



CHAIRMANS CHATTER



As I write it is nice to see the first glimmers of sunshine peeping through and I hope it is a sign of plenty to come, after the worst winter for as long as most of us can remember, it is great to know the camping season is just around the corner, in fact for Olive and I it is the thoughts of all last years happy times that has kept us going through those horrible cold nights and all that snow.

The National Motorhome Show at Peterborough is our first get together. If you have not booked you can book online at www.nationalmotorhomeshow.co.uk remember the last date for bookings is the 24th March, do not forget to include your membership of the Knaus Owners Club to receive the £2 discount.

Sadly, possibly our friends Keren and Trevor will be unable to attend for the first time in many years as Trevor battles with Leukemia in hospital. I am sure I speak for all the members when I say our thoughts and prayers are with you both, so keep your chin up Trevor and lets all hope its not too long before you are out of hospital and well on the way to recovery.

It remains for me to say happy camping in 2011 and see you all at Peterborough.

Tony



Keren and Trevor

Unfortunately Trevor was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukaemia just one month after he retired, so we only managed one holiday in Scotland before he had to go into hospital for chemotherapy treatment. We had a lovely time starting in Dumfries and Galloway, then Ayrshire before visiting friends in Argyll and Bute. The sites were quiet in September/October and we had our pick of pitches – most with a fabulous sea or loch view.



Looking out over Luce Bay



Paddling in Loch Lomond

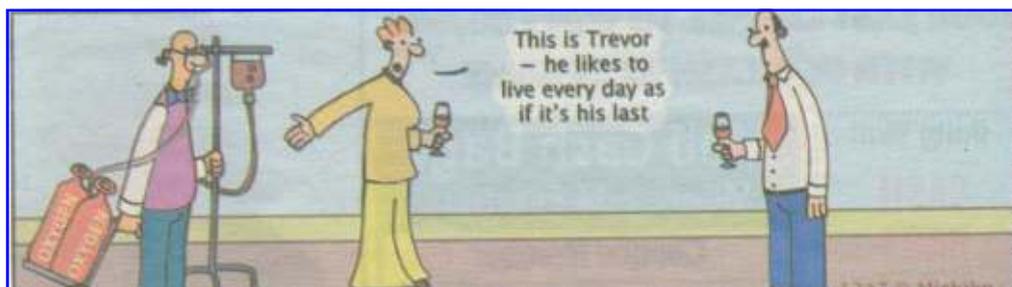
Trevor has had two rounds of chemo and has only been home for a couple of weeks since the beginning of December. Here he is in his little room at Bradford Royal Infirmary modelling the latest fashion in Knaus Owners Club polo shirts!



We would like to thank all the Knaus club members for the lovely flowers you sent. They cheered us up. Trev was not allowed to have flowers at the hospital, so I had most of the benefit, although I did send him a phone photo of them. He has just come home now and although the treatment has not worked as we would have wanted, we travel hopefully.

Thank you everyone for your thoughts, prayers and good wishes. We have booked to come to the AGM at Peterborough, but everything is a moveable feast at present. However, we very much hope to see you all there.

Keren & Trevor



PS: This cartoon was in the Daily Mail and made all the staff at the hospital laugh!

A Christmas Visit 2010 Part 1



School House

Braithwaite

Doncaster

Dn7 5SS

We were really looking forward to visiting our son, John, his wife, Ciara, and our two gorgeous grandsons, Liam and Harry for Christmas in Southern Ireland. As John is currently building a large house and the family is living in their business studio for the time being, Bill and I always travel across to Dublin in Knausy so we have our own luxurious accommodation!

The run up to Christmas was as hectic as always exacerbated by the weather which was atrocious! From November we experienced snow on snow in Yorkshire. The temperatures plummeted.

Determined to get to Ireland - to play safe we decided to set off a day early to overnight at a CL in Anglesey (Pen Y Llyn) just 15 minutes drive from Holyhead. The journey went smoothly. We arrived at this lovely CL to find we were alone on the site in four inches of fresh snow. (As the photo' shows) A further six inches of snow fell silently overnight! We were as snug as a bug and everything looked incredibly beautiful when we awoke. Bill managed to dig a path out for Knausy and we were very pleased with her performance in snow. The port of Holyhead was chaotic, the sailing late and really overcrowded but thankfully the sea was calm as I am a dreadful sailor! We disembarked and headed for the "tunnel". (If you do not know about the Dublin port tunnel it is amazing. It takes you north onto the M1 missing the congested city altogether. Expensive toll but well worth it!) As we left the tunnel we found ourselves in a very heavy snowstorm with poor visibility on the M1. We followed the car in front like Lemmings for 35 miles. Only the Irish lorry drivers risked overtaking. Have you ever seen their driving??? As we left the M1 to travel on very minor roads we had an extended journey on a route planned by John to avoid any difficult and steep sections etc. On packed ice we slid our way to Dunany.... Eventually arriving safe and sound.



A Christmas Visit 2010 Part 2



We had our usual hard standing with all mod cons on John's property. (Can you spot Knausy?) The view is stunning. The house looks on to Dundalk Bay and the mountains of Northern Ireland. You can also hear the sea beyond the woods as the Irish Sea surrounds John's property on three sides. Temperatures were very low with lying snow and ice all week. At least NO Irish rain!! Then the fun began. For the first time ever Knausy's fresh water and waste

pipes froze despite running the gas central heating more than we ever have. Good job we could get showers and fresh water in John's studio! We also discovered a small leak where the ice had managed to get into a seam on the over-cab. Happily tape is doing a good job until we take Knausy for her habitation check. Needless to say we had a super time, good food and good company in fabulous surroundings. As you can see - Grandad did an excellent job too of entertaining our young grandsons!

We managed to get home okay in time to let the New Year in at our own house. Who knows...this may be the last New Year in 36 years in our treasured home? Bill and I have very mixed feelings but have decided to downsize to a bungalow just two miles away in 2011. (School House is up for sale. The details can be found on "Fine and Country")

We are now looking forward to our next adventure in the Emerald Isle.

Jacquie Lowes

HAMBLINS' RAMBLINS Part 1

We have been on the road since we caught the Dover to Calais Ferry on a very windy and wet November 4th. We thought that we had imported the wet weather, as we had hardly a dry day for the first two weeks!

We thought that we would try a more inland route through France this time and hopefully get a different view of this vast country, so having had our usual stop Montreuil, we headed south via Le Mans to spend a few days on a very pleasant site near the village of Amboise, just east of Tours. Kevin spent a day in Tours but I wimped out on the grounds that I was still “enjoying” the tiresome cold/cough that had accompanied me from the UK,

While at Amboise our habitation door decided to go wrong and “Mr Fix-it” could only manage a temporary repair, so this problem, coupled with the continuous wet weather, persuaded us to abandon our original planned route, and head for Bordeaux, where we knew we could find a Knaus dealer and a good site. We had wonderful service from the technician at the Knaus dealer—an adapted barrel for the lock and no charge!!

We managed to visit the centre of Bordeaux, using their efficient bus and tram system and without getting wet! Also managed to get a good cycle ride to the supermarket,(using backpacks does ensure that you don't have room for too many goodies!) and plenty of walks with Rui, our Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, who we adopted earlier this year, and who seems to be adapting to our roving lifestyle very well.

We have travelled down the west coast of France, followed by a quick hop across northern Spain and into the north of Portugal. We spent a week (once Kevin had negotiated some horrendously narrow cobblestone roads trying to follow diversion signs that should have taken us around a fifty yard road closure!!!) at a site set among pine and eucalyptus trees to the south-west of Porto, and just a few hundred yards from the beach. It has become apparent that both Spain and Portugal are suffering the effects of the economic “crisis” in Europe, as the campsites are extremely quiet—quite often there were only ourselves and one other motorhome on site. Quite a different scene compared with last year. However we have noticed that the shops still seem to be fairly busy and there aren't the empty premises that one sees in the UK shopping centres, but the daily news programmes are mainly bringing stories of strikes and cuts in public spending, just like being at home really!

We both enjoyed walking around the town of Porto as it appears quite unspoilt by new buildings and has many little streets and alleys to explore. It is cheap to use local buses, but the journey from our site into Porto was a hair-raising experience and would put some of the Alton Towers rides in to the shade! We just hung on and hoped that nothing was coming in the other direction! Obviously the drivers know the narrow roads and bends so well that they don't worry, and they always made good use of their horns to warn any unsuspecting vehicles of their approach! Kevin managed to fit in visits to the Transport Museum and to the Tram Museum, and his ticket entitled him to a ride around the town in one of the historic trams so he was a very happy chap!!

From Porto we drove down to Lisbon, where we stayed on a site in the Parque Floristal de Monsanto, which is in the suburbs and a 45 minute bus ride from the city centre. This site was set within the park and well serviced pitches with plenty of woodland walks. Unfortunately the heavy

HAMBLINS' RAMBLINS Part 2

rain showers caught up with us again, which curtailed the sightseeing somewhat, but as neither of us are city fans, we were quite satisfied with one day's visit around the capital. It was quite obvious that we had chosen the same day as the cruise ship was docked, and everywhere was busy with American and Japanese tourists; such a contrast to the high numbers of beggars and vagrants hanging around the streets.

We are now settled at O' Barao, in the Alentejo region (about one and a half hours north of the Algarve) on the site we used last year. The Dutch owners welcomed us back, and had even had made new hard-standings for us and our friends from Devon, who had arrived just before us. Last year we both had to be towed from our sandy pitches, whenever we wanted to go out in the motorhomes!!

The site is quieter than last year, but still has a good mix of Dutch and English guests and we all enjoyed Christmas and New Year with a sharing of traditions.

The weather has been warmer and drier this winter (last winter we "enjoyed" over five weeks of almost continuous rain) and we have been able to enjoy our walks around the rural countryside without getting soaked. The local area is mainly cork or olive plantations, and most houses have their own orange and lemon trees. We have a ready supply of fresh oranges from one neighbour and goat cheeses from another, and most people keep chickens and pigs---all very self-sufficient. We are in a poor area of Portugal but the local people are very welcoming and appear to tolerate our poor attempts to speak their language!

The wild flowers have started blooming in January this year and the plantations and meadows have turned into seas of yellow and white. We have also found a patch of Arum Lilies growing in one field, and the Mimosa trees are just starting to come into bloom.

This area is a favourite one for nesting storks-they seem to build nests in some very precarious places, including on top of the electricity pylons! We venture off site to stock up with the "essentials", namely LPG, wine and food-our nearest towns of any size being Grandola, to the north, and Satiago Do Cacem to the west. Both are small old and unspoiled towns with a mixture of traditional and new stores. However there is a small village about a mile and half away where a dear old lady keeps a shop, where we can top up on basics. She always has a smile for us and we manage to communicate with sign language and our phrase book!

We really do appreciate how lucky we are to be able to enjoy this lifestyle, and feel so sorry that once again the UK is suffering such cold weather.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Peterborough Show in April.

Andrea and Kevin, the Rambling Hamblins



A news sheet for the Knaus Owners Club in the UK

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The Club website

www.knausowners.com

Is where Kevin Hamblin would be happy if you could e-mail your experiences to him for others to share. There is also a Discussion Forum where you can post questions or put up subjects for discussion. Why not log on and see?

Thank You.

KNAUS OWNERS CLUB A.G.M. 2011

PETERBOROUGH SHOW

4.00 p.m. SATURDAY APRIL 16TH 2011

AGENDA

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME, SECRETARIES REPORT.

TREASURERS REPORT, WEB SITE UPDATE.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS, NEWS LETTER.

2011 MEETS, ANY OTHER BUSINESS

KNAUS OWNERS POLO SHIRTS

Those who ordered Knaus Polo shirts from Keren will be able to collect them from the Peterborough Show. (COD please). If you are unable to attend please contact Bill Lowes (bill.lowes@btinternet.com or 01302 842809). I shall post the shirt to you on receipt of the cost of the shirt + P & P after Peterborough Show. Further orders can be placed at Peterborough or by contacting Bill. Thanks to Keren and Trevor for initiating, finding a supplier and placing the first order in this new venture.

Items for the Newsletter are always required. Don't be shy – tell others about your experiences

Adverts

From time to time we are sent information.

As always we are just passing this on and make no recommendations.

Keren and Trevor have a folding 6 gear 'Airwalk' step-through bicycle (black) for sale. We bought it last year and it has had little use. Trevor now needs something with a bit more power assistance, so this bike, complete with carry bag could be yours for £50 ono. If anyone is interested we could bring it to Peterborough.

Tel: 01282 850586 or
e-mail liaison@knausowners.com.