



# Newsletter

July 2014

## National Rally

The NOC National Rally was held in Hingham, Norfolk over the weekend of the 20th June. It was an enjoyable and well organised event – thanks to all involved. Unusually the TVNOC didn't have a strong attendance as a large group had gone to the Netherlands Branch Anniversary party.

I made a long weekend of it, leaving on Thursday and heading South trying to stay off the main roads, except around Carlisle where its worth picking up the M6 just to avoid going through the town. A pleasant potter past Settle (didn't stop to view the viaduct) and camped for the night just South of Skipton. If you are looking for a site, I can recommend the Riverside Campsite at Cononley – well cared for site, friendly and welcoming staff and easy access to the village pubs.

Friday morning navigation was a bit tricky and I ended up failing to avoid the motorways around Leeds. Without doubt the worst traffic of the journey was around Kings Lynn where there were miles of stop/start and slow moving traffic. Filtering on a laden Commando isn't much fun so I was relieved when I could get back on the smaller, quieter roads. The directions in the Rally welcome pack were spot-on and led me straight to the site without a single u-turn or missed junction.

The Saturday run followed a circuitous route through lanes and villages to a work house and agricultural museum. I don't normally enjoy organised runs as I find them frustrating, preferring to do my own thing. On this occasion I was glad I joined as I would never have found such an interesting route by myself.

On the way home on Sunday I had a guide in the form of John Powell who had mapped out

a terrific route North only hitting a busy spot at the Humber Bridge. We went our separate ways after admiring the view from Sutton Bank – John for an appointment and I to meander as far as Jedburgh for a night in the campsite. Monday was a superb run round St Marys Loch and Megget Reservoir to home.



*Saturday Run lunch stop*

The Commando, despite wearing more much oil on its outer surfaces than I would have liked, performed perfectly. 1200 miles over the weekend, the tools weren't out the bag and even the oil didn't need topped up. My waterproofs weren't on until about 50 miles from home, but that too was exactly as expected!

## Applecross Camping Weekend

The weekend following The National Rally we had the TVNOC Applecross weekend. Once again we landed lucky with the weather having a dry and sunny weekend. Thanks to all who managed to make it, and if you haven't visited before, it is well worth the trip - a scenic run on fantastic roads with a great pub serving excellent food at the end. And how many 'bike events can you go to where you can watch wild otters within a few minutes walk from the site?



*Friday night, Applecross*

## Trossachs Meeting

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July is the Trossachs ride in meeting. An informal gathering in the Loch Katrine car park around midday. Simply turn up and park, look at the other bikes, have a blether and leave when you like.

If you would like other attractions you could go cruising the Loch on the steamship the Sir Walter Scott. Riders of Commandos or other adventure bikes could try the Three Lochs Forest Drive, a 7 mile circuit of forest track.

Loch Katrine is off the A821 Dukes Pass road which is a great ride from either Aberfoyle or Kilmahog. The route is popular with cyclists and "Lycra jams" are not uncommon. Also watch out for holiday makers who have hired bicycles and haven't quite figured out how they work (or why its so much harder than it was 50 years ago when they were last on one!).

There is a small designated motorcycle slot, but I'm going to suggest we just park just as you enter the car park and try not to take up too many spaces.

## Borders Camping Weekend

12th - 14th September at Kirk Yetholm, near Kelso. The owners of the site have been very accommodating and will have an area set aside for us.

Spaces are very limited and I have one only tent pitch left - any more places will be pot luck. Email me to book a spot.

If you prefer something more luxurious, there is accommodation in the two pubs near by.

Their details and more about the area can be found at <http://www.yetholmonline.org.uk>

Site details...

Kirkfield Caravan Site  
Grafton Road  
Town Yetholm  
Kelso  
TD5 8RU

Contact 07791291956

Rates (at discretion of warden)

Large Tent - 2 persons £15.00

Backpacker Tent - per person £7.00

We don't have any fixed activities, but there will almost certainly be a run going for an explore on Saturday. Very low key, no band or disco, just a run on your 'bike and a night in the pub. What more could one ask?