



RAMS HEAD



**Huddersfield District Association
Spring 2016
Newsletter No. 337**



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ROMAN'S FORUM

Last week we held our 48th AGM at the Ukrainian Club, but despite a targeted recruitment campaign, we only managed to persuade Diane Robinson to join us on the committee.

We did however, tempt Phil Rutt & Michael Boryslawskyj to jointly undertake the Site Officer role between them.

Remember - We can still co-opt members to the committee in the future if personal circumstances change.

Most of you will now know that we had a problem at our Easter meet at York when a freak storm demolished our marquee and the debris hit 3 cars & a caravan. The DA unanimously agreed to pay the excesses of those members affected which totals over £1000. The matter is now being dealt with at HQ who will ascertain if the Clubs insurance will cover the damage.

We await the outcome.

On a more positive note the meet at Easter was a resounding success and I wish to thank all those who helped in that success. Our theme of "Vikings" went down a storm (no pun intended) and I can be certain that such a crowd of ferocious Vikings has not been seen in York for some centuries!!

This year we were accommodated on the first floor and from the comments received it will be our choice for future events at York.

On Good Friday it was my 60th birthday and I extended an invite out to DA members and friends to join me in a celebration in the

racecourse buildings. I was pleased that everyone attended and I wish to thank everyone for their presents and contributions to the collection made. This was subsequently spent in the York outlet and a new Cragghopper outdoor coat was purchased on Easter Monday amongst other things!

Thank you very much, it was much appreciated!

As we move through April and into May, we can see some improvement in the weather although meets with other DA's seem to keep on being cancelled due to waterlogged ground conditions, let's hope that we are spared anymore cancellations and look forward to a dry and sunny summer.

Cheers

Roman



Nelson's Column

I've never known a year when we've seen so many meets cancelled due to the bad weather and waterlogged ground. Mike and Bernie bravely turned out to steward Rufforth although there were only a few units camping. Our caravan was surrounded by about six inch of snow and still coming down, when we decided to chicken out that weekend.

The weather for Easter had been quite good for the start of the holiday, but it was spoilt by what looked like a mini tornado whipping across the site and destroying our party tent and some damage to cars and caravans.

We did however make one good move by spending a week at the Club Site at Blackmore. It's a long time since we've been there, we were Youth Leaders at the time. If you've never been, it's a lovely site with beautiful views of the Malvern Hills.

The weather was very good for us, although the area had apparently been flooded the previous week. They had had to limit camping to just hard standing due to the soft ground.

There are some lovely places to visit and Worcester Cathedral is an absolute must. We did quite a lot of walking around the area and there is a bus stop just up the road from the gate. I can really recommend this site.

It won't be long before Spring Bank Holiday arrives although it is a little later this year. I'm sure you're all looking forward to this wherever you may be going. Hopefully this year we will have some nice sunshine to make up for the start of the Year.

If you have anything you would like to include in the next publication, please e-mail me at anne.nelson3@ntlworld.com.

Steward's Report - Rufforth

John Shedden informed us that there were no stewards for the Rufforth Meet, so we volunteered to steward for the weekend. The weather forecast for Friday was dire and was absolutely correct, so we did not expect many units to arrive. But, we did expect SOMEONE to arrive, sadly, NO-ONE did. This was a first for us!

We had four inches of snow as we crawled out of our drive and headed down the hill at a snail's pace. Bernie thought I was mad setting off, nothing new there then. Fortunately, our motorhome is fitted with an exhaust brake so we did not have to apply the brakes. I assured Bernie that we would be ok once we got as far as the nearest bus route, however, all buses by us had been cancelled due to the snow. As we descended into the valley, the snow was just a covering and it began to rain. Once we got to Rufforth, no snow whatsoever. We were welcomed by the site manager and she was very accommodating and helpful, giving us the keys to the function room on site. Our mobile phones were very busy with people ringing to inform us that they were unable to get their units out, and in John and Margaret Inman's case, their motorhome dashboard turned into a sea of warning lights and they had to limp back home.

Saturday morning and the weather is fine and a tad warmer. What do we see, our first customers, Jayne and Tracy. Followed by Lesley and Peter Cobb with Holly and Daniel and then Nigel and Elaine Peake. And that was it! There were a total of 10 adults, too many to fit in one unit. No problem, the function room was booked at a cost of £70, problem.

Remember the accommodating and helpful site manager mentioned earlier? We spoke with the manager and we agreed a figure of £20 for the room, RESULT. We all gathered into the function room on Saturday night and were entertained to a family fun quiz from Bernie, and a VERY easy general knowledge quiz from me. However, the star of the show was the Cobb's new puppy, Milli, now that's a familiar name!

Sunday morning came bright and sunny and Nigel and I were able to cook brunch outside, not bad for early March. Everyone had left by early afternoon and we all enjoyed the weekend. It was a little disappointing that we had no stewards coming forward for this meet.

Mike and Bernie

How to tell the sex of a Fly

**A woman walked into the kitchen to find her
husband stalking around with a fly swatter**

'What are you doing?'
She asked.

'Hunting Flies'
He responded.

'Oh! Killing any?'
She asked.

'Yep, 3 males, 2 Females,' he replied.

Intrigued, she asked.
'How can you tell them apart?'

He responded,
'3 were on a beer can,
2 were on the phone.

Celebrations

May Birthdays

5th Damien Fuller
7th Paul Armitage
11th Lesley Howells
12th Naomi Boryslawskij
13th Sarah El-Zebedi
15th Christopher Peake
18th Debbie Jessop
23rd Johanne Hirst
25th Geoff Hopkin
26th Oliver Womersley
26th Rosalind Allsopp
27th Joyce Scott
28th Ann Fuller
29th Neave Inman

May Anniversaries

4th Chris & Lesley Wood
11th John & Yvonne Ward

June Birthdays

6th Isabelle Womersley
8th Ian Allsopp
8th Clifford Smith
13th Danny Mudd
13th Michael Womersley
18th Vicki Coley
22nd John Shedden
27th Kate Priestley
29th Dianne Robinson

June Anniversaries

4th Carolyn & Nick Armitage
6th Nola & Robert Baldwin
14th Liz & Michael Womersley
17th Janice & Clive Patterson
17th John & Margaret Inman



**PLEASE LET ME KNOW OF ANY CELEBRATIONS BY
E-MAIL anne.nelson3@ntlworld.com**

[HDA WEB SITE](http://www.huddersfield-da.co.uk/)

**Don't forget that up to date information about our DA is
Available on the web site**

**<http://www.huddersfield-da.co.uk/>
FORUM section now ready for members to chat and
pass on information.
Why not take a look**

Support Your Editor

Rams Head is YOUR newsletter/magazine so please contribute some content.

During several decades I have created and produced newsletters for various groups so I am aware of many of the difficulties. Working to cost limits and deadlines, within our busy lifestyles, are the easier part of an editor's job. Reviewing the style/layout/format and considering changes/improvements are ongoing activities. Inserting notices and information from the committee is not usually too stressful.

Most stress and frustration is caused by knowing that members have useful material that is not sent for publication. Many members have stories and anecdotes that may be printable.

For those who have doubts about their writing skills, grammar or spelling - talk to your editor; invite her to make corrections and alterations.

As a variation on the quiz, stewards may chose to set a challenge for the weekend meet such as "Write about 300 words or so on the subject 'Why I camp with HDA' or 'How HDA has changed my life' ". Decide some way of awarding the normal small prize for the quiz winner; you know how some members will do almost anything for chocolates or wine.

Some members may even make the effort now, in response to being prompted. I hope that YOU do.

Ray Milnthorpe

Entertainment Officer's Report

York - Easter

Yet another successful meet!

I don't think people realize how much work is done before the meet starts. Programmes need to be printed. Food and Easter eggs need to be ordered and the field checked out for camping.

Thank you Anne Nelson for printing the Easter programmes like you do every year. I wonder if anyone noticed the deliberate mistake. I could say I left it in just to see if people do really read the programme, and some people must do, as quite a number came to ask me if Jayne and Harold were coming to do the disco on Sunday evening. I'm sorry to say we didn't include them in this year's entertainment. We decided to try and run the disco with our own equipment and a couple of volunteer DJs. I think it worked out quite well. But I don't think we will say 'goodbye' to Harold and Jayne yet.

My thanks go to Elaine Peake, (yet another helper in the run up to the Easter meet), who printed the race night programmes and all the posters.

Friday's bacon and sausage sandwiches were popular again this year, but in the programme it stated they would be available from lunchtime, but we began to sell them when people started arriving, about 10.30am. Is this a better time and shall we change the programme for next year to accommodate this? We had a lot of sausages and bacon to sell off after all the cooking had been done on Sunday morning, so next year I will reduce both quantities, to reduce our expenditure. Everyone enjoyed the food but I was disappointed that more people didn't come down to the marquee on Friday. Perhaps we'll need to have a re-think on where to site the tent, considering how the wind took a hold of it on Saturday teatime, we are a bit exposed at the bottom of the field! Maybe a move to the site entrance might encourage more to come and say hello!

The food surplus was only £9.47. This should have been more but the income from the left over meat, which was sold off, went in the Chairman's charity box and not with the other income. The food expenditure also included tea, coffee milk, sugar and biscuits, for the welcome drink.

Next year we shall need to decide whether to concentrate on bacon and sausage sandwiches only, and not do the full breakfast. We sold more sandwiches on Sunday and if we did sandwiches only we wouldn't need as many people to man the stoves.

The race night went off to a cracking start. I have never seen as many Vikings in one place. It was an excellent theme, as most people took part. The race night made a surplus of £275.10.

Sunday evening's entertainment started with the egg hunt for children under 7, followed by games and dancing for children. My thanks go to Chris Duffy and Liz Womersley for organizing this.

2 games of Bingo followed. Bingo is always popular with campers, and we always get a good amount to give away in prize money. The raffle was the best we've had in years, as it was short and sweet with good quality prizes. The evening finished with a disco for all. Thanks both Chris's -Wood and Duffy for doing the DJ.

Monday was clean up day, and thanks to everyone who came across to the room to clean up.

I have one or two special thank yous for their contribution in making the meet a success.

To Anne and Tony Nelson, Eileen and Vic Jackson and Dave Hill for making the room decorations. The longboat looked amazing, as did the shields and swords.

For everyone who helped on Friday with the food, and stalls,
The tombola's surplus was £73.00. Cake stall- £29.10 and the raffle-
£152.

And for everyone else, who did the food on Sunday and adjudicated
the races.

It's been another successful meet for Huddersfield DA and we've had
quite a few good comments on Facebook!

However, with the storm damage to the car and caravan it's taken
some of the pleasure I usually get from having a good time. We are
waiting to hear from Peter Roberts Re: - caravan repair and the Car,
(which will need a new tailgate), is in the process of being repaired. I
hope we will be camping at the AGM but it depends on whether we
have a car and caravan!

Christine Wood



The following letter was sent to the DA after our York Easter Meet.

Dear John & HDA team, just a short line to thank you so much for a
wonderful Easter Meet at York. We only see you once a year, but you
all make us feel so welcome. My daughter Lesley in particular wants to
thank Vince for taking time to chat to her and Have a dance (or two)!!
The weather could have been kinder but the atmosphere was warm!
Thanks again for all your hard work, it really is appreciated.

Cynthia, Bob and Lesley Barnes

WEB SITE

In order to improve attendance by visitors and members alike, we would like to add photos of the sites at which we camp and their surrounding areas and local places of interest.

If you have any such photos, please send them to Chris Wood with details of the photographs , at:

chris.4.wood@gmail.com

May we please remind parents of young children that, when camping with HDA, they are responsible for their children's behaviour, and must supervise them at all times. If we are in a room which is part of a larger building , children must not wander around, but stay in our booked room.

Dogs must be tied up at all times.

*Thank you for your cooperation
The Committee*

This British Weather

This present spell of British weather is playing havoc with our camping activities, and many other things across the country. A recent victim has been our annual photo competition. Entries were less than usual due to only a few people camping at the time.

The theme of 'DA Camping' was intended to provide some pictures, publicise HDA on its website and in the Rams Head. With similar intention, the new theme "Playtime" invites your creative interpretation. Enter a set of four pictures, any size, any format, mounted or loose.

Also established is the trophy for a single print on any subject. For both these classes there are no restrictions on computer enhancement, except that the result must look something like a photograph; not abstract art.

The newer class is for non-experts only, hence the trophy name 'HDA Snapper'. A single picture that has not been altered or enhanced in any way, except to crop to size. Printed at home or commercially; limited to smaller sizes such as 6x4 inches, up to A5.
Please use the main theme "Playtime"

You have the remainder of this year to get your pictures.
Don't forget that when the weather is good, we call it 'Yorkshire Weather'.

Ray Milnthorpe

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR WEEKEND MEET STEWARDS

Huddersfield DA weekend meets will commence at noon, 12.00h.

Stewards are not expected to arrive at 12.00h as they may have work or other commitments.

The first person to arrive at the meet must act as temporary steward until an Officer of the DA or appointed Steward for the meet arrives.

It is the responsibility of the appointed Stewards to ensure the site is signed.

Appointed Stewards may ask someone who will arrive at the site before them to sign the meet, giving thought to members who may never have been to the site.

Members arriving at 12.00h must recognise that signs may not yet be in place.

Members arriving on the site before the Appointed Steward must be prepared to move their units if requested as areas for Youth, Catering Teams and Marquees may be required.

A space for the Appointed Steward must be left vacant near the entrance to the meet, although the Steward may choose not to camp there.

Members on site (Each Unit) may reserve only **ONE** space for friends/family.

Basic Camping & Caravan Club Rules

1. The steward is a volunteer. Help the steward to help you by observing the rules.
2. All vehicles to be restricted to 5mph on the meet field. Learner drivers are not allowed.
3. Try to restrict movement of vehicles when wet to prevent damage to the field.
4. Please do not allow your children to play ball games, fly kites etc. close to camping units, as damage is easily caused and expensive to repair.
5. It is strongly recommended that all units carry a suitable BSI and/or F.O.C. approved fire extinguisher. Fire buckets should be placed outside the front of the unit at all times.
6. Chemical toilets must not be taken/washed or primed at drinking water points and only emptied at designated elsan disposal points.
7. Motorhome owners should not open waste water tanks until they have left the camping field. Waste water containers should be emptied around the perimeter of the camping field, unless there is a designated waste water point. (DO NOT USE THE ELSAN POINT).
8. All animals should be kept under control and must not be allowed to run loose on the field.
Recommended: length of lead when tethered is a maximum of 2 metres. Animals must be exercised away from the units.
9. Generators are permitted and must be used reasonably. It is expected that generators should not be used for more than 4 hours each day, unless for medical reasons. Generators should not be used between the hours 9pm to 10am.
10. There should be no noise between 11pm and 7am.
11. Each pitch should be left clear of litter at the end of the meet and a careful check made before leaving the field that nothing has been left behind.