

## Capital Wings

Two Moley couples were part of the contingent that represented GWOCGB at the Italian Treffen in Strembo in the Val Rendena. The Gold Wing Club Italy was celebrating its 40th year anniversary so there was much to look forward to.

Taz and Trudy and Johnny and myself enjoyed each other's company over the weekend, eating, drinking, partying and riding together, especially alongside some of the other Brits in the Parade of Nations. Taz and Trudy even rekindled their lost love of dancing and here they are in the spotlight.

The Treffen was well organised but then it had its slightly chaotic moments. For example, where do you meet to line up for the Tours when the small campsite is already full? What time does the Tour leave after the restaurant/toilet stop?

Johnny and I ventured out on the Friday tour of 168km, rightly described as a tour for experts only. We were advised to drive down the road and wait in the line up. How far down the road we wondered? We stopped when we found the motorcycle marshals and a people carrier full of carabinieri. So we ended up in pole position behind them all. On a hot sunny day, the tour was terrific with fantastic views of the Brenta Dolomites.

[insert photo file 'Challenging Ride Out' and use file name as the caption]





Riding through woods and forests cooled us down and then we had an extra stop when I heard machinery and the vehicle in front of us stopped on a tight right-hand bend. Whatever was happening? Well, a team of tree surgeons were cutting down trees and they and a tractor winching the logs were blocking our route.

*Challenging Ride Out*

After a lot of gesticulating, we were all on our way again and we arrived back at the campsite five hours later. As I said, experts only were the correct description for our ride out and much stamina and concentration was needed to complete the course.

*Log Clearance*





It reminded me of our Capital Light Runs in that there was no time for loo stops and you had to stay in the saddle for at least two and a half hours.

The Saturday tour was only 138km and much gentler. No hair-pin bends, just beautiful countryside, mountains, lakes and towns with plenty of people to wave at.



*Saturday Scenic Tour*

We had just enough time back at the campsite to prepare for the Parade of Nations. A quick beer and ice cream with friends were vital as we all tried to cool down. But who was going to fly the Union Jack? Taz said he would join us and two other couples but where were they? I helped myself to the flag and we joined the line up on the road. Chaotic again. Were we in alphabetical order by country or anything goes? Taz and Trudy joined us and then the two Pauls and Linda so 66% GB representation was excellent. We sensed an extra appreciation from the crowds, who gave the thumbs up, when they saw our flag flying. The Parade ended with us being led up a hill

into some housing. I thought it was to give residents up there an extra thrill but the joke was on us because we had to reverse and turn back down onto the main road. Someone had made a mistake!

Saturday evening is always the prize giving and at one hour 45-ish minutes long, you needed plenty of stamina to get through the various speeches and presentations. GWOCGB were placed in 5th position with six bikes. A very satisfying result and here's most of the travellers with the Award.



*Brits Celebrate 5th In Italy'*

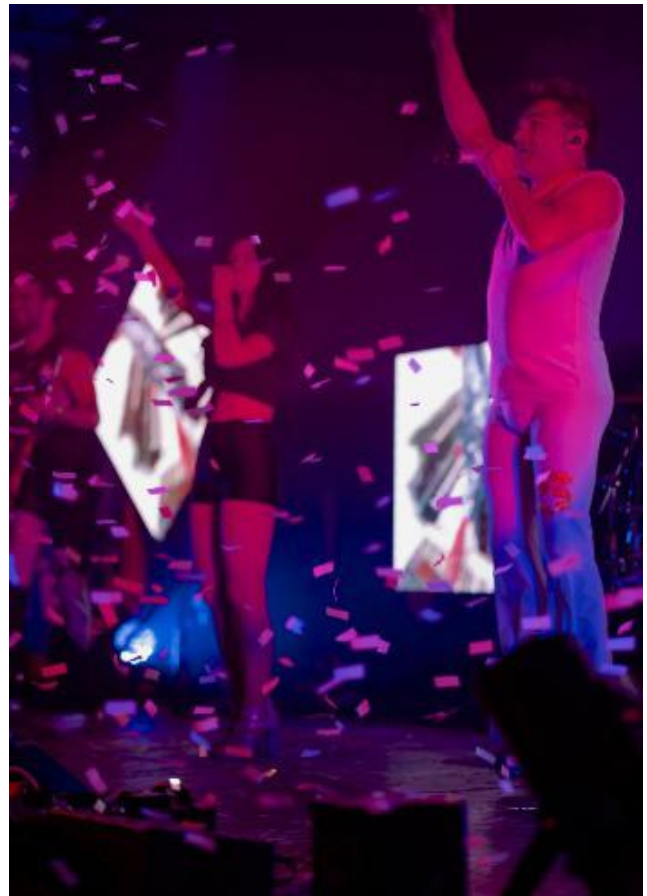
Unfortunately, Trudy and Mick were missing from the photo. She had gone on a walk about and was nowhere to be seen and Bob was keen to have the photo taken because he was leaving almost immediately to ride to Finland. So it's a well done to Tazi, Linda, Paul Tobin, Bob, Helen, and Paul and Linda Cherry (with Johnny as the photographer).

The Shary Band seem to have become a tradition at the Italian Treffen and they rounded off Saturday evening with some wonderful entertainment, covering lots of decades of music and music genre.



The costume changes for the lead male singer and the two girls were fast and furious and their professionalism has certainly got better since we first saw them back in 2016 (?). Anyway, especially for Hilary and the girls, here's something you sadly missed this year.

On Sunday morning, as Johnny and I headed home northwards via the Black Forest in Germany, we enjoyed more views of the limestone Brenta Dolomites, listed by UNESCO World Heritage since 2009, as we rode towards the famous ski resort of Madonna di Campiglio.



*Shary Band 2022*



*Brenta Dolomites Viewpoint*

I've always taken an interest in where the raw materials for our food are sourced from. Travelling through France, Germany and Austria into Italy, I enjoyed seeing the fields of sunflowers, maize, sweet corn, hops, grapes, strawberries and apples. Strembo is a commune in Trentino province in the Italian Alps and the area is famous for apple growing, in particular Red and Golden Delicious. It was a nice touch to be able to sample this apple variety which was in our goody bag when we inscribed.



*Goody Bag Treat*

Moving back to the UK, Yetti kindly sent in this report of happenings at the Sussex Wing Ding in June. It turned out to be quite a successful event for the Moles.

The weather was great and our hosts were fantastic. There were a fair few Moles attending so we hoped we would have a chance at best regional turn out. The Friday night quiz was a good bit of fun, questions not too hard and the Moles Team was on form. Kath then

read out the answers and we think we were robbed! We thought she said how many James Bonds were there in total (not to actually name all the James Bonds). We knew them all but had just put down the total number. Sadly, lost lots of points on that question but we still wouldn't have won as we missed out on some of the other questions too.

As usual, the girls were up boogieing to the girl singer. An encounter between Joe and the singer later on thoroughly confused her. She thought she must have known him from somewhere but Joe confessed he didn't. Poor girl but she still had a chat and a laugh. The Moles were last out of the bar, as normal, then it was a night cap at the Chairman's tent.

Yetti did not go on the Saturday run out as he had a dodgy foot so he decided to catch a bus into Eastbourne and christen his brand new OAP bus pass. After negotiating all the charity shops, he, Ginny, Wayne and Dani, just for a change, ended up in a restaurant/bar. Mussels and beer, then back to the site for the evening entertainment and the prize giving.

Well, Capital got Best Turn-out by Region with 11 bikes. Bev won Furthest Travelled Female and also the Best Lit Bike Award.



*Bev's Prizewinning Lights*



The Moles won loads of raffle prizes and had a fantastic night as well. A big thanks goes to all the Sussex wingers for their hospitality and we would like to say to Kath: "We were robbed!!!"



*Sussex Wingding  
Winners*

And finally, just before the notices, I will share a little farewell sign-off from Joe after our June meeting: "Let's go home and make a baby tonight." Apparently, Margaret had some baking to do, something about baby cakes, or not???

Diary dates:

Saturday 20th August - The Hawthorns Retirement Village,  
Braintree, Essex.

An opportunity to give the residents some fun and rides on our Gold Wings.

Meet at McDonald's Restaurant, Boreham Interchange, Drovers Way, CM2 5PS to depart at 2pm.

Tea and sarnies will be provided. Joe says that for those who might be a bit peckish afterwards, he can arrange for us to have a light snack at the local Chinese Buffet.

Saturday 10th September - Tea Party in aid of Macmillan Cancer at Joe and Margaret's abode, Witham, Essex.

Open house all afternoon.

That's it for now. See you all at the British Treffen.

Miss (Helen) Whiplash