



VIRAGO STAR OWNERS CLUB

www.vsoc.org.uk

# LOST RIDERS



SEPTEMBER 2007

**Centre 9**

**East & North Midlands** Derbyshire, Notts, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Northants, Rutland



## SHERWOOD SHINDIG REF'S REPORT!

**Six a side  
Football Match  
Sherwood Shindig,  
Alfreton Leisure  
Centre, July 2007**

*The football this year was a welcome break from all the rain and involved a 6-a-side match between Lost Vikings, a team made up of Karl & Will from Centre 3, (Vikings) and Mark, Alex, Daz & Paul from Lost Riders and a team from Centre 9's Lost Riders, Kev, Chris, Eddie, Ryan and Warren plus Graham from Road Sure.*

The Lost Riders, who were winners last year, were quickly into their game with some good passing between players and plenty of shots on goal. At half time they were ahead 2 – 1. In the second half they raced into a 4-1 lead and but for some fantastic goalkeeping from Paul it could have been more.

Lost Vikings then had a bit of luck with an own goal from goalkeeper Warren and that kick started their game to finish 5 – 5.

Goals for Lost Vikings were scored by Mark 3, Daz and o.g. by Warren. Lost Riders were scored by Ryan 3 and Graham 2.

The match was well contested and only 2 yellow cards were shown, both to Lost Vikings. One to Will for dissent with the ref (Will you should know, never argue with the ref) and the other was to Daz for shirt pulling ( well, a mild description for lifting a player off the ground by his shirt and putting him down again in a different place).

A penalty shoot out finished off the match with each team taking 5. Nerves were showing as the first penalty was missed by both sides. Lost Vikings finally won by 3 – 2. Congratulations to you and well done to everybody for a great game played in good spirits.

Anybody for a rematch at the next rally???  
Thanks again everybody.

**THE REF**

### Centre Rep

Malc Newton  
53 Troughbrook Road  
Hollingwood  
Chesterfield  
Derbys. S43 2JW  
01246 475704  
07747 187414  
[bloodymalc@hotmail.com](mailto:bloodymalc@hotmail.com)

### Deputy Centre Rep & Derbyshire County Rep

Ken Collingwood  
01246 229315  
07796 544 810  
[ken@collingwoodk.freemove.co.uk](mailto:ken@collingwoodk.freemove.co.uk)

### Webmaster

Terry Warren  
0115 854 5475  
07970 271209  
[billio51@hotmail.com](mailto:billio51@hotmail.com)

## **CENTRE 9 CONTACTS**

### Lincolnshire County Rep

Trevor Bridgwood  
01522 750395  
[trac5641@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:trac5641@yahoo.co.uk)

### Notts County Rep

John Simpson  
01159 373570  
[sim556@hotmail.com](mailto:sim556@hotmail.com)

### Leicestershire County Rep

Pete Brown  
0116 291 6809  
[leonebrown@btinternet.com](mailto:leonebrown@btinternet.com)

### Northants County Rep

Kev Villiers  
01536 521665  
[kevin\\_villiers@hotmail.com](mailto:kevin_villiers@hotmail.com)

### Ride-out Liaison Officer

Malc Clarke  
01623 755644  
07791 381494  
[malsuco@hotmail.com](mailto:malsuco@hotmail.com)

### Treasurer

Tessa Lunn  
0115 930 5633  
[tessa.lunn@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:tessa.lunn@tiscali.co.uk)

### Merchandiser

E J 01529 414671  
07872 075851  
[darlington@aol.com](mailto:darlington@aol.com)

### Newsletter Editor

Keith Mason  
01246 236123  
[rumbingstar@aol.com](mailto:rumbingstar@aol.com)

# Wot's On

## SEPTEMBER

- 9 Lincs Sunday meet - venue TBA  
7-9 Virago Star Club Nederland National Rally  
12 Wednesday Lincolnshire meeting 20:00 Castle Inn, Cons'by  
15-16 BMF Tailender, Peterborough - Saturday 15th - **Ken will be doing a ride out to BMF Tailender leaving the Dusty Miller Pub at 08.00 a.m.**  
29 **FREE Centre 9 Party on the 29th September STARTING AT 19.30 at GREY GOOSE GEDLING to celebrate holding our first very successful Sherwood Shindig Rally; there will be music and food FREE - MALC**

## OCTOBER

- 5-6 Outriders End of Season Party. Live music both nights, strippers on the Saturday night. Buffet included on the Friday night.  
10 Wednesday Lincolnshire meeting 20:00 Castle Inn, Coningsby  
14 Sunday meet - venue TBA

## NOVEMBER

### Bonfire Night 2007

Following the success of last year's event I have been asked to organise the Bonfire Night Event at Brandy Wharf this year. I have reserved 10 caravan and 10 tent pitches as they are getting booked already for the night. Details are as follows:

Location: **Brandy Wharf Caravan Park.**

Date: **Saturday 03 November 2007**

Cost: Caravans £10 (2 adults & 2 children). Additional adults in van charged at £4.50 each.

Tents: £4.50 per adult

Children under 10 are free.

Please e-mail Trev at [trac5641@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:trac5641@yahoo.co.uk) to reserve a place. I will need your name, type of pitch required and numbers attending. I will allocate the pitches on a first come basis, if we need further pitches I will try and get them. I know it's a long way off but if you want to come I need to know as soon as possible.

Regards

*Trev*



## DECEMBER

Bloody Christmas again - bah, humbug!

## JANUARY 08

World Peace and beer at £1 a pint (we wish!)

## WEBSITES

[www.lostriders.co.uk](http://www.lostriders.co.uk)

[www.vsoc.org.uk](http://www.vsoc.org.uk)

## WANTED

Photos, cartoons, jokes and reports on ride-outs, rallies, parties and other events for the Newsletter.

Has anyone got any photos of the Peninsula Pirates Cornish Rally?

*Thanks to all those who are sending stuff to me - it will get used in future Newsletters. Email your contributions to:*

*[rumblyingstar@aol.com](mailto:rumblyingstar@aol.com)*

## MEETING DATES & VENUES

### CENTRE 9

Grey Goose Public House  
Gedling, Nr Arnold

NOTTINGHAM

1st Tues of the month from  
7.30pm

includes FREE BUFFET

### DERBYSHIRE

PowerSports Clay Cross

1st Sunday of the month from  
10.00 am

and

Dusty Miller Public House

BARLBOROUGH

(just off J30 M1)

2nd Monday of the month from  
7.30pm

### LEICESTERSHIRE / NORTHANTS

The Tavern Inn

WALCOTE,

Nr Lutterworth

1 minute from J20 M1

2nd Wednesday of the month  
from 7.30pm

### LINCOLNSHIRE

Castle Inn, CONINGSBY

2nd Wednesday of each month  
from 8pm ALSO

2nd Sunday's - various locations!

# Male's Bits

Hi everyone, hope you are all fit and well and enjoying what can officially be called a wet summer. Once again we've kept ourselves busy, whether it be national VSOC stuff, Centre stuff or family summer holidays.

Last month it was the turn of our neighbours 'The Saxon Warriors' to hold a rally; the weather forecast was reasonable for the weekend so a good turnout was to be expected. On saying that, the middle two rallies always suffer from being 2-dayers and being in the main holiday season – especially if you've got kids or work at a school. The ride down was going fine until we hit a big tailback this side of Stamford, once clear of the accident everything was fine. The most disappointing thing about the journey was the supposedly longest straightest road in Britain – all 26 miles of it. All I can say is, whoever made the claim (I think it was in the Ride magazine) had just studied a map and not been anywhere near it. The campsite was flat and well looked after . . . and dry, which makes a change. The weekend was in the traditional VSOC style, with everyone enjoying him or herself, even the rain on Saturday night didn't put a damper on things.

Our first Sunday of the month meet-ups is still going well. A dozen or so of us met up for a bacon buttie and the majority went for a pleasant 60 mile ride into the Peak District. It was a really pleasant morning – the first for quite a while so we expected the roads to be busy. Fortunately we managed to find plenty of quiet roads that we hadn't been on for a while, the trees shaded us nicely and we had a nice very pleasant Sunday ride-out.

Also this month Ken – Centre Deputy Rep and Derbyshire county rep took 13 of us for the weekend to a Camping Barn near Pickering, on the edge of the Yorkshire moors. Our accommodation was basic but more than adequate for our needs and the weather

was cracking – apart from a thunderstorm on the way home. Normally we'd spend the weekend on the bikes but as we'd all travelled 100 miles or so to get there we decided to have the evening in. To cut a long story short it was decided that the most sober of us was to go to the local chippie. I can just imagine the look on their faces when Harry ordered 12 fish, 13 portions of chips, etc, etc £52 it came to. Must have been the best days takings they'd had for a while. On Saturday I got shooed out of the way to go shoppin' for the BBQ later; whilst I'd gone everyone got busy putting banners up for my 50<sup>th</sup> birthday a couple of days later. We had a good ride-out covering a big mixture of roads – coastal, hairpin bends, moorland, long straights and plenty of stunning scenery. The BBQ went down very well, especially when it was washed down with a few beers. Between us we covered over 3,000 miles over the weekend and a very enjoyable weekend it was too. Thanx everyone for my pressie and for making my birthday weekend very special and memorable. Did I mention Ken and Rick Morris dancin'. (See photo below!)



Anyway that's it for me, I've got to start packing for the last VSOC rally of the year, see you all soon, enjoy the rest of your newsletter. Ride safe and be happy.

*Male*



*(I think they are Morris dancing, but I'm not sure about the way Ken is standing?! - Ed.)*

# Gothic rumblings

Hello there my fellow Viragofans and Starlovers. Jane and I had a fantastic time in California during July /August - it's the year of our 30th wedding anniversary (I know we don't look old enough, but I was a child bride), so we decided really to push the boat out this year and go to America - we'd never

been before. We had 28 days of Californian sun and blue skies, thus missing the crappy non-Summer over here. We hired a Harley-Davidson Heritage Softtail - it proved to be almost brand new with only about 1,000 miles on the clock - \$20,000 worth of bike, the hire bloke told us - and we headed off down Pacific Highway 1 from San Francisco to Monterey and beyond to the Big Sur coast. I'll tell you more and show some pics in a future (midwinter) newsletter, when there's no other news and we all need cheering up. Bye for now, and happy Autumn riding, weather permitting...

*Keith*

## Ken's Report from Derbyshire

Well, another month has flown by and the **Shindig** seem so long ago to me, it is like the Sunday dinner, a long time in the preparation and all too soon over, and the dishes washed and all put away!

*We had the sad loss of our dear friend Barbara last month, which for most of us is still proving hard to come to terms with, our love goes out to John and I hope that our good support at the funeral was of some small comfort to him, and hope the pain eases for him soon. We shall miss her so very much. God Bless.*

We had the **Saxon Warriors Rally** at the end of July, a group of us had a ride in to **Cambridge** area for that and **Daz** on his maiden trip with his newly aquired trailer gave not only himself some heart stopping moments ,but the rest of us as well! I am assured he is mastering the beast and it is now safe to ride closer than 50 metres to him. The rally site was nice and dry and I think a good time was had by all.

The Sunday meet at **Claycross** are still proving to be popular, I couldn't make this one but **Malc** as always, led a ride out through very rural

**Derbyshire** and I am told was very enjoyable, thanks **Malc**, and if you haven't been yet give it a go, you wont be disappointed.

The weekend of 10/12 saw 13 of us travelling to the **Pickering area of Yorkshire** for a stay in a camping barn at **Sinnington**; the journey up was to see me excelling in my duty as last man by getting detached from the main group, and arriving 45 minutes before them,! (don't ask!)

The fish and chip supper on the Friday night was different to our usual pub meal and proved to be a great success, and was to see the start of our "cultural" weekend which included several quizzes, sequence dancing, and morris dancing lessons led by myself which proved very popular, and one which we will build on.

Saturday was to be our big day with one of Malcs famous rideouts planned, which as always was a "magical mystery tour"; it was also the day we were trying to arrange a surprise party to celebrate **Malc's 50th birthday**; he just kept poking his nose in, as he does! But **Liz** with resorting to many ruses got it all sorted and it went

off well, and **Malc even managed to look a little surprised** when I gave him a present on behalf of all the centre members, Cheers Malc.

All too soon it was over and we set off home, only to be rained upon by the mother of all downpours, thunder and lightening, hailstones, the lot!! We took shelter at a garage and donned wet weather gear and as it eased, set off again - you had to be there to believe it!

A few miles on we stopped for a snack and said our goodbyes as the group members would be leaving the ride to go their separate ways home, always a bit sad! But all determined to do it all again.

Malc had a mysterious sudden rear tyre deflation on the motorway same as last year, but after transferring Liz onto another bike, and pumping the tyre up again we continued with no more problem: a great weekend and a **big thank you to everyone for making it so!**

The monthly meet at the **Dusty** was as always a buzzing one and well attended, **Harry** won the raffle (again) I don't know how one man can be so lucky!!

Well that's all from me this time, see you all on the road very soon, ride safe. **Ken (Derbyshire Rep)**

### 1100 Dragstar Monoshock

Having owned my 2005 dragstar from new, I have never been all that satisfied with the handling but have persevered until last year coming back from the Rally at Cheshunt, A violent head shaking nearly had me off, a real sphincter twitching moment that was!! Yamaha replaced the rear monoshock under warranty, all seemed ok for a year then the problem started to come back, it could be alleviated somewhat if adjustments were carried out for every application i.e. one up,two up ,loaded, trailer on etc.,and as you know not the easiest of tasks and guaranteed to skin your knuckles at least once !

On the way back from the yorkies,the problem came back with a vengeance we were nearly pitched off twice and this time I had a witness behind, Rick on his 650 Dragstar. It even scared him witless!

My first reaction was get rid! But I basically liked my bike so I remembered

seeing Hagon shocks at the NEC and grabbed a brochure. I gave them a call and they supplied me with a monoshock with external hydraulic adjuster, the Bees Knees! My bike is transformed, and once again I can ride with confidence, I did have a small problem with the fitting, the Yamaha lower pivot mounting bolt is too short for the Hagon unit so I had to make up a longer one and have passed this on to Hagon. It did cost £380. for the unit but against £300. for a basic Yamaha unit but for me worth every penny.

**Ken**

Hi, further to my piece (above) about the monoshock, I had an email from Hagon today and they will now include a longer mounting bolt with the monoshock. Regards, **Ken** (Ah - now we understand - Ed.)



*Lasiest dog I ever had...*



*A girl who prefers a longer mounting bolt?*



## TREV'S LINC. WOLDINGS

Well what a glorious month July was! I think I would have been drier if I'd traded the bike in for a jet ski. But we seem to be a hardy bunch and as a result we still clocked up a few journeys. Since the June meetings we've had the **Camping weekend at John and Rosie's** which was brilliant as you can tell from the reports (last month). Thanks for being great hosts. That Saturday we also had **EJ's charity ride for St Barnabus Hospice**, which raised about £250. Thanks to all who took part or contributed. Then at the end of June it was the **Shindig**. Plenty of reports on that, suffice it to say we had a great time.

On 5<sup>th</sup> July it was **Boston Bike night**. Due to the distance for me to travel Steve, John and Rosie had volunteered to get things set up. The day started out fine but 5pm when I left work it had started to drizzle. I was meeting Rachel at the Mill Lodge just outside Lincoln. When I got there I phoned and she asked what the weather was like, "Just a few spots and it looks clearer heading South" I said. So she agreed to join me. My forecast was ok till Sleaford and then we hit the rain. Undaunted we carried on and arrived to find **Steve, Cath, Shan, Rod, John, Rosie and Gegsy** sharing two umbrellas behind an impressive number of bikes. Despite the rain it was a good night and Rosie's trike elicited quite a few admiring looks. Our Sunday meet on 8th July was **Gegsy's ride out to the Admiral Benbow at Chapel St Leonards**. We met up at **Coningsby** with a good turnout of ten people on seven bikes. Terry has put a good write up on the website so I'll just add a bit to that. The ride up to Chapel was great, **Gegsy** seemed to try his best to catch up with the only rain cloud (he must have enjoyed Boston too much!) and although we came close it went out to sea before we could get to it! While we were in the Admiral **Paul** turned up. He'd got stuck in traffic so had missed us at **Conningsby**, we now numbered eleven and eight bikes. After our drinks and relaxation **Rod** headed off home and the rest of us we went up the coast for

an ice cream. On arrival we found the ice cream van was about half way down the car park. **Gegsy** headed straight for it followed by **Axle, Paul and Rachel**. **John** and **Terry** stopped at the top of the car park. Understandably really, cos the car park was covered in about six inches of sand. **Rachel** saw sense and stopped after a few feet. Me I like trying new things so I got **Chris** to get off and gave it a go, never having ridden on sand before. It was ok as long as you kept it steady and stuck to the hard areas. Too much throttle on the soft bits and it gets wobbly though. Ice cream over and **John and Terry and Jane** head for home. The rest of us carry on into **Mablethorpe**, not much to say about it, just your typical seaside resort. Having seen the whole of the street (yes there's only one) and walked along half the seafront we return to the bikes to head home. **Gegsy and Axle** head South through **Horncastle** leaving me and **Rachel** to take **Paul** over the Wolds back to Lincoln. Another great ride with a great bunch of people. Thanks **Gegsy** for suggesting and planning it.

Our next event was **Barton Bike night on Wed 11 Jul**. This replaced our usual Weds meeting at **Conningsby**. Following phone calls and e-mails it was arranged to meet up at **Caistor top** between 18:00 and 18:15. I got home from work at 17:20 and managed to get away by 18:00. I've never had so many phone calls in 40 minutes! Anyway I eventually got to the meeting point at 18:30. **John Stones** was waiting patiently and just as I stopped **Gegsy, Steve and John Burdall** arrived down the **Horncastle** road. After a couple of minutes discussion we found out that **John Stones** knew how to get from there to **Barton**. He set off at a cracking pace down some country lanes that resembled roller coaster tracks in places. The back roads paid off though and we avoided the jams getting into **Barton**. The place was packed as usual, we managed to find somewhere to park up and headed off to look round. There was plenty to see as we wandered up the streets. As we got to the top end of

one street I spotted **Rachel** arriving, she had been at a work conference and so made her own way there. I caught up with her and took her down to where we had parked. Thanks to mobile phones we managed to find everyone again and spent a few hours wandering round, chatting and eating the obligatory burgers, donuts and sweets. If you've never been **Barton** is a well worth the experience. Well that's the lot for this newsletter, I'm away for most of August so I hope the weather improves here and you all get to clock up a few miles. One last thing can somebody e-mail me a meeting place for the Sep Sunday meet before 1<sup>st</sup> August so that I can publicise it.

### LINCS MEETS

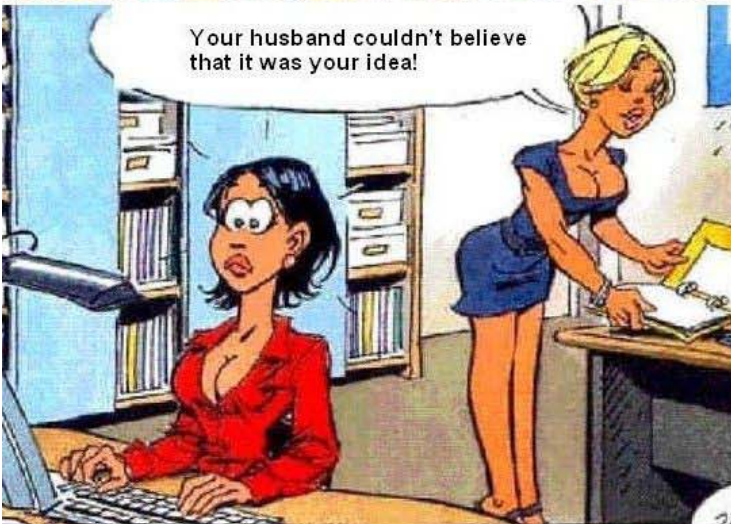
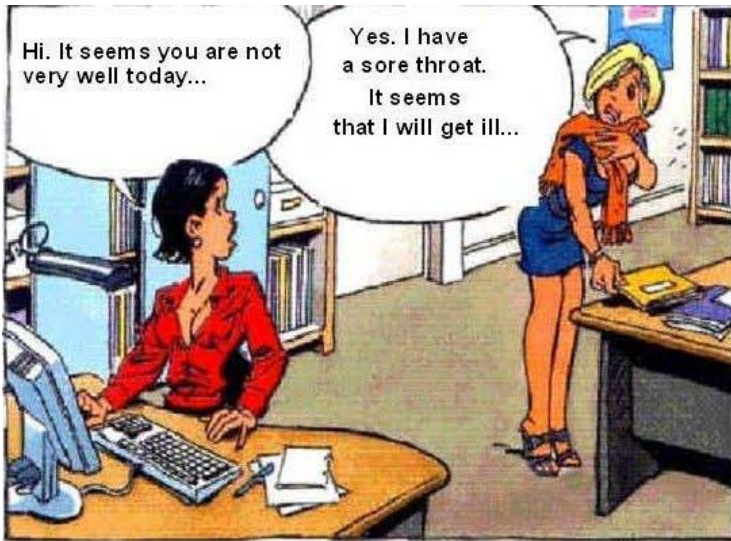
Date	Day
09-Sep-07	Sunday
Sunday meet - venue TBA. Somebody needs to organise this one.	
12-Sep-07	Wednesday
Lincolnshire meeting 20:00 Castle Inn, Coningsby	
10-Oct-07	Wednesday
Lincolnshire meeting 20:00 Castle Inn, Coningsby	
14-Oct-07	Sunday
Sunday meet - venue TBA	

Regards, *Trev*

*With apologies to Trev for not having published this in last month's newsletter - I was in San Francisco, honest! -Ed.*



*Now thereby hangs a tail....*



**Yorkies are again holding our "Bonding Party" on Friday 14th - Sunday 16th September 2007**

(Yes we know it's BMF but it was only weekend we could get)

Venue - **The Royal Oak**", Hirst Courtney, Nr Selby

Friday: pitch tent and enjoy the company / food / beer the pub has to offer;

Saturday: ride out into deepest Yorkshire;  
Private function room with disco and buffet;

Sunday: farewell.

As per normal the event is totally free; we will be holding a raffle to assist with costings, so please take advantage of us Yorkshire folk actually giving something away.

Contact terry if you need more info.

thanks and see you all soon

**terry**



Ken showing his latest idea for camping

**FREE Centre 9 Party**

on the 29th September

**STARTING AT**

**19.30**

at the

**GREY GOOSE GEDLING**

to celebrate holding our first very successful Sherwood Shindig Rally; there will be music and food **FREE**

- **MALC**