

RIDERS

Official magazine of the Blue Knights® Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club UK & Ireland Conference



The Parade of Nations at the International Convention in Killarney



Blood Bikes Around the UK



Blue & White



Little Blue Heroes



www.blueknight.org

Contents

Motorists and Tiger Moths Steve Bolton, England IX **4/**

The Emerald Isle Neil Hallam, Editor **6/**

Pre-Convention Tour of Ireland Jacqui Buxton, England VI **10/**

Saint George's - charity update Shane Dick, England XIV **13/**

England VII attracting new members **14/**

Flying the Flag in the Pyrenees Lisa 'Compo' Pawsey, England XVIII VP **15/**

Wartime Remembrance in Belgium and France Spike Ray, England X **16/**

Planning for Canada Kev Morley England IX **18/**

Cologne John Rolfe, England XVIII **21/**

A Grave Experience Spike Ray, England X **22/**

White Knights EMS MC **23/**

A ride to SNAP Spike Ray England X **24/**

Scotland 3 & 2 supporting St Andrew's Hospice
Midnight Walk **25/**

England VII: Police Intranet Presence **26/**

Apple Orchard Weekend Andy Stone England XX **27/**

Stuart's "Taxi" Dash Steve Bolton & Stuart Wallace, England IX **28/**

Egg Runners & Outriders Steve Bolton England IX **29/**

Blood Bikers are Knights of the Road Thomas Carroll England XIV **31/**

Flanders Tour, England XVIII **34/**

Celebrating the Jubilee Gary Wildman, England VII **35/**

Events Section **37/**

Autumn Issue published 1st November
Submission Deadline 1st October
mail@neilhallam.com

Editor's Note

Welcome to our Summer edition of the UK & Ireland Knight Riders magazine.

I have two big thank-you's this time, and I am going to start with the contributors.

I always say that no matter how hard I work on it, we would not have a magazine without your stories. You will see as you go through this edition, that several people have contributed some really interesting articles. Please keep them coming.

If anyone new wants to contribute an article, but are unsure how to go about it, please get in touch and I will talk you through it.

My second thank you is to Ireland I and Celtic Horizon Tours, for a fantastic International Convention in Killarney.

You can read about my experience of the Convention, and Jacqui Buxton's pre-convention tour later in this edition. Suffice to say, it was an excellent event, which the organisers should be proud of.



UKIC Chairman's address



It was with great pride that I took up the position as the UK & Ireland Chair at our Conference AGM this June in Ireland. In my first Chairman's address I would like to thank Tom Elliott and Walter Head, both of whom have given our club

over a decade of time and effort on the UKIC committee. There will be many of you who have only known Tom and Walter at the helm. I would like to wish them all the best in their new-found freedom to enjoy the Blue Knights and motorcycling without politics.

I would also like to take the opportunity to welcome our two new committee members. Steve Tromans was elected to the position of UKIC Secretary, and he is already getting his teeth into the Conference administration, and Roger Hopes was elected to the position of UKIC Vice-Chairman. Both bring new ideas, energy and strength to our committee.

Lots of you will know me, since Steve and I attend many of the rallies around our Conference area and in Europe. I have been a Blue Knight for over 17 years, originally joining England IV and then in 2006, together with Steve, forming England XIII. I also held the position of Vice-Chair to the UKIC for four years, and published articles in seven national magazines, raising our profile and increasing membership.

The Conference committee exist to represent you the members through your Presidents to the wider organisation. I hope through my Chairmanship that the UKIC will continue to grow and influence a club that I am proud to be a member of.

I would also like to congratulate Ireland I for hosting a fabulous International Convention Rally, the second only to be held outside of the States.

Leonie Tromans Chairman UKIC



Motorists and Tiger Moths

Steve Bolton, England IX



In 2018 eight Blue Knights, six from England IX and two from Scotland III did Route 66 on Eagle Rider Harley Rentals.

We had excellent support from a number of American Blue Knights along the way.

Two in particular excelled in that respect, Pat Jackson & Lisa Ditzler, riding with us all the way from Chicago Illinois, as far as Gallup in New Mexico.

They came over to attend the Ireland Convention, and extended their trip with a tour of England.

One of our former members who was on the Route 66 trip, Alan Fish, owns the Tiger Moth Experience at Sherburn Airfield. He promised the girls a free flight when they were next in the UK. That opportunity came the week after the Ireland Convention.

England IX and England VI gathered at the Motorist Café, at the airfield to greet them. This is a fantastic venue, with lots of vintage vehicles, including a Police Harley Davidson on display. We enjoyed a delicious buffet, before seeing the girls off for their Tiger Moth flights.

More on Pat and Lisa's visit in the next edition of Knight Riders.

Motorists and Tiger Moths continued



The Emerald Isle: 2022 International Convention in Ireland Neil Hallam, Editor



Inch Beach – on the Wild Atlantic Way

For only the second time in our club's 48 year history, the International Convention was held outside of North America. We have Ireland I to thank for making it happen, despite two false starts during the Pandemic.

Since retiring from Police service in the Garda, Ireland I Secretary Dave Buckley, has run his Celtic Horizons travel company, who spearheaded the organisation of the Convention and dealt with all our bookings. Having a professional hand on the business side left Ireland I members to look after the fun side of the event: guided rides, entertainment, merchandise etc. Between them, they gave us a fantastic experience of Ireland.

For those travelling great distances to the Convention, pre and post event tours were laid on, enabling our visitors to make a longer holiday of their visit to Ireland. See more about these in a separate article.

The Convention was held at Killarney's National Conference Centre, whose staff did a fantastic job of looking after us for the five days. Many of us stayed in the attached Gleneagles Hotel, but there was a wide choice of nearby B&Bs to suit everyone's budget, along with an adjacent campsite.

Through a combination of bad weather and a puncture on Elaine's bike, we missed the three organised ride outs laid on by Ireland I. I am reliably informed that all three were superb rides, if a little damp at times.

The Emerald Isle continued



We were sad to have missed the ride through **Connor Pass and The Wild Atlantic Way**, as we spent that day getting the puncture fixed, so Elaine and I headed out to ride it on our own. It was every bit as stunning as we were promised.



For anyone thinking of visiting this area again, I recommend riding it in an anti-clockwise direction, riding up the steeper side of the Connor Pass and down the more sweeping descent into Dingle. (A note for anyone else using the Beeline satnav system, the app

does not recognise the Connor Pass as a route, so look at a map beforehand.)



The scenery is stunning, and the fishing village of Dingle is well worth allocating a couple of hours to explore.

Leaving Dingle along the Wild Atlantic Way, the coast road is every bit as scenic as the mountain section. We found a brilliant beach side cafe at Inch Beach, where we

sat on bean bags, watching the surfers.

I must add my thanks to the members who helped, or offered help, in sorting out Elaine's puncture. It first happened in England, on our run out to Holyhead. The AA plugged it and got us to the Convention. But the temporary repair lost pressure overnight and we had to drop out of the first day's group ride. None of Killarney's car tyre centres would touch a motorcycle tyre, and the nearest bike shop was 45 minutes ride away. We did have breakdown cover, but did not need to call them as the Blue Knights rallied round to help. Graham & Kathleen Hood, from Scotland III, had trailed their bike to the Convention, and offered to transport Elaine's bike for us. We did not need their kind offer, as Brendan Condon had an emergency plugging kit, which fixed it for the ride to the bike shop at Tralee. Kevin Donohoe did a double car journey with me, as the bike had to be left with them for a few hours. A huge thank you to everyone who helped get us through that little drama.

Being an International Convention, it was interesting to see some of the cultural differences in the way that Europeans and Americans do things. We Europeans tend to get through the formalities quite quickly, while for the Americans, the formal aspects take up much more of the evening's programme.



It was great to see so many Americans and Canadians there, along with a lone representative from Australia. We were able to build on friendships made in Austria in 2014, and meet lots of new people too.

There was a sense of disappointment that so few European members supported the Convention, which makes our thanks even more heartfelt to those who did travel to Ireland.

The UK & Ireland Board was also disappointed that despite a Board of Governors (BoG) meeting being required by our Club Constitution, none of the BoG committee chose to attend the International Convention.



The Emerald Isle continued



A motorcycle skills event provided an afternoon of entertainment, both for those brave enough to compete, and those of us

spectating. Eeyore, the Kirsty's Kids mascot, completed the course facing backwards.

Ireland I, and several other UKIC chapters, support the Garda's Little Blue Heroes charity.

They provide financial and practical help to the families of children with life limiting illnesses. They also help create memories that will brighten their short lives and last as remembrances for their families. One such memorable event was when some of the children accompanied us on our Parade of Nations through the centre of Killarney. The kids rode in Garda vehicles, with blues and two's running. The Blue Knights, and Garda motorcyclists provided an escort to the Little Blue Heroes.



The afternoon ended with the presentation of ride-along toy police cars and bikes for some of the kids. Several Blue Knight chapters helped buy these toy vehicles, and the smiles on their recipients faces spoke for themselves.

There is always a charity element to any Blue Knight event. Our first such collection was in support of Ukraine I, who has several members actively fighting off the Russian invaders. Over €2,000 was collected at the banquet, making a total of more than €44,000 donated by our international members.



The Little Blue Heroes charity also benefited from fundraising throughout the week.

€900 was made through their charity stall. DJ Alvarez raffled a bottle of Blue Knight bourbon, raising €840. While an auction of donated items (including the re-donated bottle of bourbon) raised another €685. We learned that our Convention provided enough funds for a whole year of support to a Little Blue Hero's family.



Despite the best efforts of Ireland's weather, we had a fantastic time, a sentiment echoed by everyone we spoke to. A huge "well done" to Ireland I and Celtic Horizons, in putting together such a memorable convention.



The Emerald Isle continued

The Garda's Little Blue Heroes Charity had this to say:

We were very honoured and humbled that retired and serving law enforcement officers from 29 nations who descended on Killarney for a motorcycle convention showed the utmost respect and support for our Little Blue Heroes. A big thank you to the host Blue Knights Ireland I and Blue Knights International, who included Little Blue Heroes at this convention. Over their six day motorcycle convention they raised over €3,000 in aid of our Little Blue Heroes through donations, a raffle and an auction of Police memorabilia.

We also had a kind donation of three mini Garda motorcycles and a mini Garda car that were presented with great delight to Honorary Gardaí Frankie, Sean, Rose and Alannah. Many thanks to Blue Knights Ireland I, Scotland II and International President DJ Alvarez, who donated the mini vehicles. Many thanks also to Graeme Hood and Iain Ferguson from Scotland III, who donated Police cycle helmets to go with the mini bikes.

But that was not all, on Wednesday local Little Blue Heroes were VIPs in the action-packed and fun-filled parade of the Blue Knights Parade of Nations, which took to the streets of Killarney and was supported by local Gardaí with a convoy of garda vehicles carrying ten of our Little Blue Heroes. This created so many special memories for the families and our Honorary Gardaí. We would like to thank Irish comedian and TV star Pat Shortt, the staff of the Gleneagle Hotel and the people of Killarney who showed so much support and kindness for our heroes.





The long-awaited tour began at the 4* Sheraton Hotel in Athlone on Tuesday, 21st June, where Graham and I met the other riders and the other Blue Knights on the coach tour of Ireland, who were sharing the same hotel. For the motorcycle tour there were 56 participants from eight countries including the USA, Sweden, Austria, Germany and Belgium.

We were introduced to members of Ireland 1, who would be accompanying us on the five day trip and given details of the general arrangements for the tour. The organisation was extremely good, including an option to use a luggage truck driven by Mick, planned lunch stops each day and arrangements for break downs or other emergencies.

Our first evening was spent at Sean's Bar – the oldest pub in Ireland – enjoying a barbecue, Irish music and reuniting with old friends not seen for a couple of years due to Covid restrictions, plus meeting new ones.

Following breakfast on Wednesday, having loaded our luggage on the truck, Graham and I met other tour riders and were divided into groups, each with a Ride Captain from Ireland 1 and a Sweeper (tail end Charlie). Our group comprised Gabriel (Ireland 1), Thomas, Tom and Jenny (Austria), a guest from the International Police Association, Graham, John Radcliffe, with his Harley and sidecar combination and me. Six bikes and the combination, but no Sweeper.

Pre-Convention Tour continued

Travelling northwest along the shores of Lough Ree, then west through Ballyhaunis we arrived at Cong for lunch. This is where the 1952 John Wayne film 'The Quiet Man' was filmed, and many of us paused for a photo with the statue commemorating him and Maureen O'Hara.



That afternoon took us north via Toormakeady to Westport – approximately 140 miles – negotiating mainly narrow, winding single track lanes with grass down the middle, led ably by Gabriel – in the rain.



Westport is a beautiful small town with easy access to the Wild Atlantic Way, where we enjoyed two nights at the Westport Woods Hotel and Spa.

Using that as a base, there was a ride on Thursday to Newport via Lough Feeagh, then, in the rain, Achill Island to The Beehive, a very welcome stop amongst the sheep strewn roads with a chance to swap stories with other groups about the journey so far. Suitably refreshed, we headed to Keel before continuing west to Keem and its beautiful beach. Yes, some Blue Knights had a dip in the Atlantic Ocean – two Belgians, two English and a Norwegian – hardy bikers all! Having been rained on for most of the day, the swim couldn't make them any wetter.

Retracing the route back along steep, twisting, narrow roads, it was surprising to see Brendan poised to take photos of the riders. This may have been the day we stopped for a while to allow a herd of cows to cross the 'road' and hundreds of metres of gravel. The full day's ride was planned to take in Ballacorrack in the north, which would have been 190 miles overall, but some groups cut short some of the route due to the weather.

Friday saw another rainy start and our group swapped Ride Captains. Ronan led us south to the beautiful Benedictine Kylemore Abbey, in the grounds of Kylemore Castle, Connemara. The rain had been unrelenting all morning, and we enjoyed coffee and a chance to dry out a little after riding on the Kylemore Loop, a bumpy, single track route, twisting and turning, with two-way traffic, providing plenty of challenges, especially for a sidecar outfit.



There had been plans for a walk around Galway but due to the inclement, cold weather, our group opted to travel direct to the hotel at Ennis. On the way, we dripped our soaked-through biking gear onto the floors of a nearby hotel, while enjoying a comforting hot chocolate. This was not the only time the courteous, pleasant and patient hospitality staff in Ireland mopped up puddles caused by our gear.

The mileage for Friday was 140 miles in unrelenting, heavy and cool rain.

Friday and Saturday nights were spent at Treacys West County Hotel in Ennis, which is recorded as the 'Tidiest Large Town and Gateway to the Wild Atlantic Way'.



The ride on Saturday was to the Cliffs of Moher and those who rode there managed to see some scenery through the cloud and rain on the 150 mile trip. However, with rain all day again and knowing that we had to ride to Killarney on the Sunday, Graham and I decided to take the day off, trying to dry our kit. We walked into Ennis, which is quite a large town with plenty of interesting architecture.

Pre-Convention Tour continued

There was a medieval banquet on Saturday evening at Bunratty Castle, which many Blue Knights enjoyed.

Sunday was day 6 of the tour, and the start of the Blue Knights Convention in Killarney. We left the hotel in rain heading south, crossing the River Shannon at Killimer, rode on to Ballybunion and Ballyheigue, before arriving at a very welcome lunch stop at the stunning Rose Hotel in Trallee. Once more, we were made very welcome by the staff, despite the rainwater pooling round our gear.

From there we followed Ronan to the Gleneagle Hotel in Killarney via the main road, where we met up with other Blue Knights who had already arrived at the Convention.

I learned a lot about Ireland on this tour. Firstly, what the road designations indicate –

N – national

R – regional

L – local – upon which we seemed to spend most of the tour

Secondly, Irish hospitality is second to none. It can't be beaten, so don't even try.

Thirdly, it rains in Ireland – OK we all know it's called the Emerald Isle for a reason, and Graham and I have been several times and always got rained on, but this trip was exceptionally wet. However, it didn't detract at all from the tour, which was fabulous. Comfortable accommodation at the end of each day's ride was very welcome. The hard work and perseverance of Kevin Donohoe, David Buckley, Jimmy and all the members of Ireland 1, who made this such a memorable and enjoyable tour is very much appreciated by those who took part. Special thanks to Gabriel and Ronan as our Road Captains.



If you've not tried a tour with Blue Knights Ireland 1 what are you waiting for? Their planning, foresight and good humour is well worth the trip.

Very good wishes to all who did the tour, especially Ireland 1.

Saint George's Event - charity update Shane Dick, Vice President, England XIV

I want to give a big shout out and a huge thank you to the attendees of this year's event, for supporting our long-awaited St. George's event. It sometimes felt like it would never happen. This event would not be the success it is without the people who book and come along and for that, we at Blue Knights England XIV are truly grateful to each and every one of you.

Just to let you know, we have confirmed next year's booking at the Walton Park Hotel for the weekend of 21st - 23rd April 2023 and the booking form will be available on our website soon. Just watch out for our flyer with all the necessary details.

This year's event really blew us away. The support for our charity fund raising was truly breath-taking with the wonderful raffle donations, the donated auction items (thankyou Geoff, Maggie and Alexandre for your donated items and to Thomas and Hooper for your generous bids) and to all of you who bought raffle tickets.

So, what was the amount raised, I hear you all cry in frustration? Well, please give yourselves a huge pat on the back as the total is a staggering:

£2021.40

I'm guessing the plight of our Blue Knight Ukrainian Brothers and Sisters and the Ukrainian people in general has touched us, and that may explain the generosity shown by you all. Whatever the motivation was, I am honoured to be part of this family. This money will be paid to the EC Treasurer so that it can be used to pay the Ukrainian Blue Knights.

It was announced at the International Convention in Ireland, that so far over €44,000 has been collected to support Ukraine I. We are proud to have contributed towards this impressive total.

Until we meet again, be safe, keep well and, above all, Ride With Pride.



England VII attracting new members

If you read the blue knights pledge it talks about being formed in 1974, it talks about fraternal spirit etc, but what really are the Blue Knights all about?



It's simple, we are a group of people who are bonded by the fact that we are, or have been, involved in law enforcement and our passion is motorcycles.

There's no doubt that together we are a family and families look after each other, being together in itself is therapeutic, being together in a group riding your motorcycle is unbelievable, so much so that it's almost impossible to describe.

Really most riders in any club or group feel the same, the wind in the face and feelings of freedom that motorcycles give, is that dose of medicine we all need at times.

Blue knights embrace men and women alike, not all clubs do, we are lucky to have Tracey as our President. Having recently retired from the police service and having been a Blue Knight for years, she brings to our chapter a wealth of knowledge, and is well known throughout our wonderful country.

We in England VII are even luckier than some, as we are managing to welcome new members, and better still some are at the beginning of their adventures within law enforcement. Bringing young blood into a mainly older and retired club is an extra spoonful of that medicine I mentioned. And the truth is that as much as I, and others, like to reminisce about the "good" old days, I feel so much younger when I talk to the "youngsters". The energy they bring is infectious and energising.

So, a welcome to all our new members, especially you 20 plus a bit ones! Because without you this club would eventually cease to exist. Although I must say, 40 years till a pension doesn't sound great



The old and the new



On 8th May 2022 Lisa 'Compo' Pawsey, set off from Barnstaple, North Devon, on her trusty Yamaha 250 Serow to board the Plymouth to Santander ferry.

The aim was to travel through the Spanish Pyrenees to Andorra by following the Trans Euro Trail (TET), which comprises of dirt roads and gravel tracks in varying difficulty. Spain was suffering an unprecedented heatwave, most days being at least 37 degrees. Combined with the difficult terrain, it felt much hotter.

After seven days the halfway point was achieved by reaching Andorra. Then it was, turn around and follow the TET back up through Spain.

The Statistics:

- 14 days,
- 7,400ft up the highest mountain,
- 2,300kms covered,
- One puncture, two flat batteries, three unplanned dismounts all added to the hundreds of memories made.

Wartime Remembrance in Belgium and France Spike Ray, England X



A great weekend in Belgium was had by members of England X. After an early arrival by Eurotunnel, we made our way straight to the outskirts of Ypres to the Hoge Crater Museum and Cemetery. This WWI memorial is situated on what was the Salient (A salient in military terms is a battlefield feature that projects into an opponent's territory and is surrounded on three sides, making the occupying troops vulnerable) front line in 1914. It is now one of the biggest private museums in Europe, and amazing it is too, with a wealth of artefacts. Opposite the museum is a cemetery with the graves of nearly 5,600 fallen, beautifully maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Following a lunch break we headed for Ypres. Riding into the town square through the Menin Gate was something to remember for a long time. An evening then, to relax and enjoy the local food, beer and hot chocolate, taking in the historic surroundings, including the wonderful Cloth Hall.

Day Two started with a trip to the Hill 62 Canadian memorial, with stunning views towards Ypres and Hooge. Then on to Passchendaele Museum at Zonnebeke, which was a very moving place, especially for one of our Chapter whose grandfather fought there and survived.

Our last visit of the day was to Tyne Cot Memorial, the largest cemetery for Commonwealth forces in the world, with nearly 12,000 graves and 35,000 names of the missing

Wartime Remembrance continued



Day Three began with a trip across the border to France to Thiepval Memorial, which is dedicated to the Battle of the Somme. It has over 72,000 names from the UK and South Africa. Words cannot describe the beauty and poignancy of this memorial, with so many panels of names. Our final visit of the day was to the Ulster Memorial Tower, built on what was the German front line during the battle of the Somme.

This was an amazing weekend full of reflection and fun, great riding and good company. Some of the group had visited many times, but for others it was a first time abroad on bikes. It was a fantastic experience, definitely to be repeated.



Planning for Canada

Kev Morley England IX



Back in December 2020, our usual group of around seven riders were discussing our previous Once in a lifetime trips (three of them to the USA) and I said “I might go again, anyone interested?” As is the norm with such trips we started with all seven of us wanting to go.

Anyone who organises this type of thing knows what a pain it can be, not least deciding on where we actually want to go. Add the pandemic into the pot, meaning we could not even go out of South Yorkshire, meet more than one person, go into pubs, cafes, restaurants etc, and you can understand my hesitancy in starting planning in earnest.

However, as we all know things started to turn a corner by mid-2021, when six of us committed to the trip taking place in June 2022. It was changed numerous times for countless reasons.

Out of the six of us, three had done at least two tours of the USA, and numerous tours into Europe. We had also ridden out every Saturday for around 10 years. One was a fellow Blue Knight; one was a recent addition to our Saturday group, and the last was the brother in law of one of our long standing Saturday riders.

So here we are mid pandemic, things easing off, do we commit or not, if so, where do we go and for how long?

Planning for Canada continued

After much online discussion we decided on British Columbia and Vancouver Island in Canada, then Washington State and Oregon in the USA.

We decided to rent bikes for 12 days (a rental day is 24 hours so we actually had the bikes 13 days). I contacted our go to rental company in North America (Eagle Rider) and got a price for six Harley Road Kings. The price was ridiculous, so it was time to hit the internet.

In June 2021 travel restrictions were still in force, but we had to make a few decisions: do we go, do we book, where do we fly from/to, what type of bikes do we want, do we suck it up and pay Eagle Rider? But to get cheap flights we needed to commit, as flights come out 360 days before the departure date. So it was crunch time.

At this point we couldn't fly to the USA, so we decided Vancouver was the way to go. I found a rental company in Vancouver with excellent reviews, BC Cycle Rentals and Tours, 73 East 6th Ave, Vancouver, BC. They do everything from Honda Rebel to Harley Davidson, I contacted the manager, Mike Gat, explained our needs and made a provisional agreement on the bikes and costs (less than half of Eagle Rider, although not Harleys).

<https://vancouver.cyclebc.ca/>



My next stop was Hays Travel, at Crystal Peaks, Sheffield. The flights had just come out and it was time to commit.

We were still in a Pandemic and still restricted, so travel to USA was impossible at time of booking. But I found direct flights for a very reasonable price to Vancouver and back, so took the plunge. Monday 6th June to Monday 20th June 2022 was still a year away. Hays Travel were excellent in completing our pre-flight information for us.

With the flights booked it was time to confirm the bikes. We each got our first choice of bike, which made an eclectic mix: a Honda NC 750X, Suzuki VStrom 650, BMW GS 800, 2 x Honda Rebel (500cc) and an FJR 1300. The most expensive was about half the cost of a Harley from Eagle Rider.

Flights and bikes booked; I turned my attention to the route. There was still no travel into USA, but that looked to be changing, with travel possible after immunisation, and COVID checks at the Canada/US borders both in and out. Our proposed route crossed the border on two occasions, this meant COVID Check (Canada), Border Control Canada, Border Control USA and COVID control USA. This had to be done twice on each day we crossed, and time wouldn't allow it so back to the drawing board.

We decided that our route had to remain within Canada, so I planned a figure of eight route from Vancouver, which went as Far East as Drumheller (Calgary), as far north as Grande Prairie (Alberta) as Far West as the sea to Sky Highway in Vancouver and ran along the Canadian/USA border in the South. Around 4000km or 2500 miles.

With the basic route decided upon it was time to find some hotels. Which was not as easy as you might think. Our previous trips to the USA have been diverse, but we have learnt that the best hotels to suit all our needs are Best Western, so 13 out of 14 nights were booked at Best Western. The exception was after our first days riding when we get to Whistler and booked a Boutique Hotel. I was not sure what that meant, but it was needs must.

The route was basically dictated by the hotels, but I continued to plan and find interesting places combined with good roads. Another new year arrived and it was 2022, in essence five months to go.

You might now think that everything was planned and sorted. Well no, it was time to sort out those things which can often get overlooked, starting with covid; were we all fully vaccinated, do we all have proof, do we all have travel insurance, the bikes are insured at the higher level, which offer some cover for the rider.

Planning for Canada continued

Travel insurance is worth checking, as many policies cover you to ride a motorcycle, so long as it is under 125cc. If you are riding a bike abroad, check with your travel insurance, it's likely they won't cover you in the event of an incident, this is particularly important in places such as USA and Canada, where their recommendation is medical cover up to £10 million and personal liability up to £2 million.

Companies like Carole Nash and Travelsure provide Holiday insurance which covers you to ride over 125cc, either on a one off basis or annually. I just take out an annual policy which works out cheaper.

Our travel agent completed most of our pre-flight information. But to travel to Canada we also needed an Electronic Travel Authorisation, or ETA (ESTA in USA). The ETA for Canada is obtained from their government web site (don't go to any other site, as they charge exorbitant amounts and many are scammers) the official web site is www.canada.ca and it will cost you \$7 Canadian (about £5).

So, we had our ETA, our insurance, our passports our driving licence. Now we needed an international driving permit, which is only obtainable from the Post office, at a cost of £5.50.

You need your driving licence, a passport photo, your money, and at least 20 minutes in time as the counter clerk must fill it in, they are not used to doing them, so it takes time. Be warned, there are different types of IDP. Make sure you get the right one. Canada for example is referred to as the 1949 permit.

Although most COVID restrictions had been lifted and we could fly to Canada as fully vaccinated, passport holding, ETA authorised people. We still could not get into Canada without completing arriveCAN.

arriveCAN was the buffer to prevent or reduce the effects of travel on COVID in Canada. There is an app, or it could be done on the web site. You had to be fully vaccinated against COVID and had to enter the dates, type of vaccine and batch numbers. Other personal details were also required AND you had to accept that you could be selected for a screening test.

Whilst I have a sat nav which I use for city riding (finding hotels, petrol stations etc) I prefer my directions on the tank for longer journeys, and try to memorise as much of the route as I can. My preference, maybe not yours, but out in the middle of nowhere with no phone signal, if it all goes down you can't beat a map and knowledge of where you are and where to go.

Finally I contacted the Vancouver Blue Knight Chapter (BC-1) and a member of BC-5 who is from the Kamloops area in the Rockies.

I was in regular contact with them and hoped to meet them on our tour. They were an invaluable source of info, one had personally gone over our route turn by turn, and offered advice on each day's route along with coffee stops etc.

Very finally, this trip through Eagle Rider, Orange and Black and other companies would be £5k plus, (mine cost around £2.5k), yes you get a leader, yes you get back up, but the price doesn't include flights, and it's not as exciting, just my opinion, I know many people like the organised tours.



Cologne 2022 John Rolfe, President, England XVIII



With the demise of the Netherlands II Rally, we still had Eurotunnel tickets to use, so off we went on our journey, heading to Cologne.

We set off after work to break the trip up and stay overnight in Fleet. Next day, we took the train to France then rode on to our overnight stay in Aalter.

Friday saw us travel to Cologne and meet up with old friends Ray Gehtnixon from BK Bonn, and Andreas Hohendorf from BK Cologne. After a quick beer in a local bar, Andrea's took us on a cultural history tour around Cologne. Then a lovely evening meal at a restaurant owned by a Cologne member's brother!



On Saturday we rode some lovely roads leading to the WWII Dambuster dams, and another lovely meal in Cologne.

On Sunday we set off to Luxembourg, taking in the Eifel natural park, and ending up in Pommerloch.

Monday's ride was through the Ardennes to Calais for our return trip and an overnight stay in Ashford, before a return home.

It was a great trip, we were welcomed in Germany as always. And, we'll be back.



A Grave Experience Spike Ray, England X



We are always looking for somewhere different to visit, and a good turnout of riders and partners was led by our President to Highgate Cemetery in north London. This was a fascinating place with some intriguing, tragic and sometimes amusing stories connected to the memorials old and new. From George Michael to Michael Faraday, a whole range of society is represented, and the guided tour is recommended to get the most out of a visit. The cemetery was one of eight built to cater for the rapid growth in the London population, opening in 1839. From the outset it was a popular tourist attraction but was allowed to fall into disrepair, nature gradually taking over. In the 1970s it was rescued by a charity who are now working to put right the damage. Walking around the tranquil woodland setting in a busy London borough is an almost surreal experience, and each twist of the path brings something new.

At the memorial of Tom Sayers his faithful dog stands guard. Sayers was a bare-knuckle boxer who, in his final (and of course illegal) bout against American champion John Heenan, went 42 brutal rounds before the police arrived, declared a draw and proceedings descended into chaos. Thousands turned out for his burial some years later.



The architecture in the west cemetery is most impressive, especially the Egyptian avenue with its echoes of a pharaoh's temple, reflecting the Victorian craze for all things Egyptian. The Terrace Catacombs are equally fascinating, an eerie necropolis where the presence of the departed seems to hang in the air. We were allowed access to the semi-darkness of the interior where the mostly ancient coffins are stacked in the open vaults, a strange experience to say the least.

Outside, the memorial for George Wombwell, features a lion and is a reminder of a rather unfortunate episode. He owned travelling animal shows, but one night a large scale escape of animals resulted in panic in the local village, the slaughter of farm animals and a woman being mauled to death. In the days before health and safety this did nothing to diminish their popularity, and the shows continued.

A more modest but no less poignant memorial is that of Alexander Litvinenko, a Russian dissident poisoned by Polonium in 2006. The founder of Crufts dog show is also interred here – although according to his wife he was more of a cat person. In the east cemetery is probably the most well-known memorial, that of Karl Marx, who lived locally whilst in exile.

There are many more recent burials here, many of them well known names and this part of the cemetery has a different atmosphere, and is much more open and light. It was primarily intended for those of different or no faith.

This was a thoroughly enjoyable day, even with negotiating the group around the North Circular and well worth a visit - and the cafe in Waterlow Park next door is good too.

White Knights EMS MC



The UK Chapter of the White Knights is now up and running.

Their core members are based in the Basingstoke area of Hampshire. Their current members are all nurses, but the club accepts all medical professionals.



The founder members have moved here from Romania, which already has one of the club's four other chapters.

They recently met up with Stew, Jacko and JT, from Blue Knights England IV, who are the closest BK Chapter.

WK President George, said that they are still finding their feet. They have a couple of events planned over the coming months: to donate blood and to visit an ex veteran in a nursing home. "We thought it would bring some joy to our elderly community".

In August, they are attending the Knights of the Round Table Rally, at Ramstein in Germany, hosted by the Green Knights (military).



A ride to SNAP Spike Ray England X

In May, members of England X took part in a charity ride to Milton Keynes SNAP (Special Needs Advancement Project), a training and education centre for adults with learning disabilities. We received a warm welcome and our bikes were put on display for the trainees to look at. Chapter members chatted with staff and trainees and found out more about the exceptional work they do.

After tea and cake, and a donation to SNAP, we wound our way by an attractive route through mid-Bedfordshire to Brewpoint, a local brewery in Bedford.



After a brief coffee stop there, we continued on to Oakley Motorcycle Club meet to finish off what had been a wonderful day with our Chapter.



Thanks to those chapter members who travelled to the event from the far-flung corners of our four counties.

Members form Blue Knights Scotland 3 & 2 supporting our local St Andrew's Hospice Midnight Walk by providing marshalling safety cover.

It was nice to see the event back on and to be so well supported.



England VII: Police Intranet Presence



England VII are doing their bit for recruitment, with a presence on the Essex Police Intranet. The text below is their page, which other chapters are encouraged to emulate.



Would you like to know more or want to join the Blue Knights?

The Blue Knights Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club (LE MC) is a group made up of serving and retired police officers. England Chapter VII covers Essex and Suffolk.

If you are interested in joining a friendly, active Motorcycle Club then contact Wyn.Sharp@essex.police.uk who is the current Vice President of the Essex and Suffolk Chapter.

The Blue Knights International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club is a non-profit fraternal organisation, consisting of active and retired law enforcement officers who enjoy riding motorcycles. In 1974 several police officers from Bangor, Maine (USA) met and formed a small local motorcycle club. Soon, Blue Knight Chapters were being formed all over America and most countries around the world.

Our charitable organisation has contributed over \$18.8 million toward various charities throughout the world since statistics were kept!

Our organisation is comprised of active and retired law enforcement officers, and we strive to promote our organisation as being a family fraternity.

Members can ride a bike of their choosing and are not mandated to riding an American made motorcycle (ie. Harley Davidson).

We do not have a probationary period for members or prospects, and women are equal in our organisation, not only as members but in leadership positions locally and internationally as well. The President of the Essex and Suffolk Chapter is currently a retired female Essex police motorcyclist.

So if you are interested or would like to find out more please contact Wyn.Sharp@essex.police.uk.

For more information go to their website – www.blueknightsukic.org.

Apple Orchard Weekend Andy Stone England XX



As Chapter President I should like to thank all those who came to our Camping Weekend. We attracted members and guests from across the UK with England II, VI, XIV, XVIII, XIX, XX plus Wales I & II represented, if I have missed any I sincerely apologise.

Friday was "scorchio" with temperatures up to 90f, where the cider, lager, wine and all manner of drinks flowed unabated. Add into the mix a rather fine Cotswold Single Malt Whisky for toasting the health of those present and those unable to do so, with a plea for peace during our troubled times.

Saturday was a different ball game weather wise. Twelve brave souls set forth into the grey skies that hid the true intent of the Rain God yet to come.

We reached the first coffee stop, at Cotswold Barn Café, thinking we had avoided the rain. Alas we were mistaken, within 15 mins of arriving we watched the horizontal rain declare its true intent.

We returned just 15 mins earlier than if we'd completed the full route.

Within an hour or two the chills had been banished and we settled back to hot food, spirits and good times.

Our resident entertainer, David Kelly, did us very proud.

The final amount raised for COPS was around £350.



Stuart's "Taxi" Dash Steve Bolton & Stuart Wallace, England IX

Nev Duke and I, are both retired West Yorkshire Police Officers (WYP) and our last posting was the Motorway Unit. As part of our duties we worked closely with The Vehicle Operator Services Agency (VOSA) and one of their examiners, Tracey Collins. Anyone who was involved in Operation Mermaid (Operation Mermaid was a joint operation, which saw the police working with the VOSA, HM Revenue & Customs, the Environment Agency and the Department for Work and Pensions; stopping vehicles to ensure they were roadworthy and legal.) will have most likely met Tracey. She is small in stature, huge in character and with a great sense of humour.

Tracey's boyfriend, Mark Wilson, is a Radio Sports Commentator, covering a range of sports across the North of England. Mark found himself slightly overbooked on Saturday 9th April this year, when he accepted the commentary roles at Bramall Lane for Sheffield United's home game for Talk Sport, followed very closely by the Huddersfield Giants Super League home game at the John Smiths Stadium in Huddersfield for Premier Sport 25 miles away.

It dawned on him he physically couldn't get between venues on time due to the distance and heavy traffic around both venues. Whoops!

Tracey, a very practical lady came up with an idea and contacted Nev, asking if any of his bike pals could offer a lift on two wheels, cutting through the traffic and making good progress throughout.

Nev popped a post on our England IX Facebook page appealing for help, and up stepped member Stuart Wallace, a retired South Yorkshire Police (SYP) bike cop, who currently rides a Honda Crosstourer. He is also a Sheffield United fan and one of our riders who consistently – as we used to say at Driving School – “makes maximum safe progress”.



Stuart takes up the story; “As StevieB has outlined, I’m a fan of the Blades (Sheffield United FC). Experience of heavy traffic around the stadium on Bramall Lane whilst coming and going from games over the years has taught me the value of a filtering motorcycle and its subsequent ease of parking. Hence, I always use my bike when attending these games.

When I saw Nev’s appeal for help it was a no-brainer. I was already attending the game in question and have sufficient local knowledge, gained from my SYP days, and recent work with the National Escort Group (accompanying cycle races) to get from Sheffield to Huddersfield efficiently.

I volunteered my services.

A few days ahead of the game, I contacted Sheffield United and obtained permission to park in the players car park for easier egress after the match.

The game ended at 14:40 hrs and Mark made his way down from the gantry as quickly as he could. After quick introductions, donning my loaned helmet and a quick photo for the record, we set off at about 15:00 hrs.

There are numerous permutations for any route between the two points: motorway or cross country?

I decided to go for it. Straight into and across Sheffield, out the western side, cross country via the Penistone bypass and back into and through the urban sprawl of Huddersfield. Filter, progress and opportunism would do it - I hoped.

Well, it did! Mark had to be in position on the gantry for his sound checks etc. at the John Smith’s by 16:30 hrs. We arrived in the car park at drop off at 15:55 hrs. Phew!

As you’ll no doubt know StevieB, & England IX are running a sticker sales campaign to raise funds for our beleaguered Ukrainian Blue Knights and their families. Mark was happy to donate £50 for that worthy cause.

Footnote; Tracey let us know later that Mark thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and that it was the best thing he’d ever done. Great PR for the Blue Knights don’t you think?

Egg Runners & Outriders Steve Bolton England IX



Sheffield Egg Run. What can I say? It is hundreds of bikers riding and donating to Sheffield Children's Hospital, one of England IX's chosen charities. Riders amass and depart from South Yorkshire Police's (SYP) Operations Complex on Letsby Avenue, near Tinsley (if you don't believe me, look it up yourself). They are then led by local lad and bike racing hero, James Toseland, who is a fanatical supporter of the Egg Run Charity.

The route goes into and through Steel City and into Weston Park, passing the nearby Children's Hospital. The hospital staff get as many of the children up to the windows to watch and wave as the convoy rides past. The bikers wave back, the kids love it. The Charity riders go into the park, where they enjoy a gala of fund raising activities during the afternoon. All good clean fun.

South Yorkshire Police (SYP) marshal the Run, with what remains of their Bike Wing. Like many, the wing is all but non-existent nowadays due to years of cuts. For many years The Blue Knights have provided extra riders to act as marshals, bringing their Police experience to supplement the Wing.

We help using the 'leapfrog system'. The cops set off in a group at the head of the convoy, closely followed by the BK in a second group. First a cop stops a junction and is relieved by a BK. This continues at each junction, with a cop directing the closure and a BK relieving them.

We wait on our point until the Police Car at the rear of the convoy arrives and we make progress alongside the Charity Riders, until we find a bike cop stood on a point and relieve them.

The Charity riders are all in great spirits and toot at the public, who wave and cheer as we chug along. Its fair to say that their use of their mirrors is all too frequently an optional extra. Tooting your horn to get by is rarely fruitful, the noise generated being lost amongst so many others.

In the past we have worn yellow 'Bikesafe' tabards, which were lost among the sea of yellow hi-vis.

This year it was time for a bold (& overdue) change. We went for Royal Blue tabards, agreed with SYP, printed with Blue Knights England IX by one of our honorary members Paul Burton, who owns a printing business in Sheffield. I have to say I think they look the mutts nuts.

Egg Runners & Outriders continued

We made our usual RV on Morrison's car park, just off Sheffield Parkway, where we were joined by two of our friends from Red Knights England II, Steve Williamson & Alan Grayson. We donned the vests and rode onto Ops Complex. At about 9:30 about seven members of England VI, led by Graham Buxton and Neil Hallam, joined us. Without much ado, they too were soon wearing blue tabards and cajoled into marshalling.

After a two-year absence for Covid, there were huge numbers of Charity riders, later confirmed to be approaching 700, wow!

With a Group of twenty BK & RK outriders the ride went better than any I've been on before. A toot of the horn and a glimpse of a blue tabard approaching in a "business-like" manner was akin to Moses parting the Red Sea, what a difference it made from our years in yellow.

The convoy gets longer and longer as the run develops, and you can be stationary on a point for what seems to be an age at times. Its fair to say that the Sheffield motoring public are very understanding of this long-running event and despite being held up, just sit it out and wave at the riders, making their own contribution to this worthy cause.

The Blue & Red Knights don't go into Weston Park; we pull over before the Charity Riders making their right turn into the arena. After they'd disappeared, we rode off to Hillsborough and the Niagara Sports Club, where we all enjoyed a bacon sarnie and a hot drink, paid for by the Chapter as a thank you to those who had taken part. A good catch up between the two Chapters too.



The consensus was that it had gone well, and a good time had by all.

Members liked the vests well enough to buy them. I've sold all 20 and now we're taking orders for others. It was great PR for BK, as the Egg Run's own Facebook page (Theo's Egg Run) was filled with appreciative comments later that same day.

The cops expressed their thanks too, acknowledging that without our continued support, the Egg Run might not be able to take place in the H&S mad world.

The event will run again next year. If you fancy joining us to help, you'd be very welcome. Feel free to get in touch



Racer: James Toseland helped with fundraising



Over £8,000 raised on the day

Blood Bikers are Knights of the Road Thomas Carroll England XIV



At the end of last year, Mark Robinson (also England XIV) and I, were looking for a Blood Bike charity with strong and active links to the NHS. We spoke to a former chairman of a Blood Bike Charity, called Neil Powers, and he pointed us in the direction of Highland & Islands Blood Bikes (HAIBB). After submitting our applications, Mark Robinson was contacted by Mark McGinty, the Chairman of the HAIBB, and during their conversation Mark asked what we could do for the charity from a promotional and fundraising perspective. They came up with an idea to complete a Charity based Blood Bike ride, visiting every Blood Bike Charity in the UK, and do it over the Queens Platinum Jubilee weekend.

We spent several weeks planning the route, and during this time Mark communicated with NABB (National Association of Blood Bikes), as they are the governing body for Blood Bikes in the UK, and we sent out an invite to all of them to meet up over the course of these three days, to take pics, do interviews and in general meet fellow Blood Bikers who volunteer just like we do.

We rode to Inverness on Wednesday the 1st June to prepare the bikes and stay locally, enabling a timely departure on the first day of our Charity Ride. The ride was now officially called the “Highland Hand of Friendship”, signifying our way of extending a hand of friendship to all other Blood Bike volunteers up and down the country, and as a means of thanking them for the services they selflessly provide.

Blood Bikers are Knights of the Road: continued

We departed on time and headed south, our first stop was at Broxden services for a cuppa and a fuel stop. We then headed to Penrith for a breakfast stop and a wee break (Editor's note: Depending if you are a Scottish or English reader; this is either a small break, or a toilet stop). We then took the A66 heading east and down the A1. From here until our Hotel stop in Milton Keynes that night, we met several Blood Biker groups in various locations.

On Day 2 we left Milton Keynes and headed to Colchester Kawasaki, where we met Essex Blood Bikers for breakfast. A feast was laid on for us by the wonderful people of Colchester Kawasaki, a really nice bunch who supported us in any way possible. We then headed west, meeting other Blood Bike groups at service stations along the M23 and M25. At the Haynes Motor Museum we met Yeovil Blood Bikers, which was significant as they are the longest established Blood Bike group, and we are the newest Blood Bike group. From here we rode to Bristol and our final rendezvous for the day. After that it was the hotel for a well-deserved meal and chill time.



On Day 3 we left Bristol, heading north towards home, we again stopped at various hospital sites to meet more Blood Bike groups. Our last meet up was back in Broxden services, where we met Blood Bike Scotland.



By this stage we had met 22 different Blood Bike groups, and during the meets we got them to sign our "Blood Bike Charter", a document that demonstrated we had met them, and that they participated in this Highland Hand of Friendship charity meet.



Back in Inverness we received a fantastic reception at Raigmore Hospital, where we presented the signed charters to the HAIBB Chairman.

Before the event we checked with Guinness World Records, and the BB relay we were planning had not been attempted before, we followed their advice in gathering information and evidence along the way, and we are awaiting on them ratifying our activity as a New World Record, this is a long process and normally takes at least 12 weeks.

Blood Bikers are Knights of the Road: continued

As we completed the challenge, and returned to the Blood Bike garage to return our Blood Bikes and collect our personal bikes, we contemplated the previous three days. To say we were chuffed to bits was an understatement, a true sense of achievement was felt for the amazing effort put in by all, little did we know that our evening was not yet over.

On leaving Inverness and heading to our hotel in Nairn, Mark and I came across a serious RTC just on the outskirts of Nairn. At that time there was no Fire Brigade or Ambulance in attendance, and a single Police car had just arrived.

Mark advised them that we were both First Responders and the officers asked for our help and assistance. We parked up and, after being given protective gloves by one officer, we reviewed the crash scene.

There was a car and a campervan involved, both with major impact damage. Mark did the initial assessment of the camper van, and I did the initial assessment of the car. We then swapped over to check each other's observations, and to make sure nothing was missed. Mark climbed into the back of the car and held the front seat passengers head to immobilise it, while I turned my attention to the lady in the camper van. After checking and confirming the Fire Brigade and Ambulance were en-route, we stabilised the environment for their arrival. They arrived and immediately went into their respective activities. I completed a handover of first aid actions and observations to the ambulance crews, and helped them extricate the injured parties.

We were on scene for over two hours, helping and doing the right thing as these people faced the worst day of their lives.

Once they were all were extracted and on their way to hospital, we cleared our kit up, reported to the Officer in Charge and left the scene.

We got to the hotel for 01:20, and once the staff there realised why we were late and the fact we didn't have anything to eat for hours, they made us some sandwiches and offered us a coke to drink.



During what was a truly amazing experience, we travelled over 1500 miles, promoting fellow Blood Bikers. Mark and I are Blood Bikers, Blue Knights and RoSPA Group Tutor. But to our families we are Mark and Thomas, who leave them behind to do what we do.

2022 FLANDERS TOUR, England XVIII



Ten of us from England XVIII travelled to Flanders for a three day tour of Belgium and The Netherlands, experiencing the roads, views, food and drinks from these regions.

Our first evening was spent at Ypres, where we attended the last post at the Menin Gate, a very humbling experience.

Day two saw us travelling some truly brilliant roads, with a lunch stop at Dinant on the river Meuse. The route took us along the course of the river, stopping that evening at Liege.

Day three was again spent on fantastic roads, the route taking us north of Antwerp towards Rotterdam, over the Zeelandbrug bridge and through the 'Westerscheldetunnelweg' tunnel. Finally arriving at our night stop in Brugge, where we met up with two members of England XIV.

Plenty of money raised during the weekend for our nominated charities, everyone enjoyed themselves, with mileages exceeding 1000 miles for everyone. Special thanks go to Rich 'Oid' Groom, for planning and leading us.



England VII Celebrates the Jubilee Gary Wildman, England VII



Some months back I was asked if our club would like to bring a couple of bikes along to the local village hall, when the Parish of Broomfield (Chelmsford in Essex) celebrated the Queen's Jubilee, I hadn't really thought much about it as it was still months ahead and there hadn't been much talk about it, so I said yes and thought no more about it.

I suppose to a certain extent I forgot all about it, not really thinking anything would come of it.

Then all of a sudden, I started getting emails and invites to council meetings with Broomfield Parish Council and the Royal British Legion.

As these meetings progressed it became apparent that I had committed our Chapter to participating in the celebrations.

As the weeks passed the media and public excitement about the celebrations grew, along with my anxiety.

England VII Celebrates the Jubilee

On the morning of Saturday June 4th, 12 bikes rode in formation and set up on the car park next to the village hall, all wearing our colours, we put up our England VII banner, draped our Queens Jubilee flag over our designated table, which was adorned with collection boxes for the RBL and the Essex Air Ambulance, along with a few Blue Knights stickers and various leaflets.

We lined the bikes up with pride of place given to our member "Gathers" World War Two wrapped scooter.

It was a great location at the public entrance, next to the Royal British Legion cake and coffee stall.

There, we did what we do best, drink tea and coffee and eat loads of cakes. Mind you, a couple wandered around the stalls and participated in burgers and ice cream as well.



Having some Blue knights stickers meant we could talk to the kids, who then pestered their parents for coins for the collection boxes.

Whilst there chatting and laughing with the passing crowds, a habit that we learned and will never forget, I saw one elderly chap in his wheelchair salute the scooter, he said something, then left with tears running down his cheeks, how humbling is that?

As the day passed, we were approached by one of the organisers, asking if we would do a couple of circuits around the arena area. So, an hour later, and to the sound of "Born to be Wild" blaring through the speakers we did a couple of circuits. How good was this? Adults applauded and kid's waved, while we gave it plenty of revs making as much noise as we could, some a lot more than others (Vice President) after which we left and made our way out and set off homeward bound.



I know we all feel good, I know that we have made an impression, and I know that a few hundred people have now heard of the Blue Knights.

Events Section

August 2022

Sadly, due to commercial difficulties at the venue hotel, England XI's Law Ride Rally has been cancelled

The Law Ride itself will still go ahead on Saturday 21st August.

August 2022

Blue Knights England II
Charity Ride & BBQ
6th August 2022

Introducing !!
Theresa Sommerville
Country singer songwriter
live on stage at the Knights Rest
From 5.00pm

Bar and BBQ
Bring Family and friends
Fun and Games

£15 pp includes

- * Cakes and Refreshments at 10.00am
- * Charity ride at 11.00am
- * BBQ from 4.30pm

Oliver Fisher
This Years
Blue Knights England II charity
Oliver Fisher Baby Care

The Oliver Fisher Baby Unit is a tertiary neonatal facility caring for babies who require intensive care. We care for babies from Medway and the surrounding South East Thames region including Dartford, Gravesend, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells. We also accept referrals from outside Kent.

BLUE KNIGHTS SCOTLAND 1 20th Anniversary Rally



Join Us!

2 - 4 September 2022
£140 per person for weekend

- Accommodation
- Ride Outs
- Local Tourism
- Evening Entertainment

**Cameron Barracks
Inverness, Scotland**
Bookings from 1 September 2021



For more information email:
rally2022@bks1.org
www.bks1.org

Please note the change of date: 9th to 11th September 2022

Blue Knights England II Presents

COPS AND ROBBERS

Onsite accommodation **September 9th - 11th 2022**

Evening BBQ

Live Bands

£65pp

Bookings
being taken

Saturday Rideout

On site catering

Camping

Free Bar

CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

Dillgate Army Camp, St Martins Plain Folkestone

copsandrobbersbookings@gmail.com



BLUE KNIGHTS ENGLAND XVIII DEVON CHAPTER

ARE PROUD TO PRESENT THEIR 5TH ANNUAL

XMAS PARTY WEEKEND

FRIDAY 25TH NOVEMBER – SUNDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2022

Come and have a weekend away on the “English Riviera”

Once again, we are holding our event at the Carlton hotel, Torquay, which is one of four hotels, all interconnected, to make up the TLH Leisure Resort.

2021's event was such a roaring success, raising £2000 for Children's Hospice South-West & Doc-bike, the club have decided once again to return to this excellent venue, and welcome our Brother and Sister Knights, and Family's, to come and join us for the weekend.

Set at the heart of the English Riviera in Torquay and just a 5-minute walk to the seafront, or 15-minute walk to the main shopping and eating areas of Torquay. Other popular towns and cities are easily accessible.

An itinerary of what's on, where to go, places of interest will be produced nearer your arrival date.

[English Riviera](#)

[All about Torquay](#)

[All about Devon](#)

Your accommodation is in the Carlton Hotel, but you can make use of ALL the facilities throughout the TLH Resort. This includes Ten Pin Bowling, Games Area, Spa Treatments, Aztec Swimming Pool Fire & Ice Luxury Spa & Gym, plus there is entertainment in the Starlight lounge Nightly, and with 6 bars and various eateries to keep you occupied, you will want for nothing

****15% discount offered for all Spa Treatments booked PRIOR TO ARRIVAL****

[Torbay Leisure Hotel Group Info](#)

Saturday evening will see us eating in the Riviera lounge overlooking the bay. You will be greeted on arrival with mulled wine. There will be our charity raffle and auction, which in 2021 raised £2000!!

****Each Guest to Donate 1 x prize for the Raffle PLEASE, and Dess Code on Saturday Night is FORMAL****

Prices and booking as follows:

Only £59 per person per night, (based on 2 sharing) This is for Bed, Buffet English Breakfast or Continental Breakfast, (or both!!) and 3 course Evening meals both nights!!!

Sea view accommodation please add £6 per person per night.

Single accommodation £6 per person per night supplement. Double, single or twin rooms available, please state when booking. Any accessibility requirements, or food allergies, please inform me at time of booking so as I can let the hotel know when securing your room.

A £25 per person Non-Refundable deposit is required when booking your room please, balance to be paid in September 2022. Once I've received contact from you with your room request, I will reply with BACS transfer number, or address for cheque to be sent.

Arrival Friday 25/11/2020 AT ANY TIME YOU LIKE!!!

Book yourselves in, say you're with the Blue Knights Party, and then enjoy the facilities on offer to you throughout the TLH resort, however, your rooms will not be available until 1500hrs

Leaving Sunday 27/11/2020.....Rooms to be vacated by 1100hrs

Please contact me by email, Johnny "Oneball" Rolfe (President BKXVIII), on presbkeng18@aol.com



Blue Knights LEMC England XIV

Walton Park Hotel in Clevedon
Friday 21st to Sunday
23rd April 2023

Single Room booking **£223.00** for the weekend DB&B with extra nights @ **£85.00** DB&B (including all supplements).

Double Room (or twin) booking **£330.00** for the weekend DB&B with extra nights @ **£120.00** DB&B

Extra nights: Thursday 20th April and Sunday 23rd April 2023

Dress Code: **Black Tie** (for Gala dinner)



St George's WEEKEND RALLY 2023

This is our main charity fundraiser of the year. 2022's event was highly successful and raised £2000 for Blue Knights in Ukraine

Book on line at: www.bkengland14.org.uk

£53.00

Gala dinner only

£223.00

2 Nights - Single room

£330.00

2 Nights - Double room

Non-refundable
deposit of £100 per
booking (£50 single)



The Robin Hood Rally 2023

UK & Ireland Convention Rally

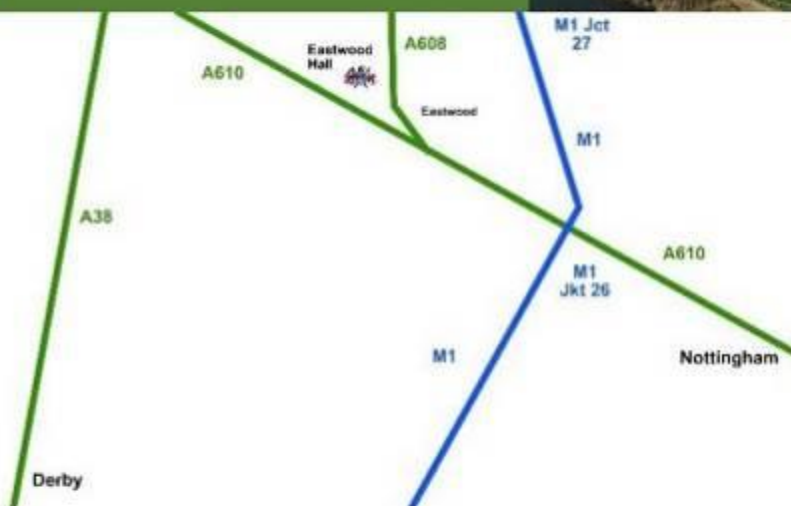
September 8th to 10th 2023



England VI last ran their popular Eastwood Rally in 2009. We would like to welcome Blue Knights back to Nottinghamshire's stunning 4* Eastwood Hall Hotel.

The Rally Package Includes

- Friday and Saturday night accommodation
- Breakfast on Saturday & Sunday
- Friday evening informal Dinner
- Saturday evening gala dinner
- Live entertainment on Saturday evening
- Saturday guided ride outs



Eastwood is in the centre of England, within easy access of the M1 (J 26 & J 27)

Costs

£30 per person for Rally Package
PLUS
£260 per room (2 people sharing) OR
£200 per room (single occupancy) OR
£28 per person (Saturday evening meal only – arranging own accommodation)

England VI recognise that since we are hosting the UKIC Convention, it is important that as many members as possible attend the AGM / Presidents' Meeting.

We can arrange for members to attend the meetings and / or Saturday evening dinner, without staying at Eastwood Hall.

To Book

- 1/ email neil2207@icloud.com for a booking form & more information.
- 2/ Receive confirmation from England VI
- 3/ Pay deposit to England VI
- 4/ Balance to be paid no later than 1st May 2023

NB: Please book early: our cut-off date to avoid financial penalties is 1st February 2023

On the Bikes

Within easy reach of Derbyshire's Peak District, Eastwood offers rides into stunning countryside. We will offer guided rides on Saturday. On Sunday morning, you could visit the region's biker capital, at the Victorian Spa Town of Matlock Bath.

Off the Bikes

Eastwood is the birthplace of author DH Lawrence. His birthplace museum is a short walk from our hotel. Also close by are the Cromford and Nottingham Canals, with walks to take in our area's industrial heritage.