

Editors Ramblings

Ok who's missing summer? Roasting hot sweaty days with unlimited sunshine? Down with a big bump into a so so September which has tried to make up for the lack of rainfall in just a few weeks. Well never mind everyone the newsletter is full of holiday tales which will make you forget about what we are about to endure for the next few months. Lets enjoy our members European adventures and if you have any tales, pictures or stories from this summer please share them with us here.

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 October 2018

A Word from the Chair

I'd better start this month seeing as I let it slip from my limited memory! with a congratulations to Chris Steel who in August was reassessed for his National/Local Observer Assessor and passed with flying colours. Chris was very pleased with how the reassessment went and he's good for another three years. Well done Chris, well deserved for your hard work.

We have been reminded that next year in March SCAM will be twenty-five years young. With that in mind we would like suggestions/ideas from the membership on how to celebrate this. We had a quick discussion at this month's committee meeting on what we might do but as the success of the group comes from all of our members we would like to hear your ideas and choose at the next committee meeting or two. Please contact me on the details above or any other committee member that you are in contact with. Let's make this a great celebration fitting for this group's success.



A reminder for the Skittles evening on the 12th of this month, we still have spaces to fill to make this event a success. Please anyone thinking of going along contact Geoff, so we know the exact numbers, we are still a bit short of the ideal twenty plus so please support your group, so we can keep putting on these events for you.

Happy riding everybody, stay safe

Gordon



Presidents Page

October already, where has the year gone, it only seems five minutes ago asking work colleagues if they had had a good Christmas.

The Summer course has been completed, congratulations to all the Associates for their dedication and commitment, if any of the Summer Associates want any additional sessions I have spare capacity on the Autumn course, so if you want to join a session the dates are on the web site, just contact me, preferably by the Tuesday before the session as I allocate Observers to the session on Wednesday evening, so your deadline is Wednesday lunch time.

As one course finishes so another starts, I would like to welcome the Autumn Course Associates to the group, and to congratulate them on deciding to increase their skill set, it will all feel a bit strange at the moment but trust me it gets better.

I notice some members have been replacing their machine, and in some cases adding to them, I have changed my GS for, yes you guessed another GS, this is the tenth GS I have had now and they just keep getting better, I know the new 1250 is out soon, but I decided to go for an old one, as they have ironed out the wrinkles on this one.

Geoff Highfield had parted with his trusty Triumph, and purchased a Kawasaki, in red, Geoff enjoy, and Dave Cox has gone all supercharged with a Kawasaki HS2, or is that a train, anyway it has a supercharger on it. Enjoy Dave.

I know this will appear elsewhere in the Newsletter, but we are short on numbers for the skittles evening, this is a fun night out, you can bring Partners, Friends, Uncles Aunts, in fact a pulse is the only requirement, so please come along and have some fun in a relaxed friendly atmosphere, at the Bickerton Poacher.

That is all from me for this month, so until next month, safe riding.

Chris Steel

President.



Presentation Evening

A great turnout for our annual presentation of certificates for the associates that completed one of our courses over the last year. A very interesting talk on the Coast to Coast to Coast ride on a Harley was a fine complement to the evening's agenda. All photos are available to be emailed to you so let me know by email and I will get these to you. A big thank you to Lee McGarity from the Fire Service and Counsellor Margaret Simons for attending and presenting the certificates.



Presentation Evening



Roll Call of associates completing all sessions: -

Lesley Graffham Chris Stroud Alex Loader Dave Downs Katy Johnson Colin Whitehead

Mike Hayden Ted Mellor Dan Hamersley Mike Steadman Bob Hall Gareth Williams

Paul Kunz Mike Stroud Paul Kinnersley Stuart Morris Martin Hulme Nathan Wells

Stephen Roberts Richard Yates Colin Rigby

The Fab Four get wet in Spain (and frustrated in Andorra) pt 2

I woke up, that was the first bonus of the day, and peered out of the window, that does not good, the clouds were black and full of rain, we all sat down to breakfast and discussed the ominous black clouds, it will be ok, was the general response. Having had breakfast we rallied outside and prepared for the scenic mountain route that had been planned by John Bailey and Ian, as we prepared a few spots of rain started, it will pass was the general tone, and we set off a few miles down the road we turned right to start the mountain road, two miles down the road the heavens opened on a biblical scale, to the point where you could not see your hand in front of your face, John Brady and Ian turned round and said they were going back to the hotel, John Brady our lead was still out there, I work on the rule no one gets left behind, so I said I would catch him up and bring him back, it was slow going, and fortunately because John uses his mirrors had noticed no one was behind him and turned round, I explained that we were regrouping back at the hotel to wait for the storm to pass, then there was a bang of thunder and a flash of lightening, we joined John and Ian back at the hotel, where we discussed the situation, as with all waterproofs they leak in the crotch area, and mine were no exception, I felt like I had wet myself without the momentary warm feeling, so a change of undercrackers and gloves, then wait to see what the weather did.

During our wait for the weather to change, Ian announced that his headlight bulb had gone, not again, those who remember reading our last holiday will know this has happened before, and we ended up in the BMW dealer in Malaga. The BMW 1200 RT has a headlight bulb that is interesting to change, it would challenge a gynaecologist, as we had nothing better to do John Bailey had a go at getting it out, well the bulb cover came off easily enough, the connector on the bulb not too bad, then the two metal spring clips that hold the bulb into place after that.



The Fab Four get wet in Spain (and frustrated in Andorra) pt 2

Anyone who has had any experience of bulbs will know these clips are quite thin and clip into a bracket either side of the bulb, you have to push towards the bulb to compress the clip and move it outward, due to the thinness of the metal and the tension of the clip it digs into your skin like a cheese wire, after some swearing John managed to get the right hand clip undone, twenty minutes later and three of us attempting the left hand clip was resisting all attempts, so I fired up the sat nav and hit the nearest BMW dealer icon, forty three miles Andorra BMW Motoraad, having been to Andorra once before and having come to conclusion never again, it seemed the saying, be careful what you wish for, sprang to mind, the Spanish Police are strict on light not working and the fine is steep so we agreed to go to Andorra, the rain had abated to a continuous drizzle, so we hit the go button on the Sat Nav and set off for the dealer, It is hard to take in and appreciate the scenery when you are wet cold and concentrating on getting somewhere, anyway after an hour we crossed into the principality of Andorra, and set about finding the dealer, it was not that hard to find, it was a multi franchise dealer, BMW cars and bikes, Jaguar and Land rover, all four of went to reception and explained our situation, Manuel or whatever his mane was looked expressionless at us, as if we were speaking a foreign language, hold on we were, after asking if anyone spoke English the lady on Land rover reception came over and acted as translator, we explained our situation and she explained to Manuel, jabber, jabber. Jabber jabber, the workshop is fully booked, and we can't help you, we explained that we were not exactly from down the road, could nothing be done, Jabber, jabber, he will ask the service manager, someone will have a look in ten minutes



The Fab Four get wet in Spain (and frustrated in Andorra) pt 2

Excellent, ten minutes past, the John Bailey say stuff this lets have another go, John managed to get the bulb out, excellent, then a mechanic appeared and again no English, we waved the bulb at him, and Ian gave him the new bulb, he nodded and through gestures explained he would have to take the bike into the workshop, we nodded and he rode off to the workshop, I looked at my watch it was ten to one, I knew that the have a two hour lunch break at one, so this will be interesting. Exactly at one o'clock the bike returned, the mechanic said jabber, jabber, I beckoned over miss Landrover 2018, and she translated, she explained that when John had removed the bulb he had knocked off one of the clips, and it had fallen into the bottom of the headlight, and we would have to come back at three so the fairing could be removed in order for the headlight to be removed and the clip retrieved, we looked at each other, smiled and said ok see you at three and left, we decided to find somewhere for lunch, and have think.

We found a restaurant and had some lunch, during which we discussed the total lack of customer service at BMW Andorra, John was adamant that both clips were hanging down when he removed the bulb, it was obvious that when the bike was ridden round to the workshop that the clip became dislodged and fell into the headlight, John decided to had a look at the job again, having removed the cover, the mechanic had fitted the bulb and secured it with the one clip, but had not connected the wiring, John connected the connector and Ian tried the lights, hey presto, the light was working, cover back on, that will do until we get home then it can be sorted at the next service. It was obvious that they had not connected it in order to ensure we returned at three, well we did not, we carried on with our holiday, we rode the route we had intended to do, and despite being a wet day had turned out to quite an adventure, albeit not the one we had envisaged, we arrived back at the hotel, got changed into dry clothing and had a drink or two, then we had the customary guess what is on the menu and had a nice if plain meal and recounted the days excitement, it had been a day that we had not foreseen, but having said that despite everything it will be a day we will laugh about in years to come, I am already laughing about it as I have writing this article.

Tomorrow we are of to our next destination, it can't be any more unpredictable or can it.

TO BE CONTINUED

Chris Steel



Induction Evening for Autumn Course

A fresh batch of associates attended the Induction evening in Crewe at the end of September in preparation for their upcoming course. A big welcome to everybody and I am sure you will all have a great time extending your skills and enjoyment of your motorcycling from this course.



Associates in no particular order: -

Alan Pennell

Mark Welsh

Andy Willis

Colin Cummins-White

Jordan Dolan

Paddy McMaster

Test Pass's

Neil Jewel IAM RoadSmart Masters
Dave Cox IAM RoadSmart Masters
Both with distinctions, Dave also passed his
National Observer Test
Paul Kunz Advanced Test
Dan Hammersley Advanced Test
Paul Kinnersley Advanced Test
Chris Stroud Advanced Test
Jason Marbell Advanced Test



Other Events of a two-wheeled nature

11th November – Ring of Red – London and Manchester

16-18th November – Moto GP – Valencia - Spain

17-25th November – Motorcycle Live – NEC - Birmingham

Club Events

MONTHLY CLUB NITE

Last Thursday of the month at the Hawk Inn in Haslington by Crewe – starting August– Our own version of Conversation Street, I'm sure there will be plenty of discussion and maybe some of it repeatable too! 8pm onwards all welcome.



CARVERY & SKITTLES EVENING



Friday 12th of October 7:30pm

£10.50 inc One Course Carvery with option for other courses

Bickerton Poacher

Wrexham Road

Bulkeley SY14 8BE

We need 20 guests minimum for this evening which has proved a great success on previous years. A nice atmosphere with food and a bit of gentle competition on a traditional old-fashioned skittle alley.

Please contact Geoff with your name and number of guests as soon as you can commit to this.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENING

Our annual dinner this year will be held at the Bleeding Wolf, Scholar Green, Stoke on Trent on the 14th of December. Please keep this date free in your diaries – more details to follow on the menu and booking details in next month's newsletter. Menu still to be confirmed.

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.



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.

Wednesday Evening Ride Outs – Finished till next year!

Social Evening – Last Thursday of the month at the Hawk in Haslington - 8pm

Skittles Friday the 12th October

FOR SALE

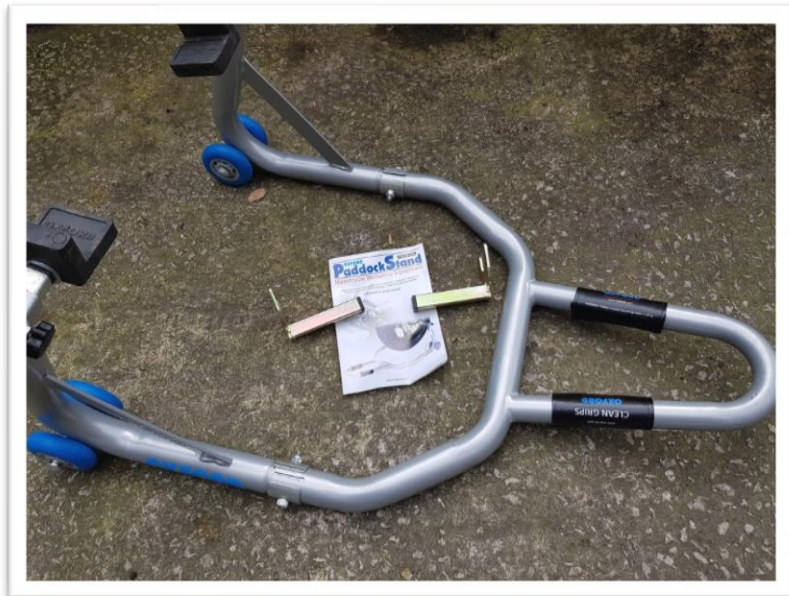
Oxford Paddock Stand

Never Used £30

Can Deliver

Phone Gordon 07590596380

Any other items you have for sale just get in touch with an email to the Ed



That's all this month

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

The Highlander

