



**Southern Sporting
Motor Cycle Club**

CONTACT

November
2022

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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 6th November – London to Brighton Veteran Car Run – Club run anticipated to happen, weather dependant, as we're all old and infirm, so watch out for an e-mail!

Friday 25th November – Motorcycle Show – NEC – Join the annual trip up't North to sit on lots of new shiny motorbikes and look at stuff you can't afford!

Saturday 17th December – SSMCC Christmas Dinner, The Adelaide, Teddington.

Stunt Editor's Comments

Welcome to your November edition of Contact.

We have an article about going on holiday 😊 and a few pictures of very old motorbikes!

As for the dates above, keep an eye on your e-mail, as meeting places and times will be sent out a week or two before the event.

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

Anyway, keep safe and well and hopefully catch up with some of you at our regular venues and future club runs or events.

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

Sh*t on the road's sir!! No need, the Belgium farmers will do it for you!!

So, a while back a group of us went on a bike trip to Vianden in Luxembourg, and really liked the roads/scenery out there, and we kept saying 'we must go back and stay a bit longer'. Well Ian and I decided, earlier this year, that was exactly what we were going to do. Obviously, I'd need a permission slip from the boss, and when I mentioned it she piped up with 'can I come?'. Well, I wasn't going to say no, and we hadn't been away since Covid, so a trip was arranged for September, after the school holiday period, to ride to Ypres on day one. Days two, three and four would be in Vianden, and then back to Ypres for day five, before returning home. Approximately 800 miles there and back, plus some ride outs whilst there. It was also decided that instead of going directly to Vianden from home in one hit (which we had done last time) it would be easier on the old bones to do the two stops in Ypres. Besides which Ypres is a lovely place to visit.

It was also mentioned to a few others of the club, but I wasn't going to lead a large group, and if anybody wanted to meet us there, that would be fine, but you'd have to make your own bookings etc. well several people declared their interest, but some couldn't make it, so it ended up with Steve & Karen Pearce and Sharon & Mike Roberts making up a second group.

Day one saw us leaving Shepperton at a nice leisurely 9:30am, after Ian had ridden up from Winchester to meet us (add an extra 100 on his round trip). Down to Eurotunnel, after a quick fuel stop, and it was straight onto the train, as they gave us an earlier train (boarding 12 minutes after we arrived!). One the train were a couple of other bikers, one of which had stickers all over his panniers from Germany, Holland and Belgium, but he told us this was his first trip to Europe on his bike!! After a leaving Eurotunnel we stopped a quick bit of lunch, seeing as we hadn't had time before the train left, and then continued onto the Ariane Hotel in Ypres.



(Waiting to board Eurotunnel)

If you get an opportunity to visit Ypres, this Hotel is one for your list. Good rooms etc, as you'd expect, but it also has a very interesting collection of military memorabilia pertaining to WWI, and has a collection of UK police helmets from various forces!

After settling in, we met up with the other four, and had a beer or four (Steve's fault).

Day two had us in two groups, Steve's group making their own way, while Heather, Ian and I made our way to Givet, which is a small French town on the banks of the river Meuse, in a part of France that juts into Belgium. It seems you literally cross the border as you drive into the town and back into Belgium as you drive out. But it was worth it. Found a nice restaurant for lunch on the riverside road, and so did another large group of British bikers. It had been dry both days so far, and it was to remain so for the rest of that day, which meant we got to do the twisty route into Vianden on nice dry roads, with good quality road surfaces. Which is more than could be said of some of the Belgium roads, in particular a stretch from Bastogne to the Luxembourg border. But more about that later.



We all regrouped at the Belle View Hotel in Vianden, which some of us had visited before. A nice hotel, with good sized rooms, ours and Ian's had balconies with a view of the towns castle. Unfortunately, the hotel was fully booked, (the Porsche Owners Club was there) which meant the evening meal took ages to arrive, and the kitchen was closing when it came to pudding time. So, we planned to eat elsewhere for the following evenings, which worked out well s it happened.



Day three saw most of us riding out to Bastogne, and the War Museum, which we thought was going to be a quick visit. On route we had to ride on the terrible section of Belgium road mentioned above, which was broken up and in a right state, but to make matters worse a farmer had driven off his wet muddy field and deposited a large quantity of mud all over the road, right on a bend, and it was beginning to rain! Great! The roads in Luxembourg are generally really nice and seemed a shame to have such a contrast.

The museum was far bigger than I originally expected, and I'd thoroughly recommend it. Very interesting, and it's not just about the Battle of the Bulge, as I thought. But explains, through the stories of four characters who lived through it all, the whole German campaign, and the D-Day invasion and the defeat of the Germans.

On the way back to Vianden, Steve very kindly pointed out the mud on the road again, and simultaneously managed to spin up a lump of mud straight into my helmet, which I was to discover later was still in my neck snood when I got back to the hotel. Thanks Steve!

Diner that night was at a local restaurant that Sharon had picked, and it turned out to be a good choice, especially as the two waitresses took a shine to taking the rise out of Mike Roberts. Plus, the food was very nice, and plenty of it.

Day four was a rest day, which meant a trip up the chair lift to the café at the top of the hill overlooking the town and the castle. Sharon, Mike, and Ian visited the castle, while the rest of us had a walk round the town before lunch, followed by use of the hotel pool in the afternoon. Dinner was booked

at the restaurant again, under Mike's name, which had the waitresses shouting, 'Hi Mike!' when we arrived. Fame at last!

Day Five saw us split up again, as Steve, Karen, Mike, and Sharon were going to Folkstone, as Mike and Sharon would have a long trip to Wales the following day. We on the other hand were going back to Ypres, and this time watch the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate. Luckily the first half of our ride was dry roads, until we stopped at Dinant for lunch. But after lunch it was more jet-skiing than motorcycling. The heavens really opened, and the spray from the lorries wasn't helping. But we made it in plenty of time. After a hot shower and making use of the heated towel rail for our gloves, we had a rather lovely dinner where we met a couple (he was from the US and she from Germany) who accompanied us to the Menin Gate. The Last Post is done every evening at 8pm, and although I've seen it several times before, it always brings a lump to my throat, and it amazes me how respectfully it's all done.



(Some of the display at the Ariane Hotel, Ypres)

That night as I lay in bed, the rain was so heavy that it woke me up. And I was then thinking that the ride home would be another very wet one, but luckily day six saw a break in the weather. So after breakfast we set off

promptly, while we could still see a blue sky, and made our way to Calais. BUT another farmer had decided to empty a load of mud and crud all over a series of roundabouts just before we joined the motorway. Arriving at Eurotunnel we were given the option of an hour earlier train, which we took, but when we eventually boarded it transpired that we were actually on the train 90 mins earlier! We'd had coffee, but now we were on for a lunch break at Clackett Lane. Still dry, until we left Clackett Lane, when the heavens opened again, so the last stretch was another wet one, but home earlier than expected with time to wash the bikes off and get all the kit into the washing machine. And I gather from Sharron, she and Mike 'sailed' home it was so wet. Oh the joys of riding!

Overall a very enjoyable trip, with some lovely roads (Luxembourg) good food, and great company. A big thanks to Sharon and Mike Roberts, Steve and Karen Pearce, Ian Slater and of course she who must be obeyed Heather.

Mick Wallace
Club Captain

Pioneer Run – A nerds day out!

Due to unforeseen circumstances the Club Run from Box Hill to Shoreham Airport was cancelled, therefore, as I like looking at the very old motorbikes that go on the Pioneer Run, I jumped in the car and pootled off to Shoreham Airport. I always find it fascinating how the manufacturers in the early years made things work, so I had a great time looking around these old machines. Here are some pics, for those who are interested 😊.





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.

