

## Editors Ramblings

Into the last third of the year and it's been a great one, here's hoping on an Indian summer just to finish it off in style. I am sure you have been out on your bikes so let's hear about your trips, holidays and a review or two of your bikes and kit. We have the second part of Chris's holiday and the last part of my Scottish adventure this month plus anything else I can come up with!

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 Sept 2018

## A Word from the Chair

Well my luck must be in this year, every holiday has had great weather and totally dry! Another great foreign trip which took us to Northern Spain and Portugal for the first time saw brilliant roads with weather hot but not in the forties which would have been too hot to give us one of the best holidays ever. Well I am sure I have said that before but spending time on the bike abroad is just special. Next month will start my story of the trip in the newsletter so watch out for it.

We had our first reintroduced social evening just a couple of days ago at the Hawk in Haslington our old stomping ground where we had a good turnout of old and new members in attendance for some light hearted banter around motorcycling and other subjects in-between. Come along to our next one and be part of the best couple of hours you can have off the bike!

We have our annual Certificate Presentation Evening coming up this month on Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> of September at Winsford Fire and Rescue HQ so come along and help congratulate our test passes and meet our new members. We have a talk on Coast to Coast by Harley Davidson for you all to enjoy as well. Please let Geoff know of your intention to attend and I look forward to seeing you all there.

Happy riding everybody, stay safe

Gordon



## Presidents Page

This Month will be short I am afraid, I have been away to Normandy visiting the D Day beaches with my brother, a very interesting trip and a great one to do on your motorcycle, but I was in the car, We got the Normandy Express from Portsmouth and were in Cherbourg in three hours, quite painless really, I can recommend that route, providing you have a normal car, as clearance between decks is minimal, and they pack you in so you have about five inches to open your door and get out.

We have arranged the certificate presentation evening for last years Autumn course and this years Spring and Summer courses for Friday September 28<sup>th</sup>, it would be great if you could come along and share in the Associates success, we are also arranging a guest speaker, and there will be refreshments as well, so please join us on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

I have received two members apply for the Observer training 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) this your last call as the Course will be starting soon.

Associates please remember that you can arrange a one to one session with an Observer if you need a refresher prior to test.

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

Chris Steel  
President.



## ***The Fab Four go to Spain – by Chris Steel part Two***

Being on holiday, no need to get up at the crack of, as they say, so we all met for breakfast at 8.30, and started the ritual of fathoming out how the coffee machine works, I have to be careful as I was once blamed for breaking the coffee machine in Chin Chon, and it was still not working properly a few weeks later when one of the gang re visited the hotel, I deny all knowledge, anyway I digress.

Having had a hearty breakfast and packed our bikes, it was time to consult the map, programme the sat nav, and realise there are four routes to Coll de Nargo, my machine said 165 miles, 3hr 4mins, excellent no rush then, having navigated Zaragoza's morning rush hour, buses flying in from everywhere, taxi's cutting you up, and general dozy pedestrians stepping out in front you, we left the city and found ourselves in the countryside, the beauty of Northern Spain is there is very little traffic, and we had the roads to ourselves, well nearly.

Having ridden through picturesque countryside and stopped off to take some pictures of a bird colony that builds it's nests on top of factories, we stopped for a coffee break, Northern Spain has many little villages and most of them have a bar / café, you know the type where the locals stop talking when strangers walk in, having replenished our depleted caffeine levels we continued on our sight seeing trip, as we approached yet another village, there was a long straight into the village, the road then went sharp left, I being at the back no 4, noticed John Bailey's bike no1 suddenly twitch to the right before negotiating the left hand turn, then John Brady's bike no2 did exactly the same as did Ian Cunningham's no 3, trying to control the twitch I an ran up the pavement to regain control, strange I thought, then hey presto, my bike did exactly the same stepped out as if on ice, I took to the road on the right to regain control and bring the machine back onto the correct course, there was a pedestrian crossing and there had been rain, but not that much, when we stopped for lunch the topic of conversation was our formation sidestep routine, after much debate, I came to conclusion that a little old lady had been crossing the crossing and her shopping bag had burst and her Mazola cooking oil (other cooking oils are available) had fallen out, burst and depositing itself on the crossing, causing mayhem for all that followed.

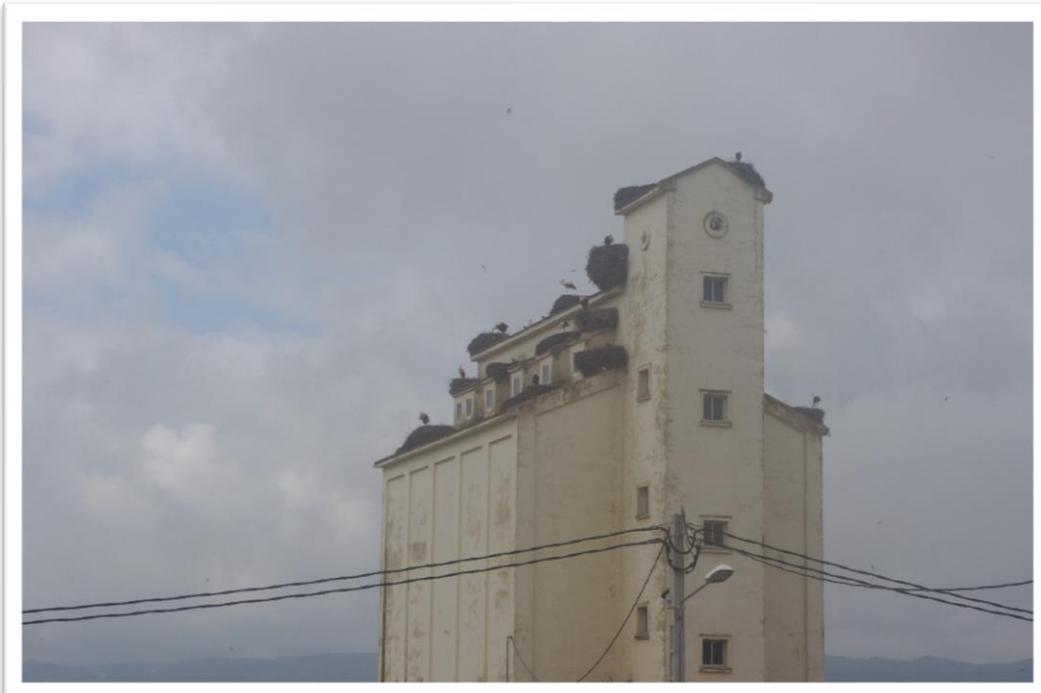


## ***The Fab Four go to Spain***

Having had lunch we carried on negotiating our way tour base camp for three nights, our route took us off the beaten track and through little villages where the newest car was 10 years old, and discovered great roads and fabulous scenery, we found our hotel, more by chance than anything else, it was on the main road through Coll de Nargo, we checked in and unpacked and went for a walk round town, being in the mountains it was built on a hillside, there were steep streets followed by flat bits, when we had walked to the furthest point from the hotel some very dark clouds appeared very quickly, as they do in mountainous areas, there was a flash of lightening then the heavens opened, it was at this point I realised how Noah must have felt, we sheltered in someone's garage, and watched the water flow down the street in great torrents, I was thinking about the reasons why we came to Spain, the good weather, well it apparently it was warmer in England at that moment in time, after twenty minutes it eased and we ran, well three ran, one wobbled back to the hotel, where it was time for refreshments and food.

The Menu was quite extensive, the waiter came to take our order, and every time we ordered something, no was the answer, I suspected then that it was too much trouble to print a daily menu so when they had a food delivery they made a note of what was on for that night, so Chicken Coll de Nargo and croquettes it was then, and a bottle of red to wash it all down, followed by coffee, I never though I would find somewhere that made Mc Donald's look good.

We had three days into which explore the national park we were staying in, little did we know then what a day tomorrow was going to be, but for the time being it was off to bed to realise that Ian had put his socks on the window sill to dry, and I had put my gloves on to dry only to find that the monsoon had drenched them and the floor of the room, not to worry I had packed spares, having settled down it was off to sleep and to wake refreshed for the next days events.



TO BE CONTINUED

## Scotland Holiday – NC767 – May 2018 – Part 3

### Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May Ballater to Gretna Green 203 miles

Another warm night turned into a muggy morning for us to get prepared for our last full day on tour to Gretna Green. I have been looking forward to this morning's session to Blairgowrie since we planned this trip. A nice breakfast first and a poached Finnan haddock and poached eggs went down nicely. All ready and I was off heading west on the A93 running alongside the River Dee to Braemar a fast-flowing road tree lined with the river glistening between the trees, superb. It opened up after Braemar going south over to Glenshee and rising to the ski centre with some snow in the shade of the mountain still showing. After a long straight drop the road turned narrower and twistier with humps needing careful speed adjustment or airborne you would go, a great test for your observations. Fifty miles done in what seemed like a blink of the eye it was a good wait for the rest of the crew to catch up in Blairgowrie. Local knowledge helps on a road like that. A quick refreshment stop in "Spoons" £1.25 for unlimited coffee, yes please! You can take a Scotsman out of Scot..... oh, wait I'm back! Some more nice roads continued on the A93 till we got to Perth and a bit of negotiating roundabouts and junctions till we got on to the M90 to Edinburgh and over the new bridge which was looking good with its bright white supports glistening almost silver like against the sun. I had been trying to keep the group together as we had no spots for second man drop offs on the motorway, but Ash and Mike were nowhere to be seen, both had the route on their Sat Navs and I had no phone calls, so we continued to the end of the Edinburgh Bypass and stopped there to catch them and let them know the lunch stop. Ash ever observant sailed right passed a group of jumping waving bikers! Comms to Mike though managed to get "Garden Centre for lunch" to them and we all arrived at the same time for our break.



## Scotland Holiday – NC767 – May 2018 – Part 3 continued

The final leg was the A7 a fast road going through the borders and quaint towns of Galashiels, Hawick and Langholm. It could be very easy to find your speed creeping up to law attracting figures, so we were careful to watch our speedos. Gretna Green reached, our official tour was now complete just our homeward journeys to take in the morning. We had to sit outside and chew the fat as they say about the holiday, well indoors was hot as hell so outside was just HOT.



### Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June Gretna Green to Home

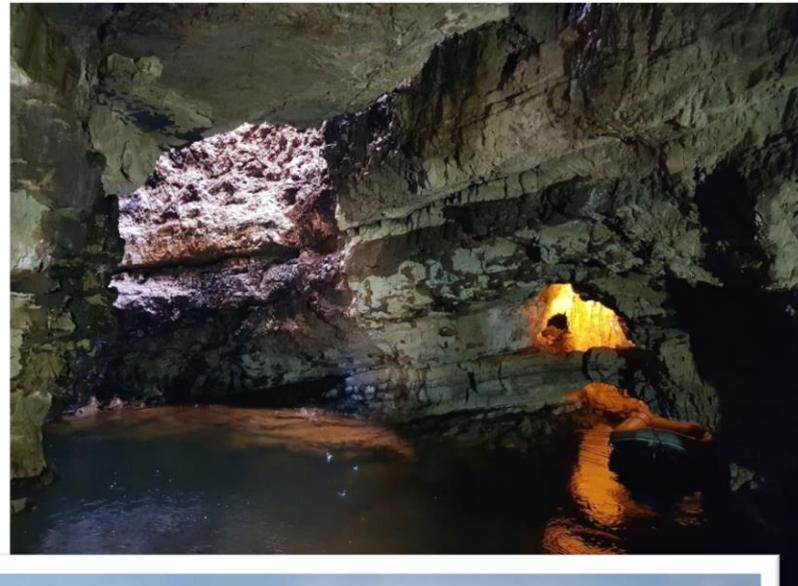
We said our goodbye's and we all headed our separate ways to different parts of the country, Mike, The Caretaker and myself decided on the more scenic route through the Yorkshire Dales so enjoyed some fantastic roads for our final miles before we joined the M6 at Penrith and got home in good time and dry for the whole trip and hotter than we could have imagined too. I did have trouble getting into the house, not easy without a key! I was out of my leathers for a run to the next farm to see if they had keys, yes but they were on a golf course! So, run back, leathers on, eight mile blast to golf course, leathers off (did I say it was still freaking HOT? Kind man gave me a golf buggy and I was up the course as fast.... Well faster than me running, Just! Found the culprits with the keys and repeated the process in reverse before getting in the house!!!

## Scotland Holiday – NC767 – May 2018 Part 3 continued

Well what a fantastic holiday on the bikes with great friends and showing them some of the best roads in Scotland, what could be better? If you get the chance to do the NC500 or the MCN767 do it, you will not be disappointed. Be prepared for the weather though, especially if its.....HOT.



The Crew



Smoo Caves



The Highlander

## Test Pass's

Mike Hayden



### **Other Events of a two-wheeled nature**

7-9<sup>th</sup> September – Goodwood Revival – Chichester W Sussex - [goodwood.com](http://goodwood.com)

8-9<sup>th</sup> September – Kickback Festival of Bikes – Town Hall, Cheltenham

14-16<sup>th</sup> September – Bol d'Or – Le Castellet France

15-16<sup>th</sup> September – World Superbikes – Portimao – Spain

22-23<sup>rd</sup> September – Ally Pally Show and Supersprint – Alexandra Palace – London

22-23<sup>rd</sup> September – World Enduro Super Series – Hawkstone Park - Shropshire

23-30<sup>th</sup> September – Piston Rally – Santander Spain

29-30<sup>th</sup> September – BSB – Assen – Netherlands

7<sup>th</sup> October -Oliver's Mount Hill Climb – Scarborough

11<sup>th</sup> November – Ring of Red – London and Manchester

16-18<sup>th</sup> November – Moto GP – Valencia - Spain

17-25<sup>th</sup> November – Motorcycle Live – NEC - Birmingham

## 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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. Menu still to be confirmed.

## 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 – Finished till next year!

Social Evening – Last Thursday of the month at the Hawk in Haslington - 8pm

Certificate Presentation Evening 28<sup>th</sup> September at Winsford Fire and Rescue HQ  
7:30pm

## FOR SALE

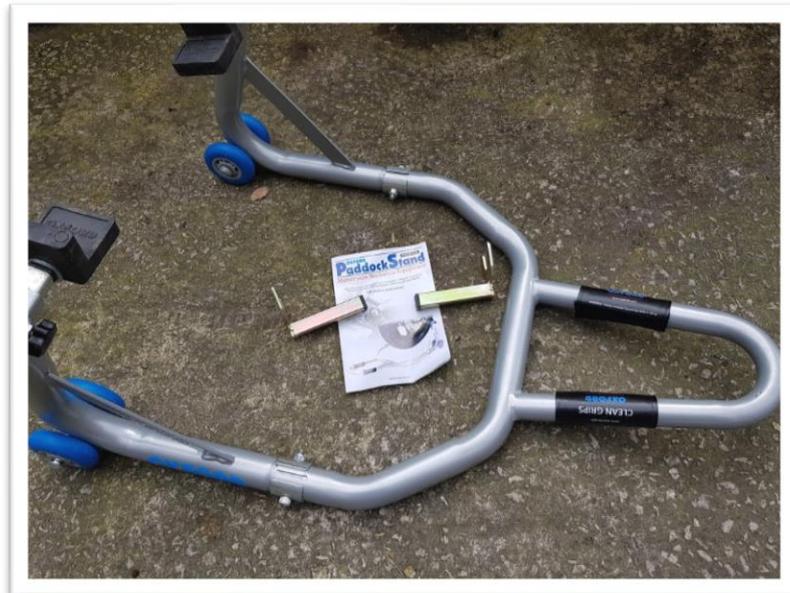
Oxford Paddock Stand

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

