



**Southern Sporting
Motor Cycle Club**

CONTACT

APRIL

2014

Contents

Dates for your diary	1
President's piece.....	2
Editor's piece	3
Allo, Allo ... Once!	3
Chilly and Frosty ride (together) again	4
Bits and bobs	6
MotoGP 2014 Calendar.....	7
Motorcycles in WW1	8
SSMCC Committee minutes	10
Caption competition	12

Dates for your diary

12th April	Pool Night – Riley's, Twickenham – 7.30 start
13th April	Pioneer Run, Brighton – Meet at Box Hill, Dorking – 10am for 10.30 start
19th April	No Training Scheme
27th - 29th April	Ypres Trip – Follow the old Club Captain, as he knows where he's going!
11th May	The Ship, Havant (Near Hayling Island) – Meet at Fleet Services, M3, 9.30am for 10am start
18th May	NWT Run – Either run postponed from 11 th , or Start Time and Start Point TBA
31st May	No Training Scheme
8th June	The George, Bathampton – Meet at Reading Services, M4, 9.30am for 10am start
22nd June	NWT Run – Either run postponed from 8 th , or Start Time and Start Point TBA
6th July	Seaford BBQ

President's piece

I just do not know how the time seems to fly by. Still, the riding season is upon us and Ian is sorting out our list of ride-outs plus some quick short ones, perhaps off-the-cuff when the weather is nice, at short notice, so keep your ear to the ground.

Sunday April the 13th is our first official ride out, meeting at Box Hill, going to Brighton. I am hoping to go on my YBR 125 so if you only have a small bike or are unsure of your riding ability then this is the ride to come along and have a go. Please let Ian [Spanner] Club Captain Slater know if you are coming along on the slow bike run! Weather permitting, we will leave half an hour before the main body, i.e. for a 10.30am start, we will leave at 10.00am, so make sure you are there half hour before we have to set off.

Facebook seems to be the main topic for some people – there is some information in the minutes of the committee meeting, some guidelines plus one or two people who may be interested in keeping it up to date. Please let the committee know your feelings about this.

The training scheme seems to be very busy at the moment – all your help is appreciated, as per Estelle and her e-mail. Thanking everyone who helped while Heather was away. Keep it up!

Social Doug is planning pool and bowling nights, plus a get together for old, middle and new members party type riding sections and a motor cycle bric-a-brac clothing swap – in the summer if you are interested to help out – please let him know.

Chairperson John Mason.

Editor's piece

As discussed at the last AGM, the minutes of the SSMCC Committee meetings will now be made available to our members in Contact, so these will now become a regular feature. Please note, however, that any contact details (addresses, emails) and finances have been left out.

In this issue, we've got a message from Sasu and a short write-up by Chilly – nice to have members contributing, who don't normally! Because of this year's commemoration to the start of WW1, I've included an appropriate article. Our "Dates for your diary" section has grown exponentially, so please note these down and try and make as many of them as you can – the more the merrier!

Looking forward to seeing many of our members at the upcoming fixtures, and please keep sending in your articles, pictures and biking news!

Amoret Whitaker – Editor

Allo, Allo Once!

Dear friends,

As a number of you know already know, I'm in the process of turning myself as French resident. With a very sluggish enthusiasm, I'm getting ready. In the process, I looked at all the Estate agents in Calais (18 in yellow pages) and to my astonishment, all of them have a Facebook address! Though, the one in the main street still has a web site.

This is to say that Though I shouted loud (normal I'm French) **NO to Facebook** at the last AGM I'm afraid that I am officially changing my opinion and as long as it is monitored for only "professional comments" it seems that it is the new business way to be! Since I discovered that numerous British businesses are using this MUCH CHEAPER tool too....

In the meantime, watch out! I am still on your roads on 4 wheels as Professor-Surgeon Spanner is working miracles on my babybike!

Have Fun – Sasu [MFB]

Chilly and Frosty ride (together) again

It's been a long time since I have written a piece for Contact, although I have contributed photos for other pieces, so I thought it about time and with something to write, here goes:

My son Shaun decided to sell his car as it was costing him too much money to run and only working a few miles away from home decided to buy himself a push bike to save some money. Thanks to his mum (Me) I put the idea into his head that perhaps he would like to come down to the



bike club and learn to ride a geared bike with a view to taking his test, as he had ridden a scooter before when he was 16. My idea to progress to gears seemed to me to be a good idea. Shaun had other ideas. He remembered how much fun he had on his ped and decided that he didn't want to be bothered with gears. The seed was planted and he was booked in for his CBT. Thanks to the very intense and excellent training by Graeme Byard he was signed off before he went on holiday. Lucky, as his new scooter was delivered on the 1st March. He is now the proud

owner and rider of a Peugeot Speedfight 3, 125cc and is really enjoying it. I am still hopeful that I can persuade him to progress to gears but at present I am not holding my breath.

As for me:

By now most of you will know that I am the proud owner of a Yamaha MT03. My first bike for about 8 years. I took delivery of my shiny steed on the 1st March 2014 and very kindly delivered by West London Yamaha (free of charge, I must add). By the time Contact goes out I will have owned it for about 4 weeks.

On the day it was delivered I took it out for a little spin but unfortunately due to Shaun doing his training I was unable to take it to the training scheme. Today (22nd March) I mounted my steed and headed for the training scheme. As there were a few instructors at a loose end I was asked if I would like to take a ride to the Ace Café –

after much deliberation I decided to go as I had never been to the Ace Café before, something that the others didn't believe. The party consisted of Doug, Me, Lorna, Andy and Polish Chris. We left the others at the petrol station and Doug and I took off. I have to thank Doug as the route we took definitely did put me through my riding paces with plenty of slow riding in traffic and filtering. On arriving back at the scheme (all in one piece) my steed was christened with the name of "spincycle racing" courtesy of Snowy. So as I end my little piece I would like to thank you all for being part of my life again and most of all for making me smile on a Saturday afternoon.

Kathy Frost (Chilly)



Bits and bobs

MotoGP is back!

Don't miss it – catch up on all the action at the official website
<http://www.motogp.com/>



See next page for full list of dates!



Chocolate motorbike!

As it's Easter this month, I thought I would feature a chocolate motorbike – I hadn't expected to find a full-sized one, though!



Biker Thought for the Month ... *Thin leather looks good in the bar, but it won't save your butt from "road rash" if you go down*

MotoGP 2014 Calendar

 COMMERCIAL BANK GRAND PRIX OF QATAR 23 March Losail Circuit Qatar Book now 1	 RED BULL GRAND PRIX OF THE AMERICAS 13 April Circuit of the Americas Austin Book now 2	 GRAN PREMIO RED BULL DE LA REPÚBLICA ARGENTINA 27 April Autódromo Termas de Rio Hondo Argentina Book now 3
 GRAN PREMIO bwin DE ESPAÑA 4 May Jerez Spain Book now 4	 MONSTER ENERGY GRAND PRIX DE FRANCE 18 May Le Mans France Book now 5	 GRAN PREMIO D'ITALIA TIM 1 June Mugello Italy Book now 6
 GRAN PREMIO MONSTER ENERGY DE CATALUNYA 15 June Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya Catalunya Book now 7	 TT ASSEN 28 June Assen Netherlands Book now 8	 eni MOTORRAD GRAND PRIX DEUTSCHLAND 13 July Sachsenring Germany Book now 9
 RED BULL INDIANAPOLIS GRAND PRIX 10 August Indianapolis Motor Speedway Indianapolis Book now 10	 bwin GRAND PRIX ČESKÉ REPUBLIKY 17 August Automotodrom Brno Czech Republic Book now 11	 HERTZ BRITISH GRAND PRIX 31 August Silverstone Great Britain Book now 12
 GRAN PREMIO DI SAN MARINO E DELLA RIVIERA DI RIMINI 14 September Misano World Circuit San Marino Book now 13	 GRAN PREMIO DE ARAGÓN 28 September MotorLand Aragon Aragon Book now 14	 GRAND PRIX OF JAPAN 12 October Motegi Japan Book now 15
 AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX 19 October Phillip Island Australia Book now 16	 SHELL ADVANCE MALAYSIAN MOTORCYCLE GRAND PRIX 26 October Sepang Circuit Malaysia Book now 17	 GRAN PREMIO GENERALI DE LA COMUNITAT VALENCIANA 9 November Comunitat Valenciana Valencia Book now 18

Motorcycles in WW1



During the First World War, motorbike production was greatly ramped up for the war effort to supply effective communications with front line troops. Messengers on horses were replaced with dispatch riders on motorcycles carrying messages, performing reconnaissance personnel and acting as a military police. American company Harley-Davidson was devoting over 50% of its factory output

toward military contract by the end of the war. The British company Triumph Motorcycles sold more than 30,000 of its Triumph Type H model to allied forces during the war. With the rear wheel driven by a belt, the Model H was fitted with a 499 cc air-cooled four-stroke single-cylinder engine. It was also the first Triumph not to be fitted with pedals, so was a true motorcycle.

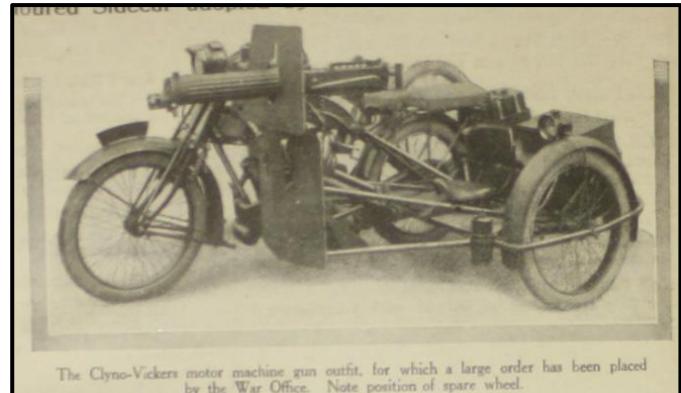
The Model H in particular, is regarded by many as having been the first "modern motorcycle". Introduced in 1915 it had a 550cc side-valve four-stroke engine with a three-speed gearbox and belt transmission. It was so popular with its users that it was nicknamed the "Trusty Triumph".

Royal Enfield also supplied motorbikes to the British Armed Forces in World War 1, with machine gun-carrying combinations and stretcher-bearing motorcycles being made on demand. The company even won a contract to supply motorbikes to the Russians, and when most able bodied men were at war in Europe, a police force made up of women was issued with 600cc motorcycles.

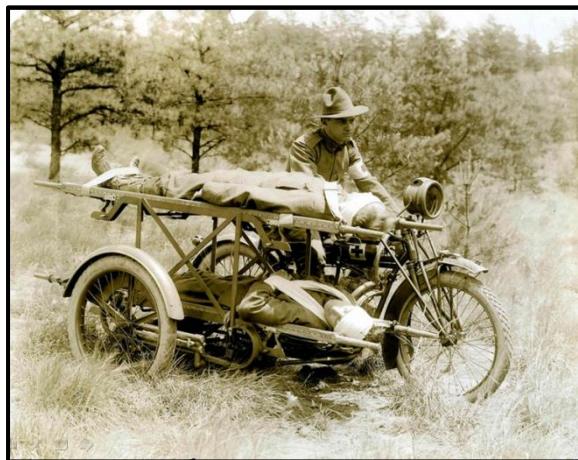


When the United States entered WW1 in April of 1917, they brought motorcycles from several US companies to help on the front lines. The bulk of the motorcycles came from Indian and Harley-Davidson, but motorcycles produced by Excelsior, Henderson and a few other US manufacturers also made it to Europe. Indian devoted most of its production to the war effort, building almost 50,000 motorcycles for the US Military. Harley-Davidson also upped production, delivering over 20,000 motorcycles to support the war.

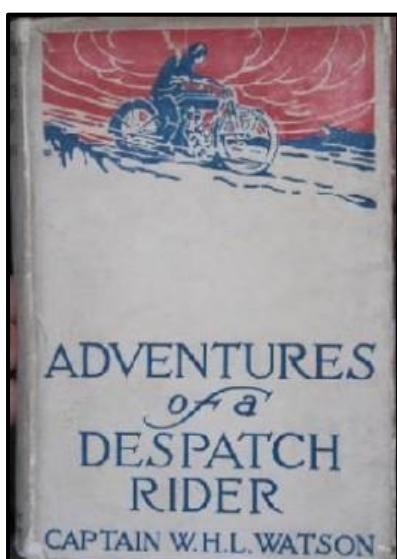
The Indian military model was based on their new PowerPlus Big Twin. It featured a 61 cubic inch side valve motor which produced 18 horsepower and could reliably carry the motorcycle at speeds of 60mph. The engine was mated to a three speed hand shift transmission and the drive train was mounted into a frame with both front and rear suspension. Lighting was handled by a gas headlamp and there was even a rear brake just in case you needed to stop quickly.



Harley-Davidson based their military model on their J series motorcycle. It used a 61 cubic inch F-head motor which produced 15 horsepower, putting it below the Indian in terms of power. It also used a three speed hand shift transmission and a frame with front suspension. Like the Indian PowerPlus, the electric headlamp used on the civilian model was replaced by simpler gas version and only a rear brake was mounted for stopping the motorcycle.



Unlike the WLA's which would be used exclusively as dispatch motorcycles in WWII, the motorcycles of WWI saw action on the front lines. Motorcycles were outfitted with various sidecar mounted machine guns and placed together in motorized units called "Motor Mobile Infantry". They were also converted into ambulances, able to carry one or two wounded soldiers on stretchers adapted to sidecar frames. Like the WLA's they also were used to lead convoys, dispatch messages and general transportation behind the front lines.



You can also read an autobiography:

Adventures of a Despatch Rider (1915)
by Captain William Henry Lowe Watson

This book is available to download, free of charge and in full:
<https://archive.org/details/advdespatchrider00watsuoft>

Article sourced from:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motorcycle_history

<http://www.motorbike-tours.co.uk/Military%20Motorcycles.htm>

<http://www.ridingvintage.com/2012/12/war-machines-american-motorcycles-of-wwi.html>

SSMCC Committee minutes

Meeting held on 17th February 2014 [*should read 17th March 2014*]

In Attendance:

John Mason	Chairman
Heather Wallace	Training Scheme Organiser
Doug Chaney	Social Secretary
Ian Slater	Club Captain
Richard Barnett	Public Relations Officer
Amoret Whitaker	Contact Editor

Apologies from: Chris Booker, Russell Sommer

Meeting came to order at: 7:55pm

Action List

- Doug still make contact with cone providers and get pricing
- Doug/Russell to continue with the club website
- Richard to finish visiting the local dealerships to replenish their leaflets.

Minutes from the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were proposed by Heather Wallace, seconded by Richard Barnett, adopted without dissent.

Matters Arising

Chairman and returning committee members welcomed Ian Slater to the committee as Club Captain.

Correspondence

Ian had received Joanne Bruce's cheque for membership and given to John.

John had received a letter from South Eastern Centre ACU to invite SSMCC to AGM. No one attended.

New Members

Kim Aitchison, Kris Kieler, Shaun Frost, Ian Brown

Treasurer's Report

Santander have requested passport scans from Chris and John Mason to correct their records – this has been actioned.

Training Scheme

Heather thanked Estelle Potter and others for helping whilst she was on holiday.

As stated at the AGM a garage has been found for the bikes when Mrs Mason's house is sold. Andy the school site manager is happy for us to use his garage on the same estate at same cost. Just needs clearing out. Ken Stone has also offer the use of a garage in Osterley but may be able to offer part of his garage at the house around the corner. All sites need to be viewed properly to determine which would be most suitable.

School has asked for the use of the playground for Rugby parking on 19th Apr (Easter – Training Scheme Closed) 3 May, 10 May and 31 May (Whitsun Holiday – Training Scheme - Closed). These are either bank holidays or far enough in advance to be able to make

changes to train from garage if necessary. Other dates are going to be forwarded to me as well.

Rob Wood has decided to stand down as DSA Class 1 liaison following the decision made at the AGM. Ian has agreed to take over the role as DSA liaison. Contact details will need to be changed for the various insurances as well.

Competitions

As per AGM no-one stood for Competitions Secretary and therefore there will be no trial in 2014. There is a Star Group meeting in a couple of weeks' time which John Mason will attend and advise that we cannot host a trial. The land as not as yet been cancelled, but this will be done if Star Group don't want to use it for something else.

Social Secretary's Report

Doug advised that 12th April will be a Pool Night – Rileys - Twickenham.

He also proposed an event for Spring/Summer to get current and past members together and try and promote new members/pupils. Possibly incorporate a bike jumble sale/raffle, trial rides and riding skill events. Date to be agreed as school would be required.

Editors Report

Amoret asked if the dates that the training scheme will be closed for Bank Holiday for any further event dates so that she can publish them in Contact.

Captain's Report

Pioneer Run – 13th April. Dates have been published in Contact for Club Runs, with additional dates to allow for inclement weather, and can include smaller bikes.

Public Relations Officer's Report

Richard replenished local dealerships with leaflets, but has still some to do.

There was a rumour that West London Yamaha was closing, it's not but they have discontinued with Suzuki, and closed the shop under trial in Staines.

Facebook discussion. It was felt by the committee that Estelle Potter and/or Steve Peace or anyone else using Facebook wants to use this media to promote the club and/or training scheme via the Friends of SSMCC Facebook page, can do so. A few house rules would be required, eg no photos of other members without their permission and no actual dates of future events (be it ride outs or social) should be posted. Any persons can be accepted on Facebook, encouraged to join the club, and Facebook membership will be reviewed periodically.

An official Facebook page carrying information on the club and training scheme will be created and periodically updated. This will encourage people to visit the SSMCC website, which is in the process of being rebuilt on a new platform.

Any Other Business

Amoret wanted clarification that the minutes are to be published with Contact.
Confirmation received that they are.

Fixtures

12th April – Pool Night – Rileys - Twickenham
13th April – Pioneer Run to Brighton
27th – 29th April – Club Run to Ypres
11th May – The Ship, Hayling Island, Havant
18th May – Nice Weather Today Run

The next committee meeting will be on the 14 April at 8pm
The meeting closed at 9:30 pm

Caption competition

Winning caption:

Steve Lock's son, Chubb, follows in the family tradition and gets his first ticket for a small number plate!

Best of the rest:

You said you ordered chips? Sorry, kid, you've got CHiPs instead!

"What-choo talkin about Willis?"

"Mr Beiber, what a pleasure, could I get your autograph, please?"

"If you're too young to write your name, you're definitely too young to ride a motorbike!"



April's picture

This is an old(ish) one but I don't think any captions were ever published, so ...

Send your suggested captions to me at: a.whitaker@nhm.ac.uk