

Editors Ramblings

No its not an April fools joke, you are still getting a taste of "Beast from the East Three!" It is definitely getting better though as when the sun comes out it is definitely getting warmer as a few of us tasted this a couple of weeks back. Wow how good it was to get back on the bike without the trepidation of a wet, icy, muddy corner round every bend, now it is just every ten corners! I'll take that after this winter!

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

PS - Remember those subs are due!

South Cheshire Advanced Motorcyclists Newsletter April 2018

A Word from the Chair

And so it is the AGM has been and gone and with no competitors stepping into the ring to challenge the Chair for SCAM I am back in the hot seat for a second spell. It has been fourteen years since my last spell and looking at the present committee not much has changed in that time apart from a fair bit of aging!!! Where is the new blood coming through with fresh impetus and ideas to keep the group going forward? It is fantastic to have the experience on board and every member has benefited from their commitment over the past years. Although we have an elected committee for this year any member will be welcome to come forward to take a place with a foot in the door to speak and sample the work we do before taking any role. Any questions on what might be required just get in touch.

So for those not from the last decade or two a little bit about myself. I have been into motorcycles since 1980 and just a few miles, around 360,000 have gone under my wheels in that time, mainly on Honda's (I like the combination of reliability and build quality) with a Triumph, Kawasaki and a KTM in the mix too. I passed my advanced test in Edinburgh around 1995 with EDAM and progressed to Observing and a place on the committee. I had a few roles there before a move south to Cheshire led me to joining SCAM in 2000. I again held several committee positions culminating in being Chair in 2005. Due to life getting in the way – how dare it! I had to step down eighteen months later and had a sabbatical from motorcycling for a couple of years. As you know I have now been back for three years leading to where we are today.



A Word from the Chair

So apart from motorcycling... I started my working career as a chef and to this day I do love to spend some time in front of the stove which coupled with my new found awareness of what I eat (chefs do not care what they consume!) and my other two wheeled passion cycling and fitness go together quite nicely.

So the committee has yet to meet, Thursday the 19th this month we will get together and start our years plans. You are all welcome to come along and put forward any ideas, just contact me beforehand.

We do have one point to rectify, the groups accounts were not circulated beforehand as per the procedure for the AGM so we will be holding an EGM, most likely in May to have these rectified and the resolution done properly. We will communicate with you all to confirm the exact date and timings for this.



On location (somewhere dry and warm!)

Gordon

Presidents Page

Well we are now in April, hopefully the weather will start to improve, last month saw the AGM. Mark Rogers stood down as Chairman and Chief Observer, on behalf of the group and myself I would like to thank Mark for all his work in both roles and to wish him well in new job, I hope the job proves satisfying and rewarding.

I would like to wish Gordon Low our new Chairman every success in his new position, although Gordon has been Chairman before many years ago, only Dave Coomber and myself probably remember his tenure, either way I extend best wishes to Gordon in his new role as well as newsletter editor.

Regarding the position of Chief Observer, at the Observer meeting last month I was proposed and elected Chief Observer, although this appointment has to be approved by the committee, having said that I agreed to hold the position for twelve months, hopefully there will be other candidates next year, either way we have to have a Chief Observer it is a stipulation by the IAM.

I would like to welcome all the new Associates on the Spring course to the group, the skills you are about acquire will make you a safer, better rider, and your enjoyment will increase as a result of those new-found skills.

I would like to thank Geoff Highfield for agreeing to continue as Associate co-ordinator.

That concludes my contribution for this month, so until next time, safe riding.

Chris Steel

President.



SCAM AGM No24 2018

Election of Officers and Committee for 2018/19 (with positions held)

Chair	Gordon Low
Vice Chair	Position Vacant
Secretary	Ian Cunningham
Treasurer	Jane Webb
Membership Secretary	Geoff Highfield
Social Ride Coordinator	Dave Coomber
	Sue Rogers
	Richard Newnham

Members Present: - Mark Rogers, Jane Webb, Chris Steel, Geoff Highfield, David Coomber, Gordon Low, Sue Rogers, Mike Barrow, Richard Newnham, John Ricketts, Robert Hall, Nathan Wells, Nigel Howells, Paul Cuthbertson, Lesley Graffam, Jim Brown, Chris Prior, Peter Jackson, Phil Hamilton Graham Rogers.

Apologies: Ian Cunningham, Chris Mannix, Phil Buckley, Don Wood, Mike Riley, Sean McCarthy, Steve Ellis (Regional Service Manager)

Minutes of the 2017 AGM [Resolution 1]

Proposed: Chris Steel

Seconded: Geoff Highfield

Chairman's Report – Mark Rogers

Welcome to the AGM, my last as chair as I am standing down after three years. It has been a privilege to lead the group and I am delighted to say that we are in a good position from both a membership and financial point of view.

Reflecting on the achievements of the group over the last year we have continued to build on the successful implementation of the Advance rider course, as well as running a membership questionnaire to get your views on what you want for your membership.



AGM Continued

I am pleased to say that from your responses you support the job the committee is doing. In addition, listening to your views we have now run two guest speaker evening and raised money for a local charity as requested by you the members. We have also updated the group's promotional equipment and bought jackets for the new observers but managed to freeze the membership fee for another year. So to finish off I would like to offer my thanks to the committee, the success of the group is due to all their hard work on your behalf over the last year.

Mark then took questions from the membership present. A question was asked on how many associates renewed as full members after their first year. It is believed about half renew their membership.

Chief Observers Report – Mark Rogers

In 2016 we had 20 associates over the three courses with 18 test passes including 4 First's. In 2017 we had 22 associates with 21 passes including 5 First's, so roughly a 10% increase across the board. 17 associates benefitted from the Cheshire Road Safety subsidy in 2017, showing that engagement with additional training has a key part to play in increasing road safety. We currently have 14 associates for the spring course so numbers are continuing to look healthy.

From an observer point of view in 2016 we had a total of 17 observers including 6 National, 2 IMI Local and 9 Local group observers (qualification phased out in 2017). In the course of 2017 and early 2018 we hope to have 7 National and 14 IMI Local observers, which is largely thanks to the efforts of Chris Steele who led the new observer training course and local observer re accreditation processes.

Facilitators

Geoff will continue with the role of Associate Coordinator and Chris Steele has taken on the role of Observer Coordinator

In line with my acceptance of the role of Chief Observer in 2017 for one year only, I am now stepping down but am delighted to say that the group's observers have nominated Chris Steele as the new Chief Observer.

There were no questions from members.

Date and Time of next Committee meeting Thursday 19th April 2018
Nantwich Fire Station at 8.00 pm All members welcome



A Talk by Shropshire – Staffordshire and Cheshire Blood Bikes

Steve Hunter gave an in-depth talk on the history and running of this important service run by volunteers at our AGM. As ever this is just a taste of the talk –

The service started in 1962 by Margaret Ryerson to provide a free voluntary service. This was also to improve the image of motorcyclists.

What do they do: -

Urgent Deliveries, Very Urgent Deliveries, Free of Charge, By Volunteers
Without Blood bikes Hospitals have to use Taxi's or Couriers
This service is 100% Funded by Public Donations

The NABB (National Association of Blood Bikes) was formed in 2010 to help groups work together

SSBB (Staffordshire and Shropshire Blood Bikes) was founded in 2014



What Blood Bikes Move: -

Blood, Bone Marrow, Samples, Platelets, Fecal Transplants, Frozen Breast Milk and Medical Notes.

Hospitals SSBB Serve :-

East Staffordshire: - Burton, Tamworth, Lichfield, Coventry, Nuneaton and Warwick.

Shropshire: - Shrewsbury, Telford, Oswestry, Ludlow, Bridgnorth and Severn Hospice.

North Staffs : - Stoke on Trent, Haywood and Stafford.

Cheshire: - Chester, Leighton and North West Human Milk Bank (Chester)

Birmingham: - NHS BT, Queen Elizabeth, Heartlands, Childrens Hospital, Womans Hospital and Birmingham Medical School.

There are three main roles as well as "The Biker" there are fundraisers and controller's.

A Talk by Shropshire – Staffordshire and Cheshire Blood Bikes - Cont

Assessment and Training

Requirements: -

Riders – Passed Advanced Riding Test
£10 Annual Membership

Training: -

New Member Course – Induction
Assessment Ride – Observed
Blood Handling Course
Familiarisation Run
Buddy Run – Optional
Controller Training

What are the two most common questions I get asked as a rider?

No – I can't go through a red light!

No I can't break the speed limit!

Our fleet of bikes all have names and to name a few – Bundy, Millie Bea, Imogen, Brewer, Angel, Marc Mason, Gerhardt 2, Lilie, Tufty, Princess Carrie, Jo, Idris and Raven 2 – Go along to another presentation to find out what they mean!

Angel was unveiled at the countess of Chester Hospital by the Lord Mayor of Chester on the 20th of January 2017. She is a Police Spec Yamaha FJR1300 and operates from the Countess.

We Know It Works!

Over 9,500 deliveries since 2014 saving the NHS in excess of over £130,000 per year!

What it Costs

£90,000 per year to keep the service running.

£3,000 per month on fuel

£8,000 per year insurance



A Talk by Shropshire – Staffordshire and Cheshire Blood Bikes - Cont

Plus MOT, Road Tax, Tyres, Servicing and Repairs.

Other Costs: -

Brand New Motorcycle - £14,000

Bike Shed – Up to £1,200

Sat Nav - £500

Blood Bike Livery £500

Battery Charger £60

Bike Lock £40

An SSCBB Shift: -

The volunteer is free to choose a shift that suits their convenience and personal circumstances.

Typically, 6 hours, Night Shift is 12 hours.

Each NHS Trust has particular needs and hours of service, this gives a wide range of opportunities.

Controllers and riders are based at home.

How Can You Help?

What We Need:

Volunteers: - Controllers, Riders and Fundraisers

Donations: - Corporate Sponsorship, Nominated Charity

Awareness: - Events, Talks, Clubs and Media

Some Interesting Facts from 2017: -

We Cover 4,000 square miles over three counties

We rode 200,814 miles

We made 4300 urgent deliveries



A Talk by Shropshire – Staffordshire and Cheshire Blood Bikes - Cont

We delivered 41 boxes of donated breast milk

292 boxes of blood, 142 boxes of platelets

And 41 bone marrow samples.

To do this we had 75,000 volunteer hours

Covering 7,169 shifts

We attended 165 events and gave 117 talks

All of this covers 8 NHS Trusts and 15

Hospitals



Group Events

Sunday Ride Outs – NEW SUMMER TIME its 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 The first and third Wednesdays start from Starbucks, Holmes Chapel Road, Middlewich - next to the Shell garage. The second and fourth start from The Little Chef, Radway Green Road at junction 16, M6. All rides start at 7pm. Please arrive about 10 minutes earlier with a full tank. There are fuel stations at both start points. There is no ride out when there is a fifth Wednesday in the month

Test Pass's

Congratulations on another test pass goes to

Paul Cuthbertson

Sean McCarthy

On passing their tests for Nat Obs Test



Other Events of a two-wheeled nature

NOW 7th – 8th April – Scottish Motorcycle Show – Royal Highland Centre – Edinburgh

6-8th April – MotoGP – Argentina

7-8th April – Flat Track Nationals – Kings Lynn – dirtrackriders.co.uk

13-15th April – BSB – Brands Hatch

22nd April – Bath Classic Scramble – Yatton Keynell , Wilts

Wed 25th April Congleton and Macclesfield Advanced Drivers and Riders AGM & Awards Evening with talk by Blood Bikes (for those that missed the excellent talk at SCAMs AGM)

5th May – Welsh Rally - <http://www.clivemcc.co.uk/wnrforms.php> Starts/ Finishes Welshpool

12-13th May - Endurance Legends – Donnington Park – Four hour classic Endurance Race

24-28th May – MACH: Motorcycle and Music Festival themotorbikefestival.co.uk

1-3rd June – Drove-T-Drink Rally – Kirklington nr Carlisle – a classic and custom show

Caption Competition – RESULT!

The winner is Neil with – Wash your bike! Its covered in Ming

The intantanious chuckle rather than a groan! Got the Eds vote!

Look out next month for a new picture.

Sue Rogers: -

Antiques roadshow here I go !!!
Ernie on his way to market !!
Theresa May seals new trade deal with China !!!
Far East luggage manufacturers take on Givi !!!!

Neil Jewell: -

Wash your bike! It's covered in Ming



Mark Rogers: -

That's one way to vase into the distance
They say correct load distribution is essential to successful load carrying.....
Apparently, there is more to motorcycling round the potteries than just going to Stoke
The day has finally arrived when motorcycling has gone to pot

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.



That's all this month

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

The Highlander

