

Editors Ramblings

Ten weeks in and finally we are able to ride our bikes! Yes! Please share your experiences with our members either what you have done with your bike in the last ten weeks or what you plan on doing going forward with the restrictions that are still in place. Chris's last instalment from his holiday is here, its been a great take on a foreign trip and Chris's thoughts. It's all about the Chris's here so up steps Mr Prior with his tales for the next few months. Nothing wrong with a Chris! But do we have a Bob, Paul, Colin, David, Andy etc out there with a story?

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 June 2020



1994 to 2019



A Word from the Chair

News just in from IAM RoadSmart, received just after Chris's monthly update, that we can resume some of our activities this month and tests from July the 6th. This is great news for the group and all those wanting/needing training. We are contacting present associates requiring refresher sessions – anyone not contacted so far please contact your observer to arrange a session. We do still have some members that are still having to self-isolate with health issues so you may be allocated another observer for these sessions. The summer course will start on the 5th of July at the time of writing, with no induction evening at a venue but our observers are looking to hold a Zoom online meeting with links to a YouTube video as well. This will be confirmed over this month with what we have managed to arrange. There will be logistic issues to resolve with routes having to change and rest/comfort stops to be considered as toilets and/or venues still closed and the need to be apart from others. When meeting we may stagger the meeting times as there are still limits on the numbers meeting outside at a maximum of six. We will work as much as we can to make things as smooth as possible, just please work with us to make this happen. Group rides are now a go, again a maximum of six in a group so we may have to split these up and also be aware of stops so the routes may be shorter to accommodate this.

We have still to get direction on committee meetings and the AGM, the Area Service Delivery Managers start in a week's time so we may get an update then, we may have to hold these virtually i.e. on Zoom but only if there is no other option to hold these any other way as we have a lot of members not able or have access to this technology.

Stay safe - Gordon

Please contact me with any queries you may have 07590596380



Presidents Page

I hope you are all well and staying safe.

Once again not much has been happening this last month, I managed a short ride out to Tissington in Derbyshire with John Brady and Ian Cunningham and that was my total riding for the month.

I have been informed by Roger Craig one of our Observers, that due to family and work situations he is standing down as an Observer, on behalf of the group and myself, I would like to thank Roger for his time, professionalism and dedication to the group during his time as an Observer, we wish him well in the future, should circumstances change Roger, you know where we are.

As things stand at the moment, things are still vague and up in the air, we are hoping to run the Summer course and are working on the premise that thing will have eased enough to allow us to run the course, there will be no Induction evening or course theory evening but hopefully the training will take place, we may have to delay the start of the course and cancel the Autumn course, everything is just out of our control, but as chief Observer I ultimately have to make the decision, and as we are affiliated to the IAM we are bound by their guidelines, so we will take each day and week as it arrives, I realise this is frustrating to the Associates enrolled on the Summer course but we have no control over this pandemic.

I would like to remind the Associates from last year's Autumn course that you can contact an Observer if you would like a refresher session prior to your test, as and when tests recommence, you contact the Observer direct and make the arrangement to meet somewhere convenient to you both.

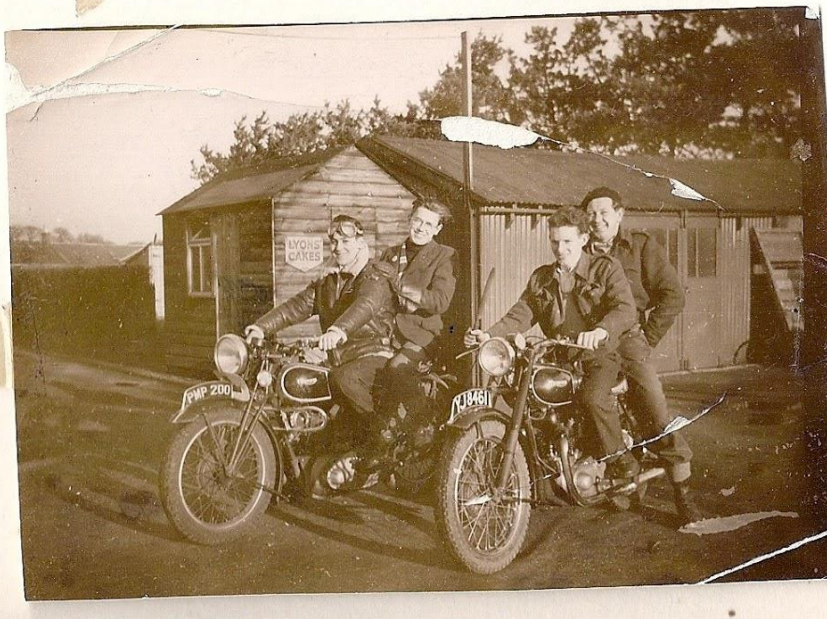
That is all from me for this month, so to you all and your families stay safe, until next month, take care.

Chris Steel.

President.



Motorcycle Photo's from Yesteryear



I know where I get my
motorcycle genes from.
(Ed)

Any old pictures you would
like to share?

New Associates

This Month: -

Julian Tyson

Martin Chapman

Mick Hodges



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

Having showered and changed into party clothes we set off to discover our surroundings, first port of call was a bar, any bar will do, the need to de stress was paramount, we did not have to walk far, about twenty steps before we had sat down at a table and ordered some liquid refreshment, the atmosphere was filled with laughter and music from a live band in the distance, we started to relax and began to laugh about all that had happened in the previous few hours, having been close to being lynched, had an angry hotelier lambasting us, to being rescued by a very attractive police lady and her male colleague, I am sure with the passing of time and the retelling of the story it will become gun fight at Cudillero.

Having had a couple of drinks we went for a walk round Cudillero to discover what was going on, anyone who has been to Spain during these festival weekends will know exactly what they are like, for those of you have not it is like a village fete with stalls selling all sorts of tat, sorry high quality produce from kids toys to adult clothes, with various small groups of musicians entertaining the crowds, along with a stage alongside the church with groups performing as well, all in all a real party atmosphere.

We walked along the street and took in the various stalls and inspected their wares, we listened to the group performing on the stage for a while, then decided to check out some restaurants for our evening meal, there were many restaurants, but they all appeared to have the same menu, just differing in prices, we identified where we were going to eat and went and found another bar to have another drink, this holiday lark is great it is just one long bar crawl, the time arrived to have our evening meal, having been suitably fed and watered we took another stroll round town, taking in the festival atmosphere then retired to our quaint accommodation and I got a good night's sleep, as for the others who were at the front of the building the music went on till 4am.

Chris getting on down and partying, can you spot him?

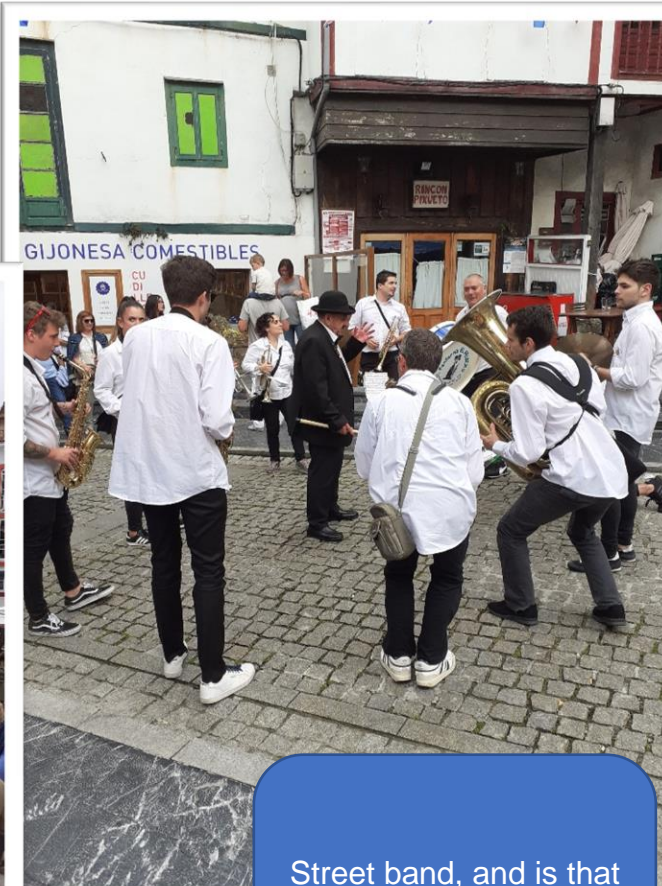


Five Amigo's Go to Spain – by Chris Steel

Sunday 30th June. Once we had all woken up and had a cup of coffee, it was time for breakfast, as we had not bothered to purchase any provisions except milk and coffee, we went out to find breakfast, that was harder than we thought, as most of the eating places were restaurants, and having been open till god o'clock, nowhere was open, eventually we found somewhere that was doing coffee and toast, so we had that.

As with previous year's holidays the last day is a none biking day, we just chill out and enjoy our surroundings, we had a nice day sitting by the harbour and reminiscing over the places we had been and seen, the evening was spent enjoying the festival and enjoying life, there was a fabulous firework display at the end of the evening to signify the end of festivities, then we retired to our billet and prepared for returning home.

Monday 1st July. There was no need to rush, we were a hundred miles from Santander, and had all day to get there, we decided once packed to get some miles behind us and find somewhere for breakfast, this we did and had a very pleasant breakfast just off the motorway, we arrived in Santander in good time, and waited an age to be loaded, as the bikes are on the lowest deck they load the upper decks first, once on board we located our cabins and got changed and rendezvoused in the bar, surprise, surprise, being captive on a boat there is little to do, just drink in the bar, stroll round the deck, drink in the bar, have dinner, stroll round the deck go to bed.



Street band, and is that
Charlie Chaplin?

Five Amigo's Go to Spain – by Chris Steel

Tuesday 2nd July, No need to rush, we were not due in Portsmouth till four pm, so we had a leisurely breakfast totalling two hours, then went on deck to watch the water pass by, suddenly someone noted that we were turning round, then there was an announcement over the ships address system that due to a medical emergency we were having to turn round in order to be in range for the helicopter, obviously you hope the patient is not too ill, but obviously ill enough to warrant emergency evacuation, this in turn added a few more hours to our crossing, it interesting to watch the skill of the pilot drop off the medic, then circle the ship whilst the medic obviously carried out his assessment of the patient, after what seemed an age. The patient was air lifted off and flown to hospital, I hope they had good holiday insurance. It was seven o'clock in the evening when we arrived in Portsmouth, and the desire to get home after a long voyage was uppermost in all our minds, needless to say it was not a leisurely ride home, I got home at 11.30pm and was happy to see my bed, as I lay in bed waiting to fall into the arms of Morpheus, I looked back over the holiday and realised it had been another fabulous trip, made all the more memorable with Ian, John B, Dave and John, Gentlemen I thank you for your company and good humour, I look forward to next years. If only I knew what was going to happen, the next one will not be until 2021.



Someone is feeling very
blue!

But hey, fireworks!

Chris Steel

Two Wheels Down Under by Chris Prior – 2nd part

My next stop was at Northam on the River Avon, another sleepy town, 30 kilometres or so north of York. Northam was once a staging post for those seeking farmland to the east and for hopeful mineral prospectors. It's now a commercial centre for the vast wheatbelt. Interestingly, it has examples of Australia's three rail gauges. Here I met some riders of the Ulysses Club, where membership is restricted to the over forties, and whose delightful slogan is, *Grow Old Disgracefully*. Most rode Harleys or other big cruisers. I was told that if ever I needed help anywhere in Australia, I'd find it at the nearest Ulysses Club. By the time I was back home in Perth I'd clocked up 491 km.

Next day, in spite of the invitation to join a Ulysses Club rideout, I decided to tour alone. Some of the things I specifically wanted to see were almost certainly not on their itinerary. I set off northwards on the Indian Ocean Road which led through Wanaroo to Lancelin where I stopped to photograph the white dunes. Western Australia has a number of shifting sand dunes, some driven by the wind at a rate of 12 metres a year. Lancelin has the most spectacular, which attract sandboarders and off-road quadcycles and motorcyclists. A CB400 is hardly the right mount for this activity. Besides, the rental agreement specifically prohibited off-roading.



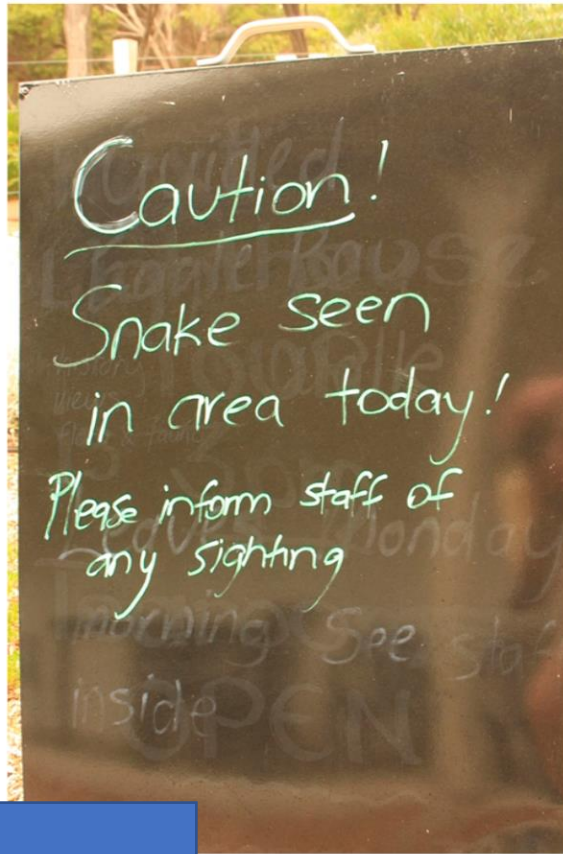
York Motor Museum
&
Sleepy town
Northam



Two Wheels Down Under by Chris Prior – 2nd part

The Ocean Drive is not ideal motorcycle territory. The little Honda is fine for flipping round corners but there weren't any, and the riding position wasn't ideal for long distances. The road has gentle undulations and few curves. On top of this there is a persistent strong westerly wind. This keeps vegetation fairly short and explains why the coast is littered with shipwrecks. Everywhere blackened vegetation testifies to recent fires, but there's always new growth, including on the curious looking grass trees.

There was little traffic about and while I was wondering if I should see how fast the Honda would go, I was overtaken by a speeding pickup being pursued by a police car. Speed limits in Australia are ridiculously low and speeding penalties ridiculously high. A couple of weeks previously one of my students had been fined \$1,500 for speeding, although he wouldn't tell me just how fast he'd been going.



Mining brings wealth to
Western Australia

But beware the snakes!

Two Wheels Down Under by Chris Prior – 2nd part

Thus, I kept to a boring 110 kph until I reached the Pinnacles Desert in the Nambung National Park. Limestone was laid in the ocean over millions of years before being pushed above sea level where wind erosion produced weird-shaped pinnacles. They were then covered by sand, to be revealed about 200 ago when the dunes moved on. I spent a couple of hours wandering among the pinnacles before taking refreshment at nearby Cervantes – yes, named after the author of *Don Quixote*.

It was now getting late and I had to return the bike, so rather than take a more inland route back to Perth to avoid the wind, I again battles the stiff onshore breeze, which was relieved only when the road ran through the Yanchep National Park where taller trees acted as a wind break. They also give cover to wildlife, so one has to be wary. A week earlier an emu had run out into the car I was driving. I'd hate to think what would have happened if I'd been on two wheels.

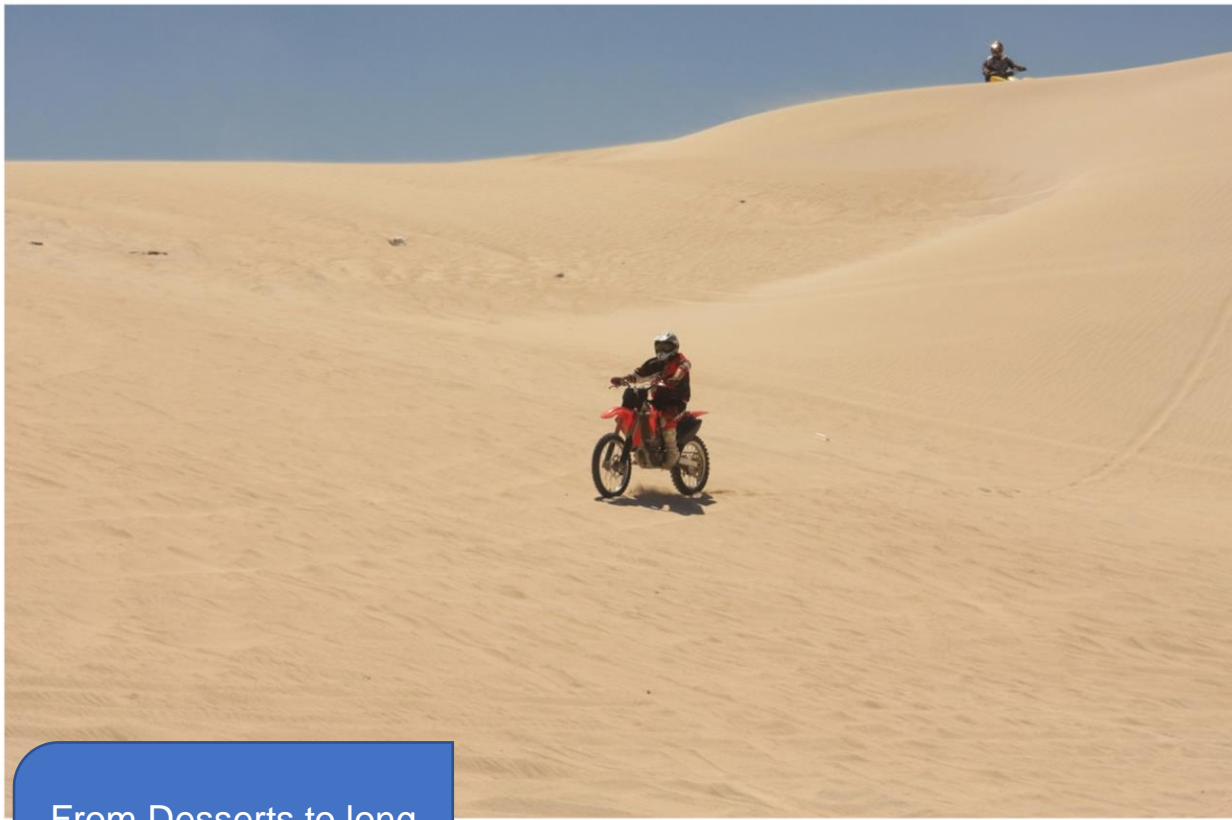
My local tavern didn't serve emu, so I settled for a pizza and *Fat Yak*, the tastiest Australian beer I've yet found.



Beware Emu's, Kangaroos
etc

Bad enough on four wheels
never mind two!

Two Wheels Down Under by Chris Prior – 2nd part



From Desserts to long
straight roads its all
here in Australia



Two Wheels Down Under by Chris Prior – 2nd part



Pinnacles in the desert to Gum trees



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

AGM – To Be Confirmed

Sunday Ride Outs - Now On with max 6 per group and Social Distancing in play - 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 –

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

Other Events of a two-wheeled nature

Err nothing! – may be some events starting on TV without crowds though!

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

