

VMCC WEST WILTS SECTION

NEWSLETTER 24th July '25

1. Recent events:

a. The White Horse Scatter: West Wilts Section welcomed 78 machines and 85 riders and passengers to the Three Magpies in Sells Green near Devizes for the 2025 edition of the White Horse Scatter navigation event; held on a very hot Sunday 13th July 2025. Riders planned routes of between 50 and 150 miles around and across Salisbury Plain depending upon their entry class, including a choice of 10 green lane locations. The event closed with an optional tie breaker special test for participants upon their return to the venue. See photos at: [White Horse Scatter 2025 images](#)

The range of machinery was vast, ranging in years from 1913 [Sun Precision, Sunbeam 2.75hp and Ariel TT] through to modern road and trail motorcycles permitted in order to showcase the VMCC offer. Three wheelers included a 1934 Morgan Sport, a 1959 Messerschmitt KR200 and a 1984 BMW R80 outfit. Notably, Colin Durnell rode his 1937 Phelon & Moore Red Panther down from Wolverhampton, completed the event and then rode back. Adrian Shawcross (of the VMCC Cotswold section) was the lucky recipient of the Moto II navigation device kindly donated by Beeline and offered in our prize draw to riders and volunteers. Final results will be out in August.

Richard and Alison Sansom did a magnificent job as our incoming Joint Secretaries of the event and as ever Clerk of the Course, Keith Johnston expertly found yet more places in Wiltshire off the beaten track. Sincere thanks also to section volunteers John Bowler, Stewart Muir and Derek Daniels, who ran the special test; to Emma and Les Smitherman for running our refreshments tent and to those section members who donated cakes and back copies of our Vintage & Classic VMCC magazine.

As well as the usual donation to LARA (in keeping with the green lane aspects of the event and broad interests of the Section), it was also proposed and unanimously agreed at the 24th July meeting to make a donation of £100 to Wiltshire Air Ambulance from the proceeds of the event.

- b. Castle Combe track day coffee mornings 16th and 23rd July were well-attended. The BSB-supported event on the 16th saw some top class riders demonstrating the potential of road and race bikes. More on such events below.
- c. The Wandering 17th July to the Crown & Trumpet at Broadway had over 20 attendees, with a group ride via the Old Prison Café, with a further stop at AV8 on the return leg. Thanks to Colin and Linda for leading and organising.
- d. There was positive feedback on various events from Sunday 20th July – in particular it was proposed that the Section have a stand at the Kingswood bike show in 2026 (Martin Hirst kindly volunteered to arrange) and possibly a stand and/or group visit to the VMCC Founders Rally [assuming they fall on differing dates in 2026].
- e. The gentle green lane run 24th July around the Devizes area, led by Rich Kinsey, was enjoyed by all on another warm and dry day.

2. Forthcoming events

- a. The Section has a stand at the Calne Bike Day on Saturday 26th July – all are welcome to ride in; Martin Hirst is organising and would especially like to have a display of 2 stroke machines. Thanks to Mark and Chris for their offers of support on the day with the stand and marshalling.
- b. Combe race circuit Bike Night Weds 30th July, 6 – 8pm. No need to pre-book, on arrival at the gate, say you are with West Wilts VMCC (or Bath Classic, or Douglas Owners' club) and you will be allowed in. West Wilts VMCC will have a stand – thanks again to Rob Jones and Martin Hirst.

- c. Jim Gaisford noted there is a classic vehicle meet at The George, Longbridge Deverill on Weds 30th July, late afternoon/evening. A very large and popular event including all types of vehicles.
- d. **There is a Breakfast meeting at The Flying Monk near Hullavington on Thursday 31st July**, 10am to noon. Always a welcoming and popular venue (please note the café opens at 10am).
- e. Combe race circuit has a motorcycle track day on Weds. 6th August. All welcome.
- f. Tim James is leading the memorial run on Thursday 7th August, meeting in Lacock (car park behind the Red Lion) at 9:30am for 10am prompt departure. Destination is the Rose & Crown at Bulford nr. Amesbury SP4 9DS. **Pre-orders are required for lunch**, menu will be sent out soon.
- g. Full day green lane run Tuesday 12th August, details to come on the dedicated WhatsApp group.
- h. **The next Section meeting (14th August) is cancelled and instead there will be an informal gathering at The Hunters Hall Inn** at Kingscote near Tetbury GL8 8XZ, from 7pm onwards.
- i. On Thursday 21st August the Wandering is to The Rising Sun at Mosely Green, GL15 4HN, details to be confirmed nearer the time.
- j. The August café meeting is on Tuesday 26th August, at Sleight Valley golf club café near Devizes.
- k. Gentle green lane run is on Thurs 28th August, details to come on dedicated WhatsApp group.
- l. Next section meeting is Thurs 28th August, 7:30pm at the Bell, Yatton Keynell.
- m. Final event in August is the **West Wilts Scamper** – see AOB below.
- n. Rob Jones noted there will be another BSB-supported track event at Combe on Monday 1st Sept.

3. AOB

- a. 100th anniversary commemoration of the 1925 ISDT - Commemorative run, on Sunday 10th August. Peter Fielding advised that entries are now at 44; 6 spaces remain and entry may be possible for later machines (up to 1970's) in the spirit of the event. Information is attached alongside this newsletter. Please **Contact Keith Johnston** keith.johnston55@hotmail.co.uk to enter or to check suitability of a machine.
- b. **West Wilts Scamper Sunday 31st August:** Modest number (17) but great mix of entries so far, about 2/3 are pre-war. More welcome. Girder or rigid or sub-250cc VMCC-eligible; but some flexibility - ask Jon Hall. Thanks to Stewart, Richard and Alison again for volunteering to help run the event. **If there is serious interest from people wanting to enter but not keen to navigate themselves, Jon may arrange a led group over the 40 mile route. To enter (or discuss) contact jonhall850@gmail.com or 07771 820175.**
- c. Martin Hirst whether it was helpful to continue to have section and other relevant events listed on the section facebook page and the strong consensus was yes.
- d. The meeting confirmed interest in having a VMCC West Wilts stand at the Combe circuit Autumn Classic Racing Festival 20/21st Sept. and at the Motorcycle race meeting 11/12th October. Rob Jones will advise the circuit accordingly.