

Editors Ramblings

Is it March or July? Well I get easily confused and this February weather has done that to me! The Ed's Hand is healing nicely and can type but there is a slow month of articles, just as well we have our AGM and anniversary to talk about. I went to a dealer to do a "Dealer Destination" but they are having a refit this month! I should be able to go back and get it in next month's issue though.

Remember we have our Facebook page – please join and contribute on it - Only for club members – any weird names or business names let us know so we can allow you to join the page.
<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 March 2019



1994 to 2019



A Word from the Chair

It's that time of year where we have our AGM to report on our year gone past. As you have no doubt seen or heard it is our twenty fifth anniversary and plans are afoot to celebrate this. We have a badge being designed as I type and will be included with every membership renewal this year as a memento of this year. We will also have a T Shirt/Polo top with our logo and our anniversary on it for purchase later in the year once this has gone through the committees approval. Dave Coomber is getting a route together for a day out in the summer as well which we will keep you posted about.

So with this as ever we would like to see some new faces on the committee to help us keep your group going forward and contribute to any fresh and ongoing ideas and running smoothly. Andrew who joined the committee twelve months ago will testify that we take it easy on you and give you time to find your feet before asking you to take any positions up. Any questions you have please get in touch and I will gladly assist you with your query.

Chris has agreed to continue as Chief Observer for another Year, this is fantastic dedication from Chris to do this for 2019 and we are all in Chris's gratitude and I personally want To thank Chris for his commitment.

Happy riding everybody, stay safe

Gordon



Presidents Page

Not much has happened since my last communication, this month sees the AGM at the Hawk Inn Haslington on the 21st, please attend if you can, it is your group.

At the recent Observer meeting, I agreed to continue as Chief Observer for another twelve months, due to their being no nominations for the position.

Dave Coomber is going to organise a 25th anniversary ride out, it would be nice to see a great turn out for the ride.

Next month sees the start of the Spring course, we have twelve associates enrolled so it is looking good on the training front.

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

Chis Steel

President.

Social Evening Chat

How many pints of varying percentage of Alcohol can be consumed discussing Motorcycle front headlight bulb replacement? Well quite a few as it turns out. Maybe a few More if you have a BMW, especially Ian's!!



Dealer Destination – Chester BMW

A bit of a last-minute visit to get this into this month's newsletter and with the weather ridiculously foul there was not much of a route to delight in the car! Well not that there is much excitement getting over to near Ellesmere Port anyway! After finding out that there was a dealer here it was just a nosey to see what they had on the shop floor.



Easy to get to just off the M53 it was easy to park near the building. Chris and Steve were in the sales team today, not too busy after the 1st of March registration rush on Friday and Saturday. They have been in existence since 2008 when Crewe BMW decided to stop the motorcycle side of things and brought the dealership over to Chester. They shared the building with Harley Davison before extending into their own building next door. They were only allowed to have motorcycles on the ground floor at first but now have the use of the first floor as well.

On entering the building, you would only think that they sold GS1200's as that is all that there was and there was a lot!



Dealer Destination – Chester BMW

Upstairs there was a bigger selection of BMW's apart from a solitary Ducati! There was plenty of space between each bike for having a good look at them.

One nice example of an 80's boxer



Thought Camouflage was meant to make you less conspicuous!

A good selection of BMW clothing

The Highlander



From Small Beginnings part 2

Trial and Error

1994 to 2019



In 1994 Associates were allocated an Observer, and they arranged their own sessions, the training was conducted on a one to one basis, it meant that some Associates were taking a long time to become test ready.

Bob Higginbotham the IAM regional co-ordinator was trying to introduce a fixed length mass guidance system to help make the process more systematic, as a new group and not having any fixed idea's he asked us to take the idea on board, I became an observer in 1996, the training, was, well, basic, I shadowed an Observer and his Associate for a few sessions, then I was allocated an associate, by this time the beginnings of a course structure were forming, all the Associates turned up at Crewe College car park at 9 o'clock on a Sunday morning, the down side was no one knew how many associates would turn up, or how many Observers, it was basic to say the least, and once everyone was there, the ratio of Associate to Observer would be worked out, then the Observer would pick his Associate for the day and off they would go, the route being whatever route the Observer chose to do, so everyone went in different directions and finished everywhere.

I being a new Observer had ideas on how I felt the development of training should be but did not feel I had the experience or position to try and tell the established members how it should be developed, and so this was how it was in the early years.

1998 saw a change of Chief Observer, Dave Leader had joined the police force and could no longer dedicate the time to the position, Derek Gray became the new Chief Observer, Derek had been my Observer when I did my training, and we had become good friends during that time, Derek was open to any suggestions that could help him in his role as Chief Observer, Brian Kitson and I had ideas for formulating the training into a course structure, we had looked at how college courses were run, a set number of weeks, covering a specific subject.

From Small Beginnings



The group had the Hawk Inn at Haslington for our Committee meetings and Social evenings so we had the location for the induction evening, bearing in mind that everything was done by phone and post in these days it still took time to develop, the IAM just let groups get on with it, and so long as candidates were being put forward for test, that was great.

Dave Leader before he joined the police had produced a course book, I agreed to formulate and produce it, having gone through many changes and reprints it was finally ready to roll out to Associates, some of you reading this will have been issued with it, the IAM guidance on training was a minimum of four sessions, looking at IPSGA and the system it was clear that the four sessions were. System, positioning, cornering, and overtaking, to make the course book sessions and course compatible it became six sessions, still in use today, we also introduced an Induction evening and a theory evening, the theory evening took place after session four, so we now had a structure in place, Derek took the Induction evenings and theory evenings but it was still very much made up on the evening, with a general discussion on what the course provided, and regarding the theory evening any situations encountered during the four sessions completed. Crewe College had complained about our using their carp park, and the lay-by adjacent, so we had moved the meeting place to Aldi car park on the grand junction retail park, Derek by his own admission was not comfortable delivering the Induction evening or theory evening, Brian Kitson and I agreed to take over this aspect. This was work in progress for a few years, then in 2001 Derek announced he was stepping down as Chief Observer, when I asked him who was going to take over, he said "I think you would make a good Chief Observer" the committee approved my appointment and in March 2001 I became Chief Observer.

TO BE CONTINUED

Chris Steel



KTM 1290 Super Adventure S – Farewell – It's been a blast!

Servicing has gone with no issues, a first service before 1000 miles an oil change etc at £150 not cheap but it needs a very good oil in it to keep it going sweetly. Annual services are 9,000 miles so just once a year unless you do lots of miles.

Tyres are Pirelli Scorpion II's 90% road and 10% off road, not that I would or want to take a bike this size anywhere near dirt! These suited the bike well with good grip in the dry and ok in the wet, maybe a full road tire would be more suitable if you did a lot of all year-round riding. Considering the bikes power and yes, I did like it – they lasted well with 7,000 miles easily achieved on them, more on the front but it did go off quickly near the end, especially on Scottish Highland grippy roads.



Even with all that power the bike averaged around the 50 mpg for all the 13,000 miles which for the performance I was very pleased with. The chain which every shaft driving bike owner smugly looked down on was not such a bind as it has only needed adjusting three times and only took a few minutes of cleaning and waxing every other wash so for the extra performance you got from it I had no complaints. The brake pads are still going well which is more than I can say for my previous bike the brake pad muncher Crosstourer! Less power but that extra 45kg must have needed a lot of sintered pad to bring it to a halt!

The adjustable screen was fine for my small size taking most of the wind blast off me with not much turbulence coming over it. Fast motorway blasts did give you a bit more of a work out but on a bike like this you always are on the lookout for a twisty road as that's where this bike excels switching left, right and back again with ease and a great big smile.

KTM 1290 Super Adventure S – Farewell – It’s been a blast!

Well as much as I love this bike it was time to change and get something with a lower seat height, not an issue once you are up in the saddle and giving the reigns a big tug – it loses the sensation of height and weight well but slow manoeuvring was always a nervous affair for me and a road with an adverse camber or dropped tarmac where a foot was placed would give the heart a good fright when the bike threatened to go further over than intended!



As much as I like the idea of Adventure style bikes, I am not a fan of the high front end and also the light feeling on the bars I have always liked a heavy front end so that is the reason I am letting the SAS go into the sunset. I have loved my time with it, and it has coped with everything I have thrown at it and it still looks fresh today and rides like it too. Well made with quality parts and the dealers have been great with the servicing.

What's next you ask? Well you will have to wait till next month!

The Highlander

New Members – Welcome

Rick Evans, Bruce Backman, Jon Jones
Andrew Richards, Andrea Brassington
David Jackson, Anthony Beeston
David Creedy, Mark Steventon



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.



Other Events of a two-wheeled nature

7-10th March MotoGP Qatar

9-10th March – MCN Scottish Motorcycle Show – Royal Highland Centre – Edinburgh

15-17th March WSB Thailand

23-34th March – Manchester Bike Show – Event City Manchester

28-31st March MotoGP Argentina

5-7th April WSB Aragon Spain

10-14th April MotoGP Texas USA

12-14th April WSB Assen Holland

19-21st April British Superbikes Silverstone

2-5th May MotoGP Jerez

10-12th May WSB Imola Italy

16-19th May MotoGP Le Mans

Caption Competition

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

Answers as usual to biker5chef@yahoo.co.uk

Fire Away!

Still no entries for this one!



Club Website Information

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

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

AGM – 21st of March 7:30pm The Hawk – Haslington

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

