

Editors Ramblings

Marching on..... ok this snow and rain we have been getting has not exactly got me warming up my engine for lots of rides but it will not be long now that the daffodils will be joined by more spring flowers and warming sunshine for us to get out on our bikes. With this it will be another AGM year gone and hopefully we will see a few of you there for a report on the year and to elect the committee for the next twelve months.

New feature article alert! Monthly we will publish a ride report to a dealer with an article on them as well. Please feel welcome to submit any rides you have, to a new dealer you have not been to before so we can benefit from your good or bad experiences!

Email me on biker5chef@yahoo.co.uk or 07590596380 for WhatsApp sending pictures or texts or phone! .

The Highlander

South Cheshire Advanced Motorcyclists Newsletter March 2017

A Word from the Chair

Hi everyone, hope you have managed to get out on your bike during the recent 'heat wave' though today storm Doris has meant it was definitely a day to keep the bike in the garage if possible. Thanks to Gordon for the great and appropriate picture last month, more interesting than what I write I know. I'm now back from my snowy holiday in France including having to dig the car out of 8 inches of snow and leave in a blizzard with the snow chains on (don't try this on the bike!).

Having only been out for one very short ride in about 8 weeks I got caught out last Saturday when I got the bike out to go for a ride with a friend. I had done my POWDER checks the night before (without starting it) and all looked good but I thought I should plug the battery charger in just in case and then promptly forgot! So guess what, I tried to start it the next morning and the battery had enough volts but not enough amps. A push start failed miserably but at least my riding partner got a workout pushing, though he did not seem to appreciate the opportunity that much. Fortunately Suzuki put the battery under the seat (not like my last German bike), so at least I could jump start it after faffing about with jump leads.

So eventually we got to Hunts, who some of you will know are the Honda dealers in Manchester, so that my friend could test ride a Honda CTX (someone has to love cruisers!). I took an Africa Twin demonstrator out and will report on this for a future issue. Just to say the service we received from John and the team at Hunts was fantastic. They were helpful, efficient, knowledgeable and no pressure. So if you are after a Honda or one of their wide selection of second hand bikes it is well worth paying them a visit.

On the way back I stopped at 'a famous high end supermarket' to buy a couple of items and as I entered, carrying crash helmet and a basket I saw the security guard start to walk towards me. Ay ay, thinks I, this could be interesting. Anyway, far from being seen as a biker scourge of society, it turns out he commutes to work every day on his bike and was keen to speak to a kindred soul about bikes. So we had a good chat about bikes including what our group is all about and with a bit of luck we might have another associate on the summer course.

So the morals of the story are; pre ride checks are important, great customer service is still out there, don't give in to stereotypes and spread the work on the group, you might just save a life.

Safe riding and see you at the AGM. Mark.



Volunteers Needed

We have enough volunteers for these events but you still have an opportunity to come Along and show support for your group if you can spare some time on these dates Just let Sue know and I am sure you will be welcome.

In June we are holding two promotion events to publicise our group and sign up some Associates for our summer and Autumn courses this year. Both are in June (TBC) First we have Staffordshire Triumph on the 3rd of June then J&S Northwich on the 17th of June. Three hours is all it takes (you can stay longer!) 10am till 1pm and 1pm till 4pm for you to talk bikes and the advantages of joining our group and the IAM.



Contact Sue Rogers by email : -
suerogers59@icloud.com
to register your interest and what
day and time you can assist.



MOTORCYCLE CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES



Presidents Page

In February 1994 I joined the group, and in March 1994, South Cheshire Advanced Motorcyclists was set up as a stand-alone IAM bike group from the then, Cheshire Car group, I like most of us joined to improve my riding skills, having ridden for many years, not necessarily well, but survived the ordeal and having reached the age of forty, and my father being in hospital having suffered a stroke, knowing he hated me riding bikes it was time to show him I was being sensible and taking responsibility for my actions.

The course was different to the system we have in place today but all the riding requirements were the same, I was allocated my Observer Derek Gray and he gave me the guidance and showed me the system of motorcycle control. I would go and visit Dad and give him a detailed breakdown of each session, he listened and made all the right noises at all the right times, it made me feel good and he had comfort knowing I was trying to be as safe as possible, unfortunately Dad died in the April and never got to hear how I became the first South Cheshire Advanced Motorcyclists associate to pass the Advanced test.

Like many of you who have followed, after the intensity of the course, the elation of passing the test and becoming an advanced rider, or should I say starting out as an advanced rider, there was a feeling of deflation, what now, I had choices, ride with group and enjoy being safe with like minded motorcyclists, yes that was good, but I was left feeling I wanted more, I wanted to give something back and the only way to do that for me was to become an observer, so in 1995 I undertook Observer training and became an observer, the enjoyment of seeing riders improve and become advanced motorcyclists due to some guidance from me was totally uplifting and rewarding, I think it is fair to say I threw myself into the group getting involved at all levels, I became Chairman and Chief Observer for many years, then it was time for others to step up to the plate and take over the helm, John Scanlon became Chairman and in 2015 I stood down as Chief Observer and Chris Mannix took over, John Scanlon moved to France and Mark Rogers became Chairman, Mark and Chris have taken the group into a whole new era and continue to do so.

In industry they have a saying "being kicked upstairs" I know what this means, for services to the group I was honoured to be asked to become the group President, a position with no power, no responsibility, but an honour I was proud to accept, a position I am proud to hold.

I know those of you that have read this far, are probably thinking is there a point to this, yes, March 16th is the twenty third AGM the time when Committee members are elected to serve, you don't know what you may achieve until you try it, but unless you try it you will never know, likewise Observer training, when the next Observer training course is announced think about it, better to try and decide, rather than just think what if, don't be shy, ultimately the decision is yours.

Safe Riding

Chris Steel
Group President.



New Group Flyer in IAM RoadSmart colours

Newly designed for 2017 we have IAM's new flyer with our details on it with the corporate colours and branding. Expect to see these in your local bike shops soon.



Meet an IAM Examiner Evening

You're invited to our 'Meet An IAM RoadSmart Examiner' evening.

Come along to North Staffordshire Advanced Drivers IAM group on Thursday 9th March 2017 at 7.30pm to meet and hear Bob Brittan talk about road safety and advanced driving.

Bob is a current IAM examiner as well as being a former class one police driver & instructor.

We will be at our usual meeting place of Sandyford Community Fire Station, ST6 5ED, directions to which can be found on www.nsam.org.uk

Refreshments will be available. Best wishes Phil McCue, Group Secretary



Destination Dealer – This Month – CMC Motorcycles – Clay Cross



New theme for a monthly ride out, find a dealer that we have not been to before and plan a little route to get there and back. This month its CMC Motorcycles Clay Cross – High Street Chesterfield Derbyshire S45 9DP.

This month's destination dealer was decided by the weather and the promise of a good clothing selection to look at and maybe purchase?

Sunday morning and meeting at McDonalds Congleton the Cardiac Kid and myself set off early to avoid the incoming "Storm Ewan" The wind was blowing already but no rain to add to the wet roads from the overnight soaking. We meandered through Congleton centre and out on the A54 through the Bosley lights and up and over Dumbers with its smooth surface making it easier to pick a good line through its rising set of corners while keeping an eye on a fair amount of debris on the road from the rain and farm traffic. Past the Ice Cream farm with no thoughts of stopping for a cone we entered the 50mph average speed limit zone, easy to sneak over this while enjoying the A54 but some tight corners to bring the average down. The wind was blowing over the top so maximum concentration was needed to keep the bikes in line and on the right side of the road. We picked off a few cars on the way down towards Buxton where we turned right then left towards Grin Low Road and the big dipper "Harpur Hill" well the Low grinned alright!



Destination Dealer – This Month – CMC Motorcycles – Clay Cross - continued

We crossed over the A515 towards Chelmsorton and veered right onto Flagg Lane again quite open and side winds tugged at the bikes, could be the first time I have got my knee down going in a straight line here I thought! Into Bakewell safe we headed out on the A6 through Rowsley and off the A6 onto some nice back lanes and more climbing towards Clay Cross before getting to the dealer. On the main street and very little built up area to negotiate. Plenty parking available so in we went.



Well this is a good size dealer all right, nice and bright and well laid out..... wait there's a café? Well CK needed feeding so first stop was a VMAX Breakfast – did I say it is a Yamaha Dealer? Well the breakfast gives it away. All revved up we then had the staying power to peruse all the bikes on display new and used all laid out easy to view not too cramped together. I was glad of the space as an over enthusiastic customer was taking delight in telling us about his bike proudly sitting in the showroom with a plastic cover on it so it would not get dust on it till he picked it up! Leaving CK to listen more I swerved into the clothing section.

Big Sale signs signalling 60% off looked promising for a bargain, summer gear was on my watch list and a Dainese Jacket in red and black looked promising at over half price £119 a true bargain but just not enough to get this highlanders wallet out. Although a good selection of gear was on display from a variety of manufacturers there was not a lot of what I was looking for, maybe when the sale is over they will make an appearance. So no sale from me but I did not feel short changed with the visit so if you are a Yamaha fan or just need a destination with a café and bikes with some good roads to get there and a round trip from the Crewe area about 100 miles then give it a look.

We headed out on a more southerly route back home towards Matlock on the A615 then into the Peak District by Brightgate, Newhaven and Hartington again with the crosswinds picking up on the open moor roads. The Peak District roads are more technical than say over in Wales where it is more open and smoother, I like the balance here and being precise with positioning and forward observation rewards you with safe progress. Hulme End and Warslow, little villages with a little number of quaint properties were dispatched while heading towards the A53 and the Roaches in the foreground. Down to Meerbrook and passed Tittesworth Reservoir to go up the famous "Gun Hill" well to the lycra crowd anyway! I think in its present condition it will become famous for its atrocious surface which is a disgrace. Going up is safer than the down direction so over we went and another up down rollercoaster by Rudyard Lake and Reads Lane to Congleton.

Destination Dealer – This Month – CMC Motorcycles – Clay Cross - continued



A quick stop and off CK went and with my money burning a hole in my pocket and home out of bounds unless I spend the next three hours tiptoeing about to not awake night duty Sharon a spur of the moment trip to the Dainese shop in Manchester was made where the gladly took my pounds on a sparkling new Hyper Flux Jacket and trousers which will eventually be reported on at the end of the summer where hopefully they will have had a few outings keeping me cool.

Any trips to new dealers please let us know with your experience, I am sure the membership will be interested in your story.



Product Review – ScotOiler FS 365 by Mark Rogers

Product Review Scottoiler FS 365

Let's face it, we all like our pride and Joy to look smart and bikes are much more susceptible to rust and road salt these days than cars. I have been using Scottoiler FS 365 on my bike for the last 4 years and have been delighted with the results. It is a blend of mineral oil, anti corrosion additives and water which is biodegradable. It does not leave any sticky residue and as claimed by the manufacturer the protection seems to increase with use as a protective barrier builds up. I have used it on my 2012 Suzuki (not known for a weather resistant finish!) and covered 14,000 miles in all weathers throughout the year including snow in April. The bike still looks new with no 'furring' on those vulnerable bolts or banjo fitting and no sign of rust anywhere. I apply after each wash when the bike is still wet, initially I used a cloth and wiped it on, but these days I just tend to spray it on including all the nooks and crannies which is much easier and quicker. A litre bottle lasts me about a year and costs about £8 a go, so good value considering how well it works. Recommended.

Mark Rogers



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As you have been notified by email our AGM is on Thursday the 16th of March 7:30pm
At Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service HQ, Sadler Road, Winsford, Cheshire CW7 2FQ
Please come along and show your support for your committee that has been working
Hard along with the Observers in promoting Motorcycle Road safety for the twenty
Third year in South Cheshire and beyond.

On the right, photographic
proof sent in by Dean Walker
that this is what happens
when you do not use
Marks ScotOiler FS365 on
your bike!



JOIN US FOR THE CONDOR MOTORING CHALLENGE

How Smart are you?

Our new annual Quiz for drivers and riders

When: Wednesday 22 March 2017;
7.30pm

Where: Astbury Village Hall, Peel Lane,
Astbury, Congleton CW12 4RQ.

2 miles south of Congleton on A34 Newcastle Road.

Who: Teams of 4 from IAM or similar groups

How: e mail- johntwigg@freeuk.com



Congleton Advanced Drivers & Riders



Group Events

Sunday Ride Outs - 10am from Costa Coffee at the Grand Junction Retail Park - CREWE - arrive early with a full tank of fuel. Usually 150-200 miles but if you want to do a shorter one we will not take offence at you turning back early.

SCAM AGM – Thursday 16th of March – Details above

Wednesday 22nd of March – Condor Motoring Challenge, organised by the Congleton IAM Group – this has been run before and now they are going to try and have this run annually. So lets get involved – teams of four, let the competition begin! Contact John Twigg at johntwigg@freeuk.com and copy in Mark at marogers717@gmail.com



Other Events of a two-wheeled nature

3-5th March – Carol Nash Irish Motorbike and Scooter Show – Dublin
4th March – Super Enduro – Bilbao, Spain – superenduro.org
9th March - **Meet An IAM RoadSmart Examiner' evening – see box above for details**
10-19th March – Daytona Bike Week – Florida USA Officialbikeweek.com
11-12th March – MCN Scottish Motorcycle Show – RHS Edinburgh
16th March – SCAM – AGM - Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service HQ, Sadler Road, Winsford, Cheshire CW7 2FQ 7:30pm
17-18th March 12 Horas de Portimao, Portugal – World Endurance Championship
19th March – Pioneer Run – Epsom to Brighton sunbeam-mcc.co.uk
25th March – VMCC Bikejumble – Shepton Mallet vmccsomerset.co.uk
28th March – Ace Café Overland and Adventure Travel Bike Day ace-café-london.com
31st March-2nd April – British Superbikes – Donnington – 1st BSB of the season
31st March-2nd April – World Superbikes – Aragon
1-2nd April – Kickback – Stoneleigh Park – Custom and handmade bikes
9th April – Prescott Bike Festival Gloucestershire – www.prescottbikefestival.co.uk
22-23rd April – World Endurance – Le Mans – www.lemans.org
22-23rd April – Carol Nash International Classic Motorcycle Show – Stafford
22-23rd April – Bob Smith Spring Cup Road Races Scarborough olivermountracing.com
28-29th April – Cookstown 100 Road Races – Northern Ireland – cookstown100.com
7th May – MotoGP – Jerez Spain
11-14th May – St Tropez Euro Festival (Harley Fanciers)
13-14th May – MCN Festival of Motorcycling - Peterborough
20-21st May – The Reunion – Monza, Italy – Outdoor custom show – thereunion.it
25-28th May Horizons Unlimited Travellers Meeting Germany
10-11th June – Café Racer Festival Paris France – café-racer.fr
15-18th June – Horizons Unlimited UK Travellers Meeting – Hay-on-Wye
1-2nd July – Bikers Classic – Spa Francorchamps, Belgium -
4-13th August – Sturgis Bike Rally – South Dakota USA sturgismotorcyclerrally.com
2-3rd September – Glemseck 101 – Leonberg, Germany - Sprint Racing and Customs

That's all this month

Hope you all get out on your bikes to give us some more stories

The Highlander

