

Editors Ramblings

It's the last month of the year! Where has it gone? The Highlander has done a lot of miles this year, over 10k, not as much as some of you I am sure but my biggest amount for some time. You have read about some of my trips this year so how about a little story or picture that sums up your year, remember you can get "Piston Points" for contributing to the newsletter (See more info elsewhere in this newsletter.

Your memories of the summer? A review of something you used 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 December 2019



1994 to 2019



A Word from the Chair

Another quiet month for myself, no motorcycling at all but a good day out at the NEC for Motorcycle Live where there was enough new metal to feast over, plenty of pics further on here.

Although it has been a very wet month which has now turned very cold and icy with cars all over the place just down from my house the morning of me writing this, there were still a few bikes commuting to work braving the conditions. This is where all our skills are brought to the fore with forward observation being essential to see any hazards early so no sudden actions are needed to avoid or stop for what might happen in front of you. We no doubt pride ourselves on how smooth we are as we negotiate a super sweeping bend, but this smoothness helps us keep upright as there is much less chance of you losing what grip your tyres have at near zero-degree temperatures!

It is never long when discussing club matters that Blood Bikes are brought up and the number of members that have joined our group and pass the test so that they can use these skills for another great cause. Any members willing to share their experiences while doing their runs?

I hope to see a few of you at the Christmas Meal, for anyone I don't see, have a great festive season and see you in 2020!

Happy riding everybody, stay safe

Gordon

Please contact me with any queries you may have 07590596380



Presidents Page

December already, I don't know where the year has gone, the Autumn course finished on December 1st with ten Associates completing the course, I would like to remind all Associates that Observers are available for additional sessions prior to your test, you should have a list of Observer contact details with your course joining details.

Pete Mathieson has informed me has had eight enquiries regarding the forthcoming Observer Training course, that is a fantastic response, to all the applicants you will enjoy the course, it will be challenging but rewarding.

I like many thousands attended the Motorcycle Show at the NEC, it was a great day out, seeing all the new models and accessories, the fish and chips were nice too. IAM Road smart were there, I spoke with Steve Ellis and he reported that a lot of interest was being shown, and people were paying their money, so hopefully we will see some of them on the Spring 2020 course, I had a rush of blood and purchased a new camera system for the bike, an Innovv c5 system, having difficulty getting it to communicate with my phone, so if anyone has the system any help welcome, I just have to send off my letter to Santa asking for a new bike, I already know the answer but I live in hope.

Following on from October's guest speaker Barry and his motorcycle cleaning system, a friend of mine had his bike done and was very impressed with the result, so I am going to have mine done in the New Year, watch this space for further update.

The Christmas Meal is on the 13th I look forward to seeing you there, this is a good evening where we can catch up on things and generally put the world to right, and it is Christmas after all.

We are now entering a quiet stage with the group, a bit like hibernation, waiting for Spring to come, a lot of riders put the bike away and dream of sunny days, we as a group don't hibernate, Dave Coomber conducts social rides all through the year, he will always be glad to see you, also Pete Mathieson is running the Observer training course, so there will be motorcyclists out and about.

Finally, I would like to wish each and every one of you and your families a very Happy Christmas may it be filled with joy and happiness.

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

Chris Steel

President



The Balkans: Croatia – Bosnia - Slovenia



Up sharp for another quite long day on the bikes up to Slovenia, 315 miles today so I had a day off from my jogging and the first 200 miles were on autoroute so not very exciting with a lunch stop at a small services for lunch to break up the miles, weather was still smiling on us at this point so nothing to report. Once we were in Slovenia, we headed more inland but still in the west of Slovenia we eventually headed towards the Triglavski Narodni Park named after the mountain it includes which has a height of 9,396 feet. With not many miles to go we started to gain height and with that the weather started to close in a bit with the roads getting damp and just to make it even more interesting the surface on the mountain road was everything but smooth tarmac! I think they used a different contractor for every pothole they filled in going by the patchwork surface left by them. Down of the mountain we rolled into Bohinj by the side of a picturesque lake. Bikes secured in the hotels covered area it was time to relax.

A morning run around the lake in the early mist was nice and cool for a change with only another couple of joggers out doing the same thing and just gave a nice calm sense to the start of the day. A statue of the first mountain pioneers that climbed the peaks way back in 1778 plotting the slopes and looking for any minerals and any iron ore that was needed in the booming iron factories of the time. This was 175 years before the first ascent of mount Everest.



The Balkans: Croatia – Bosnia – Slovenia - cont

A more reasonable 162 miles today which gives us smiles as it means more rural roads and passes for us to enjoy. First up is the Wurzenpass going from Slovenia to Austria, not the highest at 3,520 feet but a good start to the days riding. The roads were nice and flowing and we were moving very nicely along. The weather was now getting more thundery with some very heavy rainstorms building up but we were keeping them behind us as we headed north west through Austria and the mountain roads. We had a morning stop for coffee and the front group had cleared some quite tricky twisty roads through a wooded area before the road opened up onto a more open area for a few miles before it started to head upwards again. Our group on comms started to hear about something that had happened behind us and it turned out to be one of our group had come off their bike! We did not get a lot of detail but to keep going to our lunch stop and wait for further information. Not much was going right in this thundery air as the hotel was closed that we were meant to stop at and just a little drinking spot with apple pie to eat. Not that we were that hungry as we were all waiting on more information on what had happened to the rider and if they were alright? I got an update from the tour leader and the rider was ok apart from a dislocated shoulder and his bike a right off through tumbling in the ditch at the side of the road. It had happened as the road straightened up out of the bends so it was not a too tight road that he did not make it round a bend as you may have thought but maybe just too much throttle and then target fixation on the ditch as he did not straighten up enough for the speed he was doing. Luckily no big damage though but his holiday was over with an early plane trip back home the next day.



The Balkans: Croatia – Bosnia - Slovenia

Well this sort of thing obviously shakes some people up but hey we had the Grossglockner to go over next. With the waiting we were a little late now and the thunderstorms had caught us up, so it was not quite as appealing as it was earlier in the day! We had 30 miles to get ourselves up to speed again though. Warmer jackets on now as the temperature had dropped and the temperature at the top of the Grossglockner was reportedly near freezing. The toll paid it was up to the viewpoint and tourist centre where indeed it was cold and in misty rain droplets but still stunning at 12,467 feet above sea level with the mountain slopes still covered mostly in snow in the middle of June. We stopped for our late lunch needing to be warmed up a little before we headed down from the viewpoint and then up and over the pass, the road was mostly dry but with a lot of wet run offs from the melting snow to watch out for, still a great road with stunning mountain views. On a better day with more time I would have definitely turned back for another run over and back.

Not far now for our next hotel in Zell am See at the base of the mountains and another room with a double bed! Soon sorted though and we had a great evening going through the events of the day with some great food.



Last instalment next month

The Highlander

Keith Styling
Steven Swann
Keith Saywell



Motorcycle Live 2019

Another bike show over till next year and there was enough new metal there to make it worthwhile to visit even though you were not looking for another bike. I purchased a new helmet at a great price and will give a report on it once I have managed to get a few rides out on it.

First up, not a bike!
But I guess
something had to
have a bigger
engine than the
Triumph Rocket!

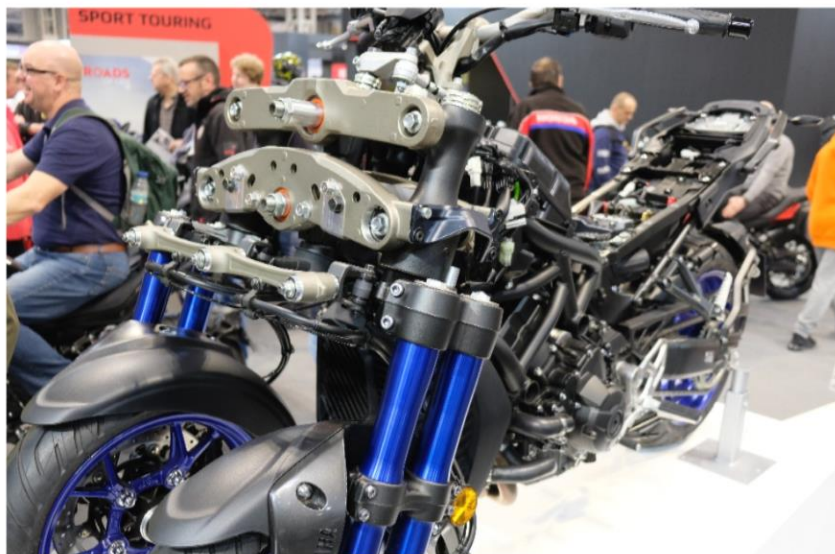


The reason for the
Spitfire really? CCM's
range of bikes! They
all look like custom
models so you know
your bike will be
individual to you.

Motorcycle Live



900cc is the latest trend with BMW jumping on the bandwagon.



They had a bit of play in the linkages last year, still not found where its coming from!

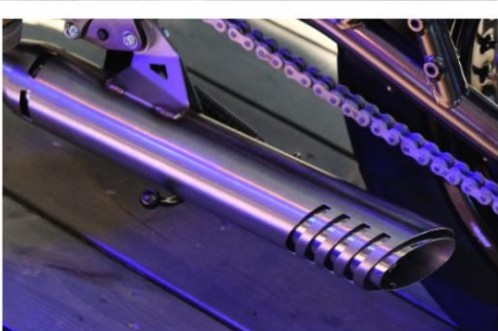


Its big, its brash and I want to ride one – Just Once!

Motorcycle Live



Exhausting
Day
Out
The
Highlander

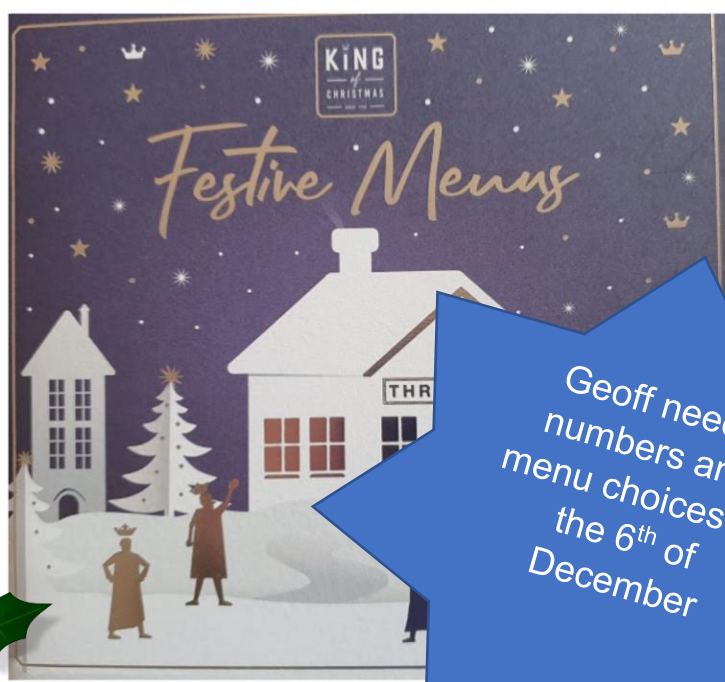




Christmas Dinner – The Woodside – Friday 13th December

Yes, it's that time of the year for a bit of festive food and chat and we have decided to stay at last years venue (A new venue next year!) As ever contact Geoff Highfield with your Menu choices and numbers with any dietary requirements.

7:30 for 8pm sit down



Geoff needs numbers and menu choices by the 6th of December

Festive Fayre

2 COURSES	3 COURSES
16.99	18.99

AVAILABLE FROM 13th NOVEMBER 2019 UNTIL 1st JANUARY 2020* - PRE-BOOKING REQUIRED



FESTIVE PIE

Full allergen information as the ingredients in the food we serve is available upon request - please speak to a member of the team.
(v) Vegetarian, (vi) Vegan, *Dates may contain bones, All stated weights are approximate and uncooked.
*Contains alcohol. Please advise the team of any dietary requirements when ordering. *Excluding Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Starters

PRAWN COCKTAIL**
Prawns in a bed of lettuce, topped with Bloody Mary sauce and served with sliced brown bloomer bread and butter

MAPLE FLAVOURED ROOT VEGETABLE SOUP (v)
Carrots, parsnips and onions caramelised in a sweet maple flavoured syrup, seasoned with festive spices. Served with sliced white bloomer bread and butter. (vegan option available (vi))

Mains

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS DINNER WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS
Hand-carved turkey served with sage and onion stuffing, pig in blanket, a Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes, carrots, honey-roasted parsnips, Brussels sprouts and gravy

SEA BASS RISOTTO**
A creamy risotto with wilted spinach and peas topped with sea bass fillets and parmesan oil

6oz* SIRLOIN STEAK & BEARNAISE SAUCE*
Cooked to your liking with chips, peas, half a grilled tomato and green rings

MUSHROOM WELLINGTON (vi)
Puff pastry filled with mushrooms, spinach and blue cheese. Served with roast potatoes, carrots, honey-roasted parsnips, Brussels sprouts and gravy

CHRISTMAS PUDDING (vi)**
Served with brandy sauce

WARM CHOCOLATE FUDGE CAKE (vi)
Served with vanilla flavour ice cream

FESTIVE CRUMBLE (vi)
Rendish Bramley apple and mincecrumble with custard

Desserts

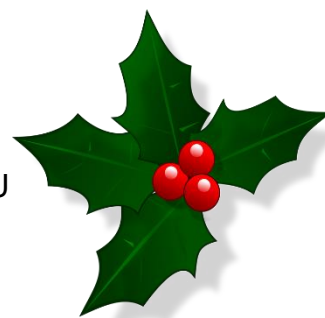
SHIMMERING BERRY CHEESECAKE (vi)
Vanilla cheesecake topped with shimmering berries, served with vanilla flavour ice cream

CHOCOLATE & CHERRY TORTE (vi)**
A rich chocolate and kirsch cherry torte, served with vegan ice cream

CHEESE & BISCUITS (vi) 4.00 EXTRA
A selection of Stilton®, Crottin-Mauve Brie® and Cheddar, served with grapes, caramelised red onion chutney and a selection of biscuits

To Finish

The Woodside, Valley Road, Wistaston, Crewe, CW2 8JU



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.



Group Events

Friday 13th December – Christmas Meal – The Woodside Wistaston Crewe 7:30 for 8pm

Sunday Ride Outs – 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 Spring**

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

Please support this as we will be looking on closing this if we do not get any takers!

Other Events of a two-wheeled nature

8th December – Star Bikers Toy Run – 365 Stadium Stoke on Trent

Roughleys Toy Run – Tesco Stockport

26th December – Plum Pudding Races – Mallory Park

28th December – Indoor Trials Sheffield

29th December – Huddersfield Autojumble, Market Building, Brook Street

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

