



**Southern Sporting
Motor Cycle Club**

CONTACT

MARCH/APRIL

2017



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Dates for your diary



23rd April

Road Trial



7th May

Langton Arms, Dorset



11th June

Trip to see Dave Regan in Lincolnshire



9th July

BBQ, Seaford (£10 to pay in advance)

Editor's piece

Hello, Members!

There was no Contact issued last month, as I had no bike runs or articles to publish. Hopefully we are now well into the biking season (for those fair weather bikers) so please keep your articles coming in. This month I've got a couple of new bikes featured (new to members, that is), the AGM photos, and our first club run of the season. John Mason has put together a long list of club runs and events, so please put these in your diary so you don't miss out!

Amoret Whitaker – Editor

2017 BMF Discount Code

The discount code for members of
**Southern Sporting
Motorcycle Club**

is
SSM17J925

This number may be used by your members

To receive discounts on advanced tickets to
all BMF shows/Rallies.

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.

Ride outs in 2017

All dates subject to weather conditions! Except the 9th of July.

Sunday 19th of March Pioneer run to Brighton leave Box Hill 10.30am.

Sunday 23rd of April Clubs road trial. Start place Chalet Cafe A281 Cowfold.
First away 10.30am last away 11.00am. 100 miles round trip (Sunbury).

Sunday 7th of May Langton Arms Dorset. Start Runnimead cafe 10am.
All A roads, 140 miles round trip. (Sunbury).

Sunday 11th June Hope to see Dave Regan in Linconshire? 9am start!**
Leave from 48 Ashridge Way 240 miles approx from (Sunbury).

Sunday 9th of July BBQ Seaford £10 to pay in advance, 10.30am leave Box Hill.
In car if wet, no cancellation.

Sunday 23rd of July Super Sausage Potterspury.A5. Leave 48Ashridge 10.00am.

Sunday 20th of August, Ride around Surrey Leave Box Hill 10.30am.

Sunday 10th of September New Romney light railway Kent. Leave B X 9.30am.
2 Littlestone Road New Romney TN28 8PL.

Sunday 15th of October Mudeford nr Christchurch! To be confirmed.**

Sunday 5th of November Vet cars at Brighton leave B H 10am.

Will send e mail month before or to check dates contact John Mason.

** These items may change! (Round trip miles to and from Sunbury).

John Mason, Club Captain.

AGM Awards

The AGM was held at the usual venue, The Adelaide, on Wednesday 15th February 2017. The minutes will be published in due course, but in the meantime, here are pictures of the awards. Hopefully none of them got mixed up Oscars-style.



Enthusiast's Cup – Estelle Potter



Road Safety Award – Ian Slater



Bateman Cup – Steve Pearce



Photographic Award – Anne & Graeme Byard



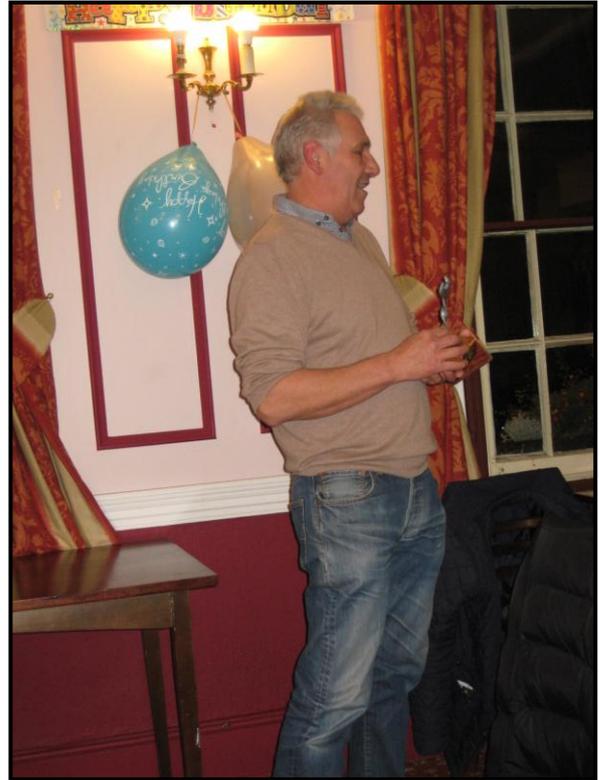
Training Scheme Supporters Shield – Chris Gorth



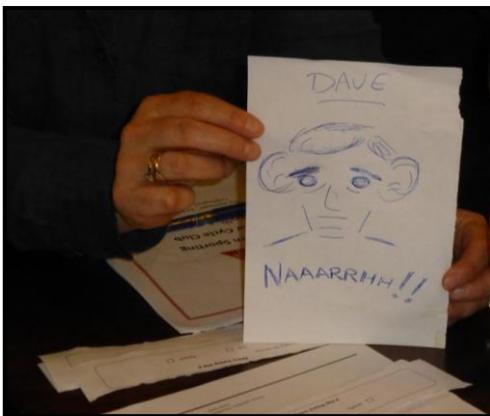
Darts – John Mason



Trevor Smith Award (Bowling) – Chris Booker



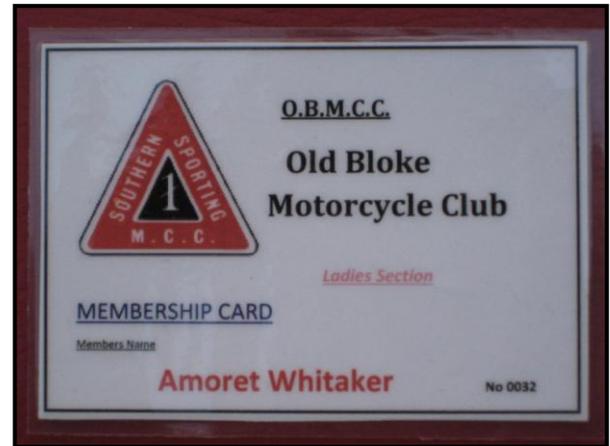
Twisted Spanner Award – Chris Stock
(collected by Richard Barnett on his behalf)



With us in spirit – Dave Regan



Special Award – OBMCC Ladies Section – Amoret Whitaker



Biker Thought for the Month ...

You know you're a biker when you recognise your friends by the sound of their exhaust.

Club Captain's update

Run to Brighton.

So the first trip under the captain's belt. Arriving at Box Hill Heather, Mick, Ian, Steve P, his son, friend Steve plus a friend, Martin and lady friend, Graham Dunbar, Jon Draper, Chris Goff and me. Jon and Graham did not go to Brighton they just came to say hello at Box Hill. Only had a slight drizzle over Devil's Dyke. Other than that we had a good ride to our destination, a walk about to see the old bikes, then a pleasant ride back to McDonald's at the junction of the A272 & A24 where we split up and went home.

Thanks to all that turned up – **JM**

The next item on the agenda is on Sunday the 23rd of April. We will meet at the Chalet Cafe on the A281. After turning right off the A272 at Cowfold on the mini roundabout turn right again off another mini roundabout down the A281. Follow the road for about half a mile, the cafe is on the right. You would have passed this cafe if you have been on a ride with us to Brighton. The start time for the first off is 10.30am, last is 11.15am.

Although it is the clubs road trial the route can be easily managed for a ride by following directions. You do not have to collect the clues if you just want a ride.

Also the winners do not have to arrange the following year's! I think it should be the ones that come second!! This trial will go ahead even if it rains as it can be done in a car.

Extra points for those who do it on a motorcycle!

Reminder, T/L turn left. T/R turn right. S/O straight on. GT green triangle.

So you could have T/L at GT to G and S. Turn left at green triangle to Guildford and Shere. For example. All will come clear when you see your notes.

If you could let me know if you are taking part.

john.mmason001@btinternet.com, so I can bring enough paperwork.

Teams are better for this job!

See you on the 23rd of April – **JM**

New bike!

Snowy's got a new bike, only took 11years! 2010 Fireblade RRRRRaaah!!



One previous owner from new. Obviously his weekend toy as it only had 6,300 miles on the clock when I picked it up. Guy at Honda Chiswick found it for me as I asked him to look out for one about three weeks ago. Part exchanged the Triumph which apparently is going to Bill Bun's if anybody's interested?

It is the anniversary model with the gold wheels – not sure which anniversary – and came with a full Yoshimura exhaust system – earplugs a must!

Still trying to re-program my brain for the awesome acceleration, there seems to be power everywhere and it's only the size of a 250! Been a few “Oh Crap” moments already!

Thought I'd better get one now while my body's still fully functional. Here's to the next 11years (if I keep my licence that long).

Snowy the Elder.

Bits and bobs



Ever seen a deer jump over a motorcycle?

Andrew McCeny was taking part in the Distinguished Gentleman's Ride last year when he bore witness to something quite extraordinary. While riding, a deer became spooked, sprinting right through the group before jumping over one of them, causing him to fall off.

"We were travelling at about 45 miles per hour when we spotted the deer, and once we realised he was committed to crossing, we slammed on the brakes," McCeny said. "One of our riders was not so lucky. He lost control of his bike and ended up falling off."

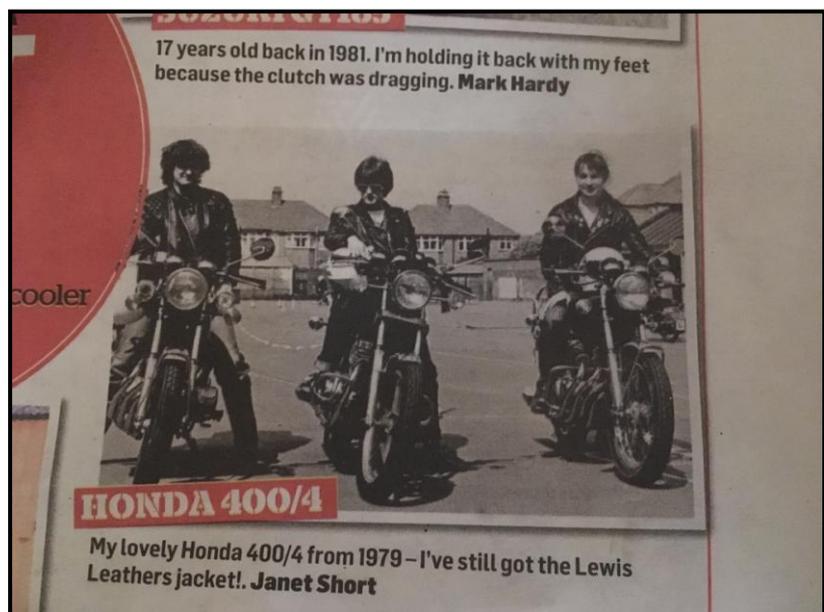
Thankfully the rider escaped with just a bruised ego and a few minor repairs to do on his Bonneville, though he was able to complete the remainder of the DGR first.

<http://www.motorcyclenews.com/news/2017/april/deep-jumps-over-motorcyclist/>



Joy in the news!

Joy Mason featured in a photograph in Motorcycle News, used to illustrate an article on My First Bike, written by Janet Short (née Leek) who is a past club member. Joy is shown on the left of the photograph, aboard her Honda 400/4 which was taken at the Training Scheme in Isleworth.



A windy day in Brighton!

It's that time of year, nearing the official start of spring as well as the annual Sunbeam MCC, Pioneer Run, for pre-1915 machines, to Brighton-on-Sea. Sunday morning saw a hardy group of SSMCC riders, along with a few hangers-on's, ready to ride down to Brighton.



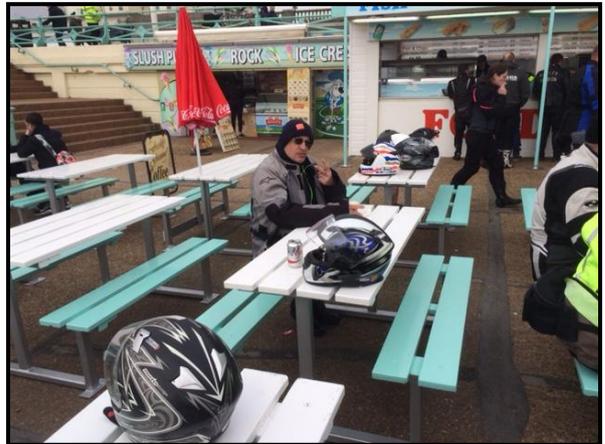
As the ex-Club Captain I did the honourable thing by pointing at John whenever anyone asked what was happening/route/time, etc.



On the road, myself and Mick hung around at the back of the group, generally annoying each other, until we got to Devils Dyke, where the wind was picking up and we rode through a squally shower (the weather, not the group of riders in front of us ☺).

John found the usual parking spot, without assistance, and we all headed off towards Madeira Drive and lunch.

I always find walking around the old codger's motorbikes fascinating and enjoyable, with what looked like even more participants taking part this year. We even bumped into Bob (ex-Blays manager) who had cajoled, pushed and generally willed his old FN to Brighton, only breaking down about half a dozen times on the way!



Walking back to the bikes was into the wind and it was decided that ice-cream wasn't a good idea. We headed back to McDonalds on the A24, for some tea/coffee, then headed off in our separate directions.



A jolly, if windy, day out by the sea bracing, was the word.

Spanner – Ex-Club Captain, Torque Wrench and Hammer.



Last of the summer wine

After years on sportsbikes, well, GSXRs, 3 750s and a 1000, I decided it was time to grow up, or old. I've always preferred the look and feel of a sportsbike, even for touring. I've always found them comfortable and capable of long, high mile days, so long as I stay off motorways. Sitting still in the saddle is the problem, for aches and pains and boredom. Keep it interesting and it stays comfortable.



But circumstances change and I needed the bike to shut up. The GSXRs all had two things in common; a hooligan attitude and a big mouth, and if you're going to stay friends with a loud mouth hooligan you've got to go along with him. And I can't any more.

So I bought a BMW R1200, RS not GS. Supposedly a sports tourer but that's a capital T and a small s. It's extremely comfortable to

sit on, I'm not so sure about comfortable to ride (for hours) yet. But we're getting there, I just need to adapt to the very different sitting position.

Just like the magazines say, I've already found the dynamic engine and suspension settings best suited to riding. Other settings on the all singing all dancing electronic control systems may better suit commuting, but for riding the dynamic settings are definitely best.

Not that I've really found out too much yet. First service is booked for next week. When I phoned to book (in late-March) I was told I could come in mid-May! So much for the legendary BMW customer service. After some minutes moaning I was promoted to early April, but really? Sell a bike with a fairly typical 600 mile first service interval and then make (even if I'd booked the day I bought it) the customer wait 7 weeks for the service is like saying one can only ride 12 miles a

day. Maybe I'm being punished for haggling and getting the first (£180) service thrown in for free.

Funnily though, it wasn't my first moan at the dealer. As I was riding away from collection I noticed the odometer (that's the mileometer by any other name) said 155. Then a bit later 156. I thought maybe I couldn't see the point and it had gone from 15.5 to 15.6 but then after much more than a tenth it was 157. Even 15.5 would be a bit much. I turned around and went back to complain. I'm not used to this high tech after years on a GSXR. The information showing was range to empty not miles travelled! The salesman was very gracious, even reminding me I'd forgotten the complementary bottle of wine on my first departure.

To be fair the buying experience was very good. But I'm not so happy about the wait for service. If it's as bad next time I can go elsewhere of course.

And to complete the transformation I just bought panniers. Oh, where did it all go wrong.

Graham Dunbar



SSMCC Committee Minutes

Meeting held on 20th March 2017

In Attendance:

Mick Wallace	Chairman
Chris Booker	Treasurer
Doug Chaney	Training Scheme Organiser
John Mason	Club Captain
Heather Wallace	Social Secretary
Amoret Whitaker	Editor

Meeting started at: 20:01

Apologies – Estelle Potter, Rob Wood

ACTIONS: Rob Wood was not available to say whether he had checked the website.

Minutes from the Last Meeting

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

Matters Arising

Thanks to those out-going committee members – Ian Slater, John Mason has changed roles from PRO to Club Captain. Welcome to Estelle Potter for joining as PRO. Their support has been very much appreciated.

Correspondence

None

New Members

None

Treasurer's Report

One member has still not paid his subs. Chris Booker will chase him up.

ACTION: John Mason queried whether Chris Booker had paid NPL for the anniversary venue for next year 2018. He will action that this week.

ACTION: Mick Wallace still needs to take the club trophies for engraving.

Training Scheme

There has not been much movement on pupils. Marli is still having further training. 2 bikes have been MOT. The school has asked for cheques to be re-issued as they now need to be made out to Isleworth Town Primary School, and not London Borough of Hounslow.

Estelle Potter has checked with the DVSA as to whether she can start CBT instructor training – they have confirmed that she can.

Met Police have asked SSTS to attend another event on 11th April. Doug Chaney will contact people for some help.

BLESMA – charity for limbless service men. Learn to ride as part of their re-habilitation. According the Graeme Castle, DVSA has advised there are no restrictions other than them being able to control the machine.

Contacting ex-service men to see if they want to come down to see if bike training instruction is an avenue they might want to consider going forward.

Chris Booker suggested further training promotion for those already with licences.

PROPOSAL – At the AGM Steve Pearce offered the use of his company credit card facilities to take payments for training fees. He will then transfer the monies into the training scheme account at no cost to the scheme. John Mason **Seconded** the proposal. The committee **AGREED**

ACTION: Doug Chaney needs to pay John Mason the garage fees which are overdue.

Social Secretary's Report

Heather Wallace has not organised any events as yet, but now the AGM has gone, she will make some plans. Bowling, Darts, Pool, Picnic are all options. Any others suggested welcome.

John Mason mentioned that 2018 dates had had some interest shown.

Editors Report

Amoret Whitaker stated that there was no March issue as there were no club runs, nor committee minutes or articles.

There was a debate about what Contact contains. Club runs will be published in Contact but John Mason will continue to send the emails.

Would welcome any articles or suggested topics for articles. Photos welcome too.

Captain's Report

John Mason, newly appointed as Captain. Good turn-out for the first run – Pioneer Run to Brighton.

Next run on 23rd April.

Public Relations Officer's Report

No report as Estelle Potter, newly appointed PRO, was not available.

Any Other Business

ACU South Eastern

The ACU are looking to terminate the club and have suggested returning the current funds back to the clubs that generated this nest egg in first place (£90,000).

Should the proposal go forward at the ACU AGM being held on 22nd March, and funds come to the club, it was **AGREED** that the money should be ring fenced and possibly used by the club for the anniversary celebrations.

Estelle Potter wants to propose a couple topics for discussion:

1) I'd like to ask the committee to issue a formal open invitation to Ian Slater to attend any committee meeting he wishes. He's so instrumental to the success of the Training Scheme, it makes no sense to me that he doesn't have a committee post. I understand from the discussion at the AGM that changing committee posts is challenging so am not proposing a new post, merely that he has an open invitation to attend and influence even if he doesn't have a vote. Maybe as a VP of the club he has this anyway but it would be nice to have him formally invited.

It was agreed that this would not be an issue, but as a VP Ian is able to attend any committee meeting.

2) Can we use scanned electronic copies of the membership form? I'm wondering if we can make it a little simpler for people to join?

Potentially it was AGREED by the committee that we have to move with the times and an electronic member application form would not be objected to. However the applicant would still need to be seconded by a club member.

3) I'd like to ask all the committee members to reflect on what is it about the club that you enjoy? (If I'm promoting the club it'll be useful to be able to understand all the perspectives so that I can promote all these angles).

Responses need to be sent to Estelle Potter.

Amoret Whitaker mentioned whether having members set up a standing order for their club membership fees, so that they don't need to be chased for it.

Fixtures

23rd April – Club Trial – for bikes or cars – Start point will be the Chalet Café in Cowfold

Proposed dates for 2018 for the anniversary year.

May 18 & 19 2018 – Barnstable

July 17/18/19 2018 – Luxemburg

Hotel bookings will have to be made independently.

Next meeting was proposed for 24th April 2017 and to take place at Amoret Whitaker's.

Thanks expressed to Heather & Mick for their hospitality.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Caption competition

Winning caption:

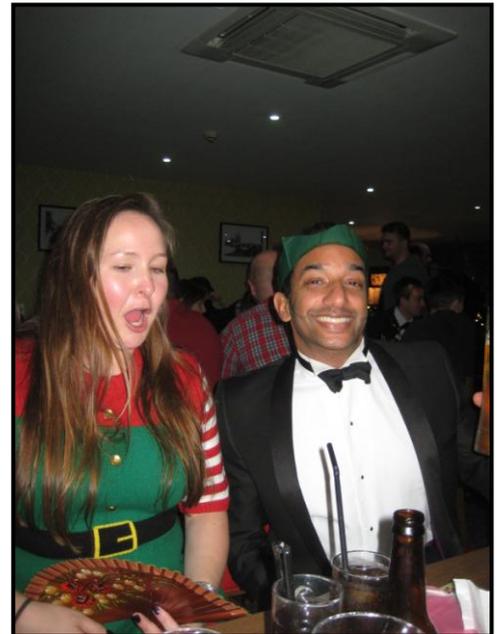
Lorna was mortified when Head Elf Andy told her she was on Santa's naughty list!

Best of the rest:

When Andy told Lorna to “dress glitzy”, she could have sworn he said “pixie”.

Lorna takes her “elf and safety” role very seriously!

Andy turned up for his James Bond themed party, only to find himself in Santa's Grotto.



March/April's picture



In celebration/
commiseration of
Dave's recent birthday!
Thank you, Doug, for
sharing!

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