

Editors Ramblings

Hoping that this newsletter gets to you this month on time, I will always endeavour to get this out every month with at least some new content for you all. The gremlins were all out to sabotage last months with my laptop not charging while trying to do some editing on holiday – two wheels but no engine! Then the file lost my new content and just to rub it in all graphics decided to have a fit all over the newsletter giving more work than normal just to get it back to square one! The Spanish got to learn a few new Scottish words from my balcony that night!

Remember we have our Facebook page – please join and contribute on it - Only for club members

<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 2018

A Word from the Chair

Well that's summer officially over for another year, personally one of the best motorcycling summers in recent memory, not that hard with my limited recollections but everything lined up for all trips planned and completed over the last six months. The Cardiac Kid, the Caretaker and I got out and did a Ride Magazine route starting in Nantwich south to Market Drayton then east to Uttoxeter for a Greggs Breakfast. Off to Burton on Trent then Ashby de la Zouch and Tamworth and Stafford heading west to Cold Hatton then north to Whitchurch and CK's favourite eatery McDonalds! 178 miles Nantwich return and the sun shone most of the day till we were heading home with heavier cloud and a few spots of rain to remind us it was late October after all.

Happy riding everybody, stay safe

Gordon



Presidents Page

Well here we again November and the Bike show, hopefully most of you will be visiting the show and picking up some bargains, I am going, don't really need anything but it is something of an annual ritual.

I don't have a lot to say this month, please try and join us for the Christmas Meal at the Bleeding Wolf Scholar Green, this is a good opportunity to bring your Wife, Partner, Boy Friend, Girlfriend or other family members and have a good social evening, I know Geoff has circulated the menu, so please join us and make it an evening to remember.

Some sad news, Dave Coomber's Kawasaki ZZR1200 has given up the ghost, after 160,000 miles the head gasket cried enough, and it was just going to cost too much, so with tears in his eyes Dave had to say farewell trusty friend and hello Suzuki 1200 bandit, Dave enjoy your latest acquisition.

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

Chris Steel

President.

RoadSmart - Autumn

Another magazine has hit your doormat and is lying about somewhere, and the nights are long now so plenty of time to search for it and read all the two wheel (and four wheel too) articles.

- Great for motorcycles – The Marine Drive – Llandudno, Wales
- Overland Magazine Discount of 20%
- Gurkha Aid Rider Training to help deliver vital aid in remote regions of Nepal
- Isle of Man – Driving on the Edge
- Cheddar Valley Advanced Motorcyclists help journalist to prepare for Milano-Taranto
- Belfast Bikers Visibility Lesson
- Become an Observer – how to get involved



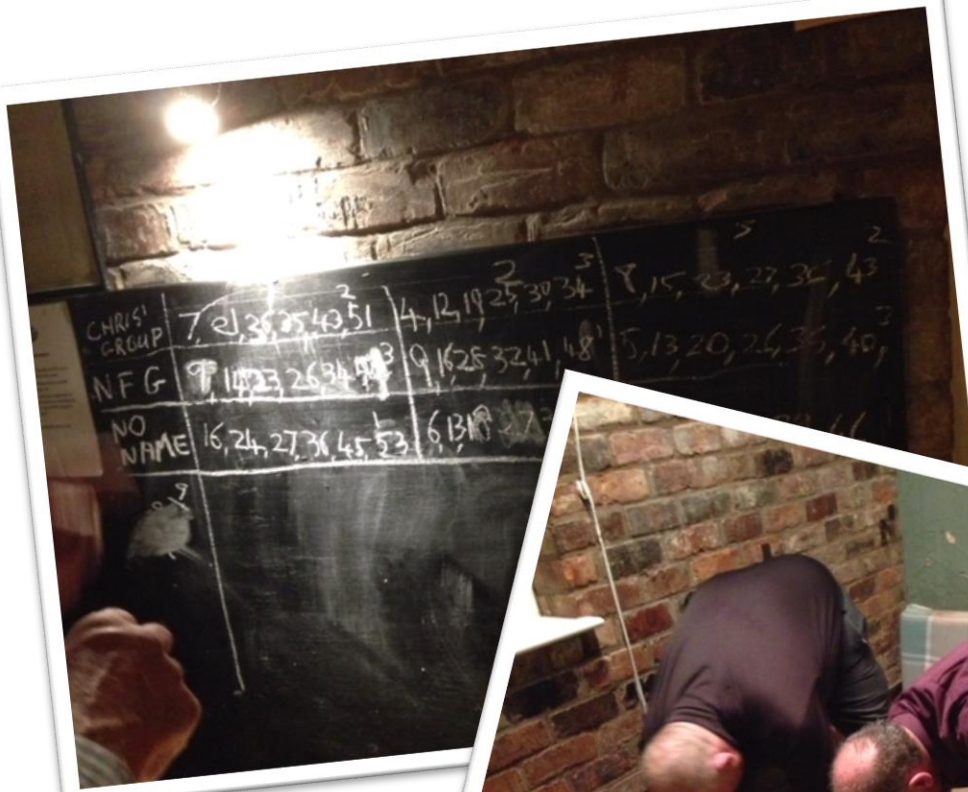
Skittles Evening – report by roving reporter Sue Rogers

The evening was a great success 18 members and family tucked into a beef and turkey carvery, followed by puddings and coffees for some with room!! Three very competitive games of skittles which consisted of three teams of six, Chris's Group, NFG, and No Name battled it out over three games with the overall winners being the team with No Name (my team!) Thanks go to the president for manning the score board and the chair next to it!!! To the guys who worked tirelessly picking up all the skittles except Ian's!!! And to everyone who turned out to make it such an enjoyable social night.

Sue Rogers



Skittles Evening – report by roving reporter Sue Roaers



Could be the scores or a maths lesson?



The penny rolled over here somewhere!

Professor X Using mind control



Northern Spain & the Pico's

Sunday 5th August 290 miles and Monday 6th 82 miles

At last it's time for our annual overseas tour on the bikes, yes, we had a brilliant time in Scotland but going somewhere far away just has that different feel to it. Global Motorcycle Tours got the nod again this year on the promise of great roads and better hotels than last year's Dolomites -sounds promising! So, it was a Ferry from Plymouth to Santander with meeting on the boat as first point of call. Firstly, we had to get there and as we had till 2pm to get there we left on the Sunday morning – very early rising about five yawn.... Bike packed the night before so not too much to do before getting on the way to meeting with the Cardiac Kid (CK) at Prees Heath for our blast down the A49 to avoid motorways for as long as possible before Bristol and the M5 then A38 to Plymouth. We stopped at Ross on Wye to meet with Alun and Alma from last year's tour and we made it to the terminal in good time for check in and a long wait in the sun for the boat to come in! This gave us time to identify some more of the tour attendees and have a bit of a chin wag with them before boarding. Having already surprised a couple as we headed into the port pulling alongside I looked at them and said, "hi Stephen and Susan looking forward to the Pico's?" Ah the beauty of having everyone's names printed out with the bikes they were on and on the tank bag. Eventually we were let on and first too which was appreciated and we (motorcycles) took up a good amount of the deck we were on. An uneventful calm crossing overnight and into the morning we got to Santander with a big wait by the bikes which was like an oven about 30 degrees and no air before being let out! Finally, on Spanish soil the tour met up at the exit of the port with a few instructions about second man drop off etc staying together while getting used to being in a group.



This year's crew gathering at Santander Port ready for the off after a briefing from Tom

Northern Spain & the Pico's

We headed west out of Santander to get onto the A67 motorway for eleven miles then towards the coast towards Comillas where we got a bit of sea mist rolling in to temper the high thirties degree heat we had been going through along with a few cars concertinaing together to cause us to boil for twenty minutes before getting past them. A splash of fuel for some of the bikes and we were now getting into more rural roads with little villages where speed limits were reinforced by lights that would turn red if you approached them above the speed limit, a novel way to counter speeders I suppose. Now heading a bit more inland and the road was now heading into the Pico's and some fantastic sweeping roads on the AS-114 which meandered along a valley with a winding river at its base, then rising and swooping down like a fairground ride while twisting around. This is part of the "Pots and Panes" route with the "Pots" going to be completed on our way back. A relatively short days riding of 82 miles but it was enough to get us all wanting more for the next day. A very nice hotel the Parador de Cangas de Onis welcomed us for the evening for some welcome air-conditioned comfort and lovely food.

Hotel Parador

De Cangas de Onis



Northern Spain & the Pico's

Tuesday 7th August 189 miles

A dull start to our day with a forecast of a bit of rain and a lot cooler temperatures as well did not appear, well the rain anyway apart from some that had come over in the night but had dried up by the time we surfaced! A cracking choice of hot and continental breakfast items were up for breakfast to fill us up before we set off for our first full day in Spain. It did not take long before we got going on open roads and the N-625 heading south to Oviedo where we climbed gradually up the Pico's de Europa where the roads were tight along the rock faces which were overhanging the road, not an issue for a motorcycle but for traffic coming the other way having to take a wider line to avoid the overhangs we had to keep our forward observations sharp for overhang v lorry/bus combos! We were climbing up to 4,300 feet and the low cloud this morning was keeping the road damp in places which did not trouble us as we tackled tight corner one after another for over thirty miles. We reached the summit before descending and stopping to gather up and a breather before the next thirty miles and our café stop in Puebla de Lillo. We were on the C-635 now and this was a little used road still two lanes, but the surface was a bit broken on the surface all the way along it which kept our speed down but gave us more time to view the spectacular jagged peaks of the mountains in front of us.



Preying Mantis just can't reach the water at Puebla de Lillo!

Northern Spain & the Pico's

A lovely little town with cafes in a small square ready for twenty odd bikers to gulp down some coffee. Ready for some more action it was onto the Ca-626 another beezer of a road – look the expletives are running out here guys and gals trust me its great roads! More sweeping bends through the valleys and mountains just kept on coming, our new-found friend PC Dave (Update – now it's "Tiny") (well he's not a friend unless he has a nickname now! Ex "Civil Servant" yeh we know... great rider to be with and skills above ours the three of us "Top Gunned" it through fifty miles of this fabulous tarmac, well most of it till one really tight right hand bend that just tightened up on us which seemed to go back on itself and even "Tiny" was caught out with standing the bike up before correcting his line albeit a bit slower than he entered along with myself having a moment before we calmed down! Ah well we all learn something every ride and this was expect the unexpected even if the previous thousand bends did not tighten up then doesn't mean the next one won't! Lunch stop did arrive at Los Barrios de Luna a little bar at the side if a lake with great views over the lake or the valley in the other direction. A one-man band behind the bar the baguettes were massive, so I just had a dainty bag of crisps with my water! The afternoons ride was a little bit more sedate as we all rode together on more open roads alongside lakes, rivers and more stunning landscapes through Villager de Laciana, Villablino and Toreno which led onto the CL-831 to our night's hotel at Ponferrada a modern hotel and town with bustling squares full of restaurants and bars and a true Spanish flavour to savour.



This view one direction



This the other – fantastic!

Los Barrios de Luna

The next couple of days next month folks – The Highlander

The Fab Four go to the Seaside – Chris’s Spain trip continues

The day started with the usual continental breakfast, having consumed enough calories to last us until lunchtime, we packed our panniers, settle our bill and scrutinised the map, Zarautz, was our next destination up on the coast in the Basque part of Spain, the usual ritual of sat nav programming took place, 330.4 miles, five hours twenty six minutes, right not much site seeing today then, we were going to have to use some motorways then, having said that the motorways in Spain are not the pain they are here, at their busiest they are like the M6 toll road at three in the morning.

We waved cheerio to our host as we rode off down the road, still wondering what the steak was the night before, I am sure I don't want to know what it was, the weather had cheered up from the day before and Ian's headlight was behaving itself so all was well, given the mileage of the day we stuck to main roads where we could make good progress, we stopped for coffee in a little village, the locals looked at us as if we had come from another planet, yes it was that kind of village, but after a couple of minutes they went back to their conversations, and just forgot about the aliens, suitably refreshed we carried on our way, the weather was dry and the scenery good, the journey was good and we arrived at Zarautz early afternoon, we found our hotel without much bother, checked in, changed into typical tourist shorts and T shirt and went to explore our new surroundings that was going to be home for the next two days, the beach was a five minute walk for the Hotel, the sun was out the sand golden and the restaurants open, it doesn't get much better. We found a suitable restaurant and set about a late lunch, Pizza Margarita for me then.



Just a light snack for lunch!

The Fab Four go to the Seaside – Chris’s Spain trip continues

Having enjoyed a light repast, we strolled along the seafront, Zarautz has a really nice shoreline, with lots of restaurants and bars, this is the time of the holiday when we become typical tourists, as we strolled along we decided to take the train into San Sebastian tomorrow, the rest of the day and evening was spent relaxing and chatting about various points of the holiday, I am not going to bore you with all the details, just to say we had a really nice evening.

Sunday Morning, our last full day before having to return to Santander to catch the ferry, having had breakfast it was a ten minute walk to the train station, where the usual rigmarole of trying to purchase tickets began, fortunately someone was there who spoke some English, and we each had two tickets, one for the outward journey, and one for the return journey, as with most modern train systems nowadays you put your ticket in a machine to gain access to the platform, having performed this task we waited for the train, the journey was only about thirty minutes and we were in San Sebastian, if you ever get the opportunity to visit San Sebastian, go, it is beautiful, we strolled along the beach and caught the Funicular railway to the top of the cliff, where the view over the city was spectacular. We enjoyed a coffee and had a stroll round the top of the cliff, then it was back down and having had a good wander about went to a fish restaurant that John Bailey had been to the last time he was here, we enjoyed the sardines and watched the world go by.



Ok, who's arm photobombed the pic?

The Fab Four go to the Seaside – Chris’s Spain trip continues

I don't know about you, but I enjoy people watching, everyone getting on with their lives, rushing here, there and everywhere, really good fun, the bill arrived and we wondered which one of us was going to sell a kidney, it turned out a bit expensive, but hey, we are on holiday. We did some more of the tourist thing and made our way back to the station, two of us got onto the platform and two did not, after some ranting and the intervention of a member of the rail network, it appeared that two of us had put the outward ticket and the return ticket through the turn style machine, rendering the return ticket useless, so they had to go and buy another return ticket, having overcome our problems we boarded our train, as we waited for it to pull out Ian suddenly gasped, I asked him what was wrong and he pointed to the third floor balcony of a block of flats opposite the station, yes what about it, a Woman just appeared completely naked and took a towel off the washing line, I looked and looked but she did not appear, well that gave new meaning to seeing the sights of San Sebastian, the train duly pulled out and we were on our way back to Zarautz.

In Zarautz we made our way to the exit barrier, and lo and behold my ticket refused to let me off the platform, I had made sure to use the correct tickets, but no joy, much to the amusement of the others who were all on the other side, fortunately the ticket woman took pity on me and used her pass to let me join the others, we always manage to cause some disruption when we are on holiday, we went off to the beach again and did the usual tourist thing, walk on the beach and visit a bar or two, we finished the evening off with a nice meal and some wine, and retired to bed with great memories of a fabulous day,

Monday morning and it was time to go and catch the ferry home, the journey to Santander was the usual main roads and motorway, you just accept that the holiday is coming to an end and high tail it to the ferry, the crossing was calm, and we arrived in Portsmouth Tuesday afternoon, the trip home was uneventful.

If anyone has ever thought about going abroad touring, I highly recommend Northern Spain and Portugal, the roads are deserted and the scenery fabulous, Ian Cunningham and myself can always give you advice if you need it, to my fellow travellers I say thank you for your company and the great memories generated, until next year, when we do it all again.



By Chris Steel

Social Evening Banter – Thursday 25th October the Hawk

Another night of motorcycling banter was enjoyed by a few of our club members, the main subjects included a certain ZZR1200 coming to an end of its life, we paid our respects to the 140,000-mile machine that had been the length and breadth of the country in all demise was fear another purchased a ten years? Will tell!



The present next on the Halloween the horrific kind maintenance this to the chain the people involved still have two legs..... Ah most of them now have shaft drives!!!!

weathers, the cause of its water related but never machine has been Suzuki this time, will it last I be here too? Time will

and past of chains were agenda and as it was stories were mostly of the mainly due to a lack of and the consequence of and or bike. How I wonder

Come along next Thursday 29th of November to have your say in anything motorcycle related or something else?

Test Pass's

Gareth Williams



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.



CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENING

Our annual dinner this year will be held at the Bleeding Wolf, Scholar Green, Stoke on Trent on Friday the 14th of December.

If you, partner/spouse/friends would like to come along to what promises to be a very convivial and lively evening meeting new and catching up with old friends.

The group has agreed to pay the deposit which will be recovered from the full cost of the meal on the night. The cost of £22.95 pp shown on the menu excludes beverages other than stated and all wines, spirits, beers etc.

Please let Geoff Highfield know as soon as possible with your meal choices from the menu.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Festive Menu
10% discount for children 12 years and under

FULL MENU £22.95
MON-FRI LUNCH SPECIAL
TWO COURSES
coffee and mince pies £16.95

Starters

- Sweet Potato & Carrot Soup, baked bread (GFA)
- Crispy Breaded Brie, with cranberry jam & salad (V)
- Chicken Liver Pâté, mini baked onion loaf, red onion marmalade, watercress salad (GFA)
- Walnut & Mushroom Pâté, mini baked onion loaf, red onion marmalade, watercress salad (V) (GFA)
- Salmon, Cream Cheese & Dill Tart, rocket and sweet cherry tomato salad

Mains

- Festive Roast Turkey, with sage & thyme stuffing, pigs in blankets, roast potatoes, seasonal vegetables & a red wine jus (GFA)
- Roast Pork Belly, herb mash, cider sauce & seasonal vegetables (GF)
- Wild Field Mushrooms & Nut Yorkshire Pudding Burrito, sweet onion gravy, boulangere potatoes & seasonal vegetables (V)
- Herb Infused Chicken Wrapped in Bacon, served with roasted garlic new potatoes, tomato & olive sauce & seasonal vegetables (GF)
- Rolled Plaice, Stuffed with Spinach & Prawns, herb mash, lemon butter parsley sauce, ribbon vegetables (GF)

Desserts

- Christmas Pudding with brandy sauce (V)
- Profiteroles, with Baileys & chocolate sauce, winter berries
- Raspberry Sparkle Mess Cheesecake, with pouring cream
- Lemon Meringue Roulade, strawberry ice cream (V) (GF)

To Finish

Freshly brewed coffee & mince pies

Other Events of a two-wheeled nature

- 11th of November – Ring of Red – Manchester M60 and London M26
- 15th November – Austin Vincas Captains Table at the Bike Shed London
- 17th of November – the last MotoGP of the year! Valencia – Spain
- 17-25th November – Motorcycle Live – NAC – Birmingham
- 18th of November – Newark Autojumble – Newark County Showground
- 25th November – Thumpers Trial – Poplars Chase Farm – Thorrington - Essex
- 2-17th of December – get involved in a local Toy Run www.thebikerguide.co.uk
- 5-6th January 2019! Carol Nash Classic Bike Guide Winter Classic – Newark Showground
- 6-19th of January – Dakar Rally – Peru
- 27-28th January – Springfields Motorcycle Show - Lincs

Caption Competition – NEW = well after I lost it last month!

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 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.

Wednesday Evening Ride Outs – In hibernation till Spring/Summer time

Xmas Meal – Friday 14th of December – The Bleeding Wolf – Scholar Green

Last Thursday of the month – Club Night – The Hawk Haslington - 8pm onwards

FOR SALE – New lower Price!

Oxford Paddock Stand

Never Used £30

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

