



**Southern Sporting  
Motor Cycle Club**

**CONTACT**

JANUARY

2017



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# Dates for your diary



**15<sup>th</sup> February** AGM, The Adelaide, Teddington



**19<sup>th</sup> March** 78<sup>th</sup> Pioneer Run, Brighton (TBC)



**9<sup>th</sup> July** BBQ, Seaford (TBC)

# Editor's piece

Hello, Members! Given that we're currently in the lull of the biking season (frost on the ground, salt on the roads, alcohol in the blood stream), we've got a surprisingly packed issue, most of it contributions from Steve Pearce – thanks! We've also been busy on the social front, so there are lots of pics included. But I've kicked off with the important stuff – the AGM – please make every effort to attend and put yourself forward for one of the committee posts if you can. Please think about writing an article in the New Year – the more contributors we have, the more interesting Contact is! **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.

# AGM Notice

**Southern Sporting Motorcycle Club**  
**79th Annual General Meeting**

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017

at

“The Adelaide”  
57 Park Road  
Teddington  
Middlesex  
TW11 0AU

Notice is hereby given in accordance with rule 8 of the Southern Sporting MCC that the 79th AGM of the Club will take place on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017. It will start at 8.10pm prompt. This form is the official opportunity for the nomination of officers of the club for the 2017/2018 club year and for the proposal of motions and award winners. Completed forms should be sent to the Hon Secretary at 21 Whitton Dene, Whitton, Hounslow, TW3 2JN by 28<sup>th</sup> January 2017. AGM correspondence need not be on this form, but must be legible and complete. In particular, all correspondence must contain the member's name and signature. **Please ensure that nominations for elected posts are with the consent of the nominee.** No correspondence affecting the business of the meeting will be accepted after 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017.

Whilst associate members are welcome to attend the AGM and stand for non-committee posts, it should be noted that only current full and honorary members may vote at the meeting or stand for committee posts.

Any member unable to make the AGM and wishing to nominate a proxy for the AGM in accordance with Rule 10 must notify the Hon Secretary in writing providing the name of the Full or Honorary member they wish to nominate as their proxy. Such notifications must be received by the Hon Secretary by 12<sup>th</sup> February 2017. These may be by post or via E-Mail to enquiries@ssmcc.co.uk

I would like to propose the nominations and Motion(s) shown:

Name:

Signed:

Telephone No:

Date:

**Motion(s)**

**Posts**

**Present Holder(s)**

**Nomination(s)**

President	John Mason	
Vice Presidents (3)	Ian Slater Robert Wood Richard Barnett	
*Chairman	Mick Wallace	
*Secretary	Robert Wood	
*Treasurer	Chris Booker	
*Competitions Secretary	Position Vacant	
*Social Secretary	Heather Wallace	
*Club Captain	Ian Slater	
*Editor	Amoret Whitaker	
*Public Relations Officer	John Mason	
*Training Scheme Organiser	Doug Chaney	
Auditor – “Club”	Robert Wood	
Auditor – “Scheme”	Robert Wood	
ACU Centre Board Delegate (2)	Position Vacant / Position Vacant	
Star Group Delegate (2)	Position Vacant / Position Vacant	
BMF Liaison Officer	Robert Wood	
Contact Mailing Secretary	Amoret Whitaker	
Minutes Secretary	Heather Wallace	

Positions marked \* are defined as Committee posts. Only Full or Honorary members may hold these posts. One member may only hold one Committee post.

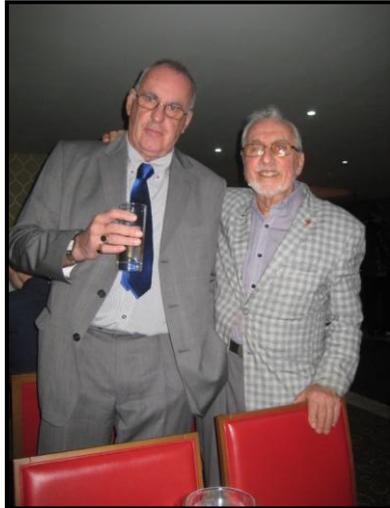
**Awards**

The Enthusiast’s Cup

The Road Safety Award

# SSMCC Christmas Dinner

Many thanks to Heather (our Social Secretary) for organising the Christmas bash at the Bridge Hotel in Chertsey. We had a great turnout and nice to see a good mix of old and new members. Top prize goes to Lorna for her festive outfit! Booby prize goes to Doug for dressing for Chinese New Year 😊



## Bits and bobs

### Lincolnshire daredevil Guy Martin and his sister have bought and refurbished a pub in the village of Kirmington

Guy, who in the past year has set a new speed record in a *Wall of Death* challenge and attempted to break the world speed record on a hydrofoil on Lincoln's Brayford, had grown up in the village and has a lot of ties to the 245-year-old Marrowbone & Cleaver. The pub has undergone major renovations to depict the history of Kirmington using stained-glass windows, murals, historic pictures, rare memorabilia and pictures of Guy Martin's *Passion for Speed* show. The pub website states that both Guy and Sally "wanted to make the pub a home from home for locals and guests that join them with roaring open fires, wooden beams, 166 squadron memorial stained glass, Guys *Wall of Death* and cheery smile from everyone that works there." Guy has also worked directly with Lincolnshire brewers Batemans to create a unique blend for the pub called Skull Spanners Beer. Sally, who will run the pub, has said that it will host a range of events including bike rides.



Taken from: <http://lincolnshirereporter.co.uk/2016/12/village-pub-bought-lincolnshire-daredevil-guy-martin/>



### New bike for SSMCC Down Under member



Our man (Phil) in Perth, Western Australia, has just bought himself a Triumph Bonneville T100 865cc 2007, last of Carby models. He says "It rides really well, an excellent stable bike, ideal for old gibbers, 6 speed and handles beautifully. Essentially to take Sue on the back! The Norton is a tad old school and I like riding it solo." [Ignore the background of the photo – he's just trying to make us jealous! Ed.]



**Biker Thought for the Month ... *Yes, it's fast. No, you can't ride it.***

# Ice-skating at Hampton Court

A few brave souls decided to take to the ice for our annual winter outing – Heather, Flossy, Chris G., Sam, Carl, Ian (Spanner) & Amoret – encouraged by some observers – Doug, Lorna, Mick, Marnie, Graeme & Anne – followed by a few drinks at a local watering hole. Apologies for the quality of some of the pictures - the air was thick with fog (and swearing)!



# DVSA proposals to improve motorcycle training

The Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) has launched a consultation asking for views on proposals to improve motorcycle training.

Motorcyclists are among the most vulnerable road users. They account for around 1% of traffic on Great Britain's roads, but 21% of deaths or serious injuries.

The proposed changes aim to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured by making sure new riders are better prepared for the realities of riding on modern roads.

## Improving training to help you through a lifetime of safe riding

[Compulsory basic training](#) (CBT) is a course you usually have to take before you ride a moped or motorcycle on the road. It makes sure you can ride safely on your own while you practise for your full moped or motorcycle test.

The course is provided by instructors who have either been assessed by DVSA, or have been trained directly by another DVSA-assessed instructor.



## Improving how the system works for riders

Some of the proposed changes include:

- taking away (revoking) CBT certificates from riders who get 6 [penalty points](#) - it would stop them from riding with L plates after getting points for offences including careless or dangerous riding
- considering whether learner riders should need to either pass a [theory test](#) before they take a CBT course, or as part of their course
- restricting riders who take their CBT course on an automatic motorcycle to only riding automatics

It's also proposed that the [CBT course syllabus](#) is changed from 5 parts to 4, focussing on:

- aims of CBT and the importance of equipment
- on-site training
- motorcycling theory
- on-road practical riding

## Training courses to upgrade motorcycle licences

DVSA also wants your views on a proposal to introduce a training course that existing riders can take to upgrade their motorcycle licence, rather than having to take extra tests.

## Improved instructors and training schools

DVSA is considering making changes to:

- improve the way that instructors qualify to provide motorcycle training
- increase the range of checks that DVSA carries out on motorcycle training schools
- introduce a system for motorcycle training schools to be given recognition for consistently high standards

Another proposal looks at options for replacing the existing paper-based training system with a digital service. This will improve the quality of records of those who have taken CBT, and make the system more efficient.

[Have your say on the proposals](#) by 17 February 2017.

## Skills and knowledge to ride safely

DVSA Chief Executive, Gareth Llewellyn, said:

“DVSA’s first priority is helping everyone stay safe on Great Britain’s roads. Our roads are among the safest in the world, but we’re determined to do more to improve safety for all road users, including newly-qualified motorcyclists. We want to modernise motorcycle training so that novice riders gain the skills and experience they need to help them and everyone else to stay safe on our roads.”

Karen Cole, Director of Safety and Training for the Motorcycle Industry Association, said:

“We’re delighted to see DVSA has launched this consultation. We believe that the introduction of a new training course is positive and will encourage more riders to use the progressive licence route. We’re also supportive of the proposals to update the qualification arrangements for motorcycle instructors as these will help the training industry. We’d urge anyone interested in motorcycle training to respond.”

Taken from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/dvsa-sets-out-proposals-to-improve-motorcycle-training>



## Going for a wee spin on the Island

Because of the goings on in France, mainly Calais, we decided to stay in the UK for this year's bike tour. Plans started just after Christmas for the trip in September, after the schools restart.

The group this year consisted of – Myself, Steve Morley, Sharon and Mike Roberts, Tony Coe and Kim Aitchison. We thought we would let Sharon and Mike have an easy start so we headed west to sunny Wales on the Friday.

I met Steve M at his house and was amazed that he managed to squeeze one week's clothes into one top box. Steve and I finally left a very soggy Bognor for the 200 mile trip, I say 'finally' as it was after bump starting Steve's VFR800, it's hardly been used since our last trip - Austria in 2015, who am I kidding – it had not been used. We had to do this twice as he needed fuel before leaving Bognor.

Luckily the rain did not last long and by the time we got to the services at Newbury it was clear skies and looking better the further West we travelled. Plans were up in the air if we were meeting Tony and Kim at the services, as Tony was delayed leaving work, we headed off and waited for them in Wales. The rest of that part of the journey was lovely, twisty roads and sunshine.

The route this year was from Llandrindod Wells to Heysham to get the ferry to Douglas (Isle of Man) staying there for two nights then ferry back to Liverpool for one night at Lake Windermere then north to Stirling, again one night, where we headed further north to Oban. The journey home was a simple stop in the Yorkshire Dales and then a long leg home.

Yes, I know we were doubling our mileage by going to Heysham and back to Liverpool – but the ferry crossings were simply more civilised.

Saturday's journey out of Llandrindod Wells started okay although the weather was just horrendous – the rain was heavy and just so much of it. Steve's VFR started okay at our B&B, but stopping the engine at Sharon and Mike's meant he had to bump start it again – really – after 200 miles! Being on two wheels made the ride slower than we would have liked and having to catch a ferry put a bit of pressure.

Once we left Wales we had to hit the motorways to try and make up time, the rain still had not let off – we needed fuel and a rest. We stopped in the services – by this time we had only done 100 miles. The water draining from our gear meant we had to ask for a "Slip Hazard" sign to be put near us, Warning Deep Water sign would have been more appropriate – Sharon needed a dry top so off to the shops she goes whilst the rest of us get coffee and as Steve M is with us that meant cake as well.

I'm worried about time and distance – so we start to put the (very) wet gear back on and back to the bikes to fill up before another 80 miles to Heysham, TomTom estimated 10 minutes late for the ferry. Steve M gets back to his bike and it won't start, absolutely dead apart from the Neutral light and headlight – calls me over and suggests he calls the AA and we go on! I suggest he turns the kill switch on and let's go – and the bike starts fine, phew!

We arrived at the check-in kiosk three minutes late, but that was fine. The last time I was there was 2am in the morning in the early 90' for the TT and it was raining – 26 years later – it's still bloody raining. We hand over our soggy documents and get a boarding pass and get directed straight through to dock side.

We had to wait about 15 minutes or so before we could board.

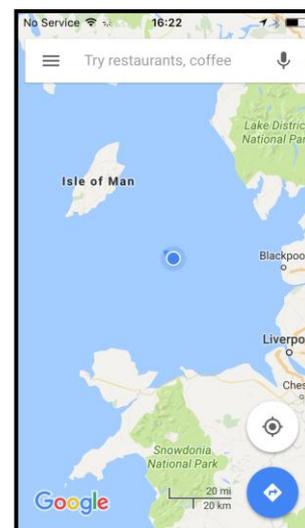
Sharon says to me "I forgot my Driving Licence and Insurance Documents". I said "that should be OK" – seeing as there is absolutely nothing she can do about it now anyway but joked I nearly forgot my Passport. Sharon's face dropped – she looked sick, went back to Mike and was not happy. Oh shit, she's going to kill me when she finds out you don't need it! I got away with a firm punch on the arm and called a few unrepeatable names – but it was funny – for us anyway, sorry Sharon xx.

The 3¾ hour crossing was a pleasure, premium seats helped – it only seemed like an hour and we could see land, not very clear due to mist but was not that long before we were on the IOM, and hey – NO RAIN!

I was surprised the bikes were not untied – as this threw me, I forgot that I put some bits in the top box and then could not find my keys. Was not too worried as they can't be far – but it was soon pointed out to me what I had done with them – already in the top box – plonker!

The plan was to visit the Fairy Bridge, sticking to superstition about riding on the IOM and luck the fairies bring, before going to the B&B but being so wet still we decided that a beer was needed – so the B&B it is – that was only about a mile from the Docks as in Douglas.

The number of stairs in the B&B must have been the tallest building on the Island, what a pain taking the panniers to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor – now I needed a beer! Oh, and a hair drier to dry some of my bike gear out \*tip for others how to get your gear dry quicker!





Sunday came and the only plan was a lap or two of the TT circuit and a visit to the Fairy Bridge. After breakfast we head out for a spin around the circuit – remembering bits from watching the TT and being there before – noticed that they had introduced more speed limits than before, but we still had plenty of places to play where there were no speed limits. The weather was, being typically British, now too hot. That meant we had to stop in beautiful Peel for an ice cream.

Back on the circuit leading up to the Gooseneck – how weird – overtaking the Police in their BMW X5 at speeds way above what is allowed on the mainland motorways – how fun.



We decided to blast ½ way around the circuit then head back to Ramsey where Tony saw signs for a Bike Show, it was a museum owned by one of the organisers of the Manx TT – entry was simply a donation in an honesty box. They had some classic bikes there. I was chatting to a local couple who owned a Honda CD200 Benly, class bike, perhaps the paint scheme needed to be changed – but that brought back some memories.



Tonight we went for a curry – it was okay, nothing special, but just made a change from staying in the B&B to eat in the bar.

Monday came too quickly – but it was breakfast, pack and leave the B&B for a ride around the circuit again. This time not so good, as forecasted the thick fog arrived – meaning that it would be a slow ride around especially on the mountain, but we have

done it a few times now and that was the plan. Laxey Wheel for tea / coffee and cake before heading down for the ferry which was a mid-afternoon sailing.



Arriving at the dock it was full of bikes as we were there at the end of the Manx TT, where we saw some lovely bikes during our stay.

Unfortunately, the fog delayed our departure and slowed the ferry speed until out of the fog. We had to get to the hotel near Lake Windermere, we did not want to be too late. Departing

Liverpool nearly two hours after we planned. But – don't panic – we made it to the bar in time, as we ate on the ferry to save time.

The hotel was lovely – the 4-poster bed was really comfy. Sharon and Mike had this picture that looked at them in bed – quite creepy.



Tuesday was quite a long trip and some heavy traffic due roadworks – the next stop was Stirling, Scotland. Not an exciting ride but we did manage to pop back to the Filling Station Café, Keswick, a place I visited on my last trip to Scotland earlier this year. Lunch was in order and tea and cake – now the staff were very accommodating by adding Steve Morley's name to the display – for a donation into their charity box of course.

Because we wanted to miss motorways we ended up going through some lovely villages and stopped for afternoon tea – Steve M realised that he had lost the key to his top box. By chance the café that we went to a guy was doing some maintenance and drilled the lock and he borrowed my spider bungies to hold the lid down, panic over then we carried on en-route to Edinburgh – until we needed fuel – this is where the whole trip hit a problem – as we were getting back on the bikes Steve Morley caught his leggings on his foot peg and toppled off, because he was on a slope he could not hold it. Tony was first there and Steve did not look too good at all. I tried to get an ambulance – but we had to get a cab – at 5:30pm it's not that easy – by chance a cab came in for fuel and we persuaded him to take Steve to the Edinburgh Hospital. The main priority for the cab driver was – is he bleeding or will he be sick as I've just had the cab valeted.

Everyone else carried on to Stirling to check into the hotel and I stayed with Steve in the hospital – they even have a Police Office in A&E, after several hours in there we soon worked out why!

After some x-rays, it appeared that he had broken a metatarsal bone in his foot and ruptured his acromioclavicular joint. It's not a broken bone but a popped joint where the joint is held together by ligaments and they have become detached – either way – OUCH!

It was getting late and options were reducing – so Tony and Kim came back to pick up Steve's bike and we got Steve a cab to the hotel.

The best option to get Steve home was a cab back to Edinburgh Airport and flight to Southampton – but no, Steve wanted to stay with his bike – his insurance company offer accident recovery – so via the AA he headed home – that was a nightmare taking 18½ hours – but at the end of it he was home.



This also made Tony think about carrying on and he decided not to – and headed home instead, which was fine – we all must do what we want and it is meant to be a holiday. So, Tony and Kim headed home leaving Sharon, Mike and myself to carry on to Oban, our final point heading North.

This was a short leg, which is what we needed after the previous day's events – it was a leisurely ride stopping next to a Loch for lunch then heading to Fort William for a quick look then heading back to Oban for two nights in a B&B which is run by friends.



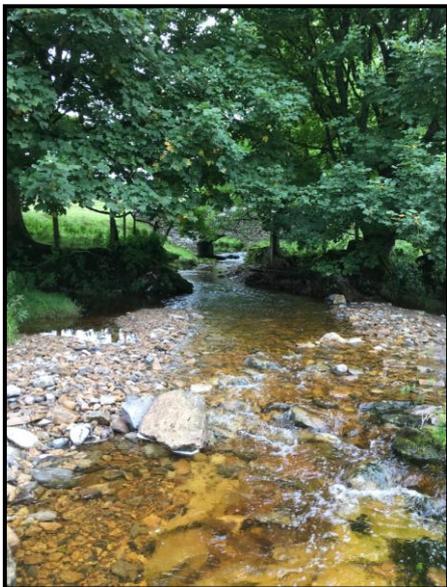
Thursday the weather was meant to be bad, and it was – so that meant after the full Scottish Breakfast we walked into town for a couple of coffees, a look around a local museum and we could not miss out a visit to the local Distillery.



Unfortunately for us we needed to pre-book a tour, so it was only into the gift shop for a bottle to take home ....

We also took time to visit McCaig's Tower – it was well worth the climb up the steep hill, purely for the magnificent view of Oban and over to the Islands.

Friday came and our time to leave Scotland heading 260 miles south to our last stay of the trip, a place called Cray in the Yorkshire Dales. Most of the journey was A roads but we hit a bit of the M8 and M74 to get through Glasgow and some of the miles. The roads got much better the further we went into the Dales. A nice steady pace so we could take in some of the views. Totally in the middle of nowhere a young lady had broken down – even though several cars had passed her – we stopped to ensure she was OK – she was thankful that we did, but it turned out to be a regular overheating problem that just needed topping up. Why not get it fixed? Anyway, she was confident that all would be okay so we continued to the White Lion Pub. Now this pub was superb. Lovely room and comfy bed and the food was lovely, quite expensive – but I think it was well worth it. Only down side – no phone signal. A place I would go back to in good weather to appreciate the area. This was a single night stay but I could have quite happily stayed longer – in other words putting off the 330 mile final leg home on Saturday.



All in all, a great trip with the upset of Steve's accident, just goes to show – not to take anything for granted but be able to adapt to the challenge.

Steve Morley wanted to thank Tony for his help practicing his First Aid skills and for him and Kim getting his bike to the hotel.



Steve needed an operation to replace the joint – although he did not like the time spent in hospital he did manage to sneak a cheeky cake.

Till our next tour – Stay Safe **Steve Pearce**



# SSMCC Committee Minutes

Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

## **In Attendance:**

Mick Wallace	Chairman
Chris Booker	Treasurer
John Mason	PRO
Ian Slater	Club Captain
Heather Wallace	Social Secretary
Rob Wood	General Secretary

Meeting started at: 19:55

**Apologies –** Doug Chaney, Amoret Whitaker

**Actions:** Rob Wood still hasn't had a chance to check the website.

## **Minutes from the Last Meeting**

The minutes from the last meeting were proposed by Heather Wallace and seconded by Rob Wood and were adopted without dissent.

## **Matters Arising**

None

## **Correspondence**

Banking bits for training scheme. Rob Wood still no reply from Trinia Docksey regarding membership. ACU renewal for affiliation arrived and Rob Wood has asked Chris Booker to pay the £10 owed.

Ian Slater received email from Sheila Thomas asking if the Seaford BBQ could be on the 9<sup>th</sup> July as she is not available on previous weekend.

Chairman has received email from Dave Regan asking that his thanks be conveyed to those that signed his card and contributed to the gift. It was lovely.

## **New Members**

None

## **Treasurer's Report**

Chris Booker has paid the Bridge Hotel the full balance for the Christmas Do. Only one person left to pay.

Rob Wood advised the Treasurer that the club accounts will need to be given to him to audit over Christmas.

## **Training Scheme**

Damaged RXS was sold through Ebay. £200 received but there was a £28 admin fee which Mick Wallace has reimbursed himself from the paid money. There was a £2.83 refund on the road tax.

Ian Slater advised that the bike insurance has been sorted with the insurers and arrangements to pay in 10 instalments. The indemnity insurance has also been paid for £357 approx paid. Only a small increase from last year.

Doug Chaney was unable to attend the meeting, so there are no figures.

Rob Wood will advise Doug Chaney that he will be auditing the account over the Christmas holiday and will need the training scheme spreadsheet updated and sent as soon as training has finished for the year.

Ian Slater mentioned that Chris Gorth is keen to become an instructor. Will arrange to get a copy of the training manual to him.

Doug Chaney needs to advise what date will be the last one for training.

### **Social Secretary's Report**

22 are due to attend the Xmas Do. This is 3 less than was provisional booked, so we have lost the £30 in non-refundable deposit. A reminder will be sent to those attending to make sure they arrive on time.

The bowling night on 12<sup>th</sup> November at the Heathrow Bowl, was not well attended, but those that did seemed to have a good time and a report was in Contact that had just been issued.

Heather Wallace had sent detail regarding ice skating at Hampton Court to the Editor for publication in Contact but she will send an email out as well. If more than 10 come forward, we can get a 10% discount on the cost of tickets.

### **Editors Report**

Messages from Editor as she was not at meeting.

She has asked that articles for Contact be sent in word and any pictures be sent on a separately email. If articles are sent and a reply not received from her confirming receipt, please make contact with her to check.

### **Captain's Report**

Mick Wallace gave the Captain's report as Ian Slater decided on the day that it was too cold and he was feeling poorly. Very unlike him.

Ian Slater has given the committee notice that he will not be standing for next year's Captain role. Interested parties should put themselves forward for next year.

### **Public Relations Officer's Report**

John Mason has booked the 15<sup>th</sup> February at the Adelaide in Teddington for the AGM.

He will send details for a ride for the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2018, to the Ardennes to the committee. Nothing else to report.

### **Any Other Business**

None

### **Fixtures**

30<sup>th</sup> December – Hampton Court Ice Skating - TBC

30<sup>th</sup> January 2017 – Committee Meeting

15<sup>th</sup> February 2017 – AGM - Adelaide

Next meeting was proposed for 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017 and to take place at Mick & Heather Wallace's.

Thanks were expressed to Rob for their hospitality.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

## Caption competition

So I've been framed for the photo caption competition [see over], so thought it would be good if people knew what it was all about.



A couple of years ago I was involved in the Big Learner Relay. This is a relay transporting Pudsy Bear around the country on a roof sign, but can only be driven by learner drivers. Lou Walsh, the organiser, travels the route over 14 days which ends on the day of Children In Need.

The year the picture was taken my journey took us from Midhurst Budgens to Petersfield Services on the A3. That year I was a support car, so if something happened to the lead car, pupil or instructor there was still a means of getting about.

Last year I was the lead car – we travelled from Chichester College to Arundel Castle, and even managed to get permission to take the cars into grounds for the hand over.

So how much did we raise for Children In Need? £98,593.00 ..... raised by 179 instructors and learners, plus a mountain of supporters who travelled approximately 2800 miles in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.



The event is in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year and has raised in excess of £250k.

**Steve Pearce – Southern Sporting Bognor Regis branch**

### Winning caption:

Mr Blobby lives!!!!

### Best of the rest:

Steve dons his only bow tie in a vain attempt to fit in on the Distinguished Gentleman's Ride.

Steve tests the latest "wings make you go faster" hi-viz equipment.

Why not go the whole hog for Movember and wear a bow tie as well?

When Karen told Steve to "put a tie on" for the Christmas bash, this wasn't quite what she had in mind.



## January's picture



Ian (aka Spanner), Mike & Sharon,  
taken at NEC Motorcycle Live.

Send your suggested captions to me  
at: [a.whitaker@nhm.ac.uk](mailto:a.whitaker@nhm.ac.uk)