

Editors Ramblings

Happy New Year to you all, wishing you all the best for 2018 and your motorcycling and road safety. Going by December it is going to be a tough start to the year weather wise, only managed to get out for the one ride myself to blow away the cobwebs. A short newsletter this month just to keep it going every month (my pledge to the membership) As always any contributions will be gratefully accepted motorcycling related however slight! That's my excuse for some of the articles I come up with anyway!

Remember we have our Facebook page – please join and contribute on it -

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/362204533842150/>

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

The Highlander

South Cheshire Advanced Motorcyclists Newsletter January 2018

A Word from the Chair

Happy New Year to all, the holidays are over and now it's time for new bikes in dealers, tour planning and the slow crawl to longer days and better weather. So, if you test ride a bike or go on a summer tour (or even a fun day ride out) why not write a short article for the newsletter, contributions are always welcome.

Not a lot to report as far as the group is concerned though the spring course is already full and the summer is filling up nicely. The AGM date will be circulated this month and everyone is welcome.

And finally, I don't know if you saw the predictions of a new 'mini ice age' by 2030 over Christmas, trying to fill a slow news day I assume, but it's a good reason to get out on the bike while you can!

So, on that note, if you are out on the bike Safe riding

Mark

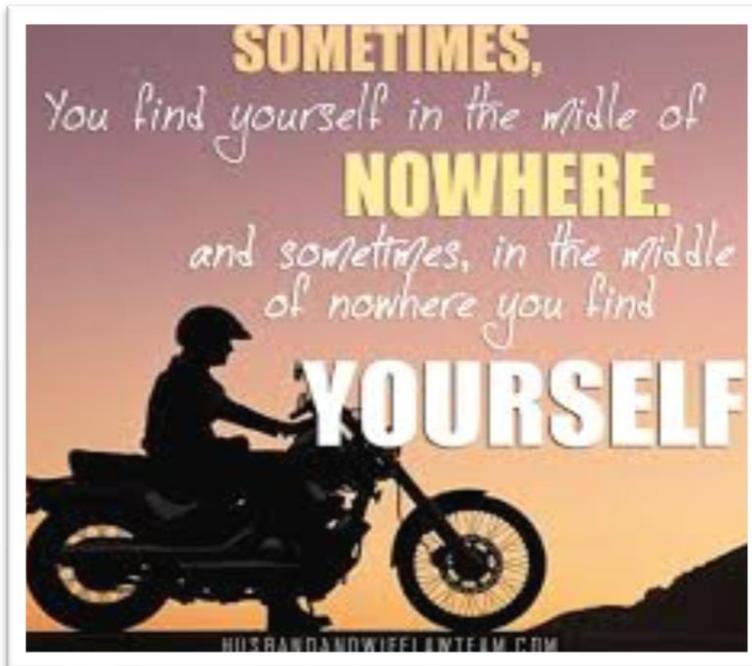


Presidents Page

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas with family and friends, I just want to wish you all a very Happy New Year, may 2018 see you realise your hopes and dreams.

Chris Steel

President.



Show Us Your Unsung Hero Bike Cleaner! This Month – Mr Sheen



Back in the 1950's an Australian company came up with this polish for furniture which eventually made its way to the UK In 1969. I started using this just after this time when my mother enslaved me at seven years old to cleaning the house! It was not till I was twenty and the proud owner of a motorcycle with cast wheels and a chain which liked to throw sticky lube onto the rims of my wheels that I appreciated the superior cleaning properties of this fine product. I had purchased other supposedly meant for motorcycle cleaning products, but none could clean chain lube of a wheel as easily as this. A miracle with a quick squirt and a wipe and the wheel was clean and with a nice polished surface which helped the build up of further grime. This could be used on all parts of the bike to give the paintwork a nice "Sheen" and smell too. Cheep and found in every convenience store you will never be without a can of this wonder product and if you ever run out I am sure there will be a can under the kitchen sink or cleaning cupboard for you to borrow!

The Highlander

Show us yours – give me your best sales pitch and I will get the pics.

Rendezvous Suggestion – sent in by email

<p>SELF CATERING AT CAERAU GARDENS</p> <p>AT ONE END OF OUR HOME AND IN A SEPARATE BUILDING OPPOSITE, WE HAVE "THE HOVEL" AND "THE PIGSTY"!</p>  <p>"THE HOVEL"</p>  <p>"THE PIGSTY"</p> <p>BOTH HAVE USE OF THE GARDENS BUT ALSO 600 ACRES OF COUNTRYSIDE AND OUR PRIVATE LAKE FOR FISHING, SWIMMING OR BOATING MORE DETAILS AND ALL BOOKINGS THROUGH Airbnb.co.uk SEARCH FOR "THE HOVEL" or "THE PIGSTY" IN SARNAU LL23/7LG</p>	<p>CAERAU GARDENS</p>   <p>SARNAU, Nr. BALA Café Woodland Playground Plant Sales LL23 7LG Info@caerau-gardens.co.uk www.caerau-gardens.co.uk 01678 530493</p>	<p>GORWELION</p>   <p>Café-Shop-Play-Walk Great food and just a short walk from town, yet in the heart of rural Wales LL23 7NW 01678 520943 (Free parking)</p>  
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We are on the outskirts of Bala (just over the bridge on the A494 from Bala towards Corwen)

We offer:

- *Home cooked meals and home baked cakes from locally sourced produce
- *breakfasts, morning coffee, lunches, snacks, and afternoon tea
- *hot and cold drinks
- *plenty of free, off road, parking
- *we are happy to accommodate large groups (please give us a call so we can be prepared for you)
- *open 364 days a year (closed Boxing Day)

Please give us a call on 01678 943 and speak to Toby or Stephanie (proprietors) or to Sam or Adam (managers) and have a chat about what we can offer.

Rendezvous Suggestion

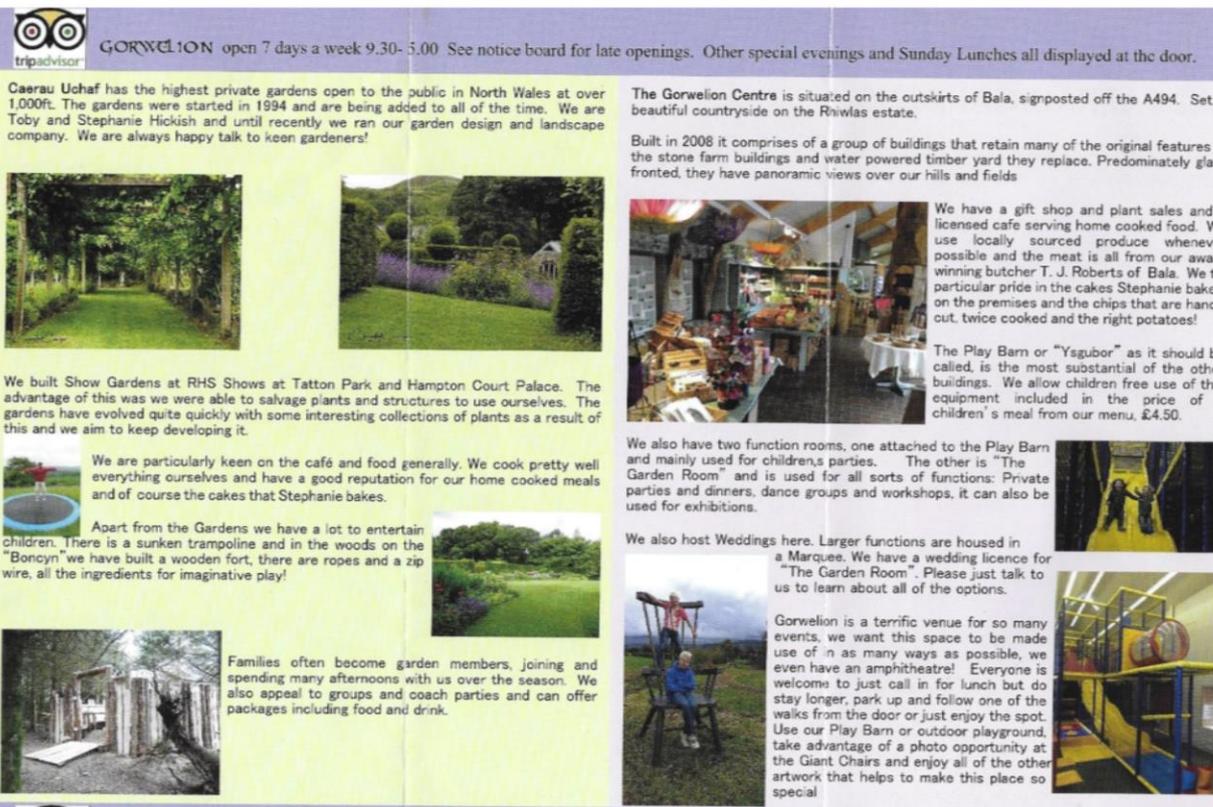
Better still - pop in, have a look round, have a chat with one of our team and sample some of the fabulous food or have a cuppa and a slice of Stephanie's amazing cake.

I have attached a copy of our leaflet.

Kind Regards,

Jayne

PS We have a large circular lawn you can park on by prior arrangement - a great opportunity for a group photo



GORWELION open 7 days a week 9.30- 5.00 See notice board for late openings. Other special evenings and Sunday Lunches all displayed at the door.

Caerau Uchaf has the highest private gardens open to the public in North Wales at over 1,000ft. The gardens were started in 1994 and are being added to all of the time. We are Toby and Stephanie Hickish and until recently we ran our garden design and landscape company. We are always happy talk to keen gardeners!

The GORWELION Centre is situated on the outskirts of Bala, signposted off the A494. Set in beautiful countryside on the Rhiwlas estate.

Built in 2008 it comprises of a group of buildings that retain many of the original features of the stone farm buildings and water powered timber yard they replace. Predominately glass fronted, they have panoramic views over our hills and fields

We have a gift shop and plant sales and a licensed cafe serving home cooked food. We use locally sourced produce whenever possible and the meat is all from our award winning butcher T. J. Roberts of Bala. We take particular pride in the cakes Stephanie bakes on the premises and the chips that are hand cut, twice cooked and the right potatoes!

The Play Barn or "Ysgubor" as it should be called, is the most substantial of the other buildings. We allow children free use of this equipment included in the price of a children's meal from our menu, £4.50.

We also have two function rooms, one attached to the Play Barn and mainly used for children's parties. The other is "The Garden Room" and is used for all sorts of functions: Private parties and dinners, dance groups and workshops, it can also be used for exhibitions.

We also host Weddings here. Larger functions are housed in a Marquee. We have a wedding licence for "The Garden Room". Please just talk to us to learn about all of the options.

Gorwelion is a terrific venue for so many events, we want this space to be made use of in as many ways as possible, we even have an amphitheatre! Everyone is welcome to just call in for lunch but do stay longer, park up and follow one of the walks from the door or just enjoy the spot. Use our Play Barn or outdoor playground, take advantage of a photo opportunity at the Giant Chairs and enjoy all of the other artwork that helps to make this place so special

We built Show Gardens at RHS Shows at Tatton Park and Hampton Court Palace. The advantage of this was we were able to salvage plants and structures to use ourselves. The gardens have evolved quite quickly with some interesting collections of plants as a result of this and we aim to keep developing it.

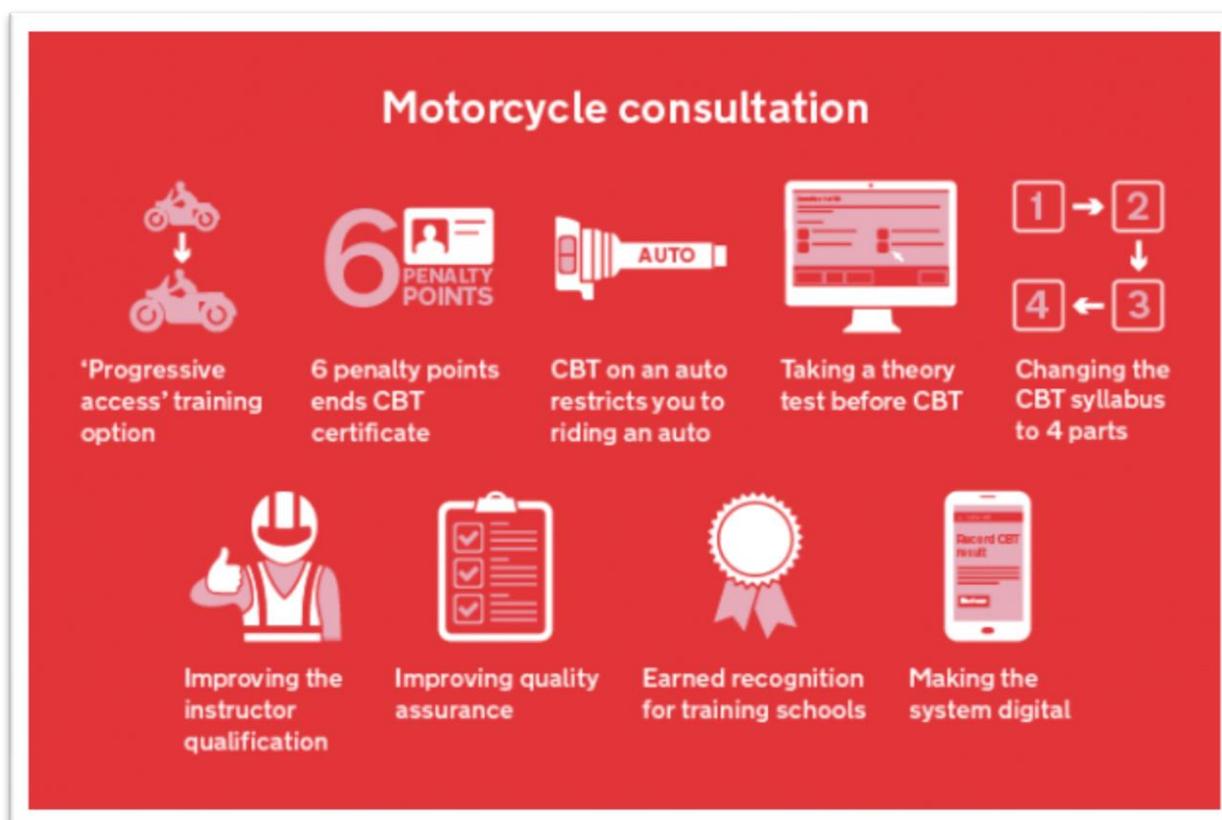
We are particularly keen on the café and food generally. We cook pretty well everything ourselves and have a good reputation for our home cooked meals and of course the cakes that Stephanie bakes.

Apart from the Gardens we have a lot to entertain children. There is a sunken trampoline and in the woods on the "Boncyn" we have built a wooden fort, there are ropes and a zip wire, all the ingredients for imaginative play!

Families often become garden members, joining and spending many afternoons with us over the season. We also appeal to groups and coach parties and can offer packages including food and drink.

Caerau Gardens, open 5 days a week 10.00- 5.00 throughout the season from Easter to October

Improving motorcycle training: consultation results



Update the qualification process for motorcycle instructors

We'd like to replace the current compulsory basic training (CBT) and direct access scheme (DAS) instructor assessments with a single assessment. Instructors would then be able to provide training for all categories of motorcycle after passing it. 87% of those who responded to the consultation supported improving the way that instructors qualify to provide motorcycle training.

We'll be working on this next year, and we'll update you on how we get on with this.

Update the content and structure of the CBT syllabus

We proposed to update the CBT syllabus, so it's aligned more closely with the national standard for riding mopeds and motorcycles. Riders will be required to 'know and understand' rather than 'be taught' the different elements in the CBT syllabus. This reflects a more modern approach to client-centred learning. 85% of those who responded to the consultation agreed we should restructure CBT courses to focus on:

the importance of equipment and safety clothing on-site training motorcycling theory on-road practical riding skills.

We'll let you know more about this in next year, and update you on when the changes to the CBT syllabus will be implemented.

Improving motorcycle training: consultation results

Strengthen the quality assurance scheme for motorcycle instructors

We want to introduce mandatory quality assurance checks for all approved motorcycle training courses (this includes CBT, DAS and any future progressive access training courses) – not just CBT. This would give assurance that training is being provided to the required standard.

97% of those who responded to the consultation support increasing the range of checks that DVSA carries out on motorcycle training schools

We'll let you know more about how these quality assurance checks will work, next year.

Introduce a licence upgrade training course

We proposed to introduce a training option to let riders below the age of 24 ride larger motorcycles by progressive access, without having to take a further practical test.

92% of those who responded to the consultation support introducing a training course that existing riders can take to upgrade their motorcycle licence.

We'll need to carry out a further consultation to work through the details of how the licence upgrade training course will work. We plan to consult on this in Spring 2018 and will let you know when we announce this.

Restrict learner riders to automatic motorcycles if used for CBT

We think it's important to restrict riders to the type of motorcycle that they completed CBT with. This will make sure that riders have the skills they need when riding independently.

84% of those who responded to the consultation agreed we should restrict riders who take their CBT course on an automatic motorcycle to only riding automatic bikes.

This is something we'll need to carry out a further consultation on, to see how this will work. We'll also need to look into how riders that complete their CBT on an automatic motorcycle, can upgrade their license to manual afterwards.

Improving motorcycle training: consultation results

Revoking CBT certificates

We proposed that CBT certificates should be revoked if the learner rider gets 6 penalty points, during the 2 year validity period of their CBT. This means that they'll be unable to ride until another CBT course has been successfully completed. 85% support revoking CBT certificates from riders who get 6 penalty points as it would stop learner riders from riding with L plates after getting points for offences including careless or dangerous riding.

This is something we'll need to carry out a further consultation on, to see how this will work. We'll need to work with DVLA on this too.

A digital platform for the CBT administrative process

We want to explore options, with DVLA, to move the administration of CBT from its current paper-based system to a digital platform.

89.9% agreed that the CBT administration process should be on a digital platform. Many people considered that it would be easier to check the expiry of their CBT certificate online.

We intend to introduce a digital platform as soon as we can, but this will be dependent on other IT priorities both at DVSA and DVLA. It might be possible to schedule some of the work into IT changes that have already been planned to enhance current DVSA and DVLA systems. I'll keep you updated with how this work progresses.

Theory test before or as part of CBT

We think it's really important all learner riders pass a theory and hazard perception test before taking their CBT. It'd make sure new riders have the theoretical knowledge and understanding of the rules of the road before they ride independently.

85% agreed new riders should have to pass a theory test before they take a CBT course, or as part of their course, to help them ride safely on our busy roads.

We will need to consider the full impact of introducing the requirement to take a theory test as part of CBT and we'll consult further on this in 2018.

Improving motorcycle training: consultation results

Earned recognition for ATBs and instructors

We'd like to develop an earned recognition scheme to recognise those ATBs who provide higher standards and facilities, and whose instructors achieve consistently high-quality standards.

94% supported introducing a system for motorcycle training schools to be given recognition for consistently high standards.

So, over the next year, we'll develop the criteria for 'earned recognition' with the training industry and develop the functionality of the 'find a moped or motorcycle CBT course' service on GOV.UK.

Next steps for 2018

So to summarise, over the next year we're looking to implement:

- an updated qualification process for motorcycle instructors
- an updated CBT syllabus
- a quality assurance scheme for approved training courses
- a digital platform for the CBT administrative process
- earned recognition for ATB's and instructors

We'll be consulting further, in Spring 2018, to get your views on:

- a licence upgrade training course
- restricting riders to the type of motorcycle that they completed CBT with
- revoking CBT certificates
- taking a theory test before or as part of CBT

[You can read the full report and consultation findings on GOV.UK.](#)

I'm looking forward to implementing these proposals in the next few years, and I'll keep you updated on how we get on with this.



Bolton & District Group – Special Event Meeting

Hi everyone,

At our Group Meeting on the 6th of February 2018 the speaker will be Sarah Sillars, Chief Executive of IAM RoadSmart. The title of her presentation is "IAM RoadSmart - What Next?"

This very special evening will take place at the Mercure Bolton Georgian House Hotel, Manchester Road, Blackrod, Bolton, BL6 5RU, just a few minutes from Junction 6 of the M61. We are extending an invitation to those of you in other groups to hear what Sarah has to say. Come early for free refreshments which will be served from 7.15 pm.

IMPORTANT: Please let me know on 01204 848449 or gkwhittle@btinternet.com) by the 23rd of January if you intend to come so that we can make sure we have enough refreshments for everyone.

Gary Whittle

Secretary
Bolton & District Group



Group Events

Sunday Ride Outs – NEW WINTER TIME its 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.

The Wednesday evening mid week ride outs are finished for this year!

Test Pass's

Congratulations on another test pass goes to

None this month – in hibernation!



Other Events of a two-wheeled nature

6th January – Arenacross – Manchester Arena – arenacrossuk.com

6th January – Dakar Rally – see it on Eurosports TV

6-7th January – Carole Nash Winter Classic – Newark Showground – Notts – www.classicbikeshows.com

28th January – Vic Brittain Trial – Cleobury North, Shropshire – southshropshirecc.co.uk

1st February – Rally with a Chalet – Southport – Merseyside

16-18th February – MCN London Bike Show – ExCel Docklands

3-4th March – Scottish Motorcycle Show – Royal Highland Centre - Edinburgh

7-8th March – Kickback – Stoneleigh Park – Warks – thecustomshow.com

9-18th March – Daytona Bike Week Florida USA

24-45th March – Manchester Bike Show – Event City - Manchester

Club Website Update

We have fresh hands going over our website

<http://www.southcheshiream.org.uk/> reorganising it and updating the diary and Gallery to start off with.

We are now hosting the photographs through our Flickr account to make it easier to upload these and manage them. Link here: -

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/155059034@N08/albums>

So please any pictures taken on any club or interesting bike ride out send them over to Geoff Highfield at gh@highfieldassociates.co.uk or directly to Richard Kinsey at: richard.kinsey@tiscali.co.uk with a brief description and they will arrange for these to be put on to it. A Long or Short story will get a selection in the newsletter for an article too!

If you hold them in a Microsoft programme/file such as "Pictures" you can select the ones you want to send, right click on the mouse on one of them and select "send to", left click on "send to" and left click on "mail recipient". You will be asked what size pictures you want to send. Click on "large". An email will be formed in Microsoft Outlook. Complete it in the usual way and send to me. Use of this method significantly reduces the size of the picture so that several can be sent together.

If you hold them on a smart phone you can mail them directly but in small groups. Some smart phones such as the iPhone will ask if you want to reduce the size of the bundle if it is too big.

If you want a note of recognition/ownership for the photos, please tell us.

Holiday pictures, Presentation Evening, Anniversary Ride Out, Christmas Meal, A date with "Just Jane"? (Interesting) and more are there already.



Christmas Dinner

A great night was had by all that attended with good hearty Christmas fare and plenty of banter.



Who wears a scooter shirt
To a SCAM club event!!



Hotly contested high stake game of
Hoopla after dessert!!



Caption Competition

It's that time of year when Sue has more time on her hands than she knows what to do with so while she was surfing the web she came across this picture. Now we need a caption for the picture or even better a quote on what she was looking for?

Answers to biker5chef@yahoo.co.uk

We have a caption!

'Looking a little sheepish around the bends..!'

Pete James



That's all this month

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

The Highlander

RoadSmart
FOR ADVANCED DRIVERS AND RIDERS - AUTUMN 2017

