# BMW Motorcycle Club Pretoria, South Africa

NEWSLETTER
MAY 2025
#5 OF 2025

# WHAT'S ON AT CLUB NIGHT?

We are excited to announce a **special guest speaker** as part of our 30th year celebrations!
**Don't miss this inspiring session! READ MORE ON PAGE 4**

**18h30 for 19h00**

## What's inside:

Club stats ... pg 3
Guest speaker ... pg 4
New Club members ... pg 5
Club member birthdays ... pg 5
June Club rides ... pg 6
BCA Burn ... pg 7
Snakes of Southern Africa ... pg 8
Report back on May Club Rides ... pg 9 - 10
Born to ride member stories ... pg 11
New regalia ... pg 12
Gravel vs tar road adventures ... pg 13
Country TRAX training ... pg 14

# Dear Members,

**May unfortunately brought another loss for our club, as we were informed of the passing of Andrew Crawshay-Hall on the 18th of May 2025.**

Andy has been a member of the club, since April 2017. He served on the Main Committee with different responsibilities and during his last tenure as our treasurer, until he had to resign due to medical reasons in 2024.

Always an amicable person showing interest in all the activities and those of our members, even after he being heavily incapacitated after his stroke. He continued to attend club nights and some events, when his health allowed it.

Andy did not sit back, but fought to get better everyday.

We have been reminded again of what a great family man he was and how much he was loved by all that knew him.

Our heartfelt condolences to his loved ones in this time of their great loss, we carry you in our hearts and thoughts.

Andy's memorial service was attended by some of our members on 24 May 2025 and a final farewell with a fitting biker salute was led by Rick Stadman. Even a story or two of encounters with Andy and experiences, was shared by the likes of Frans Dekker.

Thank you to all who attended and gave him his final salute.

## June……..the time to ride. But it is cold and windy and…….

The best weather to be on your bike! As a matter of fact, we are spoiled as South Africans to enjoy amazing weather all year round. We have little to no snow and our rainfall is not continuous.

Riding your motorcycle might be a bit taxing in the summer months and wearing your full kit becomes a drag or sauna!

So you have to really appreciate our cooler and colder months, you can have all your kit on and layer up to enjoy amazing sunny clear skies, with little or no possibility of rain.

Some great rides are lined up for the next few colder months, join in the fun and get out there!

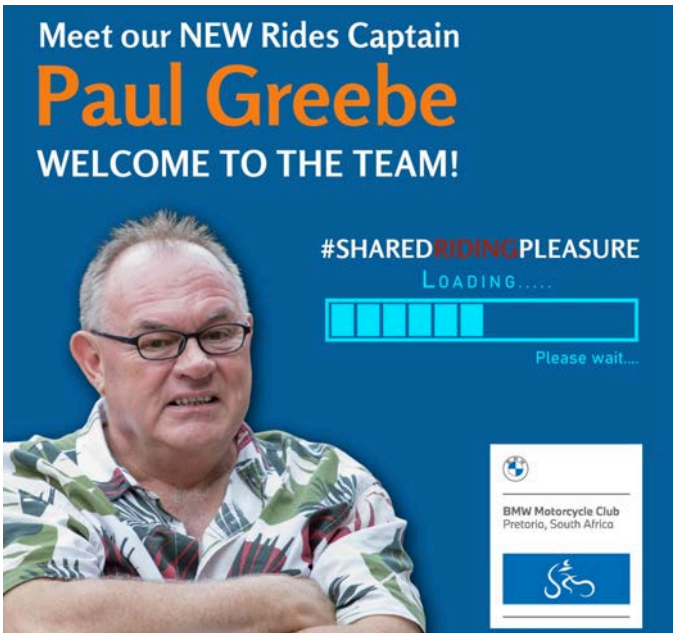
***Make the best of every moment.***

Again, I remind everyone of the BMW Clubs Africa Burn that will be taking place in October 2025 at Karoo 62 near Ladismith. An event not to be missed! Scan the QR Code on page 7 for more information and to book your attendance and accommodation *(note around a 120 people have booked already).*

Lastly, BMW Motorcycle Club Pretoria's 30th Anniversary will be celebrated throughout this year, we will be attempting to present new ideas and adding opportunities for current and previous members to create and make this year one to remember.

Get your regalia with the once off 30th Anniversary emblem from our Lifestyle Corner and share in the festivities! See page 12.

**Marius Bezuidenhout**
***Club Chairman***



# **STATS** 1 January - 31 May 2025

## Member Engagement

Number of members who attend **club nights**

Number of members who attend **rides**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| January | 48 | 27 | 21 |
| February | 48 | 29 | 19 |
| March | 88 | 57 | 31 |
| April | 38 | 24 | 14 |
| May | 57 | 29 | 28 |

| | CLUB RIDE | MOON RIDE |
|---|---|---|
| January | 24 | 19 |
| February | 32 TAR<br>7 ADV | 18 |
| March | 22 | 16 |
| April | 30 | 18 |
| May | 14 TAR<br>5 ADV | 18 |

**Long Weekend** - Lesotho
Number of members who attended: **14**

10 4

Number of members attending: **13**
- Lady riders = 4
- Lady pillions = 2
- Ladies in cars: 3
- Men = 7
- Guests = 3

# HOW BIKING CHANGES YOUR LIFE!

OpenRider is a niche coaching programme that uses motorbike riding as a catalyst for personal transformation—bringing awareness to how our thoughts and actions shape the journey of our lives. It explores how the skills and insights gained on two wheels can unlock clarity, confidence, and conscious living off the bike too.

Founded by Morag Campbell—an Architect by profession, and off-road rider by heart—she currently works in a senior role focussed on using the construction sector to drive social and developmental impact. Morag was part of the inaugural BMW International Off-Road Ladies Team in Thailand (2016) and became a certified BMW International Off-Road Instructor in 2018. She lives in Johannesburg with her boyfriend and three dogs, and remains committed to riding, reflection, and living life wide open.

30 YEARS SINCE 1995 BMW MOTORCYCLE CLUB Pretoria

Details to follow!

# DON'T MISS OUT

Spectacular NEWS

~~JOINING FEE~~

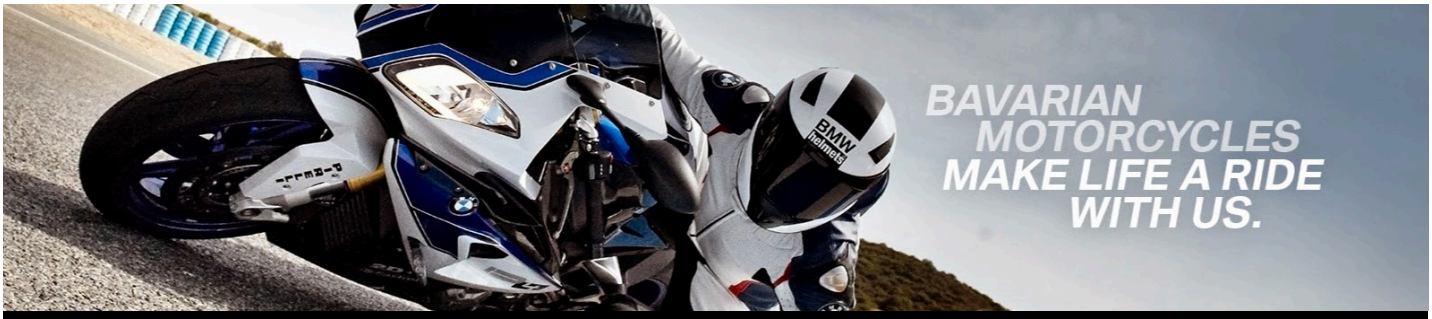
To make our 30th year celebrations even more spectacular, the Main Committee has decided to invite ALL previous club members to join the club again, WITHOUT HAVING TO PAY THE JOINING FEE! Effective 1 May 2025.

This will be available for a short period, cut-off to be announced.

# NEW MEMBERS

William Hodson

# WELCOME!




# MEMBER BENEFITS

10% Discount @ **BMW Motorrad Centurion** for Club Members
*(proof of membership required)*

**JUNE**

1 June - Robert De Kramer
3 June - Hedley Whitehead
5 June - Lizette van Zyl
5 June - George Mills
10 June - Hestie Saayman
10 June - Derek Steyn
12 June - JC Steyn
12 June - Abe Coetzee
15 June - Hennie Kotze
15 June - Brian Crous
18 June - Johann Doms
19 June - Lauritz Hansen
23 June - Mariska Fouche
25 June - Monique Robbertze
26 June - Anzuette Bezuidenhout
27 June - Brett Abraham
27 June - Mario Marais
29 June - Gavin Vahey

# JUNE CLUB RIDES

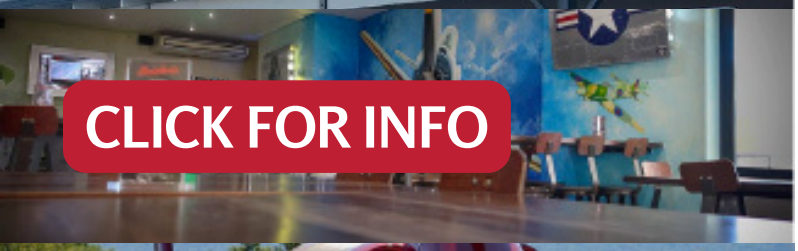
## CLUB RIDE | 8 June 2025

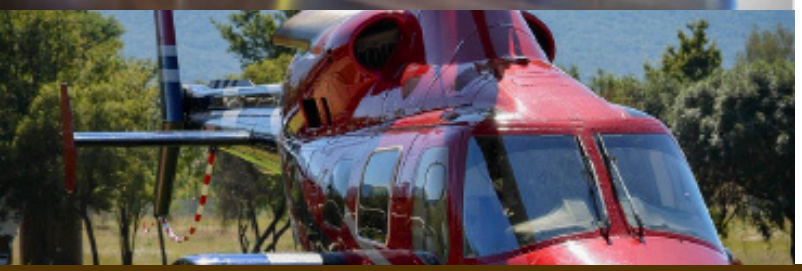
Marius | Aviators Brewing Co.

**North of Hartbeespoort Dam**

Shortish ride with some nice stretches, a few potholes, speed bumps, some city riding and awesome fresh weather, to an excellent venue.

**Time: 08h00 for 08h30 (It's winter.....)**
from BP Centurion
**Sweep: Rudi Naude**



## COFFEE & CAKE Meet-Up

21 June 2025 | *with* Giel

Doppio Zero, Southdowns

☕ & 🍰

## You're Invited!

**Not an official ride...**

Join us for a relaxed afternoon of coffee, cake, and great company!

**Meeting place:** Doppio Zero, Southdowns
**When:** 15h00
**How:** come by car/bike, whatever works for you!

It's just a casual get-together with friends who share a lot in common. We'd love to see you there!

DOPPIO ZERO®

## LONG WEEKEND | 13 - 16 June 2025 | Dieter | Midlands Meander

An exciting long weekend to Midlands Meander, offering the most beautiful scenery such as the favourite Golden Gate, Sani Pass (tar), view of Sterkfontein dam – to name a few.

We look foward to the feedback and photos.
**Club members joining this ride....HAVE A GREAT TIME!**

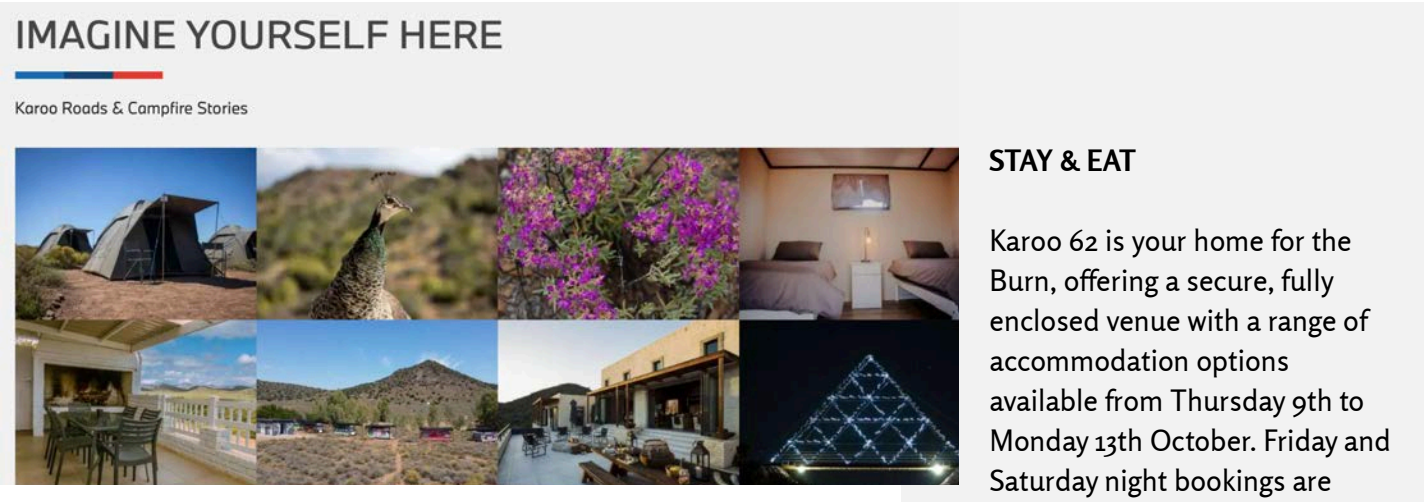
BMW Clubs Africa

# RIDE. CAMP. BURN. REPEAT

LADISMITH . 9-13 OCTOBER . KAROO 62

## GET READY FOR BCA BURN 2025 – ADVENTURE AWAITS!

BMW Clubs Africa is turning up the heat this October with BCA Burn 2025! Set against the stunning backdrop of Ladismith in the Western Cape, this outdoor event is all about camaraderie, camping, live music, and a shared love of the open road. Whether you're a seasoned rally-goer or a first-timer,...




### OUTRIDES FOR ALL

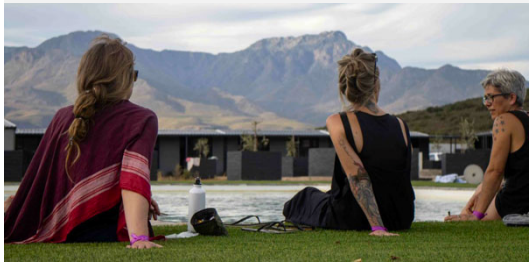
Hit the open road (or trail!) with guided outrides on both Friday and Saturday. Whether you prefer a tarred route by car or bike, or want to kick up some dust on a gravel ride, there's something for every level and riding style.

### ON-FARM FUN

There's more to the Burn than just the outrides! Karoo 62 packs in adventure with a dirt skid pan, gymkhana bike track (with support from Country Trax and the Inland Club), swimming pool, hiking, mountain biking, and trail running. You'll also find golf, shooting, and other farm-style games, plus guided farm tracks for all skill levels.

### STAY & EAT

Karoo 62 is your home for the Burn, offering a secure, fully enclosed venue with a range of accommodation options available from Thursday 9th to Monday 13th October. Friday and Saturday night bookings are compulsory and spots are limited – first come, first served! During your booking, you can also select your meals to match your taste and schedule.



# The SNAKES of SOUTHERN AFRICA

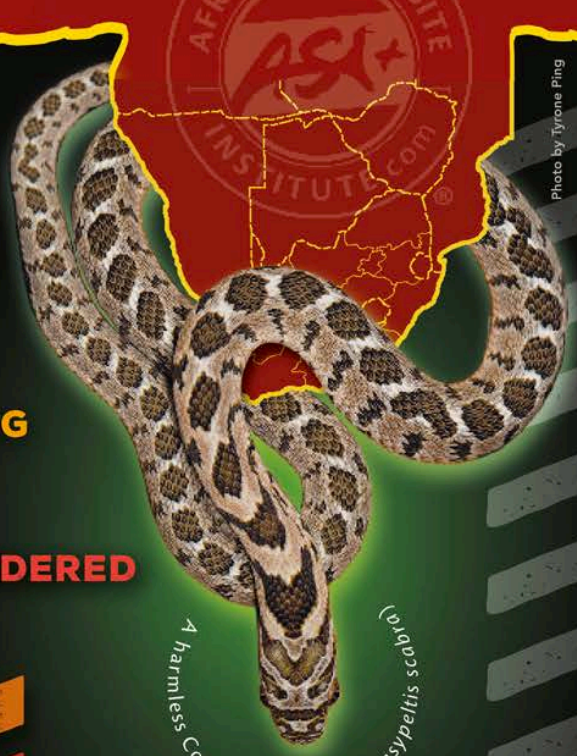
Southern Africa has **176** different types of snakes.

**77** OF THEM ARE NOT VENOMOUS

**50** ARE MILDLY VENOMOUS (BUT NOT CONSIDERED TO BE DANGEROUS)

**29** ARE CAPABLE OF INFLICTING VERY PAINFUL BITES

**20** OF OUR SNAKES ARE CONSIDERED POTENTIALLY DEADLY




**40%** of snakebite victims have dry bites with no antivenom required.

**60%** of bites show signs of envenomation.

## MOST DANGEROUS

The **BLACK MAMBA** is considered the most dangerous due to its size and potent neurotoxic venom.

## SERIOUS SNAKEBITES

Most serious snakebites are inflicted by the Mozambique Spitting Cobra, Puff Adder, Stiletto Snake and Night Adder. **They account for 90% of all bites.**

## MOST BITES OCCUR...

- **EARLY EVENING** in warm summer months Jan–Apr.
- **WHERE? 84%** of bites are below the knee.
- **WHO?** Largely males between **14-25** years of age.

## WHEN BITTEN

**ANTI-VENOM** LESS THAN 15% of snakebite victims need and receive antivenom.

**DO NOT**
- ... cut and suck
- ... apply a tourniquet
- ... inject antivenom

**DO** Transport the victim to the nearest hospital!

Johan Marais | +27 82 494 2039 | johan@asiorg.co.za
www.AFRICANSNAKEBITEINSTITUTE.com

© Johan Marais African Snakebite Institute

AFRICAN SNAKEBITE INSTITUTE.com ®

# REPORT BACK

## May Club Ride - Sunday, 11 May 2025

You know that feeling when everything just clicks on a ride—smooth roads, perfect weather, and zero drama? That's exactly what this tar ride delivered.

From the moment the kickstands went up, we knew this wasn't going to be one of those rides where you're dodging potholes or second-guessing the GPS. It was pure riding bliss—just you, your bike, and the open road leading us to a real gem: Loskop Dam in full overflow. Standing there, watching the water thunder down, hearing its roar, and feeling its force—it was one of those moments that etches itself into memory. A reminder of why we ride: not just for the destination, but for moments like that.

Our final stop was Buksie's Restaurant. It certainly looked the part—rustic charm, biker-friendly ambience—but unfortunately, the food didn't quite live up to expectations. A small let down after such a stellar ride, but hardly enough to dampen the spirit of the day.

In the end, it wasn't about the meal—it was about the road, the dam, and most of all, the shared experience with a great group of riders. Days like this remind us how lucky we are to ride.

**Nico Naude (Ride Leader) and Paul Greebe (Sweep)**

## May Adventure Ride - Sunday, 11 May 2025

**What's an adventure ride without a little chaos?** This adventure ride, our dirt-thirsty crew set off from Pretoria with stars in our eyes, mud in our dreams, and Buksie's Restaurant in the GPS. The route? A scenic detour through Loskop Dam with plenty of gravel, sand, water, and surprises.

Things were going beautifully until our sweep rider decided to literally take one for the team — slicing his rear tyre open with the kind of wound that makes a puncture look like a paper cut. Not a nail. Not a thorn. Just a nasty, tire-killing gash that said, "Adventure time!" No worries, we had a compressor and lots of plugs! … The compressor promptly gave up the ghost like an exhausted donkey in the Tankwa Karoo. While most of us had forged ahead, with our fearless Ride Leader as a true hero to fetch tyre triage supplies from the Tar Riders (bless them!).

Buksie's Restaurant? Looked amazing with great vibes. But when it came to what hit the plate… let's just say it was more meh than a meal. After a day like that, we were dreaming of lamb shanks, not lank salads and lifeless chips. But let's be honest — no one signs up for an Adventure Ride just for the lunch. We ride in the dirt. We ride for the mishaps. We ride for that moment when water's splashing, the sun's shining, and your buddy is zip-tying something that really shouldn't be zip-tied. After lunch, our sweep limped back to Pretoria at a snail's pace, backed by a pit crew of legends who wouldn't leave a man behind. In the end, it was the people who made it. The laughs on the roadside. The "can-you-believe-this" looks. The spirit of helping, joking, and just getting on with it.

**Rudi Naude (Ride Leader) and Dieter Lettau (Sweep)**

# REPORT BACK
## Ladies Ride

**Sunday, 18 May the Club Ladies headed out onto the open road with Donna and Sue.** We had 13 members join, of which 7 were ladies. The gents who rode their ladies to the venue headed off to Casilinga with Andy - and had their own kind of fun.

Leafy Greens was our destination, filled with wholesome eats and drinks. We were also spoilt by our guest, Sanja Auty. Each lady received a fragrance goodie bag. We made sure there was an inspirational message in each bag.

**A ride powered by women for women. Women who see each other, uplift each other.**

Looking forward to seeing more ladies next time.

# REPORT BACK
## May Moon Ride

**Lead rider:** Emilia Wagenaar
**Sweep:** Paul Greebe

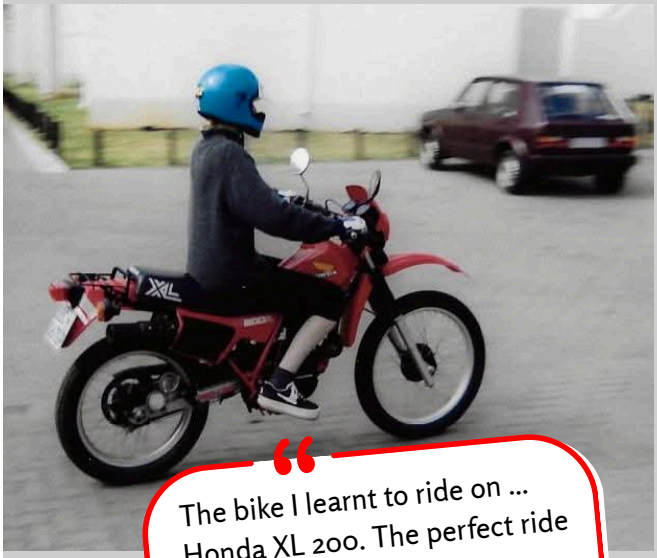
The ride was well-attended, with a total of 17 club members and 12 guests joining the event. Fourteen bikes participated, accompanied by three pillions. One club member and twelve guests attended as cagers (in cars).

No incidents or issues were reported during the ride. The group rode responsibly, and the event proceeded smoothly from start to finish.

A successful and enjoyable ride with excellent turnout, good weather, and great camaraderie.

**Thanks to Emilia for leading and Paul for sweeping.**

# BORN TO RIDE: MEMBER STORIES



"The bike I learnt to ride on ... Honda XL 200. The perfect ride for mine dumps in Springs.

No protective gear. We were tough like that.
*Donna Reid*"

"My first -
BMW 750 GS
*Cathari-Ann harding*"

## MY FIRST BIKE

"My beautiful Yamaha XT 250, 1982 model. Had lots of fun riding it.....great bike.
*Paul Greebe*"

"No stress, deadlines or expectations.
Suzuki RM 125
*Andy Reid*"

# NEW REGALIA

**LAUNCHING NOW!**

Stand out in the crowd, sporting the latest range of quality clothing items **chosen specifically for OUR CLUB MEMBERS.**

BMW Motorcycle Club
Pretoria, South Africa

**HOW TO ORDER**

1. Email: lifestyle@bmwclubs.co.za
2. WhatsApp: Donna 083 309 0774
3. Order at Club Night

## Sublimated Golf Shirt - Drop Needle

R450

## How to determine your golf shirt size:

To measure the half chest of a golf shirt, lay the shirt flat on a surface, then measure the width across the chest, typically from under the armpits to the opposite side seam. This measurement represents half the overall chest circumference of the garment.

| MENS GOLFER | | LADIES GOLFERS | |
|---|---|---|---|
| SIZES | 1/2 Chest (CM) | SIZES | 1/2 Chest (CM) |
| 22 | 34.5 | 22 | 30 |
| 24 | 37 | 24 | 32 |
| 26 | 39 | 26 | 34.5 |
| 28 | 42 | 28 | 37 |
| 30 | 44 | 30 | 39 |
| XS | 48 | XS | 42 |
| S | 52 | S | 47 |
| M | 55 | M | 48 |
| L | 59 | L | 52 |
| XL | 62 | XL | 55 |
| 2XL | 65 | 2XL | 59 |
| 3XL | 69 | 3XL | 62 |
| 4XL | 72 | 4XL | 65 |
| 5XL | 76 | 5XL | 69 |

## SUBLIMATED SOCKS

R150 per per

| UNISEX SHIRTS | |
|---|---|
| SIZES | 1/2 Chest (CM) |
| 22 | 37 |
| 24 | 40 |
| 26 | 42 |
| 28 | 44 |
| 30 | 46 |
| XS | 49 |
| S | 53 |
| M | 56 |
| L | 59 |
| XL | 62 |
| 2XL | 66 |
| 3XL | 70 |
| 4xl | 73 |
| 5xl | 76 |
| 6xl | 79 |

## How to determine your rider shirt size:

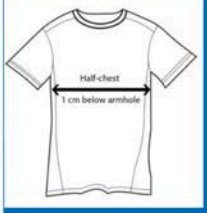
To measure the half chest of a rider shirt, lay the shirt flat on a surface, then measure the width across the chest, typically from under the armpits to the opposite side seam. This measurement represents half the overall chest circumference of the garment.

## Sublimated Long Sleeve Rider Shirt

R650

## Sublimated Softshell Jacket Dullip Elastic

R950




## How to determine your hoody/softshell size:

To measure the half chest of a hoody/softshell, lay the shirt flat on a surface, then measure the width across the chest, typically from under the armpits to the opposite side seam. This measurement represents half the overall chest circumference of the garment.

| SOFT SHELL JACKET | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| SIZES | 1/2 Chest (CM) | SIZES | Length (CM) |
| 22 | 40 | 22 | 55 |
| 24 | 42 | 24 | 57 |
| 26 | 44 | 26 | 59 |
| 28 | 46 | 28 | 62 |
| 30 | 48 | 30 | 64 |
| XS | 50 | XS | 67 |
| S | 52 | S | 68 |
| M | 58 | M | 72 |
| L | 61 | L | 75 |
| XL | 63 | XL | 76 |
| 2XL | 65 | 2XL | 78 |
| 3XL | 70 | 3XL | 81.5 |
| 4XL | 72 | 4XL | 88 |

| HOODY Full Zip And No Zip | |
|---|---|
| SIZES | 1/2 Chest (CM) |
| 24 | 41 |
| 26 | 44 |
| 28 | 47 |
| 30 | 50 |
| XS | 54 |
| S | 57 |
| M | 60 |
| L | 63 |
| XL | 66 |
| 2XL | 69 |
| 3XL | 72 |
| 4XL | 75 |
| 5XL | 78 |

## Sublimated Hoody Brushed Fleece Full zip

*Navy &Light Blue*

*Lorem ipsum*

R800

## Aluminium Water Bottle

*680ml*

R180

# Gravel vs. tar road adventures
# Choosing your ride style

When it comes to motorcycling across South Africa's stunning and diverse landscapes, every rider eventually faces the great question: gravel or tar? Each offers its own unique thrill, challenge, and story to tell. Whether you're carving corners on the tarmac of Chapman's Peak or riding the Cederberg dust, the ride you choose says a lot about the adventure you're after. **Here's a breakdown of both—and why every South African biker should try both worlds.**

### Tar road rides: smooth cruising with scenic speed

**The ride**

Tar roads are ideal for riders who love long, smooth curves and open-road speed.

**Some of the top SA routes**

Chapman's Peak Drive
Long Tom Pass
N1 Karoo Stretch

**Pros**

Faster riding, more predictable surfaces
Great for sport bikes, cruisers, and touring setups
Easier on the body and the bike

**Cons**

Can get crowded with traffic and cagers
Less "off-the-grid" feeling
Toll fees and speed traps

### Gravel road adventures: dirt, dust, raw freedom

**The ride**

Gravel riding is about embracing the wild, less structure, more adventure. You'll find yourself off the beaten path, surrounded by rugged terrain and remote beauty. This is soul-riding, South African style.

**Some of the top SA gravel adventures**

Baviaanskloof
Tankwa Karoo
Sani Pass (Lesotho border)

**Pros**

Remote and peaceful, escape from city life
Feels like real adventure
Builds technical riding skills

**Cons**

Demanding on both bike and rider
Risk of punctures, falls, and lack of cellphone signal
Requires proper gear and planning

## Choosing your adventure: What kind of rider are you?

| Preference | Tart road | Gravel road |
|---|---|---|
| Comfort | High ✓ | Low ⚠ |
| Scenic routes | ✓ ✓ ✓ | ✓ ✓ ✓ |
| Challenge and skill | Moderate ⚠ | High ✓ ✓ ✓ |
| Bike type | Cruiser, Sport, Tourer | Dual-sport, ADV, Scrambler |
| Remote vibes | Less ⚠ | More ✓ ✓ ✓ |

**So the next time you fuel up, ask yourself: is today a tar twist or a gravel grind? Ride smart. Ride free. Ride SA.**

**Final thoughts: why not both?**

Some riders swear by the smooth rumble of tar. Others chase the dusty silence of the wild. But South Africa, with its unmatched diversity, is built for bikers who want both.

Country TRAX
OFF-ROAD RIDING ACADEMY

CLICK THIS LINK

## Introduction to off-road riding

Hartbeespoort, Gauteng
5 July 2025 | R1 925

The primary objective of this course is to teach participants how to ride safely on gravel roads. And of course to have FUN... that is after all the reason why we are involved in this sport!

The course focusses on the fundamentals of off-road riding and you are guaranteed to leave with more riding skills and with a better understanding of your own abilities and of your bike's abilities. All of this translates into getting more joy out of your motorcycle on a larger variety of terrain and conditions.

The morning's riding exercises are focussed on riding position, bike control and on getting rid of bad habits. By lunch time you will have used plenty of energy and appreciate that lunch is included in the entry fee!

After lunch you will participate in riding exercises that teach you how to handle emergency situations whilst riding on gravel roads. These are sure to get the adrenaline pumping, but rest assured... the exercises are performed in a controlled environment and under the watchful eyes of experienced instructors.

**What you will learn**

- Which riding gear / protective clothing to use on your adventure / dual sport motorcycle.
- Basic theory of how to ride a motorbike.
- The correct body position for riding off-road.
- Motorcycle throttle control, clutch control and brake control.
- Basic off-road riding skills, tips and techniques.
- Emergency braking on gravel roads.

## Accelerated weekend, intermediate off-road riding

Magaliesberg, North West Province
13 - 14 Sep, 2025 | R3 500

You asked for it. Here it is. **You have completed the Introduction to Off-Road Riding Course.** You want to get maximum benefit and JOY from your biking investment, without spending money on travel and amazing venues. Join us for this weekend, without having to take time off work - pure learning and riding benefit for two days! Building on the skills gained from the Introduction training, without repeating all the detail, and covering the full Weekend Off-Road Riding Course program.

This two-day course is aimed at the the off-road/dual sport/adventure rider of some experience, who has had Introductory training in the specific skill set required for off-road riding. It is a very intensive course, which will not only help you build your confidence to take to off-road riding at any time, but also to help eradicate the bad habits of self taught riding and in general become a safer rider.

It is compulsory that you have attended our entry level course **Introduction to off-road riding** as we continue to build on the basics in this course.

**What you will learn**

- Theory of motorcycle dynamics in off-road conditions - understanding why and how the motorcycle responds to rider input
- Being 100% in control of your motorcycle in all situations
- Practical exercises in a wide range of terrain conditions, in a safe and controlled environment
- Lots of riding during the weekend!

## COMMITTEE EMAIL ADDRESSES

**Club Chairman and Training:** chairman@bmwclubs.co.za
**Treasurer:** treasurer@bmwclubs.co.za
**Vice-Chairman:** vice-chairman@bmwclubs.co.za
**Membership:** membership@bmwclubs.co.za
**Secretary:** secretary@bmwclubs.co.za
**Social:** social@bmwclubs.co.za
**Technology:** technology@bmwclubs.co.za
**Lifestyle:** lifestyle@bmwclubs.co.za
**Rides:** rides@bmwclubs.co.za

Biking isn't just a way to get from point A to point B; it's a journey that changes your perspective, strengthens your body, and frees your mind.

**We look forward to your suggestions**

### Wellness Charity Suggestions
**Email:** chairman@bwmclubs.co.za

### Lifestyle Suggestions
**Email:** lifestyle@bwmclubs.co.za

JOIN NOW

BMW MCC PTA Member Group
WhatsApp group

Stay up to date with Club activities and events. JOIN the CLUB by scanning this QR code.

**BMW Motorcycle Club Pretoria**

Scan to join our Facebook group

BMW Motorcycle Club
Pretoria, South Africa

**Yours in shared riding pleasure**
On behalf of the BMW MCCP Main Committee