

Les Slimes

February 2022

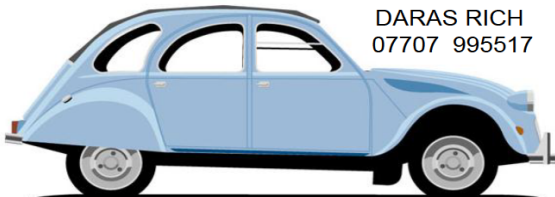


Inside

- Club Meeting at Royal Oak Wineham. 19.30 on Thursday February 17 (out door heated huts available)
- World Meeting Part 9 Czech Republic

Time to start thinking about taking your 2cv on a trip. Camping season will soon be with us.....proof the tent, clean the pegs, check your gear and book the ferry and away we go !







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World Meetings Smooth Driving all the Way (Almost)! **Part Nine - Czech Republic**

I was suddenly very busy again in the middle of 2009 as I had a new role on the 2CVGB committee. I quote from the editorial of the August 2009 edition of 2CVGB News. "You may well be as astounded as I am to find these welcoming notes written by a member you thought had disappeared into 2CVGB retirement some nine months ago." Yes, I had taken on the role of Magazine Editor on the sudden mid-term resignation of the previous incumbent. My first magazine was proof read at the Czech meeting from the pdf documents brought to the meeting by Dot Moran for my approval. I was only able to take on the editorial task with the help of Dot's considerable experience and expertise in design and layout and ability to produce the final document for the printers.

Preparations for the meeting were thus rather more rushed than usual but we were able to join a strong group of Escargots and friends for the trip to Most, close to the German border and about 50 miles north-west of Prague. The meeting was to be held, at the Hippodrome, a fairly new racecourse set on rolling slopes just above the town.

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For myself and Sue It was our second visit to the Czech Republic, as we had previously spent a week-end in Prague, when it was still Czechoslovakia, before Slovakia broke away. Name changes have continued in recent times as the Czech Republic is now known as Czechia. All this must have kept local printers and signwriters busy!

We made a fairly straightforward and direct journey to Most, spending our first night in Cologne (Koln) and having a splendid meal in one of a number of large restaurants on the banks of the River Rhine. Business in the restaurants was brisk as we found several other groups of 2cvers using Cologne as an overnight stop. Our journey from here was pretty much due east across the old East Germany. As we were pre-booked and therefore able to get into the meeting early we camped overnight near Most, leaving a short last run to the site.

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Entry to the meeting was very quick and easy if you were pre-booked, requiring just a simple scan of your ticket. I am not always a fan of new systems and 'progress' but in this case I very much approved of their digital systems. There was plenty of space and, although much of the camping was on sloping land, we were able to find a reasonably flat area to pitch our tents. One welcome innovation was to have small bar areas, with covered seating accommodation scattered around the site.

Once settled in we had time to explore a little and catch up with old friends around the site. A short distance from us on the other side of a hill we found Bob and Carol Brotherhood, with Andrew Ayling and their two 1950's cars, shown in the picture. Andrew had towed his from the UK behind his motorhome and when disconnecting where he planned to camp, failed to appreciate that he was on a slope and saw the car roll gently away from him. Luckily help was at hand and the car's bid for freedom aborted as it was slowed and turned onto the grass.

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One of my first tasks was to find Dot Moran and repair to one of the Hippodrome buildings, set up as a café, to go through and check the finished proofs of the August magazine. It looked good and was now ready to be printed. It was going to be strange to get home from the meeting to find the magazine on the doormat and know exactly what was in it!



The Czech club organised the meeting very well and there was the usual variety of activities, a number staged inside the arena. Armies of cleaners seemed to be constantly on the move inspecting the toilet and shower facilities and cleaning and re-stocking as necessary. The town was also interesting with one municipal building given over to a small 2CV museum. The surrounding rolling countryside was picturesque with some splendid views.

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The only thing to mar the event were reports of a number of thefts from tents, not a new problem for a World meeting, when sites are often large and open with limited entry controls. We had in the past come across this hazard at our first Meeting, way back in 1989 at Orleans and all that can be done really is to be as vigilant as possible and in particular keep money and valuables as secure as possible.

We already knew that the 2011 World Meeting would be in France, at Salbris, but at this meeting it was decided that in 2013 we would be going to Spain, who were successful this time in their bid, after losing out two years earlier.

The motto should perhaps be - 'get a 2CV and see Europe'.

The meeting was expected to be held in the north of the country to keep it relatively close to France.

After the meeting we decided to add another country to our 2009 tour by going across the border to neighbouring Poland and heading for Krakow. On the way we stopped at the Tatra Museum, which proved well worth the visit, with a wonderful display of vehicles. One thing which sticks in my mind is stopping at a nearby café afterwards for a coffee and only realising when we got it that it was a Turkish restaurant and therefore a Turkish coffee, definitely an acquired taste.

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An excellent campsite was found near Krakow where we based ourselves for a few days, visiting Krakow itself, a beautiful city, as well as the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camps and also the incredible Salt Mines, which we went out to by local bus. The salt mines were incredible with an amazing cavernous 'cathedral' right at the bottom, where you could get married. The camps and museum were, needless to say, harrowing but something that has to be seen. The crowded bus ride there I remember for a communication problem I had trying to give up my seat to an old lady who was struggling with bags of shopping.

It was impossible not to take pictures galore in Krakow, particularly around the massive grand square. It was crowded when we were there as a military festival was taking place. We managed to find a Russian restaurant in the city and I remember that the food was very good, though I have no idea what I ate. I also remember that John Blakeley managed to leave his umbrella behind when we left!

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After Krakow there was a parting of the ways as we had to get home in three days and so left for a long motorway journey, via Dresden and Antwerp to Calais and the ferry. Dresden, our first overnight stop was fascinating and a

huge amount of post-war restoration work had been done as the city was virtually flattened by Second World War bombing. It was also very busy, with two music concerts taking place. There was a Pop



Concert near the river and a Classical Music Concert in the centre, near which we found a restaurant.

The second night was spent in Antwerp with time for a little stroll around the canals in the evening and then the Sunday morning market and a little shopping. It was then time to hasten to Calais for our ferry and wend our way home. Pierre could then take a rest and dream of the next time - back home to France!

Maurice

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2CV CLUB THURSDAY
AT ROYAL OAK

21 OCTOBER 2021

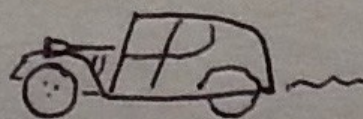
18 NOVEMBER 2021

16 DECEMBER 2021

20 JANUARY 2022

17 FEBRUARY 2022

17 MARCH 2022



7.30 for 8.00 PM

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