



Rejects News

The Newsletter of the Cockney Rejects
Centre 14 of the Virago Star Owners Club

May 2007

www.vsoc-centre14.co.uk



Meetings at The Well House Inn Chipstead Lane, Coulsdon, Surrey, CR5 3SQ

*"Listen to me, it's not about when you reach your destination
It's the journey there that matters.
Make it a good one, take your time, and enjoy what's around you".*

What's on?

Bold are official VSOC

April

Sat 28th Al & Annya's Wedding

May

Thursday 3rd Meeting

Sunday 6th Amberley Classic Bike show

Monday 7th Ace Café Hastings run

Saturday 12th May Kempton Classic Bike show

Sunday May 13th Rideout , Garden of Kent Ride

Wednesday 16th Meeting

Fri-Sun 19th-20th BMF Show

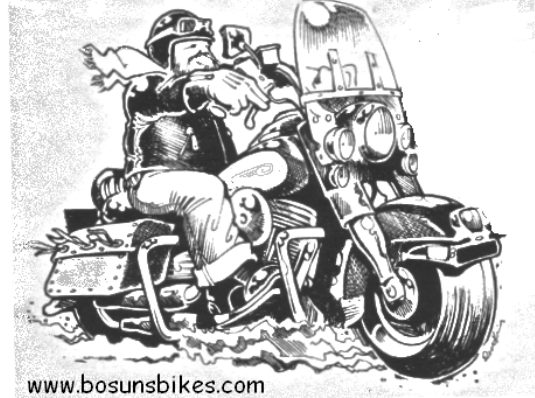
May 25th-28th Yorkies Rally

June

Wednesday 3rd Meet

Further details of dates to aid in your forward planning can be found on the web site, please send dates of events you may think people would like to rejectnews@ntlworld.com

From the Editor



Greetings one and all

Just when you think you can stop for a breather, so the season kicks up a gear And no more is this evident than at the Wellhouse at our meetings, with folk showing off new bikes and modifications, I still really look forward to seeing Al's new trike arriving. The buzz for the main rallies is great.

By the time you read this Al and Annya shall officially be Mr and Mrs Stevens and we wish them all the very best for a happy future together.

A personal thanks to Dave here for his birthday treat to the cinema to see "Wild Hogs" a very enjoyable lighthearted film, thanks mate.

Bosun

Disclaimer: The views in Rejects News are the views of the respective authors And do not necessarily reflect the views of the Cockney Rejects or the VSOC

Hello everyone

I'm just taking a drop of time to let you all know about the four shows that the VSOC is taking part of this year with BMF, and invite and welcome you to come along. They are:

BMF Bike Show, East of England Showground, Peterborough, Sat 19 and Sun 20th May
(organiser: VSOC Events Co ordinator: Polly, C9, 07794324847)

GEMS, Hop Farm Country Park, Paddock Wood, Kent, Sat 9th and Sun 10th June
(organiser: Centre 15 Rep: Ray, 01892 540947)

Kelso Bikefest, Springwood Park, Kelso, Scotland, Sat 14 and Sun 15 July (organiser: Polly C9 and Centre 1 Rep Duggie,)

Tail End, East of England Showground, Peterborough, Sat 15 and Sun 16th September.
(organiser: Polly C9)

At each show, the VSOC are taking a marquee space for the entire weekend. The purpose is to market the club, encourage new members to join, sell merchandise and also give all our members a focus point at the show to have a chat, cup of tea/coffee, catch up on news, meet up with other members and have a great time. Even if you are on your own, you know you will meet someone from the club at the show!

To get this organised takes loads of things, including volunteers! If you fancy a good weekend away (or you would like to volunteer to put your bike on the stand for a day or two and camp out for with other like minded members), you are guaranteed a good weekend.

The volunteers we need come in different sizes, ages, gender, race and faith, but they all have the same thing in common - Star bikes! The work is generally unpaid (although you'll get the reward of an entry ticket if you help out over the weekend), with a cuppa or two to keep you going. What do you need to do? Well, enjoy the weekend to start with, even when you are putting the stand together, handing banners, setting chairs and tables out, talking to people who visit the stand, and at the end of the show taking them down again putting it all away in the trailer. Inbetween all of that, there are good times to be had with great conversation, live music and of course a tinny or two as well.

So, ladies and gentlemen, don't be shy or slow to get these dates in your diaries and come along to have a fantastic weekend. We need to know you want to be part of the party - please get in touch with us as noted above, or, go onto our national website and put your name down on the list. You need to book and organise this **BEFORE** the show if you want to help, or put your bike onto the stand as there are things we need to sort out for you. Also let us know if you are camping or not. If enough people want to help with Kelso, we might be able to sort out a mini bus? Need people to let me know if this would help or not? Maybe get people to ride to one spot leaving bikes with other members???

Let's have an even better BMF year this year - see you all at the show. If you are not able to help, but are visiting the shows, please come along to the stand to meet up with everyone. It really is such a great atmosphere. You can't afford to miss it!!

Ride safe and be happy, Polly xxx (VSOC Events organiser)

7 from 14 go on Tor.

So, with memories of the Outriders party steadily disappearing from my rather befuddled brain, suddenly Easter is upon us and it's time for C14's first road trip of the season.

Organised by our ever efficient Dep. Rep, Paul, we were off to Glastonbury, home of the famous Tor, festival, aging hippies, all things mystical, umpteen good pubs, a very nice Italian restaurant, and a kids free camp site, Oh yesssss.

A first for this trip was to get all the gear taken in "the Truck" driven by t'other half, Ruth, with Julie navigating, so we could all ride light. So the night before at our regular Well House meet we loaded it up. Then back to the Well House again first thing Friday morning for Coffee and Bacon butties courtesy of the lovely Sharon. Good start.

On the road we encountered the inevitable Easter traffic as we followed the M25, M3, A303 Nick had to pop into work for a quick "emergency" call in Reigate but assured us he would catch up, the sun shone brightly upon us and all was well with the world. No one got lost, and before long we arrived at the Old Oaks "KID FREE" camp site. By the time we had booked in Ruth and Julie arrived. Nick then turned up just as Julie had completed setting up, having watched from the other side of the hedge to make sure she'd finished. (Who said that?)

Then Annya's beloved Virago decided to have more in common with her than anyone could have imagined, it tried to become a tree hugger, unfortunately breaking the screen in the process. But luckily no more serious damage was done.



What a great site, biker friendly, (for small groups) well laid out, spacious plots, clean as a Goldwing garage and toilet and shower facilities that compared well to any decent hotel. No bar on site so take provisions. Tents up, clobber changed and time to chill out.



Paul and I made a quick trip into town to get a Chinese takeaway and had an interesting conversation about Japanese art, why she wanted to discuss Hentai with 2 hairy bikers I've no idea. After that and a couple of drinks, for medicinal reasons only you understand, we were all ready to hit the sack, at half past nine ! I would never have believed it. Must be the air round there.

Saturday morning and more glorious sunshine, breakfast cooked and served we decided to "do the Tor", well to be honest 4 girls and a guy with a dodgy knee decided to "do the Tor" Paul and Nick deciding on an easier life.

So up the mountain I climbed, ever onward, fighting the pain barrier, climbing higher and higher until my very lungs were bursting, (Give it a rest AJ, Ruth)



The view from the top was worth the effort though.



And I even got proof I made it. Though I had to lean on the ladies once I got there.

Once back into Glastonbury we had a look around the shops where Annya found some nice Gothic Goblets to add to her ever growing Wedding bits box. Then we heard from Paul and Nick and it was time for lunch. Good food but not enough to satisfy our eating champion Nick. So once back at camp for siesta he cooked up sausages to satisfy his hunger.



We spent the evening back in Glastonbury sampling the offerings of the local hostelries and playing pool, I think Paul won in the end, but it was all a bit blurred by then. Nightcaps from hip flasks and another good sleep was followed by another glorious day, where is all this sunshine coming from?

Annya was leaving this morning to visit friends so then we were Six. Suffering from serious ride withdrawal symptoms we headed for Burnham on Sea, a small, typical English seaside town, which in the opinion of this writer has nothing going for it.



Fish and chips for lunch and out of there we headed for the Mendip hills.

We rest stopped at Blagdon water a huge man made lake where Julie gave me some ornithological instruction and Nick considered poaching the Trout farm opposite. Then it was back to camp via some fantastic scenery and great riding roads that shouldn't be missed by being boxed up in a tin can on wheels.

As this was our last night we decided to push the boat out and have a slap up meal at a restaurant I had spotted in town called GIGIS, highly recommended, good food and excellent service. We were picked up by our now regular cab service in a long wheel base Land Rover and the driver kindly decided to give us the scenic route to town. No extra charge, good man.

So all in all a great weekend, I can never understand why more members don't come on these road trips, maybe someone out there will enlighten me.



Flynn staggered home very late after another evening with his drinking buddy, Paddy. He took off his shoes to avoid waking his wife, Mary.

He tiptoed as quietly as he could toward the stairs leading to their upstairs bedroom, but misjudged the bottom step. As he caught himself by grabbing the banister, his body swung around and he landed heavily on his rump. A whiskey bottle in each back pocket broke and made the landing especially painful.

Managing not to yell, Flynn sprung up, pulled down his pants, and looked in the hall mirror to see that his butt cheeks were cut and bleeding. He managed to quietly find a full box of Band-Aids and began putting a Band-Aid as best he could on each place he saw blood.

He then hid the now almost empty Band-Aid box and shuffled and stumbled his way to bed.

In the morning, Flynn woke up with searing pain in both his head and butt and Mary staring at him from across the room.

She said, "You were drunk again last night weren't you?"

Flynn said, "Why you say such a mean thing?"

"Well," Mary said, "it could be the open front door, it could be the broken glass at the bottom of the stairs, it could be the drops of blood trailing through the house, it could be your bloodshot eyes, but mostly.....it's all those Band-Aids stuck on the hall mirror."

An Eggsellent weekend

Bad pun I know but what else do you expect (eggspect?) this Easter has surely been the best Easter ever.

While some of the Rejects headed to Devon (report elsewhere) and my friend Keith returning to Lincoln, I headed to several local ish shows (within 60 miles is localish)

Good Friday I started with Hotrod and Bike show in Aldershot run by the "Surrey Street Rodders", a great day out for all petrol heads and then I headed up to the Ace Café where they were having a special day for the premier of "Wild Hogs", ok so the truth is I was due to go home,



and got lost and ended up at the Ace, but it was nice, I was not brave enough though for the Chilli Eating contest when I saw raw scotch

Bonnet chilli's coming out.



Saturday I took it easyish, and cleaned the bike, being shamed by the good-looking bikes on Friday.

Sunday fuelled by Easter eggs, I headed to the back of beyond, well ok it was a rugby club in Reading, report elsewhere.

Monday and still the sun shone and so I headed for Essex and my first ever visit to the Southend Shakedown, wow if I ever thought Brighton got busy I was so wrong, this place rocked and the traffic wardens far kinder. I walked for over an hour and never reached the end of the bikes, I saw many of the Essex bikes, but in the crowds never met the riders.

In the end 4 days, 4 shows, perfect sunshine can we ask for much more
lets hope it's an omen for a great summer

Bosun

More pictures on www.bosunsbikes.com



Ode to Dave

There was a young man called
dave.
Famous at rallies he just
loved to rave
When in front of the band
with his tit in one hand
And other hand aloft the did
raise

This mans one of moderation
9-5 bored at his work
station
Moderations his new life
Now he no longer has a wife
And that is his explanation

Please don't mention his
Noddy like car
In it he didn't go far
Street cred it did lack
Although it WAS black
He'd still much rather be riding his star

On his bikes hes rode 1,000s of miles
His money was not kept in piles
His friends wish him the best
Dressed in Lumiglow vest
That his crash helmets filled up with smiles

We hope that he is now happy
After life for a while was just crappy
A great new life for him
With more vigour and vim
COME BACK TO PARTY AND MAKE IT SNAPPY
Chimp XX



Reading Mags Custom Bike show

Formally "shepherds hill bike show" Easter Sunday

Possibly the most impossible venue to find, (and multi map didn't help) but it was a sunny day and the back roads of Berkshire and Oxfordshire were nice to ride around. Eventually I found the Rugby Club more by luck than judgement, paid my pound to park (if you wished to enter your bike it was £3) and met mates a good start. Strolling through the bike park there were several bikes I thought

were show worthy, and on reaching the show I did wonder how loosely some folks think "Custom bike" can be translated, with almost new stock bikes being entered.

This also meant that the limited space for show vehicles was very soon filled up. This maybe

something I hope can be addressed in the future.

There were a few stalls, various bike club stands and an ice-cream van doing a roaring trade. The club house provided welcome shade and cooling ales, and a BBQ seemed to be feeding the 5000 or however many were there.



There were some very nice virago's around, including a gorgeous metallic blue 535 in the show.

I soon met the good folk from C12 and other Owners clubs, and not so local Owners clubs and forums,

chatted for a while, perused more of the bike-park and then headed home.

Now you would think the return journey would have been easier, I'm sure I did a figure of eight at least once, but it was a nice ride. I tell you me and Berkshire just don't mix.

Next year I shall get proper directions (famous last words)

Bosun





Milly's second year report 18000 miles down the road



Yes believe it or not I have owned Milly for two years now, well by saying "owned" I am not sure that's the correct words, maybe I mean seduced and enchanted to such a point that I should say Milly owns me as much as I do her.

The 88ci (1450cc) engine is a big old lazy beast in standard trim, and that suits my riding down to a tee. Only items I have seen on other bikes and liked end up on her, or off in the case of removing the heel shifter, I have never got on with heel shifting.

With Cruise control, and Fuel injection as standard she always fires up easy, and never misses a beat come rain (and there has been a lot of rain, and some shine.) And although the standard pipes are very quiet she still sounds like a Harley and even on the longest days there is no ringing in my ears like other exhausts.

For example the seat after a ride back down from Manchester was just too uncomfortable, eventually I blagged a sit on another Roadking with a comfort stitch seat and that was me sorted, nicely shaped and with a slight backrest.

In the two years I have been to John o Groats (mostly 2 up) and down to Lands End (solo mostly in the rain) in total comfort, given the choice of a long drive in my car, or using the bike the bike normally wins. Day trips of 350+ miles seem the norm now. An average of 55mpg is pleasing as well, though the tank could be larger, the tank is just over 3 gallons, though usually a coffee break (human fuel) is needed by then.

It doesn't matter how much you load her up she still rides the same, the panniers are waterproof and hold a reasonable amount of stuff.

Services seem to come up very fast at 5,000 miles, but this is comparable with most Japanese cruisers, and the servicing is similar priced. However the same cannot be said of spares, and sourcing via the Net and ordering from the states is a good idea.

One down point at 11,000 miles she needed new wheels as the chrome had peeled off, though these were exchanged on warranty. I managed a respectable 15,000 miles on the standard tyres as well.

Good points: the big lazy engine, sure handling, luggage capability
Bad points: the original seat, Harley Chrome

Am I happy I brought it, you bet, she is ridden most of the year (apart from snow and ice) just for fun, and brings a smile to my face whenever I am on her. I am averaging a thousand miles a month on her and can see keeping her for years

Happy riding

Bosun



Departure Lounge Rideout

Ok so I have a reputation to uphold

Of the several ride outs I have lead, none have been entirely successful in the area of Navigation, finding the destination or even not breaking down But still 9 other foolhardy souls arrived to see how wrong I could go again, as I was leading the ride to "the departure lounge" a garden centre and café in Hampshire.

For the first time since Scotland I found I had a pillion, in the

shape of Jemma, who decided to try various bikes other than the back of her dads 535.

And Christo even dug out his 535 to play

On time despite the change to British Summer time we soon headed off into the wilds of surrey



seems I may have dismissed my ride leader gremlins at last

A nice day all round

Result

Bosun



And despite the confusion of riding into a ride out by the Triumph Owners Club (made trying to see who was behind you chaos) in just over an hour we were all at our destination, result, I collapsed into a coffee and relaxed.

As the others tucked into big breakfasts, the words I dreaded sounded across, "will you lead back I an"

But they wanted another route.....

With Jemma now jumping onto Paul's BMW I navigated the M25 back to the Wellhouse

Although it had been a grey day, it