

John Johnson

We first met John and Shirley in March of 2002, on an Eddis rally, behind the Royal Oak at Howden. Clive and Audrey and Larry and Whinnie had talked them into joining the club. John's opinion to Shirley was "Well if nobody speaks we will not go back".

John had a faulty waste master and it was leaking his washing up water across the car park so his first taste of Eddis rallies was me telling him "mind we don't do that in the Eddis club"! As we all know it did not put them off as they continued to rally for a further 14 years doing over 90 rallies both at home and abroad.

Over the years, we tried in vain to talk him into retirement, but as John said, farming was his passion and his only hobby was caravanning and he did not want to give either of them up.

On an Evening we would alternate between caravans for a game of Newmarket (Blind Horse) for pennies. We still remember John when he had the winning card stop, give everybody a wily grin, place the card and drag in his 4p winning pot.

In March 2005 there was a Rally held at Pinewood, Scarborough. A lovely sloping field with the entrance and exit at the top and after a week of non-stop rain it became clear that no-one would be able to get off the field. Without hesitation, John went all the way home and came back with a Land Rover County with proper tyres on and spent over 4hrs towing everyone out! If he hadn't done that I'm sure I would still be there.

One trip to France we all decided to go out for a meal. The local Chinese restaurant seemed a good idea, but this caused a problem. John was strictly a Roast Beef and Yorkshire pudding man but after a bit of persuasion he agreed if we could find him something suitable. Lemon Chicken was decided, and Shirley had the Duck. Happy days! The meals came and were beautifully garnished with raw vegetables carved in the shape of flowers. After we all finished I asked, how was it then John? Beautiful he said, but BY that carrot was hard!

John had to give up work with the onset of illness, so with more time on his hands we arranged to join the Eddis rallies in Scotland. John and Shirley secretly brought up 2 kilts with them and for 2 weeks John and I practised the Highland Fling in secret. When we entered the Social, fully dressed in our Scottish finery, everybody fell about laughing but nevertheless undeterred we did our party piece.

Shortly after returning home John received the letter he was dreading telling him he had to give up driving so, with regret, that turned out to be his last Eddis Rally.

Over the following 18 months we visited many times and each time we could see a change in John until our visit in late December. The girls had gone out for the afternoon giving John and I the opportunity for a good old chat never knowing the end was so close.

Over the years there has been many other happy memories too numerous to mention today.

You will always be in our hearts John

Rest in Peace.