

Editors Ramblings

Wow what a change to what we can do on our bikes, who thought a month ago we would be here? Now is a great time for you all to tell us about you, your bike, a trip or anything motorcycle related. It's great that Chris had held back his holiday from last year for an article to read this month as I have dried up on my stories (almost)

I will do an expanded YouTube article with more channels to watch in next months newsletter – any more you can share with members?

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

REMEMBER MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE!

South Cheshire Advanced Motorcyclists Newsletter April 2020



1994 to 2019



A Word from the Chair

Well hello again! Just a little unexpected from last month's announcement to where we are today with life on hold and here at South Cheshire Advanced Motorcyclists things have hit the pause button with the Coronavirus and half of the world in a lockdown situation to slow the impact on the health service and to the population. So, with everything cancelled, the AGM, courses, runs and events we are following government and IAM RoadSmart advice in stopping any activity which involves social interaction which is everything we do. The committee will remain in place until we are able to hold the AGM with the required notice. I know several our group are disappointed in the hiatus and not able to move forward but logistically we have no option. I thank the committee for committing to their roles at this time and if we have any group news, we will get this out to you via Geoff's excellent emails he sends out to you all.

I hope you all keep well and keep away from this nasty virus so that we can eventually get back out on our bikes.



Stay safe - Gordon

Please contact me with any queries you may have 07590596380



Presidents Page

March has not been a good month for the world let alone South Cheshire Advanced Motorcyclists

I had to make a tough decision in light of the corona virus epidemic, I cancelled the Spring course, we have a responsibility to our Observers and Associates, the thought of someone catching the virus and all the complications that follow for attending a training session is too higher a price to pay, it is the hardest decision I have had to make in the twenty six years I have been a member of this group, but ultimately the right one, all the Spring course Associates have been transferred to the Summer course, we will monitor the situation over the next three months and make any decisions regarding the Summer course then, I feel 2020 is going to be the year that was cancelled.

I would like to thank everyone who attended the promotion event at J&S on the 15th it was good to see you all, if a little futile given the end result.

I am not sure how I am going to cope over the next three months, I am staying in as much as possible, heavens forbid I catch the gardening bug.

That is all from me for this month, so to you all and your families stay safe, until next month, take care.

Chris Steel

President

REMEMBER MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE!

Inform News – available on IAM Roadsmart website news

RoadSmart is starting a regular groups gallery featuring the best pictures from events and gatherings from around the country – email to roadsmart@iam.org.uk

Spring Forums cancelled – updates to follow

Mike Quinton CEO stepping down in August

In car infotainment systems like apple car play and Android Auto more dangerous and impact reaction times more than alcohol or drug use!

REMEMBER MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE!



A Day Out Before Lockdown!

I had not managed to get out on the bike for quite a while with one thing and another and with social distancing in place it was just the thing to jump on board and get a decent ride in while the weather was good and as it turned out the last chance to do so for the foreseeable future!

So, the cover was whipped off the bike and tyres pumped up to recommended pressures it was with crossed fingers that the starter button was pressed but no worries as it started straight away with no hesitation after the winter months layup. I had arranged to meet my good friend "Spoons" in Bala with Social Distancing in mind – we considered twenty metres apart and communicating by intercom when we met up!

It was either with excitement, the cold or how good my helmet encompassed my head? but my fog insert was not doing much good as I went up my drive onto the main road and the visor was raised slightly to help my forward vision!

I would normally meet up with the Cardiac Kid in Winsford, but he was otherwise engaged polishing his gun barrels! Had to think for a bit on getting the route and my lack of directional ability in sync but eventually got the grey matter in gear and made my way to Nantwich and the difficult bit of taking the right road out so as to cross over the A49 towards Broxton. Broxton reached with just a glance as there were a few bikes there and keeping social distancing in mind I kept on going (why could everyone else think the same way so as to limit the lockdown we are in now?) Anyway the burger van is still going strong and not stopped trading yet as the land sale has not been finalised yet.



One bike social

Distancing itself



A Day Out Before Lockdown!

Passed Holt and the roundabouts to the bypass a nice opportunity to get the bike over and test how rusty your riding is after months of not riding. Yes! Happy with that, just some light rust on the surface which will be removed by the end of the ride! Onto the bypass and the fifty limit laughingly put in place to reduce pollution – really? Anyway, it was up and passed by Llangollen and towards the Ponderosa heading on to the A5104 – Oh crap it's a fifty limit now with average speed cameras! Should have carried on to Ruthin and gone that way. Bala reached and very quiet with a large sign saying keep out of Wales at the entrance to welcome you! Car Park to myself while waiting on Spoons one car came in and parked right beside me! And they were in their seventies too – I could only shake my head. Spoons arrived so we decided to get moving and get some miles in while the weather was bright and clear so we headed over the moor on the B4391 a favourite road with fantastic views and as quiet as it will ever be. Off on the B4396 to the Junction with the A483 we stopped at a pub car park with plenty of space to keep our distance and have our own separate hot beverages and snack picnic from our top boxes. We said our goodbyes and it was off home to put the bikes away – after a clean off course – still a lot of salt about. So glad we managed this ride-out as its going to be a long time before we get another!



Spoons Social Distancing

The Highlander

Recruitment Day at J & S

We might be on
Hold just now but
It was great to see
So many members
Out to assist at the
J&S Recruitment
Day last month.
Thanks everyone
For helping out

**Gordon
Chairman**



REMEMBER MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE!

**New Associates
This Month: -**



Just going a bit daffy this month!



Five Amigo's Go to Spain – by Chris Steel Part Three

Wednesday 26th June, our breakfast was delivered to our hacienda, cereal, milk boiled eggs and was waiting for us when we got up, after a leisurely breakfast we had a fight for the shower, there was a shower block on the site so some of us went there, it became apparent that hot water was not plentiful and lasted for the first person in the shower, cold showers for the rest of us, reminded me of school, eventually having all managed to get a shower of varying temperatures we consulted our host who gave us a route for the day, the route followed a river, which was very scenic and picturesque, the sun shone the temp was a pleasant 25 degrees, we had coffee by the river and watched one of the river cruise boats dock, it was time to move on as the passengers were disembarking for a coffee break, I could wax on about the scenery and great weather, but it would become boring, having had a great day in the saddle we returned to the vineyard hotel to take advantage of the swimming pool, it is always the same when we have a swimming pool, the sun is baking and the water freezing, I never learn, having gone into cold water shock I got out of the pool and warmed up in the sun, we went for a stroll round the vineyard before dinner and sampled the local wine prior to a very nice meal, we chatted with our host who was keen to hear our comments on his route, he said he had another one for us tomorrow, we took a walk before retiring for the night and look forward to the next day.



Evening Meal

These boys know how to party

Five Amigo's Go to Spain – by Chris Steel



Great views for these
meal stops



Five Amigo's Go to Spain – by Chris Steel

Thursday 27th June. It was the same stampede for a warm shower, some of us got one, most of us a cold one. Having had breakfast and obtained our route we were off again, this time it was mountain scenery and having lunch at a lake, all very civilized, the one thing that never ceases to amaze me in Spain is how quiet the roads are, we see less traffic all day than you see in an hour in the U.K. on the way back we stopped off and visited an ancient castle, when we found out it was 8 Euros to get in we walked round the outside instead. It was another fabulous day full of sunshine and quiet roads; we finished the day off with a twenty second swim and some sunbathing, before pre meal drinks and a delicious dinner.



Plenty river views and
boats to gaze at during
coffee stops



Five Amigo's Go to Spain – by Chris Steel

Friday 28th June. It was time to pack up and start heading North to Molinaseca for one night, we paid our bill and thanked our host for his hospitality and great routes, I purchased a bottle of the vineyard wine as a reminder of a great stay, and we headed off to our next hotel, we arrived in Molinaseca mid-afternoon, the hotel was located by a river and all the local youngsters were swimming and sunbathing, quite a lively place, we checked in and got changed and joined the locals having a drink, we took a stroll round the town and identified a nice restaurant to eat at later on. In Spain everything is relaxed and unrushed, we had a nice meal in the restaurant and a few drinks as you do, and the another walk round town before retiring, our next destination was on the Northern coast about 100 miles from Santander.



Anyone for an
Ancient Castle? Or a
dip in the river?

More next Month

Chris

Club Events

MONTHLY CLUB NITE

Last Thursday of the month at the Hawk Inn in Haslington by Crewe.

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.



CANX

Group Events – All Cancelled Till Further Notice

AGM – To Be Confirmed

Sunday Ride Outs- Cancelled Till Further Notice – it's 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 – Cancelled until further notice

Other Events of a two-wheeled nature

Err nothing!

REMEMBER MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE!

Piston Points Trophy - Reminder

Back in the day we commissioned this from Crewe Honda so we can reward members for contributing time or effort towards social activities, newsletter articles, attending club runs etc. Points are weighted towards the newsletter so 10 points for a full article and 2 points for each photo published, 2 points for responding to an article. Attending a club run will get 1 point – so lots available throughout the year there. Arranging a social event is 10 points attending one 2 points. Dave Coomber is letting me know who is out on rides so I can count these. If anyone is out on a ride without Dave let me know the date and who was out.



That's all this month

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

The Highlander

