

Harley Owners Group – Jersey  
(H.O.G. Chapter Number 9774)

30<sup>th</sup> December 2014

Dear member

Before the end of 2014, I thought I'd write to everyone to let you know what happened in 2014 (as far as I am aware, apologies if I've missed anything) and set the scene for 2015.

Monthly Social Nights – we've had eleven (December is always missed) at the Farmhouse in St John. We're thinking that we've been going there for several years and that maybe we should think of somewhere else. Any ideas would be welcomed.

Sunday Ride Outs – we've tried to have one every Sunday, weather permitting. While we haven't kept records, I'd guess that over the summer months it was 3 out of 4 Sundays (sometimes even 4 out of 4) and over the winter maybe 1 or 2 a month.

In addition, over the peak summer months (July and August) we've had a Wednesday evening ride outs – thanks Reg for sorting this out.

To refresh your minds on specific activities that we've done this past year, we did the following:

**February** we had a Valentines Evening Meal at Little Italy.

**March** St Patrick's Day Ride Out and Brunch at The Farmhouse.

**April** (i) several members of the Rennes Chapter visited us where we enjoyed an evening meal with them at The Halkett and had a Sunday Ride Out;  
(ii) a number of us attended the CIAS Summer Lunch at St Brelade's Bay Hotel (sadly we couldn't ride as the weather was wet, well done Des who did ride).

**May** (i) Jersey Boat Show – CIAS stand – Geoff Habin, Chris & Cassandra Fox attended to represent Chapter and had a bucket shake for CIAS;

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(ii) away trips (a) several members went to St Tropez for the rally in Port Grimaux, and (b) a few others took a trip down to Andorra to explore the Pyrennes;  
(iii) Liberation Day, we had a trial Breakfast Run at St Catherine’s Café; and  
(iv) BIG RIDE in support of “Holiday’s for Heroes”, a number of us took part in support of this worthy charity. (Over the summer a number of members also supported this charity with their Wednesday evening ride by taking either a hero or their family member for a short ride.)

**June**

(i) Rubis Festival of Speed Weekend. On the Friday evening we took part in the Cavalcade culminating in a full throttle blast down the Esplanade. On the Saturday we provided a Static Chapter Display Stand raising money for CIAS. (We’ve had a request to ride again in 2015!)  
(ii) away trips – several members went to Croatia for the HOG Rally, others paid a return visit to the Essone-Ballainvilliers Chapter (Paris) while some went down to the Isle de Re; and  
(iii) HD WorldRide Breakfast Run at St Catherine’s Café.

**July**

(i) Independence Day Evening Ride and Meal at TGI’s, sadly it was wet; and  
(ii) Sunset Ride Out and Chip Dinner (from Danny’s Chippy) eaten alfresco at Le Braye.

**August**

(i) Scootathon – 24 hour charity event to raise money for CIAS;  
(ii) away trips – a number of members went to Aviemore in Scotland to attend the Thunder in the Glens rally (sadly a bit of a cold adventure this year); and  
(iii) away trips – several riders took the opportunity to ride from northern Spain, through the Pyrennes and back using the St Nazaire – Guijon ferry. (The ferry is highly recommended and we hope it will recommence soon.)

**September**

(i) we held our bi-annual Jersey HOGs around the Rock Rally to coincide with the Air Display. The weather was brilliant

and all I saw was happy smiling faces. We look forward to repeating this in 2016; and

(ii) away trips; (a) one member decided to go to Faaker See in Austria, and (b) a number of others attended the Blazing Blazers rally in Weymouth.

**October** (i) a number of us attended the twinning weekend with the Rennes Chapter; and  
(ii) a few of us went to the CIAS Autumn Lunch at St Brelade's Bay Hotel.

**November** we participated in the Annual Remembrance Sunday Ride Out (non-HOG Event) and I believe our attendance was greatly appreciated.

**December** (i) away trip - one member went to Florida and rode down to Key West.  
(ii) we held our Chapter Christmas Party and Raffle at The Beachcombers Hotel. While numbers are limited to 70, we had the venue to ourselves and the hotel provided an amazing deal for those that stayed overnight. We have provisionally booked again for 2015 however if any member has a recommendation that could provide similar but for 100, then please put the name forward.  
(iii) Mark Baker organised a ride on the Sunday before Xmas for Cancer Relief. This was attended by other bikers and I know created many smiles as they rode around town dressed in their Santa outfits.

### **What is happening in 2015:**

**Visits:** We've already had an approach from a French chapter to come and see us in May. No details yet, but it is likely to be early May as this would coincide with several of their bank holidays.

For ourselves, we usually try and organise a weekend away to France, often to coincide with a bank holiday. This restricts the opportunities but where there's a will, there's an event. We'll keep you posted.

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**Rallies:** (where members have previously attended) are:

**Early May** (i) UK: Cider rally in Weston Super Mare, accommodation via a former Butlins Holiday camp.  
(ii) France – St Tropez, although this is becoming quite an expensive event. Music acts will be a significant decider, previously Status Quo, Suzie Quatro have performed. No details on next year’s performers, yet.

**June** Spain: The H.O.G. Rally is in Jerez next year (actually Puerto Sherry, a short ride from Jerez). A good journey down to just north of Gibraltar and I know several are already planning their trips.

**July** Switzerland: Morzine, a bi-annual event where several of the Guernsey Chapter members have already indicated they are going as a result of excellent reports from previous visits.

**August** (i) SOFER will be back at a new venue, this is a rally organised by 5 chapters in the south east.  
(ii) Thunder in the Glens (Aviemore)

**September** (i) Faaker See in Austria where something like 100,000 bikers attend!  
(ii) Weymouth, another rally focused in a holiday camp over the last weekend.

**October** first weekend will be the anniversary of the Rennes Chapter and I am sure they’d like us to visit.

**Charity:**

We’ve raised a fantastic total for CIAS in 2014 of £3,315. Add this together with last year (2013) and we, as a Chapter, have raised an unprecedented amount of money for Channel Island Air Search, our chosen charity, of over £6,000. This is an amazing achievement and you should all be very proud.

Can we keep up this kind of fund raising? That’ll be up to all of you and your fantastic support.

### **Monthly meeting – January:**

At the January meeting, I'd like to use the time to cover various points:

- (1) Our Membership
- (2) Our Finances
- (3) Our Officers
- (4) Our Charity

With regard to the Charity, CIAS has benefited from our support for 2 years. We need to decide what we are going to do in 2015 (and maybe 2016).

In support of CIAS, but the same is true of any other charity, we want:

- a local charity;
- a charity that would appreciate our support where
  - o they will come along when invited to our meetings;
  - o they publish a newsletter where they can include our activities, and
  - o they would appreciate our attendance at either some of their events or other events where we can advertise their activities.

If we choose your nominated charity, we would like you to support their activities with us and their fundraising.

### **Membership cards**

There seems to have been some confusion regarding membership cards this year (2014). They were all provided to Bikers and you were supposed to receive your 2014 card upon settlement of your membership dues. It would appear that this system hasn't worked as a large number of 2014's are still at Bikers.

A new batch for 2015 will be available by the second week of January.

Don't forget that membership of the club provides you with a 13% discount when travelling with Condor. Trips need to be booked at Elizabeth Terminal and the card verifies your membership. Sadly the card cannot be

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used with other discounted travel ie frequent travel which is 15%, plus no cost alterations (not part of our deal).

**Conclusion:**

I'm looking forward to 2015 and what we can do, especially some of the interesting opportunities to ride my bike.

Away trips - if you either want to get off the island but need some others or would like some advice, please come along to one of our events and we'd be delighted to share our experience and thoughts with you.

Don't forget the HARLEY expression: "Live to Ride and Ride to Live".

Regards  
John Eddy  
Director

PS - If you are reading this in 2015, then Happy New Year!