

Antwerp and The Benelux Rally 2017

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Wow what a weekend – full of fun, drinking, eating, interesting tram/bus journeys and of course a little bit of riding!

The main reason for the trip was to attend the Benelux Rally – but obviously we all wanted to make the most of the trip! Friday (10.30am) we decided to head over to the rally - as we thought maybe we would be having a drink or two.... lol – we decided to use public transport and leave the bikes at the hotel! So, after a short walk to the tram stop we headed into Antwerp, it was very hot and sunny so stopped for a well-earned drink and late breakfast in one of the many squares before venturing to the Rally.



Another short walk to get another tram to the bus station – well this is where all the fun began – firstly we lost Mike Wilson

and didn't realise until we were underground trying to decipher the underground map! With no phone signal, a group went outside to try and find him – Mike knew we were heading for the bus station so decided to walk there and meet us – with the building in site he received our call and walked/ran all the way back to meet us (bearing in mind it was around 30 degrees) he was a tad hot and sweaty! With many navigators, we got on the tram – only to get off at the wrong stop and had to go back again – but again got off at the wrong stop and in fact ended up where we started – 45 minutes later we arrived at the bus station (which we later found out had been only 400 meters



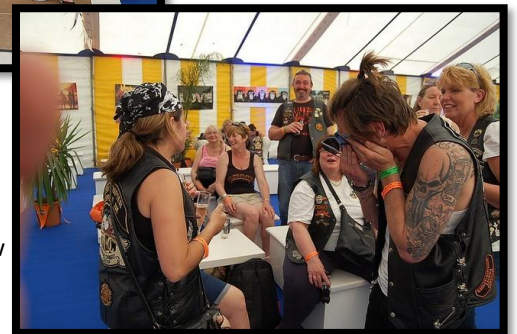
away)!!! But the journey doesn't end there – we were still in the wrong place and had to walk to get the correct bus to the rally!

With all the heat, it was very hard work, so we decided to have another well-earned drink before boarding the bus. Due to roadworks and heavy traffic the bus journey took about an hour – with no air con and scorching weather it was like being in a greenhouse and we were all a little frazzled when we arrived at our stop and had yet another walk to find the rally!! 3.30pm we arrived!! (we thought we were going to be there for lunch)! With registration completed we headed into the rally

and headed for the beer tent – sadly there was a very poor turn out – but the Icen Chapter are die hards and you have to make the most of it. The Icen ladies got the party started and put on a good show on



one of the podiums when the music commenced (say no more – you know who you are)!!!



Saturday..... a

late start due to the night before! Paul organised a ride out to Zeeland riding over the dams and bridges and looking at the local sites – BEAUTIFUL. And amazingly we only got lost (a little) once! And the whole pack was intact when we returned to the hotel.

Sunday, we all headed home – groups of us going in different direction – but a safe and happy ride/weekend was had by all.

For those of you who didn't come – it was AMAZING and we hope to see you on our next trip abroad.