



MOJACAR MOTORCYCLE TOURING CLUB

bulletin

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

May 2010
Issue 184

SECRETARIES BIT

The Kirkby Lonsdale event was blessed with glorious weather albeit very cold at night. It appears that everyone had a great time. Brian Caswell has put pen to paper and written a piece on the highlights of the weekend – see below.

The Kirkby event was in direct contrast to the May Reunion. There were 42 folk in attendance, all had a great time in Lyme socially but, the weather was cold and wet especially on the Sunday for the ride out. At the coffee stop many comments were exchanged - goodness me I'm frozen or – I must replace some of my leaking attire or – these new “whatever” are really warm. Yours truly chickened out at the coffee stop and went back to base to warm up and watch the Moto GP. However, after leaving the coffee stop things brightened up and the sun shone on and off for the rest of the run. It just goes to show you should never give in to the fickle weather?

As this is the last bulletin before the summer tour to Italy the two Colin's - Purches & Pegram have provided more information on the Bungay weekend; see their article elsewhere in the bulletin. As there is around 40 members attending and, they are organising a group evening meal for the Saturday, they and the hotel would like prior notice of what people require to eat. A menu is attached to the bulletin to be returned to Colin Pegram ASAP.

At the May Reunion in Lyme the summer tour for 2011 was decided, the basic outline of the tour is printed elsewhere in the bulletin.

I said above that this would be the last bulletin before our tour to Italy, the next edition will probably be around mid July. Let's hope to goodness it warms up a bit before we all set foot on a ferry!

All correspondence on subjects other than events to:
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Tel No: 01491 838489
E mail ac_maidens68@hotmail.com
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KIRKBY LONSDALE

By Brian Caswell

Living as we do in a notoriously damp part of Wales, I was slightly concerned that the previous weekend here had been warm, sunny and dry, which did not bode well for Alan's weekend. However, the forecasters were adamant that in spite of the erupting Volcano in Iceland, the weather would remain fine. I had repaired the damage to the sidecar following our slight contretemps on our return from the Abergavenny weekend, so we loaded up on Friday morning and set off in brilliant sunshine for Kirkby. Jackie and I have stayed at Wood Close Caravan Park on many occasions in sun, torrential rain, gales and frost, but have always enjoyed staying there.

After a steady journey and a leisurely pub lunch we arrived at the campsite and booked into our “Wigwam” which turned out to be a rather spacious, timber built bow shaped construction which was brand new. As I unlocked the door the Yale lock fell off, this was promptly replaced by the friendly staff. The site has six of these “Wigwams” which now appear to be fully booked into the distant future, we had the last booking available for the weekend. The accommodation is rather Spartan (with electric heater, fridge and kettle) with 4 inch thick rubber mattresses on wooden framed beds, but at least our old bones don't have to lie on the cold ground. We were unloading the outfit when a distraught Colin Purches appeared, he had only decided to come the day before and unusually for the normally well organised Colin, he had forgotten his air bed. A mental picture flashed across my mind of him sleeping on the cold hard ground and a frost was forecast, it didn't bode well until I found a spare rubber mattress in the wigwam, he rushed off with it under his arm, only to return moments later with a bottle of red, “where's yer mug Bri? Good on yer”. So we quaffed that in the afternoon sunshine whilst others were putting up tents, very nice weren't it Colin? There followed a pleasant stroll into town where we met most of the B&B'ers in the Snooty Fox for a pint or two

before moving to the Red Dragon for another pint or two and a very good meal. We tottered back to Wood Close, feeling rather chilly in the cool breeze but, I had left the heater on low so we were nice and comfortable and were completely un-awhore until we woke up that there had been a hard frost, Colin told me later that he wore all manner of clothes and used the mattress, but he was still “bleedin frozen”. All the bikes had a thick covering of frost which melted in the bright sunshine.

Alan had arranged for us all to meet outside the campsite at 10am for the ride out, where for the first time I caught sight of Laurie Shep’s new Triumph, what a monster, no, not you Laurie. Alan had promised us a spectacularly scenic run out, he wasn’t wrong, only about 80 miles mostly to the south and east of Kirkby and mainly on single track roads. We stopped en masse at the popular café in Slaidburn, where once some years ago I had the misfortune to knock John Evans’ NTV Honda off its stand. He still speaks to me however. The scenery altered between bleak with residual snow on some hills to lush and green, it was a spectacular run with Graham Gardner flashing past us, later to be found hanging from various signposts etc. taking pictures as we passed by.

At the lunch stop near Malham, I sought out Mr Simister and told him that he had omitted to inform me the route was obviously a competency and endurance test for sidecar drivers, as it was very bumpy in parts. The worst thing for me was finding on the one track roads that most oncoming drivers have no idea of their vehicles width, so passing became quite interesting. Alan did inform me that the last 8 miles loop of the route was very bumpy and suggested a detour for me via the Ribblehead Viaduct to Ingleton and back on the A65 to Kirkby. Well done Alan, a brilliant run. After a nice shower it was into town again via Devils Bridge and a suitably embarrassed Jackie having been regaled with “Happy Birthday” sung by Graham and Mick in front of the assembled bikers on the bridge. Another great meal, a few pints and good company in the Snooty Fox for more happy birthdays etc, then retire to the wigwam to bed. Up early for the grind down the M6 until the quieter roads of Wales.

Many thanks to Alan on behalf of us all, a most enjoyable weekend. Before we know what is happening Lyme will be upon us again, then there’s Martin and Natalie’s wedding then, Martins weekend, unfortunately we can’t do all the events on offer oh – and did I mention I have to rebuild Clampie’s Guzzi V50 which is in boxes in my garage.

Brian Caswell.

PROVISIONAL OFFERS FOR TOURS AND EVENTS IN 2011.

*Any ideas or offers you have will be inserted in this box.
Hon Sec*

Following the Secretary’s request for ideas for events in 2011, I would be glad to hear from club members about a proposal of mine to tour through parts of Belgium, Switzerland and France using International Youth Hostels for accommodation. I have no experience of using hostels on the Continent; however images and details on the websites are encouraging. The average price per day for bed and breakfast in the nine hostels, based on a shared room basis is from 18 Euros. Evening meals are offered at all of hostels.

The hostels considered would be at Bouillon, Saverne, Belfort, Grindelwald, Clusaz, Guillestre, Tarascon, Le Puy en Velay and Vezelay.

If you go to: www.hihostels.com you can see slideshows for most of the hostels.

To make group bookings we would need a minimum of ten participants. If there is enough interest I will flesh out the above skeleton of a proposal.

Dave Gilligan

SUMMER TOUR 2011

Prior to the May reunion another offer of a tour for next year was received from Laurie Shephard. As you all know we also have a tour on offer from Dave Gilligan detailed in “Provisional Offers”. Both these offers were put forward at the reunion by chairman Dave Boon. Both Laurie and Dave Gilligan had discussed their respective offers and, Dave was happy to run his offer as a September event subject to agreement at the AGM.

It was proposed from the floor and agreed that we accept Laurie Shephard’s offer as the tour for 2011.

The basic framework of the tour is as follows:

4 June group meets around Chartres, ride down to Clermont Ferrand region, on to Millau, then to Cathar region for 2 nights say at Quillan. Out to med. Along coast into Spain to Cadaques for 3 nights, back inland through France to Encamp in Andorra. Into Spain to Veilha, back into France and do Tour de France Cols to Arudy. Back into Spain then onto Atlantic coast (Hondarriba or back into France) to finish on Wednesday night.

Laurie says specific details will be available later in the year.

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EVENTS FOR 2010 in Date order with details where available.

Tour to Italy. Dates 5th to 20th June. Organisers Tony & Christine Maidens. 01491 838489. See details elsewhere in bulletin.

Bungay Suffolk – Camping/B&B weekend. Date: 9th and 10th July. Organisers Colin Purches. & Colin Pegram.

We will be using the Outney meadow Caravan Park which is a 5 minute walk from the centre of Bungay. There is ample accommodation in the town at varying prices. The river Waveney runs through the campsite and, it is possible to hire Canadian Canoes by the day or half day.

The run will be a ride along the Suffolk Coast stopping at the sunken village of Dunwich for coffee. Lunch will be by the river Deben on the south of the county. The ride after lunch will be through the beautiful countryside of inland Suffolk. Distance, approx 130 miles. Anyone else wanting to come please let us know.

We have around 40 people coming so far, half camping and half in accommodation.

The route is now sorted and copies will be available in advance to anyone who wants one. Friday evening will be eat where you like and Saturday we will all be eating at the Kings head.

Outney Meadows Caravan park is situated on A413 at the roundabout with A144 (there's a big sign) and all the accommodation is off the roundabout as well (250metres into town).

Malvern Worcester – B&B/ camping weekend. Date: 13th to 15th August. Organiser Martin Heuter.

There are now 21 members registered, thanks for everyone who put themselves at the mercy of my planning and the hotel in Bromyard. I am sure that there is space for some late bookings, so if anyone wants to join us, please let me know.

I will shortly be planning the route... Malvern Hills, rural Worcestershire going north (I drove a beautiful road from Stourport back to Worcester the other day and thought – this is one for the weekend..., obviously the Morgan visitor centre and last but not least... good weather. So, if you're still dithering...don't!! give me a ring and book yourself on the weekend.

Tour of Britain – Using Hostels. Dates: 3rd to 11th September. Organiser David Gilligan.

See details in bulletin.

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

Winter Closer weekend Coalport – Using Hostel. Date: 22nd and 23rd October. Organiser Alan Simister;

The hostel is booked, no need for money yet. Lots to do and see, good pubs within walking distance, make that staggering for Mr Weston and an excellent hostel. There are only 4 DOUBLES AVAILABLE for couples, so its first come first served. If you intend to join us, let me know in plenty of time, it also insures that you have a bed. A run will be organised but I will be putting that out to tender nor being a native of the area.

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SUMMER TOUR TO ITALY

The tour has 23 members and reservations are now closed.

The tour will take us through four countries to 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/Arlberg 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 near the Mediterranean at La Spezia in Liguria 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 Beauvais Normandy France.

Sunday 6 June; Ride to the southern Ardenne to a hotel in Rethel.

BUNGAY EVENT DINNER

Monday 7 June; Ride on for a one night stay to a hotel in the village of Urmatt in Alsace Loraine.

Tuesday 8 June; Crossing the Rhine we ride to Southern Germany for a one night stop at the village of Ostrach.

Wednesday 9 June; Ride into Austria to base the group in St Anton for one night.

Thursday 10 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 13. We leave Lago D'Iseo to ride to the old town of La Spezia on the Mediterranean coast for a 2 night stay.

La Spezia sits on the edge of the Mediterranean, it is an old port. The water front is surrounded by pastel coloured houses with many café's and restaurants. It is overlooked by a medieval castle.

Tuesday 15 June group breaks up and folk find their own way home.

Tony & Christine Maidens.

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AUTUMN TOUR 2010 September 3rd - 11th (UPDATE)

Some fifteen Club members will be participating in this nine day tour of Britain. The accommodation in both the English and Scottish hostels has been booked.

The eight suggested daily routes which will pass through twelve of our National Parks and total nearly 2000 miles have been completed. A paper copy of these will be posted to riders towards the end of May together with hostel information and a request for the outstanding balance. I will be using my Garmin GPS routes, if anyone wants a copy of these please let me know.

Depending upon accommodation being available additional members to the group will be welcome.

Dave Gilligan

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A BIKING GOOD LIFE

By David Bexley

Several members have expressed a desire to read David's book. As it is not available from retail outlets you will need to contact David Bexley direct if you wish to purchase an edition.

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FOR SALE

Caberg Flip-Up Full Face Helmet.

Worn only three times. For more information and price, contact Paul Weston.

Kings Head
Menu

£12.50

Mojacar Motorcycle Touring Club – 10th July 2010

Starters

Wings of Fire(succulent spicy chicken wings)
Garlic Prawns & Mushroom Voulavent
Homemade Soup

Main Course

*Roast Beef, Yorkshire Pudding, Roast Potatoes & Seasonal
Vegetables*
Scampi with lemon, Fries & Peas or Salad
Homemade Spinach, Mushroom & Cheese Lasagne served with Fries

Desserts

Eaton Mess
Alabama Fudge Cake
Seasonal Cheesecake

As we have around 40 people joining us and, so that we do not have to wait too long for our meals we need to help the hotel sort out what they need for the dinner. Please make your selections from the above - couples please indicate with your individual names against choice. Pay for your meal on the night.

Name(s) _____

Tel Number: _____

Post whole form to:

Colin Pegram, 152 Church End, Harlow, Essex, CM19 5PF.

