

VMCC West Wilts Section – 13th July 2023 Meeting Newsletter

People

Reg noted that Pete Tyler is now recovering gradually at home.

Recent Events

There was a big turnout (24 people in total) for the coffee morning at AV8 on 27th June despite all terrestrial approach routes being blocked for Ash tree removal. Also the evening gathering at the Hunters Hall on 29th saw plenty of bikes with some friends from South Cotswold section joining.

Reg Cox led the midweek mystery run on Thursday 6th July from Lacock, ending at the Tavern Inn, Kemble via interesting local roads. Again a great turnout with 23 bikes on the run. Also about the same number of horses.

White Horse Trial

Our Section's White Horse Scatter Navigation Event took place on Sunday 9th July and attracted more than 50 entrants, on machines ranging from a 1913 Sunbeam through to a 1993 BMW R100GS. Plus a gaggle of day members on modern bikes.

In largely fine weather, participants enjoyed a choice of 10 green lanes (a feature of our event), 23 tarmac locations and a further 7 locations for veteran machines across an area of 400 square miles in and around Salisbury Plain. Apparently some more intrepid entrants were turned away from Copehill Down village, having ignored the earlier hint from armed spectators in full camo gear.

Thanks again to Keith Johnston and Peter Fielding for organising this major and successful event.

Keith and Peter expressed special thanks to the Three Magpies, Sells Green for hosting our event; to John Bowler assisted by Steve Holbrow and Richard Harvey in running the tie breaker special test; and Brian Newbury for devising and running the motorcycle related tie breaker questions. Big thanks also to Carol Phillips for providing refreshments throughout the day. Full results will be published in the coming week.

Further afield, Peter Fielding completed the Hereford on the Edge navigation trial 25th June on his MZ with a Gold medal and "oldest finisher" award.

Forthcoming Events

The Italian Auto Moto Club is running the annual Italian Auto Moto festival in Devizes market place on Saturday 15th July, 10am to 4pm. No VMCC stand but (Italian) classic bikes & scooters owners clubs usually feature well. Free event.

Please note that the Green Lane Run on Weds 19th July is cancelled.

On Thursday 20th the Wandering is to The Grill on the Hill at Swanborough at 1pm (NB this is a change from the venue listed in the section Calendar). Weather permitting, Colin will lead a run to the venue departing 10am from Morrisons Chippenham. Colin will send round the menu; if you are planning to eat, please pre-order by Monday 17th.

Tuesday 25th July's coffee morning is at Honeystreet Mill Café – NB this is also a change from the previously-listed venue shown in the Calendar.

On Weds 26th it's bike night at Castle Combe race circuit, from 6 to 8:30pm. Rob Jones is organizing a dedicated area for section members to park / display vintage or classic bikes – Rob suggested arriving at 5:30pm in order to get organised. Entry is free.

Other events further ahead are listed in the Section calendar extract below. Among these is the next Gentle Green Lane run on Thursday 27th July. Keith noted this will be around 90 miles of minor/single track tarmac roads plus hard surface gravel tracks. There will be two groups led by Keith and Don; more riders are welcome, please contact Keith directly.

Martin is organizing a stand at the Calne bike meet on Saturday 29th July, with the VMCC gazebo. Bikes for display? Assistance in setting up early on Saturday morning would be welcome (Martin aims to be there around 7:30am).

Also on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th July is the Motorcycle Grand National race weekend at Castle Combe with racing plus parade laps; Rob noted main race day is the Sunday.

It was decided to go ahead with Bill Little's memorial run on 3rd August to the White Hart at Cricklade. Tim noted start will now be at Silbury Hill car park, 10am departure as normal. Tim James will circulate menu and noted food must be ordered in advance please.

We now have provisional dates for some of the main VMCC 2024 events:

- Founders Relay Rally 28th April 2024
- Banbury Run 16th June 2024

AOB

Tim James raised the potential for a JoG – LE run in 2024, noting it had not happened since 2013. Tim has looked at a more West coast-oriented route. Broadly the logistics would be as the last time; coach and professional bike transport to Wick, plus luggage and back-up van for the 7-day run. After discussion it was felt that September 2024 would be the best timing and noted a fairly large number (30 to 40?) bikes would be wanted to spread transport/back-up costs. So taking in riders outside the local section. Tim kindly offered to investigate practicalities and costs further.

The question of collection of donations on runs was raised. It was concluded that it was at the discretion of the ride organizer whether to take a collection (nominally £1 from each participant) and then whether to keep those contributions – as originally intended – towards costs of researching the route, or donate them to the section funds. It is still the intention to ask for a small donation at section meetings (again nominally £1) towards section funds, for things like speakers' expenses.

Forthcoming Events calendar for July and August

Date	Day	Time	Activity	Venue	Organiser/Contact
JULY 2023					
15-July	Saturday	10 – 4pm	Italian AutoMoto Festival	Devizes market place (free to visitors)	IAMC
20-July	Thurs	12 noon	Wandering*	The Grill on the Hill at Swanborough SN6 7RN [1pm; or join ride departing 10am from Morrisons in Chippenham]	Colin Smith
25-July	Tuesday	10.30 am	Coffee morning	Honeystreet Mill Café, Honey street, SN9 5PS	Kevin Phillips
26-July	Wednesday	6pm – 8:30pm	Castle Combe bike night	Castle Combe race circuit (free entry) – Rob suggests arrive 5:30pm to use West Wilts VMCC club parking/display area	Rob Jones
27-July	Thurs	7.30 pm	Section Meeting	The Bell, Yatton Keynell, SN14 7BG	
29-July	Sat		Calne Bike Meet	Calne: VMCC Section stand	Martin Hirst
29 and 30 July	Sat & Sun	See Combe website	Castle Combe Motorcycle Grand National Race Weekend	Castle Combe race circuit	Rob Jones
AUGUST					
3-Aug	Thurs	10 am	President's Run	Finish at White Hart Cricklade. Start location Silbury Hill car park on the A4	Tim James 07517 660519
9-Aug	Wed	tba	Green lane run,	tba. please contact Keith	Keith Johnston
10-Aug	Thurs	7.30 pm	Section Meeting	The Bell, Yatton Keynell, SN14 7BG	
17-Aug	Thurs	12 noon	Wandering*	The Grill on the Hill at Swanborough SN6 7RN	Colin Smith
20-Aug	Sunday	10.00 am	Harvest Run – Moonraker Section	Sainsbury's Royal Wootton Bassett	Brian Newbury 01249 464319
24-Aug	Thurs	7.30 pm	Section Meeting	The Bell, Yatton Keynell, SN14 7BG	
29-Aug	Tue	10.30 am	Coffee morning	Sleight Valley Golf Cafe, Sleight Lane, Devizes, SN10 3HW	Kevin Phillips