# Southern Sporting

# Motor Cycle Club

# CONTACT

## October 2026



1

# Table of Contents

CONTACT ..... 1
TABLE OF CONTENTS ..... 2
YOUR COMMITTEE ..... 2
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ..... 3
EDITORS COMMENTS .....3
OTHER STUFF..... 5

# Your Committee

President..... John Mason
Vice President..... Ian Slater, Mick Wallace, Robert Wood
Chairman..... John Mason
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

- 4/10 Castle Eaton
- 1/11 London/Brighton Veteran Car Run - Date to be confirmed
- SSMCC Committee The Adelaide Pub on 16 September 2026
- NEC Bike Show – Friday 27 November
- XMAS Dinner 12th December Adelaide
- Adelaide for the AGM 17 Feb 27
- SSMCC 90th Anniversary – 2028 – 23 September

Wednesday at the Adelaide now ONCE A MONTH Third Wednesday of the month.

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# Editor's Comments

Happy reading and if you can't read plenty of pictures to look at.

# Other Stuff

Dear Members

I have a date for your diaries in relation to the Club Christmas Dinner. I've booked the Adelaide again for 12 December 26. I do appreciate that some of you would prefer somewhere else, but the Adelaide offers us a private room, enabling us to 'do our own thing', and that is very hard to find else where. Also, as there was no other particular options suggested, and I needed to get in before others might, I've gone ahead anyway.

There is another new manager – Tim, who has given me sight of their 'Festive Feast Party Menu' , but he is awaiting confirmation of the price per head, so once I have that and confirmation of the menu, I will share with everyone.

I'm sure there will also be the option to order 2 or 3 courses, but as normal, the club will subsidise the cost, although I need to speak with the committee to discuss what that will be.

But if you would like to let me know if you are interested in attending, this starts the ball rolling. Also if you have any dietary requirements that may need addressing, let me know.
All the best

Heather
Social Secretary

# Other Stuff

**SSMCC Committee Minutes**

Meeting Wednesday 16 Sep 2026 – at The Adelaide Pub, Teddington

In Attendance:

| | |
|---|---|
| John Mason (JM) | Chairman |
| Heather Wallace (HW) | Social Secretary |
| Mick Wallace (MW) | Club Captain |

Meeting started at: hrs

**Apologies** – Chris Booker, Chris Osborne, Steve Pearce, Ian Slater

**Minutes from the Last Meeting**
The Minutes of the last committee meeting from July were AGREED. Proposed by Heather Wallace, seconded by Mick Wallace

**Matters Arising**
Issue with deposits to the club account. Seems that some transfer will not go through if the club account name is used, but will do if Christopher Booker is used as the name on the account. CB to speak with Tide.

**Correspondence**
None

**Club Secretary**
None

**New Members**
Rob Stone, son of Ken Stone had contacted the secretary to request rejoining the club after many years away. IS had sent an application to Rob which has been returned. Payment of a pro-rata fee had been received. His interests are the club history, trials and TT. Rob lives in Crowborough East Sussex and doesn't currently own a bike. Rob was nominated by Ian Slater and seconded by John Mason, on the application form. At the meeting, whilst IS was unable to attend, a text message confirmed that he was happy for the application to go through, along with those that attended the meeting.

**Treasurer's Report**
Via text, CB advised that he could not attend.

CB has been on to TIDE (the bank) today (Wednesday 16 Sept) . He has asked for the name on the account to be altered slightly, so it now needs to be entered if making payments as Southern Sporting Motor Cycle Club - note the space between Motor and Cycle. You might also find that when checking the account it states that it is under Christopher Booker t/a Southern Sporting…… Just accept.

JM also has asked CB to organise another signatory to be added to the account, so that someone else does have access in the even that CB is unavailable.

**Social Secretary's Report**

Several members attended Ron Regan's funeral on 31 July. John M, Richard B, Heather & Mick attended. It was a lovely service, made even touching by the fact that Ron had basically written his own eulogy. SSMCC was mentioned.

HW advised that the Club BBQ on 26 July was enjoyed by those who attended and the weather was kind too. Those who attended were John M, Chris B, Chris G, Anne & Graeme B, Steve L, Darren & Vonn, Chris O & Karen, Ian & Amoret, and of course Mick & myself.

HW has also booked the Adelaide for the Christmas Dinner for Saturday 12 December. The menu will be shared shortly, and members asked to send email to advise if they interested in attending.

**Editors Report**
CO was unable to attend the meeting. Although he had said he would stop publishing 'Contact' when it reached it's 1000 edition, which was September, Chris has kindly agreed to send out an abridged Contact if any items are sent to him for sharing. No items, then there will be no 'Contact' for the month.

**Captain's Report**
MW reported that the club run to the Bull in near Henfield was a nice one with Ian, Chris G, Steve L, Steve & Karen P, John M, Tony C, Mick & Heather W.

There were 7 bikes and 8 people went to Ypres, and a lovely weekend was had. Chris O with Karen as pillion, Steve P, John M, Chris G, Ian S, Mick & Heather W. It was also Karen's birthday which we helped her celebrate. It was also the first time that Chris, Karen & Chris G had ridden from UK to France.

A full article is being published by the editor.

The next ride is 4 October and an email will be sent giving meet up details.

**Public Relations Officer's Report**
SP send his apologies but has nothing to report.

**Any Other Business**

**Fixtures**
The Red Lion, Castle Eaton – 4 October
Pub Night - 21 October
London/Brighton Veteran Car Rally - 1 November
Pub Night/Committee Meeting – 18 November
NEC Bike Show – Friday 27 November
Christmas Dinner – Adelaide – 12 December
SSMCC 90th Anniversary – **2028** – 23 September
AGM – Adelaide – 17 February 2027

Next meeting – The next meeting will be at The Adelaide Pub on 18 November 2026, venue The Adelaide Pub, 57 Park Road, Teddington TW11 0AU

The meeting closed at 19:45hrs

# Other Stuff

## Ypres 2026

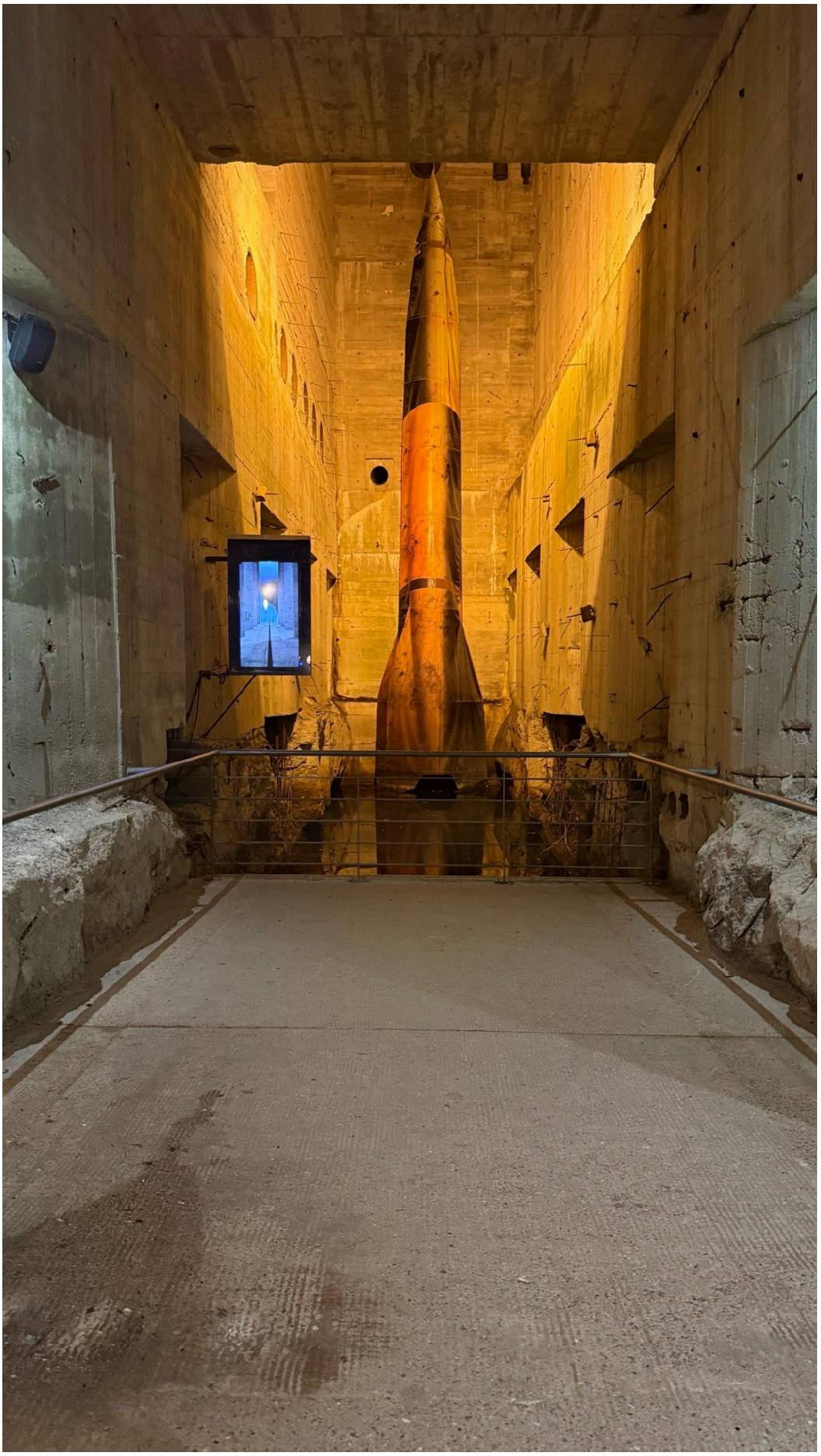
So finally the trip to Ypres was happening. There would be 8 of us in all. Our first meeting point would be the Eurotunnel Terminal at Folkstone, which you think would be a simple stress free task, but no. Ian, Chris (Gorth) Heather and myself travelled down as one group, and after topping up fuel at Folkstone services, we joined the very long slip road queue to the checking in booths. It seemed that there was an issue with gates. So we spent over 30 minutes just to check in. But once that was over it was straight to the Terminal for a coffee.

We were the first to arrive, then it was John, and then Chris (Osborne) and Karen, as pillion, but no sign of Steve. Turned out he was still in the queue!.

We were called to board our train, via French & British Passport control, but still no Steve. We re group in the holding area, and then we were sent onto the train, along with several other bikes, BUT still no Steve. I tried calling him, and I could hear him talking to staff and being told he'd be going on our train. However it wasn't to be, so we had to wait for him on the French side. Luckily it was a very short wait as the next train was only 10 minutes behind ours.

Finally all together, we set off to the Blockhaus at d'Éperlecques, France, which is the very large Bunker site, where the Germans manufactured the V2 rockets, to be launched against the Allies in WWII. The Allies tried to destroy it, with Tall Boy bombs and other devices, but it was so well built, that the vast majority of it survived the Allied attacks.

The inside there is loads of information boards explaining how it was built, by slave/prison labour, how they launched the V1 & V2 rockets, and where.



From there we made our way to Ypres, and seeing as some of the countryside around there is very pleasant, I had programmed in a direct route to Ypres cross country. What I didn't plan for was that on route we would be riding through Cassel, which has a main road running through it which is cobbled! And to say it was a jarring ride would be an understatement, although on the GS it wasn't too bad for me, but the others did have to check their fillings! (Trust me I did get some stick for this, especially from Heather).

Arriving at the Albion Hotel, I nipped into reception and was given a pass to get us all into the garage around the back of the hotel. One of the reasons that I like staying there, is the secure garage within the car park that gives you that peace of mind that the bike is locked away, and under cover, so no damp saddle in the morning. Mind you this weekend was a very dry and warm one.

A quick clean up and it was into the bar for a few well-earned drinks, before dinner. Chris and Karen had arranged to go off on their own for dinner, as it was Karen's birthday (unknown to us). We did think about following them, so that whilst having a romantic meal, we'd be throwing bread rolls at them from another table, but I was told that wasn't acceptable. So, the rest of us found a place to eat on the Grotte Market, and then back to the hotel bar for a night cap.

Saturday, and after a filling breakfast it was a short run to the Passchendaele Museum. The museum is an immersive experience museum, as they call it, which means that basically you are given a little audio guide machine, that you activate as you go around, and you walk around various exhibits, including trenches, which was generally well received by all. Although John sat this out at the nearby café.

From here it was a very short trip to Tyne Cot, the largest British Commonwealth War Grave cemetery. A humbling site, as some from the club have already seen. Just under **12,000** soldiers from WWI are buried there, and there are over **600** hundred War Graves sites in Belgium, spread all over, and accounting for roughly **102,500** soldiers' graves.

After this we had planned to go to the Canadian memorial, and then the German cemetery at Langemarck, but unfortunately a local road event closed the roads to us, and after going around and about, I took us all Back to Ypres, for drinks, dinner and to watch the last post at the Menin Gate, a service that always brings a lump to my throat. Dinner was all together that night, Karen and Chris weren't allowed to have any privacy! That night there was a choir from Canterbury as well as the last post bugler. It was very well attended as usual, which always get to me. Every night at 8pm they repeat the Last Post, and it is done with great dignity.

Sunday, after checking out of the Albion, we all set off to the Canadian Memorial (known as Canada Corner), which was on route to Langemarck. The memorial is a work of art, and very immotive, which was built in 1920/21.

Langemarck is the German war grave, which contains even more dead that Tyne Cot, 44,000, and is where the propogandists developed the ‘Langemarck Myth’, which is about how the young soldiers on the front,

went over the top bravely singing the German anthem as they did, something that they didn't do. It's a very different site to the English.

After this it was a simple ride to Calais, stopping on route for coffee just after the Belgium French border. Then suitably refreshed onto Eurotunnel, where Karen was given her birthday present from the group (but not Chris!) then a spot of lunch before queuing again for border control and the train.

The rest is fairly boring so I won't drag it out, but we all arrived home safe and sound, and a little tired, but already thinking of the next trip.

Mick Wallace

Club Captain

*Ed's note - It made it home despite the wind on the M25 and no place to store it. 6 months ago Karen dented the grab rails she gripped them so hard now she's a freestyling, international dog smuggler!*

# Other Stuff

1.1K
552

Dull Men's Club® · Join
Jamie Swanson · 5h ·
Have you ever noticed the number of Formula one drivers named after Scottish cities like Eddie Irvine, Stirling Moss, Lewis Hamilton and ....
Ayr
town
centre
A719

I'd rather be 54 and bad at riding a dirt bike
than 54 and good at pickleball...

# Other Stuff

**Third Wednesday of each Month** from 8 pm in the Adelaide Public House, Teddington.

**Saturday Morning Breakfast** Sams is now closed so for the time being
**Upper Halliford 75 Upper Halliford Road, Shepperton TW17 8SE England**
watch out for facebook updates

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

SSMCC | Facebook

**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 in this than we would share online.

**Membership Benefits:**

The BMF (British Motorcycle Federation) affiliated membership is worth mentioning when you next ask for an insurance quote.

2026

Discount Code

The code for Affiliated Club members is

**CLB26 WQR**

**This code may be used by your members along with your club name to**

- **Receive discounts on advanced tickets to all BMF rallies and events**
- **Receive discounts on insurance**
- **Receive other BMF benefits with our corporate members**

**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**