

The British Treffen. Kelso 2009

D&C were out in force as usual for the Treffen. I think I made it 17 bikes when I did a count but that's a bit vague due to everyone's travel arrangements and maybe I didn't see everyone who was there. There was the normal 'main camp' with various outposts as some had been there for several days helping out before we got there. Peter and I stopped in the Lake District for a few days on the way up and bumped into some White Horse members on the campsite, Richard and Elaine did the same at Blair Athol but they met Dutch



Wingers - it seems everyone was headed in the same direction. We all managed to get to Kelso late Thursday morning and were able to dry out the tent from the previous day, Pete and Di were just settling in on a big space so we pitched up there, gradually over the next couple of days we used up all that space. The Simmonds arrived en masse and corralled their tents in a circle at the end - were they expecting Indians by any chance? Generally the weather was OK, only really rained at night but was pretty windy and cold, jumpers were required! Over the weekend everyone did their own thing, Kelso is such a great venue, only 10 mins walk to town so you don't need to take the bike out unless you want to, we only went as far as Floors Castle as we

were far too busy just on the site. Many helped out with inscription and security or added to the traders coffers or lazed around in the bar. With D&C's Robin & Ange in charge of the main hall and Chris & Anne in charge of the traders we knew there would be a good lot to do and see. Congratulations to John Bussell for winning the Treffen Committee award. I'm sure everyone saw something different but we caught up with the local dance school which was great, some of them couldn't have been more than 5 and they put huge effort into leaping from one foot to the other. It was a pity the teacher hadn't made an effort to dress appropriately and to get the music to match the dancing but then you can't have everything! Numbers were a bit up on previous years (not just me who likes Kelso then!) I heard 750 inscriptions which is good as the club needs a bit of a boost at the moment, hopefully Wadebridge will be as popular - it's up to us to prove the faith the committee has put into our region. Speaking of which one of the highlights of the Treffen for us came right at the end with the closing ceremony on Sunday evening when Alba and D&C were



invited on stage to hand over the Treffen flag. The

Alba members said to us that they are already looking forward to coming down. I spoke to Ange over the weekend and she is already buzzing with ideas, no doubt she will impart these in due course and we will be hearing from the Treffen Committee what is expected of us both in the run up and during the Treffen next year - it will hit us sooner than we think the speed time goes nowadays!