



CONTACT

May 2011

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President's Piece

Odd Comments - May.

Well we have had two good bank holidays. The weather has been great so I hope you have been out and about, so you can put together some words for Contact.

Estelle has been sorting out some social events. Pool has been completed, there is Karting and Bowling still to come as I write this. Please contact Estelle for details. There is the BBQ on the 3rd of July down at Seaford so put that in your diary.

As I write this it seems that the 8th of May to Bathampton could be a wash out, which is a shame but we do need the rain so the farmers say. The run on June 5th is to Hayling Island, see Mick for all meeting times and places.

We have had two weeks off from the scheme as per the bank holidays but now are back with SEVEN pupils. If you can help Saturdays with the smallest thing this would be a great help. I believe the scheme is on the up with pupils so the revenue is ok. The meeting that was planned for the scheme has now been put off for a period of time, see Heather if you have any questions.

Winchester ride:

We met at Newlands Corner this time on a very nice sunny day. I arrived to find only one other there and that was Lloyd, who had popped out for a cup of tea but was not going on the ride as he had done his leg in playing badminton. Dangerous game that! Next Stella arrived saying she had just fallen off her bike while stationary due to the camber in the road and bent her gear lever. As a result every time she changed gear she gave everyone a flash as it touched her flasher button!! Shortly after, John Garland turned up, (someone we have not seen for some time) and promptly said "I have just seen some one fall of their bike, I did not stop as they were being helped already". Stella piped up yes that was me. Eventually the main group turned up, Mick with Sam in tow, Heather, Ian, Dave with Katie on the back, Ron and Bertina. Spanner did what he could for Stella's bike and once Katie had a cup of coffee to try and sober her up we set off along the scenic route to the A272.

It was a very nice trundle as Mick had had a tip off about quite a few speed cameras along the A272 [and there were]. It took two hours to get to the Black Boy pub but we did stop for petrol half way. The pub was quite old; we knew this as while we had dinner it was noticed we had our feet on a grave stone dated 1897. Of course Spanner said: "yes well their all dying to get in here". [The old ones are the old ones!] Roast dinners were the order at lunch time, Beef, Lamb or Chicken, plus a veggie option for Stella. The weather, people, food and the ambiance was very nice.

Spanner was elected to lead on the way back; we followed the same route to The Hut and Loummiss but only stopped for petrol. We all went back along the A32 then to Alton and Odiam. The others were going to stop on the M3 at Fleet services so I decided to take my leave and go home. Marvellous day out - thanks Mick.

And finally, if you have paid your membership and not received your card please chase Russell Sommer or any committee member.

Hope to see you out and about.

John Mason.
President

Note from the Editor

Well...!! if I'd known just how much email traffic was going to be generated by last month's Caption competition picture, I'd have included it a lot sooner. The difficulty now is how do I beat that. Actually the problem is easily solved – I just need you to send in your favourite funny pictures for inclusion.

In the meantime, my thanks to all this month's contributors for your articles and photographs. May's edition is a bumper one which I hope you enjoy reading ☺. Hopefully you'll all have packed diaries for the late Spring / Summer season and you can send me an email or article to share with all the members of the Club.

Karen Rickard
Editor

Social News

Bowling: 19 May

I've booked 3 lanes based on the number of acceptances so far to be played at Airport Bowl, Heathrow. We do have a couple more spaces available so if you haven't yet confirmed but want to come along then please let me know. I'll be looking for **£9 per person please by 18 May**. The Airport Bowl is on the A4. The address is; Bath Road, Harlington, Middlesex, UB3 5AL, (0870 062 8888). Please aim to be there by 7.30pm for an 8pm start!! My number is 0797 999 4857 if you have any problems.

Karting

We have set a date of Friday 17 June – I have 3 places left that I can offer to non-members so if anyone has a friend who wants to come then please let me know ASAP!! Places will be allocated on a first-come first served basis. There is a weight limit of 16 stone and a minimum height of 5ft. We'll need to be at Greenwich tube station by 7.30pm for an 8pm

start. The cost is £25 and I'll be collecting **money by 8 June please** for those who have booked.

Update on the MCN Fantasy Race League... Pete is still in the lead with Dave and I in competition for the wooden spoon...

		Manager	Team Name	Pts
1	▶	Peter Edward	LegoMania	257
2	▲	Sasu Duviau	Sexy Frog Racing	247
3	▼	John Mason	Stretched Arse Racing	231
4	▶	Richard Davidson	Two Chances	203
5	▲	Monty Donut Dodger	The Donut Spreaders	197
6	▶	Chris Booker	Hedgerow Racing	193
7	▼	Mick Wallace	Silver-Back Racing	189
8	▲	Katy Spragg	Katy's Hot Heads	178
9	▼	Ron Regan	Rocket Ron Racing	173
10	▼	Estelle Potter	Old (Scrumpy) Spicers	155
11	▶	Dave Regan	Hopeful Racing	135

Enjoy your month and I hope to see you on a ride or at the Bowling!

Estelle 'Scrumpy Spice' Potter (Estelle.x@hotmail.com)
Social Secretary

Club Captain

1) Winchester Club Run

So there I was, riding along, minding my own business when I checked my mirrors and find I'm being followed. I realised then that the holidays had finished and I was back leading another club run.

I'd been met at home by Dave, Ron (Regan) and Bettina Nettercott and along with Heather made our way to Newlands Corner. We had glorious weather but even that wasn't enough to bring out more than the regulars. John Mason, John Garland, Stella MacNay and Spanner met us at Newlands and Katy (Spragg) who had been pillion with Dave, jumped on to Spanner's bike as he was giving his ZZR a run. I also had a pillion as our daughter had decided to roll out of bed and join us. We set off south to catch the A281, continued south to the A272 and made our way to Winchester. Not the shortest of routes for those who check on the map, but it did give us the opportunity to ride the westerly end of the A272, (waving at all the policemen who were waiting with their speed guns). I had previously been down the A272 a couple of days before and the locals were only too happy to tell me that the police were blitzing the area, but I'm not surprised as it is a bikers' paradise.



On the final approach to Winchester, Spanner took the lead as he had also previously visited the area and knew where we could park near the pub. Unfortunately we got a little bit separated so it was back to the usual “herding cats” to get everyone to the car park, (it was also very reminiscent of the car chase from the Pink Panther film with Peter Sellers, David Niven,

Robert Wagner and the gorilla suits) but we didn’t lose anyone and soon after we were all settled at the ‘Black Boy’ enjoying roast dinner, closely accompanied by the pub dog.

So after refuelling the riders, we set off back along the A272 to West Meon, where we had another quick fuel stop for those that needed it and then back up north to Alton and the A32 and then a short hop to junction 5 (M3) where we did a final stop at Fleet Services for tea and ice cream and an exchange of war stories. From there we star burst for home.

All in all another nice day and we were lucky with the weather and no one did more than wave at the policemen. See if you can make the next one, which will be to Bathampton.

2) Bank Holidays and Bathampton - where were you all?

There’s a new joke going round about the Royal Wedding weekend. It goes along the lines of, ‘Extra Bank Holiday, Royal Wedding, Man Utd losing and Bin Laden getting shot. Carlsberg don’t normally do weekends, but they thought ‘what the heck we’ll give it a crack this time!’

What they should have added to this list of things to do on the extra bank holiday weekend was a visit to the Fleet Lions Bike Run. Even though the scheme was closed over the weekend, we still had a breakfast gathering at Sam’s on Saturday. (We are dedicated to something it appears, even if it is only food). After the girls and Dave had finished discussing the wedding dress, while the blokes debated Pippa Middleton and you know what we were talking about, it came up that the Fleet Lions Run was being held on the Monday. So with great enthusiasm Snowy jumped at the chance to lead us all down on Monday morning.

When I say ‘us’ I mean John, Dave, Heather & myself and when I say he jumped at the chance, it was more of a case of, ‘Well you know where it is, so we’ll follow you then.....’

Anyway first thing Monday we all set off to Fleet to watch a varied range of motorcycles gather do a charity run. There were some superb examples of restored classic bikes, one of which was out for its first run since being rebuilt from the ground up, but at the other end of the scale was a bike that had more oil on the outside and on the tarmac than in the sump. God only knows how he managed to ride it down there.

So after spending a while wandering around, talking to some of the riders, we set off to Newlands Corner for another tea/burger (see there is always a food theme with us). Once again Snowy was put in the front having stated that he knew a 'roundabout route' to Newlands. And he wasn't wrong. We set off out of the car park (Snowy had said we'd go via Farnborough & Guildford for Newlands) and at the traffic lights a few yards from the car park, sign posted Farnborough straight on, we turned left!! So when we stopped in the traffic I quickly put Newlands Corner into my Sat Nav. Which from then on kept on telling me to turn this way or that, when Snowy kept going a different way? We went around, completely, around roundabouts. We drove into B&Q. We failed to spot the signs for Guildford and all the time my Sat Nav is saying, 'I don't why I bother, you never listen to me. Here I am working out a route for you and you ignore me!' Luckily it was a beautiful day, so I didn't really mind the extra miles, but Snowy stills holds the 'Red Leader' title deservedly and claims he was following 'through route' signs.

Anyway today (Sunday 8th) was the Bathampton Run, and those who made it to the meet (John, Stella, Ron, Dave, Snowy, Heather, Katy & myself) had a fairly incident free run down to Bathampton. I didn't argue with the Sat Nav this time, mainly because I'd pre-programmed the run route I wanted into it. We were lucky with the weather as the rain came during the night, but held off during the day. So we had lunch alfresco at the pub, and the run back via Devizes was great, albeit a tad windy.

Highlight on the M3 was the transportation of an old steam locomotive; it caused quite a stir as traffic in all lanes slowed right down to point.

BUT the big question is, where were the rest of you? The next run is the Hayling Island Run, a Snowy favourite, on the 5th June so hopefully we'll see you then.

Mick Wallace
Club Captain

Prestcott Motorbike Festival

On the same Sunday as the SSMCC Winchester run, a charity motorbike festival was held in Gloucestershire at the Prestcott Hill Climb. The charity concerned was the Severn Freewheelers. Their website gives much more information about this organisation http://www.severnfreewheelers.co.uk/about_us.htm but basically, they are a group of motorcyclists who provide their time for free to ferry anything from blood to x-rays to patient notes between hospitals in the area. They are all volunteers who receive extra training in emergency response riding and the bikes they ride are specially modified to carry the packages given to them by the NHS. All the bikes ridden by the volunteers are specially built for the organisation by BMW, however the problem is that currently after 3 years service, 3 of them (BMW R1150RTs) need to be replaced.

Thus the purpose of the charity day at Prescott was to raise as much money as possible to support the Severn Freewheelers organisation.



The Prescott Hill Climb site itself is owned and run by the Bugatti Owners Club and has been owned by them since 1937. The track was originally a muddy, rutted drive and the first run was held in April 1938. The Club President at that time was Earl Howe, who opened proceedings by driving his type 57 Bugatti up the hill.



The day turned out to be gloriously sunny and this brought out the public in their thousands. Some turned up to spectate and some turned up to race their bikes up the Prescott Hill. The day was very much a “run what you bring” day, however there was also some serious competitions being held too. There were many classic machines of the Hill Climb breed (such as

the picture above) and being down at the start amongst the noise (courtesy of the straight through exhaust pipes) and the smoke (no unleaded nonsense here) was an experience not to be missed. Many of these older bikes don't have starter motors so they had to use a variety of techniques to start them from 'rolling roads' to good old fashioned push and run like “...”. Along with the classic bikes, a number of Morgan 3 wheelers were also taking part.



In addition to the serious competitors, there was the usual smattering of not so serious riders – like this one!! It turns out, this rider is actually an IAM Advanced Rider – clearly his ‘superman’ powers had defected for the day and reduced him to a measly 50 cc scooter.

The large crowds (over 10,000) were also treated to an array of not so talented riders and the particularly sharp hairpin bend caught several riders out resulting in lots of whoops and applause from the crowds and lots of running around by the marshals to retrieve bits of fairing and to sweep the gravel back into the gravel trap.

With lots of side shows, fairground rides, helicopter rides and a charity auction, the event was a real family day out and hopefully raised a bucketful of money for the Severn Freewheelers. If they hold it again, perhaps this could be a venue for a SSMCC outing?

Greg Hackney
SSMCC "Cotswolds Branch"

Caption Competition

April Winner:

"Mick didn't mind being the butt of so many jokes but he just couldn't see the crack this time" – from Scrumpy Spice.



Best of the Rest:

[Ed, these next three are from someone very close to Mick's heart 😊 - eh Gwendoline ?]

- I could say
"I think we should put this one back in the water!!!"
- What I should say is
"I bet he's good looking from the front"
- What I want to say is
"Can I park my bike here?"

A small selection from Maurice:

- That swimming lark looks like a right CRACK!
- Wherever you go on holiday the MOON follows you!
- Mick thought his holiday was a good CRACK !
- I used to love crackajack but crackamick just isn't the same
- Water monster surveys the area for his next kill - prey is tender when young

And finally a poem from Rocket:

"I'm sure I have seen this shape before,
I think it a whale stranded on the shore.
Nothing else I can think of comes to mind,
But I don't remember the crack in its behind."

Dates for your Diary

Proposed Club Runs:

20th March	Pioneer Run
10th April	Winchester (A272)
8th May	Bathampton
5 th June	Hayling Island
3 rd July	Seaford BBQ
31 st July	Lechlade
4 th September	Blue Bird Cafe
2 nd October	Stratford Upon Avon
6th November*	Veteran Car Run

(* Date yet to be confirmed as no date published yet)

Social Events:

Date	Event	Cost	Notes
All year	Fantasy Bike Racing	Free	Enrol on-line before 19 Mar. League Code 1019
26 March	Pool Night	£12.50	Rileys Pool Hall Twickenham
17 April	Paint Ball	£30	Tentative pending more interest
May (evening)	Ten Pin Bowling	£9	
June (Sunday)	Go Karting	£25	
27 June (TBC)	Cassington Bike night		
July	BBQ	10	3 rd July is Seaford BBQ, May do another local one on 31st
Aug	Picnic	Free	
Sept	Thames Cruise	£30-40	
Oct	Wine Tasting	£5	
Nov	Pub Quiz	£5	
Fri 25 Nov	NEC Bike Show	£	It's early this year but am assuming we'll do our traditional final Friday visit.
Dec	Xmas Party		
Jan	Pool Night		

~~~ End ~~~