

August 2024

# Les Slimes

## Last Edition of Les Slimes



See inside and also for the final episode  
of the World Meetings from Maurice

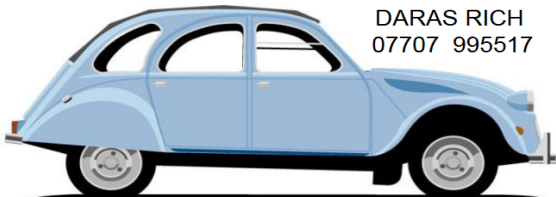
**Next Meeting Thursday 15  
August 19.30**

*Red Lion at Ashington (just off of the A24)*

*Food available if you would like to eat*

*Plenty of parking to show off our cars !*


*There may be a last minute change to having a BBQ.....if so  
check Whats App and an email will also be sent*




DARAS RICH  
07707 995517

2CV DYANE AMI AK AZU ACADIANE MEHARI LOMAX  
Mechanical Repairs Servicing Welding Mots Etc  
FULLY TRAINED MECHANIC WITH OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE OF ALL TYPES OF CAR

PLUS NEW & SECONDHAND PARTS AT:



RETROSPEC  
PARTS .com



MATT'S SOFT TOPS

Matt's Soft Tops is 21 years old and our range of high-quality products is wider than ever

Hand-made plain, striped and custom hoods for 2CVs and Dyanes in acrylic canvas

Heated windows, Headlining, Grille Muffs

Seat re-upholstery for 2CV, Dyane, Van, Ami 6, H-van, Ami 8 plus custom orders

See the full range on  
[www.matts-soft-tops.co.uk](http://www.matts-soft-tops.co.uk)

13 Lewis Road, Chichester PO19 7LZ  
01243 780132

Newsletter of South Downs Escargots ([www.southdownsescargots.co.uk/](http://www.southdownsescargots.co.uk/))  
Member group of 2cvGB Articles and 2cv news always welcome.  
Please send copy and pics to John Chaplin ([biker1@btinternet.com](mailto:biker1@btinternet.com))

# Les Slimes

## The Final Edition

We have decided to sign off in producing Les Slimes which in it's early days was known as Snail Trail. The main reason is that content has got thinner over the months mainly due to Social Media now filling the communication channel to our members of our activities.

Whats App includes lots of photos of our meets as well as the Escargots Facebook. The web site also includes more info.

**HOWEVER.....**



I will still be doing a brief e mail each month for our members who prefer not to use Social Media. I will use it to remind about forthcoming meetings and other important news/info from time to time.

I might even include in the e mail the occasional photo.

This only leaves me to say a massive thanks to all who have contributed over the years and of course you the reader.

John

# Les Slimes



## World Meetings Smooth Driving all the Way(Almost)!

### Part Twelve - Return to Poland

July 2015 was soon upon us and Torun in Poland was our next destination. Sue and I were on our own again, with 'Pierre', travelling separately from the rest. We stayed overnight in Calais and then headed east for our next night stop in Hanover. All the way out of France and through the Low Countries the weather was absolutely foul and wipers and lights were in use at all times. We had just crossed from the Netherlands into Germany when we stopped at a rest area for a break.

We were there for a good while. When I turned the key to go there was nothing - the battery was completely flat. It was clear that we needed a good amount of charge in the battery to get us on our way, especially in view of the weather, which, although now beginning to moderate a little, was still not good. Fortunately our classic car insurance policy covers overseas breakdowns, so we rang the relevant number for assistance. After rather convoluted attempts to explain exactly where we were the message was finally got across and we were told the German equivalent of our Automobile Association were on their way.

# Les Slimes



The German breakdown man spoke not a word of English and after a brief investigation pronounced "Batterie Kaput". He wanted to go and get a new battery but I persuaded him by using my few words of German and a somewhat bizarre form of sign language to put as much charge as possible into the existing one. This he finally understood and accepted. Soon we had a good charge in the battery and were ready to go. Our rescuer was a little incredulous that the 2CV was going to take us to Hanover and I'm sure fully expected us to be in touch again before long but off he went with his wishes for a "Guten Fahrt" - safe journey.

Fortunately the weather started to be more on our side and continued to improve. Eventually the wipers and lights could be turned off and I was happy that we weren't going to drain the battery again. We were even able to use the "Satnav" to find our way to the pre-booked hotel in Hanover. Without it we would probably have still been looking! When we parked at the hotel I deliberately left "Pierre" pointing down a slope to give us a chance of a rolling start if necessary. I also hoped for a dry sunny morning to give a much better chance of starting success.

# Les Slimes



I think I must have been quite tired that night because I have little recollection of where we went for an evening meal except that it was just a short stroll down the road somewhere. I also know that I slept very well and woke up to see the sun streaming through the bedroom window.

As it was sunny and warm for the next day there was no problem getting going. Our destination was not too far away for we had a hotel booked in the western outskirts of Berlin, near the Olympic Stadium and rail station to give us a full afternoon and evening in the city. On the way to Berlin we detoured through the centre of Potsdam to marvel at its architecture and buildings.

It was only a short walk from our hotel to catch the local train into Berlin city centre. The only complicated part was mastering the German instruction on the ticket machine to get the two return tickets we wanted. By the time the second train arrived we had sorted it out and were on our way!

# Les Slimes



Berlin was a delight and we enjoyed a wander around the centre of the city and a drink on the banks of the river before heading towards the Brandenburg Gate. Near there we later had an evening meal and then made our way back to the station for the return journey to our hotel. It was a very enjoyable day!

Our destination was now Poland and the World Meeting. We had a route planned to get from our hotel, around the outskirts of Berlin and back onto the autobahn towards Poland. This worked fine until we hit roadworks, which had of course closed the two main roads we needed! Luckily, after a little wandering up and down a few roads we somehow got back on track and everything was plain sailing. We arrived at Torun in good time and followed the well-placed direction signs for the meeting without any problems.

This took us to the Moto Arena stadium where already quite a number of 2CVers had parked up and were gathering. As we found out later this was at one end of the large meeting site and more travelling was still involved. A queue had started to form by the ticket office and we joined it, soon to be joined by the rest of our Escargots group. Unfortunately there was no proper control of the number of people allowed into the office at any one time so the very small office became very congested.



# Les Slimes



Eventually we reached the ticket counter, checked in and received our information pack. We now learnt that to get into the meeting we had to drive for some distance around the outside of the site to the other end to get to the meeting entrance. Off we set and soon joined the end of a long queue but this moved relatively quickly and before too long we were turning off into the entrance drive and joining a relatively fast moving line to go past the control, showing our armbands, and enter. Once we had all gathered the next task was to decide where to camp.

In the end we settled for a spot in the middle of the site, not too far (and not too close) to a stand of Portaloos but also not too far away from the action. Our tents were soon erected although our awning, which really belonged to a larger tent did not fit completely straight. We tried various ways to straighten it and eventually gave up and lived with it slightly crooked! Once we had fully explored the site we found that beyond the marquee and catering facilities etc. it stretched right back to the stadium itself, where we had checked in. Indeed where the flea market was to be held in the mornings was in the area where we had parked on our arrival at the stadium.

# Les Slimes



The weather through the meeting was very pleasant and as well as the many activities available on site most people took advantage of the free transport into Torun on the tram network which our wristbands gave us. One evening there was a convoy of 2CVs into Torun, restricted due to space to around 150 cars, and a display along the riverbank. The town was a splendid sight with local residents and 2CVers all enjoying the spectacle and the various stalls which were there for the evening. We all went in on the tram.

There was a large Croatian contingent at the meeting to support their bid to host the World meeting in 2019. Portugal had of course already been chosen for 2017 and they gave us more information on their plans. Many of us, as per usual made advance bookings. Croatia were, to their very evident delight, awarded the staging of the 2019 event after the vote of countries at the meeting. This was something to look forward to!



# Les Slimes



As always the meeting was all too quickly over and it was time to wend our way home. Many of our group were extending their stay with detours on the way back but sadly again we did not have any spare time available and had to make a direct trip home with an overnight stay in the Netherlands. We borrowed a voltage meter from Daras to check that the battery was charging properly and I am pleased to say that it behaved perfectly all the way home, aided by considerably better weather than on the outward journey. The battery was however changed soon after our return. It was time to dream of Portugal in 2017 - it would come soon enough.

Maurice

(Ed: Huge thanks to Maurice for this series of articles on the World Meetings. Most entertaining and a great insight into taking our 2cv's overseas....we should be encouraged)