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### Lazy summer dayz...

WHAT a month, blistering temperatures, blue skies and sticky tarmac, really for motorsport lovers there really isn't a better recipe.

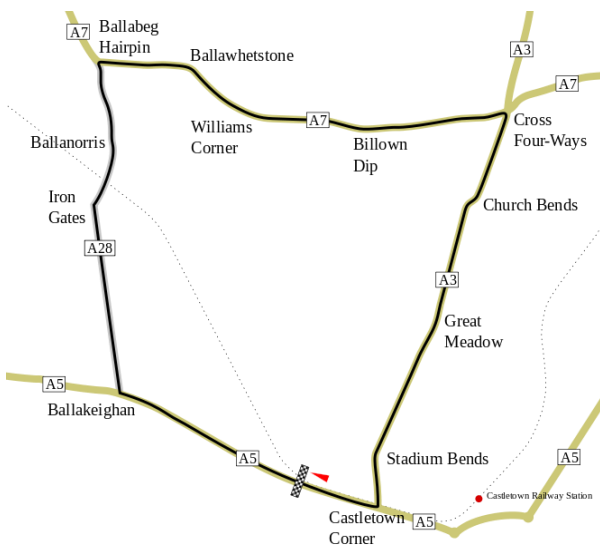
It's been hectic here at Darvill Towers with Keef aboard our Classic SV at the International Southern 100 Road Races (S100) and the team decamping to Mallory Park in Leicestershire for the VMCC Festival of 1000 Bikes. These events covered a total of 10 days so rather than trying to cram all the information into one press release i will endeavour to highlight the salient points and let the pictures speak for themselves.

### S100

The Southern 100 is a pure road racing meeting is held in Castletown on the Billown circuit. The course is 4.25 miles (6.44 km) long and is in the parishes of Arbory and Rushen in the Isle of Man. The course start-line is in Castletown in the Isle of Man which includes the primary A5 New Castletown Road, A28 Castletown to Ballabeg Road, A7 Ballasalla to Port Erin Road and the A3 Castletown to Ramsey Road.



It's such a friendly meeting where you can get extremely close to the action, stars and machinery, and it is literally on our doorstep.



This year's event would be the first international outing of our classic looking SV, lots of press and media types. We were looking forward to peoples reaction, she didn't disappoint!





People were more than intrigued by the design, my favourite moment was during practice, i was watching Keef from the end of the start/finish and alongside me were a group of Irish Road Racing fans (they love their road racing over there). On the first lap one of them noticed our bike and questioned his friends, a debate ensued as the rest of his buddies didn't believe that there was a classic out their circulating. The eagerly awaited Keef's approach



through the heat haze and as he passed us on the approach to Ballakeighan uproar erupted from the group, disbelief, incredibility and then pure confusion as to how and why this was happening. One of the group was singled out to speak to a Marshall to enquire and protest, they set him right and after practice all of them were seen hovering over our bike in Parc Ferme. Did i say anything, absolutely not, this was exactly the response i had wished for, and people were talking about us for all the right reasons, generating memorable exposure for both us and our Sponsors.

Practice week went well and with race day approaching we were all getting excited. The Lightweight race is held over six laps and as the lights went out Keef got an amazing start making up 5 places before the end of the straight putting us into ten.

As we have a MiniTwin specification bike and engine we are down on outright power however she has amazing suspension (created and setup by EvoMoto in Ramsey) and Keef was able to recover any lost positions into each corner. This 'dicing' continued for five laps when we were black-flagged due to smoke and oil..... Noooooooooo!!!!



Keef was able to bring her to a standstill without issue of injury and was forced to sit out the remaining lap.

As it transpired it was a £2 O-ring that had failed, no damage to Keef or the bike. ... phew

That's racing and we live to fight another day so after some soul-searching and no small amount of fluid intake (in the high twenties in the shade) we packed up and then went to get ready to catch the boat in the morning for our jaunt south to Mallory Park





**VMCC Festival of 1000 Bikes.**

2013 is our eighth year of being invited to this event, we have seen it grow and grow over this time however this year was phenomenal, not only were there more people on site (it was taking over an hour to cross the bridge into the paddock at its peak!) but the number of participants, people camping and plethora of 'Stars' their machines was staggering. Please take a look at their website:

<http://festivalof1000bikes.co.uk/Default.aspx>



It's a great event and pound-for-pound i don't think that there is another event in the UK that can touch this for size, cost and activates.

We had the pleasure of the legendary Ray Knight riding John South's original factory 'Hughes Triumph Trident', one of our long term Sponsors and good friend Phil Hagen riding our classic SV650 and the rest of the team 'hooning' about on our other machines.

The track temperature was up to 45 degrees Centigrade with the air temp a barmy 32 degrees.... lovely. We kicked our heels back, enjoyed the sights and sounds of the event and relaxed. If you haven't been then you're missing out, don't take my word for it, take a look for yourself.

Big thanks to James Hewing for the reciprocal invitation, we appreciate it.





**What's next?**



Well as i hammer finger to keyboard its less than a month to the Manx Grand Prix, we have a number of tasks to complete which includes painting the new endurance tank, fit and paint new fairing, build and paint new sub frame and fit new seat. These are all required for the rigors of the TT Mountain Course.

We have a couple of test days before then (in preparation) plus the Festival of Jurby and Classic TT (this year we have been invited to participate in the parades on closed roads, should be a lot of fun),

**Thanks as always to our sponsors without whom this wouldn't be possible.**

Yours Sincerely,

Alex Aitchison  
Team Principal



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