

GENERATORS ON THE RALLY FIELD

URGENT ATTENTION

WILTSHIRE CENTRE RULE 27 AMENDMENT

From Wednesday 12th May 2010 until the AGM 2010 in October, Centre Rule 27 is temporarily amended as follows:

‘Generators in Caravan Lines shall only be permitted to run on a Rally between the periods 11am to 1pm and 5pm to 7pm unless expressed permission from the Rally Officer has been granted. Generators are to be suitably silenced in order not to cause any annoyance to other members and where adjudication is required the Rally Officer’s decision will be final’

Glynn Ball – Wiltshire Centre Chairman 10 May 2010

NOTICE

An immediate change to Wiltshire Centre Rule 27 has been passed by the Centre Committee. The change has been made to control deliberate misinterpretation of the existing Rule 27, to the detriment of the enjoyment of a majority of the rallying membership. This amendment will remain in force until the Centre Members can discuss and ultimately accept or reject the Committees decision at the 2010 AGM.

The following explains why and how the amendment will apply to the running of Generators on the Rally Field over the aforementioned period. Non compliance may result in offending members being requested to vacate the Rally Field.

WHY & HOW

Arising from a number of incidents and complaints involving Generators over the past year a prime concern to the Committee and Rally Officers is that the enjoyment of a majority of weekend ralliers is being compromised by the inconsiderate use of these equipments by the selfish actions of a minority. The Committee believe that this is becoming too frequent to ignore and that the actions of a few are beginning to deter other ralliers both from within the Centre and visitors from other Centres from attending our rallies.

Centre Rules regarding inconvenience to fellow ralliers have endured for a great number of years without recourse to finite management of ralliers and the escalation of rules and regulations this incurs. However, the time appears to be upon us where simple common sense and decency leading to acceptable behaviours and bonhomie on the Field are in decline and to preserve our pastime some fundamental issues are going to have to be addressed.

It is unfortunate that the Committee deliberations have to be made on a Centre wide basis and we make our apologies to those that do act responsibly in the use of generators but we hope that the restrictions being placed will not unduly inconvenience those considerate members and they will understand our predicament.

Control of the Rally Field is firmly in the hands of the presiding Rally Officers. The power of the Caravan Club Executive is flowed down to them, through the Hon Rally Secretary, to ensure that Caravan Club and Centre Rules and regulations are adhered to. However, it is apparent that when challenged, members quote Rule 27 as being clear that they can run their generator for 9 hours per day (between 10:00 and 19:00) regardless of the ‘inconvenience’ clause.

GENERATORS ON THE RALLY FIELD

Clearer guidelines evidently need to be put in place to support the Rally Officers in their duties and prevent them from being subjected to abuse and bad feeling.

It is understood that the widening use of 'domestic' appliances within caravans is slowly changing the way members use their caravans. Whilst the majority tend towards the use of 'passive' supplies and their re-charging in the form of Solar Panels and/or Spare Batteries in order to cause minimum disturbance to others there are others who wish to avail themselves of 230V power for short periods to perhaps facilitate several caravan members showering and subsequent drying of hair etc. or cooking with electrical appliances. This is not considered unacceptable and other members are unlikely to become agitated by a generator running for an hour to facilitate this.

What must be considered is the effect of generators running for longer periods of time or during periods where members may wish to have a peaceful few hours in the sun without inhaling fumes and having their senses dulled by the monotonous sound of a generator. In addition, properties neighbouring the Rally Field may also be annoyed by the constant noise, resulting in official complaints to the local Authority and ultimately to the Caravan Club. This would be considered as 'bringing the good name of the Caravan Club into disrepute' with subsequent repercussions on the Committee and the Rally Officers for permitting this to happen.

Design and cost of generators varies widely over the range of the likely small portable appliances that are used on the Field. So too, the generated noise tends to be proportional to the cost of the machine and the range of a 'healthy' generator can be expected to be between 55dBA for more sophisticated models rising to 85dBA or more for cheaper versions. Without going deeply into the mechanics of dB's, the two extremes above equate to noise levels of normal conversation (55dBA) to standing at the side of a busy 'A' road (85dB). Whilst the former may be acceptable on a quiet Saturday afternoon in the sun, the latter is certainly not. Unmaintained generators can rapidly deteriorate with a significant increase in the noise output levels stated above.

After careful consideration, the Centre Committee have agreed that, subject to observance of the likely disruption to other members, the following provide the acceptable operation of Generators on Wiltshire Centre Rallies:

- The use of Generators in 'closed' Rally Fields (where caravans are on car parks etc. in close proximity) is actively discouraged and subject to the expressed permission of the Rally Officers (for a minimum period only).
- Generators may be used on 'open' Rally Fields (where full separation of units is observed) between 11:00am - 1:00pm and 5:00pm - 7:00pm to permit recharging and support of cooking/ablutions.
- Generators may continue to be used between the hours of 10:00am - 7:00pm for emergency use only and subject to the expressed permission of the Rally Officer
- Special compensation for medical power supplies in the form of small Whisper type Generators will only be sanctioned by application to the Committee when an Exemption Certificate will be issued. Possession of this Certificate is to be advised to Rally Officers when Booking In.
- Where reliance on a Generator is desirable, members are asked to inform the Rally Officer on the Rally Slip when booking to permit siting on the edge of the Rally Field if possible (*this can only be effected where the site geography permits and request should not be assumed to mean the facility will be provided*)

GENERATORS ON THE RALLY FIELD

DANGERS

- **Death or injury**, personal or third party, caused by unsafe or unguarded use of members. Generators is solely the responsibility of the owner member and Club Insurance and indemnities will not be provided in subsequent prosecutions. For the safety of children and adults, running generators are **never to be left unsupervised**.
- The refuelling of Generators in the close proximity of caravans is to **cease immediately**. Petrol vapour in the vicinity of naked flames of water heaters etc. is **dangerous** and a recipe for disaster, endangering other members and their property. In addition, petrol spillages remain **pungent** for a long period and are drawn in through caravan vents – extremely distasteful for the victims.
- 230V generated by Generators is potentially **lethal** at any time but specifically in damp/wet conditions. This is even more so where domestic plugs are used (as opposed to the external blue plugs).
- Generators also involve high enough exhaust temperatures to cause **severe burns** to human beings. Specially designed covers are available providing a degree of protection from the weather and protection from inadvertent human contact whilst the generator is running or cooling down. For yours and others safety, you are strongly recommended to invest in this protection.