



**MOJACAR MOTORCYCLE TOURING CLUB**

# bulletin

A Club for Touring Motorcyclists founded by the late Ken Craven.  
[www.mojacarmtc.org.uk](http://www.mojacarmtc.org.uk)

October 2009  
Issue 178

## **SECRETARIES BIT**

It is some time since I published a bulletin and since then our annual AGM has taken place. The event was well supported with 44 members present, the weekend was a success with good weather and folk enjoying themselves. For many on motorcycles the ride out was just right, being about 75 miles in total. Riding along many lovely lanes we saw many picturesque cottages and splendid views over the Dorset hills and the coast in the autumn sunlight. We thank our chairman Dave Boon for his efforts in putting the route together.

The AGM itself was rather lively with much robust discussion. However, we finished the meeting on a happy note with enough events for the committee to sort a good programme for the coming year, (The list with dates is shown below.) A summary of the meeting is given elsewhere in the bulletin.

As Dave Bexley withdrew his proposed tour to the Dolomites for 2010 for personal reasons, we were looking for an alternative. Yours truly with Christine offered to take a tour to the Mediterranean coast of Italy, this was accepted by the meeting. Details of the tour are shown elsewhere in the bulletin. **As we have offered this at short notice would members who wish to join us please forward the attached application form with deposit ASAP.**

Paul Weston has around 22 members booked for the 4 peaks weekend, he still has places available. If you fancy joining this popular event please complete the slip with deposit and send to Paul. Details of the weekend with costs and when he requires the outstanding balance are shown below.

Dave Gilligan says that although there is plenty of time until his Tour of Britain next September, he does require details from interested members now, please read his tour plan elsewhere in bulletin.

It's that time of year again; renewal of subscriptions'. The renewal form is included with the bulletin. Please return with payment as soon as possible to help me clear my administrative work load.

Members who paid at the AGM do not have the form included with their bulletin.

Finally I have included an article from Dave Gilligan on his tour to Eastern Europe this year.

All correspondence on subjects other than events to:  
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8 The Cedars, Benson, Wallingford, Oxford. OX10 6LL  
Tel No: 01491 838489  
E mail [ac\\_maidens68@hotmail.com](mailto:ac_maidens68@hotmail.com)  
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EVENTS FOR 2010 in Date order with details where available.

**4 Peaks weekend based at Mulberry House Hostel (Ty'r Morwydd) Abergavenny. Date: 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> March.** Organiser Paul Weston, As before the accommodation is in the hostel. The cost per night for B&B with dinner is £35.50; total cost for two nights £71 per person. Please complete the application slip and send £20 per person deposit made payable to P Weston. **I require the balance at the latest by 4<sup>th</sup> January 2010** (I have to pay the full bill by 1<sup>st</sup> February).

**Kirkby Lonsdale – camping/B&B weekend. Date: 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> April.** Organiser Alan Simister. Detail to follow.

**May Re-union weekend Lyme Regis – B&B/camping weekend. Date: 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> May.** Organiser Tony Maidens. Detail to follow.

**Tour to Italy. Dates 5<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> June.** Organisers Tony & Christine Maidens. Please see details in bulletin.

**Bungay Suffolk – Camping/B&B weekend. Date: 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> July.** Organisers Colin Purches & Colin Pegram. Detail to follow.  
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**Malvern Worcester – B&B/ camping weekend. Date: 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> August.** Organiser Martin Heuter. Detail to follow.

**Tour of Britain – Using Hostels. Dates: 3<sup>rd</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> September.** Organiser David Gilligan. Please see details in bulletin.

**Autumn re-union and AGM weekend – B&B/camping. Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> October.** Organiser Tony Maidens. Detail to follow.

**Winter Closer weekend Coalport – Using Hostel. Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October.** Organiser Alan Simister. Detail to follow. ....

### SUMMER TOUR TO ITALY

The tour will take us through four countries and finish on the Mediterranean coast of Italy i.e. France, Germany, Austria and Italy. After crossing France and the Rhine our route takes us on a ride through rural southern Germany, we then continue our tour into Vorarlberg in Austria. After crossing the Finstermunzpass we enter Italy, our route then continues over the Stelvio pass to eventually arrive at the lovely Lago D Iseo for a 3 night 2 day stay. We then ride on to and finish at the Mediterranean coast of Tuscany for a 2 night 1 day stay. Our mileage from the first night in France to our final destination is approximately 970 miles.

Our planned itinerary is as follows:

Saturday 5 June; Group meets at a hotel in Normandy France.

Sunday 6 June; Ride to a hotel in the French Ardenne

Monday 7 June; One night in a hotel in Alsace Lorraine France.

Tuesday 8 June; Ride to Southern Germany for a one night stop.

Wednesday 9 June; Into Austria to base the group in or around St Anton for one night.

Thursday 9 June; Ride into Italy to Lago d' Iseo for a three night stay. This lake is one of the smaller Italian lakes. It is surrounded by mountains and has a mini mountain of its own in the form of the island of Monte Isola, a boat sails regularly from a pier not far from our hotel. On the east bank of the lake a road leads to the village of Cislano, here an extraordinary spire-like rock formation rises from the ground, each spire is topped by a boulder, these are considered to be one of the most strangest wonders in Lombardy known as "Fairies of the Forest". Our hotel is situated adjacent to the lake and is about a quarter of a mile from the nearest village centre. There is also a railway station about the same distance from the hotel.

Sunday 12. Continue on to finish at Lerici Tuscany on the Mediterranean coast for a 2 night stay.

Lerici sits on the edge of a beautiful bay, it has a pleasant beach overlooked by pastel coloured houses. It is overlooked by a medieval castle.

Tuesday 14 June group breaks up and folk find their own way home.

As I write this we are working on the overnight hotels; we hope to publish them soon. Costs - difficult one this - prices have increased in euro land. Assume at the moment that 1£ = 1€ If the pound increases in value during the booking process then costs will be cheaper. Work on £50 per person per night Dinner bed & breakfast.

If you would like to join the tour please complete the attached form with a deposit of £55 per person and make payable to Mojacar Rally Account. Send completed form to our address shown on the form.

Note: The deposit payment includes a payment of £5 towards our administrative costs, any surplus will be refunded after the tour. **Tony & Christine Maidens.**

### AUTUMN TOUR 2010 September 3<sup>rd</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>

A nine day tour of Britain. Accommodation will be at Youth Hostels. The event will commence on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September near Padstow in Cornwall with a suggested route going through twelve of the National Parks and ending at Ilam in the Peak District on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September. Other hostels will be at Lydney, Tenby, Liverpool, Wastwater, Glencoe, Aviemore and Whitby. Average daily mileage 200.

The cost per participant will be about £200 for bed and breakfast. A deposit will be required on booking. I have been informed that the hostels are already taking bookings for September 2010 and therefore I would like to make reservations for participants by the end of November 2009. Following a request it may be possible to accommodate members who wish to do less than the full nine days.

For full details of the tour and a booking form please contact myself by phone, email or post.

**Dave Gilligan**

### SUMMARY OF THE AGM

Held at Lyme Regis, 10/10/09

The meeting started at 7.20pm, there were 44 members present.

Chairman Dave Boon welcomed all members present. He then gave a summary of the events held this year. He said all events were well supported having between 18 and 40 members in attendance. Unfortunately the autumn tour to Scotland was cancelled due to lack of support. He thanked all the organisers for their efforts in making the events a success.

Treasurer John Sellwood then gave a report on the club finances, he said the club was still viable and that our financial position was sound. He said subscriptions would remain the same for 2010 i.e. £11 for individual and partner and £9 for individual. His report was accepted by the meeting.

The club officers and committee then stepped down from office. The outgoing secretary then asked for nominations for a chairman – Keith Parfoot proposed Dave Boon who was seconded by Paul Weston, the meeting voted Dave Boon in as Chairman. Tony Maidens was re-elected as Secretary and John Sellwood as Treasurer. As the committee were all prepared to stand for re-election and, as no other member came forward for election or were nominated for election the incumbent committee were all re-elected by the meeting. The committee are:- Mike Lacey, Arthur Spain, Lyn Spain, Christine Maidens, Martin Heuter, Colin Pegram, Brian Caswell, Alan Simister.

Proposals for AGM: Alan Simister withdrew the proposal he had placed in the bulletin prior to the AGM.

As there were no other proposals Dave Boon moved on to events for 2010. He said we had on offer the 4 peaks weekend at Abergavenny; 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> March. Malvern Worcester B&B/camping weekend. A long weekend in Cumbria and Northumberland. Camping/B&B weekend in Bungay Suffolk. A weekend at Kirby Lonsdale. A weekend at the Hostel in Coalport. The May re-union and the October AGM weekend.

Dave Gilligan proposed a 9 day tour of Britain using Hostels for the autumn tour in September, he explained his planned itinerary to the meeting - his proposal was accepted by the meeting as the autumn tour.

Dave Boon then reported that Dave Bexley had had to withdraw his summer tour to the Dolomites for personal reasons – was anyone prepared to offer an alternative for our summer tour? As no one came forward from the floor Tony Maidens said he and Chris would be prepared to organise and take a tour to the Mediterranean coast of Italy via France, Germany, Austria and then Italy. This was accepted by the meeting as the summer tour for 2010.

Some members expressed disquiet with the way the 4 peaks weekend date was set by the Chairman and Secretary prior to the AGM. Dave explained that this weekend being very popular with the club meant we had to book it early or loose it. Paul Weston had offered to organise the event but could not do it at Easter time. As we had not received any other offer for an early weekend at that time (end of August) and, as there was only 2 dates available for the hostel at Abergavenny 19/20 March, 2/3 April Easter) we decided to “go for it”.

Dave re-stated that in many cases where a date of confirmation for a selected venue could not wait for the AGM in October, then a decision had to be made. He suggested that in future any member who has an idea for an event with the preferred date tells the secretary as early as possible who will log it in a dedicated box in the bulletin, this would not mean you were committed to do the event but, nearer the AGM the secretary would contact the member to confirm whether he/she still wished to put the event forward for consideration. This would hopefully stop any future confusion and misunderstandings. He said this problem would be discussed by the committee the following morning at their meeting. *(See Dave Boons letter below written after the committee the following morning. Hon Sec)*

**AOB:** Graham Gardner told the club that his colleague who owns the hotel at Marina di Massa in Italy used by the club in the past said that anyone who wished to stay at the hotel were most welcome. Graham then offered to organise a tour from Bordeaux criss-crossing the Pyrenees for September 2010. As this offer was made after the meeting had agreed to accept the offer proposed for September 2010 by D Gilligan, it could not be considered at this time.

As there was no other business Dave Boon closed the meeting.

**Minutes by Tony Maiden Hon Sec.**

#### LETTER FROM DAVE BOON

*Tony was approached by some members at the Llanwrtyd Wells weekend regarding the future of the very popular Abergavenny weekend. John Evans was*

*unable to organise the event as he was still very ill - still recovering from his accident. During the conversations Paul Weston offered to organise the weekend. Tony contacted the Hostel and was told that only two weekends were available early next year. Tony spoke to me and, we felt that as time was pressing and as we had at that time no offer for a winter warmer we asked Paul to go ahead and book the event.*

*Any such decision of this sort, will in future, be made with the agreement of at least six committee members! It would help to avoid this situation arising again.*

*The members have agreed that the venue and organiser for the following years' rally will be decided at the May Day reunion. This could be an opportunity to agree other event dates where the organiser needs to confirm with hotels etc before the AGM in October, subject to previous publication in the bulletin.*

*The committee agree that because of the increasing wish of hotels/YHA and some camp sites to confirm booking well in advance, often with deposits, there is a need to finalise at least the “early” season events sooner than in the past.*

*It would be helpful to Tony if anybody is thinking of a rally or weekend which they may be prepared to organise, to contact Tony with brief details (Not at that stage for publication. For instance we have had over the AGM weekend two suggestions for major events on a “do you think the club might like” basis. Not yet ready for presenting to members). The aim is to enable a list of possible events for the coming year to be published in the bulletin before the AGM. The content of the calendar will, of course be set by the AGM.*

*It is suggested by the committee that organisers who book Hotels etc on behalf of members, take the full cost before the event, returnable if the Hotel accepts a cancellation.*

**Dave Boon.**

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### ‘Beyond the forest’

By Dave Gilligan

Imagine south east of Miercurae-Ciuc, a lively if somewhat dusty, ramshackle town in Harghita county eastern Transylvania, across a wide rolling plain, fields with no boundaries full of crops of many hues, the jagged Carpathian mountains always looming in the background, guarding the land in a sweeping crescent. The temperature in the mid 30s on a shimmering road in need of repair. Was this I wondered similar to what Club members had experienced in the pre EEC days in Spain on their Mojacar trips of the 1970’s?

By now our group of four, two R100RTs, a 1200 GS and my Tiger, had lost the clean polished image of three weeks previously and taken on that certain patina that comes from a combination of rain, sun, dust and mud not to mention a certain amount of perspiration and sometimes limited sanitary facilities. Trip meters were registering some two thousand miles with over three thou more to come before we would be back in the UK.

The initial route had been fairly tame but picturesque. Meeting up in France then through the Ardennes, into Luxemburg then to the lakeside campsite at Schluchsee

in Southern Germany. Across Austria and past the hotel where the Club stayed in St Anton (where my GS starter motor had failed in 200? and scene of the hilarious Tyrolean musical evening) and on to a two night stop in Vienna. Yes it rains there too! For a while it seemed that Vienna wanted to keep us (or save us) from exploring further east, or was it a Garmin trick, anyway we eventually reached Bratislava and its castle and ex-Soviet block flats. You knew that things had changed, trams and poor roads, smokey Trabants and very cheap lunches! The city was left behind as we headed to our rural campsite at Nitrianski Rudno in Slovakia and the foothills of the western rim of the Carpathian Mountains.

“Yes. Come into my office and I will accommodate you” Did I hear that correctly after a long day on my sheepskin saddle or did the beautiful dark haired campsite receptionist really say that? She did, but her true meaning was not what I had wishfully interpreted! The lack of warm water not to mention shower curtains and toilet blocks that are locked from 11 pm ‘till 7am lead us to speculate if this would be the pattern for all campsites in former eastern block countries.

A good night’s sleep and some hundred plus miles later saw us crossing yet another border and into southern Poland, heading towards the winter ski resort of Zakopane. Like the UK Poland has not adopted the Euro yet. On route to Zak.. I had forgotten this and when at the till at a rural delicatessen and the bill was in Zlotys I felt the donkey ears appearing rapidly! “Plastic any good?” “Only if you spend above 20 Zlotys” read the sign. So a bottle of the finest Finnish vodka was added to the basket to top up the bill! Well, it was alcohol; and good for killing any bugs (remember Dr Cameron and his whisky?)

There are numerous border crossings into the Ukraine but after discovering most are for the locals only, we made a 6 am start under a grey sky in damp conditions to one at Krosienko in south eastern Poland. After a multitude of questions about why we were entering their country to a close examination of our route had me wondering if the cold war had been restarted since we had left our shores. All paperwork was checked four times as well as frame numbers and information typed onto their PCs slowly four times using one digit typing. Were we tourists or “in transit”? This seemed a difficult decision to make by the dark green uniformed officials. Eventually a very attractive, tall, dark, English speaking colleague was called over to ask more questions and she eventually decided after further consultations with her supervisor that we would be “in transit,” not tourists. One of the party was not allowed into their country because he did not have original vehicle documents, only a photocopy. Was a bribe required we wondered, none was tendered so he had to make alternative plans to reach Rumania. Five Euros was eventually extracted by one of the chain-smoking grossly overweight officials from one of the group for the lack of a final official stamp. Eventually after perhaps an hour we were on Ukrainian roads or what was accepted by them as excuses for roads. I would put my entire off road riding skills into use by the end of the day. Ukrainians don’t appear to smile but do flock in number to their new chrome and brass roofed churches; many carry scythes and in the afternoon walk their cows along the roads! Maybe this

latter pastime was their way of implementing a form of traffic calming; this combined with the missing tarmac did the trick. Our chosen route was rural in the extreme, no cafes or restaurants, so by mid afternoon having been up since 5 am we tackled our emergency rations and made a good old English brew on the petrol stove at the roadside. Pressing on with our journey after our improvised lunch across the potholes, we were passed at speed by three German bikers also travelling south, complete with obligatory aluminium panniers and knobbles. A couple of miles down the road we caught up with them at a military checkpoint. More questions, did we have any cigarettes, but when they discovered two of us were from near Manchester smiles appeared on their faces and handshakes followed and finally we were encouraged to speed on our way! After many miles and with improving weather conditions we reached the Romanian border at Cidreag as the sun was setting. We were waved to the front of a long queue of traffic only to be interrogated again now by the Romanians and required to individually sign documents to confirm that we were aware that swine flu had reached their shores. We could have been signing anything as none of us could read Romanian. We did fare better than one local biker hoping to cross to his home country on a rather tatty two stroke bike. The customs officials were opening up his luggage apparently looking for contraband cigarettes or worse. One large packet covered in brown paper was not so discreetly passed to the official and the Romanian biker was then allowed to cross. By now it was pitch black; we had no idea where the nearest campsite was when as if by magic a Romanian motorcyclist on an old single cylinder four stroke Jawa appeared. We were soon following his rear light (about as bright as a fag end) at speed to a motel near Satu Mare. After a challenging day the Romanian beer went down well, the chef had gone home so we had to make do with a shared bag of peanuts for supper.

The following day the sun beat down on us (great!) as we loaded the bikes for another 200 plus mile day to Borsa in the Maramures and a pre-planned stay at Kris Verellen’s back garden campsite, officially Borsa Tourism. Two of us couldn’t find the site and we were eventually given a police escort via a goat track to the house where a wonderful BBQ awaited us (plus a few beers....)

All the next day we traversed rutted mountain roads, passing by crystal clear rivers and wooded hillsides, dodging smokey articulated logging trucks and mad 4 x 4 drivers! We were now engulfed by high mountains and by late afternoon settled in at the Dutch run Vampire Campsite in Bran – genuine Dracula country! South of Carta is the Trans Fagarasan Highway, a must for any serious biker! Check it out on the web or better still go and ride it!

Several days later would see us on a ferry crossing Lake Balaton. With evening temperatures in the upper twenties a late evening swim in the waters of one of Europe’s largest lakes seemed a good way to cool off at the end of another perfect day. With our backs now to the Carpathian Mountains we would soon be entering Slovenia, a cross between Austria, Germany and Switzerland. A single track mountain road took us to Bled and on to the Julian Alps. Slovenia gave way to

northern Italy, a blast around the Dolomites, some wonderful ice-cream and two 150 Euro fines for two of the group who jumped a red light! I got away with this one.

We weren't the only ones to be disappointed when we found the Moto Guzzi factory and museum at Mondello closed for a week. Not a word about it on their website. Other would be visitors had travelled from Holland and Hungary. Twenty years ago the Dutchman had applied for a job at the factory with no success, so this was the second time they had let him down.

Following some hectic (\*\*\*\*\* dangerous) Friday afternoon rush hour Italian style driving saw me on another ferry crossing Lake Maggiore and eventually via the Simplon and Furka passes to a final campsite at Andermatt. This was now the end of our four week tour, the main focus having been to follow the Carpathian

mountains in their entirety or as close as roads would permit.

An 875 mile ride took me from a freezing Andermatt to a wet Derbyshire and home to end what had been a great four week adventure.

**Dave Gilligan**

### FOR SALE

BMW R65, 1981 model: 47000 recorded miles, not immaculate but in good condition. Fitted with R100 handlebars and Stainless brake hoses, C.W. rack and panniers. £1220.00

YAMAHA SERROW 223cc kickstart model, D reg. Only two years to be eligible for VMCC events. Low mileage and in good condition. £550.00

Contact Arthur Spain

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### SUMMER TOUR TO ITALY

5<sup>TH</sup> to 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2010

I/We wish to join the tour and enclose a deposit of £55 per person

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make cheques payable to Mojacar Rally Account.**

**Post to: AW & CJ Maidens, 8 The Cedars, Benson, Wallingford, Oxon. OX10 6LL**

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### 4 PEAKS WEEKEND - MULBERRY HOUSE HOSTEL ABERGAVENNY

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2010

I/We would like to join this event.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make cheque (£20 per person) payable to P Weston**