

HANTS AND BERKS LAND ROVER OWNERS'

NEWSLETTER

February 2008



This issue:

- **In The Bog' with new Chairman**
- **Green Laning Highlights**



Cover: Kevin Wood at Trotsford RTV



Your Officers and Committee Members - 2007/8

Some new, some old (I mean in the Committee sense!). Give them all your support; let them know what's done well, what you enjoyed, any new ideas. Write to the Newsletter Editor and get any Land Rover thoughts printed and off your chest. Most importantly, get along to the events, get involved and get more out of HBLRO by putting a little in.



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Nick Woodage, Club Shop

Articles in this magazine are published in good faith; opinions may be of the writer or Editor, and not necessarily representative of the club or Committee.

Hi All

Due to the loss of a computer file I do not have an up to date list of Approved Recovery Marshalls, would any member that has attended a course and is not on the list please contact me at the following e-mail address roy.friend@hbro.co.uk or on 07836 210921, so that I can get the list right up to date.

Thanks

Roy Friend

Safety Officer

Hants and Berks Land Rover Owners

Date: January 2008

Document Title: HBLRO Approved Recovery Marshals

Author: Roy Friend

Next Review Date: January 2009

Those marshals' names that appear in **bold** have attended the advanced course.

Adrian Bourne	Andy Bridger
Andy Bunyan	Bill Brown
John Bicknell	Jon Beagley
Mark Brazier	Bob Davis
Hugh Duffett	Nigel Barker
Ed Ellis	Phil Edwards
Roy Friend	Mike Fitzgerald
Roger Hardwick	Nick Jennings
John Jennings	Mark Jeffrey
Steve Kendall	John Kaye
Neil Tomlinson	Nigel Thorne
Nick Woodage	David Knight
Dennis Keen	Les March
Ray Montgomerie	Hugh Northey
Ian Parker	Sam Parker
Neal Read	Kiran Raval

Green Laning Update

The Spring 2008 National Green Lane Day (NGLD) is scheduled for Sunday 24 February. The following arrangements have been made with Patrick Manuel, the Hampshire Area Rep for GLASS.

The lane that we will be targeting is Bosenhill Lane, a UCR that runs to the north of Warnford on the A32 (OS references SU 617253 to SU 626237). The lane is not that overgrown but it is long and gloomy; in fact positively gothic in the summer when the trees are in leaf and the vegetation has grown up. The plan is to cut back the saplings and small trees that border the lane in order to restore some of it's original width and let a bit of light in.

We will meet initially at the North end of the lane at 10:00 for the work day instructions and Health & Safety brief. This may not appear to be the logical place to meet but there is very limited parking near the South end of the lane at Warnford. Following the briefing session we may (numbers depending) split into two groups and attack the lane from both ends. Work will continue until we run out of trees or enthusiasm (that's normally by about 15:00).

For those coming up from the Portsmouth area we will meet in time honoured fashion at the Morrisons car park at Horndean at 09:00 for a 09:20 departure.

Just to remind you; we have a limited numbers of hand tools for use but loads of PPE (gloves, goggles, helmets etc). Feel free to bring along your own tools but remember that however fond you are of that old chainsaw that you always carry with you, on this occasion it will have to stay in the car. The Council's insurance does not cover us for anything that is fun to use!

As always, everyone is welcome, even if they can't stay for the duration. Family participation is particularly encouraged.

Thanks in advance

Julian Mallard

HBLRO RoW Officer

Green Lining Holiday to Wales in 2008

In the last magazine I asked if there were members interested in going to Wales again this year to stay at Llanderchindda Farm, near Llandoverry. I have had a few replies from interested people so I now have more information.

Llanderchindda Farm is booking up very quickly and they only have a couple of the suggested weeks free.

At present I have tentatively booked the Farmhouse which sleep up to 10 and I have an option on the Y Stabl Cottage which sleeps 6. These are self catering but I have also asked for breakfast and an evening meal to be made available in the main guest house.

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This date needs to be confirmed by the end of February unless we will lose it.

So I need all people who are interested to contact me within the next 2 weeks to book your place.

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If you have any questions please contact me at julian.mallard@hbro.co.uk or give me a ring on 02392 452941.

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The event will be held over the weekend of **28th June & 29th June 2008** at Newnham Park and Hemerdon Mine, located within 5 minutes of each other by public road. The trial will run over 2 days and consist of 20 sections, 10 sections at each site. It will be run in accordance with ALRC Competition Regulations and the Supplementary Regulations attached to this Entry Form.

This is a team event for groups of 3 vehicles/drivers, with **no more than 1 vehicle from the ALRC Modified classes permitted in any one team. Modified vehicles may not be double driven.** Prizes will be awarded for the lowest total team score added together over the 2 days, the highest placed ladies team and the highest placed team consisting of all long-wheelbase vehicles.

The Entry Fee for each Team will be £120.00 and the Closing Date for Entries will be 25th May 2008.

It is expected that interest in this event will be high and you are encouraged to register your Team's entry as soon as possible. Entries will be limited to 40 teams.

Camping is available in Newnham Park at £5 per night. A follow on Rally is available until 12 noon on Friday 4th July.

For Entry Forms please contact a member of HBLRO Committee.

Friday 27 th June	Campsite opens	12 Noon
	Signing on opens	12 Noon
	Scrutineering open	5.00 pm-8.30 pm
Saturday 28 th June	Scrutineering and signing on open	7.15 am- 9.00 am
	Trial starts	9.15 am
Sunday 29 th June	Trial starts	9.15 am

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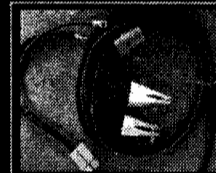
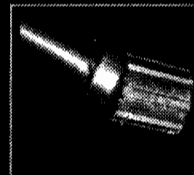
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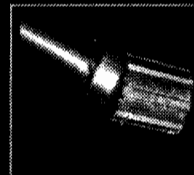
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Trottsford RTV 27.01.08

Green Laning around Salisbury Plain at Christmas

So what do you do between xmas and the new year - the answer is obvious isn't it - get out and get some fresh air after all that sitting around. So what did we do last year? We went green laning over Salisbury Plain and the year before? over the Plain again. Can you see a pattern emerging here?

So why break with tradition - where shall we go this time Neil? We set out from Neil T's house in Andover at 9:30 and were soon going down our first lane to the north east of Andover at Hurstbourne Tarrant.

We then headed past Netherton and up to Walbury Hill, great scenery and reasonable weather for the time of year. Previous years we had had sleet showers but today was clear and reasonably warm.

So we went along Inkpen and Ham Hills, along Rivar Down to Botley Down and then to East Grafton and to complete the mornings run we went down to Collingbourne Kingston. Some of the lanes were a bit scratchy and some were a bit muddy but with care we managed to get through without doing any damage to the lanes. We want to be able to come back and drive these lanes again so we don't want them to be close because they have been churned up or need to be repaired.

We found a nice pub at Burbage for a spot of lunch with some great beer and food, a pity to dilute it with lemonade.

Martin wanted to know if a 235x85x16 tyre would fit on his Range Rover which had a 2" lift. No, it might do, not sure, let's give it a go, were the various replies he got from all of the experts in the group. We then turned the pub car park into a garage temporarily when Kevin W took his spare from the rear of his 90 for Martin to try. Oh, by the way the answer is no, it doesn't fit without scraping on the wheel arch - even with a 2" lift.

So after lunch we set off to close the loop and head back to Andover via Lower Everleigh and down onto the east of the Plain. Through the water, some of it shallow puddles and some over 20cms deep which sprayed up on

the windscreens - the best part according to my sons girlfriend. Can we do it again? It was only afterwards that I was told that there can sometimes be blocks of concrete hidden in the water or tank tracks that have fallen off the tanks. May have to be a bit more careful next time!

We stopped close to Luggershall and said our good byes and headed off in our respective directions. It had been a fun day out with many good lanes and some nice scenery.

By the way, next time you see Arnes in his G4 Disco ask him who had to give him a small pull when it got high centred? I understand that there is a picture on the Tomb raider web site if that gives you a clue.

Check the website for our next outing and don't forget the National Green Lane Clearance Day in February.

Julian
HBLRO RoW Officer

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We have just spent a fun day on Salisbury Plain, led by Neil Tomlinson, who, as usual, got the day off to a wonderful start with bacon sarnies and tea at his house.

John Dingle

Laning Around Hindhead Area

We met at a supermarket carpark near Horndean, a chilly day in early February. I was surprised when another 90 parked up next to me - he was from another group who were also going out laning in the area, and he wondered whether I was going out with them. I explained that we were HBLRO and went out regularly as well.

Our first lane was close to Blendworth and then we headed for Chalton. A big loop around Buriton towards South Harting found a very interesting but short lane, a steep lane with a V gully caused by water damage. The gully was too wide to straddle so one wheel had to be dropped in the gully, see the pictures. This resulted in Richard 90 teetering on the edge at one part of the descent. The same part caused Sean a problem - Discos are generally lower than the 90's, he needed a small pull to get over.

Up to Rake Common, Liphook and under the railway and up towards Bramshott. Lots of great lanes - many sunken where the road is lower than the tree roots.



We met up with Nigel T - who lives local to Hindhead. Up around Grayshot and then across Hindhead Common and up to the 'Steps' close to Ridgeway Farm. A few well placed logs and stones made the steps a little less daunting and the non shiny 90's were able to scrabble up. Sean's Disco and Nige decided not to risk damage to their vehicles and took the road around.

Where to go for lunch? Elstead said Nigel, great beer at the local pub (straight from the cask) but the long wait for a bar meal (full restaurant) meant that we had crisps in the pub and then we raided the local convenience store for some lunch. After dinner a big loop north around Elstead via Puttenham and Seale. Around Crookbury Common and onto Tilford, more great lanes, not driven very much and in good condition. Some in need of a pruning if you were in a shiny.

Tilford down to Frensham Common, across to Churt and the last lane close to the A325 north of Bordon at Sleaford. We said our goodbyes - photos courtesy of Sean C and many thanks to Nigel T for taking us around his area, - he reckoned he was within 7 miles of his house all the time.. A great day out in the lanes, almost 100 miles round trip for me, mostly Byways and a few UCR's.

Check the website for our next outing.
All the best, Julian M, RoW Officer



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In The Bog!

Happy New Year one and all!



I know it seemed fast in its approach but I hope you had chance to relax, re-charge those batteries and enjoy the festivities for a short while. Now as I look around, the Sales have almost ended and, "Oh no!", Easter eggs are appearing on the supermarket shelves. Outrageous!

In my last letter, I mentioned that the Committee wanted to attract new members and have more variety in events. Well, before Christmas, we had:

Tinwood Winch Challenge with a very good turn out of about 30 teams. I am pleased to say that the feedback on this event was good too.

The BAFMA at Longmoor, arranged by Neil Tomlinson. Well done and thanks Neil for organizing that one.

Public Drive Round and RTV at Broxhead Common nr Bordon.

Are you keeping up!?!

After Christmas:

Green Laning outing over New Year (thanks Julian)

Another BAFMA at Slab Common (thanks again, Neil)

RTV at Trotsford (thanks to all organizers/helpers)

By the time this magazine is posted through your doors and you grab it in anticipation for another exciting read, we would have had a Green Laning day on the 3rd February and Tyro at Trotsford Farm.


Bring it on!!

So, what's coming up next? Please do check out the calendar - there are some great events coming up such as the Mike Wolf Challenge in March and the Drive Round in April at Slab Common. Lee Claydon has several Social events organised, so check them out and get the dates booked in your diaries. We're already booking more M.O.D Land for driving days, RTV's, Winch Challenges etc., and if you have any ideas on events etc., don't forget to e-mail me or one of the Committee members.

Happy "Trialling"

Richard Salter

Chairman



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Open Letter to HBLRO - Driving Days

Dear Editor

I recently, over the Christmas break, attended a driving day organized by another club. (Hush my mouth!).

Now I will state here quite clearly and categorically I am not poking sharp sticks at HBLRO, far from it.

But it has to be said, that this other 'Land Rover Club' organized a very good event at Slab Common. The question I suppose I am asking is how they can do so and why or where are we failing as a club?

I shall expand. Their event was open to members only, no new members on the day were allowed to enter. So entry was drawn from their existing membership base. Their membership base is running at just under 400. Quite a number of who were ex-HBLROers.

They had over 80 entries at this event. Vehicles were not restricted to Land Rovers, although the majority were. Equally they were not class restricted.

Entry was £25 per vehicle so that compares with our club events.

On entering the site the club trailer and signing on was clearly visible. The trailer is decked out in the club livery, which in itself is a good advertisement for the club. Signing on was in no way officious. Quite simple, if you could not show your membership card then you were not allowed to enter. No ifs or buts; no checking some list. Even the chairman would have been refused entry without his card. If you have been a 'bad boy' at an event, the corner of your card is cut off, 4 strikes and you're out. Oh and the membership cards are just like your credit card, hardish plastic.

For new members the membership form is clean and crisp. Its advertisement for the club contains very little information for one to fill in and membership is £10- per annum.

I should add that this is not a competitive club, so here is where HBLRO differs. They offer driving pay and play days, some laning and some challenges.

As for the marshalling, driving and the rest of it, well firstly, the area was unrestricted. Routes were not marked out, no easy medium or hard. It was up to the driver to check an area before he moved forward if he felt at all nervous. There were a couple of areas that were marked off more for caution and safety than anything else, for example deep water.

The marshalling was unobtrusive and in no way over bearing or officious. Help and support was given when it was needed or asked for. Recoveries were managed safely and without fuss and palaver. All marshals were pre-assigned and those that just turned up on the day were not allowed to marshal. So there is none of this 'free' entry if I marshal for a couple of hours nonsense.

To answer my own question which I posed at the beginning of this letter, and these are my opinions, I think there are several reasons. Firstly we are seen to be bound by the ALRC and that's it, very little flexibility or understanding. There is a degree of arrogance amongst a number of members that implies that they know best. Marshals and officials are seen as being overbearing and officious. The club does not advertise itself well. There is no branding and to be honest the whole signing on business is un-welcoming.

We mark out routes and restrict areas as being in 'our humble opinion' too difficult or dangerous. This quite frankly gets up peoples noses. We insist that we are better at recovering them than they are; how arrogant is that?

When all is said and done, this is what HBLRO does, it is a club for its members, it is an ALRC legislated club that acts within its structure and within the bounds of the MSA and all that these two bodies encompass. We as members know what we are and what we expect. I suspect that is why our membership is dwindling from something like 350 [Editor Note - actual figures were 235] 4 years or so ago to significantly less than 200 [Editor Note - currently 200] last time I checked in October.

This other clubs membership is on the increase, HBLROs is on the decline maybe that should tell us something [Editor Note—membership figures have been on the increase since October 2007].

Mr Ed

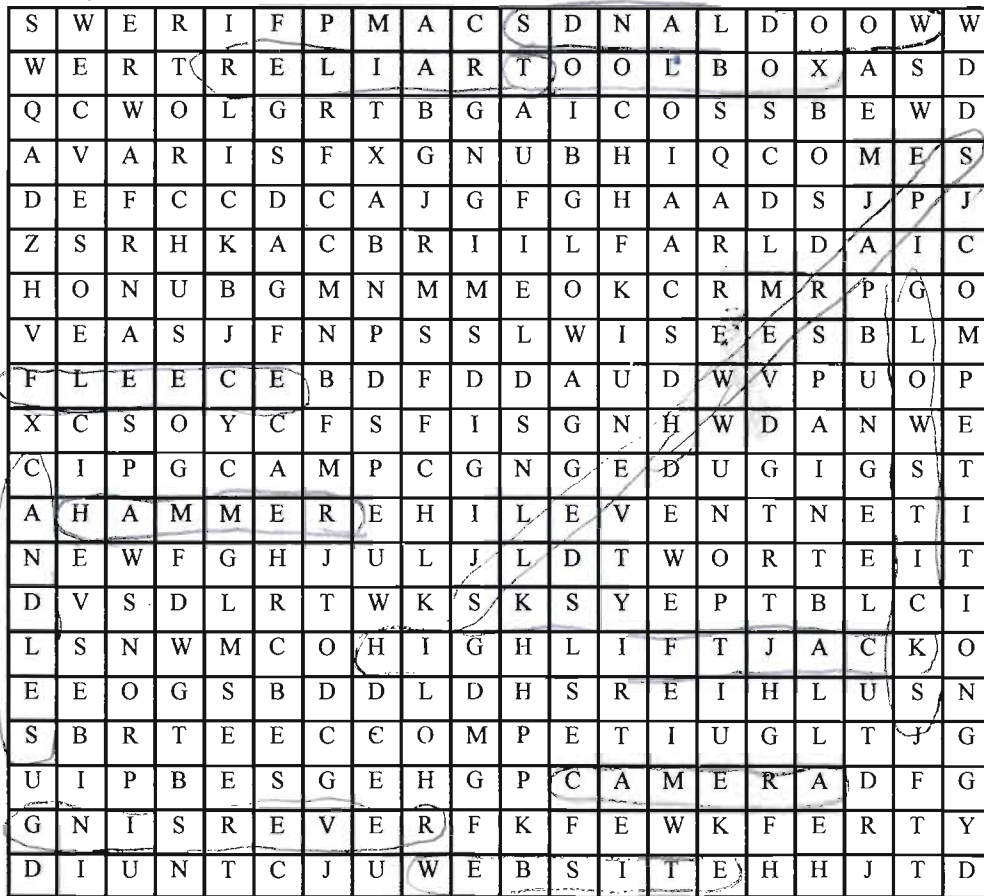
CALENDER OF EVENTS 2008

Date	Event	Venue	Contact Details
1 Mar	Bowling Evening	Havant	Lee Claydon, Social & Camping Secretary
8-9 Mar	RTV & Fun Challenge	Slindon	
21-24 Mar	Easter Rally	Nelly's Dell, Nr Alton	
12-13 Apr	Public Drive Round	Slab Common, Nr Bordon	
20 Apr	Green Laning		Julian Mallard, ROW Officer
3-7 May	RTV, TYRO & Paintball	Nelly's Dell, Nr Alton	For Paintball - Lee Claydon, Social & Camping Secretary
22-27 May	ALRC National	Eastnor Castle, Nr Ledbury, Herefordshire	Hosted by Midland Rover Owners
7-8 Jun	Land Rover World	Eastnor Castle, Nr Ledbury, Herefordshire	www.landroverworld.com
14-17 Jun	TYRO & Members only Driving Day	New Site - details to follow	
28-29 Jun	Land Rover 60 th Anniversary	Chepstow Racecourse	Hosted by the Series One Club
28-29 Jun	Charity day RTV	Newnham Park, South Devon	Sarah Duffett, Treasurer
7-6 Jul	RTV, Clay Pigeon Shoot & BBQ	Hook End Farm, Pangbourne	
26-27 Jul	Two-Day CCV Team Trial	Knowle Farm, Broad Oak, East Sussex	Hosted by Southern Rover Owners
2 Aug	Green Laning		Julian Mallard, ROW Officer
10 Aug	RTV & CCV		
16-17 Aug	Berkshire 4 x 4 Show		
23-27 Aug	Summer Rally Inter Club	Copford Farm	Hosted by Southern Rover Owners
14-16 Sep	Majors' Memorial Trial (CCV)	Eastnor Castle, Nr Ledbury, Herefordshire	Hosted by Midland Rover Owners Club
20-21 Sep	RTV	Broxhead Common, Nr Bordon	
27-28 Sep	Abingdon 4 x 4 Festival - Charity Event	Abingdon	www.abingdon4x4festival.com
28 Sep	Competative Safari	Monkings Farm	Hosted by Southern Rover Owners
4 Oct	Green Laning		Julian Mallard, ROW Officer
7 Oct	London to Brighton Land Rover Run		www.london2brighton.org.uk
11-12 Oct	Mendip Challenge - Inter Club RTV & CCV	Somerset	Hosted by Somerset & Wilts
26 Oct	RTV	Long Valley	
9 Nov	Green Laning		Julian Mallard, ROW Officer
17-16 Nov	Public Drive Round & RTV	Slab Common, Nr Bordon	
30 Nov	Mike Wolfe Challenge	Slab Common, Nr Bordon	
13 Dec	Green Laning		Julian Mallard, ROW Officer
14 Dec	RTV	Aldermaston	

COMPETITION SECTION

- WORD SEARCH -

Welcome to the all new competition section, Drivers, this is the indispensable, unputdownable way to while away a few minutes between sections, or, passengers, while waiting for your driver to scour the county for a new half shaft or diff!



Bowling
Bungee

Camera

Camp Fire

Candles

Competition

Event

Farmland
Fields

Fleece

Glow Sticks

Hammer

Highlift Jack

Paintball

Reversing
Social

Spare Wheel

Tool Box

Torch

Trailer

Trees

Vehicle
Web Site

Woodlands

Who's Who?

For a chance to win, fit the body parts with HBLRO members. Email your answers to the Secretary. Please specify between wine (red or white) or chocolates.



Answers to last Who's Who Competition: No winners!!

- 1 - Neil Tomlinson
- 2 - Matt Hewitt
- 3 - Chris Homewood
- 4 - Ian Parker
- 5 - Richard Salter

- 7 - Garry White
- 8 - Nick Woodage
- 9 - Kiran Raval
- 10 - Tim Wishaw
- 11 - Mark Ambler