

## Editors Ramblings

The festive season is over, and the decorations are down, so is January with spring getting closer. I might even manage to get out on the bike to do some more articles but till then we have a new contribution from Steve Swann on his ride and thoughts on the new Triumph Rocket III

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 February 2020



## 1994 to 2019



### A Word from the Chair

A quiet month again as a January usually is with limited activity in training and the committee meetings agenda light apart from the preparation for the AGM in March. Which brings me on to a call for some new blood to stand on the committee this year. We have had a great response this year from new committee members but as always, a couple of fresh minds will be welcome to keep things going. Richard is stepping down while he gets his health back and will be back next year if not sooner.

The weather has been particularly wet and salty recently so everyone who has taken their bike to get it treated to an All Year Biker treatment will be very pleased with the protection their bike now has. I must get mine done this month when I can get some time!

For those who are considering a Cardo PackTalk Duo or single with JBL speakers James Anning from Wey Valley IAM in Surrey holds the account as supplier to provide IAM members with these sets at cost price plus £15 including delivery which is a great deal.

Duo sets= £396.00 (rrp £559.99)

Single sets= £231.00 (rrp £314.99)

All accessories available too

Contact James on 07743 779 571

Happy riding everybody, stay safe - Gordon

Please contact me with any queries you may have 07590596380



## Presidents Page

This last month has been quiet, and I have nothing major to report, Pete Mathieson has started the Observer training course, in the end we have three candidates undertaking the training.

Geoff has circulated the AGM notification, this is where you can get involved in the running of the group, Ian Cunningham is standing down as group secretary, a position he has held for many years, and I on your behalf would like to express our thanks for the dedication and commitment he has shown over the years, Ian has informed me he is remaining on the committee.

Gordon Low our chairman is also standing down, again on your behalf, many thanks Gordon for your commitment, Gordon will still be compiling the newsletter, so again many thanks for continuing as newsletter editor.

I am going to arrange some course promotion events for February and March at J&S Northwich they will take place on a Sunday, so if you would like to come along and support the event that would be good, I will ask Geoff to circulate the dates when I have finalised them.

Following on from the above item, South Cheshire Advanced Motorcyclists is offering a subsidy to all riders who undertake IAM Roadsmart Rider training with us during 2020, upon completion of all six sessions the Associate will receive £50 back making the course £99, if the Associate is Thirty or Under they will receive £74 back making the course £75, so if you know any riders tell them about this offer, please emphasise the fact that they pay £149 first, then upon completion of the six sessions they receive a cheque for the subsidy.

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

Chris Steel

President

## 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](mailto:roadsmart@iam.org.uk)

With Valentine's Day coming up we'd love to hear your stories of love and driving and riding. Has anyone in your group found love through the advanced course by falling in love with driving and riding? Tell us about your driving and riding adventures with loved ones, and share your photos of your road trip adventures with your beloved car or bike. Please send in your stories to [roadsmart@iam.org.uk](mailto:roadsmart@iam.org.uk)

Check out the IAM RoadSmart YouTube channel – it covers lots of driving and riding topics including advice from our ambassador's technical tips and clips from events and skills days.



## First Impressions Road Test – The New Triumph Rocket III

It's the run up to Christmas the shits hitting the fan and everything needs to be sorted at work, final presents to be bought and the weather is restricting ride time. Then out of the blue a message pops up from Steve Bailey at Staffordshire Triumph "Fancy taking one of the most eagerly awaited bikes out for a test ride? We need a real person to give us their views on it, not some journo" My immediate thought was that Steve wanted me to take out the recently launched Speed Triple which would have been fun.

"I've got a new Rocket 3 coming in early next week, you would be one of the first to ride it?"

I'm awake! Now you've got my attention! Two and a half litres of Cruiser, probably 5 years in the making, what an opportunity.

"Looks like the 23rd is half decent weather, we should have the PDI done by then are you free?"

So I've now got to play hooky from work too, hey the boss will understand and there are a lot of colds and flu about 😞



Ok who fancies a race?

It's 11 degrees, low sun, and there she is hiding around the back not to be launched for another month.

First thoughts, now that's a big bike! Seats quite low, the tank is huge, then you just look at it and realise how beautiful she is, everything appears to have been sculpted out of a single block of marble the lines are so smooth, nothing is out of place this has been designed from the bottom up. Climb on board and you sit quite low and almost become part of the bike it's a little firmer than you initially expect, keyless ignition so no need to take your gloves back off, press to turn her on, clutch in press again and she springs into life, what a glorious sound, how will electric bikes ever catch on, the solid purr almost gentle growl as she ticks over.

This is almost a third of a tonne of machine, £20k, not even launched and I've got the side stand up and clicking her into gear! Reality hits, I'm going on the road with this monster of a machine over twice the sized motor of my current bike, gentle away and into the traffic the urge to nail it just to see what it can do is tempered by respect for this masterful piece of engineering.





## First Impressions Road Test – The New Triumph Rocket III

So the route, if you know Staffordshire Triumph, there are 4 roundabouts to negotiate and a sharp sweeping right before you hit the A500 the sort of right you just want to scrape the pegs on, throttle back and she glides to 70 mph effortlessly. It's a Cruiser so I take the M6 junction 16 - 19, she copes fine hardly any wind buffering this feels big even on a motorway which even on my current bike can feel like you are a bit vulnerable but not on the Rocket she feels at home. 6th gear, you would be forgiven to think Triumph would make this a real cruising gear with the need to drop to 5th once in a while, hell no, 6th gear is so responsive ease on the gas and she just pulls, let off and the engine braking is easing you back down. My initial fears have gone, is it going to be too big, is it going to be too heavy, why, is it going to handle or will I have to fight her around every movement? No this is a joy my smile is at silly kid level and I'm still on the M6!

So the M6 becomes the A556 towards Chester, still a dual carriageway still the home of the cruiser, a few more bends, lights to launch from and I even try a cheeky filter, low speed inching through. A police bike is at the lights to my right, I'm away first just knowing he's clocked the bike and sure enough two sets of lights later and he's right behind me, we forget they're bikers first and police second he's taking a good look and realises it is what he thought it was, ease her away from the lights and then soon it's a left down the lanes towards Oulton Park!



**Engine is not too big from this angle!**

## First Impressions Road Test – The New Triumph Rocket III

Well how else could I legally tell you that yes I did give it some throttle and yes it does hit x mph within the blink of an eye, smooth hard acceleration hard on the brakes the front end gives a little wobble back on the power around the bends playing the gears, this is as much at home through the bends under sport bike pressure, throttle again and you are passed 1, 2, 3 whoa this is way more fun than I was expecting!

Off through the lanes out of Oulton Park towards Tarporley and onto the Whitchurch Road this beast is flowing now, my confidence is up a few notches, out of one of the many villages power on past a car coming out of the 30 the back end twitches on the white lines which brings me back to the real world! Then take the A525 to Audlem, out to Nantwich then back to Triumph. A good 2 hours of pure fun, a cheeky winter ride on a very special machine.

I then get on my bike which is only just 3 years old to ride home and realise quite how brilliant the Rocket is and how much in those 3 years bikes have moved on.

A huge thank you guys an early Christmas present through a dreary period where bikes are often hidden away for the winter, no get out and ride you can always get the hose out when you get back.



Article by Steve Swann



## New Associate

### This Month: -

John Gilbert



## Dealer Destination – Superbike Factory - Macclesfield

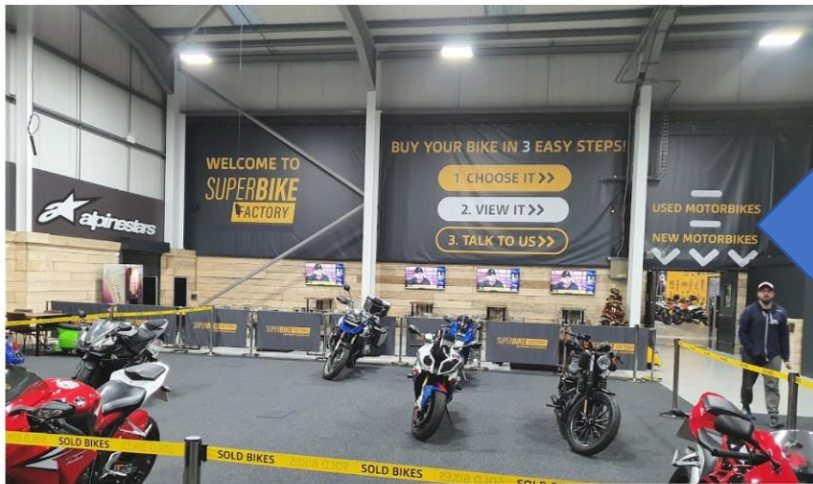
Another far flung dealer destination for a December visit! Well I had done a Hundred and Twenty miles on this rainy Tuesday in my car working! Labelled as the worlds biggest used bike shop after moving from its cramped premises the other side of Macclesfield I had to see it for myself after an article in a popular motorcycle magazine.

It certainly looks big from the outside, no mistaking it when you get near. Plenty of parking as well.

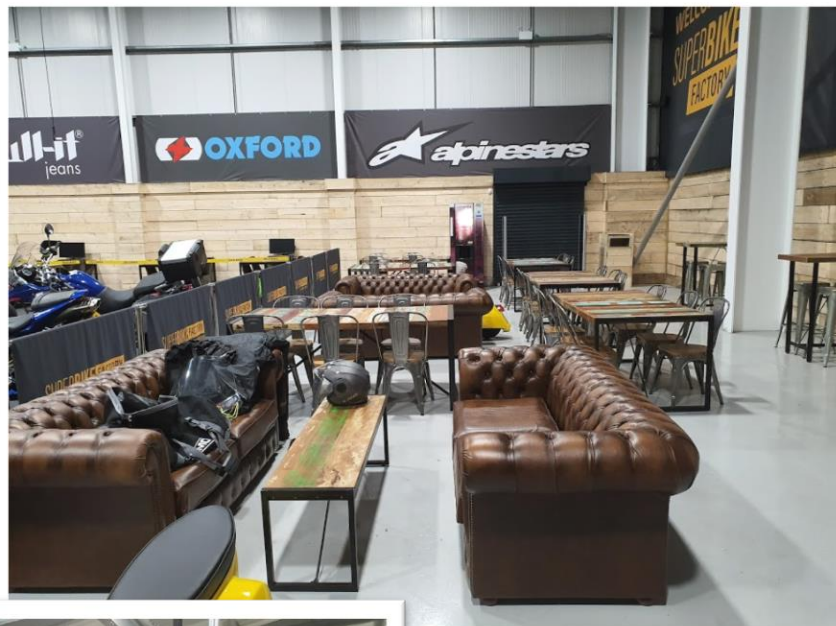


Yes there are up to twelve hundred bikes here of all makes and sizes.

## Dealer Destination – Superbike Factory - Macclesfield



All the sold bikes rounded up ready to be collected



Very comfy area to rest those sore feet from walking the shop floor



Just in case you were not sure this is the workshop

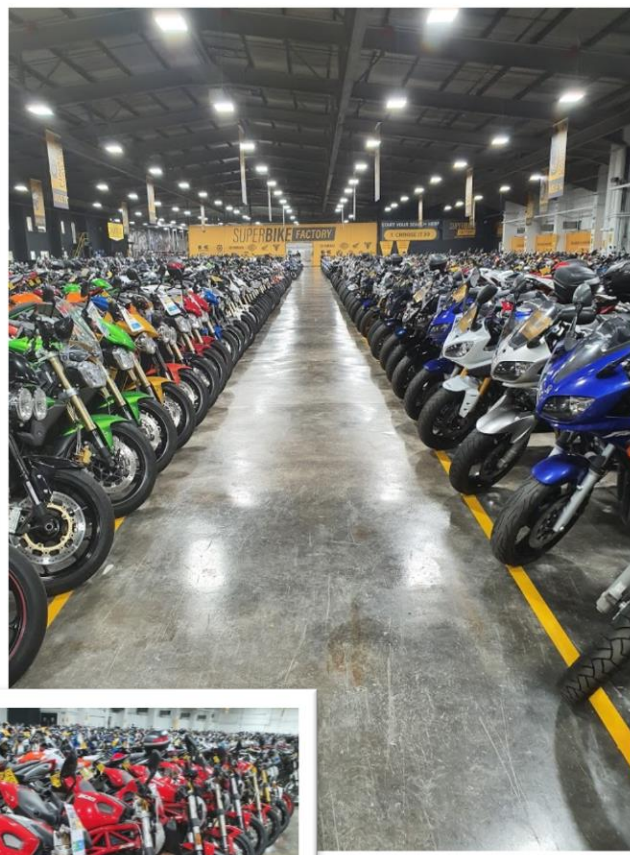


## Dealer Destination – Superbike Factory - Macclesfield



No wet bike testing for these mechanics on their own dyno and rolling road

Well its as far as my eyes can see! And all the colours you want



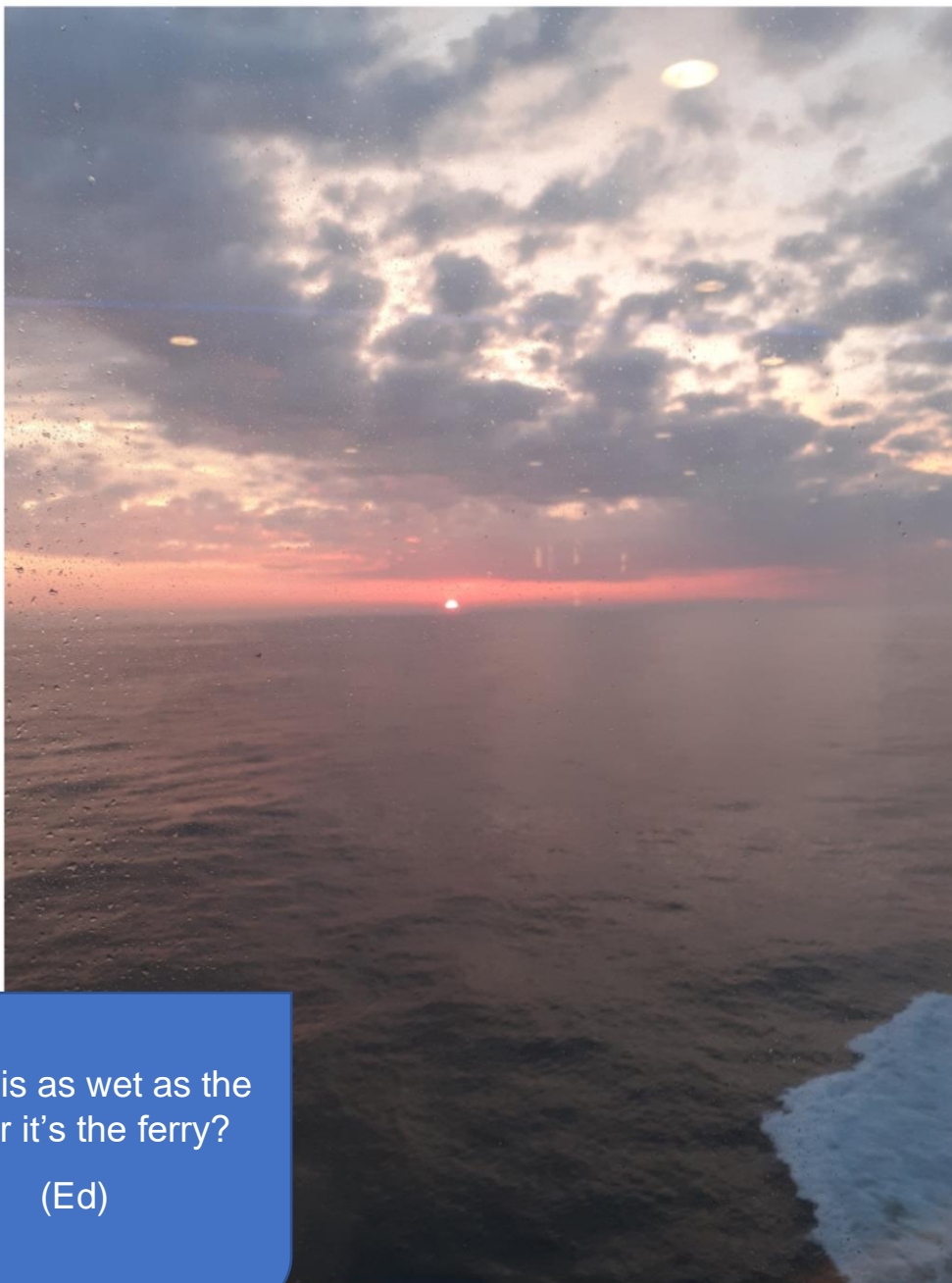


## Five Amigo's Go to Spain – by Chris Steel

Every year four friends and I go for a motorcycle holiday in Spain and Portugal, this is the account of the 2019 extravaganza.

Sunday Morning June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2019, I met up with Ian Cunningham at the Shell garage at Sandiway, we travelled down the A49 to Medway Cafe at Whitchurch where we joined John Brady and Dave Nixon, having had a coffee we set of to rendezvous with the fifth member of the gang, John Bailey.

As we have most of the day to get to Plymouth we take the scenic route for the best part, down the A49 to Hereford then across to Monmouth, stopping for coffee at Tintern Abbey, we cross the Severn at Chepstow and then have to hack down the M5 to Clumpton where we meet up with John Bailey and the five Amigos are complete, Plymouth here we come, the route to Plymouth is all motorway and dual carriageway so no drama.

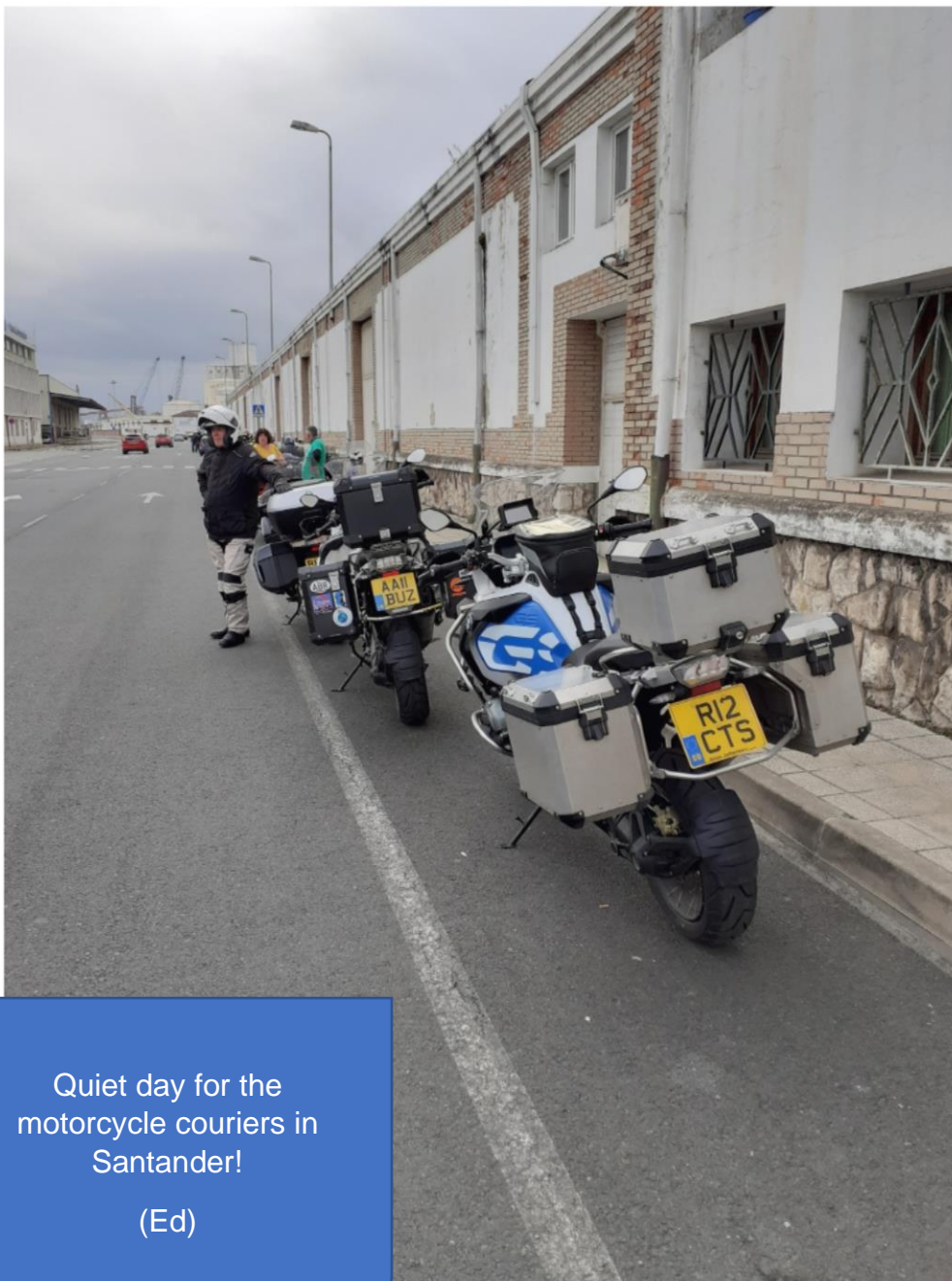


Spain is as wet as the  
UK or it's the ferry?

(Ed)

## Five Amigo's Go to Spain – by Chris Steel

Plymouth port is just like any other ferry port, you have to book in and wait to be loaded, eventually we are loaded into the bowels of the boat and set off in search of our cabin, having found our cabin and got changed we go and relax in the bar, the crossing to Santander was going to be longer this year as during the winter the ship had had a fire in the engine room and one engine was out of commission, although Brittany Ferries were being a bit cagey about what had actually happened, either way we were going to be longer on the boat, which had meant we were not going to make our first overnight stop in Spain, so Ian our accommodation officer had re booked us a hotel in Valladolid a mere 154 miles from Santander, so for now it was a case of let the boat take the strain sit back and enjoy the slow boat to Spain, having done this trip many years running we settle down into a routine and wait until we dock in Spain.



Quiet day for the  
motorcycle couriers in  
Santander!

(Ed)



## Five Amigo's Go to Spain – by Chris Steel

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 16.00 hours we eventually dock in Santander then there is the usual wait for everyone else to disembark, as the motorcycles are on the bottom deck so the last to be unloaded, 17.02 and we are on the quay side having all managed to find each other, we consult the map and programme Sat Nav's according to the electronic map machine it was going to be after eight when we arrive at Hotel Sercotel Valladolid, so this was no time for scenic routes, it was motorway hammer time, the great thing about Spanish motorways is they are not too busy, so we just burnt the miles, there was the usual confusion in Valladolid as every Sat Nav had a different way to the Hotel, eventually at 20.30 we stumbled into the hotel, a quick shower and change, and rendezvous in the bar, over a glass or two we discussed the day's journey and went and had a meal, where we discussed the following days route, a 215 mile route to Amarante, we turned in for tomorrow the trip begins for real.



Smile for the camera?

(Ed)

## 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

**Sunday Ride Outs** – it's 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

1-2<sup>nd</sup> February – Carol Nash Bristol Bike Show – Shepton Mallett

9<sup>th</sup> February – Hawkstone Int Motocross – MX Circuit Shropshire

14-16<sup>th</sup> February – Carol Nash MCN London Bike Show

15-16<sup>th</sup> February – Classic Dirt bike Show – The International Centre Telford

28<sup>th</sup> Feb-1<sup>st</sup> March – WSB Round 1 Philip Island Australia

29<sup>th</sup> February – Squires Café Autojumble – South Milford Leeds



## 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

