

The

LAIKA

CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN



NEWSLETTER

www.laikaclub.com

ISSUE NO 41

March 2012

Chairman: Richard Moss

Treasurer: Ken Bradshaw

Membership Secretary: Diane Bradshaw

Newsletter: Katherine Elliott

Chairman's New Year Greetings

At the December AGM you voted for me to be your new chairman, and I therefore would like to wish you all a Happy New Year on behalf of myself and Ruth. I realise that I can only carry out this role with the help and support of you all and ask that you let me know your opinion and ideas on Club matters. The main activity of the Club is the Rally programme and we need volunteers to organise and give ideas for our future programme so I would be pleased to hear from any of you that are able to give this assistance.

Communication

We are fortunate to have an enthusiastic and capable team in Alan Wilson on the Laika Website and Kath Elliott editing the Newsletter and I implore you to support them by supplying news and ideas to enable them to carry out their function. I intend to use the website to keep you up to date on Rallies and this will be followed up in the Newsletter, but the advantage of the website is that it can be updated more regularly and it should not be just a duplication of the Newsletter. Your input will help us to achieve better communication and a more successful Club.

Annual General Meeting

This was the first such meeting that I have attended and I believe 27 vans were in attendance which is a great improvement on previous years, and I believe we will be able to give a full report of this meeting in the near future.

In my address I did refer to the help I am going to need for the Rally Programme which is now at an advanced stage for 2012, but I would like to also work on the programme for 2013 because sites are getting busier and we want to be ahead with our plans to use the best sites.

On a trial basis for the next year we resolved to provide the Rally Organiser with a free pitch either out of funds or as part of the negotiation of the site fee, if it is possible to arrange this. I would also like to give the Rally Organiser flexibility to organise the Rally in the way that he/she thinks best to reflect their individuality. They can decide whether there are day trips or welcome meeting food and drink will be provided, and contributions required. We will reassess this over the next year as we think it unfair for any member organising a Rally to be out of pocket.

I am prepared to help the organiser on any matter and canvas support where any member requires assistance to carry out their duties.

Chairman of Laika Club to be a Laika Owner

David Futter brought this matter up under AOB proposing that the Constitution be amended so that a non Laika owner could be chairman. It was agreed that this was not proceeded with but discussed through the medium of the Newsletter and Website, and I would urge anyone with views on this matter let them be known prior to the next AGM. David has since made a suggestion that the wording of the rules is changed so that only in the unlikely case of no Laika owner being prepared to stand, that a non Laika owner could then be elected. Let the discussion commence.

Rallies

Swanage 22 to 26 March

This is being organised by Andy and Ali Morrison and Eric and Dee Gould have agreed to help them with site duties due to Andy's health problem. So far 11 vans are booked out of 15 places.

Devizes 25 to 30 April

Geoff and Linda Mitcheson report 9 attending so far out of 20 places and Trevor Stott will communicate with Geoff whilst away in Spain until early March.

Whitby 13 to 19 May

Alma and Keith have closed applications for this Rally as they needed firm numbers by Christmas.

French Rally 18 to 17 June

Brian Shaw has also closed applications

Croatia September/ October

Details to follow shortly

AGM 2012/ Christmas Meal

Fakenham Racecourse C and C site, Norfolk -**SEE FLYER**

What might a Rally include?

We have been in the Club for just over 4 years and have enjoyed the experiences which have included:-

- Meet and greet with a list of attendees and van registrations (enables new members to be introduced, health & safety etc.)
- Notice board and flag
- Activities including walk, canoe trip, Boules, street party, meal out, quiz

Some of these items can be organised on site and help from members is at hand if required .

Programme for 2013

Any ideas please to me and also we need volunteers to organise meetings.

I look forward to seeing you all in 2012 to continue the success that our previous Rally programmes have achieved.

Yours truly

Richard Moss

It is with deep regret that we have learned from Frances Sitch that Peter passed away suddenly early Saturday morning 21st January 2012. Peter had a sudden brain haemorrhage and this came as a complete shock to everyone.

Subscription

Only 50% of members so far have renewed their subs for this year.

If you wish to remain a member please fill in the form on the back page and return ASAP.

Thank you

AGM/Christmas rally report

1st to 5th December 2011

Barnstones Touring site

Great Bourton

Oxon

Christmas ramble by the canal

This site had been used for a previous AGM meeting and offered most of the facilities required for such a rendezvous, however a decision was also taken to move the dates for the AGM to early December, thus allowing a greater number of units to return from their "foreign" summer vacations and swell the attendees for the meeting.



The weeks leading up to the meeting saw the list grow to such an extent that we had to "cap" numbers to allow both the site and pub to cater for us. In the event we had 27 units in total, of which 20 were sited on the main rally area, with the balance in the touring area which at £9.00/night including electricity was very good value indeed. The owner David Boddington could not have been more helpful, his approach as usual, was to find a solution to every problem that presented itself including phoning the local doctors to make an appointment and then take Reg and Joan Tovey there, when a mysterious sickness overcame Reg very suddenly. This "virus" spread, and when John Stevens encountered it, an ambulance had to be called to site and a trip to hospital ensued, finally Charles Chodkowski also fell victim and departed for home a day earlier than planned.

In the event the AGM took place on the Saturday afternoon in the village hall, and was probably the best attended, and certainly the liveliest meeting for some considerable time. A change of "chair", saw the appointment of Richard Moss to whom "all best wishes" are sent, to carry the club forward for the foreseeable future. Many topics were enthusiastically "aired!!", and the meeting had to be closed with a number still open. The nucleus for a fairly full rally programme was already in place for 2012, including one in Croatia for Sept 2012. Many good things to look forward to then for the New Year.

The Saturday night saw 50+ members "descend" on the little local pub, The Bell Inn, where Frank and Freya had laid on a fabulous selection of hot winter's dishes, Hooky Steak Pies, Pork Currys, Chicken Casserole, Apple Pie or mixed Fruit Crumble with custard. We were all made very welcome in pleasant surroundings, and hope that it was as much of a success to them as it was for us. They worked extremely hard to ensure it went smoothly, and many good comments were received.

A number of units departed on the Sunday, but still leaving 15 units on site. The Bell held its usual quiz night on the Sunday evening, and a couple of "Laika Teams" went down to try their luck, and enjoy the fabulous "eats" (free!!) again put on by the "hosts", a very enjoyable evening.

ALL in ALL a very good AGM justifying the moving of dates to early December, this will be the format for 2012, but to a new venue and more of a "Christmas" theme.

It only remains to wish all members "good health and happiness" for the New Year, wherever it finds you.

Happy motoring

Graham Tonks

Laika 680 Automatic Fiat 3000 Automatic Clutch Repair November 2011

We have recently returned from a touring holiday including France, Spain and Portugal in our Motorhome which is still under warranty.

During the holiday we noticed the clutch was slipping when changing gear but not seriously enough to stop the trip. When we arrived home we booked it in to North East Truck and Van in Lincoln and they agreed that it was slipping although it was not showing a fault on the diagnostic test.

I had to undertake responsibility for the cost of stripping down as Fiat UK would not guarantee to pay until a fault was proved. I therefore contacted Fiat Care in Italy and also Laika so that they were aware of the situation.

The clutch was found to be faulty and Fiat Care and Fiat UK paid for the repair jointly.

You do hear a lot of complaints but I have to report that in my case, I am satisfied with the outcome and consider that the support from North East Truck and Van and Fiat Care are as good as one can reasonably expect and I am grateful for their support.

Laika also did a follow up on the case to ensure that we had a satisfactory outcome and we thanked them for that

Southdown as Laika dealers

I also wish to report that Southdown is undertaking warranty work on my vehicle even though I purchased my vehicle from a Laika firm in Ireland.

I find them efficient and obliging even though they are a good distance for us to travel. Laika is looking for a dealer in the midlands for the future.

Richard Moss

Just a short note to thank you all very much for the cheque which David handed to me yesterday as a 'thank you' for printing the Newsletters

Thank you so much! – you kind people. I shall buy a bottle... or two!

Best wishes,

Tracey

At our Christmas rally we had our usual collection and raised £170. Our chosen charity this time was Cancer Research UK and as I sent a personal cheque the gift aid box was ticked. An acknowledgement and thank you to the Laika Club was received on 17 January 2012.

Kath Elliott

A visit to Germany and a Fiat Euro V test drive.

Those who have been members for more than a little time will no doubt remember the excellent account of their trip to Germany by Ken and Diane Bradshaw, when they collected their Charisma from the Concorde factory. The excitement and the note of panic in having to drive off in 8.5m of gleaming new motor home with a car on tow too were graphically recounted. At the time I read the article with a great deal of interest and possibly a tinge of envy never thinking I would emulate their adventure. Well you never know what the future may hold! At the invitation of Southdown's, the UK agents for Concorde, I found myself at the same factory anticipating the drive back in what could be our new motorhome.



Concorde's Showroom

Firstly a word about Southdowns. Over the last couple of years of owning a Concorde and in particular recent months I have come to know them well. We all have our experiences of dealers both good and bad. And I for one have never been slow to criticise but I now see the problems dealers face more clearly and have much greater respect. Southdowns are keen to build good customer relations and reach a wider audience particularly for Laika, a brand they have faith in but one that presents challenges too. For them it is always a question of how to best deploy limited resources and obviously existing customers will take priority over the wider world. Often they do not get the support you would expect from the manufacturers. None the less they are clearly interested in our club and the opportunities it could present to help re-build the Laika brand in the UK. That is something that could be to the benefit of all Laika owners and we as a club I think could help by suggesting useful mechanisms to promote Laika.



The on-site stellplatz

But what about the Concorde factory? Always a bit of niche brand in the UK it was a revelation to see the size of the factory and scores of Concordes all together. The customer facilities are extensive and first class. There is an excellent stellplatz/aire for around 25 units, a very large showroom with a dozen or so motorhomes on display and a customer lounge with snacks and beverages on offer as well as an internet access pc. My mental image of a factory is all Victorian buildings and LS Lowry matchstick men workers leaving the factory gates. Change that to modern efficient buildings on a campus like site just adjacent to pretty little village in rolling countryside. I understand that over the last three years or so they have added over a third more in terms of production capacity as well as the new showroom and customer collection centre.

Our guide around the complex was the product control manager, an Irishman who has spent a long time in Germany leaving his English with an interesting Irish/German accent. We saw every stage of production from the manufacture of the body and floor panels to the build onto the bare chassis cowls. The body panel press and the multi tool CNC router can cope with panels up to 12m or nearly 38ft in length which is a little more than the max permissible size for a motorhome. It was fascinating to see the build up from skeleton of the motorhome and where all those pipes and wires run to within the furniture and fittings. At every stage of production there are quality checks carried out on each unit before it moves to the next section. Whilst at the end of the production process all of the motorhomes travel down an inspection line where everything is checked yet again including a final weight check.

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It is reassuring to know that Concorde keep a complete digital record of every motorhome's body panels and can manufacture an identical replacement should the worse ever happen. There were some damaged Concordes in the works having exactly that type of repair carried out. They have a designated workshop away from the production facilities for this work and of course they can quickly call up any parts needed from the large stores area. (Unfortunately photos of the production areas were not permitted.) I have deliberately not described the Concordes being built but they range from the highly desirable to the frankly fantastic bespoke full specification luxury homes on wheels. (Anyone want a washing machine and dishwasher on board and I don't mean a man with marigolds!)

The trip back to the UK was the longest customer test drive you could imagine, something approaching 600 miles through Germany, Holland, Belgium and France and onto the train to Folkestone. And I was under no obligation to buy it at the end! There were a few rules though which meant no using any of the facilities or sleeping on board but being put up for a couple of nights in very nice hotels was no hardship. So the drive for me was stress free with Southdowns bearing all of the risk and cost. There were four Concordes being brought over and so there was always assistance close at hand should it be needed (it wasn't) and Ben their Sales Manager proved to be a welcome travelling companion.

It is no secret that I am a fan of the Mercedes as a base vehicle but Concorde have dropped that option leaving either Iveco or Fiat at my preferred size range. The Iveco comes out just physically too large for us though as a base it seems to give good service over a long period to Laika owners. And so it was Fiat or nothing. There has been a lot of talk about Fiats new Euro V engine and how good it is, smooth, economical etc. and I was to find out the truth of that. For the first few hundred miles and at a relatively gentle but not slow pace with a brand new engine the dash display told me I was getting nearly 26 mpg. As the miles and pace increased to the legal maximum the consumption dipped below 24 mpg. However, that still means a useable range of well over 400 miles with the 90 litre fuel tank. So how did it drive? I have to say the talk is not hype and I was pleased with how quiet and smooth it was plus power in plenty from the 3 litre unit. The automated 6 speed gearbox worked well, not quite as smooth as a torque convertor auto but not as fuel hungry either. The Concorde was quiet and rattle free apart from one slight squeak which seemed to be coming from the television cabinet. That was without it being loaded and so I would expect it to be even better after Dee, who is an expert in the art, has packed everything of ours away.



All aboard and notice German 5 day limit no plates

So yes, after months of indecision and endless toing and froing the deal has been struck and it is ours.

Eric Gould

Welcome to New Members

Jayne and Richard Jackson, Barlborough, Chesterfield.

Extracts from February Newsletter from Motorhoming France, sent by Jim Morgan

NEW ROAD LAWS INTRODUCED

In January the French government introduced a range of new measures aimed at reducing the number of deaths on French roads, these new laws include:

Using speed camera warning devices banned. In theory using a device that warns of cameras will be punishable with a €1,500 fine and the loss of six points. Many have warned of likely practical difficulties, due to widespread ownership of devices including such data, such as satellite navigation equipment. According to Le Figaro it is being recommended to update systems so they no longer carry the data, but if yours does have it still you should "not activate this option". It is not clear how this would be enforced.

Higher fines for driving while talking on a mobile phone – from a €35 fine and loss of two points, to a €135 fine and three points.

A €1,500 fine for watching a film while driving, instead of €135; loss of three points instead of two.

A €135 fine for crossing into the hard shoulder; the €35 fine for driving on it goes up to the same amount.

All school buses to be fitted with equipment that tests the driver's breath before allowing the vehicle to start.

Municipal police to have new powers to carry out drug use tests

The government have also announced that they wish to introduce a new measure to make it mandatory for cars & motorhomes to carry a "breathalyser" by Spring 2012. This will also apply to motorbikes and scooters.

EU DRIVING LICENCE

The European parliament has given final approval to the creation of a European driving licence, which will replace the many national licences used in the EU. The credit card-style licence, with photograph and possibly a microchip, will start to be introduced in 2013. The EU hopes it will improve security and prevent people disqualified in one country getting a licence in another. National governments have a choice of whether to issue the new forgery-proof licences for 10 or 15 years. To prevent "driving licence tourism" a European licence database will be created. "The times when people convicted of drink-driving could simply get a new licence in another country will soon be over," said German Socialist MEP Willi Pieczyk.

AIRES DIRECTORY

The following 10 aires have recently been added to the Aires Directory:

Chorges in the Hautes-Alpes, PACA

Chatenois in Bas-Rhin, Alsace-Lorraine

Harskirchen in " " "

Harmanswiller in Haut-Rhin, "

Hirtzbach in " "

Azorat in Dordogne, Aquitaine

Excideuil in " "

Monpazier in " "

Payzac in " "

Terrasson in " "

RALLY PROGRAMME 2012

MARCH 22nd to 26th	Ulwell Cottage Park Near Swanage £12 inc electric Indoor pool	Rally Stewards Ali and Andy Morrison	£15 non refundable Deposit required by 20th Dec 2011
APRIL 25th to 30th	Devizes Camping and Caravan Club. £15	Rally Stewards Linda and Geoff Mitcheson	No more bookings after 10th March
MAY 13th to 19th	Sandfield House Farm Caravan Park Whitby	Rally Stewards Alma and Keith Pitcher	Fully Booked
JUNE 8th to 17th FRANCE	Camping La Breteche and Puy du Fou	Rally Steward Brian Shaw	Puy du Fou booked. Can still join the rally at Camping La Breteche but need to know by end of March
JUNE UK RALLY 14th to 18th	Sandy Balls Holiday Centre Hampshire £15	Rally Stewards Ian Dewey Lesley Pearson	10 pitches booked £15 deposit/unit
JULY 9th to 13th	Brookside Burton Upon Stather North Lincolnshire £7	Rally Stewards Kath and Peter Elliott	Need bookings now. See details
SEPTEMBER 7th to 27th	Croatia	Rally Stewards Ruth and Richard Moss	Maximum no 15 Cut of date end of March 2012
OCTOBER 11th to 15th	Highfield Farm Touring Park Cambridge	RALLY STEWARDS URGENTLY REQUIRED	12 pitches booked
AGM/CHRISTMAS 29th Nov to 3rd Dec	SEE FLYER WITH NEWSLETTER URGENT	Rally Stewards Wendy and David Futter	NEED TO BOOK BY END OF MARCH

FOR FULL DETAILS OF RALLIES READ ON

Wednesday 25th April 2012, departing Monday 30th April (5 nights)
Devizes Camping and Caravanning Club Site
Spout Lane
Nr Seend
Melksham
Wiltshire
SN12 6RN

This large Club site is located next to the Kennet and Avon Canal, which provides good walking opportunities either into Devizes or towards Melksham. We have reserved 20 hard standing pitches, hopefully close together, with all usual full site facilities available. Cost is yet to be announced for next year, but will be in the region of **£15** per night, for all Laika Club Members. You do not have to be a member of the C&CC to attend, but you must pay the negotiated rate we agree with the club (the age concession will not apply, but our fees should be close to it). All requests to attend must be with the Stewards by 10th March as we have to advise the club of attendees and release any unused pitches by mid March.

From the site you will be able to visit local National trust sites such as Avebury and Lacock Manor, all with good parking for motorhomes. Also tour the White horse sites of Wiltshire. A pub is at the entrance to the site, and an hourly bus service to Devizes and Melksham from just outside the site. This will be a 'free and easy' rally, with very little organised by the stewards!

Directions, Sells Green is half way between Devizes and Melksham, Sign posted at the Three Magpies Pub on the A365.

Rally Stewards Geoff and Linda Mitcheson

Whitby Rally Sunday 13th May - Saturday 19th May 2012
Sandfield House Farm Caravan Park
Whitby

Fully booked

I have booked 25 pitches and received deposits. The campsite cannot give us any more pitches. The price per night is £19 plus £1 per night per dog.

When members book in at the site they will be asked for full payment (less £10) for the nights booked. There is no refund for an earlier departure. Payment can only be made by cheque or cash. (The rest of deposit paid will be returned by Alma)

If you should change your mind about the number of nights you want to stay, please let me know as soon as possible so that I can let the site know with a view to them rebooking the pitch for someone else. It is a very busy site so pitches are at a premium.

There will be a 'greet and meet' coffee morning on the Monday May 14th 2012. Tea can also be provided. There is a lot to see and do in the Whitby area and an art gallery at the Moors Centre in Danby is worth visiting. I am getting menu's from two fish restaurants with a view to booking an evening meal on the Wednesday 16th May 2012.

I am hoping our valiant walking guides - Geoff and Peter will plan a walk for those interested just bring your walking attire!

Sandfield House Caravan Park is situated on A174 just west of Whitby. Co-ordinates of the entrance N54 deg 29' 29" W0deg 38' 23"

Our mobile numbers are (A) 07814 237529 (K) 07803 934552 (landline 01287 660450 - if no answer leave a message)

We look forward to seeing you and I will try to lay on good weather

Alma Pitcher

Thursday 14th to Monday 18th June (4 nights)
Sandy Balls Holiday Centre
Godshill
Fordingbridge
The New Forest
Hampshire
SP6 2J2
01425 653042
<http://sandyballs.co.uk/>

10 pitches have been provisionally booked at this site for members not out of the country. We have visited this site before which provided good facilities, hard standing, walking, swimming on site and nearby pub. More details can be found on their web page.

A deposit is required by the site of £15/unit, cheques payable to I Dewey and sent to 36, The Cornfields, Hatch Warren, Basingstoke, Hants, RG22 4QB.

PLEASE NOTE THAT AS A REQUIREMENT OF THE CAMP SITE POLICY, FINAL NUMBERS AND FULL PAYMENT ARE REQUIRED 14 DAYS PRIOR TO JUNE 14TH.

To book contact
**Rally Steward
Ian Dewey**

FRANCE 2012
Friday 8th to Wednesday 13th June
Camping La Bretèche

The site is 1km north of Les Epesses on the D752. It is signed from all directions as you enter the town. The nearest large supermarket is on the northern by-pass of Les Herbiers. **DO NOT** go through the centre of Les Herbiers as it is very narrow and parking is haphazard. Following signs for Puy du Fou is the best approach before Les Epesses.

Cost, with ACSI, is €14 per night payable on the day before departure. I'm hopeful that those without ACSI will be able to get the same daily rate. Credit/Debit cards are accepted. Full Motorhome facilities can be found on site.

All are welcome to La Bretèche. Please let me know if you are coming by the end of March but anyone who decides to join us at the last minute should have no problem.

Puy du Fou
Wednesday 13th to Sunday 17th June

If you are travelling direct to Puy du Fou it is well signed from all directions.

Those staying at La Bretèche beforehand will leave about 4.30pm for the short drive to the Aire de Service where the cost is €5 a night payable by cash or card as you leave. There are toilets, fresh water (at a cost) and a service point on site. There are a few electric points where, last year, you could pay for 12 hours electricity for €2.

Tickets and an information sheet will be handed out on Wednesday evening.

Roll on June, but not too quickly!

Brian Shaw.

Monday 9th to Friday 13th July
Brookside Caravan Park (Near Scunthorpe)
Stather Road
Burton Upon Stather
Scunthorpe
DN15 9DH

This site is featured in 'Best of British' page 46.

We will be using the rally field which is slightly sloping, with electric and the use of showers for only **£7/night.**

From the site you can walk various planned walks of about 5 miles, including one where you can walk the ridge and see for many miles from a viewpoint overlooking the Humber Estuary where it joins with rivers Trent and Ouse at Alkborough. Here is also a good cafe for breakfast and home made baking.

A day at Normanby Hall Country Park, with the hall, extensive parkland, at reasonable admission cost is recommended.

Scunthorpe is only a short bus ride away and you can also use this bus to go up the hill to the village half a mile away.

The Sheffield Arms is in the village and serves meals and another pub is just across the road from the site for more liquid refreshment.

The area is good for cycling and there are some picturesque villages very similar to that of Norfolk.

We need to gauge numbers attending although no deposit has been asked for so contact

Rally Stewards
Kath and Peter Elliott

Please book early (before 28th May) as prior to this rally we are away and final numbers will have to be given to the site.

Croatia Trip

Programme 2012

Organised by Richard Moss

Meet up on 7th September 2012

2nights	Bevedere, Izola	7 th & 8 th Sept
3nights	Rovinj Acsi 949	9,10,11
4nights	Fazana 921	12,13,14,15
2nights	Punat(Kirk) 947	16,17
1night	Kolan(Pag) 924	18
2nights	Zaton(Nin) 957	19,20
3 nights	Lazovac(Krka) 927	21,22,23
4nights	Stobrec(Split) 955	24,25,26,27

Continue next page

The visit is much the same as Newsletters of September and December.

We had definite replies from Morgan, Dewey, Elliott, Brindle, Chadowski, Fellowes, Pitcher and Moss (8)

Still possible Tonks, Prince, Raynes, Welham (4)

Await response from Sparks, Barber, Tovey, Eldridge, Cosnett (5)

We have an offer on Krka Natural Park for an organised tour for 42 Euros per person to include entrance, tour and lunch. I also intend to tour Brijuni Island which is Tito's Island from Fazana (to book nearer the time).

Anyone still interested (apart from first 8 listed above please let me know by end of March:-

Full names of attendees

Place and date of birth for each

Passport No

Reg No

Length of vehicle

If not attending full tour state parts

The Laika tour is not now going ahead this year but we are attempting to organise a separate visit in May 2013

Anyone interested please contact me _____

Thursday 11th to Monday 15th October
Highfield Farm Touring Park
Long Road
Comberton
Cambridge
CB3 7DG
01223 262308
www.highfieldfarmtouringpark.co.uk

Up to 12 pitches have been booked with hardstanding and electricity at approximately £14/night/unit. Final numbers to be given to site 2 weeks prior to the rally.

The site is near the village of Comberton with shops, PO, garage and Pub. There is bus and easy cycle access to Cambridge and on Sunday 14th the Imperial War Museum at Duxford are holding their Autumn Air Show (www.lwm.org.uk/events/autumn-air-show-0)

Directions from M11 - leave at J12 and take A603 (Sandy) for half a mile then right on B1046 to Comberton.

WE URGENTLY REQUIRE RALLY STEWARDS in the meantime to book contact Richard Moss or Kath Elliott, contact details on the front cover.

AGM/CHRISTMAS RALLY

SEE FLYER

TICKETS FOR THURSFORD CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR HAVE TO BE RESERVED BY END OF MARCH.

Rally Programme 2013

The first rally for 2013 has been pencilled into the schedule. It is to be held in June at the Basingstoke Canal Centre in Mytchett Surrey. This is a basic grass site with limited facilities which is reflected in the unit price per night of £8. No EHU.

Location and facilities are the attraction:

- beside the canal from which cruises and boating is possible
- pub/restaurant very close by
- bus service
- rail station with half hourly service to London Waterloo

More details available from Dee and Eric Gould



Volunteer for Vice Chairman?



If any member is interested in taking over in this role, with a view to becoming Chairman in future, I would be interested in having a discussion. The main qualification for such a candidate would be his interest in the future of the Club, so that we are able to organise Rallies to the same high standard that has been enjoyed in the past.

Previously we have depended upon a few loyal members who have taken on most of the work, but it is to our own benefit to spread this effort more evenly amongst the membership. We are therefore looking to getting more people organising rallies and the Chairman coordinating this effort.

To enable a smooth transition of succession it would be beneficial if the Vice Chairman for 2012 was in place to help prepare the programme of events for 2014 when he would be Chairman, if elected.

I would discuss the result of any interest with the Committee as any nomination would need their backing. It would be preferable to enlist a Laika owner for this post, but it would be possible to promote any Club member for this role if it was to the benefit of the Club.

As things stand it would need a simple amendment to the constitution to make a change regarding being a Laika owner, but in the interest of the Club I would like to have a vice chairman to work with on promoting the programme for 2013 elected at the AGM in 2012.



Richard Moss



Email from member Kath Robinson

The Service Manager of the garage where we have our motorhome MOT done, asked if we would recommend them to other owners.

They are a large dealership, specialising mainly in HGVs, with the space and equipment to accommodate any size of vehicle. He is prepared to offer motorhomers a special price of £40 per van and £30 per car. Just mention the club. Customer Service is excellent.

The garage is easy to get to, being just off the A19, off Portrack Lane.

Chatfields Stokton

Teesway

North Tees Industrial Estate

Stockton on Tees

Cleveland TS18 2RS

01642 637660

**Please, please let the rally stewards know as soon as possible if you have to cancel and make sure when you book that they have got correct email addresses and mobile phone numbers in case they have to contact you.
Thank you**

The information and opinions in this newsletter are those of the contact name or names given. The Laika Club of Great Britain does not necessarily agree with nor endorse their comments and/or views. It is a totally independent Club, governed by its constitution giving no preference to any Publication, Dealer or other club. This however, does not prevent, with Committee approval, the fostering of mutually beneficial relations.

Subs are due on the 1st January 2012.

If you have already paid this years subs please ignore this form.

We hope that you have found membership of the Laika Club useful and have enjoyed our quarterly newsletter.

Hopefully you have been able to attend one of our rallies and we look forward to seeing new and regular participants next year.

Could you please fill in the form below and return ASAP to Diane Bradshaw, 64 Leamington Drive, Chilwell, Beeston, Nottingham, NG9 5LN. It would be most helpful to let us know if any of your details have changed such as e-mail, telephone numbers etc.

(Other than your name & signature, please leave blank if there are no changes).

Just as a reminder the new members list will not be sent out until approx. April 2012 Newsletter. This is to enable the changes to be received with this years subscription forms and then the database updated.

I would like to continue my membership and enclose my fee of £10. (Cheque payable to Laika Club of GB).

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Please only include E-Mail if you access it on a regular basis.

.....

Home & Mobile Tel. No's

.....

Present Van or Previous Laika model together with reg. Details.

.....

* The Laika Club can pass on my telephone details to any member who requires specific technical advice regarding their present or previous Laika vehicle. YES/NO.

* Delete as appropriate.

Signed.....

Please note that if we have not heard from members by the end of April 2012, regrettably your membership will finish.

If you joined the club after August 2011 your subs are not due until 1st January 2013.