



CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER



Autumn 2012

Hi there everyone, well what a year for camping, all but one meet Olive and I have been on it's rained. Peterborough, Queens Golden Jubilee, Betton Farm, etc. etc. etc.

In fact of all the meets we have been on we have been able to sit outside our Van only once, but on the bright side I have got some good fishing in.

As we all know Peterborough was a wash out, we suffered in our vans but the poor traders had an horrendous time, I know of one long established trader who sold up and packed in after the Peterborough show. Well lets hope its kinder to us all at Peterborough 2013.

Betton Farm was a great success in all but the weather, 23 members came and went during the 10 days from all parts of the country, some new and some old. It was great to see so many and everyone entered into the Rally Spirit with our usual Knaus gusto.

Its difficult to know how the new Knaus imports are doing sales wise, they always seem popular at the shows, but we have no figures from the dealers or trade press. We do have one of the new one's in our club, Mike and Christine Bourner, they were at Betton Farm, we all poured and drooled over it, a very very nice Van indeed.

Olive and I were unable to Marshal Lincoln this year due to a prior commitment so it was marshaled by Kevin and Andrea and my thanks go to them both, our commitment was duly canceled so we were able to visit on the Friday, only 9 members present, but I suppose you could expect that after the Peterborough mess and our holiday meet and the weather all year, it did however give us great pleasure and was so wonderful to see Keren in attendance after her personal loss this year, well done Keren super to see you.

Well will sign off now so if you are camping or holidaying over the Christmas period have a great time, if not lets look forward to a better year in 2013 and best wishes to you all

Tony

Knaus Rally – Betton Farm, East Ayton, 22nd June to 1st July 2012 (approximately 3 miles outside of Scarborough)

In March of this year we were fortunate enough to buy a Knaus Sports Traveller 501D, which is a four-berth, coach built van, only 5.41metres long. The length of the van had to be below 6 metres so that we could get it down our shared drive, and behind the garage. It also had to have plenty of storage as John is a windsurfer, and we have a three-year old Evelyn who we need to take various essentials for, beach tent, buckets and spades, lego – the list goes on.



Since we bought the van we have been out a number of times, (Carsington Water, Bridlington, and Holme Pierrepont). Over the Jubilee weekend we were out from Thursday night to Tuesday - the longest we had been out. We wild camped in the beautiful area of Kilnsea and Easington.

The Knaus rally at Betton Farm was our longest outing in a motor home (10 days), having had a caravan before. John's mum and dad (Joan and Duncan) are in the Knaus club too and were going to the rally and my mum and dad had booked onto the main part of the site in a caravan (£14 a night, extra £2 for hook up a night and extra £2 for awning a night).

When we were packing we had plenty of space for food and clothes, and we found that a convenient shoe tidy hanger in the wardrobe helped us keep the clothing easily accessible. This is a tip we picked up from Carol – who also has a Sports Traveller 501.

To make the most of the time we had, we set off after work on the Thursday and went up to Bridlington, where we had some lovely fish and chips from Busy Bees Fish Bar. We then spent the night in a layby just outside of Bridlington.

Friday morning we went to Morrison's at Bridlington for fuel, as it was cheaper there and to get a paper. By chance we met Joan and Duncan, who had been staying the night at Flamborough. So in convoy we headed to Betton Farm, with the rain beating down on the windscreen.

Tony saw us on the road approaching East Ayton, so when we turned into Betton Farm he was waiting for us to put us on our pitch.

Betton Farm has loads to offer and is in a lovely location, overlooking the Wolds. It has a park which Evelyn loved playing on and a courtyard adjacent to the park where there are bikes and go carts for children to play on. Off the courtyard there are also pigs and rabbits to look in on. Adjacent to the rally field and the campsite are fields with Shetland ponies in, sheep and horses. There is a farm shop, which does lovely cakes and ice cream, amongst other things. We can personally recommend the Butterfly cakes and the curd tart. There is also a restaurant and other shops – which we did not get a chance to venture into. There are two toilets and a wet room off the courtyard. You have to buy a token (75p) for the showers from the farm shop, but the shower lasts for just over 5 minutes so most couples were going together. You have to make sure you read the instructions or you lose your token/may end up still covered in soap! There are additional toilets near the restaurant and shops. The site also had a couple of portaloos adjacent to the rally field which were very clean and not at all like the portaloos I remember. (These were laid on specially for the rally).

Knaus Rally – Betton Farm—cont

The ten days we were at Betton Farm were a mixture of sunshine and rain, and before we arrived it had been raining heavily for a few days. The only downside to Betton Farm is that it is not really set up to deal with a lot of rain. After we had arrived at Betton Farm and had a drink and a cake with Tony and Olive we decided to go out and explore the area – it was raining, and when you have a three year old it is better to be doing something. Unfortunately we could not get out of the field as the ground was so waterlogged, and our wheels were spinning – so we had to make our way back to our pitch. Fortunately my mum and dad had a four-wheel drive and so we went out with them for a couple of days

We are used to being able to go off when we want, so we did ask the owner's son if we could move and we did get towed off (as did a number of people) on the Monday. Each day when we returned from our outing we parked up in the car park, with usually about three other Knaus motor homes in the car park with us.



The location of Betton Farm was ideal for us, Evelyn loves the beach, so a lot of our time was spent at the beach – weather permitting.

We went to Cayton Bay, (10 minutes drive away) which is a lovely beach, but with a very steep path to climb down (and then up). It is always a bad sign when the path has lines marked in it for grip! If you manage to make it down there is a shop just off the beach where you can get a coffee or ice cream, and various bits and bobs - we bought some buckets as John had broken Evelyn's! There are also some toilets. We only went once over the ten days as the memory of the climb back up had not yet faded.

In terms of the beach it is hard to beat the North Bay at Scarborough, which is where we went most days, we parked on Marine drive. We parked in front of a bus stop, or in front of a pay booth, so that we could get out easily. For longer vans, you can go further along the road before the bend and there are bays where you can park, and put part of your vehicle over the grass, and there were a number of motor homes doing this. The sea was so cold it hurt to go in, you forget how cold it can be – but Evelyn loved it. Evelyn had her first ride on a donkey – Billy, and I walked barefoot through a load of donkey poo, which Evelyn thought was hilarious. From North Bay you can also take a ride on the open top bus from North Bay to South Bay, which we did. Buses still hold a fascination for Evelyn and she really enjoyed it. In South Bay Evelyn could also have a go on the rides in the arcades and hoard 2ps! At North Bay there is a convenient coffee shop, which does take out, and the coffee was lovely. Joan and Duncan had something to eat there and they said it was good.

Although we did our own thing it was lovely to have the club there as it felt like we had lots of friends with us. On Wednesday Jim and Allison had arranged a get together in the marquee at 10.30am and done some lovely scones. We all met up and had a drink (tea and coffee) and heard the answers to the quizzes set by Olive and Kathy. (Jacky and Andrea won.) Evelyn won the under 4s competition and got some colouring books and pencils – which she was very pleased about and then drew out our number, so that we won the honour of writing this report! In the evening the whole Knaus rally had fish and chips – (Tony had taken orders and money earlier in the day and then gone to collect). There were over 20 people there and it was really sociable and enjoyable. The fish was delicious, made all the better by the company.

Knaus Rally – Betton Farm—cont

We had promised Evelyn a ride on a miniature train, and when the weather allowed we parked near Peasholme Park for free using the disk zone – you can get up to three hours free parking (the disks are available from newsagents in Scarborough). At Peasholme Park we caught the train to Scalby Mills. The end of the line is next to the Sea World Centre. We had not really thought through what we would do when we got to the other end and had not given ourselves enough time to go into Sea World and justify the £45 charge for the privilege (we had also not got the £5 off sticker that was on the parking ticket from Marine Drive). For future reference we did look at the car park signs and you have to pay to park there. We were not tempted by the miniature golf, so instead we had a drink in the nearby pub overlooking the sea and then headed back to site.



We could not be so close without visiting Whitby, we went relatively early - setting off at 8.30am so that we could get there in good time to park for free on the top (near the whale bones). The rain came down in bucket loads and we got very wet. We had a coffee near the Shambles and a bite to eat at Subway. John likes Weird Fish tops and there is a relatively cheap shop in Whitby called Poachers Pocket, west cliff 3 Skinner Street, which we always have a look in to see if there is anything. Once we got back to the motor home we all had a drink with a view overlooking the sea.

We were very sad to leave on the Sunday, but before we went home we had to go on the Dragon pedalos at Peasholme Park. Evelyn was steering so we kept hitting the sides of the lake and only managed to go round the lake once in the thirty minutes we had, as we were zig-zagging. It was ice creams all round and then we set off home. We drove down the coast through Filey to have a look – it looked a lovely beach, but the parking was not so good. We then went to Bridlington to fill up with fuel, and as it was lunchtime we all had fish and chips (Busy Bees Fish Bar again). We got home at about 4pm.

In terms of how we got on for the 10 days we were out, the main issue we had compared to a caravan was what to do with wet things. We tended to use the bathroom to hang up coats, but this was not really enough when Evelyn had got clothes wet and sandy. I also missed an awning sometimes, but mainly for somewhere to leave shoes and to put wet things. Aside from this (which would not have been an issue if the weather had been kind), we got on fine and it all went well, especially being able to clean Evelyn off when she came off the beach.

There were other things we could have done, but did not get around to – for example a number of people went to Pickering and to the RSPB Bempton Cliffs Nature Reserve, and there are loads of other places to visit. So we will definitely be going back to the area in the future.

For us the holiday has also had an unexpected bonus – it has helped Evelyn to gain more confidence with dogs – as she got to hold Sam's lead (her highlight) and to pet Andrea's dog. Thank you to Kathy and Andrea.

Thank you Tony for arranging it, and we look forward to the next one!

Maxine

Australia—but not in a Knaus

Bill and Jacqui Lowes

Jacqui and I were invited to a wedding in Townsville in July so we decided to make it into an Australian Adventure. In the seven weeks we were away we have visited Hong Kong, Sydney, Cairns, Brisbane, Melbourne, the Red Centre and Alice Springs, Darwin, and Singapore on the way home. Three weeks of the time was spent in Queensland and we lived in an Apollo Hi Top camper based on a Toyota Hiace. We collected this in Cairns, headed north to Port Douglas for 4 days, seeing rainforests, crocodiles and snorkeling on the Great Barrier reef. Following a week camping in my sister's back garden for the wedding, we then continued down the Queensland coast to Brisbane. In Queensland camping is a pleasure, July temperatures range between 13 (night) – 25 C with almost wall-to-wall sunshine, better than an English summer. The only missing element was long summer evenings – it goes dark by 7 p.m.



The Campervan was considerably different to our Knaus Traveller – no toilet, bathroom, bed to make every night, manual pump for water etc. We didn't know how we would cope. After three weeks, however, I have to report that we managed admirably and following the experience may well downsize (To another Knaus of course!!) The van has three seats in the front that do not swivel. Behind the seats are 2 units, one with sink and manual pump and a cupboard under. The other unit, parallel to the side of the van is a work top with a 2 ringed hob, with microwave and fridge under.



Two bench seats make up the rest of the van with a clever multi swivel table between. The top of this and another piece of wood make up the base for the bench seat cushions to form the bed. Some limited storage space, gas and water are under the benches, with access to some of it through the back door, which is lift up. I think it is a 2.8 petrol engine that powers the

unit and it is more than enough for cruising at 100 kph. I did not calculate mpg but I think it would be less than 25, even with careful driving. The lack of an onboard toilet was a problem I was concerned about, but was solved (for me at least) by the first visit to a supermarket where a litre plastic screw top bottle of peaches was purchased, peaches eaten and the bottle recycled, and recycled, and recycled..... A piece of equipment we purchased in England, as biting insects seem to be attracted to Jacqui as much as I am, was a mosquito net. I quickly found out how to hang it successfully from the roof and it gave the whole bedtime experience a feeling of a 16th Century Noble's Canopy bed!!!



We intended just to travel from one place to another and then find a campsite but this proved difficult, as, for various reasons, there was great demand for pitches. We had to book up at least 24 hours ahead to ensure we had a pitch. Pitches varied in size and quality, as did campsites. Generally pitch sizes are smaller than this country but with the same mix of facilities at the pitch. The best we had was in Hervey Bay, where the block behind the hard standing was an en-suite room. Cost - £35 pn. The most impressive facility we found on all the campsites we stayed on was not only a camp kitchen but also barbecues (gas or electric) provided by the site for free use. These barbecues are also provided by town councils on beaches and seafronts and are well used. This is just a taster of our trip – if anyone wants to know more please contact us at bill.lowes@btinternet.com



Lincoln Motorhome Show 2012

The club held its end of season rally in September at the Lincoln Show, where the weather was mixed, with some rain on Thursday and Friday, but sunny on Saturday and then a rather wet and windy end to the weekend! No change there from many other outdoor events this year!!!



We were delighted to welcome new members Barbara and Alan Brookes, and we were so pleased to see Keren and Charley, accompanied by their friend Judy, who became an honorary “Knauser” for the weekend.

We all enjoyed our Jacobs Supper on Saturday, with a superb spread, including a delicious big chocolate cake, topped with fruit, which Keren cooked in her van oven! She tried to convince all of us that she didn't mix it in the dogs bowl, having left her mixing bowl at

home!!!—however it all got eaten, with generous helpings of fresh cream. It was good to get together and catch up with everybody and hear their news and views.

It appeared that there weren't so many visitors to the show this year, and some regular stall holders were missing. The weather and the current economic climate may well have been to blame

Two dates for your 2013 diary please. The Peterborough Show will be a week earlier than usual, starting on 19th April (camping field opens Thursday 18th April) and we will hold our club AGM on the Saturday.



The Warners mid-summer show is being held at Westpoint, the showground on the outskirts of Exeter, from 14th to 16th June (camping fields open Thursday 13th). Several club members have already expressed an interest in having a rally there, so we hope that more of you will join us, perhaps using it as an opportunity to explore the lovely county of Devon, as well as having a get together as a club.

Andrea (Secretary)

Names to Faces or Faces to Names? Knaus Club committee members



Andrea Hamblin (secretary)



Kevin Hamblin (webmaster)



**Jacquie Lowes and Bill Lowes
(membership secretaries and treasurer)**



Tony Poole (Chairman)



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.

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

Chocks Away

I wonder if you are like me, and when you store your campervan over the winter period you put it up on ramps so that the rain water runs of the back and does not form large puddles on the roof.



Well the problem with leaving it up on chocks is that you need to make sure it does not run down the chocks hence one puts the hand brake on. The problem I have encountered in the past is..... sticking / binding

brakes and stretching of the hand brake cable. To overcome these problems I have made up a couple of suitable wheel chocks from some split logs.



The picture on the left shows one of the finished chocks. I included a loop of rope so that they can be pulled out easily.

The picture on the right shows one of the chocks in position on my campervan while parked on my drive at home. I find that one chock works well. However, when I use chocks during touring, I use two chocks for added security and I leave the gearbox in reverse gear.

The only down side is that they are a bit on the heavy side!

Ron Kench

Dear Members

I would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts, cards, flowers, prayers and practical help when Trevor was ill and to those who made it to Trevor's funeral. It is a comfort to know that Trevor and I had such good friends in the Knaus Owners Club and gives me the courage to consider carrying on motor-homing. It was lovely seeing people at Lincoln and I hope to see club members on my travels. Thank you all so much,

Keren

& Charley (woof)