

VMCC WEST WILTS SECTION

Newsletter from meeting 23rd Oct. '25

1. West Wilts Section holiday 2026:

- a. Tim James confirmed that he and Sandy were prepared to organise a Section holiday for 2026. Initial reservations will need to be booked with the hotel soon, and following on from previous discussions it was agreed that:
 - The holiday will be based at the Castle Green Hotel in Kendal, which is well-placed for trips into the surrounding Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales. This hotel was used for 2 nights on the End-to-End ride and was well-liked. It has pool and spa facilities, 14 acres of wooded grounds and secure parking.
 - The dates will be 10th – 17th May 2026; seven nights, though it will be possible for some to stay for just a 3 or 4 night block provided the dates are fixed in advance.
 - Tim and Sandy will approach the Hotel initially for 28 rooms and will then look to firm up reservations and take deposits, from Section members and/or guests.
 - Martin Hirst will set up a section holiday account and handle deposits and subsequent payments.
 - Transport to/from Kendal will be for individuals to organise.
 - More info and confirmation of dates etc. in due course.

Huge thanks to Tim and Sandy for taking this on. Volunteers to organise and lead runs during the week will be extremely welcome.

2. Forthcoming events

- a. Sunday 26th October, Forest of Dean Run led by Jim Gaisford – Meet Fox & Hounds, Acton Turville, 9:30am for pre-ride briefing and prompt departure. Lunch will be at The George, Aylburton (pre-orders are not required), with coffee stop en route nr. Chepstow. Jim has kindly researched some lovely routes around and beyond the Forest. Return will be late afternoon, avoiding the M4.
- b. Thursday 30th October, “5th Thursday” Breakfast Meeting at The Flying Monk nr. Hullavington.
- c. Thursday 6th November, mid-week run will be “The Ancient Ways” run, led by Jon Hall, about 90-100 miles in total on generally quiet roads, northwards loop into the Cotswolds with coffee stop en route, lunch at the Sherborne Arms, Aldsworth, and simple return route through Bibury with possibly a tea stop at CTL or AV8. Start point again Fox & Hounds, Acton Turville, meet at 9:30am. Lunch pre-order menu to follow soon.
- d. Thursday 13th November, meeting at The Bell, Yatton Keynell, 7:30pm. This will be the annual and much-loved Brian’s Quiz, this year kindly being hosted by Colin Smith who has promised to maintain the usual standards.

3. AOB

Numbers for the Section Christmas lunch on Sat. 6th December are now approx. 40. Thanks to all who’ve let me have their choices, please could others who plan to attend let Jon Hall know in the next week or so, in order that details can be finalised with the pub.

4. Talk – John Young with “Son of Sam”

Our guest speaker was John Young, who this year brought along and spoke about “Son of Sam”, the wonderful T160-based production racer that succeeded Slippery Sam and is a remarkable, very original survivor of top level factory-sponsored racing in the 1970’s and beyond, still regularly paraded and ridden by John. A great talk with a big audience again. John also spoke briefly about the Children’s Hospice charity for which he gives these fund-raising talks. £193 was raised on the night in donations, thank you to all who donated and bought John’s calendars, where again proceeds were to the charity. Thanks once more to John.