



# CONTACT

July 2011

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## President's Piece

### ODD COMMENTS JULY.

The Haling Island run went well with about 10 to 12 of us. Estelle decided to meet us at the Ship Inn for a quick bite then go straight back home. Steve Pearce and Nicole also turned up. The next ride out after Seaford on the 3rd of July is a run to Lechlade on the 31st of July so please see Mick Wallace for details.

The Club marshalled a start section of the BMF rally on the 25th of June. This was stationed at Jack Lilly's motor cycle shop near Charlton Village. I would like to thank all those who helped on the day. In total we had about 30 riders pass through.

Socia: Please keep in touch with Estelle as she is arranging lots of places to go. Please note the changes to the Karting which was to have been held recently. There are also plans for a picnic in a park on 21<sup>st</sup> August plus lots more dates in contact.

The Training Scheme seems to be ok at the moment, but if you know of anyone who wishes some training then talk to Heather Wallace.

See you out and about.

John Mason  
President

## Note from the Editor

Dear Member,

Welcome to the July edition of Contact. This month we have a variety of articles for you to enjoy. I had some very dodgy responses to last month's caption competition, most of which I couldn't possibly share with you.

Someone said summer had arrived however the conspicuous absence of sunshine and the conspicuous presence of rain has sought to confound attempts to get the bikes out (yes I am a fair weather biker – mostly). Still I hope that many of you will be getting away for summer holidays over the next few weeks. Please do write and tell us what you've been up to, especially if you've been on a biking holiday – tales of adventure and exploration are always great reading.

Karen Rickard  
Editor

## Social News

### MCN Fantasy Racing

Update on the MCN Fantasy Race League; Dave and I remain in stiff competition for the last place but congratulations to Pete for retaining a strong lead and Richard Davidson for being a strong contender.

1	▶	Peter Edward	<a href="#">LegoMania</a>	817
2	▶	Richard Davidson	<a href="#">Two Chances</a>	730
3	▶	Monty Donut Dodger	<a href="#">The Donut Spreaders</a>	590
4	▶	Ron Regan	<a href="#">Rocket Ron Racing</a>	562
5	▶	Sasu Duviau	<a href="#">Sexy Frog Racing</a>	531
6	▶	Chris Booker	<a href="#">Hedgerow Racing</a>	509
7	▲	Katy Spragg	<a href="#">Katy's Hot Heads</a>	493
8	▼	Mick Wallace	<a href="#">Silver-Back Racing</a>	474
9	▶	John Mason	<a href="#">Stretched Arse Racing</a>	466
10	▶	Estelle Potter	<a href="#">Old (Scrumpy) Spicers</a>	406
11	▶	Dave Regan	<a href="#">Hopeful Racing</a>	405

The transfer window is now open so anyone wishing to make changes in their team can make 3 changes...

You only have until Sat 16<sup>th</sup> July so consult your crystal balls, oracles and any other lucky charms you may have and you never know...

### **Karting**

Ok – after a couple false starts, we’re now on the grid... Date is 12 August, I have 8 places confirmed, a couple tentative and a total of 14 places available so if you’re thinking this might be for you then please let me know asap.

The cost is £25 and I’ll be collecting **money by 22 July please** for those who have booked. The venue is the Raceway in Greenwich, the event starts at 8pm and there’s a free minibus to the centre from Greenwich tube at 7.30pm.

### **Picnic in the park**

Another date for your calendars; 21 August. Marble Hill Park in Twickenham.... Open to all, bring the family along and enjoy either sitting in the sunshine (I have booked good weather but Sun dances would be welcome) or enjoying a range of not-too-challenging sporting events...

Hope to see you all either on a ride out or at one of the socials!

Estelle Potter  
Social Secretary

### **Club Captain**

Seeing as I’ve been pipped to the post by the Chairman about the BBQ [Ed see below], I thought I’d give you a heads up on the next club run which is at the end of the month (Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July).

We shall be heading for the Trout Inn at Lechlade, Gloucestershire. This is a pub that we have been to before on a few occasions, and is situated on the banks of the Thames. But before we get there we will have to travel through Henley-upon-Thames, Streatley, Crowmarsh, Wantage and Farringdon. This will give us a chance to play on the A417, a nice road in places.

So if you fancy coming along and enjoying the company, a good lunch and blow the cobwebs off your machines, join us on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July. I shall send out the time and a suitable meeting place by e-mail.

Mick Wallace  
Club Captain

### **Seaford BBBQ**

“...didn’t we have a lovely day, the day we went to Seaford...”. With beef burgers, sausages in rolls, salad on the side and pudding for afters, plus juice or lemonade and some alcohol if you wanted a beer, the spread was very nice. We even had a man playing some music, I think they used to call it a disco!

The weather was very nice and the ride there and back was very good.

The turnout was quite good, we had Russell and his two girls Isla and Shona who came in the car. Steve Pearce came with his daughter Nicole on her own bike with a smile from ear to ear. Then there was the rest of the crowd - John Garland, Chris Stock, Heather and Mick, Spanner, Dangerous, a friend of mine- Kevin (not a member just yet),

Sasu and I.

Not too sure if we will have a Seaford BBQ next year as Sheila and Dave are giving up motorcycling. They had all their gear on show with very good prices on. Sasu managed to find leather trousers to fit her for £15 pounds. A bargain indeed.

We left about 3pm with full bellies, taking a short ride to Beechy Head, managing not to lose any one over the edge and then set off for the ride home. I think everyone had a great day.

Thanks again to Sheila and Dave for a great day.

John Mason

### **Goodwood Festival Of Speed**

On Friday 1st July, Mick, Heather, Spanner and I went to Goodwood for the Festival of Speed - an annual event for the other three, but a first time for me! Happily the weather was favourable, so we were able to leave wellies and macs behind and instead, take a picnic and suncream.

Heather and Mick seemed intent on trying out all the super-expensive super-shiny convertibles, whereas Spanner was only interested in anything that was actually moving and going "vrooom" or "whoomba" - the faster and louder the better! For me, the old cars were a big attraction, bringing back fond memories of the two Citroen 2CV's I wrote off in my youth, my granny's mini which we had to bail out with a bucket in heavy rain, and the Chevvy I drove as a teenager in San Diego.

We all agreed on a few things ... we didn't like the matt silver finishes or the extensive use of orange paint on the modern cars, but we did all like the giant transformer, the biker with the floppy ears and the silver gas-powered helicopter bike (which unfortunately crashed). [Ed -oops ☹ sounds expensive]

The Red Arrows also put on a spectacular show, for which we had a prime viewing spot right next to Goodwood House. The Festival of Speed is definitely now an annual fixture in my diary, too!

Amoret Whitaker

### **How much!!!**

I've had a hankering to try out the Suzuki GSXR for some time. As the owner of a Kawasaki Z750 currently, the GSXR750 seems the obvious choice for my next bike. I had an opportunity recently to swing my leg over the GSXR 600 and was pleasantly surprised to find both feet pretty much flat on the floor. Being short in the leg this is a new experience and a good sign perhaps. Even better was the fact that this was a bike shop open day and they were offering 45 min test rides on a variety of machines, including both a GSXR750 and a GSXR600. Well, it was just too good an opportunity...

After talking to one of the salesmen as to the merits of the 750 over the 600 I decided to try out the 600. It's cheaper than the 750 and still has way more BHP than my current

ride. So I signed up and 20 minutes later found myself sitting astride the new 2011 model.



The route chosen by the shop representative, took us through local villages, twisty B roads and then back on main A roads and a dual carriageway. This was an excellent chance to put the Gixer through its paces. It is incredibly well balanced, beautifully sleek and very poised. At low speed though you need to keep the revs up, 6000 at 30mph seems odd but the Gixer was quite happy. And not too noisy either.

Through the bends it rolled so easily, just inviting you to squeeze the throttle just that little bit extra on the exit of the bend. That was all very well but I did find myself arriving at the back of the bike in front, rather quicker than I'm used to.

The digital dashboard is easy to read – very handy as I made progress back up the A38, making it easy to see what gear I was in. I

loved the responsiveness and delivery of the power. In the mid range the acceleration was so easy to control (even with a loose throttle grip on the bike I was riding) and with a standard, street legal can, the noise was just wonderful. As might be expected with a machine of this ilk, it is incredibly quick.

And so to the downside – sadly there are some. If you're not used to a full on sports bike riding position, you will feel it in the wrists. Even after only 40 mins I was beginning to think I'd need some emergency nurofen, taken intravenously. There's nowhere to put your panniers and whilst the tail end is very beautiful, it is also very angular and a pair of throw over panniers would very quickly become a flapping liability. So if you're looking for something to go touring on, this may not be an option – you'd have great fun, for the first 100 miles but thereafter....

And then there's the price. The 2008 model, new was a shade over £7,000, the 2011 model is a shade under £9,000, which is more expensive than its rivals except for the R6 and the ABS version of the CBR600RR. Suzuki engines are of course notoriously robust, but some of the finish on the rest of the bike is a bit suspect. Thin paint will chip easily and metal surfaces could well corrode easily if not regularly cleaned, polished and protected (sounds like I'd have to spend as much time in the garage as out on the road).

For the more mechanically minded, I thought I'd include a few details regarding specification. The bit that intrigued me is that according to MCN, Suzuki has shaved 9kg off the new version but the spec suggests that the 2011 version has put on 12kg from the previous model. Fortunately the extra BHP more than makes up for this.

## Specifications (courtesy of MCN Bike reviews)

	2008 / 2010 Version	2011 Version
<b>Top speed</b>	164.97mph	165mph
<b>1/4-mile acceleration</b>	10.95 secs	[not disclosed]
<b>Power</b>	112.3bhp	125.8bhp
<b>Torque</b>	46ftlb	51.4ftlb
<b>Weight</b>	165kg	187kg
<b>Seat height</b>	810mm	810mm
<b>Fuel capacity</b>	17 litres	17 litres
<b>Average fuel consumption</b>	[not disclosed]	[not disclosed]
<b>Tank range</b>	[not disclosed]	[not disclosed]
<b>Insurance group</b>	15	15
<b>Engine size</b>	599cc	599cc
<b>Engine specification</b>	16v (67x42.5), 6 gears	16v, inline-four-cylinder
<b>Frame</b>	Aluminium frame	Aluminium twin spar
<b>Front suspension adjustment</b>	USD Fully adjustable	41mm Big Piston Forks, fully-adjustable
<b>Rear suspension adjustment</b>	Fully adjustable single shock	Single shock, fully adjustable
<b>Front brakes</b>	2x320 with radial 4 piston calliper	2 x 310mm discs with Brembo monoblock four-piston radial callipers
<b>Rear brake</b>	220mm disc with single piston calliper	220mm single disc with single-piston calliper.
<b>Front tyre size</b>	120/70 x 17	120/70 x 17
<b>Rear tyre size</b>	180/55 x 17	180/55 x 17

The only conclusion I could come to from this road test – one bike is not going to be enough. Next month I'll be considering an age old conundrum faced by many bike enthusiasts.... where to get a bigger garage.

Karen Rickard

### Caption Competition

**June Winner:** Could someone please punch in this PIN so I can get these yellow straps off!!



#### **Best of the Rest;**

CHARGE = passing motorcycle test  
 VERDICT= guilty  
 SENTENCE = join S.S.M.C.C old bloke  
 (Lady's Junior section)

And this week's lottery numbers are...

Here's the picture for next month.  
No prizes for guessing where this  
was taken!!



### **Dates for your Diary**

#### **Proposed Club Runs:**

20 <sup>th</sup> March	Pioneer Run
10 <sup>th</sup> April	Winchester (A272)
8 <sup>th</sup> May	Bathampton
5 <sup>th</sup> June	Hayling Island
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
6 <sup>th</sup> 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>26 March</del>	<del>Pool Night</del>	<del>£12.50</del>	<del>Rileys Pool Hall Twickenham</del>
<del>17 April</del>	<del>Paint Ball</del>	<del>£30</del>	<del>Tentative pending more interest</del>
<del>May</del>	<del>Ten Pin Bowling</del>	<del>£15</del>	
<del>27 June</del>	<del>Cassington Bike night</del>		<del>Cancelled by event organisers owing to HSE issues</del>
<del>3<sup>rd</sup> July</del>	<del>BBQ</del>	<del>£10</del>	<del>Seaford BBQ,</del>
21 <sup>st</sup> August	Go Karting	£25	
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 assumption is we'll do our traditional final Friday visit
Dec	Xmas Party		
Jan	Pool Night		

~~~ End ~~~