

Ken & Sandy's Tour of Scotland (with support vehicle)

Difficult decision to make, supposed to be touring Scotland doing our Round Britain Rally (RBR) landmarks but Ken has been struggling for a while with pulled muscle in his side and although riding for him is not too much of a problem, the added weight of myself and luggage for a two week trip is just not wise. Yes, I confess I weigh more than Ken! What are our options? A package tour to Greece sounded a good idea but where's the sense of adventure and achievement in that?

So, with a sense of how daft can you be, we set off on our Scottish Tour on the Sunday May 13th to our 1st stop Grange over Sands. Ken on his bike, me in the car with all the luggage, a can of petrol, a few tools ` just in case ` and a very vague route plan. I arrived 1st at the Commodore Inn, carried luggage in and made a cup of tea. Ken turned up half hour later having stopped a couple of times en route as he needs regular breaks now. Dinner at hotel and a crafty decision by me to send Ken off next day to collect Landmarks by himself whilst I brows shops and walk the prom, with a 2nd night here in Grange over Sands. Mission accomplished, two LMs done a new handbag & necklace bought and we spent the evening planning next day's route and booking accommodation.

TUESDAY - set off for Thwaite, a very enjoyable road and breathtaking views, we [found](#) our LM at side of road without difficulty then on to Penrith for lunch stop. Our stop for the night was West Linton Carlisle, a convenient b&b at the side of the main road. An advantage of me having the car was that we were able to go out for a meal without bike kit on!

WEDNESDAY - a ride alongside Loch Doon to collect more points. Ken had stopped for fuel then took a wrong turn so I arrived 45 minutes before him. With trackers on the phones I knew where he was and could see he was on his way thus giving me time for a little wander around. Strange how a man had driven the 16 miles down this single track road to a dead end and was now happily washing/ polishing his car rather than enjoying the scenery. Onwards in the afternoon to High Blantyre and then Stirling bridge before our last stop at Killin where our last LM of the day and hotel were.

THURSDAY - a hearty full English and off to Crianlarich Suie Lodge Hotel which is where the Scottish National Rally finishes each year and a quick check on the shelf to view the Lynn Flint memorial trophy which has my name on it TWICE. I get to keep a small award but the actual trophy remains at the pub. On to Strontoiller LM sited down 8 miles of single track, twisty up and down, gravelly road of which I was glad not to be riding pillion on! Next stop Oban for lunch and a decision of whether to stay here for the night or move on.



Decided to book in at one of our favourite hotels at Spean Bridge, so a beautiful scenic, glorious weather and a ride along side of lochs through Fort William was our afternoon delight. We arrived at the hotel with plenty of time for Ken to go whiskey tasting at the Spean Bridge

Woollen Mill next door where he made his purchase happy in the knowledge that there was room in his support vehicle to carry it home.

FRIDAY - started with a very short drive along Lagan Lochs for our first LM of the day a very lovely area, then turned left along Loch Cluanie. Petrol at the Cluanie Lodge was £1.42 a litre, luckily we weren't needing any and it's downhill to the next petrol pump anyway, approx 5 miles away. Then on to Torrington stopping for coffee en route at a popular bikers cafe where there was several old bikes and a group doing the Scottish 500, again dramatic scenery alongside the lochs reminding us it's all about the journey not the destination. Ullapool for the night and a rather expensive b&b as everywhere was fully booked up, Friday night is fish & chips night and very nice it was too.

SATURDAY - and again a scenic drive to Inverkirkaig. Ken and I having taken different routes to get to our LM but again thanks to the tracker I had no problem finding him A coffee break at the nearby cafe and on to Tarbet for a picnic lunch at our next LM where the man there was very interested in our Rally and had been wondering why bikers had been taking this unusual photo shot then leaving! A full day of fantastic scenery, single track roads and beautiful lochs, bliss.

We had decided to stop in Dingwall at The Waverley Inn as have used it previously and knew it to be good value and plenty of choices of where to eat, and petrol prices at the local Asda better than elsewhere, Chinese restaurant being the winner tonight .

SUNDAY - Lower Cabrach, Auchenblae and Carmyllie LM's were all easy enough to find and photograph, the countryside roads were OK but not spectacular. Broughty Ferry, Dundee was where our b&b for the night was, hosted by Darren, a Subaru fanatic so he and Ken were bestie mates for the evening, Darren even washing my car for me whilst Ken and I visited the local Weatherspoons!

MONDAY - Darren sure knows how to do breakfast, we needn't eat for a week now. Short trip to a LM at Kilmany then onto South Queensferry, the first two landmarks at the side of the road but you have to have done your research to find the third one, not helped by a lady in a kiosk saying she'd never heard of it and it's definitely not down there, but of course it was! We made our way on to Dunn's for our LM in the middle of the village and a lovely lunch where we sat outside in the village square. I had booked accommodation in Hawick for the night a self catering flat so we got our last landmark of the day at Shankend and returned to our flat purchasing a microwave meal from the supermarket. Well, after that breakfast and lunch we really didn't need much and our hosts had left wine & beer in the fridge for us

TUESDAY - Wallington for our 1st LM an easy find then Lanchester for a LM that we drove past twice before Ken spotted it, I lost Ken but used the tracker to be guided to where he was, cream



tea in the little cafe/gift shop nearby and a browse round before setting off to Thornton le Beans LM. Somehow Ken and I took very different routes, him on the A1M and me on the A19 thus when I arrived at the LM Monument the trackers said he is in a different village entirely. Ken phoned to say he was lost but of course thanks to the tracker he was able to be directed to me as it is bluetoothed to his helmet. Our overnight stop was near Thirsk in a very well equipped chalet at the back of a pub (the Whitestone Cliff Inn). Ken was beginning to suffer with a cough so the decision was made to head for home in the morning.

WEDNESDAY - Head for home, motorway all the way and kettle on at home by midday
1,700 miles of good weather, fabulous scenery and some interesting Landmarks which I am sad not to be able to share yet but must not be published till the Rally finishes at the end of October

Post note - Ken was admitted to hospital that weekend with pneumonia which has really knocked him for six and recovery will take time so our motto as always is to make memories while you can.