

# VMCC WEST WILTS SECTION

## NEWSLETTER 12<sup>th</sup> June '25

### 1. Recent events:

The May breakfast meeting at the Flying Monk was well-attended and as ever, we were well looked after. The run to the New Forest had seventeen bikes with Ian Clarke and Bette Barber of the Wessex V&V section joining us for the lunch stop at Godshill. A wet but enjoyable ride, thanks again to Peter Fielding for organising the run. Another damp day later that week saw a group at the Castle Combe Masters of Motoring event, joined by friends from the Douglas club; thanks to Rob Jones for organising parade sessions on track. Finally, the sun came out for the Green Lane ride on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 110 miles on a route into Berkshire and the Oxfordshire borders.

### 2. Forthcoming events

- a. There is a classic motor vehicle show at Aerospace Bristol – the Mach 2 Motor Show – this weekend 14/15<sup>th</sup> June.
- b. The Wandering on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June is to The Millstream at Marden (SN10 3RH). Colin Smith will lead a run to the pub with coffee stop en route, departing Morrisons Chippenham at 10am. Colin needs to know numbers for lunch so please email Colin ([colin.smith1951@btinternet.com](mailto:colin.smith1951@btinternet.com)) if you plan to eat at the pub.
- c. Please note that Brian's run to the Mendips on 22<sup>nd</sup> June is cancelled.
- d. The June café meeting is at the AV8 at Cotswold airport GL7 6BA (entrance is off the A433) on Tues. 24<sup>th</sup>, 10am to midday.
- e. There is a BSB-supported motorcycle track day at Combe on 25<sup>th</sup> June, potentially with a number of top BSB riders using the track. This is a privately-run event but all are welcome to spectate, the circuit café is open and entry is free.
- f. Jim Gaisford noted that Cassington bike night is coming up on 30<sup>th</sup> June and is a fantastic bike gathering (Cassington is North West of Oxford; it's about 55 miles from Chippenham).
- g. The Treasurer's Run on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July is to The Rose & Crown at Redmarley D'Abitot (no, me neither) with a coffee stop at the Old Station, Tintern. This is a longer run with some faster stretches, similar to Martin's run to Upton on Severn last year. Jon Wiggins has kindly volunteered to act as back marker. Please can you advise Martin ([gizmomrsduck@aol.com](mailto:gizmomrsduck@aol.com)) of your lunch choices from the attached menu. ALSO - please can you advise Martin if you intend to join the ride just to the coffee stop. The start point will be Morrisons Chippenham, leaving at 10am with a pick-up at Aust Services, time tbc.
- h. The next Section meeting is Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July, 7:30pm at the Bell as usual.
- i. **The White Horse Scatter is on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July.** Keith Johnston commended the thorough planning being done by Richard and Alison Sansom and noted that anyone still planning to enter should please get this done by the end of next week (email [whitehorsescatter@gmail.com](mailto:whitehorsescatter@gmail.com)) so that information can be sent out on time. Entries are now 85 and still increasing.
- j. There is a second BSB-supported track day at Combe on 16<sup>th</sup> July. This will be an informal extra coffee morning for the section, for those interested; 10am to midday.
- k. The July Wandering is on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July, to The Pheasant at Toddington; details to follow nearer the time.

### 3. AOB

- a. Peter Fielding and Keith Johnston have agreed to act as clerk of the course and event secretary for a 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration of the 1925 ISDT which ran from Southampton to Taunton – a short notice event is being organised which will follow a

route from Barford St. Martin to Cheddar with many sections as used in 1925 (set up as a tarmac route with off-road options) and will be open to VMCC-eligible girder-fork **or rigid rear end** machines. Navigation will be by route book. The event will be on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August. More info and entry details will follow in the next VMCC Journal but please contact Keith directly ([keith.johnston55@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:keith.johnston55@hotmail.co.uk)) if you are interested.

- b. As proposed at the last AGM, Martin Hirst has organised a contactless payment system to enable card payments and donations for section events.
- c. Safe riding (especially in led groups): following a note circulated from VMCC on this topic, and recent circulation of a link to videos on the second rider drop-off system, there was a broad and lively discussion which spanned four areas:
  - General points on safe riding and defensive riding – especially safe stopping distances between riders
  - The drop-off system procedure and etiquette
  - Access to advanced riding tuition
  - Managing large groups and disparate types of bikes on organised runs.

A follow-up session on this will be organised for one of the meetings later in the year. In the meantime, in summary, it was proposed that:

- Where large groups occur and it is possible to have two lead riders and back markers (accepting that this will not always be possible), the group will be split.
- Alternatively, where splitting a large group is not possible, there will be a support rider behind the back marker, providing more capacity to assist a stopped rider or assist with any other incident and/or to communicate an issue to the lead rider.
- It would be useful to have a distinctive hi-viz jacket/vest colour for the back marker, since most riders in the group now use yellow hi-viz.
- The basic essentials of the drop-off system will be briefed at every group run.