



**Southern Sporting
Motor Cycle Club**

CONTACT

JUNE

2014

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Editor's piece

We're now well into the biking season, so we've got lots of two-wheeled action to report in this month's edition – including the Hayling Island trip and Mick's write-up on the two-night stay in Belgium. But if the rain this week is keeping you indoors, don't worry, there's lots of action you can watch on the box, from the Isle of Man TT – check out the official website at:

<http://www.iomtt.com/TT-Info.aspx>

And don't forget to use the BMF Discount Code: SSM14H529 where you can.

I look 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

2014

BMF Discount Code

The discount code for members of

**Southern Sporting
Motorcycle Club**

is

SSM14H529

This number may be used by your members

To receive discounts on advanced tickets to all BMF shows.

To receive discounts on insurance, travel and breakdown cover and other BMF member benefits.

To ensure that your members get the most out of your affiliation to the BMF please circulate this number to all your members as soon as possible.

President's piece

It seems the weather has started to pick up, not sure how long it will last. Next club run is the 8th of June to Bathampton, weather permitting.

Have you put your name down for the BBQ on the 6th of July at Seaford in Sussex? [Small bike run]. The minimum cost is £6 but as the proceeds are going to the Air Ambulance a larger donation would be good only if you can afford it. I will be going in the car if wet!

So put your name forward with your money to Chris Booker, it is always a good spread. Sheila and Dave need to know numbers. I think this must be the fifth year we have been?

We need a new club Secretary – I know Russell will not mind me saying this as he is sinking with his job and moving. So if you wish to start the training and the job before he stands down in February 2015 please step up to the plate NOW as he needs all the help he can get.

The club will need a new Secretary in February next year anyway.

Kathy Frost [Chilly] is trying to arrange white water rafting and or indoor sky diving! If you wish to participate please contact Kathy.

Hope to see you out and about.

John Mason – President.

Dates for your diary

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
20th July	TBC (possible small/scheme's bike run to Newlands Corner)
TBC	Summer BBQ

Chairperson

The job of Chairperson will soon be up for someone to fill. Remember you do not need a lot of knowledge about things, this will come with time. You will have to keep the committee in order and make sure they do not take up the evening on one subject at committee meetings. You will, however, have to fill the roles of any committee member of a post that is vacant or is away. So making sure you have every post filled by February would be a good thing. Remember that posts being vacated in February are: Chairperson, Club Secretary, PRO and Competitions Secretary. So: Amoret for Editor, Ian as Club Capitan, Heather for Training Scheme and Chris Booker for Treasurer – if they stand. Not sure about Doug Chaney and Social.

The Chairperson should start thinking about running a trial in September 2015 as soon as they enter office. That's if the club wishes to run a trial in September 2015. PRO needs to be a person who is up to date with the workings of the Internet and other media functions, as well as putting posters and cards in the shops. As for Secretary, well this is a very important job, but definitely making sure the membership is up to date, everyone has paid up and that membership cards are sent out.

Then there is Chairperson; realistically they have no job if all the other parties are doing their jobs properly. You are usually checking up on all of them over the month:

Training Scheme – seeing if we can save money and keep it going longer.

Treasurer – to see if they are keeping the books in order.

Social and Club Capitan – making sure there are activities to do and places to go.

As for Editor – you only have to look at Contact to see that everything is in order!

Just making sure the person doing the job prints ALL the chairpersons' words!

So, yes, you do not need a lot of knowledge about the Club and the things that go on, but it will help.

Good luck to whoever takes on the role.

John Mason.

Ypres 2014

Once again we decided to visit Ypres, or Ieper as it's now called, but this year it was to be for two nights and really it was mainly as a base for the trips out.



So on the Sunday morning we (Heather, Dave, Graeme, my pillion Lorna and I) set off from home in the pouring rain to meet up with the others at the Euro Tunnel in Folkestone. I was hoping that the rain would hold off, but no, it was chucking it down. However on the approach to the tunnel, just as the rain was beginning to ease off, I spotted the familiar riding style of Mr. Tony Coe. No, he wasn't doing a wheelie or anything silly – he had just pulled out of a petrol station, something that he'd be doing a lot of over the next couple of days.

We regrouped at the terminal building, and waited to be joined by Jon Draper and Graham Dunbar. They were crossing with us but going onto Luxemburg and then joining us on Monday night for dinner. Also joining us were the new Club Captain Ian and his pillion and our Editor, Amoret. Our train was delayed (not sure why) and Steve Pearce, along with Karen and Karl had seen the delay and had gone straight onto an earlier train. We'd have to meet up on the French side of the tunnel. So much for keeping together, but worse nearly happens later so keep reading, and this time it wouldn't be my fault!!!



So having re grouped we set off to Ypres and a well-received lunch in one of the restaurants in the Grote Market (main square). Fully satiated, we dumped our gear at the Albion Hotel and then set off to our first site of the trip. We made our way to Polygon Wood, about 13km from Ypres. Here you find the Buttes New British Cemetery.

This cemetery contains the remains of 2,108 Servicemen of the Commonwealth. Of these burials only 396 were identified for a known grave and headstone. The cemetery was established here after the war. Remains of British and Commonwealth soldiers killed in the battlefields around Polygon Wood were brought here for burial by the burial parties clearing the battlefields. Most of the casualties had been killed during the fighting in 1917 in the later stages of the Third Battle of Ypres. There are special memorials to 35 Servicemen who could be identified to have been buried in this place but their identified remains could not be established for a specific grave marked with a headstone.



The wood was the scene of bitter fighting and exchanged hands between the British and German Armies several times during the four years of the war. In the late summer of 1917 during the last few weeks of the Third Battle of Ypres, on 26th September 1917, it was captured from the German Army by the 5th Australian Division in fierce fighting. The following spring, April 1918, the British Army made a difficult decision to leave Polygon Wood and pull back its Front Line as a result of the German Army launching a Spring Offensive. Several months later, in September 1918, the wood was finally retaken by the 9th Scottish Division of the British Army during the Allied battles in their Advance to Victory. Unlike a lot of the cemeteries, New Buttes is laid out in the style of a parade ground, with the upper memorial looking down onto the parade.



Once we'd had a good look around this moving sight, we made our way back to Ypres for a very nice evening meal, and I'm sure Amoret will have a picture or two about that. Unfortunately dinner was late, so we missed the last post at the Menin Gate, but we'd catch that the following night as they perform it every night of the week.

Monday saw us doing a cross-country ride to Vimy Ridge. Nothing too taxing about the ride, just a nice gentle amble through the villages of Belgium and France. But as you turn for the final run up the hill to the ridge, you are greeted with the magnificent view of the white stone memorial breaking the tree line on the ridge in the distance. Standing tall like a pair of giant angle wings. It's very impressive.

The Canadian National Vimy Memorial is a memorial to all Canadians who served their country in battle during the the Great War of 1914-1918. 60,000 Canadians were killed. Over 11,000 of those killed died in France but they have no known grave. The Canadian National Vimy Memorial bears the inscribed names of 11,168 missing Canadians, killed in action in France but whose remains have not been found or identified.



The monument itself was to be constructed on Hill 145, so called because it was the highest point of the Vimy Ridge at 145 metres (476 feet) above sea level. The ridge runs in a direction from Givenchy-en-Gohelle in the north-west to Farbus in the south-east. On its western side the Vimy Ridge rises gently from Neuville-St.-Vaast to its high point at Hill 145, where there is a much steeper drop to the Douai Plain on its eastern side.

The two pylons stand 120 feet (30 metres) high from the base of the memorial. They represent Canada and France; one pylon has a carving of the maple leaf for Canada, the other pylon has the fleur-de-lis for France. Both countries shared the sorrow and sacrifice of war.

The monument was built of limestone, which was found by Walter Allward after a long search for a suitable stone, in a Roman quarry near the town of Seget in the country nowadays known as Croatia. The stone from this quarry had been used by the Roman Emperor Diocletian for his palace at Split. The Seget stone used to build the Vimy memorial was transported to France by sea, rail and lorry. The construction cost about 1.5 million Canadian dollars.

The facts above were extracted from the link below, and there's loads more information on the site, so take a look at:

<http://www.greatwar.co.uk/french-flanders-arts/memorial-canadian-national-vimy-memorial.htm>

After Vimy, we set off to Thiepval. And again we went on a cross-country route. This was because it was nicer than going on the motorways, and because I had originally planned a nice looking route when I first considered this trip. But it ended up being slightly more cross-country than originally planned – as my sat-nav broke just before the



trip, I had to buy a new one on the Saturday afternoon before we left (and it's different) so I was winging it and luckily the Thiepval Memorial is visible from several miles away, even if it is across fields!!

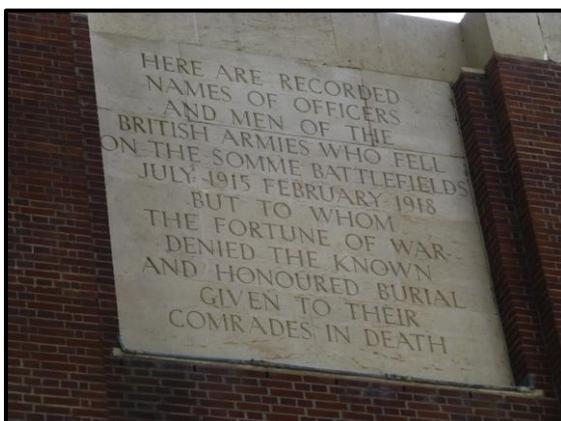


The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme battlefields bears the names of 72,194 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces.

These men died in the Somme battle sector before 20th March 1918 and have no known grave. The date of 20th March was the day before the German Army launched a large-scale offensive, codenamed "Operation Michael", against the British Army Front in the sector of the Somme.

Over 90 percent of those commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial died in the 1916 Battles of the Somme between July and November 1916.

The British Union Jack and the French Tricolore are flown on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing. On the uppermost part of the memorial building the British flag flies on the northern side and the French flag flies on the southern side. This is representative of the British Army being in action on the northern area of the 1916 Somme battlefield, north of the River Somme, and the French Army being in action on the southern area of the 1916 Somme battlefield, south of the River Somme.



To find out more about the memorial go to: <http://www.greatwar.co.uk/somme/memorial-thiepval.htm>

Whilst we were there, stone masons were replacing some of the name plaques on the sides of the memorial. So after asking, I obtained a few small bits of these plaques for Steve's son, Karl. He'd been asked to take lots of photos about our trip for his school, so a bit

of the memorial should get him some brownie points with teacher.

Unfortunately we were running out of time, so we decided the best way back to Ypres would be use the motorway. Sounds easy, but no. We get to the motorway only to find it closed, and the diversion signs are small and not very frequent. So we were off on yet another cross-country road trip, until we did eventually get onto the motorway, and into the rush hour traffic around Lillie. Miles of filtering, oh bliss. But we did eventually get back to Ypres where we met up with Jon Draper and Graham Dunbar.



The evening meal was interrupted by us attending the last post at the Menin Gate. Always a moving ceremony, and very well attended even though it was a Monday night.

The following day was spent looking around the main museum in the Grote Market, and a bit of chocolate shopping. But after lunch we headed off to a V1 & V2 bunker near St Omer. This was a huge target for the Allies during WWII, and had it not been destroyed could have prolonged, if not turned the war.



Now I mentioned at the beginning of this article about keeping everyone together at the tunnel, and how last year I ended up on a different train on the return trip, which wasn't my fault. Well this year my lovely wife was two bikes ahead of me at the terminal, followed by Graeme, and

when we all met up at the terminal, as agreed, both Heather and Graeme were missing. It transpired that Heather had taken a wrong turn after passport control and headed straight to the train followed by Graeme who thought he'd better follow her. Having realized her mistake they then had to be escorted to the terminal building, by a Smart car with flashing amber lights, much to her embarrassment. This time it definitely wasn't my fault.

But on the whole a good trip enjoyed by all. Maybe next year Ian can take us to the submarine pens of WWII.

Mick Wallace

Bits and bobs

A unique way of telling people not to sit on their bikes

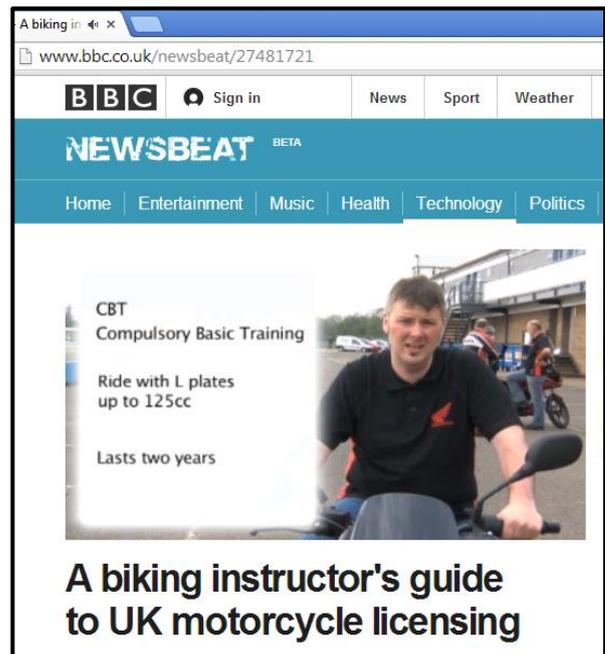


Why does this remind me of Mick Wallace?? Ed.



A biking instructor's guide to UK motorcycle licensing

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/27481721>



Biker Thought for the Month ...

If it moves and it shouldn't – use Duct Tape.

If it doesn't move and it should – use WD-40.

Call for help!

Dear Friends,

At last, I have a date for removal!-)))

I am requesting your help to fill up the van on Saturday 14th June at **9am** (we have to cross the channel as early as possible). The three most heavy bits will be a washing machine, a fridge-freezer, and my grandfather's chest full of frames.

All the rest is very light furniture or Ikea-type, all dismantled ... + approximately 50 boxes of 12Kg-ish...

I thank all volunteers very much.

Please contact me on 0781 441 21 43 to let me know as early as possible.

Yours Very Kindly

Sasu [Allo Allo MFB racing]

Indoor skydiving, anyone?

Dear all,

As I have missed the ride outs due to injury and holiday I thought that I would arrange a little something myself (without treading on any toes).

I would like to know if anyone would be interested in doing Indoor Skydiving.

Please use this link for more details:

<http://www.airkix.com/?gclid=CInN5funyb4CFYXKtAod1RYAxA>

I am looking at a Sunday at the end of July and need to know numbers and collect money before I book. It will be about £40 per person and we will be flying at Basingstoke so it will be a little ride out for everyone with some fun thrown in.

Please contact me at kiffiekaffie@gmail.com to let me know if you are interested.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Kathy (Chilly) Frost

St. George's Day stake-out

Pupil numbers have been poor this year so it was time to get a bit more pro-active. After a chat with the nice people at Gear 4 Gears in Whitton High Street a plan was forming, why not do a promotional shot on the St



Georges Day parade? The shop was going to have some bikes out front and were quite willing for us to muscle in.

My cunning plan was to take my old BSA as a hook to draw people in then hit them with a leaflet and information about the training

scheme, alas best laid plans, I ended up spending most of the day talking to pensioners about the old girl knowing that their biking days were well and truly over! One memorable old boy was 90years old so he was 5years old when the BSA was made, the only person I met that day that was older than my bike!

I arrived at 9.45, along with Kathy Frost on her scooter, to set up camp. The parade was due to start at 11am so the road was closed and the



crowds started to arrive. Sasu and Lorna turned up a bit later and were put to work with a hand full of leaflets. The pupils that were booked for that day both cried off so the rest of the gang arrived mid afternoon to



help out. The parade itself was a fairly lack lustre affair, kicked off by the tractor owners club, no sorry, the Harley owners club followed by the Boys Brigade band, a bunch of small children with a paper Chinese dragon, various de-

mobbed small military vehicles, the Brownies, a Triumph Stag, an MGB roadster and the classic scooter club. The whole affair took less than fifteen minutes to trundle by, twenty minutes later they all came back the other way. I'd lost interest by then and went for a coffee!

By the end of the day a lot of leaflets were given out and the profile of the club/scheme has been raised locally, which can only be a good thing.

Whether we get any new pupils out of it we shall see, I had two potential candidates and I'm sure the others had some as well.

Thanks to all my little lady helpers, felt quite outnumbered at one point, especially Kathy who let me hang posters and leaflets all over her scooter!

Snowy (the old PRO)

Hayling Island



Following the postponement of the run from the 11th May, an intrepid group of 10 were ready at Fleet Services to take on the fearsome “Hayling Island Run”!! The sun was shining and the forecast was for a warm day, which was nice!

We “blasted” along the M3 and “hooned” down through Odiham, across country to Alton, where we

joined the A32 towards Fareham, progressing at speeds approaching 100mph*. From there it was a left at Wickham along the B2177, with its flat stick curves and “wall of death” roundabouts! We even managed to out fox a biker who was impersonating a police motorcyclist (yes, you Mick!) by waving cheerfully, whilst whizzing past him at speeds approaching 100mph!

It seems everyone on the South coast was trying to get onto Hayling Island, but we arrived before 12, to find the Ship Inn already open.....strewth, the sun must be out.



At this point the family Pearce turned up on mass, all on Suzuki's, ahhh bless! A lovely lunch was consumed and with 2 of the Pearce family tagging along, the group headed east towards Chichester, up the A29 to Bury Hill and on to Billingshurst and Billy's cafe, all at speeds approaching, you guessed it 100mph!!

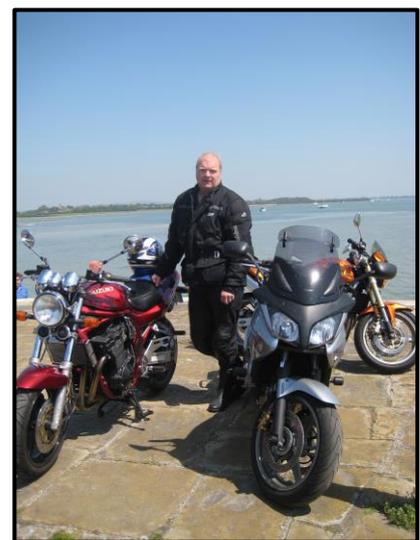
We confused the staff at the Cafe, however, we did manage to get the right drinks in the right order, in the end. From there we headed back to our respective homes, having had a grand day out, riding some lovely roads, through some fantastic countryside, all in the sunshine. What more could you ask for!



The next Club runs are due as follows;

- 8th June: The George, Bathampton – Meet at Reading Services, M4, 9.30am for 10am start.
- 22nd June: NWT Run – Either run postponed from 8th, or Start Time and Start Point TBA
- 6th July: Seaford BBQ – Meet at Box Hill, 10am for 10.30 start.

Spannerus Grossus (Club Captain) – Torque Wrench & Paint Brush!



*Some of this content may not be strictly true!!! 😊

SSMCC Committee minutes

Meeting held on 19th May 2014

In Attendance:

John Mason	Chairman
Richard Barnett	PRO
Chris Booker	Treasurer
Doug Chaney	Social Secretary
Ian Slater	Club Captain
Russell Sommer	Club Secretary
Heather Wallace	Training Scheme Organiser
Amoret Whitaker	Contact Editor

Meeting came to order at: 8:00pm

Action List

- Doug still make contact with cone providers and get pricing
- Doug/Russell to continue with the club website. New website has log in/editing function. A password is required to enter info. Decision to be made as to who is going to have access. One or more persons.
- Russell - Membership cards to be sent.
- Russell - BMF membership number to be found and sent to Contact Editor for publishing

Minutes from the Last Meeting

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

Matters Arising

Chairman advised he had looked at the website that Russell had given him a Website update, as John couldn't find the history on the site. To be investigated.

Russell needs to send some sort of acknowledgement that membership subs have been received, as the membership cards have yet to be sent. BMF has been dealt with.

Missing member payment are being chased by Chris. It was proposed that an 'immediate family' membership of 4 or more person be introduced, commencing January 2015. It was agreed unanimously, with a fee of £40.

Correspondence

None

New Members

None

Treasurer's Report

Chris will take money for the BBQ at Seaford. Cost is £6 per person, for Air Ambulance, but other donations gratefully received.

Treasurer was advised to move some of the petty cash into the bank.

Training Scheme

Hoping to meet Andy the school caretaker on 24th May to discuss the garage facilities. School has asked for the use of the playground for Rugby parking on 31st May. Have published that scheme will be closed on 31st, unless anyone is prepared to train from the garage if a pupil wants it. Only have 1 new CBT pupil starting on 24th May.

Richard Davidson is close to being signed off as CBT instructor. The next available CBT pupil will be used for completing his training.

Heather had made contact with the site manager of Costains at the Walton Bridge development to see if she could procure some cones. They have said they should be able to help. I need to contact them this week.

Competitions

John Mason asked if the committee felt a road trial was worth doing again. It was agreed yes.

Social Secretary's Report

Doug said that he need to arrange another bowling night. Also a summer party (12th July) and/or Party in the Park. Doug had also emailed to the Committee and Facebooked that it was the 75th anniversary of the 1st Social event of the club. Doug wants to hold an event to celebrate this anniversary. He needs to look at dates and venue.

Amoret asked if the Doug was keeping a track of who wins the bowling nights.

Editors Report

Amoret has requested items for 'Contact' from the membership. Need reports by 28th May. Nothing else to report.

Captain's Report

Run to Hayling Island on 18th May (postponed from previous Sunday) started with 10, 4 others arrived at the pub, and 6 travelled back together. Weather was excellent.

8th June to Bathampton; 22nd June is also a Nice Day for a Ride day; 6th July to Seaford for BBQ – run will go ahead even if weather is not so good because food will have been purchased; 20th July TBC short run – possible small bike run to Newlands Corner via Effingham – may be take the schemes bike; 3rd & 17th August TBC.

Public Relations Officer's Report

St Georges Day event went OK. One enquiry for a taster session was taken up. Several flyers were handed out. Thanks particularly to Kathy Frost for her help and the use of the scooter.

Any Other Business

None

Fixtures

8th June – Bathampton Run

6th July – BBQ Seaford

12th July – Summer Party – TBC

20th July - TBC

The next committee meeting will be on the 16 June at 8pm. Thanks to Heather for her hospitality. The meeting closed at 9:10 pm

Caption competition

Winning caption:

SSMCC Health and Safety policies have had to be reviewed after a 3-day-pants related casualty ...

Best of the rest:

Graeme proves the point that men are able to multi-task, whilst appearing to do absolutely nothing.



Graeme was most put out about being told to sit on the naughty step and watch pants dry, so he pretended to be asleep.

Conditions on the train home were getting bad; Graeme had passed out due to the smell of Mick's 3 day old pants being aired.



June's picture

Another one taken on the Ypres trip –

and in case you're wondering, that's Tony Coe and Mick Wallace behind him.

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