixed bag. We have had some absolute crackers and some cancellations due to a lack of volunteers to officiate and a lack of competitors. We need to address this if we want the club to thrive – more on that in a moment.

The 2 Day CCV Team Trial was held over the first full weekend of August at Deudneys Farm and although the entry numbers were significantly down on previous years, the event ran smoothly and we had a great time. Particular thanks go to Terry Buss and Dave Green who spent a very long time over a number of weeks planning the devious sections that appeared out of the ground. They were varied and challenging. Thanks also go to Tom Constable wo acted as Event Director and held everything together over the weekend. The event was won by Connor Bruce (P&D) and Richard Rowley (MROC) who scored 16 points between them over a total of 36 sections! The highest placed all Southern team was Martin Leonard and Ben Green. The full results are available on the Results tab of the club website as well as on facebook.

Planning for 2027

To increase participation in 2027, the Committee would like to plan 2027 in consultation with members. We would like to know what the membership would like to see on the calendar.

Several ideas have been floated, including:

- A year with no leagues to reduce the pressure some drivers feel and attempt to create a relaxed atmosphere. The tyro currently has no league and has been the best attended discipline this year – perhaps that is significant.
- Events with a new twist. Along the lines of the Day-into-Night event, are there ideas for slightly different formats which could be tested out. Non-walking sections, passenger only walking sections, team events, mixed CCV/RTV events, later starts to allow self-setting.
- What events should be put on, Tyro, RTV, CCV, Timed Trials, Junior Trials, Gymkhanas, Green Laning – your ideas are needed.
- Socials – pub meets, camping only weekends, social meet ups at Castles etc.

As our first attempt to gather feedback, we have booked a room at **The Plough at Leigh** on **Tuesday 6th October 2026**. Meet at **7pm** but no problem with joining when you can get there. It's difficult to ascertain the 'middle' of the Club area but we are very much hoping that this will be manageable for as many members as possible. We have hired a room where we can chat and socialise at the same time as have a meeting to share ideas for next year to help form a calendar that members, both competitive and non-competitive will look forward to. We will be able to sit around tables and order food to the room if you wish or simply have a drink and chat. It is not the intention to have a meal and then a meeting, but simply to eat if you want to during the chat/meeting.

The pub website is www.theploughatleigh.com and you can see their full menu there. The address:

The Plough, Leigh Road, Hildenborough, Kent TN11 9AJ

Please come along if you can and share your ideas about how we can plan a calendar that you would like to see.

So that the pub can plan their staffing levels, it would be helpful if you could email Debby at clubsec@sroc.co.uk to let us know that you are planning to come along, and also, whether you are planning to eat. There is no commitment, it's just to help the pub to have sufficient staff to help make our event successful.

Motorsport UK

There are a number of Regulation changes out for consultation, including regulations affecting Cross Country Junior Trials events and Cross Country Junior Safaris. These can all be viewed online at Proposed Changes - Motorsport UK - The beating heart of UK motorsport. You can also sign up to receive publications directly to your email address. These include their magazine (Revolution), regulation changes, news, updates and

events. Choose which elements you would like to receive when you sign up via their website Keep In Touch - Motorsport UK

See You Out There

Thanks for reading. Drive safely, wave at fellow Land Rover owners, and don't forget to send us your news for the next issue or this, or of the magazine.

Cheers,
Southern Rover Owners Club