

Editors Ramblings

Well the rain has eventually come over and given us a pit of a soaking this weekend, no excuse to get the newsletter done on time this month! A couple of very good articles submitted thank you to the two members contributions. Please everyone else, if you have a story to tell big or small please write it down for the rest of us to enjoy. Talking of enjoyment, it's another holiday for me starting next weekend, a bit of Northern Spain and the Pico's to explore and I will write an article for this trip so you can get a flavour of what I experience.

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 August 2018

A Word from the Chair

Its still hot out there, hope you have all kept that cool head when out and about on/in your various transport means? A hot committee meeting this month, nothing heated but the Fire Station meeting room was a tad warm! We agreed to get some earpieces that will make using the radios more comfortable so that they can be used for Observing on a more regular basis when required.

Although the winter has been long gone the roads are still in a right mess and taking a long time for even marked potholes to be repaired. there are stretches that actually need to be properly done but no they will patch 75% of the road and leave the rest to gradually get worse and for that to have another repair on it! Observation is key to recognising these changing road surfaces and adjusting your speed and course accordingly to avoid being caught out especially in poorly lit conditions which include bright sunny days going through tree lined roads where mottled light makes seeing defects very hard indeed. Remember the site <https://www.fillthathole.org.uk/hazards/report> also on android and apple as an app to report these. The more frequently they get reported the better chance they are repaired quickly.

As you will see below in the club events we are reintroducing the social evening on the last Thursday of the month at the Hawk in Haslington, please come along and share your passion for bikes with others in the group.

Happy riding everybody, stay safe

Gordon



Presidents Page

The summer course is now well underway with three sessions completed, hopefully the candidates are beginning to gain a benefit from the new skills undertaken.

Jane Webb has decided to stand down from Observing due to increased family commitments, I would like to thank Jane on your behalf for the contribution she has made over the years, and to wish her well in her future endeavours, Jane thank you for all you have done.

I know Autumn seems like a long way off, but as I have previously said we will be running an Observer training course during the Autumn course, so if you would like to undertake Observer training please email me to register, my email is c.steel585@btinternet.com if we have enough applications we will run the course.

I hope most of you have been taking advantage of the fine weather we have been experiencing and had some great rides, if you have why not write an article and send it in to the editor, all contributions welcome.

I know this will be advertised under its own heading, but we have organised a skittles evening at the Bickerton Poacher, this is a fabulous evening where we can have a bit of fun and you can bring your partners, friends and family, the group puts on these events for you, so please support this event.

That concludes my page for this month. I have started my article on the Spanish trip I went on at the end of May, so watch out for it, worth reading if the Samaritans are engaged.

Until next month, safe riding.

Chris Steel

President.

Ahem.. excuse me Chris only space left for this bit!....

STOP PRESS – A big welcome to our latest associate Andy Willis, welcome Andy to our group

Gordon - Chair



Review – British Superbike School 28th June 2018

On a scorching day in June, Joe Hurst (MBEAM), Brian Glover-Smith (SCAM) and Steve Ellis (IAM Area Service Delivery Manager) visited British Superbike School at Blyth Park Track in Lincolnshire to review their Level 1 training course.

Pictures by IMG Photography

Words by Brian Glover-Smith

As if to emphasise the sheer freedom and exhilaration of riding on a track, our ride across to Blyth Park took in endless miles of open country roads now restricted to 50mph - including the 'Cat and fiddle', long considered motorcycle heaven, which now has average speed cameras along its entire length!

Joe, Steve and I arrived at British Superbike School bright and early for a 7.45am start. It was a beautiful summer morning, with a light breeze and not a cloud in the sky. We were feeling the sort of excitement you remember from your childhood the night before Christmas. It felt great to be alive!

After meeting and greeting instructors and fellow students, it was time for our safety briefing delivered by the school's owner Mike Abbott. Quite how a safety briefing can be entertaining I don't know - but Mike's jovial and relaxed style made it so! What immediately became evident was the impressive structure of the Level 1 training course. Riders are divided into four colour coded groups with each group allocated separate, session times, staggered throughout the day. This results in only 1 group being on the track at any point in time. Within each group, riders are allocated instructors at the ratio of 1 instructor to every 2 students. The day is divided into 5 training modules consisting of a classroom session to cover theory, followed by a practical session to put the theory into practice.



BRIAN GLOVER-SMITH. BIKE 14 PASSING THROUGH 'PORT VILE'

Review – British Superbike School 28th June 2018 - continued

Our first session was focussed on exiting a bend. After a short and informative classroom session we went out onto the track for the first time. Our instructor was reassuring, relaxed and highly professional. He led us round the track for two laps at slow speed to familiarise us with the layout and warm our tyres. Then, we then took turns leading with our instructor closely behind watching our every move. After each practical session we were given a debrief to help us develop our technique.

Each session built upon the learning of the last, extending the techniques into corner entry, visual references and limit points, braking, lines and much more. The day ended with a consolidation session where riders could practice putting together everything they had learned throughout the day.

The course is aimed firmly at road riders who want to develop their cornering skills in a safe and predictable environment. The theory taught is compatible with IAM Advanced riding and the instructors include a mix of ACU track coaches, RoSPA examiners and police motorcyclists. The tight structure allows for steady progress throughout the day and matches theory with plenty of opportunity to learn through closely supervised practical application. The ratio of only 2 students per instructor allows for coaching at a very personal level to guide you through the day. The quiet track and strict controls make the environment very safe and offer the ability to ride unhindered, and at your own level, be it beginner or full blown race enthusiast.



JOE HURST. BIKE 15 EXITING 'BUNGA BUNGA'

Review – British Superbike School 28th June 2018 - continued

We would have no hesitation in recommending this course to our members. We believe there is no safer way to learn how to handle your bike on corners and bends and whatever your level, there is no doubt that you will come away with enhanced knowledge and skills.

All three of us agreed this was the best day of riding we had experienced in a long time. Pure exhilaration mixed with a sense of learning and achievement made it one to remember. And having had more than our daily dose of excitement on the track, we were even content to cruise at 50mph all the way home and take in the scenery!

Mike Abbot, the school owner, has extended an offer to all IAM members who want to experience Level 1 training at BSS this year.

By quoting discount code 'IAM5', you will save a massive 50% off the price of the days training. This reduces the cost from £288 to £144. There are still places available for August and September.

Contact British Superbike School on

Web www.britishsuperbikeschool.com

e. info@britishsuperbikeschool.co.uk

phone: 01777 818013

Mob: 07939 041606



STEVE ELLIS. BIKE 16. ENTERING 'THE UMP'

The Fab Four go to Spain – by Chris Steel

The time had come when it was time to dust off the panniers and fit them to the bike, due to ferry availability we were going a week earlier this year, the last week in May and running into the first week of June, another change was that there was only four of us, Dave “Lone wolf” Nixon was about to have an operation on his ankle, which meant he was out of action for six weeks, so he was sitting this one out, the fab four were, Ian Cunningham, John Brady, John Bailey and myself Chris Steel, the format was the same as last year, Plymouth Santander on the ferry, then off in to Spain.

Like most people we find the Motorway boring, so although we can't avoid Motorways all the way, a vast amount can be avoided, so our route to Plymouth was the A49 to Hereford, then across to Monmouth stopping for coffee at Tintern Abbey on the Wye, then Joining the M5 at Chepstow, M5 down to the A38 into Plymouth, as we have to be booked into the ferry terminal no later than 3.15 we have most of the day to travel down to Plymouth so it is no hardship.

The overnight ferry to Santander is about as much of a cruise as I want, I realise that cruises are fun and you see lots of nice places, but I am not into cruises, so the overnight is ok for me, having booked in and eventually been loaded into the bowls of the ship, we set of in search of our cabin, having found our cell, sorry cabin, it is a quick shower and change and onto the deck to watch Plymouth becoming a dot on the landscape, those of you who have been on a ferry will know there is a not a lot to do, apart from drink, eat and wander around aimlessly, having seen Plymouth disappear we went to the bar and had a drink, where we were entertained by a Singer, followed by a magician, then wait for it, bingo, how my heart stood the excitement is beyond me.

Having done this trip many times we have a routine, we book into the restaurant which has a buffet and we sit there for many hours eating, it passes the time, then back to the bar for some drinks and wild entertainment, then we retire to our cabin and of into the land of nod until morning The ferry gets into Santander about 12.15 so it is a leisurely breakfast and a quick snack about 11.30 to put us on until we get to the hotel that evening.



The Fab Four go to Spain

After what seems like a lifetime in the bowls of the ship the motorcycles pour out the ship and park on the quay side while everyone meets up and out come the maps and sat navs for route planning, our first overnight hotel was in Zaragoza, the route was going to see some motorway mileage, but if you have been to northern Spain the Motorway at rush hour is like the M6 toll road at 3 in the morning, so no drama.

The weather was overcast but dry when we set off for the hotel, it was nice to know that for the next 8 days it was going to be motorcycle heaven, Ian had booked the hotels and this one was in the centre of Zaragoza, as with all modern technology all our sat navs were telling us to turn at different junctions, the trick is just to follow the bike in front that way we all get lost or all arrive at the hotel, having ridden across a couple of footpaths, nothing unusual for us, we arrived at Hotel El Catalonia El Pilar, the car park was the pavement outside the front doors, despite a car park across the road, if we parked there we would get a ticket, interesting, the hotel did have a car park somewhere but they wanted to charge us for it, being bikers we don't like to pay for anything unless really necessary, so the pavement it was.

Having booked in and jostled our way up to our rooms, there was time for a shower and change, a drink in the bar, and then off into Zaragoza to see the sights and have a meal. You will have to google Zaragoza but it appears to be a very old city with very impressive grand buildings, the city was busting with people and lots of restaurants to choose from, being tourists we don't know a good restaurant from a bad one, so we piled into one we liked the look of and had a few glasses of wine and some good food, the conversation reflected the days events, and the Journey tomorrow to our main hotel for three nights at a place called Coll De Nargo.

Having had a good meal, we wandered round the streets of Zaragoza took in some more sights and retired back to the hotel, time to dream of what was next to come.

TO BE CONTINUED



Scotland Holiday – NC767 – May 2018 – Part 2

Tuesday 29th of May Gairloch to Dunnet 204 miles

A hearty breakfast munched which had a nice bit of haggis to compliment the poached egg and bacon on the plate, the concrete sausage not so much enjoyed though! Bikes fuelled and off we went on the A832 out of Gairloch and up in elevation to look over Loch Tollaith and the multiple hills around but more startling was the amount of gorse at the side of the road with yellow pollen bright in the morning sun, yes it is still sunny and warm here folks and the roads were rewarding in this environment as for thirty seven miles I led the merry troupe on this roller coaster of a road with viewpoint on top of viewpoint which you might miss one or two while concentrating on the next bend or ten there was going to be another jaw dropper to see very soon after. Through places that rolled off a Scotsman's tongue like Drumchork, Durnamuck and Camusnagaul we came to the A835 junction to Ullapool where I scared a few people with my biker in a ditch pose as I took some arty photos he he. A flowing twelve miles of road to Ullapool reached it was time for a morning coffee break and a sea front wall supplied the perch for the perfect view out to the sea with the sun shining on the water's surface, boats reflecting with the hills making it the ideal place to spend half an hour helped by the very polite café staff serving us across the road with our drinks. The A835 continued north to Ardair and more coastal wonderment to juggle our senses with. Onto the A894 and over the Kylesku Bridge and a quick stop for more snaps of Scottish engineering and scenery. Ninety-Seven miles and Scourie Petrol station topped the tanks up, my consumption increased this half tank which always tells me I am enjoying myself as if I needed reminding!



Coming to the end of the A832 before turning left to Oban – a fantastic road!

Scotland Holiday – NC767 – May 2018 – Part 2 continued

Now places in this part of the north highlands are not full of eateries and I had found one on the road to Kinlochbervie which looked a bit posh for a crowd of motorcyclists from the online pictures but on arrival was full of friendly service and as the sun was HOT yes it may be raining in Spain but it's a scorcher here again! And bonus an outdoor area to sit and soak in another panorama equal to any other. A leisurely lunch finished we made a short hop to the Smoo Caves for a bit of history and geology for the brain to switch its attention to before getting back to its standard fair of great roads and scenery being fed through wide eyes. We were on a lot of single track roads now but passing places were a plenty and great fun was had playing get to the passing place in time for a smooth transition with the oncoming vehicle and hoping a slower vehicle will show consideration and pull in before too long to let us past. A little bit of second man drop off malfunction led to a lost man for the last leg but as he started it, er Andy! And he missed my bike sitting on its own in plain view as he sped past. We knew he was on the right route, so no harm done as we chilled out a bit longer at our coffee stop at Bettyhill. Right on the north coast now the temperature did drop a little below twenty degrees before the road headed a bit inland and it shot up to or more normal twenty-six degrees. The A836 opened up for the final leg of today's ride to Dunnet passed Dounreay and Thurso for another satisfying end to the day at our hotel with the best staff of our trip so far and the best equipped rooms where for the first time ever we had spare sockets and USB points not getting used! Well at least the electrics were not getting HOT!



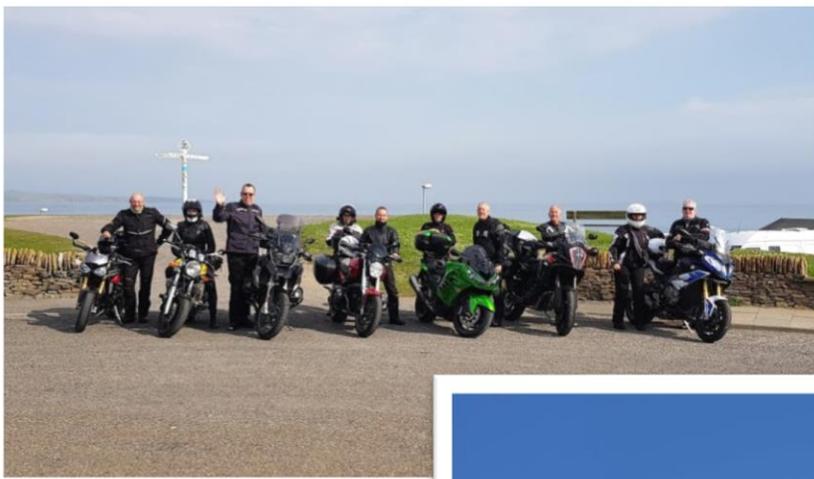
**Kylesku Bridge
and Loch Gleann Dubh**



Scotland Holiday – NC767 – May 2018 – Part 2 continued

Wednesday 30th May Dunnet to Ballater 193 miles

From touching distance to John O'Groats, we saddled up and did the short stretch to the first and last place in Scotland for the obligatory photographs with the bikes and sign before we headed south down the A9, the sun shone for us taking pictures but disappeared behind the sea haar lingering over the North Sea Coast. This didn't stop us from enjoying the fast sweeping bends joined by straights lined with trees and warnings for deer. Wick, Lybster and Helmsdale were passed before a stop in Golspie for the morning coffee stop and a very nice Victoria sponge chaser. Getting closer to Inverness we had a few bridges over the various stretches of waters of Dornoch, Cromarty and North Kessock. Getting busier around Inverness it was a bit harder keeping the group together with limited places to stop at the roundabouts. Ash did a blinkered pass with four of us waiting in a layby, but an intercom alert got CK in front and we managed to get out of the traffic in one group. Due to us stopping a bit later than planned for the morning stop it was too soon for lunch at my planned place so it was a bit of searching as I went passed every café/restaurant looking building, nothing was coming into view, so I pressed on to Nairn knowing we would get something there. We found ourselves at the harbour and a cosy café serving nice wholesome food. A relaxing view and the sun was out again warming the air and in the harbour on the sea wall a pair of swans and their seven young signets only a couple of weeks old.



John O Groats

And the sky a pure blue!



Scotland Holiday – NC767 – May 2018 Part 2 continued

Now onto the days more interesting roads and south we went into the Cairngorms the A939 through Littlemill and Ferness gave us a great deal of fun until we turned right onto the Old Military Road and it only got better with more bends and hairpins and rollercoaster humps to keep us alert and grinning ear to ear. Grantown on Spey was our fuel stop before continuing on the Old Military Road to Tomintoul and an Ice Cream and a flake while sitting in the grassy square chatting the while away. The same road took us over the Lecht the Cairngorms prime skiing location, no snow here today just sunshine and stunning views over the moors while the road rose up and down with some vicious gradients giving your stomach a workout only a fairground could equal! Cock Bridge went by in a blink and we were now on the flat and only a sharp up and down bridge over the River Gairn onto a narrow road for a mile or so before getting to Ballater. A great end to the day and you guessed it we were HOT!



Rare picture of seven signets

**Bikes and Boats
do mix!**



Concluding part three next month – The Highlander

Local Motorcycle Event – Gawsworth Jesters Bike Night at the Harrington Arms

Another hot evening ripe for a bit of motorcycling so this event which was expecting five hundred bikes surpassed this with around seven hundred turning up of all shapes and sizes to enjoy the evening admiring the other bikes and chat about everything two wheeled.



Ducati's old and new



Nope, I aint going on that sidecar!



Don't remember my CG125 looking like this?

Local Motorcycle Event – Gawsworth Jesters Bike Night at the Harrington Arms



Where's my bike?

See through cases anyone?



The Highlander

Test Pass's

Mike Stroud

Ted Mellor

Martin Hulme

Colin Whitehead

Alex Loader – F1rst

congratulations!



Club Events

MONTHLY CLUB NITE

Last Thursday of the month at the Hawk Inn in Haslington by Crewe – starting August– 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.



CARVERY & SKITTLES EVENING



Friday 12th of October 7:30pm

£10.50 inc One Course Carvery with option for other courses

Bickerton Poacher

Wrexham Road

Bulkeley SY14 8BE

We need 20 guests minimum for this evening which has proved a great success on previous years. A nice atmosphere with food and a bit of gentle competition on a traditional old-fashioned skittle alley.

Please contact Geoff with your name and number of guests as soon as you can commit to this.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENING

Our annual dinner this year will be held at the Bleeding Wolf, Scholar Green, Stoke on Trent on the 14th of December. Please keep this date free in your diaries – more details to follow on the menu and booking details in next month's newsletter.

Other Events of a two-wheeled nature – remembered this month!

3-5th August – MotoGP – Brno Czech Republic

10-12th August – MotoGP – Red Bull Ring Austria

12th August – British Master Grasstrack Championships – Gawsworth Cheshire

24-26th August – MotoGP - Silverstone

24-27th August – IoM Classic TT

25-26th August – Rhayader 2-Day Enduro Cwmythig Hill MX Track - Rhayader

27th August – Kent Chrome and Cruisers Show Abbey School - Faversham

7-9th September – Goodwood Revival – Chichester W Sussex - goodwood.com

8-9th September – Kickback Festival of Bikes – Town Hall, Cheltenham

14-16th September – Bol d’Or – Le Castellet France

23-30th September – Piston Rally – Santander Spain

Caption Competition - NEW

Lets give this one a try! It's Sue Rogers fault honest!

Answers as usual to biker5chef@yahoo.co.uk

Fire Away!



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.



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

FOR SALE

Oxford Paddock Stand

Never Used £35

Can Deliver

Phone Gordon 07590596380

Any other items you have for sale just get in touch with an email to the Ed



That's all this month

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

The Highlander

