

## MOJACAR MOTORCYCLE TOURING CLUB

# bulletin

A Club for Touring Motorcyclists founded by the late Ken Craven.  
www.mojacarmtc.org.uk

March 2009  
Issue 172

### SECRETARIES BIT

The club year got off to a great start at Okehampton, see report below. The next event is the popular Abergavenny weekend at Easter, for important information to all participants please read under events 2009 Abergavenny (I refer most importantly to towels)!!

The May re-union is now on the horizon - our annual visit to the clubs spiritual home. We have a change this year with the catering arrangements; we will be eating at the Pilot Boat Inn on both Saturday and Sunday evening. I had a problem with prices at the Bell Cliff so had to give it a miss this year. I am sure Bill the landlord at the Pilot Boat will look after us. The form with menu's and prices is attached to this bulletin, as there is only a month to the event please send me the completed form ASAP. I have to inform the Pub of your selections 2 weeks before the event so you can see I do not have much time.

**The Tour to Portugal** – I know many on the tour are “champing at the bit” to see the route, I will get route sheets and final information to all participants before the May re-union.

All correspondence on subjects other than events to:

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### RENEWAL

David Clamp and Sharon Kong have re-joined the club:

### JOHN EVANS

I am told by Brian Caswell that John continues to improve and he has now been moved to another hospital. His shoulder is on the mend and the infection he had is improving well. Brian says he must be getting better as he has insisted on writing a route for the Saturday run from Abergavenny from his hospital bed, (well done John, but don't make it too hard just cos your not doing it!!) Hon Sec.

### OKEHAMPTON WINTER WARMER

By Tony Maidens

What a great start to our club calendar this event proved to be. Leaving Friday morning in dry but overcast conditions we arrived at Betty Cottles Inn with the sky breaking and the sun starting to shine, the inn is situated on the edge of Dartmoor with fine views around about. After a pleasant lunch and a doze in our comfortable room I was awakened by Kim Vane telling me “they were about”. I went down stairs and met Maurice and Pat who had just arrived and were taking a pint or two and tea - Kim and John were in the large car park greeting folk as they arrived; Andy Bishop arrived on a mighty tall KTM 650cc Enduro and, proceeded to park next to Mike Lacey's mighty small Royal Enfield Electra. Both machines are on the tour to Portugal and with Mike's empathy for all things mechanical I am sure the Enfield will be fine. I could tell by the ambience of Betty Cottles inn that this was going to be a good venue - lots of space in the pub and car park, the bar open all day!! food available most of the day and, John Vane “chuffed” that so many members were turning up, (he had even gone into training losing ½ a stone in weight and, for the first time in 2 years got on his VFR for the weekend ride). Every one was in by around 5.30pm with many taking refreshment in the bar and much “chatting” taking place; in fact I believe 24 members were billeted in the pub with Lawrence Bransby camping just for the Friday night (more on that later).

At 7.30pm we sat down to dinner in our own area with a meal served at the hot counter; a choice of Roasted Lamb Shank, a magnificent large home made Steak & Kidney Pie, Roasted Breast of Chicken, all with help yourself to vegetables. This was followed by dessert and coffee. Barely had we finished all this when a lady appeared with amplifier and proceeded to serenade us with lively pop music, many, led by Mike Walker and Bill Fishwick retired to a safe distance - Lydia Gretton immediately decided to “get with it” and demonstrate to all her ability

to dance. I was surprised how many took to the floor, yours truly being one, who was bullied by Christine to "get with it" I promptly did as I was told, joining Paul & Lydia and Chris & Claude on the floor for a "shuffle around". The entertainment went on until about midnight, Colin Purches with his crew supporting the singing lady by keeping the bar going until late. As our chambre was above the music I remember vaguely the locking of the pub door around midnight and then the oblivion of sleeping. Next morning everyone was up bright and early to a crisp sunny morning champing at the bit for breakfast and the ride-out, just prior to "take off" we were joined by new members Steven Miles and Sue Wheatly from Brixham on a beautifully presented full dress Harley, they had come to join the ride out. At around 10am we set off in random groups on a delightful ride taking in many minor roads, to eventually arrive at the Jamaica Inn on Bodmin Moor for our lunch stop. We were joined by Phil Noad from Bristol for lunch, unfortunately Phil came in as most were leaving so it was hello and good bye, but it was nice to see you Phil. At this point Steven & Sue decided to return home, we look forward to seeing you again on a future event.

The afternoon ride was as delightful as the morning run but longer with a visit and tea stop at Princetown, normally cold and damp but today sunny but chilly. Arriving back at the pub most folk settled down to a pint or tea and a chat about the days ride and motorcycles - many sat in the sun outside the pub. We were joined by Laurie Shephard with wife Jan for dinner. Once again the evening meal was a winner; it was Roast Beef with all the trimmings and beautifully cooked, some thought one of the best tasting pieces of beef they had had for some time. After dinner and coffee more conversation went on till late with Colin and crew this time keeping the bar open till 1.30am - so he told me, with the occasional record thrown in to keep me interested whilst in bed. (How do you manage to look so bright in the morning Colin).

Sunday morning dawned bright and sunny with folk making ready to return home after a hearty breakfast. John and Kim were still slightly shell shocked with all the visiting members and how well things had gone and were not, I think, looking forward to everyone leaving.

If I had to give an award for the furthest distance travelled by a member to the Betty Cottles Inn, it would have to go to Derek Roberts who rode his Kawasaki W650 from mid Norfolk - a total of 346 miles each way and, travelling a further 109 miles on the ride out. For the most adventurous member I would have to award Lawrence Bransby the medal; he said he was going to camp in the pub camp site on Friday night but, finished up camping on Dartmoor - erecting his tent in the pitch black of night with the light from his bike for illumination. He said it was very misty damp and cold; Lawrence is either a masochist or just enjoys the challenge of the hard life, or, maybe he had too much to drink.

Dave Boon said it all when he thanked John & Kim at dinner for all the work they had put in to make the weekend a success, for the super route, perfectly written, with no errors to get us lost.

I should also like to thank John for his infectious enthusiasm and Kim for all the sunshine, plus the Betty

Cottles Inn, which I hope the club will use again in the future. (John; now you have the VFR running just keep riding it).

List of participants: Tony & Chris Maidens, John & Kim Vane, Maurice & Pat Jones, Geoff & Pat Barfoot, Paul & Lydia Gretton, Chris & Claude Stevens, Martin Heuter & Natalie, Dave & Sue Boon, Dave & Barbara Bexley, Colin Purches, Brian Beeson, Roy Simpson, Mark White, Derek Roberts Mike Walker, Bill Fishwick, Mike Lacey, Lawrence Bransby, Visitors: Steven Miles & Sue Wheatly, Laurie & Jan Shephard, Phil Noad.

**A thank you from Dave & Barbara Bexley:** Thanks to Kim & John Vane for a superb start to the official club calendar of events. The Winter Warmer at Okehampton was a good choice of venue, we were lucky to have warm clear weather and the Saturday route gave us good motorcycling roads and great views. Add good company and it was "a most excellent weekend, dudes!"

## EVENTS FOR 2009

**4 Peaks: Abergavenny:** Date 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> April.

Organiser: Brian Caswell.

As before the accommodation is at Mulberry House (Ty'r Morwydd). The cost per night per person for B&B is £22.50 + Dinner at £11.50, therefore 3 nights Dinner B&B is £102.00 or 2 nights D, B&B is £68. The number at present joining is 33 members. John Evans who is determined to be involved from his sickbed is sorting out a ride out for the Saturday. Remember - you cannot get into the Hostel before 4pm. Remember - to bring your own towels and, remember - bring wine for your dinner if you want it (hostel not licensed). For anyone still interested there may be places available; contact Brian on the number above.

**May Reunion: Lyme Regis:** Date 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> May.

Organiser Tony Maidens.

As usual many folk make this a long weekend, most members B&B; if you need help give me a ring or email and I will give you telephone numbers for B&B. For the campers at Hook Farm here are the prices per night – Tent 1 person & Bike £7, Tent 2 persons & Bike £9, Tent 2 persons & car £10, motor caravan £10 + £2.50 electric pick-up.

Programme:- Some folk will arrive Friday and will surely meet members wandering around Lyme looking for a dinner venue, Saturday is a do as you please day, enjoy Lyme Regis and surrounding area or, ride out into the lovely Dorset countryside. On Saturday evening we assemble at the Pilot Boat Inn for dinner at 7.30pm. Sunday morning we assemble in the usual lay-by on the A3052 to depart at 10am for a ride organised by Dave Boon. Sunday evening we again assemble at the Pilot Boat Inn for 7.30pm dinner. Monday morning folk depart for home or, as I always say - if you have nothing better to do why not stay a little longer!

Footnote:- As I write this there is a static Caravan available for the weekend at Hook Farm with all facilities i.e. heating, shower/toilet and cooking. Price is from £110 for 2 people for 3 nights, if interested please phone Adrian

*Hon Sec*

## SUMMER TOUR 2010

If any member has an idea for a club summer tour next year, please forward it to me now or, propose it at the May Reunion. It is now club procedure to try to sort out next year's summer tour at the May Reunion.

*Hon Sec*

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**Forest of Dean Weekend:**

Date 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May.

**Organiser: Martin Heuter:**

I have made provisional reservations in two local places. The Miners Arms which some of you may remember. Price for a double or twin room £50 B&B. The second option about 10 minutes walk from the Miners is the Lamsquay hotel, price for a double or twin room £74 B&B, there is also an option for camping nearby at about £13 per night (I need to confirm this). My plan is that we have dinner on both Friday and Saturday night at the jolly Miners Arms. For participants who are interested and can arrive Friday, I will try to organise a visit to the Morgan factory in Malvern. The ride out on Saturday will not be quite a repeat of the previous weekend I organised but, is still based in the beautiful Forest of Dean. The route I have in mind will take us from the Forest to the Malvern Hills, on towards Leominster via Hay and back through the Golden Valley and Wye Valley to Colford. For those who may not want to come on the ride out on Saturday there is plenty to do and see in and around the Forest – The Wye Valley, Symmonds Yat, Tintern Abbey, or do as you please.

**If you are interested in joining me I do need confirmation with a deposit of £10 per person made payable to Martin Heuter ASAP.**

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**North Wooton Somerset:** Date 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> July.

Organisers: Arthur & Lyn Spain.

Camping/B&B weekend – As usual we are in the campsite at North Wooton, the cost per pitch is £7. I may require a deposit at a later date. For those requiring B&B the Crossways hotel in the village has double rooms at £70 per night B&B or single rooms at £50 per night B&B. Nearer the date we will get information on alternative accommodation and menus for our dinners at the crossways.

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**Llanwrtyd Wells:** Date 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> August:

Organisers: Brian & Jackie Caswell. Details to follow

**Autumn tour to Central/Eastern Scotland:**

Dates 5<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> /15<sup>th</sup> September. Organisers: Ian & Morag Fitzsimons Our itinerary: Group meet Saturday 5 October at Moffat for a one night stop, from Moffat we travel to the Crianlarich area for a two night stop (Sunday & Monday). Leaving Crianlarich we ride to Tain in Ross-shire for a four night stop (Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday/Friday). We then travel to South Queensferry for a two night stop (Saturday & Sunday). Monday 14<sup>th</sup> depart for home.

Moffat is just off the M74 some 40 miles north of Carlisle. It is possible to come of the motorway once across the border and travel up via the old A74 for a more relaxed ride. Heading north we take in a mix of country and small town roads, the final part of the journey taking us through the famous Trossachs. There is

a great choice of places to visit on the free day at Crianlarich. Distance approx 140 miles.

From Crianlarich we travel north over Glencoe through Fort William along Loch Ness to Drumnadrochit, then Beauly, Moy Bridge, Dingwall and on to Tain. The famous Glen of Tranquillity lies just outside the town where guided tours are possible. Another attraction is Harrods at the Falls of Shin at the famous salmon leaps. Yes it's owned by the man himself. There are many places to choose to ride to, John o Groats and along the top edge of the UK to Cape Wrath being but one – participants will be given a wider choice nearer the time. From Tain we head south to South Queensferry for a two night stop; Edinburgh is close by, alternatively a trip across the Forth on the ferry to the Under Sea World or just do as you please. South Queensferry is close to the main route around Edinburgh where you have a choice heading south either on the A7 for Carlisle or A68 over Carter Bar and south to A1/M1.

**Ian & Morag Fitzsimons.**

**AGM reunion weekend:** Date 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> October.

Organiser: Tony Maidens.

*Hon Secretary.*

## TOUR TO PORTUGAL 2009

**Date of tour: Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June.**

**Number on tour: 34 members.** Their names are:

*Frank & Lynda Chapman, Bill & Kate Fishwick, Maurice & Pat Jones, Dave & Sue Boon, Mike & Sheila Smith, Phil Noad, Tony & Maureen Street, Keith & Brenda Parfoot, Alan & Brenda Glover, Nigel Lacey & Edina Champion, Colin Pegram, Paul Weston, Colin Purches, Alan Simister, Laurie Shephard, Peter Reynolds, John Sellwood, Vince Noad, Andy Bishop, David Goose, Mike Lacey, Mike Thompson, John Swainston, Tony & Christine Maidens.*

Our itinerary is: - Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2009 the group will meet at Beaumont north of Le Mans. Sunday we ride to Mansle near Angouleme about 193 miles. Monday - ride to Navararrenx west of Pau in the foothills of the Pyrenees 190 miles. Tuesday onto Agreda in northern Spain 165 miles (the club visited the Hostelry here in 2003). Wednesday to Piedralaves 240 miles for a two night break in the Sierra Gredos. Friday ride into Portugal via Caceres for a two night stop in the old town of Castelo de Vide 240 miles. Sunday - south west to Santiago do Cacem 150 miles some 83 miles south of Lisbon near the Atlantic coast for a three night break. Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June ride back into Spain to Merida around 190 miles for our final night. This will position folk near main routes to find there own way back home starting on Thursday morning. The distance from Dieppe (our ferry port) to Merida is approximately 1500 miles; you need to add another 800+ miles to home.

Costs – with the increasing value of the euro we think half board will be somewhere in the region of £44 a night. Petrol is any-ones guess but, it is usually cheaper in Spain and Portugal!!

**Tony & Christine Maidens.**

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## MEMBERS ACCOMMODATION DIRECTORY

During the Okehampton weekend Dave & Barbara discussed with Dave Boon and myself an idea for setting up a club accommodation directory. We agreed with Barbara to pursue this as we thought this an excellent idea, especially with the current financial situation, which would enable members to tour areas of the UK relatively cheaply. I print below Barbara's suggestion:-

*With the euro valued at 1.1 with the £, I guess many of us will be taking our rides in the UK this year. Here is a suggestion that might help us explore different parts of our beautiful country at bargain prices. We have a guest room with 2 single beds. We would be happy to have club members stay over for one or two nights and use this accommodation free. Meals can be taken with us at cost or you can share the kitchen to self-cater or you can walk down to the White Hart for an evening meal. BYO alcohol. We live within easy reach of ride-outs in the Cotswolds, the Welsh Marches and mid Wales as well as Slimbridge, Roman remains at Caerleon and 3 local castles. Obviously the offer is subject to us being at home.*

*Are there other club members who would also offer free accommodation in this way? Could Mojacar Club make a list of willing participants so that club members can explore areas of the country beyond their normal range?*

**Barbara Bexley.**

I believe some groups of members already offer overnight accommodation to each other in a friendly informal way. It would be of benefit to all of us if willing members could place their addresses and accommodation they have available into a directory for all to see and use. Most of our active membership know each other quite well so, apart from enabling people to tour and explore your local area you are also getting a social visit from friendly club members. I will create a club directory of the details of willing participants and, when complete publish it with one of the bulletins.

*Hon Sec*

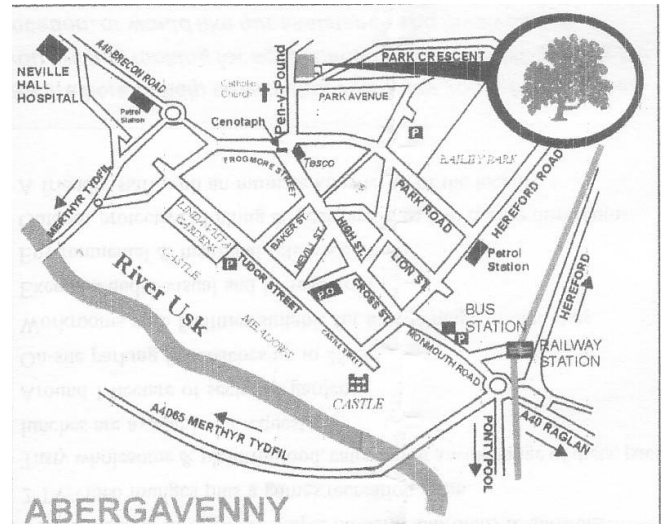
## AUTUMN TOUR TO SCOTLAND 2009

I have attached the application form for this tour as Ian & Morag are about to finalize hotel arrangements. They ask if you are interested in joining the tour to send the application form ASAP, the folk who have already done so please ignore this. For members who may be interested and to find out what they have in store in the highlands read their article under events 2009.

*Hon Sec*

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For those who have not been to John & Kit Evans



weekend before, a map to show you how to find the Hostel. Tel No: 01873 855959



Preparing for the ride-out – some of the motorcycles assembled outside Betty Cottles Inn Okehampton.