

Editors Ramblings

Not long now before the weather will be getting friendlier and not a drudge to get the bike out and worse getting it washed and dried when you get back before it gets dark! An hour gained there so far and improving all the time fabulous. And with that I hope we will keep the uptake of newsletter submissions that has been steadily increasing over the last couple of years to take this newsletter to new heights.

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 February 2018

A Word from the Chair

Well the nights are getting lighter, but the weather is not getting much better for biking. As I write this we are trying to confirm the booking for the AGM and hopefully it will be in this issue. On the subject of the AGM and election of the committee, after three enjoyable years as chair, I have decided to stand down. I am about to take on a new professional challenge and so will not be able to commit the time needed to do justice to the role.

It has been a privilege to lead the group during a period of significant change. As part of the action plan I put forward for the group we have developed a new induction evening, moved to more professional and user friendly venues, held guest speaker evenings, linked up with neighbouring groups and trialled, then implemented the new IAM Roadsmart training program. Membership levels are healthy, and the committee has demonstrated its commitment to giving you good value and activities you want as evidenced by the responses to the membership survey.

So, with a full spring course and healthy bookings for the summer it is a good time for new leadership to take the group forward. I am delighted that Gordon Low, currently vice chair and editor of this fine newsletter is willing to stand as chair. Gordon will need an enthusiastic vice chair to support the work of the committee so if you would like to get more involved, get in touch with him or Ian the secretary.

Rest assured I look forward to the coming year as an observer and group member.

Safe Riding

Mark



Presidents Page

Well Christmas and New Year are now a memory and we look towards the year ahead, as you will have read already Mark Rogers is standing down as Chairman and Chief Observer at the AGM, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mark for all his hard work in both positions, having done them both myself I know the time the positions take up, on behalf of the group Mark many thanks for your dedication.

The Spring course has 14 Associates enrolled, and we have 6 new Local Observers who are champing at the bit to inform and educate the new Associates, likewise calling all the Observers let's make the Associates experience one to remember, please remember to return your availability form when you receive it, as always, we can't deliver skill for life without your support.

I know others will be reminding you about the AGM in March, please make every effort to attend, this is your group after all, I look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

That concludes my message for this month, remember let's be safe out there.

Chris Steel

President.

Winter RoadSmart

Just in case you have stuck the magazine with every other you have without reading it here is a run down of any motorcycle related articles that might get you searching for it again!

- Observers Celebrated at Motorcycle Live – Pictures and awards
- Life changing inspiration – life after being told you will not be able to ride again!
- Brittany – its only a short hop over to sample Europe
- Charlie Boorman – All Action Hero (Oh god another Cardiac event for CK) Ed
- Revisiting the Test – how times have changed on the road
- Electric Bike record
- Triumphs Factory Visitor Experience
- Lichfield M/C group – Counter Steering and braking training day



AGM Notification

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by order of the Group Committee that the Twenty Third Annual General Meeting of "South Cheshire Advanced Motorcyclists " will be held at 7.30 pm on Thursday 22nd March 2018 at Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service HQ Sadler Road, Winsford, Cheshire. CW7 2FQ to enable the Officers of the Group to present their Annual Report and Accounts for the year-end for approval by the Group Full Members and to conduct an election.

Secretary's Name	Ian Cunningham	Date	25.01.18
Address	18 St John's Way Sandiway Northwich Cheshire CW8 2LX Tel 01606889721 Mb 07545656078 ian.t.cunningham@hotmail.co.uk	Group Number	5213

All Group Full Members, Associates and Friends are invited to attend but only Group Full Members may vote.

A Member entitled to vote at the General Meeting may appoint a proxy to vote instead. A proxy need not be a Group Full Member.

CURRENT OFFICERS

All Officers retire annually and may offer themselves for re-election

Chair	Mark Rogers	Will Not stand
Vice Chair	Gordon Low	Will stand
Secretary	Ian Cunningham	Will stand
Treasurer	Jane Webb	Will stand



January Ride Out to Wales



Going a bit “Stir Crazy” with the January weather the Cardiac Kid persuaded a couple of us to get the bikes out for a blast and to follow a “Ride” route into Wales getting near to Snowdon. Agreeing to this despite my weather spidy sense saying it would be better to go east! I played with the route to get it down to a manageable distance for this time of year so we were back in time for the winter salt stroke crud removal ritual. Meeting at the usual place in Winsford I rolled in with the other two already there, now I was fifteen minutes early unusually for me so this did perplex me until I checked the time was right. Twenty miles on the bike and it was now looking like a farm vehicle already!

The route was flashed in front of the two Mikes with a five second explanation knowing they were just going to follow me, too trusting these Mike types!! Out of Winsford to the A49 and through Broxton with a CK in my ear trying to get me to stop for a fifteen-mile coffee break, not this time the Highlander is on a winter time ride so no stopping till more miles in the bag! Roads still mucky and showing signs of frost damage, we picked our way over to Wrexham and on to the A541 to Mold, I am sure this was a good road a few years ago but it has been spoiled with the speed limits reduced to thirties and forties. Over to Ruthin now on the A494 which is a bit more open and not a direction I have done it in before, near Ruthin the hairpins are much better the opposite direction and more so in better conditions. Next up was Denbigh on the A525 now giving us a quieter road at last. From Denbigh it was the A543 up the moor past Lake Brenig normally a visual feast with a great road to boot. Nah not this time the low cloud was over us restricting visibility along with a slippery road surface made it the wrong type of challenge! The full route would have taken us towards Pentrefoelas, but we turned off on to the B4501 towards Cerrigydrudion and a much-needed lunch stop. Having kept the bears hungry, it was a big breakfast all round with a bit of banter.

January Ride Out to Wales

All fed and watered we were off again on another great road (in the summer!) the B5401 to Bala, the weather was still mucky which kept us on our toes through the bends and progress was smooth rather than progressive. All this time I was looking out for a good clear spot to stop and get a bit of drone flying in with scenery and bikes but no flying was going to happen here in these conditions. Bala reached it was a quick right left onto the next moor road the B4391 we wound our way up there which kept us amused with its nice tight bends to start as it rises up. Now out in the open moor we were now joined by a stiff wind gusting sideways. **Picture above – leaning over – wind or bend? Not sure!** Not much conversation crackling through the airwaves from CK (think he was having another one!) descending down to Llangnog the wind calmed down and through Penybontfawr at least the roads were tourist free giving us one less thing to keep our eyes out for. We headed towards Oswestry on the A483 then the A495 to Ellesmere. We were now getting a drier climate in Shropshire which was giving us a few miles of decent road but with the added excitement of a dirt track ready to greet us round any bend! MMmmm now I know why they have me in front! We managed to stop at a layby near Welshampton to whip out the drone for a quick fly while the weather was clear although still breezy. A successful flight was done it was a short hop to McDonalds for a brew and snack before we headed home and the aforementioned bike cleaning which for me lasted into the dark with a torch in hand while still drying the bike! A great ride was had though despite the weather, I will listen to my spidy sense the next time though and insist on going where the weather is better!!!



Roads clear boys time to get going!

The Highlander

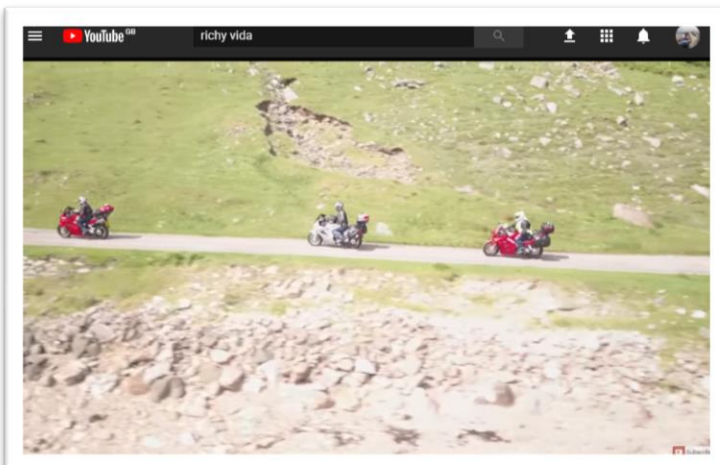
Motorcycling on You Tube

Its February the weather is still rubbish so time to sit back and watch some motorcycling related You Tube content. More and more of us have phones, tablets, laptops, computers, TV's and games machines that can access this so no excuse to not have an explore of the many Vloggers out there. Here is a selection that CK and myself have been watching over the last few months.

Missenden Flyer – Reviews tips and news, plenty of stuff to go through. A bit polite at times and what I'd call a southern softy!

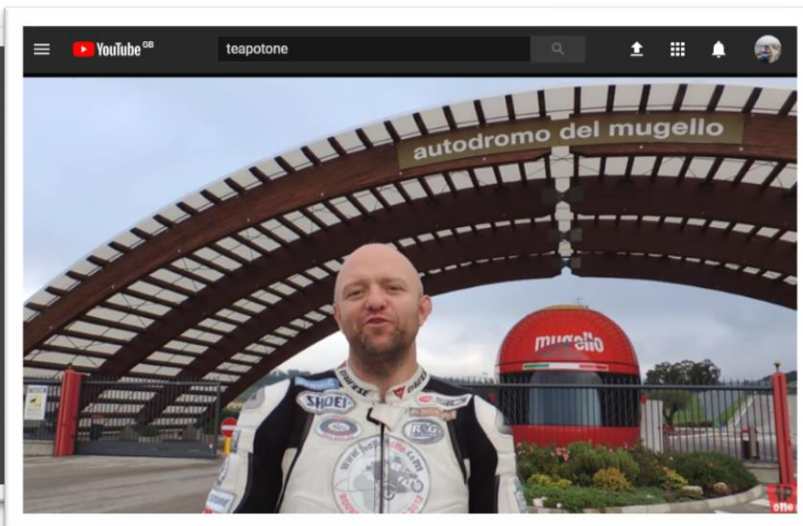


Richy Vida (Wildbad Touring)– Mostly holidays but lots of daily footage of them well done with narration and well edited. USA, Norway, Scotland, Croatia and Tenerife to name a few. One especially for Honda VFR owners!

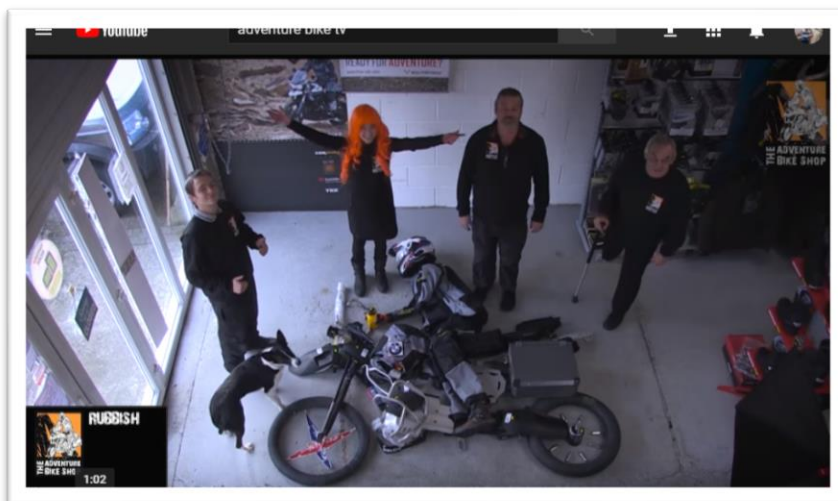


Motorcycling on You Tube - continued

Teapotone – Chickenstrips Tours – Just started watching this one, looks exciting, CK thinks he could keep up!! Round the world and more.



Adventure Bike TV – A well established channel with a program published every month with a selection of articles from reviews of bikes or gear to video editing and interviews too.



Happy viewing – don't blame me if you end up with square EYES!!

The Highlander

Bolton & District Group – Special Event Meeting

Hi everyone,

At our Group Meeting on the 6th of February 2018 the speaker will be Sarah Sillars, Chief Executive of IAM RoadSmart. The title of her presentation is "IAM RoadSmart - What Next?"

This very special evening will take place at the Mercure Bolton Georgian House Hotel, Manchester Road, Blackrod, Bolton, BL6 5RU, just a few minutes from Junction 6 of the M61. We are extending an invitation to those of you in other groups to hear what Sarah has to say. Come early for free refreshments which will be served from 7.15 pm.

IMPORTANT: Please let me know on 01204 848449 or gkwhittle@btinternet.com) by the 23rd of January if you intend to come so that we can make sure we have enough refreshments for everyone.

Gary Whittle

Secretary
Bolton & District Group



Group Events

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!

Test Pass's

Congratulations on another test pass goes to

None this month – in hibernation!



Other Events of a two-wheeled nature

1st February – Rally with a Chalet – Southport – Merseyside

16-18th February – MCN London Bike Show – ExCel Docklands

3-4th March – Scottish Motorcycle Show – Royal Highland Centre - Edinburgh

7-8th March – Kickback – Stoneleigh Park – Warks – thecustomshow.com

9-18th March – Daytona Bike Week Florida USA

24-45th March – Manchester Bike Show – Event City - Manchester

Club Website Update

We have fresh hands going over our website

<http://www.southcheshiream.org.uk/> reorganising it and updating the diary and Gallery to start off with.

We are now hosting the photographs through our Flickr account to make it easier to upload these and manage them. Link here: -

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/155059034@N08/albums>

So please any pictures taken on any club or interesting bike ride out send them over to Geoff Highfield at gh@highfieldassociates.co.uk or directly to Richard Kinsey at: richard.kinsey@tiscali.co.uk with a brief description and they will arrange for these to be put on to it. A Long or Short story will get a selection in the newsletter for an article too!

If you hold them in a Microsoft programme/file such as "Pictures" you can select the ones you want to send, right click on the mouse on one of them and select "send to", left click on "send to" and left click on "mail recipient". You will be asked what size pictures you want to send. Click on "large". An email will be formed in Microsoft Outlook. Complete it in the usual way and send to me. Use of this method significantly reduces the size of the picture so that several can be sent together.

If you hold them on a smart phone you can mail them directly but in small groups. Some smart phones such as the iPhone will ask if you want to reduce the size of the bundle if it is too big.

If you want a note of recognition/ownership for the photos, please tell us.

Holiday pictures, Presentation Evening, Anniversary Ride Out, Christmas Meal, A date with "Just Jane"? (Interesting) and more are there already.



Caption Competition - NEW

Here's another one for you to think of a funny caption, do your worst people!

Answers to biker5chef@yahoo.co.uk



That's all this month

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

The Highlander

