



# CONTACT

June 2011

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## President's Piece

### Odd Comments

June, where has the time gone?... half way through the year already. Still, we as a Club have managed to do some things. February we had the AGM, which seemed to go well with half the membership attending. March we had the first club run down to Brighton, which was well attended and the weather was good. Estelle the club Social Sec has gone into overdrive to arrange events for you to attend. The pool night seemed to go down well in April and in June there will be Karting in London. To come: a track day in July, 'Party in the park' [Richmond] in August, plus other events during the year. See Contact for details. Thanks Estelle.

April saw the second run. The club went to Winchester again, good weather, May off to Bathampton another good ride out and more good weather - can it last?

June we will be going to Hayling Island nice little ride down to the coast, see Mick Wallace for details of any club run you wish to attend. Thanks Mick.

The scheme will be closed on the 25th of June owing to people being away. The club is however marshalling a BMF section at Jack Lillys near Charlton Village from 13.00pm till 17.00pm so I am sure Rob Wood will be pleased to have your help setting up and company. See Rob for more details.

July not only has the ride to Seaford for the BBQ at the beginning of the month but also at the end (31<sup>st</sup>) there is a ride to Lechlade and the Trout pub on the river. So remember to fill your diaries.

Remember we need names for the BBQ and money up front if you are going so please see Mick.

John Mason.

President

### **Note from the Editor**

Dear reader – a little later than planned this month but as a result I have a few more articles for you to enjoy – my thanks as always to the authors. If you want to contribute to the magazine please send me your articles – to karen@colesborne5.co.uk.

Karen Rickard  
Editor

### **Social News**

A bit of a technical issue this month but hopefully back next month with an update on the latest MCN Fantasy Race league.

Estelle Potter  
Social Secretary

### **Club Captain**

#### **HAYLING ISLAND CLUB RUN**

The weather was a bit dubious, but not bad enough to justify cancelling the traditional run to Hayling Island, one of Snowy's favourite runs, so we all met up at Fleet Services on the M3. Some of us arrived early enough to have coffee etc, whilst others like John Garland managed to make it just as we were about to leave the car park!

Anyway we left the M3 at the next junction and took the B3349 to Alton, a nice little road, but they seem to have gone a bit mad with the solid white lines and lower speed limits, but that seems to be the trend nowadays.

After Alton we went onto the A32, which is where I would normally be able to open up the bike. However I was on my new bike and it was still in need of running in as it only had a couple of hundred miles on the clock. So at the appropriate moment I was passed by Snowy, who knew the way (makes a change) and he was able to stretch his legs a bit before we stopped for a quick leg stretch at Loomies in West Meon which as normal was packed with bikes. Makes you wonder why it closed when it was a Little Chef claiming that they couldn't get enough business. We only just managed to get all of us into the car park. By 'us' I mean, John Mason, Spanner, Rocket, Snowy, Colin (also on a new bike, a very nice GSX750) and two mates, Heather, John Garland, Kevin (a mate of John Mason), Sasu and Mini Me. Not a bad number but there was room for more!

After the leg stretch we carried onto Havant, using the road that goes over Portsdown Hill, where the Navy have buildings especially shaped like ships superstructures for testing radar and where you get a great view over towards Portsmouth. The hill down into Havant is quite steep and on this day there was a charity cycle ride for the British Heart Foundation, which appeared to be quite a challenge for some of them. But they were going up it, unlike us and some were dressed in costume, including one chap dressed as Banana Man and one as Wonder Woman!

Even though I was running in my bike and just drifting along, we managed to arrive at the pub earlier than normal, in fact we arrived before the pub opened; that's a first I think!

We were joined by Estelle, who couldn't get out of bed early enough to join us at Fleet, but she still made it and then shot back as she had another engagement. A busy life. Steve Pearce and his daughter / pillion Nicole also joined us, Nicole still grinning from ear to ear, having gained her CBT the day before.

We had a good lunch and then set off to Billingshurst, using the A29, but unfortunately the weather then decided to break and when we arrived at the Little Chef we had full on rain. Which meant that most had to put their 'babygrow' waterproofs on – all very glamorous. But I think really we got away lightly with the weather.

Hopefully the weather will be better for the BBQ in Seaford next month and we'll have a good turn out as well.

Mick Wallace  
Club Capt & New BMW owner!



[Ed – so your gag with the long grey wig at the Bike show didn't stop the dealers taking your money then?]

### **Bathampton run**

The weather was going to be wet allegedly but all we had were a few drops - once waiting for our food at the pub, which was very nice and the other time when we were out riding. I decided that when I woke up if it was raining I would not go out. But as I looked through the curtains the sun was shining, so off I went to Fleet services. The line up was as follows, Mick with Katie as his passenger for the day, Heather, Stella, Snowy, Rocket, Dangerous, myself and an old member but younger than me, Chris Osbourne. [I know everyone is nearly younger than me]. Except you Stocky!

It was a good ride there, Heather and Stella did very well with no hanging about. I did 107 miles to get to the pub. Mick paid our toll fee which I believe has gone up 100% to 40p, I am sure it was only 20p last year!

On our return journey the roads were even better - the A342 I think it was, was lovely. We stopped once for petrol and once on the way back at the cafe just past Popham airport for tea, cakes and coffee to keep us going.

Total miles for me was 214. Just nice, a good day out - thanks Mick.

John Mason.

## Little Known Wales

Well I should have known – the clue was in the title. But on a damp and definitely unpromising, Sunday morning in early June, I wasn't exactly thinking about what the title might indicate. A group of 8 riders (and 1 pillion), met at the Little Chef just off junction 9 on the M5 for an expedition across the Welsh border.

As predominantly IAM riders, this group adopts a different technique for rides out from SSMCC as it uses the 'drop – off' system. This technique requires the leader to tell the next bike behind where to stop at junctions to indicate direction for all the following riders. When the penultimate bike has gone past, the 'dropped off' bike re-joins the rider, in front of the last bike, called the 'Tail End Charlie'. Sounds simple enough but it's easy to get wrong e.g. re-join the ride too soon, or to not stop at all!!

So after the rules of drop off had been explained we set off for Tewkesbury and then on to the Little Chef at Hope Under Dinmore on the A49, south of Leominster for breakfast. More importantly it was to meet up with four more riders including our 'Leader' for the journey through Wales.

Looking round the assembled bikes, it was clear that the motorbike of choice for the experienced rider, was the BMW – mostly GS versions but also a very tasty FS800R, a dinky little naked sports tourer from BMW. Over some tasty sausage butties, it started to become apparent as to why most people were on these tough, chunky 'Beemers'. It turns out our leader for the ride used to work for the Water Board in Wales and had toured the region extensively in search of pipes, leaks and the like. Mostly in a Landrover!! Ah!! Whilst munching my brekky I was warned, don't get used to the smooth Welsh A roads as I'd be finding myself bowling along only to find an indicator flashing at the front, taking us onto the narrow, twisty back lanes. And sure enough, that's what happened.

From the Little Chef on the A49 we headed North and picked up the A44. This is a wonderful, wide, smooth and surprisingly pot hole free stretch of road. Sure enough, having settled down to a 'progressive' pace, the line we turned off onto a B road. And oh what joy. This was a wonderfully typical example of the roads we would encounter, full of uphill / downhill, bend after bend, the direction always twisting and turning.

As we headed deeper into Wales, the roads got narrower and narrower. We were heading for the Visitor Centre in the Elan Valley. At one point we encountered a car with a trailer who couldn't reverse (and neither could we) and as the road was so narrow it was a bit of a stalemate. Eventually it begrudgingly shuffled back a foot, giving just enough room for the GS bikes to avoid clouting wing mirrors. Strings of horse riders and bike riders were also out enjoying the leafy glades and wooded valleys so progress to the Visitor Centre was slow.



We topped up our stomach levels with more snacks and drinks and headed up the chain of Elan Valley dams to the highest reservoir. The scenery was spectacular as we rose above the wooded valley floors up onto the moorland passes.

After a pause to take in the views we set off again along more narrow roads, dodging the sheep and a surprisingly constant stream of oncoming traffic made up of both bikes and cars in equal numbers! Boy does Wales get busy at the Weekend.

We'd been trundling along these lanes for a while when very quickly and very noticeably, the road surface deteriorated. Tarmac was replaced by loose gravel, mud and a very definite green strip down the middle. And then the gates appeared. The drop off system took on a completely different interpretation, best executed by those carrying passengers as this enabled the driver to 'drop off' his passenger to close the gates behind Tail End Charlie. This stretch went on for quite a few miles and required considerable concentration and skilful throttle and clutch control. Suddenly the GS started to make a huge amount of sense, proving to be very stable on the rough surface. Tantalising sites of traffic moving at speed on roads across the other side of valley, resulted in lots of wishful thinking and sentimental reminiscences of what my sports tourer was actually designed to do.



Eventually we rejoined the main roads, picking up the A44 again for a short while before heading onto some smaller B roads for a bit of a circuitous route back to Leominster. By now, annoyingly, the rain started to fall in substantial volume. Fortunately by the time we got back to Ledbury, it had eased off so we parked up, chewed the fat, admired the mud splattered paint work, checked the miles (220 in total) and then split up to return to our respective homes.

It was a really enjoyable ride and a great chance to see parts of Wales not normally visited by anyone other than locals. However, next time I'm invited on a trip called Little Known Wales I shall set off with a rucksack, compass and a set of knobby tyres.

Greg Hackney  
SSMCC "Cotswolds Branch"

## **Stop Press 1 – Southern Sporting Trial**

Something for your diaries, the September trial is on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup>. The land we are to use is Roy Entiknap's land at Dunsfold.

The Address is,

Sethern,  
Rams Lane,  
Dunsfold,  
Guildford.  
GU8 4NR.

The Sec of the meeting is BOB BROWN and Clark of the trial is Chris Frazer.

We will need all the help the club can muster!

On the Saturday what with Rob Wood not being well and John Mason on holiday if you could go to the land and help Chris set up this would be very good. See Chris or Committee members.

Then there is the Sunday. We will need at least 10 marshals but 20 would be much better, then we can have two people per section, to take marshalling in turn and loo breaks.

Remember these trials have helped the club financially in the past.

## **Stop Press 2 - Cassington Bike Night**

Graeme Byard reports that it's "health and safety gone mad". Cassington bike night has been cancelled owing to the "ministry of no fun" at Oxford County Council. Apparently they need to have stewards and road closures and all sorts of other rubbish and it was going to cost thousands. so they've cancelled.

## **Caption Competition**



Regular readers will have spotted the absence of a photo for last month's caption competition. I am however indebted to Dangerous for this month's picture. I look forward to publishing your contributions next month.

## Dates for your Diary

### Proposed Club Runs:

<del>8<sup>th</sup> May</del>	<del>Bathampton</del>
<del>5<sup>th</sup> June</del>	<del>Hayling Island</del>
3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Seaford BBQ
31 <sup>st</sup> July	Lechlade
4 <sup>th</sup> September	Blue Bird Cafe
2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Stratford Upon Avon
6th November*	Veteran Car Run

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

### Social Events:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Notes</b>
All year	Fantasy Bike Racing	Free	Enrol on-line before 19 Mar. League Code 1019
<del>17 April</del>	<del>Paint Ball</del>	<del>£30</del>	<del>Tentative pending more interest</del>
<del>May (evening)</del>	<del>Ten Pin Bowling</del>	<del>£15</del>	
June (Sunday)	Go Karting	£35	
27 June (TBC)	Cassington Bike night		Cancelled!!
July	BBQ	10	3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 ~~~