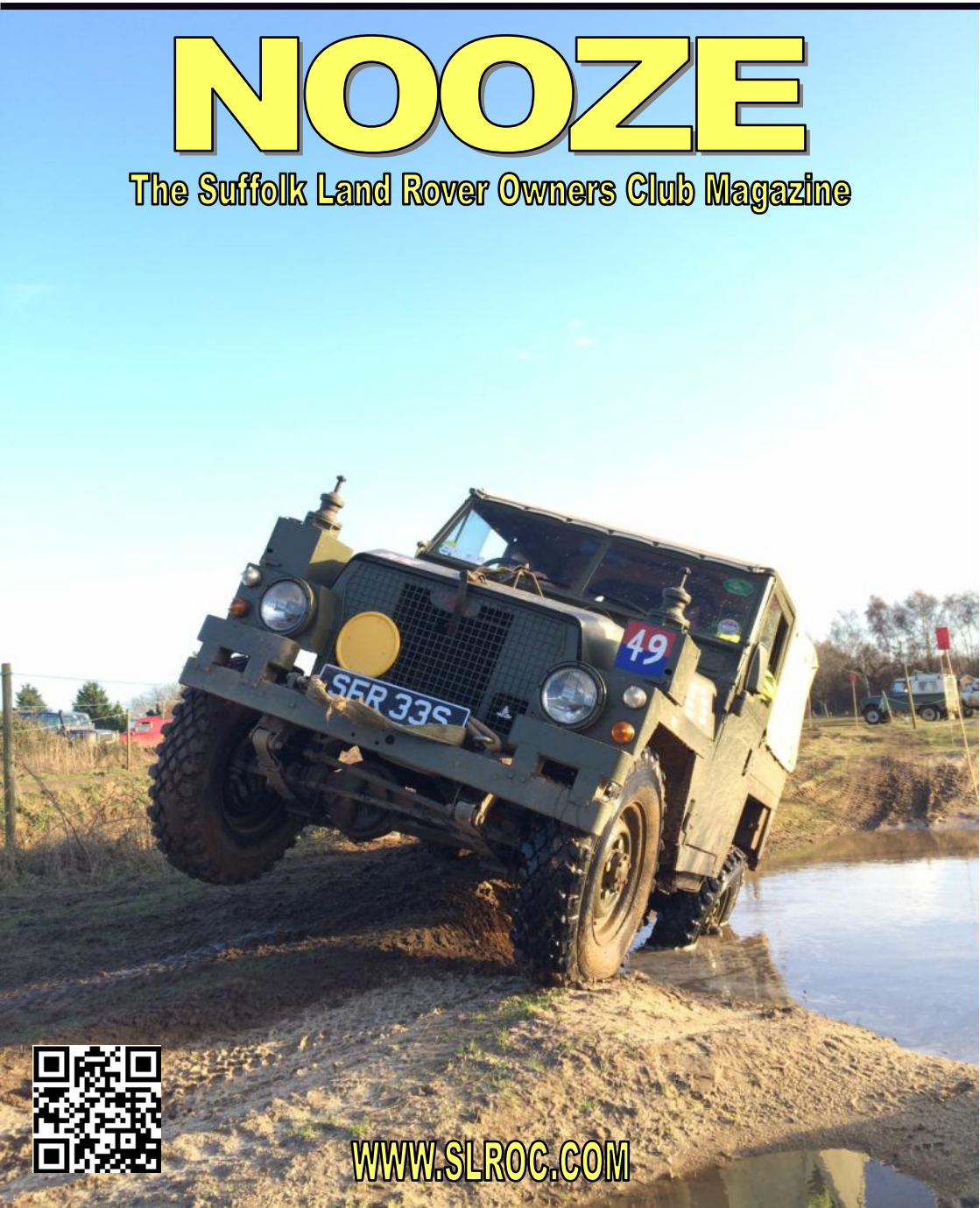
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March 2014

NOOZE

The Suffolk Land Rover Owners Club Magazine



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SLROC welcomes any comments, contributions or complaints from our members. Send your contributions to:

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Newbourne, IP12 4PA.
Tel: 07801 470055

Or email me at:
andy@brilliantoutlook.com

COPY DEADLINE:
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Cover Picture

Tara Jenkins drives her first trial in 'Rosie' at the recent TYRO trial at Newbourne. After all the rain this winter it was a fantastic day with lots of February sunshine.

Nooze News!

It's been a busy month at Newbourne and surprisingly during this winter of wetness, every meeting has been fine and sunny with the bonus of plenty of water and mud to hone our skills in. The two trials that kicked the month off were as busy as they have been for some while and although the driving day was slow for the first half an hour, it seemed like plenty of members wanted to take advantage of the fine weather and came out for the day albeit not from the very beginning.

In this months issue of Nooze, Mike Stapleton from 'Team Essex' recounts the Scatter run by Robin Beadle last October which ties in quite nicely with the return of the scatter later this month (details on page 11). Stuart Bethell talks about a Land Rover development that many of us may have thought improbable or maybe even impossible - the fully electric Defender. A couple of new guys join in on the green lane trip across Norfolk only to be 'challenged' in an unexpected way. And Rob and Ally push on through Ghana and of course have no punctures! There are also one or two up coming event changes so if you're thinking of attend any of our events or shows, check the planner.

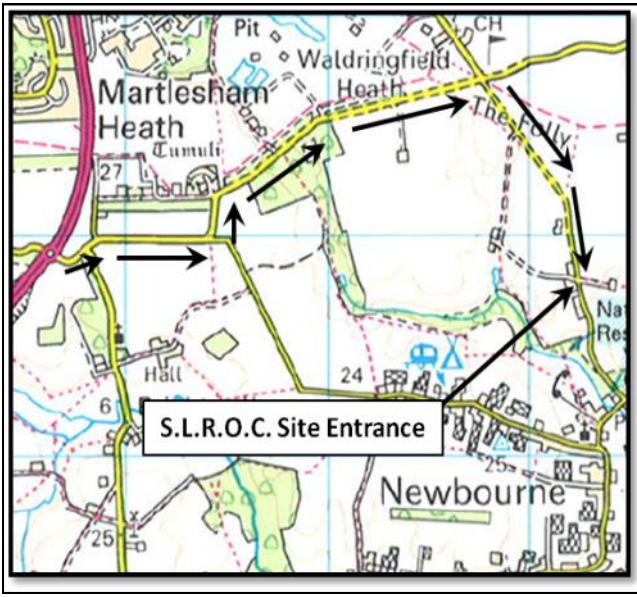
By the time you read this, you might just have chance to get along to see or even help out with the night winch trial at Snuggs Pit, but you'll definitely have time to get along to the interclub trial at Twiney Woods on March 9th and this months driving day (including the clubs AGM!) at Newbourne; but don't forget the scatter of course!

With all of these events going (and even more that we've probably not yet heard of) there's bound to be plenty of great stories that I'm sure many of you would like to recount. So why not jot them down, send them in and share them with the other members that read Nooze. We're always looking for new material and it would be great to hear from fresh authors!

Finally, another quick plug for the smartphone/ tablet/computer electronic version of Nooze. A number of people are already receiving this straight into their email inbox every month, if you'd also like to receive it as well as or even instead of your printed copy, just let me know, contact details on the left!

All the best... **Andy**

Directions to the Newbourne club site



The club has it's very own off-road driving site which we use monthly for weekend events, and competitions. The site is situated to the east of Ipswich, near to the village of Newbourne. Strict rules must be adhered to when using the site, to protect the safety of all users. Please keep your speed down around the village, and especially on the access track which has a 5mph limit. See you there!

Badwell Ash



OS sheet 155 grid ref TL 000 693

Snugg's Pit



OS sheet 155 grid ref TL 826 421

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Chat From the Chair

Well there's no sign of this wet weather letting up! With January being the wettest month on record, February can't be far behind. Some of you will know I work as a Flood Defence Engineer for the Environment Agency and it's fair to say the last few months have been more than a little bit manic! and depending on which way the wind is blowing the EA seams to go from being heroes to villains on a daily basis. However it's been fantastic to see a number of the 4X4 response groups regularly popping up on the telly and in the press, helping out the local communities and supporting the emergency services. I understand that a few of the club members have been helping out in these flood hit areas, so well done to all you guys and its nice to see something positive in the press for once, rather than being chastised for being a 4x4 owner.

I myself had a knock on the door from a neighbour one afternoon, to see if I could assist another driver stuck in flood water in the village. Unfortunately I was unable to help as his 6 month old BMW had an electronic automatic gearbox. With the water being up to the headlights, it had resulted in complete electrical failure, leaving no way of taking it out of "Park". The car was eventually recovered three days later once the water was off the road, and had to be lifted onto the recovery truck, I hate to think of what sort of bill will be waiting for the poor guy! Another expensive lesson learned!

At the start of last month we had the first trials of the year, the day into night trial on the Saturday and a tyro trial on the Sunday. Both events had fantastic turnouts and following an unbelievable downpour on the Friday night the weekend turned out to be, on the whole, dry and sunny if not a little soggy under foot. For me the highlight of the weekend was being able to run a "Class 3" for the first time in years with six leaf sprung competitors entered. Well done to all those that took part. Coming up this month we have an "away match" in the shape of an interclub trial with Herts 4x4 at Twiney Woods on the 9th March, more details available via the "club events" section on the forum.

The weather has taken is toll on some parts of the Newbourne site and discussions with Dan means it looks like a maintenance day is being planned for the near future. No specific details at the moment but its looking like mid April. More details will be posted on the forum first and in Nooze next month, so keep your eyes peeled as any help with the upkeep of the site is always welcome.

Lastly from me a final reminder about the Clubs AGM on the 16th March. As mentioned last month, it's being trialled to hold it at the club site during the lunch break of a driving day, with the view to make it more accessible to members. All full members and their associated members are invited to attend. So bring along your lunch and a chair (as the club only has a few) and I look forward to seeing you all there.

Happy landrovering

Chris

EVENTS PLANNER 2014

This planner is intended as a guide and as such any event may be subject to change.

When	Club Event	Where	CoC/Org
Sat Mar 1st	**Night Winch Trial**	**Snuggs Pit**	**C. Finbow**
Sun Mar 16th	Driving Day & AGM *(12:30-1:30pm)*	Newbourne	A. Pole
Sun Mar 23rd	Scatter	Stonham Barns	R. Beadle
Sun April 6th	**CCVT**	**Badwell Ash**	**S. Foster**
Sat April 19th	Show training Day & Camp Over	Newbourne	TBC
Sun April 20th	Driving Day	Newbourne	N. Warden
Sat May 17th	**Novice Winch Trial & Camp Over**	**Newbourne**	**B. Welburn**
Sun May 18th	Driving Day	Newbourne	J. Smith
Sat June 14th	1st Training Day & Camp Over	Newbourne	P. Corps
Sun June 15th	Driving Day	Newbourne	A. Jeff
Sat July 26th	2nd Training Day & Camp Over	Newbourne	P. Corps
Sun July 27th	Driving Day	Newbourne	D. Rogers
Sun Aug 31st	**CCVT**	**Badwell Ash**	**S. Foster**
Sat Sep 27th	**Tyro CCVT & Camp Over**	**Newbourne**	**D. Rogers**
Sun Sept 28th	Driving Day	Newbourne	D. Rogers
Sun Oct 12th	Scatter	TBC	TBC
Sat Oct 25th	**Ladies Tyro CCVT & Camp Over**	**Newbourne**	**C. Finbow**
Sun Oct 26th	Driving Day	Newbourne	C. Finbow
Nov 2nd	**CCVT**	**Snuggs Pit**	**TBC**
Nov 23rd	Children in Need Driving Day	Newbourne	TBC
Dec 7th	**Single Vehicle Winch Trial**	**Snuggs Pit**	**R. Lambourne**
Dec 28th	Mince Pie Driving Day	Newbourne	D. Rogers

*****Events requiring Pre-Booking are in bold type*****

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EVENTS PLANNER 2014

This planner is intended as a guide and as such any event may be subject to change.

When	Show	Where	CoC / Org
April 12th – 13th	Spring Break Custom Car show	Stonham Barns	TBC
April 26th – 27th	Mid and West Suffolk Show	Stonham Barns	TBC
May 18th – 19th	Land Rover Spring Adventure	Harrogate	N/A
May 27th – 29th	Suffolk Show	Trinity Park	C. Finbow
June 21st – 22nd	Vintage Rally & County Fair	Goodrich Park	TBC
July 5th – 6th	Long Melford Show	Long Melford	TBC
July 12th – 13th	Country Fair, Wings & Wheels	Heveningham	TBC
July 26th – 28th	Land Rover Fest	Billing	N/A
Aug 17th	Classic Car Show	Stonham Barns	TBC
Aug 23rd – 25th	Steam and Tractors	Stonham Barns	TBC
Sept 20th – 21st	Henham Steam Rally	Henham Park	TBC
Sept 20th – 21st	LRO Show	Peterborough	TBC

Show News

We're having a show planning and training day on the 19th April at Newbourne. This is to familiarise drivers and helpers with the use of the See-Saw, Marquees and general duties at the shows. We will also repaint and maintain the See-Saw. CoC's will be needed for shows so come along and see what needs to be done. Anyone who would like to drive and help at the shows please contact Neil Warden, Show Co-ordinator, details at the back of Nooze.

Thanks from Our 2013 Secondary Charity

Dear Simon,

I am writing on behalf of Climb for the donation of £1,000 from the Suffolk Land Rover Owners Club, which you very kindly sent to our charity. The support of your organisation is very much appreciated.

In the last year Climb has supported over 7,500 families who are affected by Metabolic Diseases. Demand for our services has continued to grow and it is through donations such as yours that have enabled Climb to continue to provide information and support to many more families.

If you have a photo of your club members who helped raise the money, which you would like included in the March issue of the Climb update, please email it to us.

Thank you once again.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Williams
Executive Assistant.

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Team Essex went to Suffolk

… and nearly stole the silverware! If only they'd had a basic grasp of maths …

Some time ago I (and I expect many of you) received an e-mail from Nigel Wood inviting entries for a scatter being organised by the Suffolk Land Rover Club. Now scatters are just the sort of high speed, adrenalin pumping, white knuckle activities (!?) that Rob and I enjoy – so we said yes please.

The morning of Sunday the 13th October brought no let up to the heavy rain which had fallen all night. I left home at 08.00 to drive the 64 miles to Glemham Hall in Suffolk, due there at about 09.30. There were many huge puddles and flooded roads on the way particularly on the B1078/1079 between the A14 and the A12.

I arrived with rain still pouring but it had eased by the time of the driver's briefing. The event had been put together by Robin Beadle and Dean (Deano) Hendricks. There were about 8 or 10 vehicles taking part – I imagine the weather had put a lot of people off!

We were divided into two groups to cover two different areas – east and west, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, thus halving the number of vehicles in any one area at the same time. The area we were using was roughly triangular with our present location as the top right corner (most easterly) and Framlingham as the top left corner (most westerly). (Apologies if I've got this totally wrong Robin – it was a while ago!) We were warned that we may come across some fords and with the torrential rain all night they might be 'interesting'!

Off we went and spent an enjoyable couple of hours with Rob doing his usual great job of getting us to where we need to be to answer the question asked. The number of spans in the bridge in Framlingham had us driving in several circles around the town for some time but in the end we settled for the answer 'one' as that's how many the bridge to the castle has. Still don't know if it was the right bridge.



This photograph of us leaving Glemham Hall by the back exit makes it look like a nice dry day – which, to be fair, it was after a very wet start.

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So that was the mornings half (the westerly half) of the scatter done. Now where do we go for lunch?

This is where our ignorance of maths let us down very badly … and our over reliance on technology didn't help. The map reference for the mid way check point where we were to hand in the morning's answers and pick up the afternoon's instructions was written at the end of the morning's instructions and was the square of a set of numbers – for illustration purposes let's say 215366.

So Rob got his phone out, brought up the calculator app … 'there' I said 'that's the button, that square root symbol'. Now as you all know the square and the square root of a number are totally different. The square of 215366 is 430732, whereas the square root is 464.0754249041852.

The result we obtained gave us a map reference (the example I've chosen isn't a very good one as the results aren't hugely different, when we did it they were!) which was way off the page! We tried several times but kept getting the same (wrong) answer. We'd have to call Robin and get the map reference from him – though we knew that would result in our incurring a 20 point penalty.

Easier said than done as neither Rob or I could get a signal. We decided to head back to the area of the start – towards Saxmundham until we could get a signal. It goes without saying really that we didn't get a signal until we were at that town and having spoken to Robin we found that they were waiting for us about 2 miles south of Framlingham from where we had just come!

So back to there then – but we did take the opportunity to revisit one of the earlier map references where we'd missed a clue. We got an answer this time – just not the right one!

We handed over our answers and picked up the afternoon's map reference and question sheet. We were relaxing here with a coffee when we were reminded that there was a 15.30 cut off point, so off we went - pronto.



A quick mid-point stop to plot the afternoon's map references.

An afternoon of equal enjoyment followed and all too soon we had completed all of the questions – none too soon as it was time to head for the finishing line. We arrived at about 15.27 so incurred no further penalties.



A hasty departure from the lunch stop (at speed through a puddle at the request of the photographer)

We'd gathered at the White Horse at Sweffling – a wonderfully old fashioned pub, albeit run by quite a young couple. A tiny place, two small rooms, with seating for about 20 – 24 people all told. No bar as such – just tell the landlord or lady what you want and they pop out the back and get it! (I recommend it – take a run out there.)

An excellent pint and equally excellent cheese and pickle huffa hit the spot just right. Scores were being totalled and we overheard some surprise being expressed as this was the very first time that they'd run a scatter with no clear winner. Apparently there were at least two, if not three, teams with the same score.

There was a children's competition as well as an adult's competition going on, with the younger competitors having to answer different questions and collect many diverse items as they went round. These included leaves, something of a specific colour, something inflatable … and so on. Rob had misread the instructions at first and we'd carried a sprig of oak leaves round with us all day!

So the adult's results … we'd come third which was quite pleasing. The winners had 10 points more than us – so if we'd not had a penalty of 20 points … a team from Essex might well have won the event! Whatever position, a thoroughly enjoyable day – one I can recommend. I'm sure that many of you will have been at the Essex RTV which I think was held on the same day so had to miss this event.

Suffolk hold a scatter twice a year and all are welcome. The cost was £5.00 to enter which was for the landowner where we met first thing. The whole event was run on tarmac lanes and we didn't find any swollen fords, but had one looked there would have been some green lanes taking you to where you needed to go.

If this article has whet your appetite and a few of you want to travel up to 'the wilds of Suffolk' then Robin has offered to run a scatter for you. I suggest you get in touch with either Nigel Wood or possibly Mark Pycroft – or me if you want any further details.

Mike Stapleton

Navigation Ex / Scatter Hunt
Sunday 23rd March 2014

It's back! By request, "The Wet and Steamy One" is putting in a re-appearance.

Last March's "Wet and Steamy" Nav-ex was bombarded by snow which caused so few brave souls to take part that only two competitors managed to complete the whole challenge. So it has been decided to give this competition another chance to tax your brains, test your navigation and get your wheels wet (as if you haven't been in water recently already).

With a very strong challenge from the Essex boys at October's Nav-ex, (Suffolk only *just* managing to win on their home turf), our guests from south of the border are planning on being back to show that they are better than us this time. So are you up to help defend Suffolk's honour?

This Navigation challenge will follow my format of a few brain teasers, general observation, the chance to drive a few UCRs, Byways, a Ford or two and maybe even a drive along the River Deben (subject to conditions). The Nav-ex will cover an area roughly bordered by the A140 in the west, the A14 in the south and the limits of the OS Explorer map 211 in the north and east.

Participants should note that you will require either:

OS Explorer Map 211 or **OS Landranger Maps 156 & 155**

These maps will not be provided. There will be a map on display at signing on with the competition area marked, together with any no-go areas and any other information you require.

Start location will be Grid Ref TM146590 which is gained via the main entrance to the Stonham Barns site, through the car park and the arch onto the main field.

There will be separate adult and children's competitions as always. In the adult's section GPS and compass may be useful but definitely not essential. The children's will be mainly observational as before. Teams of up to two vehicles will be permitted (but are required to travel together)

Event timings:

09:30hrs - Site opens & signing on commences.
10:10hrs - Drivers' Briefing
10:30hrs – Challenge commences
11:00hrs – Start point closes – no more late entries after this time
15:30hrs onwards – end of competition, results, prizes, raffle etc

Guests from other Land Rover Clubs have been invited to this event so there may be a little inter-club rivalry and some new faces around. As photocopying will be involved it would be nice to know rough numbers intending on taking part please. Cost of the event only £5.00 per vehicle.

If you need further information please contact Robin Beadle via the forum, email (r.beadle@virgin.net) or by telephone (01394-420453).

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Electric Land Rover, Really?



It's a Land Rover Defender, whose motive force is supplied by electric motor rather than internal combustion engine. For the purists out there, that love the sound of the Diesel Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) rumbling away under the bonnet, don't worry, it's not a production vehicle and won't be any time soon. Land Rover has built seven All-Terrain Electric Defenders and is putting them through various trials because, well, the electric drivetrain in many ways suits the Defender, and it has the flexible platform to drop this stuff onto.



The project was kick-started by a South African safari park, which wanted a quiet, torquey and environmentally friendly vehicle to carry visitors on a game sightseeing tour. They built their own electric Defender and then invited Land Rover to have a look at it. Greenwood was suitably impressed "We spent a bit of time sorting out their vehicle and then our management asked, 'what else can you do with that technology?'." He says. His engineers didn't need any more encouragement...

What is it like?

Pretty good, really. Seeing an electric Defender up close, and hearing it whine off into the distance like one of the railed 4x4s from Jurassic Park makes you think electric cars could work. However, if you think it whines a bit from the outside, it whines a lot more inside – yes, it's quieter than a regular Defender, but pedestrians will still probably hear it coming if you're approaching at any kind of speed.

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As an Electric Vehicle (EV) driver I know that these type of vehicles can be at their stealthiest at very low speed, where throttle response is very linear. The ability to control the throttle of an EV will assist the Defender across off-road obstacles, if anything, easier than in a regular Defender because you don't have to control the clutch. Land Rover has even towed 12 tonnes from rest up a 13 per cent incline, to demonstrate precisely that capability. It has also fitted the Defender with its terrain-response system, in an effort to fine-tune it for electric drive: improving throttle response on sand to keep the wheels spinning, and reducing brake regeneration in mud so the wheels don't lock, and so on..
Land Rover revealed their electrically powered Defender at the Geneva Motor



The Electric All-terrain Defender the visitor train at the Eden Project Instead of their Massey Ferguson tractor.

Show – it's powered by a 94bhp electric motor twinned with a lithium ion battery pack with 27kWh capacity. In normal terms, this means the range is about 50 miles between charges – however, one of the benefits of the 4×4 is the lower speeds travelled at off road. This could mean the Defender has enough juice for 8 hour trips.

The All-Terrain Electric Defender weighs 100kg more than a regular variant, which isn't that much in the great scheme of things when you consider the battery pack alone weighs 410kg: but it goes to show quite a lot was thrown out before the electrical system was installed.

Obviously, it's not 'quick', but then no Defender is and although this electric Defender can easily keep pace around town, you suspect that the extra-urban drive cycle was not what it was designed for. Nope, its forte is likely to be lower speed, regular return-to-base operations, considering the average daily mileage for most people is no more than 40miles per day, 15k per year. You can't help but think it would have real value, to those homes with more than one car.

Charging the Defender to full power takes around 4 hours using a fast charger widely available through the UK Government's plugged in places projects or 8hrs on a standard UK Household 13AMP Plug, while the regenerative braking helps to prolong the charge of the battery pack. The average cost of recharging the Defender on a KWH price of 20p per KWH, is just £5.40 giving a price per mile of £0.11p per mile, or £45.36 to achieve the equivalent to a Full 16.5 gallon Standard Diesel Fuel tank, which achieves 420 miles at the combined 25.5MPG giving a cost of £0.25p

There are no plans to put the electric Defender into production just yet. This project is a way for Land Rover to assess whether electric vehicles could ever be a viable option, especially for off road, all terrain conditions. Some of the technologies showcased here could make their way into future Land Rover models – so keep an eye out.

Article compiled by: Stewart Bethell: Visitor to Millbrook Proving Ground, Low Carbon Vehicle Test Day, Electric Vehicle Driver and Sustainable Transport Development Officer.
Credits: Autocar and Direct 4x4.

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A Prelude to Something Big Pt 3

Hoping for better weather seemed to have gone in vain. Having been woken by the rain on at least hourly intervals during the night, it was still falling heavily as morning broke. It's surprising how grateful of the slight slope on the campsite you could be, indeed it might have even been planned that way. At least most of us stayed dry, well all of us apart from Dave who used the same tent at the Long Melford Show the year before in a deluge and had as much water inside as outside the tent and again, there was the same result here. Pitching *next* to the Jas-Dome wasn't close enough, *inside* it would have been better, but as they say, hindsight is 20/20.

We all had a good breakfast, but Cordon Bleu Bob surfaced again and made the most amazing sausage, egg, bacon and mushroom baguette you've ever seen. It's official, Bob will be now and forever in charge of mobile catering. Breaking camp in the rain is never fun. Everything goes into the back of your truck wet and you know it's going to be sopping when you get it out at the other end, but needs must.

Not everyone who wanted to take part in the trip could make both days, and as the wet tents were being loaded into the cars, Robert Cracknell and Mark Hitchings (with his son Will) joined us at the campsite. Of course we burdened them with stories of woe given the over night weather, but they must have known something we didn't as within a short time of them arriving, the rain eased a little and the sky looked brighter ahead. Indeed the weather for the rest of the day would be fine and dry and only the excessive puddles along the way would be there to remind us of the nights deluge.



The first lane of the day started at the gate to the camp site and would start us off running down the west side of Norwich and then across eastwards to the Suffolk border at Beccles and a lunch stop; if only life were that easy. However, 12 miles into the day, just outside the small village of Ringland we hit the day's first problem. The weather had bought down a very large tree right across the lane we were halfway down and it wasn't one we were going to be able to remove. It's often the case that you find old trees down across a byway when the weather's been bad, but normally ten minutes with pruning saws and maybe the use of a winch can open things up. This time however, we all had to either turn around or back out of the lane and that's not always as easy as it sounds. It's at this point you become grateful for all the work you put into planning the route before you set off and thankfully it took no time to get back on track.

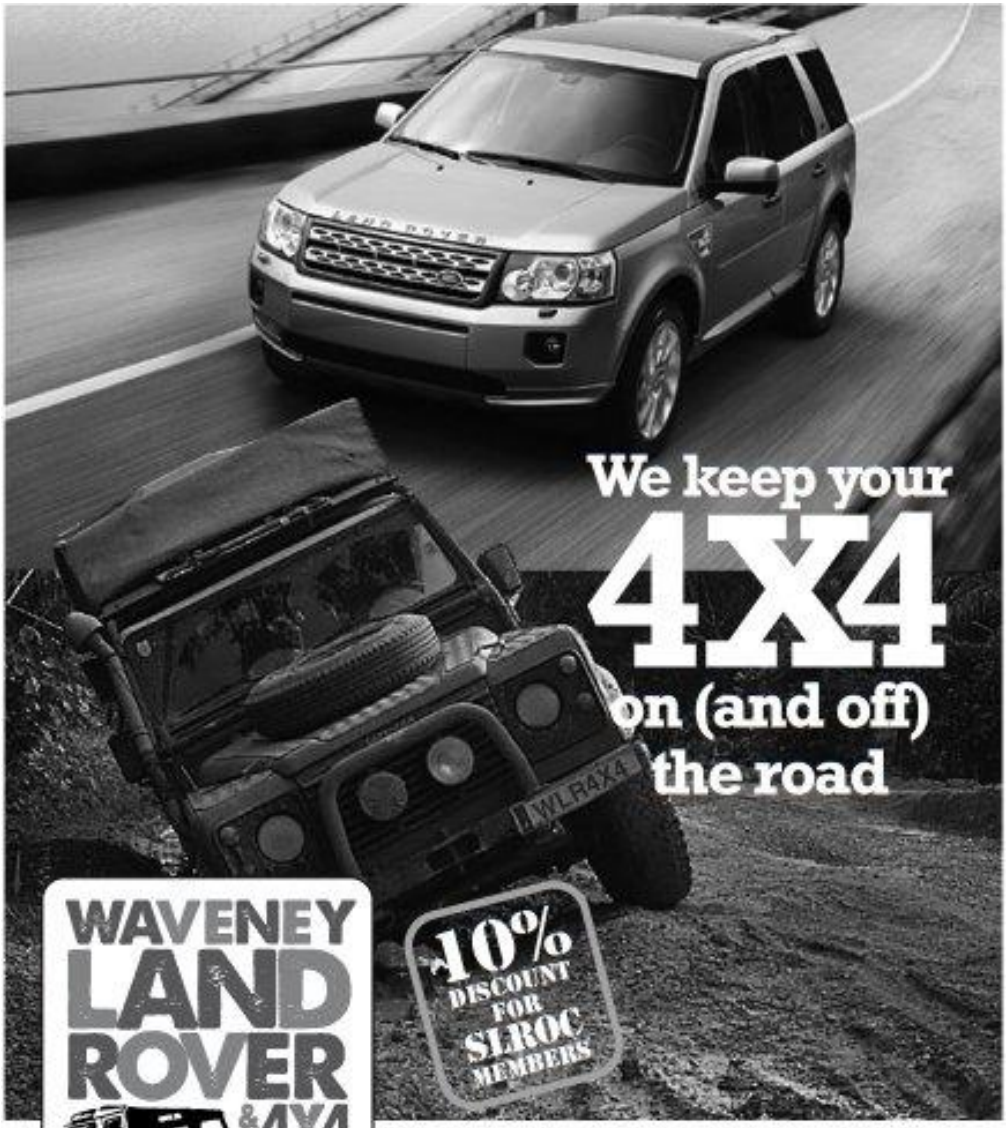


Whilst this small detour had no real impact on the overall day, there was one other distance restriction we had been aware of since earlier in the day that had to be attended to and relatively soon. James and Rae were running low on fuel and needed to fill up. V8 Defenders are great at so many things, but fuel economy isn't one of them and when you're out laning you don't pass too many garages selling LPG. Ultimately, the good old smart phone app came to the rescue locating the nearest fuel stop and whilst most of us had a break for a drink and a slice of cake, James and Rae nipped off and picked up fuel to complete the day.

All back together, we pulled in more lanes travelling past Hethersett and Mulbarton, forded the River Tas just after Swainsthorpe then on through Shotesham towards Kirkstead Green (where my navigation skills let me down and I missed the start of a short lane nestled between two houses). This brought us to the only piece of the route knowing to have a black mark on it in the whole trip. Toad Lane, which oddly enough skirts around Frog Hall Farm, is a tarmac road that is wide enough for two cars to pass easily that runs past Seething airport. Indeed it has the only entrance to the airport actually on it, but it is – according to Norfolk County Council – a restricted byway. Oh the joys of route planning. We push on past Loddon and through Hales towards the Toft Monks area where there are two final lanes before our lunch stop.



On the Recce trip, we discovered one of the lanes to cut through a gated courtyard of a house onto the main A143. I never like driving through someone's property, but every map that was researched said that we were on the right route so you build yourself up for a potentially difficult conversation when you get there. But this wasn't where the difficult conversation would crop up. The lane before this, an 'Other Route with Public Access', which was well defined by tracks between fields at its start, but was less used as it moved along a ditch further down and later came out near farm buildings. As we neared the buildings, a man stood in the middle of the by then tarmac road clearly intent on having a conversation with us. I drew up and wound the window down. The man turned out to be the landowner and was most unhappy about a small group of vehicles driving around the boundary of his field. I pointed to the digital map showing the ORPA and how our route, traced by GPS, had gone exactly along its path and that technically we were in the right. It was on the OS map, I'd checked with Norfolk County Council and Trailwise and we were fine, but the guy was having none of it and in his thick Scandinavian accent was beginning to get quite animated. At this point I quietly keyed the mic on the CB so that all behind me could listen in. The last thing I wanted to do was upset anyone but apologies and explanations were going nowhere. It was at this point that the guy said, "I'm going to get my shotgun and shoot you". With the CB mic still open I looked in the door mirror and saw car doors opening on vehicles behind me. In the best calm voice I could muster, I replied "Don't be silly. You're not going to get your shotgun and you're certainly not going to shoot anyone – are you?" and with that, I said "good bye." and started to drive away with the guy shouting "I'll take your registration numbers!". Twenty minutes later and having driven through the gated house courtyard unchallenged, we drew up at the lunch stop at McDonalds Beccles. Whilst laning, I've met plenty of farmers before and stopped and chatted about the whys and wherefores of public access and being responsible and all that, but this was the first time I'd actually been threatened in these circumstances. No one could really believe it. To top it all, though it was advertised as being open, McDonalds was shut and we had to improvise lunch with what the petrol station over the road had to offer – not much.



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26 Countries... 26000 miles... Zero Punctures! - Part 15

Day Eighty Five 23/2. Senchi River Resort, Akosombo, Ghana
6°13.17'N 0°05.35'E. Miles today 74, Total Miles 8142
We drove back in anticipation to the Nigerian Embassy this morning. Well, luck was our side, as we were in and out of there in less than four minutes with visas in check. Hurrah! The plan now, is to apply for our 7-day transit visas for Togo at the border but we still need one for Benin. By now, it was too late in the day to apply for these Benin visas so, instead of facing another 3 days alongside the smelly sewer, we opted to drive north for the weekend and headed towards the Aburi Gardens. Not quite Kew Gardens but they were nonetheless lovely and a welcome escape from the chaos of Accra below. Just before Akosombo, we saw a sign for the Senchi River Resort and thought we'd try our luck. The manager said we could camp in the carpark if we ate in the restaurant or gave a small donation. The food was so yummy and the beer was cold, we couldn't resist. A nice cool night in laid back place.

Day Eighty Six 24/2. Waterfall Lodge, Wli, Ghana
7°06.95'N 0°35.32'E. Miles today 106, Total Miles 8248
Stopped in Akosombo on Lake Volta, to marvel at the world's largest man made lake. Amazing that the country still has all these electricity supply problems with this massive source of power right here. We carried on north and on route to the Wli waterfalls, we stopped for our usual breakfast snack of Bomfruits (the fried doughnut type things) and I bought an enormous paw-paw for just 30c. To get to the falls, you walk through tropical jungle for about half an hour and we opted for no guide, as you really don't need one. After an icy and refreshing swim beneath them, we searched for a place to stay. There's a lodge next door called the Waterfall lodge, run by a German guy, which is a welcoming oasis. We camped on the front lawn for €2 each with wonderful views of the mountains and falls. There's a huge pagoda, which we spent the afternoon chilling out under talking to a couple of volunteers from England. We got to hear all the truths and dramas about volunteering. These poor girls were having a hard time. Been dumped alone in a village with a family that doesn't speak English and been fed boiled yam every night. What a laugh!



Day Eighty Seven 25/2. Aylos Bay, Akosombo, Ghana
6°14.60'N 0°05.50'E. Miles today 0, Total Miles 8023

After the most delicious paw-paw for breakfast, chilled lovingly overnight in our now well-appreciated Engel fridge, we went off in search for the village of Amedzofe. It's a good place to walk to the summit of Mt Gemi, which hosts spectacular views of the surrounding mountains, jungle, coffee and cocoa plantations. This was not an easy task, as Ghanaians have the habit of putting up road signs but with the most obscure and unhelpful town/village names on them. Anyway, after the now all too familiar shouts of "hey, obrunis, where are you going?" we asked the locals and found the road no problem. The drive up there on a surprisingly good road is stunning and it's a short, easy walk up to the summit. We sat up there in the cool breeze for a while listening to the people in the churches below go mad with song and dance on this Sunday morning. Drove back towards Akosombo and stopped at the Aylos Bay Resort, where we could camp for €2.50 each. It's a great place, right on the river, with a nice bar serving ice-cold Star beer, friendly staff and nice loos and showers. What more could an overlander wish for?



Day Eighty Eight 26/2. Ryans Irish Pub, Accra, Ghana
5°35.45'N 0°10.83'W. Miles today 64, Total Miles 8413

The manager came over to check how the "obrunis" were this morning and if we had a good night's sleep. Wish we could stay longer but sigh, guess, it's back to the smelly sewer again. Arrived back in Accra fairly early so stopped off at the Benin embassy. So weird to have to start speaking French all over again. After numerous mutterings and mumblings of "un visa si vous plait," together with the odd bit of sign language, he said they would be ready in 3 hours and cost 10 000 CFA's for a 15 day visa. So we decided to stay on in Accra anyway for the night and wandered around the Koala supermarket carefully choosing some essentials for the next few days.

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Day Eighty Nine 27/2. Comme Ici, New Ningo, Ghana
5°43.87'N 0°09.54'E. Miles today 39, Total Miles 8452

We decided we are gonna take a slow drive towards Togo and enjoy our last few days in Ghana. Drove along the coast and stopped at the Comme Ici Beach Resort in Ningo near Pramm Pramm. The beach isn't great for swimming but it's a nice enough place. We agreed on a price of 90c each for camping, as they have no showers and very basic trough loos. It is a really weird place; perhaps it was a lot more special in its heyday. The staff are obviously all very bored and so become a little intrusive and pester you a lot. They all want your address and phone number and want you to write them letters to come to England. It was such a lovely romantic spot and all we wanted was to be left alone. But hey, this is Africa.

Day Ninety 28/2. New Estuary Beach Club, Ada Foah, Ghana
5°46.29'N 0°39.82'E. Miles today 49, Total Miles 8501



Woke to the sounds of small children climbing the palm trees and knocking the coconuts down. Joe came over and gave us two as a gift, for which we were especially grateful. We packed up camp and headed further along the coast towards Ada. All the volunteers we have met have recommended this place called the Estuary Beach Club near Ada, only accessible by 4WD along a beach (or by boat or walk!) Having only one bar of pressure left in each tyre and Rob loving every minute of driving in sand again, we arrived and wow, it's even more romantic than last night. The river on one side and the rolling surf on the other. Okay, the beach is a little dirty with litter and there's a small risk of bilharzia in the lake but hey, this is Africa and it's still a super spot and Madame Pat who runs the joint is a charming hostess. They have huts to rent but we camped amongst the palm trees for €1.80 each. Watch out for the crabs on the beach though. Rob put his machete to good use and we cracked open the coconuts we were given. Think it's time for another BBQ with some Red-Red and plantains tonight to celebrate our last night in Ghana. It's off to the voodoo land of Togo tomorrow!



Day Into Night Trial 1st Feb 2014 - Results

Position	Entrant	Points
1st	Tim Dyer	4 + 7s
2nd	Hannah Jeff	14
4th	Rob Heather	15 + 7s
5th	Martyn Sealy	23 + 2s
6th	Andy Cutting	24 + 7s
7th	Michael Whitting	25 + 7s
8th	Mark Hitchings	27
9th	Andy Jeff	43
10th	David Rolfe	Retired

Tyro CCV Trial 2nd Feb 2014 - Results

Class 2		
Position	**Entrant**	**Points**
1st	Martin Vince	9
2nd	Charly Jeff	21
3rd	Neil Warden	21 + 1s
4th	Freddie Howarth	24 + 2s
5th	Demelza Schols	26
6th	Amy Berwick	30 + 5s
7th	Karen Heather	40 + 1s
8th	Tom Reilly	47 + 4s
Class 3		
Position	**Entrant**	**Points**
1st	Paul Hester	3 + 3s
2nd	Matt Sealy	6 + 2s
3rd	Michael Whitting	11 + 3s
4th	Beth Rout	37 + 4s
5th	Tara Jenkins	38 + 5s
6th	Carolyn Smith	46 + 1s

Summary of SLROC Committee Meeting.

Date 15th January 2014 8pm

Attendees
C Finbow (chair), A Pole (minutes), S Turner, P Corps, N Warden, A Jeff.

Apologies
D Rogers, A Beevers.

Unavailable
A Scott

Previous Meeting Minutes
Agreed with some alterations on omitted items raised by AJ.

Actions From Previous Meeting
Trailer now cleared and collected.
NW has purchased recording device.
AJ has sent CF July's minutes.
Charity monies have been split and presented to charities.
AP has purchased card machine.
DR has contacted DH and gained some admin rights to forum.
Broken flag pole to be returned, AB has receipt.
CF arranged catering equipment for MPDD.
CoC's for events etc. to be decided on and listed.

Membership
AP 132 full members 53 joint members.
11 new full members and 8 new joint members.
CF mentioned personalised cards AJ to find space in Nooze to advertise same in colour.

Finance Report
AB not present so no up to date report.

Club Site
Course held up well on MPDD.
New posts required to mark out courses. RB can get 50mm posts but it was noted that 75mm post are in use and that is what is required, 100 in total.
CF mentioned the possibility of having a notice board on the club house veranda.
Site generator needs service/repair. Decision to find specialist to carry out work.
New play equipment will be ready for collection end of January and transportation will be required from existing site to club site.
Plans on re-erection to be looked at. CF stated as low level, heath and safety not an issue.
Original club house is leaking CF to investigate.

Website
Main forum server went down but up and running again within 5 hours.
DH has agreed to DR having some admin rights.
Letter to be sent to DH regarding having two full admin on forum site.

Nooze
AJ 275 ordered (260 received).
62 given out by hand 198 posted.
17 members have requested to receive via email.
Suffolk show organisers to receive copies of Nooze.
A member has emailed AJ to say he has 10 years worth of Nooze and do the club have a use for them? Club would be happy to have them if member wishes to donate them to club.

Events
MPDD was a great success.
Suffolk show is going ahead, meeting NW & CF had with organisers was very positive.
ST to fill in and return paper work for this show.
SERV to be allowed to be on our stand. Not as our charity just in a support role.
NW to contact other shows to confirm are required attendance.
Re-instatement of open day at Newbourne discussed, date to be announced.

Public Relations
ST to attend meeting with SERV.
ST & NW meeting up to sort out promotion for other shows.
ST awaiting confirmation of interview with Town 102.
ST asked if LRO got photo's etc for their forth coming article on SLROC as club of the month. CF confirmed all materials sent. CF to forward LRO material to ST.
AJ to update Club Flyer and get quotes from LP for printing. Also get quote for 'general' club Business cards and show stickers.

Safety & Training
PC has spoken to DR re: site safety issues and will have further talks.
PC trying to sort out dates for trainer training and will be contacting Mark Stops at BORDA to achieve this.
CF is preparing risk assessments for IOPD insurance.

Competitions
Day into night, Tyro and Night winch trials all going ahead.
Off site competition one day membership discussed and held back.
ST this should be a debate for another meeting when AB is in attendance
CF to speak to AB prior to event to get his opinion on rules covering this.
Dave Rolfe has expressed an interest as comps sec.

Correspondence
E-mail from Dave Bragginton re: possible charity for this year.

Club Shop
Total sales £121.00.
NW commented that some club members think the club shop is not displayed visually enough when on site.
ST suggested that if SR cannot be on site could she arrange for another to bring and run shop on her behalf.
CF said he would speak to SR re: club shop availability.

Rover Rescue

AS not in attendance at meeting so no SRR report yet.
CF asked AP to email AS from Secretary account to ask for report on SRR and plans for its future and ask that it can be available for February's meeting.

Any Other Business

CF said he would contact Christine re: running of raffles before asking for volunteers.
NW has some monitor equipment and wants to purchase extra connections for same so as to show videos of courses at shows to the public, it was suggested he finds out possible cost.
Show training days to be published in Nooze.
AP mentioned another charity spoken about on forum.
ST to look into possible charities and make recommendations to committee for discussion.
Article in Nooze asking members for suggestions.
ST wants meeting with NW & CF regarding show equipment.
AP reminded CF that he was going to update site course maps for inclusion in new member packs - CF to do maps.

Summary of new Actions

CF to speak to SR re shop availability.
CF to draft letter to DH on web site issues and send to AB for approval.
Approved letter to be sent to AP for forwarding to DH in both e-mail and hard copy.
CF or DR to get quote to service/repair site generator.
DR to get costing for solar panels to charge batteries in club house.
CF to arrange for water bottle to go to another club member for testing and reporting on.
CF and PC to sort out paper work for IOPD and BORDA.
CF to arrange with NW transportation for collection of play equipment.
CF to investigate leaking roof to original clubhouse.
AJ to contact IC re: updating Nooze, calendar and pictures on website.
ST to send AJ contact details to send Nooze to organisers at Suffolk Show.
ST to fill in and return paperwork for Suffolk show.
ST to send Club Logo and selection of photos to Suffolk Show organizers.
AB to send ST list of monies raised at Stonham Barnes over last year or so if possible.
CF to send ST copy of article he sent to LRO.
AJ to obtain quote from printers for new flyers, stickers and business cards.
NW to send AJ copy of flyer for AJ to put new pictures on and update text.
NW to find out costs for extra parts needed to go with his equipment to show courses at shows.

Meeting closed 22:30.

Date and venue of next meeting – 5th Feb 2014, 8pm at Club site.

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Clothing, Stickers, etc

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Susan Robinson: 01728 648283
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Please get in touch if you wish to collect items from a Show.
Items also feature on our web site at **www.slroc.com**
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CLUB CONTACTS

CLUB PRESIDENT &
ROVER RESCUE CHAIRMAN
Alan Scott





CHAIRMAN
Chris Finbow
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CLUB SECRETARY
Position Vacant

TREASURER
Andy Beevers
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andrewbeevers@thinkpositive.co.uk





VICE CHAIRMAN
Position Vacant

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
Alan Pole
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Essex CO15 4RE
01255 431608 or 07771 678282
memberships@slroc.com





Please note: Some of the Committee Members have requested that details of their addresses are not published within the newsletter for personal reasons. Please do not let this put you off contacting any of the Committee, they will be only too glad to receive phone calls (as long as they are at a reasonable time of day, say **no later than 9:30pm**). If you have any mail you wish to pass on to a Committee Member then it can be sent via any of the published addresses above. The Committee also respects the privacy of each and every Club member, and to that end, we do not give out details of Club members to any other organisation.

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COMPETITION SECRETARY
Position Vacant

Important Information

On entering the access lane to the site, please adhere to the **5mph** speed limit. Failure to do so, may result in removal from the site with no refund of fees.

If only watching or socialising, please turn right to park in the rear car park. Do not park in the main car park or proceed to signing-on/scrutineering.

Trailers to be parked in designated area in main parking area.

If taking part in the event please stop at the signing-on hut first:

For insurance purposes, membership cards **must** be available for inspection at **any** club driving event, if requested. Only members holding a full UK driving licence* and who have **signed on**, may drive at any club event. *With the exception of 'Tyro Trials' where Supplementary Regulations may allow drivers of 13 years and upwards.

Then continue to scrutineering: **All** vehicles must be scrutineered prior to driving onto the courses. Minimum requirements for recovery points are two-points at the front with bridle, and manufacturer's tow hitch at the rear or two 'Jates' and bridle. Please fit bridle before scrutineering.

Seat belts (inc. lap-belts) must be fitted and worn by all occupants.
(**No belt, no ride.** This is for your own safety).

Once signed-on and scrutineered, you may continue to the parking area.

All loose items must be removed from the vehicle before going on the courses. Vehicles will be checked for these items and stickers.

15 mph site speed limit

No driving along the footpath at the bottom of the site, except at the designated crossing point for access to and from the Woodland Course.

All recoveries under the supervision, and at the discretion of a Marshal. All facets of winching operations may only be carried out by persons aged over 18, including rigging.

Pedestrians must not walk on the courses, only the access roads- this is for your own safety.

Children remain the sole responsibility of parents/carers at all times and those under 14 must wear a Hi–Viz vest whilst outside a vehicle (this applies to all areas).

Dogs must be kept on leads and under proper control at all times.

It is the responsibility of the owner to clear up after your dog(s).

Do not drive roped-off areas.

Do not remove ropes or posts unless instructed by a Marshal.

No motorcycles or quad bikes.

Strictly no drinking and driving.

No tractor, Implement or overly-aggressive treaded tyres.

Please take all your litter home with you.

The Marshal's decision is final

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