



**Southern Sporting
Motor Cycle Club**

CONTACT

July
2021

Table of Contents

CONTACT	1
Table of Contents	2
Your Committee	2
Dates for your diary	3
Editor's Comments	3
Scotland Article.....	4

Your Committee

President.....	John Mason
Vice President.....	Ian Slater, Mick Wallace, Robert Wood
Chairman.....	Christian Gorth
Club Secretary.....	Ian Slater
Treasurer.....	Chris Booker
PRO.....	Steve Pearce
Club Captain.....	Mick Wallace
Social Secretary.....	Heather Wallace
Editor.....	Vacant
Auditor – Club.....	Rob Wood
Centre Board Delegate (2)	
BMF Liaison Officer	Ian Slater
Minutes Secretary	Heather Wallace

Dates for your diary

Sunday 4th July – Run to Brighton – Meet at Box Hill for 10.30am departure. Fish & Chips (other menu's are available 😊) on or near the beach.

Monday 5th July – Committee Meeting – 8pm.

Sunday 3rd October – Pioneer Run – Meet at Box Hill, finish at Shoreham Airport. This is a provisional date, so keep an eye open for e-mails nearer the date.

Further Runs should be arranged after the potential “opening up” of hospitality venues and relaxation of the Covid rules for socialising.

Stunt Editor's Comments

Welcome to your July edition of Contact. Yes, it's still me as the stand-in Editor, so if you're getting fed up with my limited ramblings, why not step forward and take up the challenge of Contact Editor.

Thank you to Sharon for sending in an article on their recent trip to Scotland. It looks like they managed to avoid any haggis incidents!

The good news is that club members can now start to meet at the Adelaide on a Wednesday evening, but you will need to let Chris Booker (Flossie) know if you're intending to come along, so he can book you a seat, at least 24 hours before the night, please. Also, Sam's Café is open, so people can meet at 11am on Saturday mornings. No booking required, but tables are limited.

You will see a few more dates are starting to appear in the diary, these are small steps, just to see how we get on without having to spend hours booking places, or trying to confirm who is or isn't going to come along.

If you have anything of interest to say regarding your motorcycling and the Club, please let me know via enquiries@ssmcc.co.uk or through any other member of the committee.

Anyway, keep safe and well and we'll hopefully actually be able to see each other in the next few months, if not weeks!!

Stunt Editor and Honorary Club Secretary
Ian Slater (aka Spanner)

Wales to Scotland Via Lincoln

So, we have been allowed to gather in small groups and that is what we did!

A small group of us that including both SSMCC members and non-members decided to tour around parts of Scotland as trips overseas seem to be only a dream...

Fortunately, the weather forecast for early June promised a heatwave, and that is what we got. Mostly! Mike and I planned our route and discussed it several times to check we were on the same page (remember this). I had my TomTom Rider, and he had his TomTom. Piece of cake!

We set off and managed 75% of the journey with no problems at all, but when we got to the M42 my satnav decided it wanted to take us back to the services several time, yes, I did click from nearest starting point. Any way Mikes was going the right way for a change until mine was updated with mounting traffic and I was told to take the next junction. I slowed down, Mike was ahead and hadn't seen me slow. I lost sight of him as traffic filed passed me and as I rounded a bend I took the turn only to find pretty soon that Mike had not taken the turn. OK. I pulled over as soon as possible and heard my phone ringing. It was of course Mike. 'Where are you? I'm waiting in a layby' (Emergency Area) and you haven't come passed.

No, I hadn't. 'I turned off following the sat nav. I think we should make our own way to the hotel' I said, 'it will be easier than trying to meet'. It was agreed.

I followed the sat nav and arrived at the hotel incredibly before Mike. (Why incredibly?). I checked in and unloaded my bags, then came back to reception to wait for Mike. He arrived about 15 minutes later. The traffic had been really heavy, rush hour, which we are not used to in Wales. Two tractors, a trailer and a couple of farmers is our rush hour! Thankfully, it had been a dry run and quite warm.

The hotel was OK. Marstons, not stayed in one before. I got a message from Steve to say they would be about arriving soon. There were 8 in his group. Friends from his area so that made a total of 10 of us.

We all showered and changed and then rode to Marshalls cottage for a BBQ. A great evening where we met Marshalls neighbours while we ate and drank. Arrangements were made so that we could leave our bikes at the cottage that night, get a cab back to the hotel and then take a leisurely narrowboat ride back to the bikes in the morning while eating breakfast courtesy of Marshall and Kat.

The sun was shining, and it was really quite warm when we boarded the boat. Bacon sarnies and coffee for breakfast while watching the world go by. What a great start to the holiday. I could have stayed on the boat all day, but there was classic car racing planned at Cadwell Park.



The journey to Cadwell was quite short, about 45 minutes so nothing too strenuous. Mike who was sitting in the middle of the group decided he wanted to follow a complete stranger the wrong way... I managed to attract his attention with my horn, and he was back in the group within a flash.

We parked up and found a good spot to watch the racing from. Loads of old cars, obviously too old for me to know what they were! It was a fun day and such beautiful weather. After the racing we rode back to the hotel, got changed ready for dinner at a pub which was a 15-minute walk along the canal. The group split as some were not quite ready. The evening was lovely. Warm sunshine, birds singing, the very distant hum of traffic. 15 minutes later we were still walking to the pub which was according to Google another 15 minutes away.

Once we had arrived, we were shown to our seats, we just had to wait for the others to arrive which they did. Some walking and some by a small vessel which kind of resembled a bathtub. Marshall at the helm with Dave and Drew shaking and laughing and they entered the dining room.

Despite Covid, we had all been sat at a table together the food was very good. Conversation, memories, and laughter flowed until it was time to make our way back to the hotel.

There were chortles of laughter as the 3 stooges embarked on getting the bathtub back to the hotel. It was hilarious with shouts of fear mixed with adventure as the little boat pushed its way through the dark water, a small miners lamp fitted to Marshalls head. A good first day of the holiday.

The next morning the group split with 5 travelling home and 5 continuing to Scotland. Again, the sun was out, and it felt warm. It was going to be a good day. Steve, Steve, Marshall Mike, and I set off for Dumfries where we were to meet with Tony. It was a long day and a long ride. Even though we had managed to get in a few miles in between all the lockdowns at home, it was still quite tiring riding so far. The miles passed as did the scenery, town after town. We stopped for lunch well more like afternoon tea at a familiar cake stop only to find it was closed. I hope not permanently. We found coffee in a pub opposite before setting off for the remainder of the journey.

Showered and changed we met up in the restaurant for dinner. Another good evening remembering old times and exchanging stories. Luckily, Mike hadn't got lost today!

Monday we were off to Oban. This leg of the journey took in the Isle of Bute so a couple of ferry crossings. Another sunny day. The scenery was stunning. Mountains, lochs, and valleys. Late lunch, cake and coffee stop in a petrol station before continuing on. The roads were amazing, and the traffic wasn't too bad. We arrived at our hotel at around 5 pm and was greeted by Wendy and Hugh. We had stayed here before a couple of years ago. Wendy used

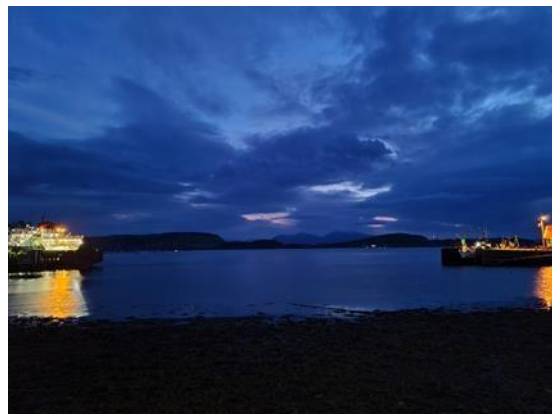


to live in Sussex and was friends with the two Steve's. Their B&B is very comfortable but has a gravel parking area. Mike managed to find the deepest spot and unfortunately dropped his bike. Minor damage done, I decided I was going to let someone else park mine!

We revisited the Chinese restaurant we had been to on our last visit. It was a great night again, just the walk back up that big hill to contend with. We were all tired and it was a relatively early night.

The next day 3 of us decided to stay in the town while the other 2 took in their own planned route. As we had been here before we decided to venture back down to the town for lunch and a bit of gift shopping. We found a nice little café had lunch, and cake of course before venturing into the Whiskey distillery. Now the last time we came here we couldn't get in to the tour. This time there was no tour, however there was whiskey tasting! Of course, we signed up. 15 minutes later we were sat at a table with 4 samples of Whiskey. We enjoyed the talk and the tips on how to make the whiskey taste better... How you may ask... with a couple of drops of water. A good afternoon which we all do remember. A free glass and 4 shots of whiskey. Not bad for the entry price. We found a costa and popped in for a coffee before climbing that steep hill back to the B&B. It was a warm day, even though it was a little overcast.

The evening saw us at Weatherspoon's for dinner. It wasn't a bad meal; I must admit that I was finding it difficult eating so many meals out. It had nothing to do with all the puddings afterwards!



Wednesday morning was wet. We knew it was going to rain, and rain it did, all the way to Inverness. We managed to get to the viaduct that was used in the Harry Potter movies, the Glenfinnan Viaduct. We thought we had missed the train and after taking photos of the viaduct, started walking back to the car park. Unbeknown to us we hadn't missed it and we heard the whistle blowing... Some ran back to the viaduct as some took pictures from where we were.



Riding on to Inverness, we took in some scenery passing Urquhart Castle and Loch Ness. Not stopping because there was no café at the Castle and no parking in the town. We continued on visiting Balmoral to say hi to the Queen, well her garden gate, and continued on to Aviemore.

What stunning scenery. The rain had stopped and although a little cool with snow on top of the mountains the views were incredible. Definitely a route to remember.

We arrived at the premier inn in Aviemore. This is a new hotel which had a couple of teething problems. Check in was slightly different for some...Steve P, and they didn't yet have a chef that could cook poached eggs for breakfast, again Steve P. Drinks could be bought with the evening meal, so this is what we did as there didn't seem to be any pubs close by. We planned our route for the next day to Edinburgh. This included riding over the mountains. It reminded me of Switzerland, and I had dressed for the cold. I was glad that I had. We were riding at some heights at times. We found a small restaurant where we stopped for lunch. This was even like the one we stopped at on the Hocklespitz Pass.



Onwards to Edinburgh. The weather picked up and the sun came out. It ended up being a very warm evening. We had a Premier Inn. A favourite as they are reasonably priced, and you will usually know what you will get during your stay. All of our rooms took about 5 minutes to reach from reception which isn't great when you are hot and have loads of luggage on the bike. Realistically, the rooms overlooked the bikes and as the crow flies were only a few paces away but having to navigate the stairs and corridors made it a long walk.

We had dinner and a couple of drinks and found that the pricing structure is not always the same. This evening we had a meal in Beefeater which is somehow different to the other places where we had eaten and found to our horror that the drinks that had always been included in the price were now... not! Marshall said he would look into it as he felt an email coming on! I was so tired when we went back to the room as soon as my head hit the pillow I was asleep.

The penultimate day. Our journey towards home. We travelled down to Crew to stay in another Premier Inn. The weather remained good now for the rest of the trip. We made our way out of Edinburgh and hit the motorway for a lot of this leg, we had a lot of miles to cover. We still managed to find some 'twisties' to add interest. It was a very easy day, and the Premier Inn was in a nice quiet location with good parking and rooms on the ground floor.

Our last day. Mike and I would ride home from here and after breakfast left the others as we headed south west, trusty satnav working well. I only needed it for the first few miles before picking up the route which I was familiar with. It was sad to be going home. It had been a really nice week meeting with friends and seeing new places as well as visiting familiar ones. Every night I had felt tired, but it was pleasant, and I had slept better than I had for months. Today's journey was relatively short at only two hours. Once on the road we didn't stop until we were home. It was just normal to ride for two hours without taking a break.



Wednesday evenings from 8pm in the Adelaide Public House, Teddington.

Saturday mornings Sam's café, Nelson Road in Whitton. If there's a big rugby match on at Twickenham Stadium when we usually reconvene at Power Mill Lane café so it's worth getting hold of one of the team to get confirmation.

24/7 We have a Club page so please "follow" both and make sure your views are heard.



FIND IT OUT AS IT HAPPENS:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/8085330049/?ref=bookmarks>

Contact: This document comes out monthly and is restricted to club members. The FB pages are more promotional and open to a wider audience so there may be more detail in this than we would share on line.

Membership Benefits

CBS in Whitton give us a 10% discount.

BMF (British Motorcycle Federation). The affiliate membership is worth

mentioning when you next seek an insurance renewal or similar.

