



Hants & Berks NEWS



Kevin Wood hits his best form yet with a fine win at the Mannington RTV.



March - April
2014



HBLRO committee.

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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Scrutineers:- Mark Ambler. Andy Bunyan.

Editor's bit....

"You don't know what you've til
it's gone" goes the song I've been
without broadband for three days
(!) hence the delay with this issue.

Deadline for the next issue is April 20th but don't wait until then, start sending in your contributions now. Articles can be in almost any word processor format but if you have taken photos but do not wish to write anything, just e-mail the photos to me. Ideally, include the event and the driver (where you know their name) in the filename, such as **Steve-Aston-Nelly's-RTV.JPG**.

This way this information will stay with the photo.



Hants & Berks Magazine in email format.

If you no longer wish to receive a printed mag and are happy to receive it by email, please can you contact Kevin Wood with your current email address.

Steve Kirby.



HBLRO On-Line

Don't forget to visit our Web site at www.hbro.co.uk
Also see the Association of Land Rover Clubs Ltd at www.alrc.co.uk

Elton's end

It's been a bit damp hasn't it? Hopefully none of you have suffered from the effects of the flooding that we have seen recently and your Solihull saloons have been able to see you safely through the deluge. The weather certainly has had an effect on our calendar, I had been looking forward to BAMA's Rickshaw Ramble and the RTV at Longmoor and, whilst I understand why Landmarc pulled the plug (that's probably the wrong analogy in the circumstances) it was disappointing to lose the use of such a superb site.

Christmas came and went, without any sign of the shiny new Range Rover that I had asked Santa to park in my driveway, and the end of year Salisbury Plain green lane trip was upon us. What a fabulous turn out we had for that, requiring those attending to split into four groups which scattered from the start point in different directions; throughout the day there were occasional sightings of the others but we were never in the position where we were falling over each other. The ground was better than I expected with no danger of damage from ice covered puddles (as has occurred in previous years) and a good day was had by all. One tip though, if you want to have a contemplative visit to Imber church don't go on the weekend after Christmas, it was like Oxford Street

on the first day of the sales.

January saw a long overdue to Wedge Hill (or Mannington, if you prefer). Set up Saturday saw a gentle trundle down to Rownham's services on the M27 to meet up with CoC Dave Lindsay, Andy Butcher, Pete Brayford and Ian Joyce before heading off to the site. It's been so long since we have been there that I had forgotten what a good RTV site it is, it was a really nice day and, under the expert eye of Kiwi Dave, excellent sections were set that progressively tested the driver's skill. We left the site knowing that we had set one of the best and varied layouts we have seen for some time. Unfortunately the weather had other intentions, to say it rained is an understatement and my heart sank when the first section saw a succession of competitors failing at the five gate. However, that was soon to change with an interloper from Somerset & Wilts (Alex Moore) encouraging the others by taking a one and, unless you happened to be marshalling out in the deluge, things improved from there. We were treated to examples of expert driving and some comedy moments that, in the absence of any damage of note, decided the award of the Spanner Man trophy. We have booked the site again for the Summer Rally so if you missed the chance to drive this site this time come and do it when we are

under a hosepipe ban.

February saw another example of feverish activity by our Competition Secretary when we were denied usage of the Hogmoor site due to the ground conditions. Not one to sit on his backside, Steve was quick to secure the use of Aldermaston at very short notice. Regrettably I wasn't able to attend the event but I understand that it was another ding-dong battle for class wins with little to choose between the scoring.

Talking of scoring makes me think that we have the annual Presentation evening at the Crown on Saturday 1st

March. It's nice to be able to recognise the efforts of those who compete in the events and help to organise them in the first place, however, I won't be making long speeches.

Despite the wet start I am confident that this will be another cracking year for HBLRO, new ideas are coming forward with such things as Neil B's karting evenings and planning has started for other social events, keep an eye on the calendar.

Elton Jonsson.



Barrie Webb at the Aldermaston RTV.

Four clears at Lambs Leer!

Somerset & Wilts LRC RTV - Sunday 9th Feb

It was around seven in the morning when Ashley Bartlett (accompanied by Jenny) and I met at the Popham services. Ten minutes later Dave Lindsey turned up in 90. We had all been suffering from RTV withdrawal symptoms and wanted it so bad that we were going to take the two hour drive down to the Lambs Leer site (home of the Mendip Challenge) to compete in an event run by the Somerset & Wilts Land Rover Club.

Kevin Wood and Russell Smith was also keen to take part and had elected to meet us there. Whilst the run down for Ashley and I proved problem free ten minutes in and Dave Lindsay was in trouble with a starter motor problem. Upon starting his ride at the services it looked like the starter had jammed in. He instructed Ash and I to carry on and he would catch up. Twenty minutes later he had solved the problem (with a big hammer) and was on this way, however would not be able to turn the motor off for the rest of the day as the starter was now kaput!

Sleet...

Whilst the run down had been dry, the temperature had fallen by over five degrees meaning that whilst we had been +7 in Basingstoke we were now at around +2 in Somerset. Not too bad to be honest until the

sleet started just as we were unloading Ashley's series from the trailer. Within four minutes my hands had turned to ice and I started to wonder if this had really been such a good idea. Not long after Kevin Wood turned up all nice and warm in his 90 truck cab along with Russell Smith who had towed his series down with his big old white van.

The sleet slowly turned to rain as we lined up for scrutineering. We were all pleased to receive the green light from the scrutineers and we gathered to wait for the drivers briefing. For those of you who have been to this site you will know that it can get very slippery when wet and today was going to be no exception. In anticipation for the soft going the Saturday set up team had built what looked to be an event with wide gates and had chosen to let the slippery stuff be the challenge and not the canes.

As we had the Aldermaston RTV only a week after this event I had chosen to passenger with Dave Lindsay as if I picked up a problem with my Disco I would not have had time for a repair. Whilst a little gutted that I was not driving this would be first passenger in a 90 on a live event and with Dave currently in superb form I was relishing the thought of it. Pulling up to the first

section Dave stopped the car and we jumped out. Only to then remember that the starter was knackered and re-starting would have to be with a tow. Fortunately Kevin Wood was on hand with a rope and we soon fired the beast back into life.

Special tracks

The first section was pretty straight forward and we soon found that whilst it was incredibly slippery Dave's special tracks cut through and were finding a good amount of traction. Our section ended at the one gave after a particularly tricky tight left turn up and out of a small but deep hole. We both felt the pressure ease with a decent score on the first section. Section two offered just as much success with another one scored lending us to feel that today could work out well for us. Section three however threw us a curved ball. Right in between gates six and five was a steep drop in to a large puddle followed by tight right turn out and up a stiff climb to the five. We studied the area for a while and elected to take a moderately tight line. As we entered the puddle it was clear that we were going to struggle as the brown water concealed all sorts of debris which pushed the car wide causing us to fail the squirt up to the five gate. Six scored... harsh and it set us back a little..

As the next few sections passed the cars capability and Dave's quality driving really came to the fore. I was

amazed at the manoeuvrability of the vehicle and how well Dave has the engine set up. It turned in beautifully and had instant power when he asked for it. Still would not swap it for my Disco but I was impressed!

Before we knew it lunch time had arrived. We grabbed a coffee from the tuck wagon and considered our approach to the sections ahead of us. As we arrived at the first section after lunch for the second time Dave forgot not to turn his vehicle off and again as the engine stopped we realised that we were going to have to find a friendly competitor to give us pull start. What I can say is that trialling with the Somerset and Wilts makes it easy to find someone more than happy to help out as they are a great bunch of blokes and a real pleasure to compete against. In truth if they had seen our score card they may not have been so helpful as apart from the six picked up midmorning we were actually having a really decent day.

Flat on my back

It was at the start of section six that my luck (in terms of falling over) finally ran out. I had had some close escapes during the morning with a few slips here and there on this occasion the slippery mud and gravity combined to thwart me. Whilst trying to step up into the car I totally lost my footing landing flat on my back beside the vehicle in a huge area of sloppy mud. I was covered, all up the back of my

legs, all over by butt and right the way up the back of my coat. As I clambered back on to my feet Dave looked at me (from within the car) and said something about how I reminded him of a certain part of the male genitalia and that if I thought that I was getting in the car with my coat on I had another thing coming. This was a bit of a pain as the weather was still marginal and I had just covered my best waterproof with a load of Somerset's finest runny stuff. Mind you, I did understand as if it would have been my car I would have felt the same.

The only other drama during the last couple of sections did not occur whilst in the car but spectating. I was stood at the top of a big climb enjoying watching other drivers scabble for grip and spinning up the wheels. Every was all good fun until one of the vehicles flicked a huge lump of clay off a wheel hitting me straight in the mush. I felt like I had been smacked in the chops by Mike Tyson and whilst most of the clay bounced off I did have to spit a large lump out!

As the day ended we were soon on the on the way back to the paddock I thanked Dave for letting me passenger with him and considered how I would have got on in the Disco. I quickly came to the conclusion that my Insa Turbo Sahara's would not

have been aggressive enough for the site and that I would probably have a score that looked like a telephone number (again). We soon meet back up with our other Hants & Berks mates and it seemed like everyone had enjoyed themselves. As we had a good couple of hours drive back I went to find some of my new friends of the host club to say my good byes. As I departed the site Ashley had already gone and I don't think that Kevin and Russell would be far behind me.

A couple of days later the results became available and I was thrilled to see that Ashley and Russell had finished first and second (respectively) in class two whilst Dave and I had come home first in class four with Kevin returning a very tidy score finishing just a few places behind. As a team we smashed it with two class wins and four clear's between us and I just cannot wait to get back there later in the year for the Mendip Challenge.

Steve Aston.

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Dave Lindsay finds some water to play in whilst setting up the Mannington RTV



Hugh Davies at the Mannington RTV

Members take a break at the Mannington RTV



Phil Norman at the Mannington RTV

Good job Joe Stacey had his chainsaw as his route to the Aldermaston RTV was a little blocked in places.



Hugh Duffett on section 7 at the Aldermaston RTV





oe, thanks
r just being
you!

Steve White at the Aldermaston RTV



Russell Smith at the Aldermaston RTV

New member Chris Hope in his first RTV at Aldermaston.



Pete Kendall tackles a big old drop at the Aldermaston RTV.



March / April Caption Competition.

What is being said by whom and about whom? Send in your suggestions.



Jan / Feb Caption Competition Winner



Last months caption competition was won by honorary member Paul Watson (skipper of the Sea Shepherd) who wrote in to say that this was picture was in fact a shot of the 1996 Newbury bypass protest and the chap in the tree is his mate 'Swampy'

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Hants & Berks LRO 2014 Spring Rally

3rd to 5th May
Hook End



Sunday:

*8 Section RTV, competing for the Dave
Cuthbert Memorial Trophy*

Club BBQ



Monday:

6 Section TYRO



Camping available from Friday 2nd

For more information please see our web site



No matter what you drive, as long as it's a 4x4 you are welcome to come to our

Pay & play day

Sunday 13th April 2014

At the Hogmoor site

Bordon, Hampshire

Hogmoor offers a wide variety of terrain to suit all levels of off road ability.

A perfect introduction to off roading for novice drivers through to some more tricky bits for the more experienced driver.

£25 gets you entry to the venue and all the off roading you can handle!
If you are not a member of an MSA affiliated 4x4 club you will need to join ours
this can be done on the day for an additional fee of £5

The event is open to all types/makes of road legal 4x4 vehicles up to a max gross weight of 3.5 tonnes (sorry no quads). A recovery point on the rear of your vehicle is a must (a tow bar is sufficient) and a front recovery point is helpful but not a requirement.

More details about driving days in general can be found on our web site at:
<http://www.hbro.co.uk/Drvdays/Drvday.html>

Directions to the venue can be found at:
<http://www.hbro.co.uk/calender.htm>

Hants & Berks Land Rover Owners Club



We have been contacted by the American TV show "Fashion Police" and asked if anyone can identify these people for a picture montage they are putting together - replies to the editor please...



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Regular Events

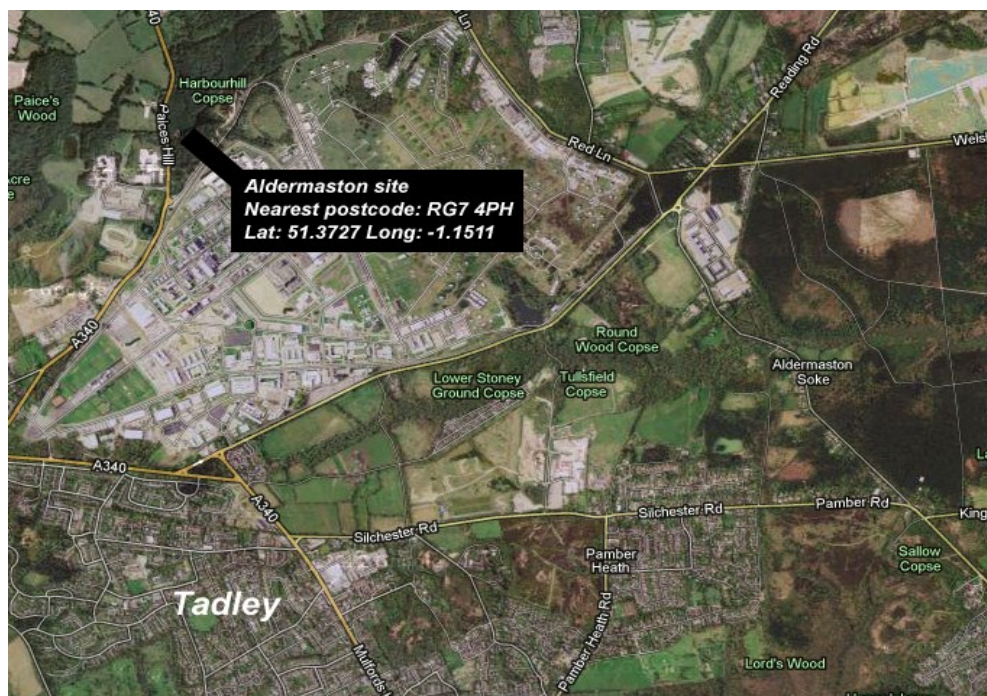
- * Southern Pub Meet - **Venue change**. Last Wednesday of each month, Noggin & Natter at the Cormorant, 181 Castle Street, Porchester, Nr Fareham, PO16 9QX Tel: 02392 379374 (www.thecormorant.co.uk)
- * Northern Pub meet: First Thursday of each month March and April will be at the Crown and Cushion (just outside Camberley) May through to October will be at the Water Witch in Odiham. Maps to both locations can be found on the club web site
- * Green-lane trips will usually be as advertised elsewhere. There will be someone present to indicate rights of way on the maps. Please bring your own maps of Hampshire and Berkshire, in case you get lost. If there is a lot of rain on the few preceding days, anticipate postponement.

I've printed the dates of everything I know about at the moment on the next page, so get your diaries out! Note that *provisional* events are printed in *italics*. Will event organisers please let me know when any of these is confirmed / changed / cancelled etc.. Major changes, cancellations etc. Will be highlighted in **bold text**.

Green laners:-See article(s) elsewhere for details of the next trip(s).

HBLRO On-Line

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Also see the Association of Land Rover Clubs Ltd at www.alrc.co.uk



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2014

Events in *italics* are provisional so please check for updates
and maps on our website:-

<http://www.hbro.co.uk/calender.htm>

Date	Site	Event
March 23rd	Aldermaston	RTV & TYRO Winter Series 6 Helpers required to set up on Saturday 22nd - if you are available please make yourself known to Steve Aston
March 30th		BAMA Spring Foil event
April 13th	Hogmoor	RTV / Pay & Play day - Summer Series 1 Helpers required to set up on Saturday 12th - if you are available please make yourself known to Steve Aston
May 2 - 5	Hook End Farm	Spring Rally - Summer Series 2 Sunday RTV (for the Dave Cuthbert Memorial Trophy) Monday TYRO Helpers required to set up - if you are available please make yourself known to Steve Aston/Mark Ambler
May 22	Grantham	ALRC National Rally
June 28-29th	Newham	Cornwall & Devon Charity RTV
July	Site & date to be confirmed	RTV
Aug 22 - 25th	Mannington	Summer Rally

Event Timings

Competitor Sign-on - 08:30am - 09:30 am Scrutineering - 08:30 - 09:30 am

Driver & Marshals briefing - 09:45 am Event start - 10:00 am

Entry fee for RTV: £17.00 per driver. Entry fee for Tyro: £12.50 per driver

Driving Days Site opens to public - 10:00 am Site closes - 15:00 pm

A big welcome back into the fold for Henry Cox. (great drive at Aldermaston Henry, well done)



Steve White drops in to a big one at the Aldermaston RTV.