

Editors Ramblings

Early SAD syndrome setting in this year! Another couple of Sundays sat in front of the computer screen with the rain battering down outside, distant memories of our European holiday fading away but writing a multiple issue article for this newsletter brings it all back with looking at photos to insert and help remember what I did that day to make some sense of my typed drivel. Mixed in with an electric bike off road session this month to report on too. Not all bad then but oh I miss these warm sunny days already! Bring on summer 2020.

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!

South Cheshire Advanced Motorcyclists Newsletter October 2019



1994 to 2019



A Word from the Chair

A busy month for your committee in organising events for the members over the coming months. We have our presentation evening celebrating the success of the associates passing their tests to a presentation on bike cleaning, including a prize on the night of getting your bike protected! Our Christmas meal venue has been booked and all the 25th anniversary (free) badges have been delivered. We have been asked what does continuing your £12.50 yearly membership to SCAM give you? Well apart from the above you have this fine newsletter every month, you are supporting the group in its continuing running of our three courses over the year to make more and more motorcyclists are safer on our ever increasingly crowded and dangerous roads. You have the weekly Sunday and summer evening ride outs led by Dave Coomber and his encyclopaedic knowledge of routes in this region and beyond.

We will have other events organised from talks to skittle evenings as well. If there is something else you would like us to include for your £1.00 per month please come to a committee meeting and we will gladly listen to your ideas for inclusion throughout the year.

Please contact me with any queries you may have.

Happy riding everybody, stay safe Gordon

07590596380



Presidents Page

Chris is busy this month so here is a picture of the fresh associates and not so fresh Observers at the introduction evening for the autumn course.



A big welcome to our Associates on the Autumn course: -

Colin Egan, Andrew Parkes, Paul McGowan

Stefan Yorke, Richard Wakeley, Sue Maslin

Ken Higginbotham, Graham Smith, Richard Metz



The Dirty Motorcycle on Clean Fuel Session

I had this voucher burning a fossil free hole in my sock drawer since I received it at Christmas, so it was about time I used it before it lost its charge. E-SCAPE at Preston Brook Cheshire was the venue and the Cardiac Kid who had organised the morning and most of the vouchers set the date for our Saturday morning in September. It was going to be interesting as we had already been to an off-road experience in Wales the year before so it would be interesting to see the differences with an electric bike. We all gathered at the venue which offered a café full of drinks and snacks for before and after your sessions on its red dirt track which had found its way into the café! We were provided with boots, helmets, gloves and knee/elbow pads with loose fitting jeans/sweatshirts ok to wear.

We were a mixed bunch of experienced bikers and novices and “I rode bikes twenty years ago” experts! We all had the same package so we all gathered round at the starter circuit to get to know the bikes which were KTM Freeride-E Electric Motorcycles, their operation was simple a mix of motorcycle controls, right hand throttle, mountain bike brakes on the handlebars with an on off switch with different power modes.



Instructor going through the controls



The Dirty Motorcycle on Clean Fuel Session

We were then all let loose on the beginner's loop to get used to riding off road on dirt and standing up learning to stay upright and looking forward rather than just in front of your front wheel! Now this was difficult when you all had to go at the pace of the slowest rider in front on this tight little circuit. We had a couple of stops where they went into more techniques for riding off road like keeping your leg out in front of you to help you keep upright if you started to slide, not likely to happen here but very likely to get shouted at for poor form at 5mph!

Next up was "Super-Charge" a 20-30 minute session on the "advanced Circuit" going round sections and stopping to have each one explained to you on how you should tackle each one, this was very informative and better than just being let loose on the circuit not knowing what to expect round the next corner.

The course was very narrow for the most part apart from one straight where you had the space to overtake. The bends were tight and narrow with some berms on the outside to enable you to take some of the corners with a bit more vroom.



The Dirty Motorcycle on Clean Fuel Session

Now all clued up we were then let loose on power stage one of three which for the tight course was in the most part enough until the one straight where you had to wring the power out of the battery to get past a slower rider. The course was explained as a mix of Motocross, Enduro and BMX type riding designed to be easy to ride but still technically challenging as your confidence and speed increases.

It was great to not have to think about gears and clutch control as you wound your way around the track being able to concentrate on your lines and speed ready for the next corner which was coming up every couple of seconds. I still found myself using my phantom rear brake that did not exist even with my left hand using the lever at the bar!

The power was easy to use, and the bikes did accelerate nice and fast considering the power level they were set on, there was no engine braking, so you had to get used to that as well. The circuit had a couple of sections with jumps on that you could have some airtime on, but you had to be careful as there was not a lot of time from landing to the next corner! Our expert from twenty years ago decided to get over two jumps at once and for some reason did not try it again! This was a great little introduction to E bikes and off-road riding and was definitely suitable for all abilities with the staff friendly and accommodating. You could have extra twenty-minute sessions to add to your day for £20 a time – you may have to wait for your bike to be recharged though.



Some of the crew before riding



The KTM E-Freeride machine



The Highlander

The Balkans: Croatia – Bosnia – Slovenia – Part Two

Day four and we are now well on our way towards the Balkans and all ready for the off to head east on the A4 towards Trieste a quick sixty miles to get us towards the Slovenia border. We were right into the hot weather now and it was not long before it was nearly 30 degrees again so our first stop to get our Slovenia Vignettes, we were topping up on our water supplies rather than the usual coffees. Into Slovenia we were heading towards today's tourist destination of the Postojna Caves one of the largest caves in the world. Not a caveman myself just a little Neanderthal! I was mostly looking forward to a nice bit of cool air for a bit. Well I was a bit surprised how big the actual caves were with more trains to take you deep into the caves than Euston Station! I can see how they have managed to get thirty-eight million people down there. Once off the train it was a mile or so to walk around the furthest caverns with a guide giving plenty of information on the history of the caves. The caves were created by the Pitka River and are 24,120 m long and down 115 m. It is two million years old, ten degrees (cool) 95% humidity. It even has a concert hall! Out of the caves into the baking heat we had a quick bite to eat for lunch before getting on our way through Slovenia and the outskirts of the capital Ljubljana then onto the Croatian border at Babno Polje. Well into Slovenia we were now getting to the Plitvicka National Park where our hotel for the next two nights was situated nice and rural.

The hotel was very homely, and it had a very welcome pool and bar area where we were able to cool off and rehydrate after the hot day we had just had. The next day was a rest day and you could have visited the Plitvice Lakes National Park but CK and myself wanted to keep riding rather than a hot slog round a lake or two! Route downloaded we were off to the Croatian coast. We headed south towards Starigrad and had a brilliant time on some cracking roads nice and quiet, great surfaces, bends and views which were the best of the tour so far then got even better as we approached the coastline and the Adriatic Sea came into view with stunning views of the offshore islands and the road winding down to the coast we just had to stop and soak it in before enjoying the hairpins down to the coastal road and for us to head north on another cracking road hugging the coast.



Postojna Caves



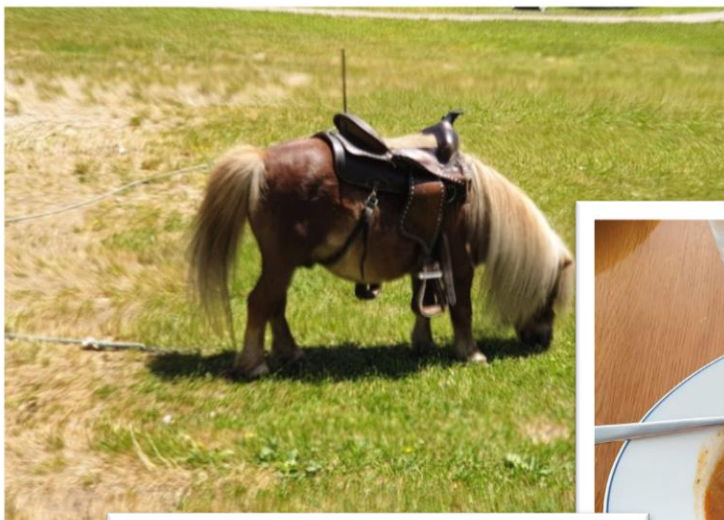
Adriatic Coast Road – brilliant!



The Balkans: Croatia – Bosnia - Slovenia

Time for lunch and a stop at a little sleepy coastal restaurant for a salad before we had to get on the bikes to continue on this great route, we were lucky enough to be on. We got to our northernmost point at Senj where we were now heading east inland back towards the hotel on some more rural roads, some more rural than others as we found ourselves on an unclassified bit of tarmac where we had to play the dodge the local car not expecting other vehicles to be on their road game! Game completed without loss of life we got back to the hotel where poolside we were giving it our best “you missed a cracker of a ride” talk! It was not a difficult task! A nice evening was had with some homely food to go with a few drinks to end a fine day in Croatia.

We had gone out the day before to the Bosnian border to get our green cards for a reasonable ten euros to save time today as it was only ten miles from our hotel, so it was an easy crossing into Bosnia and its very green countryside. It was a very casual ride through here as the speed limits were on the low side considering it was very open and lacking much traffic, it did give us time to check out the scenery and the mountains covered in forests green as far as we could see. There was the odd ruined building but not much else here in where you would have expected to see a fair number of cows or sheep grazing but nothing at all! We were sticking to the speed limits as the police here are pretty hot on speeders and every corner had a lower limit on it too, not the most entertaining ride of the trip.



**Might get on this one,
definitely not made by
KTM!**



Big stew. Not a pony!



The Balkans: Croatia – Bosnia - Slovenia

A hundred miles in it was time for lunch and we stopped by a nice lake and Moto Plaza Café then on our way a mile up the road to be confronted by the road closed with no prior warning or diversions signposted. Tom the tour guide took it in his stride though, so it was back to the café for some info on getting around this closed road. We were now on the little road skirting the lake wondering where this was going to take us but not to worry, we got back on the main road without resorting to off road activities! We were now going through central Bosnia and rising through the Vranica Mountains a mountain range in the Dinaric Alps rising up to above two thousand metres. The greenery did thin out a bit up high and as we got nearer Sarajevo it did get a lot more populated. Talking of populated I did not think Sarajevo was going to be such a busy city as we went along a four lane carriageway chock full of all sorts of traffic travelling at a snail's pace and as you all know when its hot and it was it was not a pleasant experience for what seemed like a very long time before we reached our hotel in the city centre. Ah time for a bit of air-conditioned room to chill in before dinner, well not before we had to change rooms for the lack of cool air coming out of our first rooms AC unit! Finally, cool!!! Sarajevo is a compact city of a population of 275,000 with a cultural and historic heart and an evening walking through the central streets mingling with tourists and locals alike it made sense that Sarajevo was a place to come too. A nice meal sitting in the narrow streets soaking in the atmosphere was followed by more night-time sightseeing along the Miljacka River and the bridge where Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated in 1914 which sparked World War I.

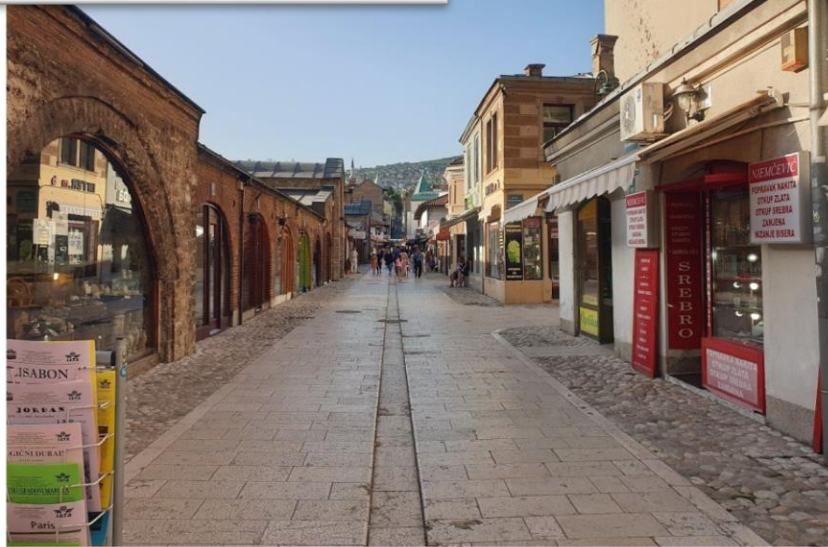


Miljacka River Bridge

The Balkans: Croatia – Bosnia - Slovenia



**Sarajevo Old Walls and
Old Town**



More next month -The Highlander

Roadsmart Magazine Articles

Yes, it's time for your Autumn RoadSmart magazine so dig it out from behind the sofa and have a look at these articles and more!

- Not just motorcycles but the manifesto for better drivers and riders is a declaration on its aims to improve road safety.
- Advanced riding skills do pay off
- Skill Days information
- Black Boxes – will it make car drivers safer towards motorcyclists?
- The Wild Atlantic Way – on my bucket list of places to go 2021 is pencilled in!
- Henry Cole on his adventures on and off two wheels
- The Dangers of a Country Ride - Rural Roads can hide plenty of dangers

Test Passes

Ray Symms

Charlie Rae

Mark Barnes



Thank You Card Received

As some of you know Richard Newnham has not been very well recently and has missed coming out on the club rides, Richard has been an active member of the group over a long time, so the committee sent a card and flowers. We have received a very nice thank you card in reply with appreciation and Richard is hoping to thank everyone himself in the not too distant future



Piston Points Trophy

Yes, at long last we have a winner for 2019 for The Crewe Honda Piston Points trophy. This is Awarded for points accrued over the year for Contributing to the group for either newsletter Contributions, organising or attending club Events. We will be awarding this at the Presentation Evening on the 18th of October So, you will find out who has won it there. Points are now being counted for next year, So, keep on contributing to gain points! We have agreed that committee members Doing their committee work do not get points So, for example the Highlander gets Nil Points For the articles he puts into the newsletter! And Dave Coomber gets no points for turning up every Sunday to lead the ride outs!





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



Festive Fayre

2 COURSES 16.99	3 COURSES 18.99
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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.
*Contains alcohol. Please advise the team of any dietary requirements when ordering. *Excluding Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Starters

PEWEE 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 (v))

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

CHRISTMAS PUDDING (v)**
Served with brandy sauce

WARM CHOCOLATE FUDGE CAKE (v)
Served with vanilla flavoured ice cream

FESTIVE CRUMBLE (v)
Kentish Bramley apple and mince crumble with custard

Desserts

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

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

CHEESE & BISCUITS (v) 4.00 EXTRA
A selection of Stilton*, Croston Manor 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 18th October - Annual course certificate presentation evening for the associates on the Autumn 2018 course and the Associates on the Spring and Summer courses 2019 for at Winsford Fire Station – 7pm

31st October – The Hawk Haslington -Premier Care Motorcycle – All Year Biker Motorcycle care talk by Barrie Walters – Everyone who attends this talk will be entered into a draw for an All Year Biker treatment of their motorcycle!

28th November – Talk by Peter Roberts – Life In the F1 Pit Lane on the Club Night at the Hawk



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!



Fancy winning an “All Year Biker” treatment for your motorcycle? Well come along to the Premier Motorcycle Care evening at the Hawk on Thursday 31st of October for the presentation by Barry Walters on what this entails for your motorcycle and how it benefits it. Everyone attending gets entered into a draw for a free treatment (for their bike!)

Other Events of a two-wheeled nature

4-6th October – BSB Donnington Park

4-6th October – MotoGP – Buriram Thailand

5th October – Ride to the Wall – various locations – www.rtw.org

11-13th October – WSB – San Juan Argentina

13th October - Darley Moor Racing and Stars at Darley
www.darleymoore.co.uk

18-20th October – BSB – Brands Hatch

18-20th October – MotoGP – Motegi Japan

19-20th October – Classic Motorcycle Mechanics Show – Staffordshire County Showground

24-26th October – WSB – Losail Qatar

26th October – National Motorcycle Museum LIVE Open Day

25-27th October – MotoGP – Phillip Island Australia

That's all this month

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

The Highlander

