

Editors Ramblings

Another month has gone by and most of it has been on the bike which has been fantastic, looks like I had the best of the weather over in Europe while the UK was keeping itself green! Did you get out? Remember this is your newsletter and although I will give you some group updates it's for you as well to let us know what you have been up to on your bike either training or holidaying or what you have encountered when out and about. A review of something you use on the bike maybe. Please do not be shy any contribution is welcomed.

Remember we have our Facebook page – please join and contribute on it - Only for club members – any weird names or business names let us know so we can allow you to join the page. <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 July 2019



1994 to 2019



A Word from the Chair

As I have been away for most of the month I have not a lot to say group wise apart from reminding you all of our 25th Anniversary Ride Out on Sunday 14th July 9am which it will be great to see as many of you coming out for the whole ride or just part of it as your time will allow. Dave Coomber has done a great route to Aberystwyth.

Concentration – our ride will be 240 miles for the full route and having just done 3,300 miles over two weeks to the Balkans and when on the road for this amount of time it is important that we keep our concentration at all times as just one slip on such a piece of equipment that we put our leg over as our motorcycles. One of our group had to take the plane home from one such lapse luckily with just a dislocated shoulder as a war wound! More details when I get around to doing my holiday article in the next few months.

See you in a few weeks

Have a great year everyone, and please contact me with any queries throughout the year.

Happy riding everybody, stay safe

Gordon



Presidents Page

The Spring course has been completed, I would like to remind the Spring Associates that they can use sessions on the forthcoming Summer course to either complete their training or final check ride prior to test, please let me know beforehand so I can allocate an Observer to you. When you have taken your test please let us know how you have got on, the examiner is not allowed to disclose the information, I know we have had some success already, to the other Associates waiting for test, good luck.

As one course finishes so another starts, the Summer course induction evening is on the 5th with session one on the 7th not a full course but it will be enjoyable, to the Summer Course Associates I say welcome.

You may remember I informed you about my trip to Vancouver North Hospital, the good news is the insurance company have accepted the claim and less £150 excess are settling the claim, at least I can sleep easier now, my advice is to keep all paperwork you are given, make copies for your own records and send everything to your insurance provider, as that way the claim should not be delayed, in my case they never asked for the doctors report, then when they received my claim, decided they needed it, which led to delays.

I am off to Spain and Portugal with four friends, the usual suspects, I will write an article upon my return, but I think the Chairman's trip will be first.

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

Chris Steel.

President.



Quick Review – Givi XSTREAM 15Ltr Tankbag

A new bike and a new tank bag needed as now not an adventure model to put a bag on!

A bit of research on sizes and cost brought me to this model to fit the RT. The Givi XSTREAM 15Ltr Not too big but with enough space for those items you need at hand on a tour without searching panniers!

Plenty of waterproof features with solid zips and an inner lining with drawstring and a bright yellow cover as well, nothing getting wet here. A nice feature is the tablet cover so you have two see through top panels to have maps and or directions at hand.



With the tablet cover on it is a bit of extra work to get in The main compartment but Worth it for the information You can have at hand. The base can be moved back or Forward as your bike needs I need to do this as the horn Likes attention when near full Lock!

The quick release is a little stiff on this Bag needing you to put a bit of force in Before it is released, I prefer that than it Being to easy. RRP is about £99 but can Be bought for around £75 plus tank ring £13ish. I am sure this will be in service For a few years yet.

The Highlander



Long Term Review – Alpinestars SMX-1 Gloves 7,500 miles



7,500 miles! Who would have thought a summer glove in the UK could have done that kind of mileage? Ok half of this has been done on European jollies but hey they have been useful here too! Never a fan of thick gloves for the feel on handlebars it is even worse when your hands get hot and sweaty so I got these to keep the hands cool enough to keep control and have enough protection. Goat leather on the palms and knuckle protector with a 3D mesh over the back of the hand. A bit of suede as well makes these a nice looking glove which is touchscreen compatible as well saving taking them off to use a phone etc. I use these in about 22 degree and above temperatures and have been great in keeping my hands comfortable enough to not contemplate not having gloves on at all. They are well made with the only wear coming from the mesh material coming into contact with the Velcro and pulling the threads a little making them look a bit worn on the thumb. Well recommended for the £45 I paid for them

The Highlander



Wales Long Weekend – part two

Up early on bank holiday Monday I had the chance to have a wander around Tenby and its colourful buildings and down and around the harbour sampling the sea air before breakfast was available, so my appetite was ready for it when I got back. The bikes packed again at the front of the hotel we headed out of Tenby west towards Pembroke and over the estuary on the A477 then A4076 towards Haverfordwest and a lot of roundabouts every 500 yards or so! Finally, on the A487 towards St Davids and the coast for some lovely views to go with the improving roads to enjoy. Fishguard reached next the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park was delivering on its status of a nice place to be. We then headed south on the A478 a disappointing stretch of road spoilt with restrictive limits taking all the joy out of that stretch before we got down to the A40 and a bit of straightforward road to get us to Carmarthen but also the bank holiday traffic! At least we were on bikes and managed to get through it with just a little delay. Another loop to get off the A40 took us on the A485 then the A482 to LLanwrda a nice stretch of bends nicely sweeping through the countryside. Next up was the A483 towards Bulth Wells where we had our lunch stop. North it was now and Rhayader on the edge of the Ellan valley and the roads now higher up gave us great views as we sped towards our next nights stay in Aberystwyth. The weather had behaved itself all this time.... Until we were two minutes from the hotel, and it started raining heavily just to make us damp as we got inside!



Tenby Beach



Wales Long Weekend – Part Two

Well the last day had to come and homeward bound we were to go. Now last days can be just a trip back home on some good roads or just a get me there type of thing. Well not here, I think this for the percentage of great motorcycle roads in a day matched anything else! It started gently enough with a few miles up the A487 through Talybont and up to Machynlleth where we ramped it up road wise on the A493 west on the coast to Aberdovey around and north to Fairbourne on some brilliant tight technical coast roads lovely. Dolgellau reached we then headed south on the A487 back to Machynlleth to complete the loop. We had a coffee stop soon after where Alun and Alma split off to get home but the rest of us got on the A489 for more welsh magic roads to Mallwyd. It was then on the A458 then B4395 another tight tricky road to concentrate on before we got to Lake Vyrnwy and our lunch stop in the sun. popular with training by the police motorcycle division as well. Lunch finished it was a quick loop around the lake before heading towards Bala on the B4391 a direction we usually head in the opposite way and I liked it this way, excellent road and views again! Fuel topped up for the little tanks but the RT's still good for the rest of the day we then crossed the A5 onto the A4212 past Llyn Celyn and a right on the B4391 over the moor and some very open roads looking great in the bright sunshine we were getting for this ride. Before Blaenau Ffestiniog we swung right on the B4407 towards Pentrefoelas a road that we had not been on before which surprised us with how nice it was and that we had missed it in all these years! We were nearing the planned route now to Denbigh and the A543 completed this before we stopped for an evening beverage and our final roads home for the trip. This had been such a blast for the sheer number of great roads and scenery that we managed on this day riding.

Another great long weekend on the Motorcycle completed and a good Way of getting ready for our big European trip to the Balkans in just Over a weeks' time.

– The Highlander



Roadsmart Inform News

Linda Ashmore, national observer and Masters mentor for [Dorchester and West Dorset Advanced Motorcyclists](#), is looking for female observers for a women-only Skills Day on Tuesday 13 August in Derbyshire to introduce women riders to advanced skills and IAM RoadSmart. The event will take place during the week of the [Women's International Motorcycle Association's International Rally](#) taking place at the YHA Castleton, S33 8WB from 11 to 17 August. The group has had up to 50 women bikers on previous female Skills Days. If you would like further information e-mail Linda direct at linda.ashmore@hotmail.co.uk. **Supplied by Linda Ashmore**

Car drivers, motorcyclists, commercial vehicle operators...Many people love getting behind the wheel or in the saddle. So what does the future hold as cars and motorbikes become more and more technologically advanced? Will 'autonomous' vehicles remove the enjoyment out of driving and riding? And when will they really arrive? Visit IAM RoadSmart's [A is for Autonomous](#) page to find out more.

Highways England have launched a campaign which focuses on road safety on motorways to help #KeepUsAllMoving. We will be supporting this campaign on social media by sharing its messages on breaking down, variable speed limits, keeping left and to not ignore the Red X signs. IAM RoadSmart would be grateful if you could share these social media posts, using the hashtag #KeepUsAllMoving.

We'll soon be rolling out a new look for the IAM RoadSmart home page. Keep an eye out for the new layout over the next few days by visiting iamroadsmart.com. Once it's live we would welcome your feedback. Please send your thoughts to Kate at kate.tonge@iam.org.uk.

IAM RoadSmart has backed calls for a long-term plan to tackle the 'national scandal' of potholes on UK roads – saying nearly half of people it surveyed have experienced pothole damage to their vehicles. The government's Transport Select Committee has issued a report stating that the current short-term approach to financing road maintenance as being 'not fit for purpose' – which IAM RoadSmart agrees with.



Test Passes:

Roy Emery

Mark Steventon

Richard Downes



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.



Club Website Information

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 SUMER 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. Try to arrive about 15 minutes beforehand with a full tank of fuel. There are fuel stations close to both start points.

Last Thursday of the month – Club Night – The Hawk Haslington - 8pm onwards

25th Anniversary Ride Out – Sunday 14th July 9am Costa Car Park Crewe – come along and join in our celebratory ride out with your fellow members

That's all this month

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

The Highlander



Other Events of a two-wheeled nature

5-7th July World Superbikes Donnington

5-7th July – The Lost Rally – The Duke William, Matlock, Derbyshire

5-8th July – Unwanted MCC's Cock Out Rally – The Rockbar Shobnall Sport and Social Club Staffordshire

6-7th July – National Road Rally – anyone doing this?

7th July – German MotoGP

19-21st July – BSB Snetterton

21st July – Cheshire Classic Car & Motorcycle Show –
Capesthorpe Hall Macclesfield

