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## **VSOC CENTRE 9 – FEBRUARY 2018**

OWNERS OF: VIRAGO, DRAGSTAR, ROYAL STAR, VENTURE STAR, MIDNIGHT STAR, WARRIOR, RAIDER & STRATOLINER  
(OWNERS OF OTHER CUSTOM BIKES WELCOME AS ASSOCIATE MEMBERS)

Hi All,

January has been a busy month with a couple of shows – Spalding & Newark, the River Trent cruise and we managed a weekend in Italy at Motor Bike Expo in Verona (probably the biggest show in Europe with 9 halls – 3 dedicated to custom bikes and a variety of outside motor sport arenas. On a sad note the VSOC lost one of its founder members Roger Carter (Centre 16) on 20 January 2018 – see Facebook for funeral details.

Ride Safe Everyone

Clare & Mark – Editors

**REMINDER - VSOC RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP DUE by 31 March 2018 –See attached form**

### **Lostriders Charity 2018**

Please provide nominations for our Charity 2018/19 send to Kevin K email or text details on website, this will be decided by members vote at March centre meet.

### **Welcome New Lostriders**

A big welcome to our 3 new members

Jim Laverie 1100 Virago Loughborough, Andrew Webb XV 1000 TRI Lincolnshire, Caroline Burnett 535 Virago Lincolnshire; all joined during Newark Classic Bike Show.

### **Spalding Bike Show Report**

Looked out of the window - no snow, that's good!

Thermometer read zero degrees - could do with being a bit warmer but Steve's got new heated gloves to try out so it'll be ok.

Good ride over, chamois tucked behind the screen was a great idea, was able to keep wiping the salt off our visors so we could see the road.

Steve had the job of cleaning the bikes and making them look pretty when we got there. SCL attracted lots of attention as usual.

Signed up a new member from Spalding so that's one more for Centre 9

Had visits from new members who we've signed up recently.

Kev and his Grandson Jack came over in the car to help out on the stand.

Woke up Sunday morning to thick frost and a threat of snow on the weather forecast.

Made the decision to still go on the bikes - don't think we'll attract any interest in the stand with just us two standing there.

Crawled out of our road with our feet down hoping to stay shiny side up. Main roads well salted so journey wasn't too bad. Had to ride with the visor up because it was so cold, it kept steaming up - which was a bit chilly! Arrived to find Andy and Sue had braved the elements on their 950 so once the bikes were cleaned, we had a pretty good stand.

A few people stopped to chat today and we had some interest in the club but we couldn't persuade anyone to part with their money. Heavy snow all day kept a lot of people away.

Luckily, we had heavy rain late afternoon which got rid of a lot of the snow.

It was still hammering down when we left and just starting to freeze so was quite glad when we got home.

Overall a good weekend with another new member.

Steve and Cathy Centre 9

## [Jim Salmon NC500 Trip Report – Lost Riders Go North](#)

This is the story of a little adventure by ten brave Lost Riders, using five bikes and one car, who took on the challenge of the NC500. The team being: Chris, Lorraine, Malc, Sue, Harry, Ros, Brian, Steve, Moira and myself.

Being based around Nottingham we had quite a long trip to get to the start point in Inverness. The plan was to have easy mileage days and do a mix of camping and hotels, this to both keep the costs down and enjoy the adventure of camping in some wild regions of Scotland. In order to make the trip as enjoyable as possible and not have the bikes loaded with camping gear it was decided to take a car as back-up to carry the camping equipment. Volunteers to drive the car were Moira and Ros. They were both very grateful to have volunteered as the weather was at times not as kind as it might have been – more of this later.

**Saturday** and we started by meeting at Tibshelf services on the M1. Weather was good, going via A1 Scotch Corner, A66 to the M6 we made our way to Moffat, our first overnight stop.

**Sunday** saw us leaving after a good breakfast to make our way to Inverness. Two options available for us were - via Perth and the A9 or Loch Lomond and Glencoe. Whist the A9 route is a good and pleasurable ride Glencoe is superb and if possible not to be missed. We chose Glen Coe. Back onto the A74M, we bypassed Glasgow heading for the A82; this takes you alongside Loch Lomond. Our first planned stop was at Luss, a picturesque place to stop for food and fuel. On the side of the Loch, it's a beautiful little village to wander around. Many of the cottages have been restored to their original styles and add character to the village. There are now several B and Bs and a small motel attached to a pub should you consider a trip. We moved on from here with the next stop planned for the Green Welly bike stop just before entering Glen Coe. The road from Luss is quite narrow, twisty and often busy but still enjoyable. It is enjoyable unless you're behind some nervous driver who thought twenty miles an hour was challenging, so much so they had to slow for bends, of which there were many. We eventually arrived at the Green Welly, a good watering hole a wide selection of food and the ever-important toilets.

Scotland has many wonderful places but for me the highlands are the real Scotland and the entry is through Glen Coe. The road is excellent with views to match. Mountains on either side, snow on the top and the weather was dry. The A82 goes through Glen Coe down the side of Loch Linnhe and on to Fort William (no time to stop but one to visit in the future). Staying on the A82 we travel at the side of another loch then down the side of Loch Ness to our hotel in Inverness. The scenery all the way has been great, just what you would expect from Scotland. We dined at the hotel, a good meal a review of the day's events and confirmed the plans for tomorrow.

**Monday** started with another good breakfast. Everyone was up, packed and ready to go for what was to be the real part of the adventure. The weather was dry, so off we went, first stop fuel. The nearest one being in the centre of Inverness. Not surprisingly trying to keep bikes and car together was a challenge. We failed, (remember our name). The bikes found the filling station the car didn't. No problem, we all had the day's agenda and stopping points. We did meet up later having taken different routes but ending at the same village. Bikes set off back down the A82 alongside Loch Ness where we turned off at Invermorriston to join onto the A87 heading west. Although some roads in Scotland are classed as "A" roads they can at times leave a little to be desired. Other times a lot! More lochs to ride alongside supported by little villages, some small passed in some others larger and tempting you to stop. After about fifty miles we turned north on the A890. We were now looking for a food stop but struggling. Places we did

find were closed until we found a pub that did food. We had a snack and wandering around came across a couple of local bikers. We said that we were heading for Applecross (our campsite for the night). On mentioning this there was a deep intake of breath, they asked us if we really needed to go there and if we were all competent on the bikes. I was beginning to wonder what we were letting ourselves in for. We said we were and that we enjoyed a challenge. They said "well if you have to go – good luck". Not sure if they were winding us up or not - off we went. The road to Applecross is officially known as Bealach na ba (pass of the cattle). This is a road that once you commit to you have no choice but to go. No caravans, no learners, no room to turn around. It is narrow with passing places, steep and tight twisty bends. Following the comments Moira and Ros planned to take a slightly easier route in the car.

Full of confidence, as you would expect, off we went. Our first site of the road and conditions cleared your mind of all else except "keep going and don't stop for anything (except passing points)". We all made it, some commenting on the fact that vehicles coming opposite often didn't seem to know when they should use passing places or just couldn't be bothered! Coming to a stop at the top, we parked up for a few minutes. Talking to some others I mentioned how glad I was that Moira and Ros had taken an alternative route or I would not have been their favourite person. Just then who pulls up but Moira and Ros. Comments made were definitely not ladylike and cannot be repeated here! From the top, the view was well worth the effort, all we had to do now was go down the other side, and going over the top we had our first view of the sea – quite a sight. The roads were still very narrow and winding with the same passing points. Edges of the road, particularly in the passing points were very poor with crumbling tarmac and lots of loose stones so care was needed. We followed the road for a few miles to the bottom of the pass fortunately on the last bend was the entrance to our campsite.

Having erected the tents, the next step was to find somewhere for dinner. Applecross is a very small but attractive little place facing the sea the centre of which was only a few minutes' walk. Lucky for us there was a new pizza restaurant that had opened this also served other food a self-service filling station was also a key attraction. Tables booked we walked back to the site for a look around and ensure all was ready for the morning. On the site were several very docile deer and young highland cattle, to add to the atmosphere a local in a house nearby was practicing the bagpipes. The other wildlife we noticed were midges. I think they knew we were coming and had invited all their families, friends and even their enemies to greet us! The meal was very good and after a walk around the village we made our way back to the site along with a few thousand of our new little friends. We did sit around having drinks and trying various methods of, if not killing then at least discouraging, the little critters. Mosquito nets, funny hats, spray deterrents cigars citrus joss sticks were but a few of the methods. We must have looked like a group of escapees from an asylum to those others on the site who had the sense to stay in their caravans.

**Tuesday** morning, everyone up earlier than expected, tents packed away ready to go. That is all except Brian who had gone for his usual early morning long walk. Yes really. The rest of us went to fill up and await his return. Sometime later he arrived saying it was our fault for getting up earlier than he expected. All back together we headed north again to Fearnmore, leaving the midges behind. I can't really say it was a road, very narrow and twisty, many blind crests when you weren't quite sure where the road was going afterwards. Passing places required planning often not having room for all the bikes, add to this not just sheep but cattle wandering on the road there was little time to relax. Strong winds were developing and the rain had arrived adding to the pleasure.

The route took us to Shieldang and A896 a slightly better road and onto Kinlochew. Here we joined the A832 to travel north again alongside Loch Maree, through Poolewe to Laide where we turned inland again to join with the A835. This to take us alongside Loch Broom to our campsite at Ullapool.

The weather did not improve making visibility a problem at times. The planned campsite was on the coast where we would have no protection, already all thoroughly wet (except Moira and Ros in the nice warm car), the thoughts of erecting tents in these conditions were not pleasant. A decision was made that alternative accommodation would be sought. Trying to find same for ten people at short notice was not easy. Moira and Ros eventually found a bunk house that could fit us in. These are great types of accommodation if you don't mind sometimes sharing rooms with strangers and possibly of the opposite sex. I think we would have shared cattle shed if it was dry. They are also quite

reasonably priced because you have to supply and cook your own food. Fortunately, there was a shop nearby from which we sourced food for breakfast. Dinner was from the local takeaway.

**Wednesday** morning, after a mixed night of sleeping, we set off north on the A894 / A838 for our next leg to Durness. We had also planned to camp here but weather still not very friendly, again we had to find alternative options. Another bunk house came to the rescue, basic but dry. I'll never complain about the benefits of mobile phones without which we would have had a serious problem finding anywhere. Views and terrain since leaving Inverness were amazing requiring many stops simply to enjoy and take pictures. I have travelled up the eastern coastline several times but this western route is far better, even if weather and roads are more challenging at times. We were all running out of adjectives to describe what we were seeing, from moonlike landscapes to magnificent valleys and mountains. Unforgettable

**Thursday** - final destination for the day our campsite at Wick. We travelled along the northern coast A838/A836 usual type of stops – food and toilets, gave us time to stretch our legs and enjoy more views. We could not follow this route without visiting Dunnett Head, the most northern part of UK. This also gave us the chance to visit a nearby distillery; well we are in Scotland, then to John O Groates. Since my last visit here it has grown quite a bit with much better facilities for visitors. This done we travelled south on A99 to Wick. Although arriving in the dry rain was definitely on the way. Tents up, still dry we walked into Wick to find for food, hoping it would stay dry until we returned. That night was the worst of the trip, heavy rain and strong winds, leaking tents.

**Friday** morning saw us trying to shelter in toilets and wash area. It was obvious the rain was to continue so it was a dash to drop tents and throw in back of car, sort out later. This is when we were most grateful for the car. What fun. Waterproofs on we set off down A99 / A9 back to our hotel in Inverness. This coastal road is a dream after some of the ones we have used; still many sights to enjoy although not as dramatic. We arrived back at the hotel, NC500 complete! Despite weather we did the full coastal route. We now had time to rest and dry before an end of trip dinner.

**Saturday** was when we split up, some were travelling back home direct others having another night at Moffat on the way. Weather still wet so it was with waterproofs on that the group departed, smiling in spite of the weather. Arriving home, I had done in total just over 1500 miles, others living further south even more.

We had some rather miserable weather days but also some good. We have many pictures and thanks to Steve a video of our trip to keep the memories fresh. Depending on the time available there are many places to visit on the route. I would recommend Scotland it is a great place to travel around, just give yourself time to enjoy it. Take the correct clothing and despite the weather it can still be a fun adventure. Some of the roads significantly reduce your speed so allow for this when planning your days riding. Hotels etc. definitely make it better than camping because you are not as affected by the weather if it is poor. I would definitely do the trip again, especially Applecross. We travelled early June, a little later than originally planned; a better time in order to avoid midges would be May or September.



Hi Everyone,

January started well with a very successful Newark Show. Thanks to all the members who popped by to say hello, it was lovely to see you all and have your support. Three new members signed up, all Centre 9. We were joined this year by Terry Ashby (C17) and Mike Turner (C12). Mike rode his bike up from Oxford and they enjoyed it so much they are hoping to help us again next year. It would be nice to get some more bikes to join theirs. Thanks to Steve and Cath who along with Trevor and I braved the cold shed. They seemed to have mixed everyone up this year and we were amongst the scooters and opposite MOD radio who kept us entertained. Mike Turner won the best Rocker for Saturday and Dave Freestone won for Sunday. Well done boys.

Two weeks later saw Steve and Cath attend the Springfields Show along with Andy and Sue on the Sunday. I understand that another Lost Rider has been signed up and thanks to them for manning the stand whilst we partied at Butlins.

We had a brilliant time at Butlins and despite their ages mainly 70+ the bands kept us entertained. Next year they are planning on doing a bootleg weekend at Bognor. I was discussing with some Yorkies whether they thought it would be a good idea for us to arrange something similar at Skegness. They have a whole range of weekends covering the 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's just to name a few. It only cost us around £85 each for 3 nights' accommodation and all the entertainment. Let me know your thoughts.

We attended a funeral on our bikes last Wednesday for a past chairman of one of the Lincoln bike clubs. Around 100 bikes turned up despite it being so cold. It makes me feel so proud to be part of the biking community.

We haven't got anything bike related planned for February but are off to Krakow for 5 nights which should be good.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February at the Jolly Scotsman, Sleaford hope to see some of you there.

Ride Safe

Rachel – *Lincolnshire Rep*

## *Centre 9 – 20 years ago*

February 1998:

- Quiet time in 1998
- 11 new members joined Centre 9
- Little Johns charity haircut photos featured in Back Street Heroes
- More next month

## EVENT NEWS



### Dates for your diary

04 Feb – Mablethorpe Beach Racing

10 Feb – Yorkies Bit of a Do, Rendezvous Hotel Skipton

16-18 Feb – London Motorcycle Show, ExCel, London

18 Feb – Mablethorpe Beach Racing

25 Feb – Lostriders Bowls Carvery, Erewash Indoor Bowls Club, Long Eaton

04 Mar – Wilford Lane Garage Bike Meet, NG2 7RL from 10:00am

24 /25 Mar – Manchester Bike Show, Trafford Park

25 Mar – Bottesford Egg Run

## Gathering of the Clans 8<sup>th</sup> April 2018

**Start: Blyth Services: Hill Top Roundabout, Blyth, Nottinghamshire S81 8HG. Finish: Fat Skeleton: Unit E1 Imex Enterprise Park Wigwam Lane Hucknall Nottinghamshire NG15 7SZ. Meeting Time 10:00 onwards - Briefing 10:45 - Leave Blyth Services 11am Prompt - Arrive Fat Skeleton 12 30 Latest More Details to follow**

## LOST RIDERS FEBRUARY 2018 MEETINGS

04	Sun	<b>Derbyshire Breakfast Meet.</b> (1st and 3rd Sunday of month). CMC Clay Cross (the old Stratstone) from 10am.
06	Tues	<b>Centre Meet</b> (1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of month - <b>The Vale Social Club, 54 Vale Road Colwick, Notts. NG4 2ED</b> – from 7.30pm.
12	Mon	<b>Derby Meet.</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of month) Arkwright Arms, Sutton cum Duckmanton, Chesterfield. S44 5JG. Off M1 J29
13	Tues	<b>Lincolnshire Meet</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of month) The Jolly Scotchman, 18 Lincoln Rd, Sleaford, NG34 8NP
14	Wed	<b>Leicester / Northants Meet.</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month). The Railway, 152 Station Road, Glenfield, LE3 8BR <b>(Note change of venue)</b>
18	Sun	<b>Derbyshire Breakfast Meet.</b> (1st and 3rd Sunday of month). CMC Clay Cross (the old Stratstone) from 10am.
20	Tues	<del><b>Notts Area Meet.</b></del> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month. Rolls Royce Social Club, Gate 1 Watnall Road (B6009), Hucknall <b><u>Meetings resume April 2018</u></b>

## LOST RIDERS MARCH 2018 MEETINGS

04	Sun	<b>Derbyshire Breakfast Meet.</b> (1st and 3rd Sunday of month). CMC Clay Cross (the old Stratstone) from 10am.
06	Tues	<b>Centre Meet</b> (1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of month - <b>The Vale Social Club, 54 Vale Road Colwick, Notts. NG4 2ED</b> – from 7.30pm.
12	Mon	<b>Derby Meet.</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of month) Arkwright Arms, Sutton cum Duckmanton, Chesterfield. S44 5JG. Off M1 J29
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**Thanks for all the inputs this month – sorry no room for photos – see website**

# Virago Star Owners Club

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2018 TO 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2019

## PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) you would like on membership card \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership No: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## QUALIFYING BIKE DETAILS

Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Reg: \_\_\_\_\_

Colour: \_\_\_\_\_ Chassis No: \_\_\_\_\_

Datatag: \_\_\_\_\_ Engine No: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate to which VSOC Centre you would like your renewal details sent (one only please).

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Centres 1 & 2 - SCOTLAND/IRELAND                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Centre 12 - THAMES VALLEY<br>(Berkshire & Oxfordshire)                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Centre 3 - STAFFORDSHIRE<br>Including Cheshire & surrounding areas   | <input type="checkbox"/> Centre 13 - NORTH LONDON & surrounding areas                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Centre 4 - NORTHUMBERLAND & DURHAM                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Centre 14 - SOUTH LONDON & SURREY  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Centre 5 - YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Centre 15 - KENT & EAST SUSSEX   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Centre 6 - NORTHWEST & CUMBRIA<br>including Lancashire & Isle of Man | <input type="checkbox"/> Centre 16 - SOLENT (Hampshire & West Sussex)                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Centre 7 - WALES   | <input type="checkbox"/> Centre 17 - SOUTHWEST (Somerset, Dorset,<br>Gloucestershire & Wiltshire) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Centre 8 - WEST MIDLANDS   | <input type="checkbox"/> Centre 18 - DEVON & CORNWALL   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Centre 9 - EAST MIDLANDS<br>Including Lincolnshire                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Centre 19 - ESSEX  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Centre 10 - EAST ANGLIA<br>(Norfolk, Suffolk & Cambridgeshire)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Centre 20 - OFF SHORE  |

**A LATE RENEWAL FEE OF £5.00 APPLIES AFTER 30th APRIL 2018.**  
**ANY MEMBER NOT RENEWING BY 31st May 2018 WILL BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE LEFT**  
**THE CLUB AND WILL HAVE TO REJOIN WITH THE QUALIFYING BIKE**

Subscription for year ending 31st March 2019 remains at **£17.50**

Please make cheques payable to the VIRAGO STAR OWNERS CLUB and send to: -  
MALCOLM BLAND (Membership Secretary) PO Box 188, Cleckheaton, West Yorkshire BD19 9AA

Remember that you do not have to leave the VSOC if choose to sell your Virago, Star or qualifying bike.

**ONCE A MEMBER, ALWAYS A MEMBER!**

# **WOODTHORPE WEEKEND 2018**

## **SEPTEMBER 14-16<sup>TH</sup>**

HERE AGAIN – AN OPPRTUNITY FOR A GREAT WEEKEND WITH FRIENDS. THE USUAL FACILITIES / ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE

SATURDAY BREAKFAST AT DAVE’S DINER (FOLOWED BY A BRISK WALK AROUND MABLETHORPE TO BURN OFF THE CALORIES)

EVENING MEAL IN THE CLUBHOUSE SATURDAY WITH OUR OWN MUSIC

HOT TUB – DRIVING RANGE – SHOPPING FOR THE LADIES

CARAVAN HIRE (FOR THAT BIT OF LUXURY) PRICES THIS YEAR

TWO NIGHTS	SILVER 2 BED	£150 PER UNIT
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	GOLD 2 BED	£160 PER UNIT
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	GOLD 3 BED	£170 PER UNIT
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OWN CARAVAN / MOTORHOME / CAMPING (ALL WITH ELECTRIC)

TWO NIGHTS	£36 PER UNIT
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FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT BEEN BEFORE FULL INFORMATION ON THE SITE CAN BE FOUND AT: [WWW.WOODTHORPELEISUREPARK.COM](http://WWW.WOODTHORPELEISUREPARK.COM)

**RESERVE YOURE PLACE NOW – CONTACT JIM 07867 868 582**