

**From**

**JARROW**



**to**

**JAVA**



**(on a beer scooter)**

**Joe Writeson**

# COPYRIGHT

*From Jarrow to Java (on a beer scooter)*

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## REVIEWS

*This book will capture your interest from beginning to end, I very highly recommend, definitely my 'cup of tea.'*

**Elizabeth – Independent Reviewer, Amazon**

*A must read for all those of you who dream of life in paradise... and for those already living it! Written by a talented author who left me wanting more.*

**Dawn - Squirrel Online Books**

*If you know anything about Geordies or the ex pats that worked all over back in the day you will love to read this author, funny witty and true to life, excellent, hopefully loads more to come.*

**Carol B. - Dreaming of Island Life**

*Brilliant real life stories about contract workers and expats living in Asia, great read for travelers anywhere in the world,*

**Steve Allan – NZEL**

*An entertaining read, wonderful vocabulary, terrific sense of humor and the ability to lay out each chapter as an interesting story with a perfect one-liner at the end.*

**Pusparwana – Living in Indonesia Literary Review**

*In the mould of Don't Tell Mum I work on the Rigs, but more detail about local customs and the way Indonesians and the expat community interact, loads of laughs and a fun read.*

**Peter S - Goodreads**

*Real life experience writing at its best.*

**CMT – Expat Life**

*A brilliant first book, easy to read, interesting and funny, you almost felt you were there, can't wait to for the next one.*

**Myra – Holiday Reads, Benidorm**

*Light to read with each chapter laid out in mini-story format,  
thoroughly enjoyed it.*

***Sean Warr - Amazon Reviewer***

## DEDICATION

### **This book is dedicated to ....**

Those who lined the route from Jarrow to Java offering spiritual and geographical guidance when I lost my way... which was quite often.

On the journey, I had a beer or two, took part in many cultural exchanges, had a couple of beers, fought a few tigers, then recuperated with a beer, quelled the occasional revolution, had a beer, advised some world leaders, took a beer break, fell in love and had a few more beers. I solved the world's problems, scored some match-winning goals and had a great life..... mostly without leaving the pub.

So its heartfelt thanks to the barmaids, waitresses, barmen, best mates and all fellow travelers on the road to enlightenment.

*Cheers!*

## **THE BEER SCOOTER ITINERARY**

On yer bike...prefaced by an intro describing how I ended up in Indonesia, a brief comparison of Jarrow to Java...and ...exactly what is a beer scooter?

## PROLOGUE...ON YER BIKE!!

**Jarrow**, where I was born on the Banks of The River Tyne in the North East of England, once the home of a World renowned and thriving shipbuilding industry. Now the riverside is bare, forlorn and badly landscaped. Nothing is built there anymore, not even hopes or dreams...

**Java**. The most heavily populated island in Indonesia. Home to a vast array of cultures, landscapes, flora and fauna. The rapidly increasing population plus the development of fabrication, petrochemical and electronic assembly industries throughout the island means there is a huge demand for reliable electricity supplies. Coal is one of Indonesia's main natural resources and therefore the majority of IPPs (Independent Power Plants) are coal-fired. Japan, Korea and China are three of the main investors in construction and operation, employing numerous foreigners in engineering, supervision and QA/QC positions.

Many travelers build their hopes and dreams here...

**Beer Scooter**. A wondrous means of transport that carries the rider wherever he wants to go, no matter how much beer he has consumed. He is magically whisked in and out of airports, aeroplanes, through immigration formalities, customs checks and baggage claims, and then is invariably deposited at any one of the best bars and clubs in town filled with the most amazing visions of loveliness.

Afterwards he is safely checked in to a hotel and wakes up the next morning with no idea of where he is or how he got there.

The Beer Scooter Journey starts here. I ended up on a huge onshore construction project in East Java via a farcical sequence of mishaps and coincidences. An offshore job in Brazil overran by three months and came to a halt on the same day as a helicopter pilots strike started which meant demobilising by crew boat which ran aground because the Captain and crew were suffering

the after effects of a major binge inspired by their football team's success in the Copa de Rio the previous evening. Flights and connections were missed and when alternatives were sourced I found myself on a flight to Paris and upgraded to Business Class then asked to move seats to allow a lady traveling with a baby more room. I found myself seated next to a recruiter for an international manpower employment agency who desperately needed someone to mobilise immediately to a project in the Far East to replace a man who had quit without notice.

The job description and my skills were a perfect match.

Karma? Kismet? Serendipity? Fate? Who can say?

But the posting was to change my life forever.