

## Editors Ramblings

First half of the year done, and it ended with weeks of blazing sunshine which are continuing into this second half, bring it on! Plenty of cracking weather for you all to get out on your bikes in your best gear and come back dry and hot. You can still get muck on the roads though as my bike got a good splattering from fresh cow muck, still easier to get off than a million flies! More of these about this year too! How about a few reviews of your summer gear or summer cleaning products? Get them in, all submissions taken big or small and appreciated.

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](mailto:biker5chef@yahoo.co.uk) or 07590596380 for WhatsApp sending pictures or texts or phone!

The Highlander

# South Cheshire Advanced Motorcyclists Newsletter July 2018

## A Word from the Chair

A busy month just gone with a couple of trips an EGM, committee meeting and an Induction evening all fitted in to a hot June. We are being blessed with one of those summers that only comes around every blue moon, so I hope everyone is getting out on their bikes and enjoying themselves. As we are all in our motorcycle gear dressed with safety in mind and not just for the weather although you all of you will have seen at least one person dressed like they are just off the beach! Sure, they will be cool, but will they survive even a small crash? I tried to dress for the forecasted weather for our Scottish holiday which was dry and about 18-20 degrees, leathers worn and a light waterproof layer just in case the weather man got it wrong, well they got it wrong but only with the temperature getting to 27 degrees most days, phew a bit hot in leathers but at least I was protected!

Spending a lot of time in hot gear could make us hot and bothered and not as tolerant of other road users, most cars have air conditioning these days, so they should not be so bad, well they can be! everyone else from cyclists to horse riders are hot too out on the road so we should all be tolerant of each other and respect their space and safety too. There are examples of bad driving, riding etc all over the place and if on social media highlighted from dash cams and helmet cams and I see everyone having a moment where they do not obey the law or give consideration to other road users. We need to put our skills and knowledge to good use and help motorcyclists keep getting a better image and hope others follow suit.

I will be in my car and on my cycle and motorbike this month keeping a cool head - will you?

Happy riding everybody, stay safe

Gordon



## Presidents Page

The Spring Course has been completed, to the Associates I say well done, hopefully you have increased your skills enabling you to enjoy your motorcycling more, to the Observers I say thank you for the time you have given to the Associates, so they can increase their skill sets.

As one course finishes, so another begins, I would like to welcome the summer course Associates to the group, and congratulate them on deciding to join the course, Welcome.

I would like to congratulate Mark Rogers on passing his National and Local Observer Assessor test last month, congratulations Mark, a good achievement.

Last month I was away in Spain on my motorcycle and will write an article about the trip, so when the Samaritans are engaged you can read the article instead.

It is my intension to run an Observer training course in conjunction with the Autumn course, so if you have ever thought about becoming an observer please email me and I will put you on the list, my email is [c.steel585@btinternet.com](mailto:c.steel585@btinternet.com)

That is all from me for this month, so until next month, safe riding

Chris Steel.

President.

## Summer Course – Induction Evening

The Summer course Induction evening was held on a balmy night where nearly all the associates were able to attend.



Associates on the Summer course are (in no particular order!) Dan H, Jason M, John D, David D, David W, Paul K, David Q, Paul K and One Other. Welcome to you all and enjoy your course.

## Dealer Destination – SMC Motorcycles Sheffield

Time to get the KTM serviced as it's a year old now 7200 miles this year, not a vast number of miles but winter was not "pleasure" biking weather this year! Seeing as I am in the one area in the country where every KTM dealer is 40-50 miles away from me I decided to try a different dealer to DCM in Birmingham as it's a bit further away and not an interesting journey unless you add on another thirty or so miles on! SMC Sheffield got my attention and at 43 miles not too far and nice roads there too. All booked up for the Friday before our NC767 trip with new tyre ordered as well. Up early as I want to get back not too late, I did the shifting of cars to get the bike out ala Butterfly's for those old enough to remember that tv program. As it is when you organise something the only wet day in the month had to be today! Sat Nav on and ETA is 9:10am and I need to be there at 8:45am, time for a game of beat the Sat Nav which is great fun he he. Not going to be easy in the wet though so off I went.





## Dealer Destination – SMC Motorcycles Sheffield



I never like starting a ride in the wet especially when I know it has not rained for a while, so I did take my time while getting over Biddulph Moor and then up and down Gun Hill towards Meerbrook and onto the A53 for a mile or so before turning off towards Longnor. Its great on these roads in the morning as rush hour is the odd car or two which is easily despatched in a twist of the throttle. Out of Longnor up Crowdecote our own mini Stelvio which reminded me of how glad it was dry when we went up it in the summer. Heading towards Monyash the rain didn't get to heavy, so visibility was good and the Sat Nav kept me focused and five minutes shaved off the ETA so far. Through Sheldon and then Hassop a lovely area with some nice buildings in the small towns as I passed them.



## Dealer Destination – SMC Motorcycles Sheffield

I crossed over the A623 at Calver and headed up Froggatt through the tree lined roads where it opened up over the moor and where the wind was blowing a bit moving the bike about under me. Another five minutes shaved off the ETA now and looking promising to get there on time. Now on the A625 which winds its way down into Sheffield and surprisingly quiet it was not till I got into Sheffield itself that the traffic got busier and oh look the bus lanes accept motorcycles.... result! a few more minutes saved zipping through the bus lanes till I got to the centre with the tram lines nice and wet and traffic lights hampering progress. A couple of roundabouts later the dealer was spotted, and arrival was..... on time! Highlander 1 Sat Nav 0.

Bike booked in so time to look around. The shop has been open 12+ years and is a KTM and Ducati main dealer, they have 200 new bikes in stock and 150 used bikes from a variety of manufacturers. A good selection of clothing from KTM and Ducati branded to Dainese, Hornee, RST, Spada and Spidi.

Free fitting on tyres too, either loose or on the bike. Free fitting of exhausts as well as deals on alarms and trackers.





## Dealer Destination – SMC Motorcycles Sheffield



The Highlander

## Scotland Holiday – NC767 – May 2018

The Cardiac Kid and myself (Flash) arranged this holiday after seeing it transformed slightly from the North Coast 500 which has been a great tourist success in the North of Scotland to this NC767 as done by MCN. We ended up with a great group and here is my little tale of how it went (maybe not so little!)

### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May

After a bit of planning and numbers growing to ten people and seven bikes it was now time to start our Scottish Adventure. Hotels booked, and routes planned with stops for lunch and fuel all arranged it was a staggered meeting of the clan as CK (AKA Mike), The Caretaker (AKA Keith) and myself (Flash) met at Lymm services before heading north up the M6 to Southwaite Services to meet with the others. The weather was perfect with thunderstorms forecast at home we were heading into warm sunny weather at a nice 21 degrees. Ash was coming from the east and Alun, Alma, Terry and Andy had stayed nearby overnight, and we gathered together at the services on time for a coffee and greeting before the crew were off together.

Fuel was eleven miles away and much cheaper, so we were going there to fill up apart from Alun who had filled up with liquid gold, well it should be at that price! Ash was wishing she had dipped into her gold reserves a couple of miles later when her Yamaha spluttered to a halt before she could get it on reserve. A few minutes and dad came to the rescue and got her started again and then went sailing past the slip road we were waiting on to go and fill up! Well this is a good start!



**The Falls of Dochart - Killin**



## Scotland Holiday – NC767 – May 2018 - continued

We filled up anyway and came off at the next services where we picked Ash, CK and the Caretaker up to get the pack together again. We knew we had a big day tomorrow, so we were just getting to our overnight stop in Killin the quickest way or we would have got to go on some more interesting roads rather than the M6 then M74. A stop at the services south of Glasgow gave us plenty of time for lunch in the sun before a quick fill up in Stirling before we got on some biking roads by way of the A84 which was fairly busy but with forward planning you could pick of the cars one by one to then hit more open clear road to enjoy. A motorcyclist's road with plenty to distract you if you looked at the left-hand side and the numerous little lochs glistening away. It's been a long time A84 I've missed you! Thirty-five miles on it's a right turn so a bit of a wait for the group to get together again before we headed into Killin and the Falls of Lochart where we just had to park up and walk back to them and have a drink while sampling the wonderful view. A busy corner of Stirlingshire this which was made busier by a procession of tractors old and new passing through and over the narrow bridge. Back to the bikes we trudged a bit warm in our gear we got going for all of 300 metres around the corner and into the hotel! Ash quickly becoming Jonah (CK's moniker a few years ago when I met him!) has a screw in her rear tyre – now leave or take out? Decision made we will see if the tyre has lost pressure and make the call in the morning. Not forgetting her clutch going last week as well, these things come in threes, don't they? Should be all right now Ash? The Killin Hotel is just the right side of friendly and good service and a welcome outside area where we gathered after a refreshing shower and chatted away till we were to hungry to wait any more and headed for dinner which was enjoyed by all. An early end to the night for us all as it's a good long one tomorrow.



**The river at Killin Hotel**



## Scotland Holiday – NC767 – May 2018 - continued

### Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May Killin to Gairloch 245 miles

The first day of the official MCN NC767 and it kicked off with blue skies and warm air, not believing it would get warmer but it did! Out of Killin and fuelled up as we hit the A85 and its open sweeping bends we quickly got up to speed and started to get a feeling for the highlands as the mountains started appearing in front of us. We went through Crianlarich onto the A82 and The Green Wellie tourist stop was bypassed as we had lots of miles to cover today and Bridge of Orchy first then onto the magnificent Glen Coe, if ever there was a place to take someone to show of Scotland its here! The roads, the scenery, the mountains and today the bright blue skies without a cloud and temperatures reaching 27-28 degrees we stopped to soak it in as another day like this will be hard to find. Onwards we went alongside Loch Onich the A82 went and it being glass smooth it did not look like water but a big ravine! Fort William reached and time for a coffee and comfort stop so "Spoons" was the closest and far enough for us to walk in our bike gear, as I said it was hot! Still heading north on the A82 the roads were finally getting quieter giving us clear tarmac to burn rubber on (hey it was hot!) The road turned west at Spean Bridge before running along Loch Lochy (someone ran out of ideas naming this one!) Fort Augustus for fuel and blind tourists believing they have right of way anywhere they walk! We continued along a bit along the shore of Loch Ness to Invermoriston where we got on to the A887, quiet and fast flowing another perfect road along another loch.



**The Magnificent Glen Coe**

## Scotland Holiday – NC767 – May 2018 - continued

This became the A87 and the proposed lunch stop at Invershiel being closed we went a bit further to Eilean Donan Castle a classic sight in tourist posters with a nice café and attendant parking for worry free – free parking. More important than food was the two litres of water needed to hydrate – did I say it was hot? Just a hundred miles to go now but time was getting on and we still have the Bealach na Ba Applecross road to do! The A890 to Strathcarron and another fuel stop for the hundred-mile tank riders as there are not a lot of stations between here and Gairloch our nights destination. Left onto the A896 another snaking road skirting lochs, this time Carron and Kishom. Just before Tomapress it was on to Applecross our first taste of single track road with passing places, this was real single track, no passing two vehicles at all unless bikes. I have been on this before but over fifteen years ago, so it was all like new to me and as spectacular and almost fearful as you can imagine a steep twisty single track with hairpins as you can imagine. In total it's a thirty plus mile three quarter loop that leaves you exhausted but elated at the same time. Nearing five o'clock we found a café a mile after this in Shieldaig, Nanny's a lovely café in an idyllic setting and willing to stay open to quench the thirst of these hot ten bikers. The final stretch now and thirty-seven miles to go but the GPS were all having funny turns saying it was now sixty miles to go and further on when we ignored the u turn ninety miles! Geeze what's going on? A quick stop to check the maps and we were on the right road most of them righted themselves to the right distance and time except for CK's which showed an hour to go five hundred meters from the hotel, didn't think he was that slow, but he was at the back! A fabulous days riding HOT on our favourite days on the bike and did I say it was..... More HOT 767 days next month!



**Bealach Na Ba**



Local Motorcycle Event

# GAWSWORTH JESTERS BIKE NIGHT



**LAST WEDNESDAY IN JULY  
THE HARRINGTON ARMS  
GAWSWORTH, MACCLESFIELD, SK11 9RJ.**

**THE GAWSWORTH JESTERS BIKE NIGHT AT THE HARRINGTON ARMS  
IN GAWSWORTH, JUST OFF THE A536 BETWEEN CONGLETON AND  
MACCLESFIELD.**

The event will take place on the last Wednesday evening in July each year. Each year see's over 500 bikes gather at the Harrington Arms, there will be an outside bar in the beer garden plus the normal inside bar, live band & food available. Just come along, park your ride and have a look at all the bikes, chat with friends old & new. Got time to spare? Why not have a wander around the beautiful village of Gawsworth with its Old Hall and Church.



More information: [www.gawsworthjesters.org.uk](http://www.gawsworthjesters.org.uk)  
email: [gawsworthjesters@gmail.com](mailto:gawsworthjesters@gmail.com)

**SK11 9RJ**



## Riding Course

I've just spent a day with British Superbike School to assess their training for MBEAM. They offer a road biased track training day with 1 instructor per max 3 students. In fact we had 2-1.

It was a fantastic day and offered a great opportunity to develop cornering skills. I went with Steve Ellis (Area Service Delivery Manager) and Joe Hurst (MBEAM Chief Observer). We all agreed it was a superb day and would be highly beneficial to members at all levels. Riders are grouped according to capability and no-one is under pressure.

We negotiated an amazing 50% discount for our members (for the remainder of 2018) off the cost of the day. It is usually £280 and this reduces to £140 (approx). For the quality of the training we consider it outstanding value.

I have asked BSS permission to share the discount code with other groups in our area and they have agreed. There are still places free on all the remaining courses this year.

I thought you might like to share the opportunity with your group. The discount code is IAM5. You can find out more about the school by visiting their website.

Brian Glover-Smith

PS - This is not a track day – it's an advanced rider skills improvement day/training day not a fully-fledged track day

## Test Pass's

Mike Steadman





### Other Events of a two-wheeled nature

8<sup>th</sup> July – Milton Keynes Bike Show – StadiumMK FREE!

22<sup>nd</sup> July – Lytham's Classic Car and Bike Show – Lytham Hall Blackpool

### Caption Competition

**You are all struggling to come up with a caption – one last try before I bin this one!**

Answers as usual to [biker5chef@yahoo.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:gh@highfieldassociates.co.uk) or directly to Richard Kinsey at: [richard.kinsey@tiscali.co.uk](mailto: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

