

## **Section News – Irish Section – for October Journal**

The Irish Boreen 09 was a great success. 38 members attended and there were 33 bikes and 1 car this year. We had quite a few UK members again this year and they joined us in Larne on Friday night, for an early start on Saturday morning. I know that everyone who joined us in Larne on Friday night really enjoyed the meal and it also gave people a chance to meet each other before we headed off for the weekend. We have been asked if we could perhaps organise the Friday night again next year and we will certainly be giving it consideration. Due to very bad weather both in Scotland and Larne on Friday, the ferry was cancelled and one of our Scottish members had to cancel the weekend altogether as he just couldn't get over, which was unfortunate, hopefully he will make it next year.

On Saturday morning we all met up bright and early in Larne, and after a short briefing from myself and Pat, we headed off on our first day, towards Derry. Pat Bradley took up the lead with Jack Hunter as tail-end Charlie and Mary and I were in the car. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Pat and Jack for all the help they have given me in the months/weeks leading up to the run and especially for all the work they put in over the weekend.

The sun shone for most of the morning and it was very scenic up towards Thor Head. Thanks to a large herd of cows on the road we had a great chance to take in the beautiful scenery, as they blocked the road to all traffic for about 20 minutes. Everything went to plan up to lunch time as the rain was very persistent in the afternoon we were all glad to get to the first hotel stop in Derry on Saturday night to dry off. We all sat down to a really nice meal and recalled the days ride.

On Sunday morning we headed off again for our second day, into Donegal and some of the most spectacular boreens roads and some of the best scenery in Ireland. By the time we got to the hotel everybody was tired and the weather had been a lot kinder most of Sunday so there were lots of photos taken. We had no mishaps whatsoever this year, and the standard of the riders was excellent. WELL DONE ALL. After the meal on Sunday evening, *The Brian Langton Award* was presented to Sven Rosvall for all the work he does, i.e. photos, videos etc. etc for the Irish Boreen run each year. I know that Sven always enjoys the runs, but he particularly enjoyed it this year on his new GS. He was so enthusiastic; he stayed on in Donegal on the Monday and went off to take a photo for the "Photo Rally" before he headed home.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who sent in emails to us following the Irish Boreen and it was great to know that you all had a good time and got back home safely. There are some excellent photos on both the BMW Club Irish Section website and on the [www.irishboreen.com](http://www.irishboreen.com) website, showing some of the spectacular scenery that we had on the weekend. There is a particularly good photo taken by Peter Cullen, on the roadside (under the trees) where we stopped for a while in memory of Joey Dunlop who used to test his bikes on that road. If you would like to send in your photos please contact the Webmaster directly.

We already have next years Irish Boreen up and running, thanks to Charlie Dolan who offered to take it on. Thanks again Charlie, if you need help just call me. We are looking forward to next year which will be the 10<sup>th</sup> Irish Boreen. Details will be in the journal and on the website early next year and bookings will open in March 2010.

Jim Sweeney and Brendan Lang had a good turnout for their run the following Sunday to Mount Stewart – see details of their report: “9 bikes met up at the Spa Hotel, including two new members all the way from South Africa, Tanya and Greg. We headed off via the motorways and turned off at the North Dublin Hotel, on to what used to be the old N1. This turn caused some confusion as it has been re-named the R132, watch out for this guys. However, it is now empty of traffic and a pleasure to ride. We met up with 3 more bikes, including two more new faces, Grainne on her new F800 and her Scottish partner Gordon, Sven and Kari drove up and met us too, at the Carrickdale Hotel. We had coffee and scones, then headed North, via Newry, (lots of shopping traffic) via Downpatrick and arrived in glorious sunshine at Strangford.

We boarded the ferry, dealt with a very difficult ticket collector (seems it was too much trouble for him to collect fares from 13 separate bikers), but despite his protestations (which were dealt in a very swift way by John Mount) we arrived safe and dry the other side. Brendan then took us to Greyabbey where we "did the photo" basked in the sunshine, pottered about the ruins, the Abbey, not the BMWs. We then took a five minutes drive to Mount Stewart, where we had a fabulous lunch. We decided to come back via the Mourne mountains, but rain on the way back forced a change of direction and we headed home directly instead. It was great to see such a good turnout, particularly after the Irish Boreen Run, which took place only the week before. Jim and Brendan. “

By the time you are reading this article, we will have had the Thatch Rally in Doolin and hopefully the weather was kind to us. We will be reporting on the Thatch in the next issue of the journal.

As you know we have the AGM coming up on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October (full details in the Sept issue of the journal – under Section news and on the Club website). Any members who would like to help the Club are more than welcome to go on committee or offer to help organise events.

We still have some places left for the October weekend away later on this month, so if you are thinking of going, please get in touch with me and if you have booked in already and haven't sent off your payment yet, please send your cheque/draft made payable to: **BMW Club Irish Section**, to Mrs Mary Connolly, Kylbeg, Landenstown, Sallins, Co Kildare, as soon as possible. This is always a great weekend and is organised by our Club Secretary, T.J. McHale (full details in Diary in the journal).

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