

Chairman's Chat - 11th March

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to the second Chairman's Chat for 2009.

This year I have decided the Chairman's Charity will be the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. We already have a start on this, with a Chairman's Charity fund of £33.00 so far this year. We will try and raise funds for this worthwhile cause, culminating with a large Charity Auction at the Chairman's Rally in October. If anyone would like to donate any gifts or prizes we could auction on the day, I would be quite willing to accept them. Last year the Charity raffle raised far more than I anticipated, and this is why we are going down this road, rather than have a raffle. So now is the time to get booked onto the Chairman's Rally at Tattershall to ensure your place. After the Committee meeting this month, it was also decided to hold the Rally Marshal's Meeting over this weekend, with a meeting time of 1000 am on the Sunday of 4th October 2009.

There is always contention on the distance between caravans on Centre Rallies. Can all marshals ensure that the rules are STRICTLY adhered to, as the Health and Safety Executive are tightening up – distances between caravan outfits MUST have a minimum of 3 CLEAR metres between them. That means if there are only caravans, and no cars parked between them you MUST have 3 metres between them. If you have a car and an awning you MUST have 3 metres between the car and the next caravan. 11 metres towbar to towbar should suffice with car and awning used.

After attending the Central Region Delegate's meeting last Saturday, a few points were mentioned by the Membership Director. The Caravan Club is changing its computing system on the 23rd of March, and this will affect Membership renewals as follows. In the past members were given 3 months grace to renew their membership, this will now be reduced to TWO WEEKS. So as soon as your membership is due for renewal, please ensure you renew it as soon as possible. If you do not renew your membership, within this period, when you do renew you will be issued with a new membership number, and you will lose the old one. Obviously – if you renew your membership by direct debit, this will not affect you at all.

Some marshals have contacted me regarding the insertion of their rallies in the Caravan Club Magazine. Following enquiries by myself and the Rally Secretary John Maddison, they will not budge on the move to place "Box" adverts for Christmas and New Year Rallies. Stating that if they allowed us a "Box" advert – it would open the flood gates for other Centres to demand their rallies be advertised. All five or more day rallies are automatically advertised in the Caravan Club magazine when these rallies have been informed by our Rally Secretary. I will ask Wayne if there is any way we can have a feature advert for the Christmas Rally and the Humberston New Year Rally, on our Web site. The Intercentres Golf rally at South Forest Farm is being run by the Nottinghamshire Centre this year. Anyone wishing to go on this rally to represent the Centre, please get in contact with Ian Pilgrim the Nottinghamshire Centre Sports Officer. His phone number can be found in the rally book on page 36. We need a team of four golfers to represent the Lincolnshire Centre in this competition. Please take your handicap certificates with you on the rally.

Hope to see many of you at South Hykeham Rally, and here is hoping for fine weather..

Kindest Regards
Geoff & Georgina