



No more for now:- ride safely – it's a busy world out there. Sent from the depths of East Anglia by an aging Rebel rider.

Capital Region

This month's report is a first. It has been submitted by two of our Wingnuts, Dani Taylor (age 15) and Chloe Peskett (age 12). They have just travelled on their first big adventure abroad with Moles and other friends.

21 Bikes, 40 people, 3 Beavers, 1 Mole, 1 Pink Mini-Mouse and Mr Snuggles travel to Switzerland

The traffic into Dover on Saturday 27th July 2019 was horrific. It was the first weekend of the school holidays. Both the A2 and M20 (A20) were solid which meant that a few Moles took three hours to do three miles to the ferry terminal. Chief Mole, Yetti, ended up catching his ferry with two others. The two outfits made it eventually onto the 12.30pm ferry.

The Beavers had an interesting start to their journey too. Firstly, Adrian managed to get a flat front tyre which eventually got sorted and he joined the group four hours later in a petrol station in Calais. Colin (Papa Beaver) managed to lose all his bike documents out of the box on the greedy rack. He wondered why people were waving to him as they overtook! Luckily, he managed to get everything emailed through to him whilst waiting for Adrian.

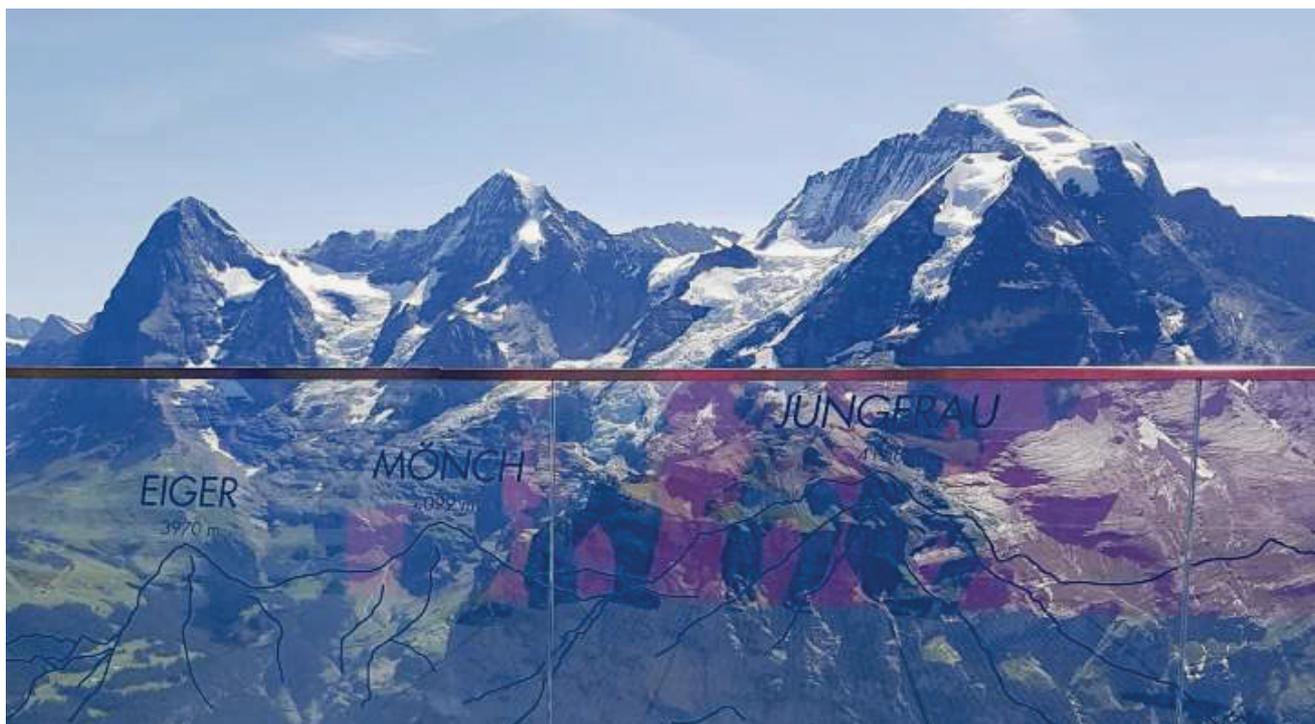
Calamity Wayne nearly didn't make it to the ferry, let alone Switzerland. He thought that the alternator had gone but fortunately it was only a fuse. However, he had a panel almost fall off which was only hanging by a grommet. Later, when taking a soothing boat trip in Little Venice, Colmar, he nearly fell out of the boat. If you ask Ginny nicely, she'll sing you her *Calamity Wayne* song.



Little Venice, Colmar

With everyone regrouped at the first hotel stop after the traumatic start to the journey, we headed for Colmar, our second break on the way to the Hotel Hof und Post in Innertkirchen, Switzerland. We were 20 miles out of Colmar when we decided to refuel ready for the morning. We all did so, and then Sue shouted, “Jeff needs a wee”..... so we waited and we waited and we waited. Kerrie went to check that they were alright only to find them having tea. From then on, the question from Sue was always, “Is this a wee or tea, or both?!”

Rocky the Mole also had some adventures. Although he had travelled with Joe and Margaret, he was taken out for a day trip to the waterfalls by some friends. He also visited Piz Gloria, the revolving restaurant on the Schilthorn near Murren. Stunning views. It was here that the Bond film *On Her Majesty's Secret Service* was filmed in 1965.



Three Peaks from the Schilthorn

Disturbingly, Rocky the Mole seemed to enjoy drinking in the evening and of course eating as he had become accustomed to all of this with his current carers!

The birthday of ‘My Margaret’ seemed to be celebrated more than the Queen celebrates hers. Wayne organised a special celebration (by phone) with an unknown French singer who we happened to interrupt enjoying a romantic meal in the same restaurant as some of the Moles. She seemed to be enjoying listening and joining in with the Moles more than her date. Once at the Hof und Post, we all celebrated with Margaret every



*Rocky the Mole
On Holiday*

night! Taz thought it would be good to have a yodeling competition as well, so Joe and Kerrie did a rendition of that Sound of Music favourite *High on a hill stood a lonely goatherd*.

Innertkirchen is in the Bernese Oberland and lies at the foot of the Grimsel and Susten Passes. There were several groups that went out in different directions each day around the Passes.



Bikes ready for the off

Our group travelled 17 miles in two hours to have goulash soup at our first stop. It was worth it. The scenery and views were breathtaking in this area and the roads perfectly suited for the bikes.

August Mole Night was held in Innertkirchen. However, there seemed to be a distinct lack of commitment from several Capital Moles to attend. Yetti did send the usual reminder out but we think the confusion may have been due to the change of location. The usual banter ensued and a ‘Room Number Raffle’ was held for some amazing prizes such as a Victorinox potato peeler, a Swiss-flagged shot glass, a Swiss-flagged espresso cup and not forgetting, some Swiss chocolate.

It was Swiss national day whilst we were all in the country. The Swiss really know how to celebrate; drinking and singing until the very early hours of the morning. Their houses were decorated and covered in Swiss flags. Chris Woods sported a nice red pair of red braces (apparently only to hold his leathers up!). Chloe, meanwhile, dressed her hair.



*Chris and his
Swiss braces*



*Swiss Night at the
Hof und Post*

The town put on a spectacular firework display in the evening which the rain didn't dampen.

Chloe never found her sheep although Barry the Beaver managed to find some up the road and took pictures for her.

Most Moles left for home on the following Friday and, by coincidence, had booked various hotels in Reims on the Saturday night. As our group arrived, we found a rowdy group of them eating and drinking (for a change) in the bar opposite our hotel. Here's some of them before they fell in the fountain



Reims Party

On our way to Reims, we stopped at a motorway services for breakfast. As usual the ladies required the powder room and the older ladies of the group (Kerrie and Ginny) followed me (Dani) into the toilets. Kerrie thought it was odd that there were urinals in the ladies but then thought they were communal (as they sometimes are in France). Upon leaving and looking at the sticker on the door, we had in fact been in the men's toilets!

We would all like to thank Rocky the Man for organising the accommodation with the Hotel Hof und Post. We were looked after really well by Monica, Christophe and their staff. Chloe and I found the lift was

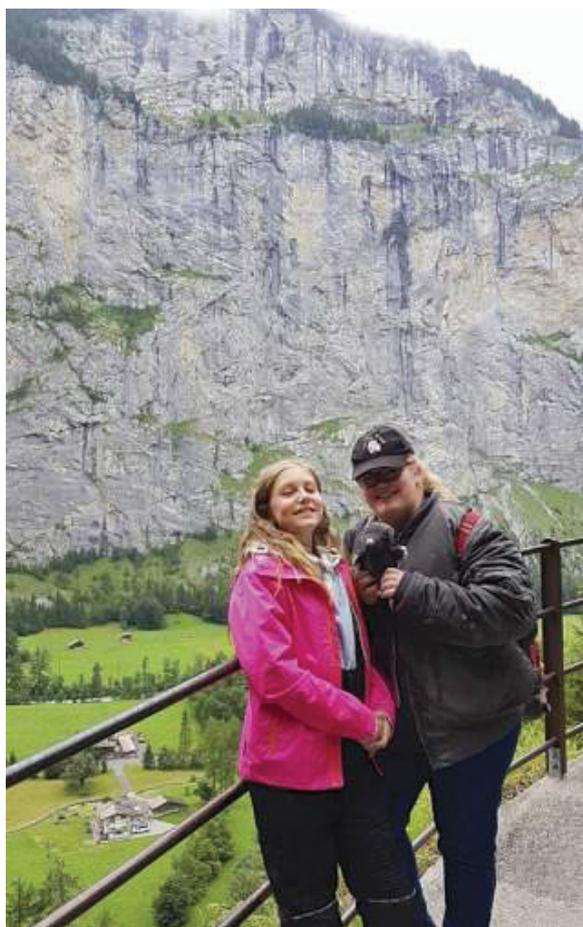


slightly old-fashioned as it would only take two Moles at a time and we're not exactly sure why.

On the last evening every Mole was given a Hof und Post polo T-shirt. For some of us it may be a while yet before wearing them as 'one size (XL) fits all' is pushing it a bit. When we checked out, we were given a packet of Swiss cheese to take home and enjoy.

This was the first time to Europe on the outfits for myself (Dani) and Chloe. We both made the trip in all weathers to and from Switzerland on the back of the bikes behind our Dads (Wayne and Big Al), with some sleeping but enjoying every moment of our 1,700 mile trip. We feel we

are now truly seasoned 'travelled Moles'.



Thank you from me and well done, girls, for this contribution. We look forward to reading more of your impressions of life as Wingers in the future.

Finally, a diary date to support a very good cause - Margaret and Joe will be hosting their Annual Tea Party at their home in Witham on Saturday 21st September. All proceeds will go to the Macmillan Cancer charity.

That's all for now!

Chloe and Dani at the Trummelbach Falls

Miss Helen Whiplash