

TRANSGLOBEMOTO.COM - RTW - 2009

On the Road Edition -Transglobemoto Newsletter - May 2009 Issue 10

Welcome to issue 10 Newsletter. The journey is now well underway and this issue has been prepared whilst we are in Budapest.

Donations

Thanks to everyone who has made a donation to us via our secure "Just Giving" facility on the home page of our website. We have managed to pick up a few foreign coins whilst having our pee breaks at the various motorway services we called into along the way. We took delivery of a Celtic



football shirt signed by Japanese ace Shunsuke Nakamura which we will be selling when we reach Japan. We hope to do this by contacting a Japanese radio station and asking them to participate in a phone-in auction to achieve the maximum possible price for Capability Scotland.

Setting Off



We met at 0900 Saturday, 9th May 2009 to prepare for our 'send off'. Many of our friends, family and sponsors came along to say goodbye and Jimmy Sinclair was doing his best to feed us all with bacon or sausage rolls. Coffee guru Laurie Lee and his staff came along with the Cafe2U van to provide high quality coffee to attendees - thanks Laurie!!!

Tom and Gordon were 'interviewed' on video by Richard Hamer of Capability Scotland and the footage is available to view on Youtube(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGyguCFJNew>).

After the hugs and kisses we set off southbound towards Hull. The journey was uneventful apart from a stop off near Newcastle for a local newspaper photoshoot to cover David's participation in the trip. The headlight bulb on Gordon's GS blew on this journey but was easily replaced with a spare. We reached Hull safely and boarded the ferry for the overnight sail to Zeebrugge. A few beers were enjoyed that evening. Next day saw us travelling to Metz in the north east corner of France but when we arrived there, the heavens opened up, so it was a case of pitching the tents as quickly as possible. Unfortunately, John Boyle broke a tent pole whilst rushing to get set up so he ended up sleeping in his Volvo that night - bet he was more comfortable than the rest of us. This was David's first camping experience and he was truly relishing it. After Metz we headed up through Luxemburg to Germany, stopping off overnight at Bonn then onto Wolfsburg where we were met by Mario, a detective working in the Serious Crime Dept. Mario was a great host and we enjoyed dinner and a few beers at a local hostelry. We then travelled to Berlin, the end of the way for David and John but not before we enjoyed several days of sightseeing and beer tasting sessions. David had achieved his goal and was, justifiably delighted with himself.



On Saturday, 16th May, David and John set off for home, staying overnight at Bonn again before travelling the final stage to Zeebrugge on the Sunday. Meanwhile, Gordon and Tom spent a few more days at a friend's home in Berlin before riding to Poland. On entering the country, it became immediately obvious that the roads are not in the condition to which we are accustomed in the UK. Having said that, there are obvious signs that development and investment is well underway with new motorway sections and fine buildings springing up throughout the country. The Polish people are extremely friendly and in every restaurant we went to, we could always find an excellent bowl of soup on the menu!

Whilst in Krakow, we met up with Chris, a local biker, who treated us to a rapid tour of the town with us keeping up with his Honda Africa Twin and breaking all the rules of our rider training in the process!!!

Next day, we headed down to Zakopane where we spent the night at the home of Martzyn, a friend of Chris. We thoroughly enjoyed his hospitality!!



A trip over the mountainous country roads (avoiding motorways and enjoying the superb scenery) saw us pass over the border into Slovakia, where we stopped for lunch before completing our day by driving just across the border into Hungary.

An overnight stop at a small campsite left us suitably refreshed to continue south to another night under canvass in Hungary. The proprietor, Lazlow, is a former European and World Champion weightlifter. We enjoyed having a chat with him and he asked that we take some pictures with him, which we duly did (see attached).

The next stop was in Budapest, arriving there on Monday, 25th May, 2009. We eventually found the Tourist Information office (why aren't they listed in GPS Units?) and got fixed up with an excellent two roomed apartment forming part of the Nova Apartments complex. This stopover was planned to allow us to send our passports back to the UK to have our Russian visas put on. We sent them off on the Tuesday by DHL (overnight delivery) and after a nailbiting few days, we received them back in Budapest on Friday. How's that for excellent service - thanks DHL and thanks Robert from Scott's Travel Service in London for pulling out the stops. We are now GREEN TO GO!!!!!!!



The bikes were taken to BMW dealers Wallis where Tom's bike was fitted with a new pair of tyres, whilst Gordon's bike only needed a front tyre (having changed the rear one in Sept 08 following a puncture). The bikes have been booked in for service at the BMW dealer in Kiev (Ukraine) for Thursday, 4th June 2009. We will be setting off for that country on Saturday, 30th May and will be met at the border by the local Police to smooth our path

through customs/immigration.

Anyway, so far we have had a great time, met many nice people in all of the countries that we've passed through and enjoyed some fantastic food and beer. We eagerly await a new experience dealing with the cyrillic signs and meeting the people of Ukraine. That's all for this month folks - happy biking and stay safe.