



MOJACAR MOTORCYCLE TOURING CLUB

bulletin

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

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SECRETARIES BIT

The May re-union this year was a great success, we had around 50 members present on both nights including many of our new members. The weather was kind to us being a bit chilly but importantly dry. Having both our evening meals at the Pilot Boat Inn was a good move, folk told me the service was excellent and the food good; there is plenty of room in the private dining room to stretch our legs with a skittle alley available, so that on the final evening Lynda Chapman organised a game of skittles to round off a great weekend. Dave Boon as usual organised a good ride for the Sunday with a lunch stop at Porlock famous for its steep hill and, this time round a classic bus and coach event.

As there was no tour proposed for next summer at the re-union, Dave Boon requested that if anyone has a proposal between now and the AGM would they forward it to the secretary for consideration at our AGM.

Paul Gretton has written a report on the Four Peaks weekend, a good one it is to. He also tells us that one of the clubs original rally members has passed away - John Muggleston was his name and many of the older members may remember him. Please read Pauls article elsewhere in the bulletin.

Arthur & Lyn Spain tell me that all their camping plots at North Wootton are taken, they have opened a reserve list for anyone who may still want to join them. B&B is still available. However, they say you should book ASAP - as summer approaches they will soon fill up.

When you receive this bulletin 34 members will soon be about to set off on the tour to Portugal. We nearly lost Dave & Sue Boon, Dave had a major mechanical problem with the outfit which he has repaired. Wish us good luck good weather and safe riding. As I am away on the tour until 21 June no bulletin will be published until sometime in July.

All correspondence on subjects other than events to:
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NEW MEMBER

We welcome new member Reverend Patrick Hind.
We look forward to seeing Patrick on a club event in the near future.
Hon Sec

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FOUR PEAKS WEEKEND 2009

(notes on a bank holiday weekend by Paul Gretton)
I've always looked forward to John and Kit Evan's Four Peaks Run; their enthusiasm for life, the club and the Welsh countryside rubs off onto me and its this first longish motorcycle trip of the year the thought of which that keeps me going through the long winter months. This year things were a little different... John's prolonged stay in hospital after his nasty motorcycle accident resulted in there being a joint effort between John (from his hospital bed), Brian Caswell and Colin Purches. Also, being over the Easter holidays, some of us had four days to enjoy ourselves, one more than usual.

The three of them however, had a bit of competition this year; John and Kim Vane's excellent Winter Warmer at Okehampton. That had been a truly exceptional weekend, brilliant weather, a great ride-out and an inspired choice of accommodation in the Betty Cottles Inn, the company wasn't bad either!! The weather forecast for Good Friday was not particularly good - an understatement - prolonged heavy rain all day, but for the following three days, fine.

Contrary to the forecast Friday dawned dull but dry as I set off on old faithful - my 1984 K100RS. The new boy in the garage (a Honda VFR 750) stayed at home. After a winter's fettling and polishing I could not bear to get it filthy the first time out!! How sad is that? After lunch at Clun in the Shropshire Hills I headed south to Hergest Croft gardens at Kington on the Welsh borders, well worth a visit for its lovely rhododendrons and interesting kitchen garden. After that, the forecasters gave a wry smile and the heavens opened almost until Abergavenny.

Thirty five (I think, Tony may correct me on this) turned up for the weekend at Mulberry House, our venue for the past three years. It's great to meet old friends again, some from only a month ago at Okehampton, but most not seen for over six months. The babble over dinner witnessing this, the din was deafening. The high point of the evening was John Evans turning up with his dear Kit, looking remarkably well so soon after leaving hospital, Good on You John and best wishes from us all. Determined to participate, John had devised Saturday's run whilst still in hospital and as a reward for this the weather gave us clear blue skies as we set off on Saturday morning. We were joined by Dave Gilligan who had been camping some way out of town. The camping, new bike and equipment were being tested in preparation for a big boy's trip later in the year to Eastern Europe. Fifteen countries and 5000 miles I think he said, sounds great, Safe riding Dave,

The route meandered through the Brecon National park and, as is John's way, over many a hill and down many a dale to coffee at the Brecon Beacons' Mountain centre. Lunch was at the lovely old Ty Newydd Hotel in Penderyn, the weather was so warm we were able to enjoy our food sitting outside. I think I only got lost once, a bit of a record for me!

Coming down the most demanding series of hairpin bends toward Crickhowell, the road narrow, covered in gravel and very very steep I missed the left hand turning at the bottom and ended up in Crickhowell. The upside for missing the turn however, was that I then had a ten mile blast along the gorgeous A40 to rejoin the route. I rode the afternoon with a small group led by Brian Caswell. Brian is a motorcyclist after my own heart, fast enough to be interesting but just right not to miss the scenery. I thoroughly enjoyed it, many thanks Brian and Jackie. Everyone arrived back safely after a lovely day but if you want to hear about the episode involving a piece of stick, a rag and a lost primary chain case plug, speak to Frank Chapman or better still Lynda, she has a much more amusing way with words!! The evening bought another pleasant surprise with the appearance of Pete Miller who only lives just down the road. It has been a long time Pete, give our love to Val.

Sunday was a day off the bike with Lydia who had come to Wales on the train and spent Saturday shopping with Brenda Parfoot. Abergaveny, on the river Usk, is a most interesting small market town, a labyrinth of narrow streets, interesting gardens and a ruined 11th Century castle. We indulged ourselves with Sunday lunch and a glass or two of vino at the renovated Angel Hotel - a lovely place and well worth a visit, after which we needed to recover and had to be woken from a brief nap by Chris Stevens in time for dinner. Most of the fifteen or so folk who stayed on for the extra day rode with Colin Purches down to Pendine sands on Carmarthen Bay. Six miles of hard, flat sand where land speed record attempts were made in the 1920's; this included Sir Malcolm Campbell who pushed the record to 146.16 mph in 1924.

That's it, another great weekend from John and Kit, this time with a little help from their friends (Messrs Caswell and Purches). The route was as good as always, the food was plentiful and great and the company interesting and upbeat as only the Mojacar Club can be. PS from Lydia

who forgot to bring towels despite reminders from Tony, it is possible to hire towels from the Hostel warden.

As a postscript and on a much sadder note we learned only this morning of the passing away of John Muggleston. He of the 200+ motorbikes and umpteen pedal cycles. We were very close to John in the early days when Ken Craven was still alive and travelled together on many a trip to Spain along with Alison and Gordon Shaw and Andy French. A bit of a sad way to end but some of you out there may have known John from the early 80s and may wish to reflect on happy times in his company.

Aileen - John's long time partner would love to hear from anyone in the club who remembers John.

Paul Gretton

EVENTS FOR 2009

North Wootton Somerset: Date 10th to 12th July.

Organisers: Arthur & Lyn Spain.

Camping/B&B weekend – As usual we are in the campsite at North Wootton, the cost per pitch is £7. 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. 01749 899000/891110. B&B's nearby; Barrow Farm near campsite 01749 890245, or Pat English Tanyard Lane Nth Wootton 01749 890761, Or two B&B's in Dulcote a small village between us and Nth Wootton - Ros Bufton Manor Farm Dulcote House 01749 672125; The Coach House, Little Fountains, Dulcote 01749 678777. Anyone booking B&B please let us know so we can organise numbers for meals etc – we would also recommend not leaving it too late to book as it is a holiday area and can get booked up quickly.

When we all meet up we will be collecting a small payment from B&B'ers towards expenses.

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Llanwrtyd Wells: Date 14th to 16th August:

Organisers: Brian & Jackie Caswell.

As before the venue is the Belle Vue Pub, the pub can accommodate 20 people so it's first come first served, no problem if more folk want to come as we can arrange B&B in the village local to the pub. If you are interested in joining please phone Brian & Jackie for prices etc ASAP.

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AGM reunion weekend: Date 9th and 10th October.

Organiser: Tony Maidens. 01491 838489.

Hon Secretary.

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TOUR TO PORTUGAL 2009

Date of tour: Saturday 30th May – Sunday 14th 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 30th 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 10th 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 £43 a night. Petrol is any-ones guess but, it is usually cheaper

in Spain and Portugal!!

Tony & Christine Maidens.

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SPONSORSHIP

Martin Hueter is undertaking a challenge of a unique kind – he will be cycling on a folding bicycle (one of those city types) from London to Paris - 240 miles, to raise money for the British Heart Foundation. His trip will take him (and up to 100 other cyclists from around the UK) through rolling countryside in England, crossing the channel from Portsmouth to Caen, then through cycling country to finish under the Eiffel tower on 13th September. This gruelling ride will require a daily journey of around 60 miles every day.

Martin is trying to raise £1200 and wonders if you can sponsor him. If you can, either send him a cheque or you can give “online” by going to www.justgiving.com/martinhueter and use your card. If you have any questions, please contact Martin by phone email or letter.

Martin Hueter

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Andy Bishop discussing his new KTM with an attentive Brian Caswell & Vince Noad.



Photograph by Terry Sandoe