

## Editors Ramblings

Ah now that's better, sunshine, dry roads and a bit of warmth that even had the summer air suit out! Plenty of bikes out over the bank holiday and the last weekend or so. I hope our members are out enjoying this weather too. Please give me a tale or two from your adventures on two wheels or SCAM related. No qualifications needed all it needs is for your passion for two wheels to show in what you write about. Let's see a few articles from you.

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 June 2018

## A Word from the Chair

Hi all, we are now well into the year and our first training course is in full swing which Chris will talk about in his column. We have had a couple of committee meetings and Andy Gralton has joined the committee after us promising to take it easy on him this year! No problem Andy and welcome to the committee and I am sure from your first contributions you will be a valuable committee member going forward.

## GDPR

GDPR..... we have sent out the IAM's standard statement to all members and renewals which they require all members to sign and tick a couple of boxes and send back to Geoff. Now if we do not get this back we will not be able to contact you so please do your best and do this so that you can receive our newsletter and any other communication from SCAM. I know from receiving about a hundred emails so far from anything I am subscribed to this is a bit of a pain but must be done. The IAM does not have a central database of section members so an email will not suffice or a link to the IAMS website to click on so a paper version, so paper it has to be. We are not allowed to do our own format for this so we may not agree with how it is written but our hands are tied!

With that I am now getting ready for a trip up and round the North Coast 500, well that and MCN's 767 which gives a nicer end to it. I will have a report in next months newsletter on our trip.

Next committee meeting is on the 21<sup>st</sup> at Nantwich Fire Station 8pm for anyone who wishes to attend.

Happy riding everybody, stay safe

Gordon



## Yamaha Off Road Experience

Seeing as the “Cardiac Kid” has survived a few scares! He is now thinking of let’s say more new ways to challenge his body, so with this he twisted my arm to join him. Well no point in nearly killing yourself if there isn’t a witness is there?

This was centred in Hafren Forest near Llanidloes Mid Wales, so an early start was needed for the hundred miles or so to the centre. We met at the usual point in Winsford before a spot of A49 before weaving our way over to the A483 a cracking road that always brings a smile to your face! Newtown reached it was on to the A470 to Llanidloes and a couple of narrow lanes to the farm the centre was located. The forest covers forty square miles with may fire roads and tracks to explore.



Arrived on time and we gathered with the others there for the day and we were kitted up in full off-road gear, the only thing required were thick socks everything else was provided if required including waterproof sock/boot liners. Knee protectors, body armour all on we all looked the part for our day. Next up was the day’s itinerary with do’s and don’ts safety instructions et al.

Bikes next and not surprisingly were Yamaha off roaders 250s and 450s for the brave! All this years or last year’s models and looking nice and clean for now!

## Presidents Page

Well here we are June already, I don't know where the year is going, apart from fast.

The spring course has completed four sessions and the Associates are still attending so they must be gaining new skills to add to their skill set.

On training session three of the spring course we stopped at the Tickled Trout fishery Loynton, outside Eccleshall on the Newport road, I was summoned to see the estate manager, apparently there were too many of us, and the way we had parked our bikes was taking up too much space, the upshot of the conversation is that we are still welcome, but we have to ring them informing them we are coming, how many, and approximately what time, and we have to park in the first car park on the right, the one saying fishermen only, regarding training sessions that will be my responsibility, however if any social rides decide to use the Tickled Trout fishery please ring beforehand, details are

The Tickled Trout

Loynton Trout Fishery,

Loynton ST20 OQA

01785 284261

[info@loyntonlakes.co.uk](mailto:info@loyntonlakes.co.uk)

Your cooperation will be gratefully appreciated as it a lovely spot and a good debrief point.

I am on Holiday in Spain on my motorcycle and I would like to thank Don Wood for taking session 4 of the spring course for me, greatly appreciated Don thank you, hopefully it was a good session. I will write an article when I return to wet your appetite for those who have thought about touring abroad but have never taken the plunge.

That concludes this months rambling, ride safe, be happy.

Chris Steel.

President.



## Yamaha Off Road Experience - continued

A bit of a walk around followed giving you a few tips on starting the bikes (all electric start) how to sit on them with arms high and bent for better control. Standing in the right position over the front and not leaning back etc. this course was for the novice off roader and even catered for novice bikers as well.

So we all had a small run out of the farm up a track and back again to get a feel for the bikes we had selected and had the chance to change to a less or more powerful bike if required. We were then led up into the hills to a large grass field where we were able to get used to the bikes power and handling on loose surfaces and moving our bodies about and getting the inside leg out to help if you slid over to far and this could help pick the bike upright before crashing over. Keeping your weight at the front of the bike seated as well as standing to stop the bike wheelieing and to give it grip on the front too. It was surprising how quick most of us got after this little session showing how you can adapt to a different discipline with just a bit of practice.



We then were led by the instructors through fire roads and tracks and trails through the forest giving us a taste of the different surfaces and how they felt underneath our wheels.

## Yamaha Off Road Experience - continued

We were now off to a shale open track with berms and table tops on it for us to race around (well tentatively feel our way round mostly!) the tight turns and ruts made for a few sketchy moments when opening the throttle and the bike not quite gripping like you thought it might! That leg sticking out definitely became useful then! This was quite hard work fighting the bike round the course so we eventually finished this and headed back to the farm for our supplied packed lunch to refuel for the afternoon session.



After lunch we separated into two groups, being cautious I kept to the more conservative group, as they say better be good in a group rather than hanging on for grim death!

Up further into the forest we now went into more technical trails with steeper ascents and descents to test our selves on. We were now getting some wet patches with mud and one particularly big puddle which if taken too fast gave you a rather fine mud bath soaking. Ha ha not catching me out this time but a couple did need their towel for a shower at the end of the day!

## Yamaha Off Road Experience - continued

Last up we were shown a loop through the forest about a mile or so around where we could lap around as much as we liked. This had many corrugated lumps with puddles to squirm into and out of with a tree to get under, sharp corners testing the control of the bike. By now we were standing up more often giving us more control of the bike and less pummelling of our rear ends! Great fun was had and the day got better and better as we all progressed. Well I say all, that novice did manage to fall of and maybe a cracked rib for a souvenir of his day!



All back to base and the bikes were getting power washed back to gleaming again as we changed into our road gear for our trip back home. A full on day (especially with the round trip included) Well worth the day off to do it and a great way to get a new skill to help on the road if the conditions get a bit sketchy!

Plenty of courses are available and our course at £205 for the day with everything included was very good value.

See them here [www.yamaha-offroad-experience.co.uk](http://www.yamaha-offroad-experience.co.uk)

The Highlander

## Bank Holiday 400 mile Sunday

The Cardiac Kid and myself decided that the first good Sunday/weekend that came up we should plan a nice big ride to get the cobwebs well and truly brushed away from our bikes and more so from our selves! Now we had already done a big day the Friday before on the Yamaha Adventure day but hey we had the Saturday to recover didn't we? Well CK did and I did my usual big cycle ride in the Peak District! Monday then for recovery! We had mooted this ride to a few of our friends from our Dolomites holiday last year and one by one they all confirmed that they could make it. This was turning out to be a real outing as well as a reunion as we had not met some of them since that holiday. Andy and Terry with Roger and Dee even booked a hotel for the weekend and Alma and Alun were not too far away from our start in Caernarfon, so it was the three of us that met at Winsford at 7:30am (The Caretaker joined us too!)

A lot of the usual roads taken well familiar to us all the A49 then off towards Broxton (no stop today!) Ruthin and the A494 a brilliant road every time I ride it. On to the A5 to Capel Curig and through the valley to Llanberis and on to Caernarfon where waiting for us were the crew in the square in the sunshine. Welcomes done we organised ourselves ready for the trip with me volunteering to stay at the back much to CK's disgust he he I like to keep him on his toes! Time to start our 170-mile Wales tour.

It was out on the A4085 to Beddgelert a great start to the ride on some classic welsh roads on the southern road from Snowdon. Passed by Llyn Cwellyn and other waters for added scenery. At Beddgelert it was a right onto the A498 to Pont Aberglaslyn and Garreg before reaching the A487 which opened up a bit to Maentwrog. The sun was out, and the roads were clean so we were enjoying ourselves as only motorcyclists can on a bank holiday as the roads did have a bit of traffic on them but we were able to keep moving with plenty of forward observation. We headed South West on the A496 and it did get a bit chilly for a while as we went right to the coast near Harlech. This did not last long as we headed back inland and into the warm sun.



## Bank Holiday 400 mile Sunday - Continued

A quick stop for a leg stretch and it was off again, and Dolgellau was next up heading south through the National Park on the A470 the roads just kept on giving happy vibes through our warm tires! Back to the coast and the A483 to Llangelynin and completing the loop back to Dolgellau on the B4405 which even Alun had not been on and will be doing so again from his enjoyment today! Up to Bala now on the A494 a favourite road. Just as you think you have done enough great roads we were then on the A4212 and B4591 out of Bala to Ffestiniog. An afternoon stop at the National Canoe centre by some small rapids gave us some refreshments and an ice-cream to help us cool down. We did stop for lunch earlier at Dolgoch A nice café with a great view of the surrounding hills as well. Ffestiniog reached we were then on to Betws-y-Coed a bit of fast A5 and A4086 we then reached Llanberis. We just had to return to Caernarfon now on the A4086 to complete the Ride route. We did get there a bit later than planned because of a couple of detours but this did not take away any of the enjoyment of the ride. Just time to stop in the square for a coffee before CK and myself had to hop back on the bikes and do the return journey home with the sun on our backs. We took more main roads just to save a bit of time and they did get a bit busy on the A55, but this was soon cleared, and we got home before our wives called missing persons! A great days riding and 400 miles is a lot, but we took it all in our stride on our mile munching machines that were able to cope with the fun roads as well as the mileage. Just the perfect practice day for our trip to Scotland next month on the NC500 route. Blog and pictures to start in next months newsletter.





## Motorcycle Articles in your Roadsmart Magazine

Yes we all do it. Put it in a corner and forget about it! Well just to tempt you into looking for it again we have an article on the North York Moors which gives some good ideas for riding up in that area.

Maria Costello MBE has a two page spread on riding on the road and track.

REME Riders - how ex military personal adapt to civilian life with the help of motorcycling

## Test Pass's

Brian Glover-Smith – National Observer Test  
And Local Observer Assessor Supplement



### **Other Events of a two-wheeled nature**

1-3<sup>rd</sup> June – Drove-T-Drink Rally – Kirklington nr Carlisle – a classic and custom show

1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> June – TT Races – Isle of Man

8-10<sup>th</sup> June – World Superbikes – Brno

15-17<sup>th</sup> June – British Superbikes – Snetterton 300

15-17<sup>th</sup> June – Thhe Old Groats Grumble IV – Shottle – Derbyshire

16-17<sup>th</sup> June – Prescott Bike Festival – Gotherington, Cheshire [www.prescottbikefestival.co.uk](http://www.prescottbikefestival.co.uk)

23-24<sup>th</sup> June – Cock O'the North Road Races – Olivers Mount

8<sup>th</sup> July – Milton Keynes Bike Show – StadiumMK FREE!

22<sup>nd</sup> July – Lytham's Classic Car and Bike Show – Lytham Hall Blackpool

### **Caption Competition - NEW**

**Here we go again, after the last caption which had some fantastic entries let's see what you can do with this one people!**

**Answers as usual to [biker5chef@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:biker5chef@yahoo.co.uk)**

**Fire Away!**



## 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](mailto:gh@highfieldassociates.co.uk) or directly to Richard Kinsey at: [richard.kinsey@tiscali.co.uk](mailto: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.



## Group Events

Sunday Ride Outs – NEW SUMMER TIME its 9am 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.

Wednesday Evening Ride Outs The first and third Wednesdays start from Starbucks, Holmes Chapel Road, Middlewich - next to the Shell garage. The second and fourth start from The Little Chef, Radway Green Road at junction 16, M6. All rides start at 7pm. Please arrive about 10 minutes earlier with a full tank. There are fuel stations at both start points. There is no ride out when there is a fifth Wednesday in the month

That's all this month

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

The Highlander

