



CAPITAL WINGS



It has been reported that this February was the wettest on record. Monday 12th February 2024, however, dawned sunny and mild and thoughts of a brilliant day to go out on a motorcycle ride in the country came into mind. Sadly, the day was to be Mike Harrington's funeral but happily, the day turned out to be a glorious celebration of his life amongst family, friends, colleagues, bikers and fellow Wingers, all saying goodbye to the 'H' of HGB Motorcycles.

The morning service at a church in Edgware, London was attended by around 150 people including Capital members Richard, Buzz, Steve O, Johnny Chelu, Johnny and myself and Phil Peskett, all the way from the south coast. Other Club members were also there. We were organised into little pockets of parked-up bikes around the church.

John Keble Church, Edgware ►



Motorcycles Galore

Two Police motorcycles led the cortège from the church to the Committal service at Breakspear Crematorium, Ruislip. We wended our way on this calm, sunny day through streets and residential areas until we reached HGB's shop in Ruislip. Many of the mourners were there to greet us and wave and hear the cacophony of horns, hooters and revved-up engines as we rode past the shop in recognition of Mike's time there. We later spoke to Steve from HGB who had counted 80 bikes in the cortège from the church, with another 30 joining at HGB. What a turn out!

Johnny prepares for Cortège ▼



Crematorium Cortège



Funerals bring people, often long forgotten, together so it was great to meet 'Lamb Chop' AKA Darren again. He recognised our 1200 Plain Jane outside the church and remembered unloading the original Aspencade from a container at HGB in 1991. We bought the motorcycle from Mike at Easter-time 1991 and then as a mechanic, Darren worked on the bike when we had it serviced at Ruislip.

Johnny and I met Paul and Sue, ex-Middlesex and Surrey Wingers, after the cremation service and we travelled together to the reception at the Grims Dyke Golf Club, Pinner. Another opportunity to catch up with 'old' friends. A memorable day for a memorable man and a great day out motorcycling.

RIP Mike.

Now, some older news from Yetti. Capital gate-crashed Kent Wings' post-Christmas bash on the 27th January. No, we were allowed to go really. 16 Moles donned Mole Christmas t-shirts to join in the festivities. It was good to see the Kent mob, first time this year and to catch up with who's doing what and where this year on the Wings. The Snatch raffle was fun. The raffle is drawn, prizes are picked and then more raffle tickets are drawn. If it's your number that is pulled out, you can snatch a prize off someone who has just won it. Very funny to watch and very chaotic. The very large cuddly toy, which was later identified as a husky dog, was the favourite prize to snatch. At the end, Dani and Chloe were gifted the dog but later on it went home with Dotty for her grandchildren.



Cuddly Toy Snatched Prize

It was great to see Dotty (Doris) and Debs (Major) again - it has been too long since we last saw them. The next activity was then to wrap someone up with toilet roll paper. They are a strange lot these Kentish people. Must have some Egyptian genes in them. This competition was won by our own youngsters Chloe and Dani, who enjoyed a box of chocolates each as the prize.



Wrapping Mummy

Much beer, wine, cheese, port and biscuits after the meal made it a super evening. A great night and a big thanks to Michael for being a superb host at his pub. It goes without saying - a big thanks to Kent Wings. Roll on next year's do.



Capital Antics

A few of us visited the MCN London Show at the Excel in February. We caught up with Mark Jaffe and his Phoenix Motorcycle Training colleagues. His business seems to be going from strength to strength.

While we were there, we heard rumours of changes in road tax charges for three-wheeled vehicles eg. trikes and combinations. These charges will be based on the number of seats per unit. Dr Poli will be leading the consultation on these proposed changes. Based at the London Office of Feedback in Westminster, people are advised to contact her directly at florapoli@mail.com to give comments on how this will affect you.

Our congratulations go to Amber who celebrated her 21st birthday in February with a family holiday in Lanzarote. David proudly showed off his tanned tummy at the last Mole Night.

Finally, we hope that some sort of a Regional Bowling Competition will take place somewhere on Sunday 7th May. Please contact Yetti to get confirmation of all the details.

It's getting closer to the first Treffen of the season.

Miss (Helen) Whiplash

