

TRANSGLOBEMOTO.COM - RTW - 2009

Transglobemoto Newsletter - April 2009

Issue 9

Welcome to our last newsletter before we head off around the world. Your next issues will be much bigger and more detailed once we're on the road as we'll be logging events on the way and bringing you the best highlights in each issue towards the end of each month. As the time approaches, the excitement is beginning to build up. Here's an update on what we've been up to.



Donations



A huge "THANK YOU" to Digby Brown Solicitors, who made a substantial donation to our charity at the beginning of April. They are Edinburgh-based and one of Scotland's leading law firms.

Their department that specialises in motorcycle accident claims is headed by Brenda Mitchell, who, apart from being a keen biker, is very experienced in this avenue of the legal profession. If you have been involved in an accident over the past 3 years and would like to enquire if you have a claim, contact Digby Brown on 0845 273 2323 or visit their website at www.digbybrown.co.uk



The staff at Hein Gericke, Queen Street, Edinburgh (0131 220 4156) held an open day on 25th April 2009 where we had our GS Adventures on display – many thanks once again gents!! We collected some more cash for our worthy cause. You can find the HG website at www.hein-gericke.co.uk Their 2009 range of clothing and accessories is amazing.

Thanks also to Emily Thyne (Gordon's wee Maw) for donating £100 to our charity using the Just Giving link on our website. It's a quick and secure way of making a donation, why not give it a try?

Thanks also to Jackie and Colin from Forth Gear, High Street, South Queensferry (www.forthgear.co.uk - tel. 0131 331 4442) who made a donation to our charity from the proceeds of their raffle held on their open day in March. Our apologies that we were unable to attend the event. Forth Gear have also given the Transglobemoto Team tremendous discounts on our purchases to help us on our way and it is very much appreciated. They sell a huge range of motorcycle clothing and accessories, have some fantastic choices of fashionable biker gear and, unlike many shops, they have a wide selection of clothing for lady bikers, backed up with expert advice from the staff.

Team News

We reported previously that Jim Graham was only going as far as Berlin however, since then he has decided that he is not able to come with us at all. We wish him all the best. At the last minute, TGM friend John Boyle has stepped in to provide back-up car support to David who will be riding to Berlin and back on the Martin Conquest. IT guru Graham has been brushing up on his keyboard skills to provide IT and PC administrative support whilst we're gone. He'll also be mowing Tom's lawn over the summer so Tom can expect to come home to a floral display of a Heart of Midlothian emblem in the front garden.

Journey Preparations

The bikes are ready and waiting for us and we have just about finished packing. From the amount of gear shown in the photo you'll see that we are going to be fully laden. Tom is still packing his hair care products and Gordon is awaiting a fresh batch of doughnuts to take with him. David is looking out a selection of his speciality whisky. John is reading the instructions for the Garmin.



No room for your undies!

Last week, we went along to C and S Motorcycle workshops at East Calder where Crichton checked over the bikes and gave us a lot of very useful advice on the mechanics of the machines. Many thanks for taking the time with us Crichton and Sheila, we hope to see you on 9th May! Although he tried, Tom will not get the coveted 'Apprentice Bike Mechanic of the Year' award!

Get your bike ready for the summer ahead call C&S on 01506 883121 and arrange your service with people you can trust.

Где - наши Визы?

Entry visas have now been obtained for Kazakhstan but due to changes in the process, we are still awaiting the Russian visas. Our agent Robert at Scott's Travel in London (www.scottsbusinesstravel.co.uk) is working on it and we'll have the visas in place before too long, however, this will mean that we'll need to send our passports to London from Europe by DHL. This will give us the chance to relax and stay put for a few days whilst this is done. Scott's Travel is the place to pick up your visas.....a good reliable and professional service.

Tom's shoulder injury has improved a great deal and he swears that he won't be doing any more aerial acrobatics. He still has a protruding lump on his shoulder which he insists isn't a chip....

David has recovered from his stunt injury too and should be okay for swinging a few nips of whisky down.

Gordon's left foot is still showing loss of power due to the prolapsed disc leaning on the sciatic nerve but he can still change gear (not those trendy clothes he wears???) and is 'good to go'. What a shower of auld crocks!!!

The Bikes

Both BMW R1200GS Adventures have been kitted out with aftermarket accessories for the trip, including oil cooler guards, headlight protectors (1 x mesh (Tom) and 1 x Perspex (Gordon)). Tom has also opted for a 'Bigfoot' side stand base, handlebar risers and a tankbag. Garmin Zumo 550 navigation units have also been fitted. The BMW bikes have a ready-made power socket wired into the Canbus harness just behind the oil cooler radiator. An after-market lead that plugs into this socket is available at specialist dealers at the ridiculously high price of £35.00 and in another instance £46.00. However, a visit onto the UK GS users' site lead to the discovery that the power cable supplied with the Garmin (which requires to be wired directly into the battery) can be modified to plug straight into the Canbus wiring harness by purchasing a repair connector from a BMW dealer for only £11.50 each. This gives the advantage of having the power supply 'switched' and saves the potential problem of coming back to a flat battery.

If you are interested in carrying out this modification to your own BMW, see the following thread for full description and photos

<http://www.ukgser.com/forums/showthread.php?t=117400&highlight=zumo+lead>

During the world trip, we intend to have the bikes serviced twice and have both tyres changed at the same time. We anticipate that the first service and change to dual purpose tyres will be in Hungary (good excuse to visit Budapest) and second service and back to road tyres on arrival at the west coast of USA. We'll keep you updated on the technical aspects and performance of the bikes in future newsletters.

Departure Day

We will be meeting at 09.00 on Saturday, 9th May 2009 and setting off from the headquarters of Capability Scotland on Ellersly Road, Edinburgh (Directions - if you're heading into Edinburgh eastwards through Corstorphine Rd, turn left at the first set of traffic lights past the zoo). You are all invited to join us and if you are a biker, why not ride with us and see us off out of Edinburgh and beyond. Coffee and bacon rolls will be available (all proceeds to charity). We anticipate a good turnout of friends, family, sponsors, fellow bikers and the media. We will depart at 10.00 and make our way down to Hull to catch the overnight ferry to Belgium. Hope to see you Saturday morning!!!

PS – Best of luck to the lads at Another Way Round who are biking through 10 countries in 9 days, starting on Friday, 8th May 2009. They're raising money for cancer research. Have a safe journey guys. More details can be found at www.anotherwayaround.com

That's all for this month folks – happy biking and stay safe over the summer.

The Transglobemoto Team

BLOG: www.transglobemoto2009.blogspot.com/

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