

Editors Ramblings

The nights are now officially dark so daylight playtime on the bikes is now getting limited, still the roads are salt free (for now!) a bit muddy from farmers doing their autumn ploughing so keep your eyes peeled for crap on the road.

Another great article submitted this month. Its Chris Prior's turn to give us an account of a ride through France and Spain.

Any winter events you would like to involve other members? Let us know in good time and we can advertise it in the newsletter, lets prise ourselves off our sofas and get out there!

Remember we have our Facebook page – please join and contribute on it -

<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 November 2017

A Word from the Chair

Well, the clocks have gone back, the leaves are turning, and the temperature has plummeted. Yes, winter is definitely on the way, so it is a good job we are coming to the end of this year's training program. To reinforce this we had to postpone session 4 due to the high winds following storm 'Brian' and this highlights the importance of assessing the necessity of a bike journey, particularly at this time of year. So, unlike those in their tin boxes, who seem surprised when adverse weather arrives and fail to change their driving, remember to add weather to your pre-ride checklist and make decisions accordingly.

The group had a great presentation evening at Cheshire Fire and Rescue HQ where we were able to recognise the achievements of our associates and observers. There was also a good talk from Norman our guest speaker on his trip to the Sturgis bike week. That just leaves the Christmas meal as the last social event of the year, so get your places booked!

This month does offer the opportunity to see next year's shiny new bikes at the NEC and if you are thinking of going why not write an article on your thoughts for this very newsletter. Our editor, The Highlander is always happy to receive copy.

Safe riding

Mark



Presidents Page

The president is presently
Lost in fog. Any sightings
Please report to the Ed!



Sturgis Bike Week

Norman gave a great talk on his trip to Sturgis last month. He had some interesting facts from his journey from Roller Coasters to Mega Harley Dealers. He did this in 2009 on a Harley from Las Vegas with a total mileage of 3,200 from huge cities to Lost Springs population of One!! GPS loaded with his route I bet you do not get many "Turn right in 189 miles" instructions! I am sure we have had hot seats in our time but not many times having to use ice cubes to cool them down. The roads were mostly empty (dream on England!) with breath-taking scenery coupled with informative geography facts including Mount Rushmore. Although motorcycles were the mode of transport we got details of all sorts of transport big and small seen on his trip. Sturgis had about 500,000 bikes there for the week with them stretching for as far as the eye could see. All this done on a fifteen day trip of a lifetime.



Review – Bikertidy

With my motorcycle clothing wardrobe getting full and boots helmets and gloves all over the place I decided enough was enough and this bit of kit taken my eye through adverts and bike shows was ordered and duly delivered in a week or so time. I went for a free standing unit double sided to cope with my various outfits. When delivered it was packed really well in three boxes which did take a bit of time to wrestle out of the packing. The instructions were clear enough for me to put it up in just over thirty minutes then a bit of a wrestle to get it in place in the room. In no time at all I had all my kit hung up and now easy to see and keep aired.



The frame is sturdy as well as the shelves to support the weight of leathers, textiles and helmets. Hangers for jackets again are solid so no gambling on will it or wont it hold my jacket before breaking in two leaving said garment in the bottom of your storage. The trouser hangers have vice like grips that will hold the heaviest trousers with ease.

The free standing units start at £120 for a one sided unit and you can custom fit your stand with extra shelves or hangers. Also available are wall mounted, luggage, helmet specific tidy's and a cover your kit range as well.

They are at the bike show this month stand 3F55 in Hall 3A or at bikertidy.com

The Highlander

Spoke to Soon? by Chris Prior

At more than 1,100 metres above sea level, Ávila is chilly in October. In the morning I'd left a warm Seville to ride through Extremadura as I neared the end of my ride through France to Southern Spain. In 1969 many Spanish rural roads were rutted and poorly surfaced, and this may have contributed to a broken spoke in the rear wheel. Moreover, a split had developed in the top of the oil tank. That day's journey from Seville to Ávila had been long and tiring. Apart from the oiled leg my motorcycle suit was splattered with insects. I had been on the road for more than three weeks and having ridden through some foul weather the bike was pretty dirty. In spite of my travelling on a strict budget – in those days currency restrictions permitted only £50 per year to be spent abroad, plus £15 for the bike – I decided I deserved a bit of luxury, so I rode into the car park of the city's parador, the former Piedras Albas Palace. Surrounded by smart cars, I heaved the bike onto its stand. A uniformed porter carried my luggage and I was checked in without the looks of askance I might have expected in similar circumstances in the UK.



Up on the Sierra Nevada

On a cold Sunday morning I left Ávila. How many spokes could I afford to lose before the wheel collapsed? I had no idea. There were now four days before my ferry departed Bilbao, and at Segovia I stopped to study the map for the best route to the port. I could take a longer route on a main road, or a shorter one with less chance of being helped if the bike broke down completely. I decided on the latter and slowly rode more-or-less directly northwards on minor roads towards Burgos.

Spoke to Soon? continued....

Twice I heard a *ting! ting!* that indicated another spoke breakage. Fortunately, I had a spoke spanner in my tool kit, so I could remove the broken spoke and recheck the others, testing their sound when struck, and evening out the tensions by tightening those that rang dull.

As the elevation rose, cultivated fields gave way to moorland scrub. Through the mist that was beginning to settle in the late afternoon I could see in the distance small groups of hunters carrying long-barrelled guns moving slowly across the moor. I could not see any birds. The scrub provided precious little cover for anything larger. They did not appear to be carrying anything, so what they were hunting?

As daylight faded and concerned about the danger of collapse of the rear wheel, I thought I'd better stop soon rather than risk being caught out in the dark in the middle of nowhere with a disabled bike. Unfortunately, I don't remember the name of the next village I rode into. Such a small place would probably have been recorded only on the most detailed of maps. It did not look at all promising. The streets were unlit and badly paved. Cattle occupied some of the ground floors of houses, something I was not to see again until I visited Northern India on another motorcycle tour forty years later.

In this remote village I found the cheapest room of the trip, at 40 pesetas, five shillings (25p) at the prevailing rate of exchange. I didn't like to guess how many had shared the bed since the last sheet change. Looking for somewhere to eat, I wandered around the village. In small low-ceilinged, dimly lit, bar I had a beer before realising that I had stumbled upon one of the hunting parties that I'd seen earlier in the day. Ancient looking long-barrelled guns were propped up in one corner of the bar. On chairs lining the walls, old men in berets sat drinking quietly. There was barely a murmur of conversation, perhaps reflecting the efforts of the day or the quiet satisfaction of a successful hunt. Against a pillar in the centre of the room, its hind legs attached to a roof beam, a recently gutted boar bled onto a sawdust covered floor.

Exhausted and relieved to have found the night's shelter, I'd left my camera in my room. I'm sure there would have been no objection to my photographing the scene. It's the photos I never took that I most regret. This was a scene anchored in the past, never likely to be seen again, at least in Western Europe.

By the way, my bike did make it to Bilbao, and from Southampton to home without further incident

Chris Prior



Austria and the Dolomites Tour – Final Part!

Sunday 30th July – On our way home now, the Dolomites are being left behind. The sun is still out and getting hotter, not long into the day and our first stop for fuel and removing any gear that was not needed so to keep cool. We had just gone over our last little Pass near Rauz before some long tunnels and the autoroute, onwards to Ravensburg which was to set the pattern for the day of small towns and open sweeping roads with the odd hairpin to keep us on our toes. A hot lunch stop in Lautlingen took ages to get served with hotdog sausages hanging out of small bread rolls! And the fries? Well you didn't want them with that did you? Needing to cool off a bit we got going to our next stop and the biggest cuckoo clock in the world at Schonlachbach a bit of a detour for a closed road meant we missed the 3 O'clock chime and got the less impressive half past single cuckoo! I have been more impressed with a tourist spot. I am sure the workings may have been more interesting if we had the time, but miles were needing to be done and more sweepers had our names on them. Only the one moment for one of our group not reading a hairpin right left him in the wrong position and the wrong speed going into it but the Multistrada helped him recover and get through the bend ok. The few drinks tonight he was having showed he needed a bit of calming down!



Monday 31st July - the last full day and getting nearer home! Straight away it was out of town and onto some great riding through tree lined rural roads to wake us up properly and ready for the famed B500 through the Black Forest. Heading towards Baden Baden we turned left onto this sweeping open road just made for bikes and a keen right hand! I had an open road so used it to the best advantage and enjoyed it tremendously, it would have been great to have the time to go and do it again but time was against us on getting over to Belgium. A couple of fuel stops and lunch between more rural roads and a bit of autoroute to get a few miles counted down, not that it saved much time the tolls took us to go through!

Austria and the Dolomites Tour – Final Part

Press English, pay money, get change, get receipt, green light, Go! MMmm... not so simple in practice, maybe the Irish guys were looking for another language? But it took a long time for all three payauges. The last fuel stop took a while as two cars had had a little altercation in the forecourt and the local police was not moving them till he had all the details. It was made all the more fun with fifteen bikes swinging around trying to get to the other available pumps! Bouillon reached and bikes parked safely in the hotel garage we had a little time to walk along the river and sample this towns atmosphere, a lovely little place and the Hotel de la Poste full of character. We were treated to a big thunder and lightning storm later in the evening too.



Tuesday 1st August – Homeward bound, the weather looks grim looking out at breakfast with rain peppering the river below our window. Luckily the breakfast selection offered everything a traveller needing to sustain themselves through some wet riding. We all gathered wet suits donned ready for the off. A shame as the roads leading out from the hotel would have been ideal on a dry day but challenging on a day like today. Through Rochehaut, Chairiere and Membre we tip toed our way to our coffee stop welcome to all this morning. With that break, the weather decided to cheer up as well the waterproofs stayed on as we had to get on the autoroutes and not a place to get caught short if it did start raining again. Not much more to say on interesting riding from here on as it was tapping out the miles before lunch at a service station then a further hundred miles to catch the train at Calais. It stayed dry and we got on the train in time although we did get split up and I had a moment where my passport decided to play hide and seek in my panniers! Chunnel done we made our way home through the quickest way on the motorways.

Overall a fantastic holiday in a stunning area with brilliant roads. All organised very well to cover as many roads for maximum motorcycling fun as possible while staying in excellent hotels with great food. It was a memorable time, either go on your own or with a tour company, you will not be disappointed whatever way you choose.

The Highlander

Austria and the Dolomites Tour – Final Part - Pictures



Bouillon, Belgium, The army is in town and nougat anyone?

Presentation Evening Pictures



Christmas Dinner – Friday 1st December at The Woodside, Valley Road, Wistaston, Crewe, CW2 8JU

It's never too early too early to organise a Christmas get together, so here is the menu for you to peruse and choose your choices before notifying Geoff of numbers and menu choices. Excellent value for money £12.99 two courses or £14.99 for three – no you can't have it for the children's price if you act like one!!!! 7:30pm for 8pm

Festive Fayre

Adults

2 COURSES 3 COURSES
£12.99 £14.99

Children

2 COURSES 3 COURSES
£4.99 £5.99



LARGE PARTY?

Buffet menus are available for 10 or more guests – please ask for details.

STARTERS

Stilton & Peppercorn Mushrooms ^V

Garlic ciabatta topped with sautéed mushrooms in a creamy peppercorn sauce, finished with crumbled Stilton.

Tomato & Basil Soup ^V

Served with bread and butter.

Chicken Wings[†]

Crispy chicken wings tossed in a sticky cranberry & orange sauce.

Prawn Cocktail[†]

Prawns on a bed of baby gem lettuce topped with seafood sauce, cucumber and served with bread and butter.

MAINS

Traditional Christmas Dinner

Hand-carved turkey, pig in a blanket, roast potatoes, Yorkshire pudding, stuffing, carrots, honey-roasted parsnips, Brussels sprouts and gravy.

Salmon with Hollandaise Sauce[†]

Grilled salmon served with buttered baby potatoes, carrots, peas and a smoked hollandaise sauce.

8oz Rump Steak with Peppercorn Sauce

Cooked to your liking, served with chips, grilled tomato, mushrooms, onion rings, peas and a creamy peppercorn sauce.

Christmas Burger

A classic cheese & bacon beef burger served with fries topped with crumbled stuffing, chopped pigs in blankets and nacho cheese sauce.

Butternut Squash, Sweet Potato, Mature Cheddar & Cashew Nut Roast ^V

Topped with caramelised red onion chutney and mature Cheddar, served with roast potatoes, carrots, honey-roasted parsnips, Brussels sprouts and vegetarian gravy.

Children's Menu

STARTERS

Tomato Soup ^V

Served with bread and butter.

Garlic Bread ^V

MAINS

Traditional Christmas Dinner

Hand-carved turkey, pig in a blanket, roast potatoes, Yorkshire pudding, stuffing, carrots, honey-roasted parsnips, Brussels sprouts and gravy.

Mac & Cheese ^V

Authentic macaroni in a rich, velvety cheese sauce served with garlic bread.

DESSERTS

Christmas Pudding ^V

Served with vanilla flavoured ice cream or custard.

Iced Snowstorm ^V

Two scoops of vanilla flavoured ice cream, topped with rich chocolate flavoured sauce.

DESSERTS

Christmas Pudding ^V

Served with your choice of custard or vanilla flavoured ice cream.

Chocolate Fudge Cake ^V

Served warm with vanilla flavoured ice cream.

Toffee Apple Crumble ^V

A classic apple crumble drizzled with toffee sauce and served with custard.

Limoncello Drizzled Cheesecake ^V

Vanilla cheesecake drizzled with limoncello sauce and served with vanilla flavoured ice cream.

TO FINISH

Cheese & Biscuits ^V £3.99

Mature Cheddar, Brie and Stilton with grapes, caramelised red onion chutney, butter and a selection of biscuits.

Coffee & Mince Pie ^V £1.99

Group Events – Updated for Spring Summer

Sunday Ride Outs – NEW WINTER TIME 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.

The Wednesday evening mid week ride outs are finished for this year!

Christmas Dinner – Friday 1st December at The Woodside,
Valley Road, Wistaston, Crewe, CW2 8JU

Test Pass's

Congratulations on another test pass goes to

Andrew Gralton



Other Events of a two-wheeled nature

4-5th November – Skegness Beach Race – amca.uk.com

9-12th November EICMA Milan Italy – Big Bike Show!!

12th November – MotoGP – Valencia

12th November – Ring of Red – M25 and M60

14-18th November – Baja 1000 Ensenada Mexico

18-26th November – Motorcycle Live NEC

2nd December – Various Charity Ride outs – santaonabike.org.uk

2nd December Southern Classic Off-Road Show – Kempton Park Middlesex

Caption Competition

It's that time of year when Sue has more time on her hands than she knows what to do with so while she was surfing the web she came across this picture. Now we need a caption for the picture or even better a quote on what she was looking for?

Answers to biker5chef@yahoo.co.uk



RoadSmart
FOR ADVANCED DRIVERS AND RIDERS - AUTUMN 2017

That's all this month

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

The Highlander

