

Capital Wings

Five Gold Wings were on display for John Higgins' funeral at Forest Park Crematorium, Hainault on Thursday 24th March 2022. Four were driven there by Yetti, birthday boy Joe, Steve H and Johnny. The other was a fantastic floral tribute organised by John's granddaughters, showing John's bike registration number.



*Floral
Goldwing*

*Capital's
Representatives*



It was a lovely sunny afternoon to say our farewell to John and the order of service reflected his extrovert and wild personality with songs including *Dancing in the Dark* by Bruce Springsteen and *Make Me Smile (Come Up and See Me)* by Steve Harley and Cockney Rebel. Remember John when you next hear those on the radio or at a Wing Ding/Treffen.

Sadly, but unsurprisingly, you always learn something about someone's life at a funeral that you could have explored further with them when they were still alive. John was born in Surrey. With his half French mother and South African father, John spent a lot of time in Le Havre when he was growing up. During his teenage years, John was passionate about cars and motorbikes and he later became a successful and popular car salesman as well as a member of GWOCGB, becoming Capital's Rep in the 1980s and holding various positions on the Club Committee. John married Lynn in 1970 and together they had a family and travelled to many wonderful places and enjoyed seeing different parts of the world. Lynn cared for John, who had become bed-ridden after a stroke, until the end. A really long and loving partnership.

Capital sent a floral tribute for John and here it is, together with Lynn and some of us chatting beside the magnificent display of other tributes. Lynn had greeted us warmly when we arrived and it was good to catch up with her and our memories of John



Capital Tribute



Lynn Captures the Moment

Our condolences go out again to Lynn, daughter Michelle, son Terry, four grandchildren and one great granddaughter. Love always to you all.

Now onto the Bowling Competition which was held on Sunday 3rd April in Norwich. The Inter Regional bowling match started, as always, with a meet up with Kent Wings (Broadlands not to be seen) in the hotel the night before. Great to catch up over a few beers, grub and a natter. It's been a while since we did that.

In the morning, we all met up at the bowling alley, raring to go for the competition. Most got there early. We were one lady short and Gordon and Alison's little five-years old granddaughter Macy was available and for a short while was on the team until Bev got press ganged into playing. Bev and Dave had just popped up to support us. Joe was a bit under the weather so Alan took his place. The only two Wings there were Colin and Barry - well done boys! The teams were Boys - Alan, Rocky, Colin, Gordon, Chris and our ringer for the last 9 years, Arran. Girls were Bev, Alison, Jo, Hills, Tara and Elaine. As always, a fun two games of shouting, cursing and the Kent ladies blaming the bad scores on the wonky lane that kept breaking down. Then it was all over.

The participants all gathered in the large party room for the buffet and prize giving. Carl reminded Yetti that it was Rocky's birthday the next day so a plan was hatched to get a cake and Carl went shopping for a very appropriate Peppa Pig one. A shout out announcing his birthday, a quick happy birthday song and a quite embarrassed Rocky getting the cake from Ginny followed.

Well, Well done Capital's Boys and Girls. The Men won Best score. Arran, our Capital ringer, won Best Men's score and we won Best Overall Men & Women. The icing on the cake was Gordon who won Men's Lowest score. What an achievement! It was a great day and

so good to catch up with people we have not seen in two years. Many thanks to Broadlands for hosting. Next year, we will be hosting - place and date to be arranged.

I was about to wish Big John and Julie a wonderful, belated holiday with their family in Australia when lo and behold, I had a text with "Hi, everyone - we are in Perth, Australia at the moment." Here is John's update from Down Under.

We know that the Perth chapter of the Australian Goldwing Club is growing after being reformed a couple of years ago. So, we contacted the chapter leader Paul Dvorak and his wife Marnie who told us they were having a run out the next day and would we like to join them. Paul was quite happy for us to follow in the car. We drove to his house then followed him and Graham and Caron on a lovely, pretty Blue/Black 1800 to the meeting place at the Lakes Roadhouse on the Great Eastern Highway. We left there at 10:30am with five bikes, two trikes and a combo, travelling to a hotel bar restaurant in Cuballing, a tiny wheatbelt town south east of Perth in a district known as 'Numbat Country'. We all had a great meal and were made to feel very welcome - what a great crowd. The run was a 380km round trip which included a little diversion due to a sat nav malfunction en-route. Out of all of them, there was only one Scotsman who had any experience of biking in the UK so we were asked lots of questions and they were quite impressed with what we all do as a Club in the UK and Europe and the mileage covered during our Winging season.



*Australian
Run Out*



Cuballing Tavern

We are hoping to meet up with them again soon, hopefully with a bike of sorts if I can organise one. Ride safe everyone - Julie & Big John. BTW a message for Tony P - they have got very pretty bikes in Oz.

Finally, we send our congratulations to Les Hunt who celebrated his 80th in March.

Hope the Easter Bunny brought you lots of chocolate. I still have that image of Buzz jumping around the camp site in his onesie with his eggs!

Miss (Helen) Whiplash