

**'FUEL FOR THOUGHT' – DECEMBER '09 ISSUE**

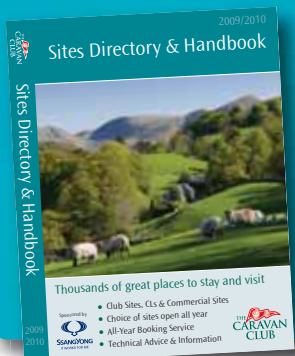
IN ADDITION to the information given under the above headline on the Ask Your Club page (December 2009 issue), it is probably obvious but still worthwhile mentioning that members should fill up with diesel at a fuel station just before the resort, where the diesel is better formulated for cold temperatures. For the same reason UK-spec diesel fuel should not be carried in a spare can, as this doesn't, of course, have the same extreme low-temperature capability.

**BREAKAWAY POINTS**

**Q** I am concerned that some of the caravans I saw arriving at and departing from the Club site we recently visited had the breakaway cable incorrectly connected. On discussing this topic on the Club's Caravan Manoeuvring Course I attended earlier this year, other students agreed that in referring to an 'attachment point' it could be wrongly implied that the cable could be clipped to that point. Could you draw this to the attention of those members who have not attended one of the Club's courses and/or who are not aware of the correct method of attachment?

**A** Yes, this is a most important point. The correct methods of attachment of a breakaway cable are clearly illustrated on p619 of the current *Sites Directory & Handbook* – members who are unsure whether they are following the correct procedure should refer to that page, particularly before setting off on a trip.

The most common misconception is that the cable should be clipped directly to the attachment point – this is generally incorrect. It is vital that, unless the specially strengthened cable assembly is fitted, the cable is clipped back on itself, otherwise it will not apply the caravan brakes in the event of it breaking away.



# DOMETIC FRIDGE RECALL REMINDER

IN THE November issue, the Ask Your Club page featured a request for owners of RM7 series double-door Dometic fridge/freezers equipped with MES (Manual Energy Selector) or AES (Automatic Energy Selector) to call Dometic on 01258 414595 to arrange a safety check as soon as possible.

The check was to ensure the use of an inferior screw did not create the potential for a gas leak should it work loose as a result of vibrations.

Dometic has, of course, contacted all owners of affected units, and has requested that the Club once again reinforce the importance of getting

the check carried out. This is because it is still awaiting responses from a number of those people whom it originally contacted and is "strongly" advising them to get in touch with their service centre to arrange the necessary repair.

The company adds, "Our authorised Dometic service partners have been given the relevant instructions and they will be happy to assist you in this matter. The service partner you choose will, of course, perform the work at no cost to you."

Dometic also advises that, "The necessary repair can generally be effected from the outside, by

accessing the unit through the ventilator grille... Please take advantage of this free service. Only when the vast majority of units have been repaired can we consider the matter closed."

To check whether your refrigerator unit is affected, open the door and find the nameplate on the left-hand side of the interior. If your refrigerator has one of the following model numbers – RM 7601, RM 7605, RM 7651, RM7655, RM 7801, RM 7805, RM 7851, RM 7855, RMT 7651, RMT 7655, RMT 7851 or RMT7855, you should get in touch with Dometic on the aforementioned number.

# TYRE VALVE REPLACEMENT

**Q** When I recently had new tyres fitted to my caravan, I was concerned to find that the valves were not renewed. Is this a legal requirement?

**A** Although, as far as we are aware, there is no legal requirement to

have valves replaced when a tyre is changed, the ETRTO (European Tyre and Rim Technical Organisation) has specific recommendations. Tyres fitted to caravans are either passenger car or commercial vehicle tyres. In the case of passenger car tyres, the

recommendations state that, for safety reasons, a new tubeless valve should be fitted when a new tubeless tyre is fitted. Likewise, for commercial vehicle tyres, a new valve or valve grommet should always be fitted when tyres are changed.

**Jenny Norton, the Club's Information Officer, answers your questions**

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**...and quote your membership number**