

RIDERS

Official magazine of the [Blue Knights](#)® Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club UK & Ireland Conference



The Sheriff of Nottingham takes her first motorcycle ride



EC Romania



20th Lawride



KRT Dublin



www.blueknight.org

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Editor's Note

Welcome to our Autumn edition of UKIC Knight Riders Magazine.

At 51 pages, I think it's the biggest edition I have ever published. I prefer to keep it below 40 pages, but our members have been so busy this summer, that a bumper edition was warranted. Thank you to everyone who has submitted content.



Knight Riders has always been about the members. I don't have to make space for adverts about Chapter Sales (websites are the place for that), and you will never see paid-for adverts at election time.

On the subject of UKIC elections, we have not had a contested post in many years, but I have agreed a procedure in case it happens: the candidates will ONLY get a 1,000 word article, in which to make their pitch. I won't publish anything else from them in the pre-election edition. That way, ALL candidates get the same opportunity, irrespective of their ability to pay for advertising.

Hopefully, we will have enough good weather for some riding, before the next deadline of 2nd January 2024. Please keep your articles and photos coming.

Winter Issue published 1st February
Submission Deadline 2nd January
mail@neilhallam.com

UKIC Chairman's address

So much has been happening since our last publication that it is hard recall everything, so here are a few highlights.

In July, we attended the International Convention in Harrisburg, to present two proposals to the Board of Governors meeting.

- The first was to try and reduce the funds that we pay their committee to attend Conference rallies.
- The second was to require them to keep better records, and publish quarterly accounts.

It was not a surprise that the first proposal failed, but our second one was passed. I will continue to seek ways to reduce the amount of our money that is spent by the Board of Governors Committee.

This year marked not only our 20th Anniversary as a Conference, but also that of Care of Police Survivors (COPS).

As it was the Blue Knights who first supported Christine Fulton, to create COPS, we continue to have a special relationship with the Charity.

Christine has been an International Honorary Blue Knight for a long time. The Lawride to the National Memorial Arboretum, organised by England XI, had over 230 Blue Knights and Law Enforcement motorcyclists this year. It is wonderful to be part of this event, and witness the appreciation of the Survivors and their families. I encourage everyone to attend if possible.

The COPS Anniversary picnic, at Tulliallan Castle, was also well attended by members from all three Scottish Chapters.

On a sad note, we attended the last Cops & Robbers Rally organised by England II. The rally has been a yearly fixture for 14 years, but due to diminishing numbers, a decision was made to make this the last, which is a real shame. The commitment over the years by those members of England II involved in the rally, has been second to none.

Our 20th Anniversary Conference Rally, the Robin Hood Rally, was hosted by England VI. Our International President, DJ Alvarez, attended and took questions from the floor at the Member's AGM. He also presented the International Awards and Conference Commendations,

together with our Vice Chair Roger Hopes.

I would like to publicly thank the England VI Committee, and all the members of England VI who helped through the course of the rally, to make it the success that it was.



Next year the Conference rally will be on the beautiful island of Jersey, from 20th – 22nd September 2024 and is being hosted by Jersey I. Rooms at the Radisson Hotel are going fast, so you need to book soon to secure your place. Contact Conference@blueknightsjersey1.co.uk for all enquiries and the registration form. If you only attend one Blue Knights rally during the course of a year you should aim to attend the Conference rally, so start planning.

Many of the other events next year have already been advertised, and I would like to thank those Chapters for the time and effort you are giving to the organisation of Blue Knights rallies, and I encourage members to support them if you can.

If you can't afford the time or expense to attend the 50th Anniversary Convention in Sugarloaf, Maine, USA, there are some UKIC rallies at the end of July that you could support, with a Scotland I rally on the Isle of Man or the COPS 'Lawride'. Sadly, these are both on the last weekend in July and although organisers try not to clash events with others in the calendar, sometimes dates are out of peoples control and there are only so many weekends in a year.

The UKIC Facebook group provides many of the event details that are available for members to attend, if you have an event, this should be one of the places where you advertise it (along with the rear section of Knight Riders).

There is so much more going on that many don't get to know about, our network is one of the best things about our club, let's make the most of it.

The European Conference also has rallies in Belgium, Poland and Germany. The 2024 European Conference rally is in the Czech Republic, from the 6th – 10th June 2024. All of these are advertised on their website: <https://www.blue-knights.eu>

Arrangements for the 50th Anniversary Convention at The Sugarloaf Resort, Carrabassett Valley, Maine, USA, from the 21st – 25th of July 2024 are progressing and you can email tjordan@sugarloaf.com to request to be put on list for when a Condo of your choice is released by the private owners. To qualify for the special group rate; quote 'Blue Knights International group'. Taylor will email you when a condo is available, at which point a 50% deposit will be taken.

Till the next edition 'Ride with Pride' and enjoy all that our club has to offer.

Leonie Tromans Chairman UKIC



Blue Knights® International
50th Anniversary Convention
July 21-26, 2024

Hotel/Condo Reservations

Main Hotel is full- Condos are available!

- Call Sugarloaf Resort Hotel at 1-800-843-6623, Mon-Fri 8am-6pm to reserve
- There are no online reservations
- Rooms/Condos require 50% payment at time of booking and remaining balance 14 days prior to arrival.

Cancellations/Refunds

- Reservations can be cancelled up to 14 days prior to arrival. A full refund will be given minus a \$50 administration fee
- Reservations cancelled within the 14 days prior to arrival (July 5-15, 2024) will forfeit 50% of the total reservation including taxes and resort fees
- Reservations cancelled within 48 hours of arrival will not receive any refund
- In cases of unforeseen accident/medical emergency preventing/disrupting a member's reservation, refunds will be dealt with on an individual basis if/when required

Camping- For Self Contained Units (No S/MW/E)

- All camping spots must be reserved 1 week prior.
- Spots will be in a large parking lot.
 - Single Vehicle- 10'x22' spot: \$25/day
 - Tow Vehicle & Trailer/Camper: \$50/day




Join our Facebook Group!



Registration: \$225

Registration Fee includes:

- Welcome Bag
- 50th Convention Pin
- Opening Ceremony
- Scenic Rides
- Motorcycle Camps w/ Prizes
- Nightly Hospitality
- 15 Beer/Soda Tickets
- Souvenir Mug
- BBQ w/ entertainment
- 50th Anniversary Banquet

Tentative Activities/Events

- Opening Ceremonies
- Meet the Founders & Past Presidents Event
- Motorcycle Competitions
- Cornhole Tournament / BBQ
- Bangor Day w/ Int. Office Visits
- Cigar and Bourbon event
- Sip 'N Craft / Trivia / Game Night
- Outdoor Entertainment

Area Activities(!)

- Moose Cruisin' (an evening tour to see moose!)
- Chair Lift rides to the top of Sugarloaf Mt.
- Disc Golf
- Pontoon boat tour of Flagstaff Lake
- Golf on Sugarloaf's world class golf course
- Zip lining

For more info & registration, visit www.bki2024international.com or the International Website



Blue Knights Jersey I
UK & I Conference 2024



20th – 22nd September
Radisson Blu Hotel - Jersey

Conference package includes Friday night registration and rally gift package, BBQ and social on the terrace, overnight accommodation, Saturday breakfast, lunch out on tour, evening dinner with entertainment and overnight accommodation and Sunday breakfast.
£285 per person (2 sharing) - £480 single occupancy.

Early bird booking (before end February 2024) provides reduced rate plus an upgrade to superior sea view room (whilst availability lasts)
£260 per person (2 sharing) - £460 single occupancy

Additional nights available for bed and breakfast at a reduced rate.

Island Ride out tour on the Saturday (Minibus for those without bikes) taking in the stunning scenery and culture that Jersey has to offer.



Robin Hood, the Sheriff and 20 years of the UKIC Neil Hallam, Editor



England VI were proud to host this year's UKIC Convention, which coincided with the 20th anniversary of the UK getting its own conference. Our Robin Hood Rally was held at Eastwood Hall, in Nottinghamshire, where our chapter has previously hosted two rallies.

It was fantastic to see such a great turnout, especially as the weather allowed Friday evening's BBQ to be held outdoors.

The arrival of our guests on Friday prompts a shout out to our sponsors, SOS, who along with funding Saturday's entertainment, offered free recovery for anyone breaking down during Saturdays rides. It turned out that several riders arrived on Friday with temporary puncture fixes, which Gary mended free of charge. www.sosmotorcyclerecovery.eu



01476 584 840

Friday evening saw UKIC VP Roger Hopes, present some well deserved certificates of recognition to members who have gone the extra mile in recruit recruitment, fundraising and lifesaving. More about these awards elsewhere in this edition of Knight Riders. England VI Honorary

member, and retired army colonel, Stuart Wiles, led a toast of remembrance to honour the first anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II passing.

Saturday morning's group ride outs started with the lovely High Sheriff of Nottingham, Shuguftah Quddoos, seeing everyone off on their rides. She was delighted to be presented with a variety of challenge coins, England VI water bottle and pins, from Blue knights, including our American, international president D.J. Alvarez. But I don't think she will ever forget her first ever ride on a motorbike, on the back of Purple Ronnie, with Tracey Smith Bishop, taking her for a quick spin round the grounds of the hall. The squeals of delight as she rode off, clinging on to Tracey, were delightful.



Robin Hood Rally continued

The three ride outs went through Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and into Lincolnshire to visit the Bomber Command Centre. It was an incredibly hot day to be wearing motorcycle kit, and I hope our guests thought it worthwhile to explore the most scenic parts of our chapter area.



On Saturday evening, we were entertained by Ray Hatfield, who has in his time, performed as part of Showaddywaddy and Wishbone Ash. The UKIC Board gifted each attending chapter with a special wooden plaque, in honour of our Conference's 20th anniversary.

Our raffle, auction and leftover funds from your rally fee, raised £3,054. This will be split between UK COPS, Notts & Lincs Air Ambulance and Derbyshire Blood Bikes. England VI have topped this up to £3,500 from Chapter funds.



Since this was the UKIC Convention, a few words about club business are appropriate.

Very few of us enjoy hearing about the necessary evil of Data Protection and the GDPR. Hopefully, with the signing of a data sharing agreement with the International Office and an agreed two year data retention period, we have now heard the last of it. Well done to the club officers who made it happen.

On a brighter note, the 2024 UKIC Convention will be in Jersey. Wales III will be hosting 2025 on the North Wales coast. And subject to a vote next year, Ireland I have volunteered to host in 2026.

Greetings fellow Blue Knights,

UKIC Robin Hood Rally 2023



DJ Alvarez, pictured with Sheriff of Nottingham, Shuguftah Quddoos, and England VI President, Graham Buxton

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Leonie and Steve Tromans, the UKIC Chair and Secretary, for their incredible hospitality during my stay in England. Their warm welcome and generosity made my time there truly memorable.

I would also like to commend Graham Buxton and the members of England VI for their outstanding efforts in hosting the 2023 Robin Hood Rally.

The event was nothing short of spectacular, and everyone had a fantastic time. Kudos to the entire team for a job well done.

Spending time with fellow Blue Knights at the rally was an absolute delight. The essence of our organization lies in the connections we make, both with old friends and new acquaintances. The genuine fellowship and camaraderie shared among my brothers and sisters were the true highlights of my visit to England. These moments reaffirmed my pride in serving as the International President of such a remarkable organization.

Together, we continue to uphold the values that make the Blue Knights truly great. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone again next year at the 2024 UKIC Rally September 20-22 hosted by Jersey 1.

Ride with Pride,

DJ Alvarez

International President

UKIC Awards Evening, at the Robin Hood Rally

In the run up to our Robin Hood Rally, the UKIC Board canvassed Chapter Presidents to nominate members who had gone “above and beyond” for our club.

At the Robin Hood Rally, during Friday evening’s BBQ, Vice-Chairman, Roger Hopes presented their certificates of merit.

Andy Davies: England XIV

Andy volunteers for the charity *From Bristol with love for Ukraine*. He attends their distribution centre most weekends, and has become a focal point for donations.

He is a member of our local Blood Bike charity *Freewheelers*, going further than most members by organising fund raisers and publicity for the charity. Every year, he approaches retail outfits for donation of Easter Eggs and Christmas presents, which he distributes to our four local hospitals. He invites our Chapter to help him, creating good publicity for the Blue Knights too.

During the pandemic, Andy used social media and his network of contacts to collect essential items for those in hospital (both the staff and patients).

Andy has been awarded certificates of thanks from the Ukraine charity and from the Bristol Mayor for his volunteering.

Bill Hedley: England V

On Wednesday 24th May, one of our members, Neill Brettell-Markendale, was travelling along the A580 on route to our breakfast meeting. He was riding a vintage Vincent Comet motorcycle, when his throttle nipple broke off, leaving him stranded in a very precarious position under the M6.

Lucky for Neill, Bill Hedley was also travelling alone the A580 to the meeting. Bill parked his own Vincent Rapid, away from the traffic island and helped Neill move his bike into a slightly less precarious position. Bill remained with Neill, awaiting the AA, who still hadn’t attended after a two hour wait.

Bill, who is very knowledgeable on Vincent motorcycles, made an attachment to the throttle cable, which allowed Neill to operate his throttle manually. They managed to get Neill’s bike to Bill’s house, where Bill made up a replacement throttle cable.

Chris Mizzi: England VII

Chris has almost single handedly, got our 2024 Chapter rally off the ground. He found and secured the venue, had ideas for ride outs, organised the food, drink and accommodation.

He also sorted out the booking and payment process, dealing with booking emails and processing the payments.

Paul Burton: Honorary Member England IX

Paul has ridden with us for as long as I can remember. Through his business as a sign printer and clothing supplier, he has created and supplied much of our England IX club clothing.

Last year, when the United for Ukraine charity kicked off, England IX had the idea of creating stickers to help raise funds. The minute Paul heard about this, he volunteered to print the stickers for free. He produced a run of 500, which quickly sold out, so he volunteered to produce another batch of 500, which sold out too. In total, this venture raised over £3,000 for the United for Ukraine effort.

When Paul heard about Kirsty’s Kids efforts to help children in Ukraine, Paul paid for one of the generators needed out there.

When England XI were organising this year’s Law Ride, Paul volunteered to produce stickers at no cost, to raise more money for COPS.

Spike Ray: England X

Spike has been England X Secretary for nine years, a job no one else appears to want. He is the lynchpin of the chapter’s organisation, he writes copious ride reports, to promote our chapter’s activity.

Spike has also organised a great many of these events himself.

Few members appreciate the extent of unseen work a secretary carries out.

Awards Evening Continued

John Bryden: Scotland II

John Bryden, and his wife Jan, run the Kirsty Bryden Memorial Trust (Kirsty's Kids), which Scotland II support as our chapter charity. They give wholeheartedly of their time and efforts, and any profit from other businesses they run is ploughed into Kirsty's Kids.

Kirsty's Kids was set up by John and Jan's late daughter, to help children with life shortening or limiting illnesses. They offer respite care for families, acting as a pressure release. They go beyond their own doorstep, helping children around the world, supplying clothes to Africa and helping set up hospice facilities.

When war broke out in Ukraine, John and Jan reached out to the Ukrainian Blue Knights, asking what they needed. Their house became a hive of activity, with clothing, lady's hygiene supplies and food stuffs arriving from all over the UK. After checking and cleaning where necessary, John and Jan set off on the long, and perilous journey to meet with our brother Knights and distribute what they had carried in their van and trailer.

It was identified that generators were needed to produce electricity for heating and cooking, so they came home and built up a second load to take back. Once again they set off, sleeping in the van John had modified. The nearer they got to the front line, the more their white van and trailer became a target. The Russians, it appears, have no regard for humanitarian aid.

Steve Bolton: England IX

Steve works tirelessly to promote the BK and England IX. This made him a perfect candidate for Secretary when the post was vacated.

Steve joined us from West Yorkshire Police, where the existence of the Blue Knights was little known, and he has spread the word far and wide.

England IX has doubled in size since he took over as Secretary.

Steve was put forward to International for a recruitment award, and won the highest award of Super Recruiter, with a cheque for \$250.



Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Ride Gary Wildman, England 7



Last year's ride was cancelled due to the passing of Her Majesty the Queen.

The start of this year's ride was moved to the Air ambulance HQ at North Weald, in Essex, which made for quite an awkward route. Although on straight roads, it has a few roundabouts and junctions to negotiate before reaching the A12, which is itself notorious for problems.

And this day was to be full of problems!

Months of planning, meeting after meeting, by our liaison member Paul Barber and what happens?

Well, on what was nearly the hottest day of the year, a storm was brewing. I'll talk about the negatives, but the positive from the day is that we can address all the issues, and solve them, or have plans in place for 2024.

No amount of planning can help with the unexpected. So, what happened?

A four car crash, at which ironically the air ambulance was required, closed our main route. Unfortunately, it happened whilst we were on the route, with no way off.

Rewind! How the day started for us: Twenty three England VII members met up and rode to the Air Ambulance headquarters, awaiting our briefing and the obligatory bacon roll and coffee.

We had arrived early, and positioned ourselves ready for the gates to open, some two hours later.

What we witnessed was over 2,000 bikers arriving. About 90% of them being law abiding sensible riders.

However, amongst them were a large number who were wearing completely inappropriate clothing. It was 30 degrees, but there was no excuses for t shirts, shorts etc.

There were also a small number of ###s who attended, intent on being disruptive, we have no idea how to identify and prevent their participation.

Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Ride continued



Loads of bikers joined the ride as it progressed, which in itself caused issues, as bikes had to brake and adjust to allow them to squeeze in.

You can't really cater for accidents, but a four-car crash on the main route changed what should have been a controlled enjoyable ride into a complete carnage at the front.



Within seconds of leaving the starting point, the unruly idiots began racing toward the front, which was being led by a police vehicle, ironically being driven by Sergeant Martin Allen, a Blue Knight, who managed to keep his cool at all the abuse he received at the slow or halted pace.

Essex police had outriders, they were utilised at the crash scene, so the Blue Knights and Blood Bikes acting as marshals were largely ignored. On top of this, one van driver refused to stop, and knocked one of our members over at a roundabout. Thankfully he was not injured, and the van driver was reported at scene.

One of our newest members came off, after a vehicle entered the convoy and panicked, braking to a dead stop and causing the bikes he cut up bucking our member off. He sustained two broken wrists, and faces a period of time away from policing.



Eventually, the crash scene was cleared, and traffic started to move. Unfortunately, due to the delay and heat, a lot of riders peeled off and never made the final destination.

As I said at the beginning, there were lots of lessons learned and plenty of de-briefing and discussions to follow.



As far back as 2010, I organised and led a group from England VI on a holiday to Romania. Whilst there I received a lot of help in the planning from members of the original Chapter Romania I. My wife and I always said we would like to return there, so when I saw that the European Convention was taking place in Constanta, we seized the opportunity to revisit.

After weeks of researching both route and accommodation, Jacqui & I, together with Brian & Anne Collins, began our journey on 14 May. Thanks to Andy Howard (also England VI), we enjoyed discounted Channel ferry tickets. We thought our planned journey was quite a distance, until Brian spoke to a pedal cyclist in the same queue as us, who was riding to Singapore over 15 months!

Our route enabled us to overnight in one of our favourite places, Ypres, in Belgium, where we always attend the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate, albeit currently undergoing renovation in preparation for the 100th anniversary of its unveiling.

Travelling through Luxembourg, Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary in unseasonably cold weather, we arrived in Budapest five days later, to meet with our friends from Ireland I. We were fortunate to be able to travel and stay with them and are grateful to David and Jennifer Buckley, for including us in their tour.

European Convention Romania, 2023 Continued

Unlike Britain, where roads will be closed and detours arranged for upgrading work, several miles of unmade gravel surfaces can often be encountered in Romania, which was the case for the last part of our route into Timisoara. It is also worth mentioning that all vehicle documents are checked at the Romanian border and visitors are refused entry if failing to produce them.



After two more nights we arrived in Bucharest, which was our first opportunity to have time off the bikes and explore the city, which we thoroughly enjoyed. The weather had now become very hot, and the ride into the city during rush hour made us grateful to

have satnavs to negotiate the bustling four and five lane boulevards.

The next leg of the journey was to Constanta, and we chose a route which included a ferry crossing, giving us a pleasant break in the journey.

Our arrival at the Phoenicia Resort on the Black Sea, coincided with that of many other Blue Knights, resulting in very long, slow queues because there were so few staff at reception. However, our welcome from the Romanian Blue Knights was extremely friendly and Jacqui & I enjoyed our beers with Bogdan.

The organisation by Romanian Blue Knights for the weekend allowed us to have sole use of the resort, which is normally closed at that time of the year. We opted for a Blue Knights' coach trip to a vineyard with wine tasting, which was both informative and enjoyable.



Some people had lunch there, but we chose to sit outside in the sunshine with several other Blue Knights, and were joined later by the owner, with yet more wine and a barbecue for us.

The Police escorted rideout on Saturday into Constanta was 19 miles long, after which we had free time to explore the town and return to the resort at leisure. Although the 'beach' was composed of shells and rough, dark grey sand, Graham managed a paddle in the Black Sea, from where Crimea is visible in the distance.



After a great weekend at the resort, well hosted by the Romanian Blue Knights, we left with Brian & Anne to begin our return journey, passing through Transylvania, fortunately not encountering Count Dracula.

Two days later we arrived in Szekesfehervar, by Lake Balaton in Hungary, after which we continued our journey south whilst Brian & Anne headed back towards home.

Our leisurely ride south took us through Slovenia and Croatia to northern Italy, to spend a few days and celebrate joint birthdays with old friends from Germany. If you like lots and lots of tight hairpins and steep, narrow roads, try the minor roads from Vransko to Podsabotin, in Slovenia.

Heading north, we travelled through the Italian Dolomites into Austria towards the Stelvio Pass (ridden before) but were pleasantly surprised to be directed to the (unknown to us) Resia Pass, and then the 25 mile long Arlberg Pass with their beautiful views.





Having stayed by Lake Konstanz, and negotiating the best-avoided A31, we were met near the French border by Bob Blake, from Germany II, formerly a founder member of England IV. We relaxed with Bob & Louise for a couple of days, before riding together until we made for our next destination at Epernay. A bit of advice when riding on Sunday in France . . . if riding on rural roads – we rode over 200 miles from Colmar to near Epernay without being able to get a drink on a very hot day. Fortunately, a bar owner who was about to close, took pity on us and served us water.

Two more days saw us back home after 4,442 miles, which if I had known was our total I would have ridden round the block a few times to make it to 4,444, all the fours! An extremely good holiday and a trip to remember.

After 29 days away, there are a few outstanding hotels we'd return to which may be of interest to you. Hotel Petry, Vianden, Luxembourg Bahnhof Busch, Bretzfeld, Germany Hotel Pukmistr, Plzen, Czech Guesthouse Grof, Vransko, Slovenia.



A Grave Experience Graham Buxton, England VI President & UKIC International Rep



Whilst attending the St George's event this year, I took a walk around Clevedon, together with my wife and Keith Rudkin. As we walked by the parish church, I noticed that the cemetery contained several war graves, easily identified by their headstones. I have an interest in history, so decided that we should go and look at these graves.

Whilst standing by one of the war graves, I noticed that the adjacent grave had an unusual inscription "*John Anthony Denty – died as a result of an accident in Belgium 8th May 1967 aged 33yrs*". Obviously not a war grave, but it seemed strange that the person had been killed in an accident in Belgium.

A check on Google revealed the following:

On Sunday, 30th April 1967 a motorcycle race was being held on a public road course in Mettet, Belgium. During the 500 cc event one of the 47 competitors, Robert Claeys, a Belgian rider with little experience of racing, failed to start. Amidst attempts to start his Norton Manx, he pushed it all the way to the first, and very fast, left hand bend, at the top of a crest. This was a blind turn, as the entrance was higher than its exit. No yellow flags were displayed by the local marshals to warn other riders approaching him.

Whilst Claeys was still pushing his bike, the lead riders started their second lap. The three leading riders were followed by the French ace Claude Vigreux, when a terrible accident occurred. They managed to avoid Claeys, but Vigreux had his line of sight masked

by the other racers and he hit Claeys at more than 120 mph. Claeys was killed on impact, Vigreux also died instantly from massive head injuries.

The Matchless the Frenchman was riding was thrown high in the air and landed on an area reserved for spectators. The next rider, John Denty, lost control of his Norton whilst trying to avoid the debris, and he crashed into a house at the side of the road. The Norton was launched against a wire fence used to keep spectators off the track. A rope broke and struck a spectator, severing his legs and causing his death. Two weeks later, Denty became the fourth victim, when he succumbed to his injuries in a local hospital. In spite of the magnitude of the accident, the race was restarted.

The accident demonstrated the inadequacy of safety and first aid measures practiced at that time. No ambulances were present, and the marshals who had failed to flag the danger, were completely inactive afterwards. It was thanks to the initiative of some of the spectators that other competitors were warned of the accident and a worse tragedy avoided. The bodies were all taken away in a private van.

The French press were critical of allowing an inexperienced rider to partake in an international race, and it was as a result of this accident that modern safety features began to be introduced into motorcycle racing.



20th Anniversary Lawride: an organiser's Perspective Rob Hadgett, England XI



Sunday 29th July 2023 marked the 20th anniversary of the annual Lawride, a milestone on what is already a special, if solemn, day. Always well attended, this year was no exception, with 219 motorcycles taking part in the procession. As well as the many Blue Knights from around the country, we were joined by riders from other LE groups.

Being fairly new to the club (I should have joined years ago), it was an impressive sight for me. I've done a few charity rides for other causes, but nothing that gets even close to the Law Ride.

We had a plan to marshal the ride within our chapter, but the two marked motorcycles from Derbyshire did a great job, even taking us off their own patch and into Staffordshire, handing over to Staffordshire's Police bikes at the NMA, who then headed up the procession.

Many thanks to the Police Motorcyclists from both forces for assisting, you folks are the professionals and it showed!

The upshot of this was after holding the mini island free at the services at the start, I needed to get past and back to the front (as per the original marshalling plan) and it certainly was an amazing sight passing all those machines heading south on the A38.

Laride continued



The route through the grounds was different from previous years, but still culminated in an impressively ordered ride along the avenue to the police memorial. We were greeted with a spirited reception from the many police officers, staff and families lining the route. Many of you will no doubt have seen footage of this as circulated on social media, lots of Riding with Pride occurring there for sure!

We will all have lost brave and respected colleagues, but our individual sadness pales, when compared to grief of those families who lost loved ones in the course of their duties. As we know, this is what the COPS charity is formed for, to support those relatives through difficulties that we could scarcely imagine. A very worthy cause, which we are all proud to support. This year, with your help, over £3,000 was raised.



Next year, we at England XI are planning a full weekend event, where we hope to bring as many members together as we can. This will be held at the Yarnfield Park Training and Conference Centre in Stone, Staffordshire, from 26th to 28th July 2024. Naturally, you're all invited, and updates will be posted on the Facebook page: "Blue Knights Law Ride 2024".



20th Anniversary Law Ride Gary Wildman, Secretary, England VII



England VII had a phenomenal turnout for the 2023 Law Ride, to the National Police Memorial in Staffordshire. It was a powerful display of unity as 22 Chapter members joined forces with Police Officers and staff from all corners of the country, to honour our fallen colleagues.

At our stop, at Sysonby Lodge (a Best Western in Melton Mowbray), we were confronted by a nervous crowd of staff and customers one of whom declared “*it’s the Hells Angels!*” After an introduction and explanation, they kindly opened the bar and seated us in the garden.

We continued making our way to our hotel in Mickleover, arriving in time for a couple of riders to have a swim and a few others to visit the bar.

Day two kicked off with a guided ride by Dave Eatough, the ride captain for England XI, and a couple of their chapter. We were joined by a lone representative of England VI, who was enjoying himself stopping traffic and then speeding past back up to the front.

Riding through the picturesque local area, at a reasonable speed, allowed us to appreciate the scenery. With a couple of stops, firstly at the kingfisher Café, next to a canal. Then at a pub on the outskirts of Ashbourne. Tail end was covered by a beautiful Triumph Rocket trike.

The highlight of the weekend was, of course, the Law Ride itself on day three. It was a solemn, yet inspiring event, where we paid our respects, and showed our unwavering support for our fallen heroes. It was a truly memorable experience.

The ride and event were well organised, and in our opinion, the route upon arrival was more atmospheric than previous years.

Lawride continued

As the weekend came to an end, we couldn't help but feel a sense of nostalgia and anticipation. This incredible journey has left an indelible mark on our hearts, and we eagerly await the next Law Ride in 2024.



Tim Buckley, UKCOPS Chief Executive Officer added:

I just want to say a massive thank you for everything you pulled off this weekend – the Law Ride entrance was spectacular and left everyone speechless, it was extraordinary to see so many bikes and, as ever, the roar of the engines gave me goosebumps.

I hope you enjoyed the day. I know the families thought the sight of you, riding down the Millenium Avenue with the National Police Memorial behind you was amazing. I was standing next to one small lad who just kept repeating: “wow, there are so many of them!”, he was delighted.

Please pass on my thanks to all the riders who took the time to join us and I hope to catch up with you soon.

Wishing you the very best

Tim





April saw nine of us on a four day trip to Arras, in France. After an effortless crossing, we made our way to the first point of call, at Vimy Ridge.

The battle of Vimy Ridge took place during WW1, between 9th and 12th April 1917. Four divisions of the Canadian Corps fought together for the first time, to take Vimy Ridge from the Germans. It was the largest advance of any allied force to that date in the war.

On Day 2, we travelled to Delville Wood, the national memorial to the South Africans, who perished in all theatres of war. It was unveiled on 10th October 1926, and has over 10,000 names inscribed of the fallen. What was poignant about this visit was that two members of our group both have South African heritage, so this was quite an emotional visit.

Leaving Delville Wood, we made our way to Thiepval, no trip to this region would be complete without a visit here. It was unveiled on 1st August 1932, and it is without doubt one of the most breath-taking memorials to over 72,000 service men from the UK and South Africa, who's bodies have never been found

Making our way back to Arras, we stopped off at Lochnagar Crater, just south of the town of La Boisselle. It was created on 1st July 1916 by the Tunnelling Companies of the Royal Engineers, who mined under a German fortification and placed 27,000 kgs of explosives. The explosion created a crater 25 metres deep and over 100 metres wide, with reports stated that it was heard in London.

They did not grow old continued

Day 3 gave us a morning to wander around Arras, with the obligatory coffee and cake, and then a look around the towns Citadel.

We then mounted our bikes for a ride to Le Paradis, to see the massacre memorial.

On 27th May 1940, the village of Le Paradis witnessed the heinous murder of 97 men of the Royal Norfolk Regiment, by the 14th Company of the German SS Division Totenkopf. Whilst trying to retreat to Dunkirk, the men of the Norfolk Regiment became isolated, and after running out of ammunition they surrendered to the Germans. They were promptly led to an area of the village, put against a wall and murdered by machine gun. Ninety Seven died, but two survived.

After the war, both gave testimony to a war crimes court at Rotherbaum, which led to the conviction and execution of the SS Officer who ordered the murder.

Day 4 was our journey home, but on the way we stopped off at Etaples Cemetery, which is currently the largest Commonwealth War graves Cemetery in France. It has over 11,500 graves, of which only 73 are un-identified.



This has been another fantastic chapter weekend away with great company, many laughs, but most importantly a huge range of emotions that all resulted in our sincere gratitude to all the service men and women who gave their lives for our today.

A Nordkapp Adventure in Norway Alan Gibson Blue Knights Scotland I



The Team: Alan Gibson, Alan Jamieson (+ Marc), Alistair Forsyth, David McCulloch, Kyle Walker, Ian Mackay

The Bikes: Honda XADV, Honda NC750, Honda Pan European, BMW GSA 1250, Triumph Rocket, BMW 1200RT

On the morning of 20th July, the group from all three Scottish chapters met south of Edinburgh, and a scenic route was taken down to our ferry in Newcastle.

Day 2 saw us arrive at Imjuiden, and a long ride followed through the Netherlands and Germany, mainly on motorway type roads, which allowed us to eat up the miles to catch our second ferry of the trip from Travemunde to Malmo, again overnight.

A slight hiccup at the Ferry terminal, when we queued for the Finnlines check-in, to discover there were two companies with ferries leaving at the same time for Sweden. Alan and his son Marc, discovered they had actually booked a different ferry company than the rest of us. Fortunately, the two ferry terminals were not too far apart. Despite this, Alan was drinking a beer onboard before we were on our ferry.

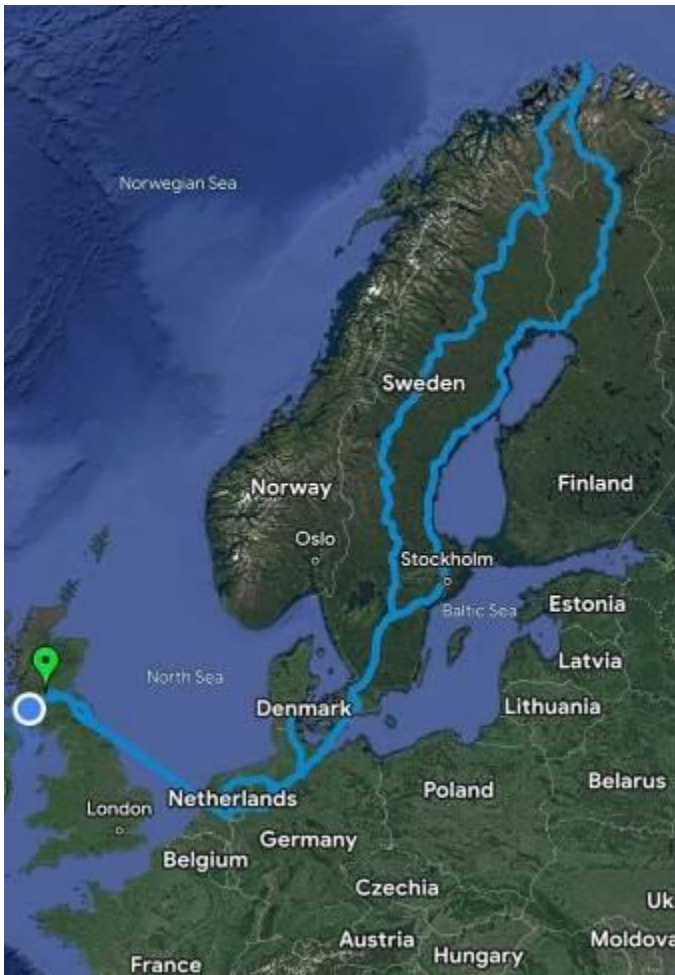
After a pleasant night's sleep, day 3 dawned in Sweden, Alan & Marc rejoined the group, and we began heading north. Mainly on motorways, although the scenery did improve as we progressed towards our next stop in Orebro.

Day 4 saw us leave the motorways and busy cities. Miles and miles of quiet open roads, with sweeping bends and long straights to overtake the occasional caravan or motorhome. Swedish roads are generally superb. The scenery continued to improve, with massive forests, lakes and bridges. Kyle and Ian had the first of many encounters with the local wildlife, when a young deer ran out of the forest, swerved, ran alongside for a few seconds, then cut behind Ian to avoid an oncoming vehicle.

Our very modern hotel in Froso, was right next door to the airport with an old Saab fighter displayed in front of the hotel. We decided burgers were the food for the evening. Gibby & Ian ordered a cheeseburger, only to discover it was exactly that, lots and lots of cheese, no meat.

Froso – Jokkmokk. Later the next day, despite regular showers, we reached a milestone in our trip when we crossed the Arctic Circle near Jokkmokk, in sunshine and an amazing 15c. Our evening meal was at a local restaurant, where some of the group decided to try reindeer pizza.

Nordcap continued



In the morning, our journey north continued up to the town of Alta and a fairly posh Scandic hotel. A new high for the trip was reached, when beer was purchased at around £11 a pint. Technically we travelled through three countries that day, starting in Sweden, dipping briefly into Finland and finishing in Alta, Norway.

The original plan was for an overnight stop in Honningsvåg. However, an early start and good weather allowed us to go for our ultimate destination. Stunning scenery followed, very different from Sweden, as there were very few trees. A run through the 6.8km Nordkapp tunnel saw us making good progress. Nordkapp is notorious for wet foggy weather, but around mid-afternoon in good clear dry weather, we entered the car park at North Cape, Norway (Nordkapp), the northmost point in mainland Europe.

We entered the lovely visitors centre for a coffee and toilet visit, only to be informed it was 23 Euros to come in, that's one expensive pee. After a wander round, and lots of photos, we headed for our original stop at Honningsvåg, about 20 miles south through amazing scenery.

Ian was delayed when a herd of around 50 reindeer decided to cross in front of his bike. Reindeer were a hazard throughout Norway and Finland, with them having no fear of road traffic.



That night, we had lovely accommodation overlooking the harbour and a meal including an amazing fish soup. The only issue at this time of year is that it is light 24hrs a day, which can make sleeping slightly tricky and messes with your body clock.

The next day saw the longest ride of the trip to Rovaniemi, in Finland, 420 miles away. We did the journey in our usual 100 mile chunks, with stops for fuel, coffee and food. The scenery remained excellent with vast forests, lakes and lovely roads. You had to remain alert however, as reindeer were dotted about the roadside on a regular basis.

Nordcap continued

Accommodation was in a very quiet Santa Claus holiday village, with two person chalets, complete with saunas, at a bargain price. The saunas were utilised for drying wet bike gear and some washing of smalls. Our first priority was a group photo with Santa Claus, and the delivery of two letters from Gibby's grandchildren.

The village is located right on the Artic Circle, with us crossing it for the second time. Once again, we dined on delicacies such as salmon and reindeer, and then enjoyed a stroll round the many Christmas shops.

Gavle is an attractive city, with clean, graffiti free, tree lined streets. A short walk in the sunshine discovered a shopping mall, which allowed Ian to purchase a replacement for his trainers, which had disintegrated.

Another mile munching day followed, with the approach to Jonkoping, giving spectacular views of the coastline and islands, with the sun reflecting off the water.

After an overnight stop in Jonkoping, we left Sweden but instead of a ferry, we opted for a ride over the spectacular Oresund Bridge into Denmark. The 8 km bridge ends at a 4 km artificial island, which then leads into a 4 km tunnel.

Prior to heading into the tunnel, Dave led us to a great viewpoint, where we took some great pics in the sunshine and set up our GoPros to record the crossing. In the short time it took us to ride to the tolls, the weather changed.

As we entered the bridge the heavens opened, making the footage fairly poor.



Nordcap continued

We arrived at our hotel in Copenhagen, which turned out to be the poshest hotel of our trip. We decided to stretch our legs, and Ian suggested a walk to the Little Mermaid, which some found underwhelming, but still wanted to get their pic taken with her, and they got to see a nice seaplane.

The 1st August started with a brief run through Denmark, into Germany and more rain, as we headed to the town of Flensburg.

The hotel was small and tucked amongst houses, but as always, hospitality was good. Once dried out, following a suggestion from the hotel, we headed to a nearby Balkan restaurant called Cevapcici. The staff were great, and we enjoyed probably the best meal of the trip so far with a variety of steaks and schnitzel. At the end of the meal the waiter brought us some shot glasses with a clear liquid, and we were instructed to down it in one. It was some form of schnapps and certainly got a reaction from most. Given the quality and quantity of food the prices were very reasonable.

From Germany we travelled into the Netherlands, unfortunately with spells of torrential rain to our last stay before the ferry at Hotel Trix, in Arnhem. The manager, a larger-than-life character, described it as a restaurant with rooms, which were large and comfortable.

The next day was our first one off the bikes since we began, and a taxi ride took us into the centre of Arnhem and the famous Jack Frost Bridge and museum.

In the evening, we were joined by Karen, a Dutch biker who some knew through Facebook. The hotel laid on a first class meal for our last night, with a variety of extremely tasty dishes. Some finished with coffee, including Alan, who couldn't understand why the sugar cube wasn't melting until Karen informed him it was a butterscotch sweet not sugar.

The day of the ferry dawned and we made a brief stop at the Airborne cemetery at Oosterbeek to pay our respects.

We had an amazing adventure, with great roads and scenery. Fuel, which we thought may be an issue in remote areas, was plentiful although sometimes in small one pump cafes. Wacky weather but came good at the right time at Nordkapp.

Throughout the journey we met bikers from all over Europe, who generally spoke English to some extent and were happy to chat. We did around 4,500 miles, and all the bikes performed well with no major issues.



Waynes Welsh Wonder John Rolfe, President England XVIII



Fourteen members of England XVIII, XIV and VII met at the Glantaff Inn in Treharris, for our annual Waynes Welsh Wonder (WWW) weekend, hosted by our honorary members Wayne Kinsey & Kevin Audis.

After a fine lunch, we set off in 30 degree heat, up past the Devil's Elbow, to Glanusk Cafe in Sennybridge. Then along the A40 and quieter lanes past Talybont reservoir, and the A465 to a Premier Inn, in Ebbw Vale, our base for both nights.

Day 2 started damp, for a ride up mountain roads, past Llangattock and Talybont to Llandovery. Breakfast was at the West End Café, which is well recommended.

Then we were off again, on more Mountain roads past Llyne Brianne reservoir, past the Devils Staircase to Rhayader, for lunch in The Coach House at Gwystre.

Twisty roads to Builth Wells, were followed by more lovely roads up to Brecon. We left Brecon in the rain heading for Talgarth, Crickhowell and back to our Premier Inn.

We said our goodbyes on day 3, but not before more fine riding to Abergavenny, Clytha, Raglan, Usk and back to Chepstow, where we went our separate ways.

It was a great weekend, with lovely company, superb roads and scenery, and raising £12.50 in road related fines (mainly indicators), and £64 from our dice game for our charity pot.



Wartime Memories Spike Ray, Secretary, England X

England X took the opportunity to combine two events into one August day.



Our first stop was Cambridge City Cemetery, for a tour of the Commonwealth war graves from the First World War.

Once again, our resident military historian, Emrys, brought to life the names of some of those remembered there. We heard how the war introduced the idea of communal cemeteries, and how the need for ground was met when churchyards filled, and populations grew.

The military hospital in Cambridge, meant that men buried in the city were not always local. One such was the earliest grave, Private John Pringle, of the Durham Light Infantry from Gateshead, who never made it to the Western Front, but had signed up and was ready to serve.

From further afield are the four Belgian casualties of 1914, who were evacuated to Cambridge. It is important to remember the valiant defence by the Belgians in the early stages of the war, which enabled the fighting retreat at Mons by the British army.

The stories of several other men were heard, including some close to home such as Private Richard Harrison, of the Cambridgeshire Regiment.

Emrys moved us onto the Dominions plot, to discuss the men from around the world who signed up to defend the Empire. Men from as far afield as Newfoundland, Canada and the Transvaal are remembered with private, as well as CWGC graves.

Wartime Memories continued

The final memorial was to Lt Col Louie Tebbutt, of the Cambridgeshire Regiment which is, unusually, in the form of a Military Cross. He survived the war, having fought against illness and the establishment to serve overseas. His three sons Oswald, Roger and Charles were all officers in the Cambridgeshire Regiment too. Oswald and Roger were both killed in action, whilst Charles survived, and was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry at St Julien. However, he was not to avoid tragedy, dying a few years later in a freak accident, whilst skating in the Fens.

The second location for the day, was a new museum at the former RAF Bottisham. The site is excellent, and tells the story of the airmen of the RAF, USAAF and Belgian Air Force, who were stationed there in WW2. Many artefacts have been donated from the families of US servicemen and the museum is fascinating and informative. An added bonus were the home made cakes on offer. The prize exhibit is the replica P51 Mustang, made out in the colour scheme of the Station Commander which provided a fitting photo backdrop before heading off to all points of the four counties.



Knights Rock: Germany XXXIV (34) Rally - England II & XIV Experience

Roger Hopes, England XIV



The two chapters met up at the Premier Inn Ashford North. Kevin & Sue Adamson (XIV), and Mick Feeney with “our” Hazel enjoyed a convivial evening, before setting off the next day for Dover. DFDS got us on to an earlier crossing and we rode to Ypres. (Hotel O on the main square, around €80 with breakfast, highly recommended). It was very warm so again a beer early doors, and then something to eat before Naomi & Phil Gledhill met us after some delays at the tunnel.

Then Belgian Blue Knights, Pierre & Gwenny Brecka, joined us at the bar next to the gate. Kev & Sue went to the Menin Gate ceremony. England XVIII happened to wander past our watering hole, so more beer was drunk.

The next day was a long ride to Beckum, Germany. The hotel emailed me the day before saying they didn't do food, so a taxi into Beckum for a lovely evening out and night cap of Drambuie, courtesy of Michael back at the hotel.

Knights Rock continued

The short ride to the rally, turned sour about 3km from our motorway off ramp, as the Autobahn was gridlocked. Even though filtering is not allowed in Germany, with temperatures reaching 34° we had to. We arrived at the rally and got keys to our accommodation. A twin en suite room to a very high standard, I was pleasantly surprised.

There was a party in the evening with BBQ, while we saw old friends and made new ones. Entertainment was by Ronnie Wilson, who played a wide range of classic songs.

Saturday's planned activity was a guided ride to Bergen Belsen, but we went into Celle, as I had to get the cash to pay Geraltus Szadol for the Ukraine challenge coins.

Back at the rally, Mrs H suggested "a couple of beers and then back to our accommodation". It was a good plan but we never made it back.

The rally laid on a nice meal of Schnitzel, with potatoes and salad. Then there was a charity presentation of €1,000, to the Clowns who entertain the children in Hannover hospitals. Later it was announced that the coins and contributions raised €3,000 for BK Ukraine. I had a good chat with Geraltus, who told me things are getting very difficult in Poland now.

After a great breakfast on Sunday, we headed off to Aachen, saying good bye to Mick & Hazel who were off home via the Rotterdam -Hull ferry. We had a quiet night at a traditional restaurant and then off to bed. Naomi & Phil headed for the tunnel and we set off for Dunkirk, where once again, DFDS got us on to an earlier ferry

It was a really great, well attended rally, with excellent accommodation and food. One of the best rallies I've been to. I will certainly go to this one again.



Lilliput, Freshers, and a German Rally John Rolfe, President, England XVIII



Last August, 11 members of England XVIII set off on their journey to Celle, from three different directions, meeting up at the Eurotunnel for an overnight stay at Ypres, in Belgium.

The next day we travelled up to Essen, in Germany, for another overnigher. This was a great night in the Lilliput pub, until Tiny turned up and took half the space.

We then continued our journey to Celle, for the Germany 34 rally. It was a great weekend, with good food and entertainment, where we met lots of new and old friends.



On Sunday, we left for Nijmegen, in the Netherlands, where we spent the night. It coincided with their university freshers' week "poor us!". Then we pushed onto Brugge, in Belgium, taking in all the scenic bridges and tunnels en-route...what a beautiful city. We had several long days in the saddle, but it was well worth it. 1,650 miles in total for me. Add another couple of hundred miles for Scott, our member from Cornwall.



Getting hot in Wales

John Garfield, England X



For this year's annual Chapter outing, it was our pleasure to venture into Wales, with four days of glorious motorcycling weather ahead of us.

We had a nice steady ride on lovely traffic free roads, to The Baskerville Hall Hotel, near Hay on Wye, with our refreshment stops including the Pig Place near Banbury, Ye Old Hobnails Inn near Tewksbury and ice cream at Oakchurch farm shop.

Unfortunately, our President got a puncture in Hereford, but thanks to the help of a local garage, Sharks Motorcycles, who went the extra mile working after hours, they were soon back on the road.

Our Day 2 highlights included some scenic and twisty, traffic free roads through picturesque villages, out to Devils Bridge and Aberystwyth, with more ice cream and fish n chips. It had been another hot day, so cooling showers were had once back at base.

Day 3 was President Alan's planning contribution, with a run over scenic Gospel Pass and on to Brecon. What we didn't know, was that part of this Pass had been washed away by recent rains, so ignoring the "Road Closed" signs, our intrepid leader continued onwards.

Now for Jess, one of our newest and youngest members, Wales was the furthest she had travelled on her bike, and she was just getting to grips with the sweeping bends and direction changes of the Welsh countryside, when all of a sudden, she was heading towards her first introduction to "Off Roding"!

Wales continued

Finding our access clear, we forged ahead (for a bit), with the tarmac surface slowly giving way to gravel and sand, allowing Jess further opportunity to hone her off road skills, oh how she laughed! It didn't look or feel pretty, but all got through safely, just! As the road got narrower and the surface rougher, we came across yet another "Road Closed" sign. Further investigation revealed that the workers were having a brew, and allowed us to go through. The road was now just hardcore, but it slowly returned to good old tarmac. Well done, Jess, you made it!



Back to base to freshen up for an evening meal at The Three Tuns in Hay on Wye. It had been decided that we should walk the mile and a quarter to the pub. We had a lovely meal, with more mayhem and merriment, followed by phoning for a taxi home, cos it was dark. After numerous unsuccessful calls to the local one man cab firms, it was a steady yomp home with phone torches in hand, still we walked off some calories. All in all, we had another very successful and entertaining adventure.



The final day saw us heading home via Worcester, where the group got split up due to traffic and Sat Navs. Eventually we met up again at Stratford Upon Avon, for a final ice cream. Here the group separated, to head to their various homes across three counties. We can highly recommend The Baskerville Hall Hotel as a base to explore Wales.

Bigger and Better Lisa Pawsey, England XVIII



The trip along the TET (Trans Euro Trail) in 2022 had a bigger impact on me than I had realised. It had been my first trail riding trip away from home, and not only was I totally inexperienced in trail riding, I was also inexperienced in riding outside the UK.

After returning home and reflecting on this trip, I knew that riding through the dirt roads of any country is what motorcycling means to me. A plan for another trip was being hatched.

The responses I received from people when I excitedly told them my plans meant nothing. The advice of 'Why don't you get a bigger bike' and 'You'll need a better seat' fell on deaf ears. I had done it once, but I wanted to do more, go further.

I was again going to ride my trusty 'Champagne' a 250cc, 15 year old Yamaha Serow, and follow the TET and ACT (Adventure Country Tracks) through Spain and Portugal. I planned to reach the Southern tip of Portugal, and have a swim in the sea, before turning around and doing the trails in reverse back to the UK.

I have been riding the green lanes every week in UK since my last trip, so I had more experience to tackle this one.

Trans Euro Trail continued

The ACT is a network of off road routes and tracks of varying difficulty. There are currently seven countries that have ACT routes. They differ from the TET in that they are designed with bigger bikes in mind. However, this doesn't mean that my 250cc would not be able to tackle the route, but I would need to keep in mind how deep those river crossings were!

Last year I had over packed, even taking my heated jacket in case of inclement weather. This year I packed minimally. I regretted this within 30 minutes of landing in Santander, as the rain was biblical. We found shelter in a petrol station, but soon moved on when I realised that I was surrounded by metal containers and the thunder and lightning was coming thick and fast. My new, all singing and dancing waterproof kit proved anything but. Within five minutes I was sitting in a soggy puddle, and my feet squelched in my boots.

As Spain does not have an ACT yet, we followed the TET for the first two days from Santander, going through the edge of the Picos mountain range, finally reaching Braganca in Portugal without realising, as the border was a small river going through a village deep in the mountains. There was a small sign in someone's front driveway, announcing the Spanish / Portugal border, which didn't make it easy to manhandle Champagne in front of the sign for a photo. The TET in Spain held beautiful views from the top of the mountains. But Portugal was something special. The pine forests smell so sweet, and the trails go on for miles. Little huts dotted around the forest provide shelter for the loggers, and the network of tracks and trails familiar to them, seemed impossible to navigate by us.

One particular day, we were travelling around a couple of huge lakes and up to 5,500ft, on rocky trails. My tool tube decided early on it wasn't up for the trip. Last year the lid had rattled off, spewing the contents into the path of the rider behind me. This year, the whole bracket snapped off. Leaving the tool tube dangling dangerously close to my spoked wheel. Luckily it was spotted, and no damage done. That tool tube was destined for the rubbish bin.

The conditions were not good, by the end of the day we had stopped to decide about a slippery uphill trail, which looked daunting. It seemed senseless to go back, so we decided to tackle it. I got on my trusty bike, lost balance, and went straight over the other side, taking the bike with me. Going back didn't seem so senseless after all.

The route averages 250km per day, which we found unachievable. Perhaps on bigger bikes, but not for us. We were lucky that the deep river crossings were anything but. At best, they were a trickle. The ground was mostly dry, and dusty. There were several places where wild fires had wiped out the beautiful landscape, but there were even better places, where the landscape was beginning not only to recover, but positively flourish.

The end of the ACT is on the beach in South Portugal, near the Spanish border.

There is no finish line, no welcome sign and nothing to make anyone notice that you have ridden the length of the country; through mountains, forest, sand and rivers. Let alone the rocky trails, the thick mud and clay, the hairpins and switchbacks up and down adding to thousands of feet.



The falling off. The blisters. The aches and strains: But it sure feels good when you get there. And you don't need people to notice because if you know, you know.

Informal Apple Orchard Camp Steve Bendell, England XIV



This summer, we spent two informal midweek days at Apple Orchard Campsite. No bikes, and just 11 people: including Leonie and Steve our UKIC Chair and Secretary.

A couple of bikers from the local chapter popped in to see us for a chat on the first afternoon when we arrived. It was good to catch up with England XX.



We spent a couple of pleasant days in a field with Donkeys, Goats and Ducks, also with some beer, cider, whiskey etc. etc....

Some did go to see local attractions, including the Dean Forest Railway, with a trip on a steam train, The Dean Heritage Centre and Caerleon Roman Amphitheatre. Others just chilled on the site.

In the evenings, we visited a nearby pub for a meal.

Returning to sit outdoors, chatting and enjoying the company, with some libation and Welsh Cakes baked by my mother-in-law.

Apple Orchard was as accommodating and pleasant as always, and their cider was very nice, just as I remembered it.



Exmoor Extravaganza Steve Bendell, England XIV



We wanted to try something different for our chapter members, so with the tenacity of one of our Knights Ladies, Maggie, who found a hotel to accommodate us in Lynton, Devon, several members met up on the first day on our route down from South Gloucestershire. Three bikes met at Patchway and travelled a wiggly route, avoiding the M5 across Somerset to Lillypool Café at Shipham, where another bike joined us. Now we had four bikes and seven people. A trip across the very rough roads of Sedgmoor got us to Bridgewater and then on to Williton, where another bike and rider joined us at the Blue Anchor for a bit of lunch. After lunch, we headed off on a loop across Exmoor, towards Dulverton via Simonsbath and back up to Lynton. There were some hairy hairpin bends to test our riding skills, but fantastic roads and scenery. The weather was lovely which always helps.

At our hotel for the night, where we were joined by another trike rider, there were now six bikes and 10 people. A few beers, some nice food and the decision was made to ride to Dartmoor the following day.

Exmoor continued

On Day 2, we left the hotel and headed off to Barnstable, then down to Hatherleigh where we stopped for a cuppa at a very interesting Garden centre, 'Made-Well', which is a training centre for people with learning difficulties and disabilities. The trainees were very happy to see us and the bikes. I chatted to one, who told us his dad was in heaven and his mum in Romania. He was a very jolly soul, who works at the centre two days a week. Just one story from the many we could have told from this very touching visit.

We then headed off down to Oakhampton, Tavistock, across Dartmoor to Princetown, where one member recounted his time at the Prison. He was a trainee not an inmate. We stopped at the Old Police Station for lunch, which is a very nice café now.

The weather was now warming up as we headed up across the moor via Two Bridges, up to Moretonhampstead, through fabulous scenery and roads, with lots of ponies and sheep. We then headed through Devon to Crediton and Tiverton, where we planned a fuel stop, but there was no petrol...oops! So we pressed on towards South Molton, where we found fuel at a service station on the A361. Then we crossed Exmore via Simonsbath, back to the hotel. A ride of 161 miles, and almost 8 hours out. We were ready for an emergency beer when we got back.



On Day 3, we planned a route back across the moor on a wiggly route to Bridgewater, across the Mendips again, and back home. It didn't quite work that way, a missed turning, after following a tractor belching out neat diesel, choking us for several miles. We had a good ride to Taunton, where we stopped at a garden centre, sitting in a greenhouse on a very hot day with a cuppa. We were already struggling, but this finished us off, so we decided to hit the motorway and head straight home.

Apart from an abundance of temporary traffic lights and long periods behind tractors, we had an absolutely fabulous three days.

Transatlantic Origins Spike Ray, Secretary, England X

It was an opportunity not to be missed when the founding President of England 10 returned to the UK for the first time in many years.

The origin of our Chapter began in the late nineties with Corey, a US servicemen stationed at RAF Mildenhall in Suffolk. He was a motorcycle trainer and an enthusiastic advocate for the Blue Knights, having been a member before his posting to the UK. He decided to see if there was an appetite for a local Chapter, and put a notice in the magazine of Cambridgeshire Constabulary. Coincidentally, there was a readymade group of motorcyclists working at Parkside police station in Cambridge and one of them, Dawnie, answered the call.

In a commendable piece of recruiting Corey made a presentation to them and the Chapter was born. They became the first President and Vice President, starting with nine members, also drawing from friends in the Royal Air Force Police.

The new Chapter was supported by brother and sister Blue Knights in the UK and abroad. Membership grew and our Charter was granted in 2000.



Our Anglo American heritage is represented in our Chapter patch. We have had difficult times but celebrated our 21st anniversary with our highest ever membership numbers, and we continue to grow. We are proud to have serving and former members from many police forces, and still have former RAF Police and RMP in our number.

In the spirit of our founders, we are forging new links with US services. After several years in the UK, Corey and Dawnie returned to the USA and now live in Florida. Both are still active Blue Knights with Florida III, for whom Dawnie is the Secretary. Now all we need is a Chapter barbecue there...

The Next Generation: Police Scotland Youth Volunteers Iain Furguson, Scotland II



Our Scottish Chapters had a great day out at Levenmouth Police station, to meet the Police Scotland Youth Volunteers (PSYV). A few of us got held up at a road traffic accident, but was good for my granddaughter Myla to see the Police, Fire and Ambulance services all doing their bit in an accident.

A special thanks to Dave (Chuck) Norris, for arranging the visit and also for getting us all a tour around the custody suite, which was interesting and entertaining. Not quite sure how I ended up locked in the cell though.

It was great for Myla to meet the other kids, and she can't wait till my arm is sorted and she can go pillion on my motorbike. We even had bagpipes, courtesy of our Belgian Blue Knight Mac, who came along with his wife.

England VI Supports The Blood Bikes





Knights of the Round Table

Blue – Red – White – Green – Orange

In this section of Knight Riders, we highlight our brother & sister Knights in emergency and military service

Red Knights News



England 2 start the riding season off by bringing Easter joy to the children in their area.

This year was the 42nd Nottingham Charity Easter Egg Run, organised by Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service.

Bikers from the Nottinghamshire area, including Red & Blue Knights, gathered at Nottingham's Forest Recreation Ground (The Goose Fair site), for the start of the 14 mile ride to Mansfield Fire Station.

Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service hosted the Egg collection again, having done so for many years now. Thanks must go to Chief Fire Officer Craig Parkin, for his and his staffs' continued support.

The event is organised by England 2 Red Knight, Tim Marston. Tim puts a lot of effort, and his own time into organising this event, which provides

Easter Eggs for disadvantaged children in the county. You can see above that he had quite a haul of easter Eggs.

The following Sunday, we were at it again, along with Blue Knights England 6 and England 9.

We assisted South Yorkshire Police, with the marshalling of hundreds of bikers through Sheffield's streets, finishing at the Sheffield Childrens' Hospital, to deliver dozens of Easter Eggs and donations.

This has become an annual event, which finishes with the Marshals riding to the South Yorkshire Police's Social Club for a bacon sandwich and social gathering. All of which further strengthens the bonds between the Red and Blue Knights.



All the Knights together KRT 2023 Neil Hallam, Editor



Twenty minutes up the motorway, then I was almost at the rally site and following Green Knights Ireland's signposts to Ring Commons Sports Centre, near Naul. The weather even stayed nice for the ride in, I had left the rain in Anglesey.

All the Knights together, seemed a fantastic idea when I first spotted Knights of the Round Table (KRT) several years ago in mainland Europe. Blue, Red, White and Green seemed too good to miss, and I started thinking about going over one year. Then, like so many things, the events were cancelled through Covid.

2022 saw the US airmen of the Green Knights, based at Ramstein in Germany, resurrect KRT. Other trips got in the way, and I didn't make the German KRT rally, but England's newly formed White Knights did go, and brought back a story of a great event, which I ran in Knight Riders last year.



Like the Eurovision Song Contest, whichever chapter wins KRT's various competitions gets to host next year's event. The 2022 winners were Ireland's Green Knight Chapter. So, fresh from good memories of Ireland's hosting of our own International Convention, I started making plans to return across the Irish Sea.

KRT continued

I initially gathered some interest within England VI. Then Ireland's KRT fell at risk of cancellation, as event insurance premiums in Ireland went through the roof. By the time KRT was confirmed, my would be companions had made other plans. A pity, as Green Knights Ireland put on a great event.

As you might expect of a Military Motorcycle Club, it was at the other end of the comfort scale to most UK Blue Knight rallies. We were camping on a sports field and using the changing room showers. Some people did stay in nearby hotels, including the Belgian Green Knights, whose wives made up most of the rally's female contingent.

There was also a big enough car park for a few camper vans and motor homes. There wasn't any electric hook up available, but that shouldn't matter for two nights.

As the only UK visitor, and only Blue Knight, they were pleased I had made the effort and made me very welcome. Likewise, the solitary Red Knight from Switzerland got lots of attention too.

Friday evening was a very relaxed affair, held around the sports ground's clubhouse. Our evening meal brought back memories of my years doing CBRN alongside the military. A delicious chicken curry had been cooked at the nearby army barracks, and brought to us in a huge insulated container. No one asked about vegetarian options, but it would just have been rice.

The party was still going when I got up for the loo about 1am, so Saturday morning was a fairly leisurely start. We rolled out about 10am for a ride through the area's beautiful countryside.

First stop was Dave's Diner for breakfast. This was a US styled diner, with a car and bike theme. With close to 50 of us arriving together, I expected a long wait for breakfast. They were well prepared, and expecting only the size of breakfast to vary, they had plenty of food ready to serve. Most of us had the standard offer of Full Irish, while a few braved Big D's Special, which came on the metal tray pictured. One of the US airmen did order pancakes, to the derision of all.

The ride was mercifully short (about 50 miles), rather than the endurance rides at some rallies. It was nice to stop at some of the area's highlights and get to know the many and varied knights.

The most historic of places we visited was the 13th century castle at Swords, in Fingal County, just outside of Dublin.

Back at camp, a somewhat shortened series of motorcycle handling competitions were held between the late afternoon showers.



The conversation at our stops, or on site never got stale, as everyone had a slightly different story. Varying times in the military, some still serving, others long retired. Their branches of service were just as varied, from infantry, through navy, engineers and aircrew, to one Austrian, who is still serving as a private military contractor in a medical facility on the Ukrainian front line.

The roll call was:

- **Green Knights Ireland**
- **Green Knights Belgium**
- **Green Knights Austria**
- **Green Knights from two US Airforce bases in Germany**
- **Red Knights Switzerland**
- **Red Knights Ireland**
- **Blue Knights England VI**




Green Knights Ireland won the competitions for the second year running, so in Eurovision tradition, they should be hosting again. They are adamant that one year is enough, so who knows where KRT 2024 will be held. Watch this space.

What I am sure of, is that mixing with the many colours of European Knights is an experience well worth having.

Events Section

November 2023



BLUE KNIGHTS ENGLAND XVIII DEVON CHAPTER

ARE PROUD TO PRESENT THEIR 6TH ANNUAL
XMAS PARTY WEEKEND

FRIDAY 24TH NOVEMBER – SUNDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2023

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.
2022's event was another roaring success, raising £1855 for Care for kids North Devon, Mind-for-you & Police compassionate Fund. The club have decided once again to return to this excellent venue, and welcome our Brother and Sister Knights, and Family's, from around the UKIC & World to come and join us for the weekend get together. 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 2022 raised £1855!!

**** Each Guest to Donate 1 x QUALITY prize for the Raffle please, and Dress Code on Saturday Night is **FORMAL****

Prices and booking as follows:
Only £61 per person per night, (based on 2 sharing) This is for Bed, Full Buffet English style Breakfast or Continental Breakfast, (or both!!) and 3 course Evening meals both nights!!!
Sea View accommodation please add £6 per person per night. (only 19 Seaview rooms available, 2 south facing rooms.... Be quick, and state what required on booking) Good rates given to us if you require a longer stay.
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 (see TLH terms & conditions) balance to be paid in September 2023. 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 24/11/2023 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 approximately 1500hrs
Leaving Sunday 26/11/2023Rooms to be vacated by 1100hrs

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



BK LEMC England XX
Welcomes you to our 2024 Summer
Camping Rally on 5th & 6th of July 2024
Apple Orchard Campsite, Westbury on Severn.



Book your pitch directly
with the
campsite on their website:
<http://appleorchardcampsite.co.uk>
or call 01452 760618



**Blue Knights® International
50th Anniversary Convention
July 21-26, 2024**



Hotel/Condo Reservations

Main Hotel is full- Condos are available!

- Call Sugarloaf Resort Hotel at 1-800-843-5623, Mon-Fri 8am-4pm to reserve
- There are no online reservations
- Rooms/Condos require 50% payment at time of booking and remaining balance 14 days prior to arrival

Cancellations/Refunds

- Reservations can be cancelled up to 14 days prior to arrival. A full refund will be given minus a \$50 administration fee
- Reservations cancelled within the 14 days prior to arrival (July 5-19, 2024) will forfeit 50% of the total reservation including taxes and resort fees
- Reservations cancelled within 48 hours of arrival will not receive any refund
- In cases of unforeseen accident/medical emergency preventing/disrupting a member's reservation, refunds will be dealt with on an individual basis if/when required

Camping-

For Self Contained Units (No S/W/E)

- All camping spots must be reserved 1 week prior.
Spots will be in a large parking lot.
 - **Single Vehicle- 10'x22' spot:** \$25/day
 - **Tow Vehicle & Trailer/Camper:** \$50/day



**Join our
Facebook Group!**



**Registration:
\$225**

Registration Fee includes:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Welcome Bag | • Nightly Hospitality |
| • 50th Convention Pin | • 15 Beer/Soda tickets |
| • Opening Ceremony | • Souvenir Mug |
| • Scenic Rides | • BBQ w/ entertainment |
| • Motorcycle Comps w/ Prizes | • 50th Anniversary Banquet |

Tentative Activities/Events

- Opening Ceremonies
- Meet the Founders & Past Presidents Event
- Motorcycle Competitions
- Cornhole Tournament / BBQ
- Bangor Day w/ Int. Office Visits
- Cigar and Bourbon event
- Sip 'N Craft / Trivia / Game Night
- Outdoor Entertainment

Area Activities(\$)

- Moose Cruisin' (an evening tour to see moose!)
- Chair Lift rides to the top of Sugarloaf Mt.
- Disc Golf
- Pontoon boat tour of Flagstaff Lake
- Golf on Sugarloaf's world class golf course
- Ziplining

**For more info & registration, visit www.bki2024international.com
or the International Website**

Blue Knights® International **Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc.**



Blue Knight's England XI Present their International Rally and 21st Annual Law Ride Memorial Weekend 26th, 27th, 28th July 2024.

This weekend's party is to be held at The Yarnfield Conference and Training Centre. Stone, Staffordshire. ST15 0NL

Rideout on the Saturday and entertainment both nights.

This is to support the Blue Knights Annual Law Ride at the National Memorial Arboretum on Sunday 28th July.

The costs for the weekend are £155 dinner, bed and Breakfast per person for the two nights sharing twin or double room , Single occupancy is £195 Dinner , Bed and Breakfast. This includes £10 registration fee for the Law Ride.

50 % deposit on booking remainder by June 20th

Law ride T shirts available to order at £20 .

To book email paddy on blueknightslawride@outlook.com





Blue Knights Scotland I The Isle of Man Gathering

(home of TT racing)

26th - 28th of July 2024

Accommodation at King William's College



Organised Ride Outs on Saturday

Entertainment will include a Disco on the Friday night with a Pipe Band and Milky Quayle (TT Champion) as after Dinner speaker on the Saturday.



£145 PP FOR THE WEEKEND inc. bed and meals

Just bring yourself and your own towels!

Email colin.tait95@gmail.com for Booking forms

Blue Knights® International
Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc.





ENGLAND VII PRESENTS

CASTLE ON THE HILL

RALLY

16TH - 18TH AUGUST 2024
FRAMLINGHAM COLLEGE,
SUFFOLK, ENGLAND

£120 P/P INCLUDES -

- ACCOMMODATION
- BREAKFAST SAT/SUN
- DINNER FRI/SAT
- SATURDAY RIDE-OUTS
- RAFFLE
- LIVE ENTERTAINMENT



PROUDLY SUPPORTING



BLUE KNIGHTS LEMC ENGLAND VII

@BLUEKNIGHTSENG7

TO REGISTER, EMAIL : MRCMIZZI1984@GMAIL.COM

September 2024



Blue Knights Jersey I

UK & I Conference 2024



20th – 22nd September
Radisson Blu Hotel - Jersey

Conference package includes Friday night registration and rally gift package, BBQ and social on the terrace, overnight accommodation, Saturday breakfast, lunch out on tour, evening dinner with entertainment and overnight accommodation and Sunday breakfast.
£285 per person (2 sharing) - £480 single occupancy.

Early bird booking (before end February 2024) provides reduced rate plus an upgrade to superior sea view room (whilst availability lasts)
£260 per person (2 sharing) - £450 single occupancy

Additional nights available for bed and breakfast at a reduced rate.

Island Ride out tour on the Saturday (Minibus for those without bikes) taking in the stunning scenery and culture that Jersey has to offer.

**Rally registration forms to be completed and emailed to
conference@blueknightsjersey1.co.uk**

