



**Southern Sporting
Motor Cycle Club**

CONTACT

MAY/JUNE

2017

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Dates for your diary



17th June

Darts Night, The Adelaide



9th July

BBQ, Seaford (£10)



23rd July

Club Run (Super Sausage)



6th August

Picnic in the Park



20th August

Surrey Ride-out

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.

Editor's piece

Dear SSMCC Members,

I've been Contact Editor for nearly five years now, and it's been fun! But it's become increasingly difficult to find the time to put Contact together each month, so I'm stepping down. Thank you to all those who have made some great contributions, and please keep them coming in for the new editor, as it makes the job a lot easier and Contact a lot more interesting! See you all around at future Club events.

Amoret Whitaker – Editor

Road Trial – the organiser’s perspective

Runners and riders were: (1) Mick and Heather on Mick’s motorcycle, (2) Lorna and Amoret in the latter’s car, then there was a motley crew of three – (3) Ian Slater, Chris Goff and Darren Mason, all on motorcycles. Steve Pearce and son came to the cafe just for a ride out.

The trial wended its way back to Newlands Corner where it finished. There were 16 clues and it took about one hour and a half average, of a route taking 38 miles. So 1st, a very competitive Lorna plus Amoret with a score of 82.5; 2nd Ian, Chris and Darren with a score of 77.5; 3rd Mick and Heather with a score of 72.5.

None of the teams managed to get all the questions correct. Lorna had a question wrong but tried to tell the judge it was a mistake on his part. Never mind, judges are always (RIGHT). I think all had a good time. Thank you to Mrs Mason for her help.

John Mason – Club Captain

Road Trial – the competitor’s perspective

There was quite a good crowd that turned up at the meeting point, although we only ended up with three teams. The Last of the Summer Wine team (Compo, Cleggy & Foggy) left first, and were soon caught up by Thelma & Louise who found them counting random garages on some random corner when the correct location (Wisteria Place) was a couple of hundred metres up the road (I suspect they were making a big effort to come last, as rumour had it that the 2nd place team would have to organise next year’s event and they had figured they were unlikely to come 1st). Mr & Mrs were last seen chatting to the Pearce’s in the car park (perhaps trying hard to come last as well?)

Lorna and I had an advantage a) being in car, and b) it being open-topped (although we did have points deducted for this), so we didn’t have to get out of the car in order to see most of the clues, especially the high ones such as “the time beneath the weather vane of Clock Cottage” – apparently Heather is either unable to read clues or unable to read the time, as her answer was “North East South West”!

All three teams agreed at the end that the “thing you need to watch out for” at Plough Lane is horses and not frogs, but we all lost points for that so it’s somewhat irrelevant. Thanks to John for all his hard work in organising it.

Amoret Whitaker – Contact Editor

Club run to the Langton Arms

There were only TWO of us that left the Runnymede Café – Ian and I. Estelle and Matt texted to say they were running late and would not make the 10am start. They did not, and Ian and I left on time. We made good progress to meet up with Jon Draper, Graham Dunbar, Steve Pearce, Karl Pearce and Steve's friend at Stockbridge. We then went on from there to the Langton Arms in Tarrant Monkton, Dorset.

Jon Draper only stayed for a drink as he had to get back. The rest of us had a pub lunch and a chat. Once we finished, Ian and I came home back along the A30, while the rest made their own way home. I believe all had a good ride.

John Mason – Club Captain. (photos courtesy of Ian)



Bike gear for sale



Racer Ladies matching gortex jacket and trousers

Size UK 10-12

Only worn for CBT training by a past student

Elastic on waistband trousers a little worn out

£40 minimum, please (this is what I paid to take them off her hands). Any extra money will be given to charity (at the Seaford BBQ)

Contact: Amoret Email: a.whitaker@nhm.ac.uk Mobile: 07971 960026

Road Test Monkey – CBR 1000 RR/A Fireblade

For those who don't know I retired at the end of January, so have been busy since rebuilding my house, various granddad duties, household supplies gatherer and general gofer. In-between these high profile duties I went and bought a Fireblade! My first one litre bike and a machine that's been on my bucket list for a few years now.



About the end of March I contacted Guy at Honda Chiswick to look out for a good second hand Fireblade for me, three weeks later I get a call to come and look at a 2010 Blade in HRC colours with very low mileage.

This was obviously somebody's weekend toy as it was almost brand new, so after a test ride and a bit of haggling the Triumph was part exchanged with a bit of dosh and the following week I took delivery, job done!

The initial test ride was on a Friday afternoon in heavy traffic so not a good indicator of what a bike was like, saying that it was comfy enough for my ageing bones and everything worked. When I picked it up I took it for a decent ride, for something the size of a faired 250 it shouldn't have that much torque! The first time I opened the throttle with any sort of enthusiasm it tried to tear my arms off whilst pawing the air with its front wheel, they should have named it the Honda Firework, light blue touch paper and hang on.

My bike hasn't got ABS or Traction control so it's all down to me, (Help!) which is fine as it's a lot less to go wrong. It came with a full Yoshimura exhaust system, which lets everyone know you're coming, a new rear tyre and a pillion seat cover but no pillion seat; I don't carry passengers so that's not an issue.



The handling is sublime, I thought the Triumph was good but the Blade takes it to another level, very stable and confidence building. As with most sport bikes everything suspension related is adjustable. After a very hard ride home I decided to check the settings and reset them all to factory as it seemed too hard, to my surprise the knob who had it before had screwed the front and rear compression damping all the way in! After resetting and then softening a bit more it's now not like riding my 1929 BSA over a cobbled road!



With all that torque you need good brakes and Mr Honda put two massive discs on the front for that purpose, sadly the rear brake is a bit wishy washy and requires a firm foot before any effect is felt, as I slow ride I tend to use it a lot so it was a bit

annoying it wasn't as good as the old Triumph. Maybe it needs looking at?

What can I say about the engine? On tick over it purrs like a kitten then like a Transformer when you crack the throttle it turns into a four lunged Decepticon from Beelzebub!! The gearbox on the other



hand is surprisingly agricultural; there seems an awful lot of backlash in the first two gears. Concerned I took it back to Honda's and had them test ride it, they said it was normal. Still not totally convinced I bagged a quick ride on Chris Bookers Fireblade, (yes it does leave the garage occasionally!) which confirmed they are all like it.

This model and all later ones have a slipper clutch as standard; it takes a bit of getting used to. If you blip the throttle before changing down it gets a bit clunky because when you put power through the clutch it tightens up whereas on the overrun its automatically loosens the clutch, so you end up fighting it. What you have to do as you slow down is just pull the clutch in and bang down as many as you want and dump the clutch, dark magic then occurs and nothing locks up! Weird, but it works.

The controls are all easily accessible it even has a hazard switch which bizarrely doesn't work with the ignition off? Handy for filtering but if stuck on the hard shoulder you would have to have the ignition on with the lights on draining the battery, is it me or is that odd? Nice big digital Speedo for the blind which is well lit and incorporated with the tacho.



As well as the usual two resettable trip counters there's a resettable miles per gallon feature, which was nice. No fuel gauge just a low fuel light which comes on when there's just over half a gallon left. The tank



itself is mostly below seat height which lowers the centre of gravity of the bike, which is always a good thing for the handling. The mirror arms are fixed and the mirror glasses are on gimbals so you can adjust them, same as a car. The indicators are on the front of the mirror arms along with a little side light

incorporated in the corner of the lens, a nice touch and an unusual configuration especially with only one headlight as the other is high beam only.

The riding position is slightly more aggressive than the Triumph but nothing I can't live with and although it's a standard screen it works quite well.

So why did you buy it with all those little niggles you mentioned?



Take a test ride on one and you'll find out, this bike is epic; when making progress it's a dream on which you can have your own Valentino Rossi moments every time.

Snowy the Road Test Monkey, wallet, glasses and big grin on face.

SSMCC Committee Minutes (April)

Meeting held on 24th April 2017

In Attendance:

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

Meeting started at: 19:55

Apologies – Rob Wood

Actions:

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

Doug Chaney – to pay John Mason with garage fees – actioned

Chris Booker – NPL – paying deposit of £250 for 2018 anniversary event - actioned

Mick Wallace – Engraving of trophies – auctioned

Minutes from the Last Meeting

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

Matters Arising

Action – Mick Wallace to email Rob Wood regarding the checking of the website.

Correspondence

Thank you email received from Feltham and Hounslow Police for our support with the One Life events at Imber Court that took place on 11th & 13th April.

New Members

Chris Osbourne, Julian Donnelly & Darren Mason are old members who have returned. Marli Prentice has trained with us and now wants to join the club. She had been recommended to the scheme by someone who had previously trained with us. She was proposed by Estelle Potter and seconded by John Mason. She was accepted into membership without dissent.

Estelle Potter will send a welcome email to these new/renewed member.

Treasurer's Report

All current members are now paid up.

Training Scheme

Imber Court event (One Life) previously mentioned was attended by Estelle, Doug, Lorna, Chris G over the 2 days. One child attended the scheme on Saturday 23rd April for a trial bike session following these days.

Action – Heather Wallace to resend template for invoice for above event.

Hounslow Police contact had asked if they could have an afternoon session dedicated to these youths. More funding would be requested by the Police to support this training. It was agreed that police support staff would have to make themselves available at these training sessions as the ‘responsible adult’ of the youths that are brought along.

GSK and other companies had been approached by Hounslow police for funding for bikes to use to engage the youths. Some waste ground was also being looked for, where the bikes could be used.

John Mason had mentioned the old junior instructor scheme.

BLESMA – are interested in taking up our training session. Doug Chaney to send a paragraph of text for their monthly magazine. This to include training and/or instructor training.

The committee also thanks Steve Pearce for ‘fettling’ with the website, which now means that if you search for training ‘CBT & Isleworth’ will bring SSMCC up high up on the find list.

Social Secretary’s Report

Heather Wallace has proposed some dates for 2017.

20th May – Bowling –Airport Bowl,

24th June – Darts - Adelaide

6th August - Picnic

23rd September – Pool - Rileys

Suggestion for Xmas the Coté Bistro in Teddington. 16th December - TBC

Editors Report

Amoret Whitaker asked for more articles. Estelle Potter would write a piece on the One Life events.

Captain’s Report

John Mason had the ride out – road trial on Sunday 23rd April was enjoyed by all. Mick & Heather Wallace on the BMW, Amoret Whitaker & Lorna Barnes in a car, Ian Slater, Chris Gorth & Darren Mason on their own bikes. The trial was won by Amoret & Lorna.

Next run on 7th May – Langton Arms – Dorset

Public Relations Officer's Report

Thanks again from Estelle Potter to Steve Pearce for changes to the website. She has sent some letters to PTAs at school detailing that the scheme has been in partnership with Hounslow Police identifying the type of training we offer and highlighting how long the scheme has been operating.

She is really pleased that Julian Donnelly has rejoined as he has been on the SSMCC facebook page for some time.

Had some responses from the local papers to promote the anniversary. The papers wanted some photos. Amoret Whitaker mentioned making sure that permission is given if any photos are asked to be used.

Proposal – Doug Chaney proposed that the scheme arrange to send one email & text to past pupils at 22 months from CBT completion date to remind them that their CBT certificate is due to expire, this will be a single contact.

Estelle Potter will produce an opted-in declaration for future use that the pupil agrees to the reminder being sent.

All in favour without dissent.

Estelle Potter would still like to have a paragraph from the committee saying why they are members of the club and what they get out from it, so that she can use it to promote the club going forward.

Estelle Potter started a discussion regarding diversity of possible new members, and could there be any issues. It was agreed each application would be dealt with under its own merit.

Any Other Business

Doug Chaney suggested a small bike run for 125cc riders. John Mason said the 20th August would be ideal date as it is a Surrey run.

ACU South Eastern

The club is still waiting to hear from the ACU as to whether funds will be coming.

Next meeting to be held on 23rd May at Estelle Potters.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Thanks were given to Amoret for her hospitality.

SSMCC Committee Minutes (May)

Meeting held on 22nd May 2017.

In Attendance:

Mick Wallace	Chairman
Chris Booker	Treasurer
Doug Chaney	Training Scheme Organiser
John Mason	Club Captain
Estelle Potter	PRO
Heather Wallace	Social Secretary
Rob Wood	Secretary

Meeting started at: 20:00

Apologies – Amoret Whitaker

Minutes from the Last Meeting

The minutes from the last meeting were proposed by Estelle Potter and seconded by John Mason and were adopted without dissent.

Matters Arising

An amendment needs to be made by members to Chris Osborne's details as in the previous minutes a U had been included in his surname which is incorrect.

Rob Wood has proposed 6 changes to the website, further info with PRO report.

Correspondence

The ACU are going to go ahead with the decision to distribute the funds to members. It's believed this will be actioned in June.

New Members

No new members.

Membership forms have been given to Danni & Andley – pupils currently in training.

Treasurer's Report

Training Scheme

Doug Chaney thanked Heather Wallace and Estelle Potter for the help given to run the scheme for the last couple of weeks in his absence.

£573.18 has been given to Chris Booker to pay into the bank to cover the tax bill that will be due, and which Rob Wood will arrange the online return for.

There is still a couple of discrepancy with the petty cash in the scheme finances, which should be resolved shortly.

More enquiries have been coming through the website, since Steve Peace has 'fettled' with the website.

John Mason is due to be assessed, and Graeme Castle DVSA has advised he should be available in July, and the assessment will be subject to pupil availability.

Doug Chaney advised that Graeme Byard has to hand in his CBT instructor card as he has not been available for training duties and it has expired. As he had been down trained, he can reapply when he comes available again (September).

Rob Wood asked that the accounts do get kept up to date.

Social Secretary's Report

The first social event of the year – Bowling at the Airport Bowl – 20th May, was very well attended. Estelle Potter, Matt Farrow & daughter – Bronte, Chris Booker, Chris Gorth, Doug Chaney, Ian Slater, Lorna Barnes, Mick Wallace, new member Chris Osborne, Marli Prentice and myself. A report will be in the next contact.

On approaching the Adelaide for the darts night, I was told the 24th June was not suitable as there was already an event upstairs. So the date has been changed, see below.

17th June – Darts – Adelaide – changed from 24th June

6th August - Picnic – Marble Hill Park – subject to weather

23rd September – Pool - Rileys

Suggestion for Xmas the Coté Bistro in Teddington. 16th December – TBC

It was suggested that another bowling night be arranged as it was so well supported.

Editors Report

Amoret Whitaker although not present, has tendered her resignation from the committee, but has agreed to send out the next 'Contact'.

The Chairman and committee, and on behalf of the members, would like to thank Amoret for her hard work over the 5 years she has been in post. She has done an excellent job producing 'Contact', which of course included article from members, but she also had a knack of finding interesting snippets from the internet too.

Captain's Report

Club run to Langton Arms, Dorset, was not well attended, but John Mason & Ian Slater left but were met at the pub by Steve Pearce, Carl & friend and Graham Dunbar and John Draper.

Next run on 11th June – Dave & Lyn Regan’s – Maplethorpe – Lincolnshire. Meeting is at John Mason’s house at 8am or Peterborough services at 10am. If it’s raining, as we are expected, John will be going in the car.

Doug Chaney mentioned that several pupils had commented that they would like to attend the Surrey ride on 20th August.

Public Relations Officer’s Report

Estelle Potter is contemplating more contact with Hounslow police following the One Life days that were down with the local troubled kids.

Non CBT instructors could be used should a day be set aside for these kids. It was suggested either as a few pupils on a Saturday or a week day during the school holidays.

Police liaison – Caroline, was going to see if she can get some funding to cover the training for these kids. Rob Wood advised that ideally, the police should pay directly to the school, because otherwise the payment falls under taxable income. Any additional money taken in (£10 taster) could be taken in to the scheme funds with no tax implications. The police would have to be responsible for these kids.

Estelle Potter, as PRO she been quiet as we have had quite a lot of taster sessions booked, but has not been promoting CBT overly much as we are short on instructors

Getting a lot more enquiries from young lads asking about training.

Still contacting school governors about scheme.

Estelle Potter has produce an opted-in declaration for future use that the pupil agrees to the reminder being sent. Estelle Potter proposed that the membership form be made into a word document for sending electronically. It must be completed and printed so that it can be proposed and seconded. Printed material is not subject to data protection act, only electronic information is. This means that the information can be keep for long periods. Rob Wood would arrange this.

Estelle Potter has agreed to take over the management of the website, following Rob Wood’s proposed changes. She will liaise with Doug Chaney and Lisa Davidson who had set up the site.

Steve Pearce has suggested having a seasonal website.

Estelle Potter asked if she could add the social events to the facebook page, minus the location, and also as if ‘Contact’ still needs to be monthly. The discussion that took place agreed that Contact should remain regular.

Any Other Business

As Amoret Whitaker has tendered her resignation from the committee, Mick Wallace will send an email to the membership to ask if anyone wants to take on the role.

Doug Chaney, has had an approach from a website – ‘Ride To’ who operate a ‘find a training scheme’ scheme which would send pupils our way, taking a percentage of the fee. They are also available to promote biking & the club in general.

Chap is going to come done for a visit.

ACTION: - Mick Wallace to send an email to the membership requesting a volunteer to replace Amoret as Contact Editor

Fixtures

11th June – Ride to Dave & Lyn’s – Maplethorpe

17th June – Darts - Adelaide

9th July – Seaford BBQ

23rd July – Super Sausage

6th August – Picnic in the Park – Marple Hill Park – weather permitting

20th August – Surrey Ride Out

There are more to come.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Thanks were given to Estelle’s for her hospitality.

Next meeting – Tuesday 20th June – Doug Chaney – 20 California Road, New Maldon KT3 3RU



Biker Thought for the Month ...

In a CAR you’re always in a compartment, and because you’re used to it you don’t realise that through that car window everything you see is just more TV. You’re a passive observer and it is all moving by you boringly in a frame.

On a CYCLE the frame is gone. You’re completely in contact with it all. You’re in the scene, not just watching it anymore, and the sense of presence is overwhelming ...

Robert M. Pirsig.

Caption competition

Winning caption:

Lincolnshire only looks this far away on the map!

Best of the rest:

The gap was this big and I still managed to squeeze through it!

“I’ve only had this much cake!”

Dave’s coming out of retirement to become an impressionist – he’s currently working on his Donald Trump.



May/June’s picture

John Mason on the Langton Arms club run.

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