

Editors Ramblings

Anybody feeling normal yet? This "New Normal" has been here for over six months now, it was a lot easier when the rules were the same for everyone but now you could travel 50-100 miles and go through many different lockdown conditions on who you can be with or meet up with or where and when you can be with others its mad mad mad! At least we can still get out on our bikes in groups of six keeping social distancing in place when stopped – do I have to say when moving too? What have you done to keep on biking? Let us know with a quick story and maybe a picture or two.

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 2020



1994 to 2019



Word from the Chair

Well, after what can best be described as a difficult Spring and Summer, we finally resumed rider training and even managed to get to grips with zoom meetings.

At the AGM, Gordon stood down as Chairman and I have taken over. So, firstly thanks to Gordon for everything he did during his spell in the Chair and I'm very glad to say that he's going to continue on the committee and with his newsletters. As always, he needs content, so send him something if you can.

For those who don't know me, a brief introduction. Having gained my advanced qualifications with the Police as both a motorcyclist and car driver, I've been involved with the IAM, off and on, for about 30 years. Since joining SCAM about 4 years ago, I've qualified as a National Observer, Local Observer Assessor and Masters Mentor. I'm also a rider assessor for Shropshire Staffordshire Cheshire Blood Bikes and a RoSPA Examiner for bikes and cars.

More importantly, I've met great people and made some good friends.

As I write this the combined Spring and Summer course has drawn to a close and there have already been several test passes, congratulations to those who have successful and best of luck to anyone still to take their test. A big thank you to Chris and all the Observers who gave their time in very challenging circumstances.

Preparations are well in hand for the Autumn course which again will be going ahead amid ever changing restrictions due to Covid. As there are only a small number of Associates on the course, we'll be making the most of an ideal opportunity to incorporate some refresher training for our Local Observers. Meanwhile, Pete Mathieson will also be running an Initial Observer Course.

That's enough from me, if you have any suggestions for anything which might be beneficial for SCAM, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Dave Cox



Presidents Page

The Spring/Summer course has been completed, with three test passes already, congratulations to Dave Lewis, Les Williams and John Gilbert, I would like to remind the Associates from the course that you can join sessions of the Autumn course to polish your skill sets prior to test if you wish, please contact me no later than the Tuesday prior to the session as I allocate Observers on the Wednesday.

With this new rule of six in place the last session of the Spring/Summer course was a bit hectic I had to introduce seven start times in order to comply with the government's rules, I know this meant less time for everyone to have a chat, but hopefully everyone had a good day.

As one course ends another one starts, welcome to the Associates on the Autumn course which has session one on October 4th, I have had to introduce three start times again in order to comply with the regulations, so this year the first start time is 9am, the second 9.30am and thirdly 10am, things may change as the pandemic appears to be on the increase again, we will have to see how it develops.

Dave Coomber our social ride co-ordinator will make a decision on the start time for the Social rides, the start time changes to 10am during autumn and Winter, having spoken to him recently he is proposing to keep it at 10am, so keep an eye on the web site for start times.

I know 2020 has been a total loss for us all and the start of 2021 appears equally as disappointing, but we will get through this and things will return to normal, or the new normal, I would like to thank the membership for their continued support of the group.

We have to always look to the future and thinking about next year's courses, with no bike show this year the IAM will not have the opportunity to sell RoadSmart so we will have to promote our courses, we are going to hold promotional events prior to the courses and your help will be appreciated, I will let you know in due course as to when and where.

Chris Steel.

President.



And Your Committee for This Year Is: -

President – Chris Steel

Chair – Dave Cox

Vice Chair – Neil Jewell

Secretary – Ian Cunningham

Treasurer – Andy Gralton

Committee Members: –

Phil Buckley, Dave Coomber, Chris Steel, Gordon Low, Geoff Highfield, Phil Hamilton



Motorcycle Photo's from Yesteryear – Gordon Low



Dressed to impress, Man at
C&A?

New Associates: -

Matthew O'donnell

Lynne Connolly

Test Passes: -

Peter Tweedy (F1rst)

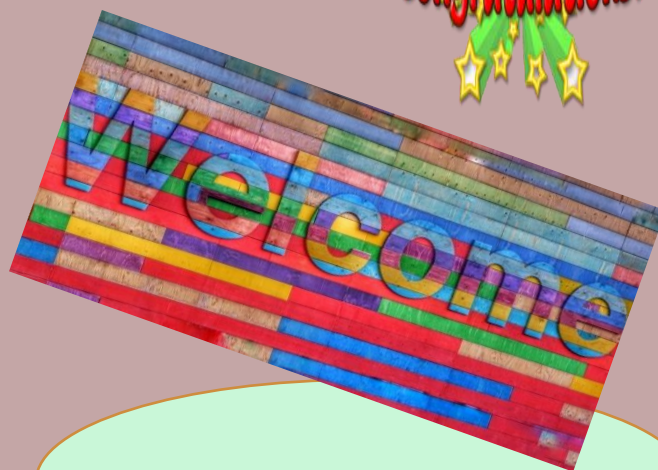
Sue Maslin

John Gilbert

Les Williams

New Member: -

Mark Jones



Michelin Tyre Pressure Management System Review

I've recently purchased a Michelin tyre pressure monitor for @ £70.00 and I'm so impressed!

Although the Versys SE has every conceivable gadget and electronic gizmo it doesn't have a tyre monitor.

I've been using it for the last couple of weeks and it seems to be reliable and accurate.

To install replace the standard dust caps with the supplied dust caps and fix the monitor holder to the bike with the supplied tape. The monitor is magnetic and can be removed from the holder.

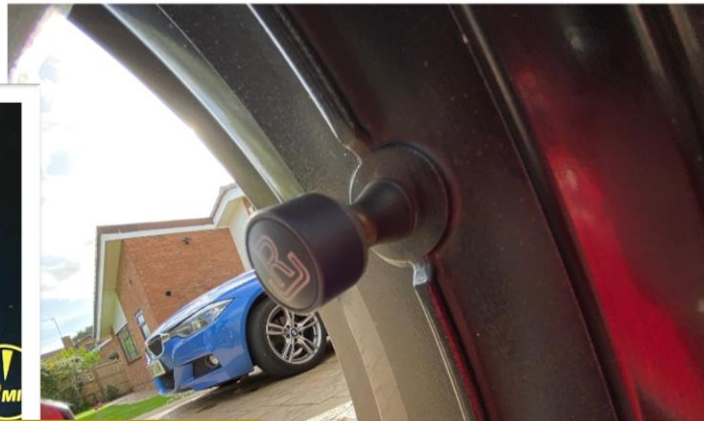
The monitor switches itself on when it senses any movement and switches from front to rear pressures. The monitor reportedly lasts 3 months in-between charges that is done via a USB connection.

The system warns you if tyre pressure drops or if the heat of the tyre exceeds normal tolerances - often a sign just before a blowout.

So, a good safety device imo well worth the money 👍



Phill Hamilton



Very neat solution to keeping an eye on pressures



RoadSmart Highlights – Find that Mag Now!

Boomtime for bikes –
Motorcycles up 15% Scooters up
43%

Road Trips – Snowdonia, Isle of
Skye & The Peak District

The Big Skills Refresher

Coronavirus – Rethinking
Roads

High-tech Motorcycling Safety
Gear

The Road to Happiness –
Mental health - can what's in
your garage be the answer?



Q & A with DoT's Baroness
Vere with IAM RoadSmart
response

Insider – Photographs of life on the
road before lockdown

Riding to the Rescue – ways
motorcyclists are helping
through the pandemic

Neurodiversity need not be a
barrier to achieving success at the
highest levels of advanced riding

Anniversary Rideout Revisited

Having a rare Sunday free and my two compadre's The Cardiac Kid and the Caretaker free for the day, I commandeered the route decision making duties for a full days riding round our anniversary Rideout route. Having this in my Sat Nav helped my decision as I had no time before to plot a new route! Rather than just go over the same route details (So much easier with a bit of cut and paste!) I will just give a little overview of the day.

- 1) As I am a stickler for not missing out part of a planned route I made my way to Costa in Crewe, I have often gone past my house on a planned route just so I can complete it even though it may be an extra twenty miles or so even on a bicycle!
- 2) Cafes – No stop at Malwyd as it was closed as were lots of other eateries through the route, no worries as a cheese and tomato sandwich was ready and waiting in my top box along with a cold drink.
- 3) Aberystwyth – Who the devil arranged the closed roads for keeping people safe and apart? We just wanted to stop along the front to stretch our legs! Well not much chance of that with the one-way system in place that was harder to navigate than the Crystal Maze! We eventually found an exit and received ten gold bars for our troubles!
- 4) Chocolate Shop near Devils Bridge, stopped to have the said Cheese and Tomato Sandwich – decided on an ice-cream as it was nice and warm, felt strange no masks needing to be worn in Wales in shops! Nice ice-cream though!
- 5) Screw! The Caretaker had picked up a screw somewhere along the route darn! Pressure was ok so we continued on as no garages were near and any help would have been hours away. We did get to a garage and it had lost a few pounds so the Caretaker retreated home on his own to get it fixed/replaced so it was down to two for the second half of the ride.



Toy Triumph between
the RT and GS!

Anniversary Rideout Revisited

- 1) Love Basecamp! NOT!! I had to create the route in two sections as it did not have the road through the Ellan Valley on it! I managed to take the right turning to join the two routes last year but no..... missed it this year as the first waypoint was not picked up so a slightly shorter main road was taken instead, still a nice bit of road but I was looking forward to going through the Valley again and by the time we realised we were on the wrong road it would have taken us too long to retrace our route.
- 2) Crossgates reached and a little snack from the garage and seat on the outside benches before another great road the A483 always a fantastic stretch of tarmac on the bike.
- 3) And then it was onwards to home and another great ride over 250 miles of favourite SCAM route sections picked by Dave Coomber and worthy of doing at least once a year. Hope we can do it as a group ride next year!



Well and truly screwed!

The Highlander

South India Tour by Chris Prior – Some Extra Pictures

Kerala and Tamil Nadu, February 2008



Tea Pickers

Wayside Kitchen



South India Tour by Chris Prior – Some Extra Pictures

Folk Dancer



Tiger Reserve
Guide



Chris Prior In the
Western Gats



South India Tour by Chris Prior – Some Extra Pictures



Another Snack Stop



Western Gnats



Wild Boar

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

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

Other Events of a two-wheeled nature

- 2-4th October – BSB Round Five – Donnington Park
- 2-4th October – WSB – Round Seven – Magny-Cours France
- 4th October – FIM MXGP/MX2 Motocross – Mantova - Italy
- 6-8th October – WSB – Round Eight – Misano - Italy
- 11th October – Darley Moor Racing and Stars at Darley Round Six
- 11th October – MotoGP – Le Mans France
- 16-18th October – BSB – Brands Hatch
- 18th October – MotoGP – Motorland Aragon Spain
- 25th October – MotoGP – Yes it's still Motorland Aragon Spain

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

