

Editors Ramblings

Six weeks into lockdown, how time flies! A great response from Chris Prior for my plea for articles, big thanks Chris as I am busier than ever with my job leaving me with less time to use my limited imagination to create articles myself. As promised though I have revisited the YouTube channels that may interest you during this continued lockdown. Hope they will provide some distraction to you and keep you going till we are able to ride our bikes again.

Chris's adventures continue in Spain with a great story on getting to his hotel one day.

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 May 2020



1994 to 2019



A Word from the Chair

A bit of Groundhog Day scenarios I am sure for a lot of us just now whether we are furloughed from work or working from home not giving us a lot of variety to our daily lives. Six weeks in we are just getting some indication from Boris that the lockdown will be relaxed in some form or another but with social distancing still to be adhered to for the foreseeable future. What this means for motorcycling is unclear – will we be aloud to return to the road but SCAM, will we be able to resume our courses? As per a message from IAM RoadSmart's CEO our service will be more important than ever with a prolonged layoff riders will be needing to "Sharpen their dulled skills" this along with the red mist that you normally see on the first nice weekend in March and the accidents that increase then imagine what it will be like in May or June? Unthinkable! Just seeing reports of there being twice as many accidents involving cyclists just now despite the traffic volume being down by 60% shows that car drivers are not any safer in lesser numbers and the weather has been perfect for the first time in months there is no excuse for this, now add in a faster version on two wheels? Scary!



Stay safe - Gordon

Please contact me with any queries you may have 07590596380



Presidents Page

Well, I have absolutely nothing to report I am afraid, this Covid shut down had put a stop to all our motorcycling fun, I have been pottering around in the garden and house, keeping myself occupied and sane, even daytime television is becoming acceptable so I must be going mad after all.

I am hoping that the Government start to ease things so that we can conduct our Summer course, but we will have to watch this space, I will keep you posted.

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

IAM RoadSmart is praising police forces for continuing to focus on those who risk their own and other people's lives by breaking speed limits on roads in the UK during the Coronavirus lockdown. The charity has expressed its shock and disappointment at the selfish and criminal speeding behaviour being reported by police forces across the country in recent weeks.

Thoughts on Night time riding by chairman of IAM RoadSmart – a two part blog on advice for preparing for a night time ride.

Mike Quinton, IAM RoadSmart CEO, reflects on how much has changed for IAM RoadSmart members, groups, staff and communities over recent weeks as the country reacts to the impact of COVID-19 and ongoing lockdown. He shares his thoughts on the effects the Coronavirus has had on our work to improve road safety and how, collectively, we have responded to the extraordinary challenges faced.

REMEMBER MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE!



Lockdown YouTube Viewing

Not enough TV to watch? YouTube has literally millions of videos for you to watch on almost any subject – here are a few channels on motorcycling for you to try.



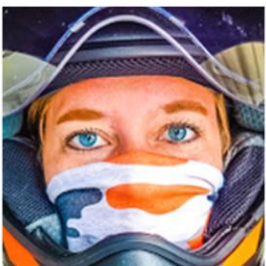
RICHY VIDA –21k subscribers motorcycle trips big and small from Derbyshire to the USA. Daily lockdown songs (he is a musician)



Teapot One – 37.8k subscribers - (Now ex Police) Bruce has gone round the world on a Suzuki GSX, does holidays (lots of Pico's) bike tests etc



The Missenden Flyer -158k subscribers - MCN Bike News, Road Tests and holidays.



Itchy Boots - 411k subscribers – Travels around the world, latest in South America (back home in Holland just now due to COV-19)



Andy Man Cam – 25.2k subscribers – tours, meets, reviews British based in Germany – comes over to UK lots for holidays – NC500 a couple of times too.



Lockdown YouTube Viewing



Royal Jordanian – 1.33 Million subscribers! Commuting, holidays you name it he does it, the biggest motorcycle vlogger out there!



44 Teeth – 197k subscribers – Budget Bike Battle every year, bikes on racetracks, reviews.



Schaff – 87.3k subscribers – German but lots of stuff, engine sounds, holidays.



Lamb Chop Rides – 55.7k subscribers – tours, reviews, tuning, off road stuff.



The Crumble – 26k subscribers – love his commuting rants, childish yes but can't help laughing at his observations. Off road stuff and travels.

Also to many more to mention : - BaronVonGrumble, BikerSte700, Kaiser WheelHelm, Love Life & Triumph, Megan Kaptein, Motolegends, Motovibes, RiderCamTV, The Chronicles of Mr Fish, Tins on Tour, A Brit A Blond & a Bike, Duke Blade.

The Highlander

RoadSmart – Spring Edition Motorcycling Interest

Damon Motorcycles – bikes with collision avoidance technology

New Bike Helmet Rules under review

Perfecting a motorcycle U-Turn

Cantabrian Mountains in Northern Spain

The Lake District Passes

New Chairman Derek McMullan appointed

REMEMBER MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE!

New Associates

This Month: -

Giles Tweedy

Peter Tweedy



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

Saturday June 29th, it was another bright pleasant morning, we had our breakfast and packed our bags, paid the bill and loaded up our bikes, we had our usual group huddle round the map to decide the most scenic route to our final destination Cudillero on the coast, as with previous years our last weekend would be more of rest and relaxation as opposed to daily ride outs, we would take in the local culture and partake in drinking and fine dining.

Ian had booked us into an apartment, yes I know sounds posh, we had to pick up the keys at a cafe in Cudillero, the address programmed into the sat nav, press calculate and hey presto, 150 miles 3 hours, no problem all day to do it in, what could go wrong.

We bid farewell to Molinaseca and rode out of town in the morning sunshine, we rode north along quiet country roads enjoying the sunshine and scenery, stopping for coffee along the way, as you do, we arrived at Cudillero about 2 o'clock, and followed the signs into town, down by the harbour we found the road to be closed, so we did an about turn and followed the road out of town and decided to enter by the other end of town, we descended the hill into town passing a road closed sign except for residents, we ignored the sign as we are residents, well for the weekend at least, then things got interesting, the road was a single car width, there were many pedestrians, getting more by the minute, to the point where we had to stop, by this time I was very conscious of people staring at us and shouting and gesticulating, in the distance I saw a procession carrying a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a band following,



Don't trust this man's map reading!

Let's upset the locals,
hotel owners,
wardens, anyone
else!



Five Amigo's Go to Spain – by Chris Steel

it was obviously a religious festival day and we had gone crashing into it like the Africa core into El Alhemain, fortunately the procession went into the church some fifty yards ahead of us, a small gap opened up and we proceeded to inch our way down the street, passing the church on our left with a crowd of followers outside, then it got interesting, a traffic warden blocked our way and ushered us into a side street out of the way of the now angry crowd, we dismounted and tried to converse with the traffic warden, who spoke no English at all, must have been behind the bike shed having a fag during her English lessons at school, then a very angry Hotel owner appeared from the doorway of his hotel shouting and gesticulating at us, the traffic warden and he were exchanging pleasantries while we were just bemused, but the hotel owner was pointing at us and shouting, this was going to get interesting I thought, then two ladies joined in the mêlée, one of them in perfect English asked me what was going on, I explained I had no idea as it was all in Spanish and that I missed out on Spanish at school on account it was not on the curriculum, she said she would find out for us, she and her friend waded into the attack on behalf of the English tourist board, she came back and informed us that the hotel owner was expecting some guests, and our bikes were in his car park, and we had to go immediately, sensing an international event about to break out, the traffic warden had called for police assistance and they were on their way, to try and calm the situation down a bit we agreed to park back in the main street, hopefully not causing another riot with another group of locals, as the car park was on a steep incline some wrestling of bikes was required, eventually we managed to place the bikes in the street out of the way of the procession and throng of people, and waited for the police and hopefully not get arrested.

Not many police look in the opposite direction!



Five Amigo's Go to Spain – by Chris Steel

Half an hour later a Police man and Woman arrived, fortunately they had attended some of the English lessons at school and Ian explained that we were staying in the centre of town and we were trying to reach our accommodation, the police lady, who was very attractive, there is something about a woman in uniform, anyway she explained in a soft voice that the street was closed for the festival weekend and it only opened for short periods of time at designated times, she said her colleague and she would escort us to the address Ian had for us to pick up our key, the police man and woman had 800cc scooters and we followed them down the street and we ended up back at the harbour where had started some two hour earlier, having been escorted to the cafe where our keys were we thanked our saviours and they went off to continue their official duties.

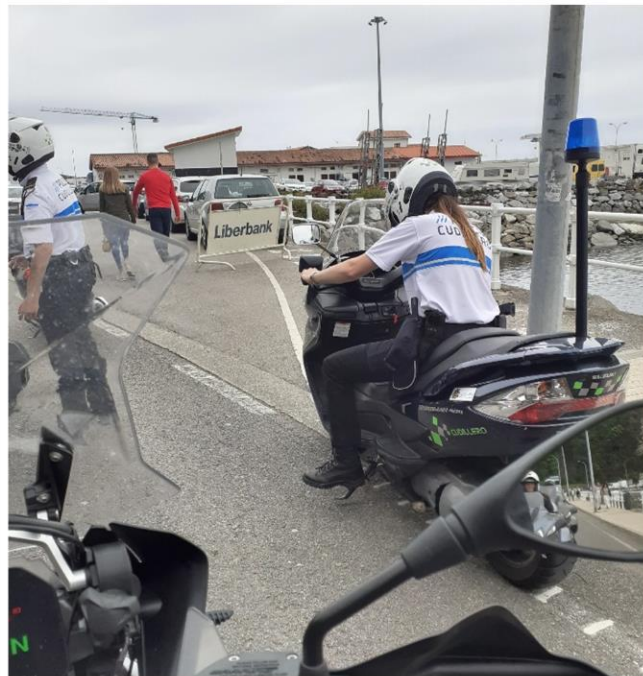
Ian went into the cafe to pick up the keys, he emerged five minutes later and informed us they had no keys, here we go again I thought, Ian had a contact number, which he rang, after what I interpreted as a confusing conversation Ian explained that the owner had arranged to meet us at the cafe and he would escort us to the apartment, he was half an hour away and we should wait for him, we ordered coffee and duly waited.

Waiting on the corner for a police escort?



Five Amigo's Go to Spain – by Chris Steel

Thirty five minutes later a gentleman arrived and explained that he had left Ian a message on his phone about the arrangements, Ian explained that he had been riding his bike so was not able to take the call, anyway all was well in the end, we were to follow his car and he would take us to our accommodation, off we set and he drove passed the road closed barrier, I got a severe feeling of dread, but he was the local so follow we did, then the two police people appeared again and stopped him, he explained the situation and we were allowed thirty minutes to unload and remove our bikes from the area, we had to park them back at the harbour as no vehicle parking was allowed in the town over the weekend, we continued following our guide and found our accommodation was right by the harbour wall, we were shown up to our first floor apartment, which I suspect had been his mother's apartment, and after she had died he decided to rent it out to tourist's to generate extra income, all the furniture and decorations were still there, circa 1970, it was quite eerie, having had all the do's and don'ts explained to us he left us to it and we unpacked our luggage and rode back to the harbour and secured our bikes for the weekend, we walked back to our accommodation and changed into something more comfortable, after the last few traumatic hour it was defiantly beer and wine o clock.



Party Time and
Police – was Chris
dreaming?

More next Month Chris

Two Wheels Down Under by Chris Prior – 1st month instalment taster

I'd oftentimes heard the term *flickability* but didn't really know what it meant until I rode a Honda CB400. A few Februaries ago while Britain shivered, I had the good fortune to be working in Perth, Australia. With temperatures in the upper 30s and wide-open spaces on my doorstep, how could I not hire a bike for at least one weekend? From Cody Russell of CR Motorcycles, I hired a CB400 and spent a Saturday exploring the wheat growing country to the east of the city. In this vast flat landscape, all things man-made seem insignificant. Here, along gentle curves and reasonably well-paved roads, one can ride for miles scarcely seeing another vehicle. At Lake Leschenaultia, I stopped to admire the view for coffee and a delicious honey and macadamia slice.

Along roads lined with red gum trees I arrived at York where I spent some time in the superb community-owned Motor Museum. Australia is justly proud of its wealth of historic buildings. In York these include the Old Gaol where gloomy cells and ball and chain exhibits recall harsher times. The first Europeans to settle in Western Australia were initially welcomed by the Aborigines who mistook them for their returning ancestors. In Aboriginal culture private property was an alien concept. The land that supported them was their mother and belonged to all. They showed early European immigrants where to find water, so when these watering holes were included in fenced-off land, hostilities were inevitable, especially as cattle were easier to hunt than kangaroos. Imprisonment was particularly traumatic for Aborigines, often incarcerated for offences they were unaware of having committed. To be continued.



By Lake Leschenaultia
(More next month 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.



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

