Return to the New Forest

5th - 14th September 2025.
Roundhill Camping and Caravan site.
Brockenhurst, Hampshire.

Rally Marshalls: Valerie and Neil Harris.
Assisted by: Janet and Colin Rickman and Rona and Danno Boyles.

We arrived on this beautiful site within the New Forest National Park and we received a very warm welcome from Valerie, Neil, Janet, Colin, Rona and Danno. Once we were set up we had a welcome cup of coffee followed in the evening by a social gathering, the weather remained warm and dry enough for us to all be gathered outside. It was good to catch up with old and new friends.
The Rally was advertised as a free and easy rally which it was for us, but we were amazed by the amount of activities and social events that were arranged for us by the Rally Marshalls and their assistants, so not so sure that they had such a free and easy time!!
We were very lucky that all these activities were able to be incorporated in sunshine, between the heavy showers!
On Saturday morning we were all treated to bacon rolls, which were delicious. Alan Stanley suggested that a second bacon roll could be sold at £2 a roll to raise money for the Motor Neurone Disease Association, raising £40. Following on from that Rona organised a Lottery Bonus Ball, which was won by Debbie and Martin who kindly donated their winnings (£52) to the MND Charity.
Sunday and Monday were free and easy days and people took the opportunity to explore the local area with many interesting places to visit, or just relax on the site and enjoy watching the ground maintenance crew at work! In the evenings people gathered together outside when it was warm enough to do so.

Afternoon tea was on Tuesday, we were lucky with the weather and we were served with a full selection of sandwiches and cakes. Valerie controlled proceedings with her smile and the use of her unique walking stick with emergency sirens, she was able to keep us all in order!! This was followed by a very interesting quiz organised by Janet and Colin Rickman. This was won by Emily and her team and Emilys excellent knowledge of sea turtles!!
Over the week Alan Bannister, our Chairman, welcomed three new ralliers, Chris Sammons (whose wife Susan unfortunately had to work), Dave Fulcher and Veronica Devenish, and Neil and Helen Sweet. Welcome to them all and look forward to seeing them again in the future.

The Dog Show

A new experience for Bailey Owners Club was Valeries inspiration of holding a Dog Competition. Just a bit of fun. Amazed at how many members turned out to see the dog competition despite the rain. A good time was had by everyone, including the dogs, as the owners put their dogs through the course made up by Valerie and the team, dodging the heavy showers!! Unfortunately Bailey, the first entry was unable to take part, so a late entry was entered in the guise of Bailey 2 (Martin) led around the course by Debbie, much to everyone's amusement!!
Due to the weather the voting count was delayed but announced at Flag. The Rosettes, plaques and doggie prizes were presented by Valerie.
The results were :-

Best decorated Lead: Amber (Chris Ackroyd)
Cutest Face/expression: Wolfie (Bryan Emery)
Waggiest Tale: Amber (Chris Ackroyd)
Best kept coat: Ernie (Neil Sweet)
Most like its owner: Amber (Chris Ackroyd)
Most obedient: Lando (Pam Bates)
OVERALL WINNER: Amber with Chris Ackroyd.
Best Mongrel went to Bailey 2 (Martin) and Debbie Smith!!!

Well done Jemima!!

Thursday we had torrential rain ….. and sun! Colin and Janet had organised a walk to Bucklers Hard for a group of Hardy Hikers! Unfortunately they were caught by the tide and had to wade back along the flooded path!
Later in the afternoon a young lady by the name of Jemima came to the rally to sell bracelets that she had made to raise money for MND Association. Jemima is the granddaughter of friends of Valerie and Neil, and is 9 years old. Jemima raised £475.31 on Thursday afternoon, selling her beautiful bracelets, some had been pre ordered, plus on line donations of £60 that evening which brought the total to £535. 31.

The Flag

Due to the weather forecast and impending storm coming in Flag was brought forward to Friday where we were spoiled again with hot and cold drinks, wine and beer, and savory and sweet nibbles. The results of the Dog Competition were announced.

Martin was the Wally Marshall with Colin being voted the winner, despite his protesting his innocence that he was just offering the full 'New Forest Experience,' and giving the walkers the privilege of 'walking through Holy Water!'
We had a second Bonus Ball on the second Saturday night, won by Danno who also donated his winnings (£51) to the MND charity, bringing the total raised over the rally to £678.31.
Despite variable weather over the week, from torrential rain to brilliant sunshine we all had an amazing time and managed to fit in all the activities between the rain!!
Many thanks to Valerie and Neil and their team for the planning and organisation of the Rally making it such a success, we all had a brilliant time, thank you.

Heather and Dillwyn Lewis.