



Southern Sporting Motor
Cycle Club

CONTACT

NOVEMBER

2012

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President's piece

The ride out to Arundel this month was a great day – quite a few of us went along, and Mick took us there via Newlands Corner and the scenic route – you can read more about it in his article on page 4.

We've got one more run to come on the 4th of November to Brighton – let's hope we have another nice day for it – see route maps, history etc. at <http://www.veterancarrun.com/>

The Training Scheme is very busy at the moment; I would like to thank all the people who come and help, even if it is only to move bikes, put the playground away or chuffer helpers around.

It has been decided to go to the NEC at Birmingham for the bike show on Sunday 25th of November, as some of us cannot get the time off work, but there are still members going on other days if you cannot make the Sunday.

John Mason – President.

Editor's piece

This month we have articles on two club runs – Arundel in October (thank you, Mick) and Cassington Bike Night from way back in June (thank you, Graeme).

Please note details of the Christmas Party to be held on Saturday 15th December at Harrisons Hotel in Shepperton. The full menu is given on page 8 and a booking form is included on page 13 – please print out, tick off your menu preferences, write a cheque and post to Doug (or give form and dosh to any committee member) **before end of November.**

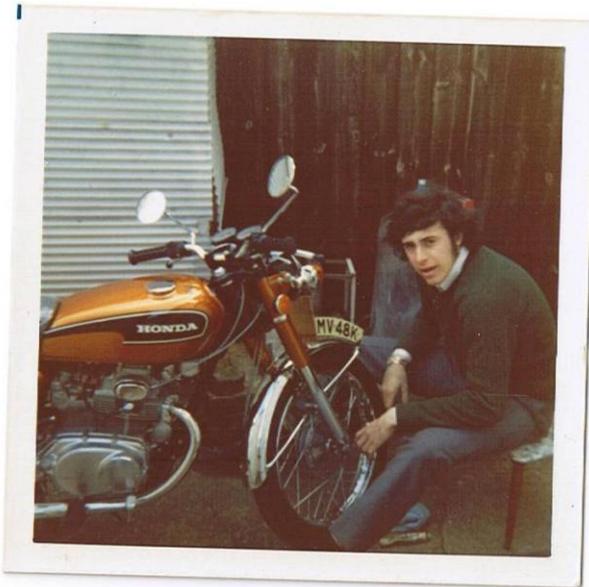
Please also note that due to popular demand, the club trip to the NEC Bike Show will be on **Sunday 25th November 2012.** You can book your tickets at: www.motorcyclelive.co.uk/ Note that the closing date for booking advanced tickets is 5pm on 23rd November. There will be a few people going so let a committee member know if you want to find a car share.

Suggestions for captions are rather thin on the ground, and no photos have been forthcoming, so in order to keep this section up and running, please send any suggestions to me at: a.whitaker@nhm.ac.uk

Amoret / Ed.



Invitation



You are invited to a gathering to celebrate 40 Years of John Mason being a Motor Cycle Instructor.

Saturday 22nd June **2013**.

The first venue is at the Isleworth Town School, Twickenham Road, Isleworth, Middlesex. From 2.00pm till 4.30pm, tea coffee and biscuits will be provided.

Plus some competitions.

The second venue is in the evening of the same day at the Adelaide pub, Park Road, Teddington.

7.30pm till late in the upstairs function room.

Please reply to John:

Phone: 01932 787937

48 Ashridge Way, Sunbury on Thames, Middlesex, TW16 7RW

Email: john.mason001@btinternet.com

If you could reply so I can work out numbers.

Thank you – **John** – pictured in 1972 (orange bike) and 2011 (blue bike) [*not much else has changed except his jeans have faded! Ed.*]



The penultimate club run

Arundel Club Run – Sunday 14th October 2012

Finally, after several weeks of wind and rain, we had a break in the weather, which meant the club run to Arundel could go ahead as planned. But you know what they say about the best-laid plans of mice and men (more later).



So we all meet up at Newlands Corner, well when I say all what I actually mean is those who read their emails correctly turned up at Newlands Corner [see pic left]. Sure enough Snowy's phone goes off and it's Stocky phoning from Box Hill!!!! So we were delayed whilst waiting for Stocky to join us, but that gave us a little more time to catch up, and Steve Pearce had even ridden up from Bognor to meet us instead of joining us in Arundel.

So once we were all together we made off in the glorious sunshine, and the group was of a reasonable size as well. 12 bikes with 4 pillions shared out, Editor included on Spanner, as it were; Dave was kindly taking Sammi; Katy was with her beau (Jack) as his pillion; and I was taking Yana, one of the newest members, on the back of my GS.

The route was out through Chilworth, Wonersh, Dunsfold, Alfold, Wisborough Green, Fittleworth, Bury Hill and down into Arundel. Some lovely Surrey/Sussex countryside, and loads of nice houses which cost far too much. I also noted on the way down that lots of villages have names with 'Little' at the beginning, Little Bognor for example, but you never see villages starting with Big. Why is that?



Anyway we arrived at the White Hart Inn without incident, and even managed to park for free at the back of the pub [see pic left].

We also managed to take over the restaurant side of the pub, and have a very enjoyable lunch, well mine was nice [see pic right].



After lunch the first question I get is 'Where are we stopping for coffee/tea?' This lot obviously ride on their stomachs. So it was decided that my route was going to have to change slightly. We decided that the Devil's Punch Bowl would be ideal. Some said follow the signs for Liphook – I wasn't sure about that, thinking Hindhead was better, but I agreed to head for Liphook.

So off along the A27 to Tangmere, where we peeled off, past the smashed car stopped on a roundabout (well done that man) and past Goodwood House and Racecourse. Again some beautiful countryside was on view as we rode along, although Yana was telling me about the mountains in her native Bulgaria.

When I spotted a sign for Liphook I duly followed, and this is where the plans went slightly wrong, in that we seemed to go through Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire and then back into Surrey before finally doing a U turn and getting into Hindhead, and the Devils Punch Bowl. Nightmare!!



For those of you who haven't been to the Punch Bowl for a while (which is me) it has changed. Firstly the old A3 [see *pic left*] hasn't just been changed, due to the new tunnel and bypass road, but it has been taken away. The road is now a dead end, and the car park is full to bursting on a sunny day like ours, so the road is used to park in. So we were

lucky to be able to park. And then we joined the queue for tea etc. Blooming ages it took. At least it was still nice and sunny [see *pic below – missing from the pic are Steve (already gone), Amoret (taking the picture) and Chris Stock (temporarily gone AWOL)*].

Some asked, why is it called the Devils Punch Bowl, well:-

The soil in this part of Surrey has two layers — an upper layer of sandstone, with clay beneath. This deep depression is believed to be the result of erosion caused by spring water beneath the sandstone, causing the upper level to collapse. With its steep sides, the Devil's Punch Bowl has become a natural nature reserve, filled with heathland, streams and woodland. The site has abundant wildlife. Most woodland species can be seen easily – including Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and Redstart. It is known for being the last remaining locality of Wood Warbler in Surrey.



Local legend has a much more colourful theory as to its creation. According to one story, during the Middle Ages the Devil became so irritated by all the churches being built in Sussex that he decided to dig a channel from the English Channel, through the South Downs, and flood the area. As he began digging, he threw up huge lumps of earth, each of which became a local landmark — such as Chanctonbury Ring, Cissbury Ring, Mount Caburn and Rackham Hill. He got as far as the village of Poynings (an area known as the Devil's Dyke) when he was disturbed by a cock crowing (one version of the story claims that it was the prayers of St Dunstan that made all the local cocks crow earlier than usual). Assuming that dawn was about to break, he leapt into Surrey, creating the Devil's Punch Bowl where he landed.

Another story goes that, in his spare time, he hurled lumps of earth at the god Thor to annoy him – the hollow he scooped the earth out of became the Punch Bowl [the local village of Thursley means Thor's place]. An alternative version of this story says that Thor threw the earth at the Devil, who was annoying Thor by jumping across the Devil's Jumps.

A still older story claims that two giants clashed in the area, and one, scooping up earth to throw at the other, created the landmark before missing the throw and creating the Isle of Wight.



Overall a very nice day, good weather, good company and some lovely roads.

So after all the chat etc., we all star burst home via the A3, which gave some of us a chance to 'stretch our legs' or as I prefer 'make progress'.



Let's hope it's the same for the last run of the year on November 4th, when we are going to Brighton for the Veteran Car Run.

See you there

Mick WALLACE

Club Captain Extraordinaire

[Pictures above: top left – Jack & Katy; bottom left – Mick & Yana, Heather behind; right – Heather in front, Dave & Sammi between, Stella behind].

Bits and bobs



Here's one way of dealing with drivers who come too close up the rear!

Flame-thrower scooter owner arrested

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopping/howaboutthat/7528253/Flame-thrower-scooter-owner-arrested.html>



Katy's new bike!

***Kawasaki ER 6
650 £***



The SSMCC Committee will be arranging for **new club shirts** to be produced soon. Precise details (such as available sizes and colours) to follow, but prices will be £15.50 for crew neck shirts, £18.50 for short zip shirts and £23.50 for fleeces. So now's the time to clear out your drawers and make room for some new kit!



Biker Thought for the Month ...

Only a biker knows why a dog sticks his head out of the car window.

Christmas party

Saturday 15th December 2012
Arrive 7.30pm for 8.00pm dinner
Includes disco until midnight



MENU

Curried Parsnip Soup
with Herb Croutons

Ham Hock Terrine
with Piccalilli

Fan of Cantaloupe Melon
with a Mulled Winter Berry Compot



Roast Norfolk Turkey
with Sage & Onion Stuffing, Sausage Wrapped in Bacon, Roast Potatoes, Roasted Parsnip & Traditional Vegetables

Roast Topside of Beef
with Yorkshire Pudding, Sausage Wrapped in Bacon, Roast Potatoes, Roasted Parsnip & Traditional Vegetables

Dill Poached Salmon
with Parmentier Potatoes & Creamed Leeks

Wild Mushroom Spinach & Roquefort Wellington
with New Potatoes & a Parsley Butter Sauce



Traditional Christmas Pudding
with Brandy Sauce

Lemon Tart
with Raspberry Coulis

Warm Chocolate Fondant
with Vanilla Ice Cream

Freshly Brewed Tea or Coffee Served with Mince Pies



Cost: SSMCC Members £15 & Non-members £25

Please complete booking form on Page I3



Cassington Bike Night 2012



SHOCK NEWS REPORT

Sleepy Oxfordshire village suffers invasion by bikers

Once again my annual trip to Cassington for the umpteenth annual bike night, which is always on the last Monday of June or first Monday after the summer solstice as many prefer, June 25th this year in case you're wondering.

Luckily the weather was kind that evening with clear blue sky, well perhaps not, but at least it didn't rain.

I took the recently acquired Tiger and rode the scenic route to Oxford via Windsor, Maidenhead, Marlow, join the A40 at Stokenchurch and follow the A40 to the Oxford ring road at around junction 8 of the M40. Quite an interesting route with some nice tight downhill S bends to enjoy just west of Stokenchurch. Then a short run around the ring road to pick up the A40 again. Follow this heading west for about 3 miles and turn off into Cassington, at approx 6.00 p.m., in all about 1hr 30 mins from Staines.

Ride into the village, place is already packed, bikes everywhere. Guy in an orange high viz beckons me to park on the village green, "cause you've got a British bike mate". I duly oblige and end up parked next to all manner of old rusting leaky wrecks, sorry classic machines from a bygone age.



The range of machines that attend is quite amazing, classics of all ages, customs, trikes, sports bikes, they are all there. Just as I remove the riding gear a bunch of 70's sports mopeds turn up – Gilera's, Honda SS50's, but sadly no Fizzy's. (My first bike was one of those, great bike – where are you now XPC 903N?)

Follow my nose to the food tent, but restrain myself from a burger with salmonella to go, whilst I track down an old mate from Uni who lived in the village for a few years. On the way check out the stands for Bikesafe, Ace Cafe and Royal Enfield (note to self, next year take the bullet if the sun shines).



Track down said mate, Geoff and proceed to look at all the shiny motorbikes, well some at least. Problem is attendance is typically 5000 bikes so you'd have to walk quick to see them all, plus they keep moving around, there's a constant stream of bikes through the village all evening.

Finally noses have followed the waft from the food tent and said mate asks if I'm hungry, of course if you're buying, cheese burger but hold the onions and salmonella.

Just then cheese burger tries to make a break from my grasp as just behind us some old git starts up his 1920 something Indian Chief Wall of Death bike with straight through exhaust, totally shatters the peace of such a tranquil little village. So as not to be outdone someone fires up his R1 and winds open the throttle till it hits the rev limiter. This only encourages old git to fire up the Indian again and they engage in some sort of my-bike's-louder-than-yours competition. Anyway, cheese burger now safely stored in stomach we proceed to find a couple more mates hanging around on the school playing field, which along with the playground doubles up as a bike park for the evening.

One of them, Clive, is without bike, "why?" asks I, "'cause it was a pile of !*&p" – BMW K1300S with wrecked gearbox and failed ABS in less than 4000 miles from new. I remind him of my RT's brake failure on the M25 last summer. We then try and outdo each other with 'my brake failure was worse than yours'

banter. Just then other mate Roland reveals he's just bought a BMW F800. Clive and I refrain from laughter and merely offer to cut his brake pipes so he too can experience the joys of a BMW with no brakes – strangely he declines our offer.

Anyway, enough of these ramblings, what is Cassington all about, you ask. Simply it's charity fund raising even organised by the village school. The event is attended by all manner of people and attracts visitors from far afield.



Picture if you can, country gent and good lady wife in tweeds discussing merits of a Vincent Black Shadow with pot-bellied greasy biker with more hair on his chin than his head and no more room for tattoos on his arm. The whole village get behind it, for example the locals invite you to park in their drive in exchange for donations and the local Women's Institute put on cream teas. Can't think why but they only seem to do any trade when the village pub has run out of beer.

It's been running for around 30 years and despite the best efforts of the elf & safety killjoys last year to impose a ban, it gets bigger and better each year. The local boys in blue are notable by their absence save for Bikesafe and a solitary Thames Valley motorcycle cop.

To get a better idea of it all, click

<http://www.oxbox.tv/oxplayer.php?video=6224326>

where there is a short video clip of the event.

Graeme Byard

Caption competition



“Bet it's got Corgi stamped on it underneath”



At last Mick has found his Mini Me

November's picture ... Send your suggested captions to me at a.whitaker@nhm.ac.uk



Dates for your diary

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 3 rd November | Bowling, Airport Bowl Heathrow |
| 4 th November | Club ride (last in 2012!) to Brighton for the Veteran's car run |
| 25 th November | Club trip to Motorcycle Live at NEC Birmingham |
| 30 th November | Deadline for Christmas Party tickets |
| 15 th December | Club Christmas Party at Harrisons Hotel, Shepperton |
| ?? January | Hampton Court Ice Skating |

Christmas party order form

COST: SSMCC Members £15 & Non-members £25

Please make cheques payable to SSMCC and send (together with this completed form) to:

**Doug Chaney
200a Amyand Park Road
Twickenham
Middlesex TW1 3HY**

<u>Guests</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Name: (member / non-member)*	£.....
Name: (member / non-member)*	£.....
Name: (member / non-member)*	£.....
Name: (member / non-member)*	£.....

(*delete as applicable) TOTAL £.....

Please indicate choice of dish (starter, main & dessert)		Guest name			
Starter	Parsnip soup				
	Ham hock terrine				
	Cantaloupe Melon				
Main	Roast turkey				
	Roast beef				
	Poached salmon				
	Mushroom wellington				
Dessert	Christmas pudding				
	Lemon tart				
	Chocolate fondant				

PLEASE NOTE:

Deadline for payment is the end of November, but the sooner the better!