



South Cheshire Advanced Motorcyclists

May 2022 Newsletter

News and Diary Dates

Keep abreast of upcoming activities and dates by regularly checking the Facebook page of the South Cheshire Advanced Motorcyclists Group.

Ride outs every:

Sunday 9.00am Costa, Grand Junction, Crewe.

Tuesday 9.30am Costa, Dorothy Flude Retail Park, Crewe.

Wednesday 7.00pm Shell petrol station, Middlewich

Look smart! Embroidered South Cheshire Advanced Motorcyclists leisure wear now available (see later).

For Committee contacts see:
<https://www.southcheshiream.org.uk>

The newsletter is going bimonthly.

In future, the Newsletter will appear at two-month intervals. The next issue will be issued at the end of July. Please keep the stories flowing so we can produce bumper treats.

Heavy Metal

Not all bikers are enthusiastic about electrification. Among the many reasons is a concern about range. Battery sizes currently available for bikes put a limit of a claimed 80-200 miles, depending on machine choice, but those are probably generous estimates assuming gentle riding. However, this will change with the development of ultra-high energy density, fast charging niobium batteries, and other battery developments, that will probably come to market in 2-3 years' time.

The BMF decarbonization policy supports a technology neutral approach for powering new motorcycles and does not accept that electric battery technology is the only approach although it probably will be.

The benefits of an electric motorcycle include: loads of torque, amazing acceleration, no gears to shift, no toxic emissions, no costly petrol, lower maintenance and IPSGA will become IPSA.



There are a few cool, attractive, sporty bikes coming onto the scene, all very pricey. The EGO+/RS boasts a mammoth battery, supporting a range of 261 miles and a 0-60mph of 2.6mph. The Zero SR/S claims a range of 227 miles and 0-60mph in 3.5 secs. The Harley Davidson Live Wire offers a range of 146 miles and a 0-60mph of 3 secs. The Lightning LS218 is stupidly quick with a top speed of 218mph, 0-60 in 2.2 secs and a claimed range of 160 miles. I like the look of the Damon Hypersport Pro with a claimed range of 200 miles but I don't think I would need its top speed of 200mph, even to catch Howard.

Development and marketing seem almost wholly aimed at speed or city commuting with nothing in the middle. I would like to see an electric touring bike that will charge quickly at public charging stations, with a range of at least 250 miles and at a price that doesn't require a mortgage. We are not quite there yet but, hopefully, will be soon.

Editor

Message from the Chairman

The committee met on Zoom on 19 May.

The Chief Observer reported nine candidates were on the training course, which is well advanced, and four on the Observer's course being run by Pete.

Another social event is being planned, a 'Meet the Examiners' evening which will be of special interest to the Associates. Details will be announced shortly.

The next committee meeting will be on the 22 June, hopefully live at the Hawk. All members and associates are welcome to attend as observers and to join the after-meeting chat.

Social evenings on the last Thursday in the month are to be reinstated. While the Hawk in Haslington will be the default venue, a first meeting at an alternative location with a beer garden is to be announced shortly and will be combined with an evening ride out.

Also, keep a lookout for a club Sunday ride to be announced soon.

In 2023 a Presentation evening will be held in Feb/March building on the success of the one held at Sandbach Golf club this year. Details will be announced nearer the time.

Dave Cox



Message from the President

Another month has been ticked off the calendar, and here we are in June. Not a lot has happened apart from Observing on the Spring course. On the last session at Whitchurch there was a classic bike meet, and a photographer was taking action pictures, and got one of me. Having been Observing for twenty-five years, this is the first action shot, so I bit the bullet and purchased said picture.



I know it means nothing to you, but it's a memory for me.

Having been hobbling and wobbling for a number of years, and as the company I work for has private medical care, I decided to start the process of getting at least one of my knees looked at. A consultation in 2018 found my knees to be knackered. The pain level having ramped up considerably, I decided it is time to do something. I started a claim and saw a consultant at Chester on May 10th, who arranged

X- rays on both knees. The results showed no cartilage in either knee, just bone on bone. It was decided that I need both knees replacing. The consultant decided to do my left one first. I have now got a date for my surgery, June 13th, so I will be laid up for a while. Well, a minimum of six weeks, possibly twelve so my next article will be telling you how I am coping with a new knee, so be prepared to be bored.

We have had some nice weather recently, so I hope you have all been out enjoying your motorcycles.

Ian, John and I went to Moffatt last month. The weather was good, the roads quiet and the scenery stunning. If you have been riding somewhere great, write an article and introduce us to your favourite road or destination.

That is all from me for this month. Safe riding.

Chris Steel.



Ride Outs

RIDE OUT EVERY SUNDAY from Costa Coffee, Grand Junction retail Park, at 9am.

*Dave Coomber, Ride Coordinator
01270569439*

RIDE OUT EVERY TUESDAY – a couple of hours then lunch. Comfort stops as required. Meet at Costa on Dorothy Flude Retail Park, Lockitt St, Crewe CW2 7BB at 9.30am for 10am departure.

Howard Payne

JOIN THE WEDNESDAY EVENING RIDE OUTS

Starts from the Shell petrol station, Middlewich **at 7.00p.m.**

Social and riding

Howard is keen to promote more social and riding activities among club members and, in particular, to encourage more members, who are no longer tied down with work, to join the Tuesday ride outs.

Even if you don't have the time, or if the weather is dreadful, still come along to Costa on Dorothy Flude Retail Park in Crewe for a coffee and chat.

You can contact Howard via the club page on Facebook or email:

howard.payne163@gmail.com.

Just in time - a Tuesday ride

Tuesday 24 May saw a group of two, heading on a wandering course for CMC motorcycles café, Clay Cross, Chesterfield.

We travelled Garmin wavy roads, long straights on the tops and back to windy fun roads before lunch. The only mishap was while turning to backtrack when I tried to stop in a tight turn. As I braked, the bike turned in and I was unable to hold it. Fortunately, the only impact was a little scratch on the engine bars. My confidence was momentarily dented.

I had to get back for a family dinner outing. Frank's GPS knew it and on the return journey teased us by following closed roads, taking us back and forth through the same set of roadworks and passing signs to Crich from all angles as we circled endlessly. Frank sensed my desperation and we set course on the fastest route with dual carriageway most of the way to Derby then Stoke. I was hyper anxious about how time was slipping by but kept behind Frank who was carefully reading the traffic, making accurate predictions and studiously



avoiding hazards that in my haste I might have chanced. It was a salutary lesson.

Editor

Feature

Six set off to Ireland

With Covid on the retreat, we six decided it was ok to plan an annual trip. Two wanted to go to Scotland, one was for Ireland and the rest didn't care where we went.

The choice was made. We would spend a couple of days in the Woodland House hotel in Dumfries, which we prefer as an alternative to the biker hotel in Moffatt, then on to Ireland and back to the Woodland.

Our friend who wanted to go to Ireland said he would book the accommodation. So, he booked Donegal. A pleasant enough place but we had really wanted to tour the north coast of Northern Ireland to see the NW200 road race part of the world. But no, we had to go where he wanted which gave us two 150 mile runs just to get the hotel and back which wasn't in our plan but hey ho, go with the flow.

We all had met up at the Devil's Bridge, Kirkby Lonsdale, and headed north to Scotland stopping at Alston for a coffee and to break my glasses. We crossed the border on some potholed roads which is where misfortune fell on my eldest son. Having avoided a large pothole, he target-fixated on the hedge so you can guess what happened next. Yes, down went the bike on the grass, over the top he went giving the crown jewels a considerable knock. He was straight up on his feet clutching the affected area. As for the bike, it hit a tree and destroyed the front end. All this unwound in front of me as I was following, not the best experience in the world, and he couldn't say a dog ran out!

The recovery truck took him to Gretna Green railway station and then he got the train home as the insurance company didn't cover repatriation from the scene of the accident. It was comforting that the recovery gentlemen provided a solution. Had he been on his own in the middle of nowhere, he would have had difficulty in arranging transport home. That is something to check next time you insure your bike.



So, onto Dumfries and the next day's ride. Our 'booking agent' had planned a route to Eyemouth taking full advantage of TomTom's ability to choose winding, grotty routes with copious gravel, grass, potholes and debris. How much better to plan your own routes rather than just rely on a satnav, which is useful for finding your destination but not always for much more.

We arrived in western Scotland with all of beautiful Dumfries and Galloway at our disposal but instead he takes us to Eyemouth on the east coast. Apparently, our 'booking agent' had once stayed there on his way to Aberdeen and thought it was ok. All I could say is that it must have been dark. (Editor's note: Eyemouth is a fishing town with a natural harbour and a long history some of it tragic).

Next day, we rode to the Stena Line ferry which is far better than the P&O ferry, which we had booked for the return journey although it was at least running! The journey to the ferry was uneventful except for the unfortunate who thought it would be a great idea to drop his bike. Thank heavens for large crash bungs. You do feel such a plonker slowly going over as your little legs fail to

take the strain. I mean, we just stopped and clever me thought he could hold it on the footbrake and balance; well, I proved that is not a skill I have mastered. Pride hurt; I pushed the event out of my mind to enjoy the journey to the ferry.



There is never a McDonalds when you want one

I led across Ireland and redeemed myself having planned a progressive route to the accommodation. Donegal provided good restaurants and bars with plenty of craic!



Beauty abounds in the middle of nowhere

The road surfaces on the whole were good, the Wild Atlantic Coast Road was spectacular and the views stunning. The next day was as promised, wet. I went off on my own as the booking agent was letting TomTom's windy roads loose again!



Near Mullaghmore Head, Lord Mountbatten's former castle, came



Classiebawn castle, the former holiday home of Lord Mountbatten

into view, a tragic reminder of his demise in 1979. The castle certainly stands impressive, imposing and very unwelcoming. In the harbour area was a lovely fish restaurant, beautifully painted.



The fish restaurant at Mullaghmore Head near the harbour from which Mountbatten made his fateful voyage.

On my return journey, the rain poured down but a pavement and a shop with a large awning gave me much needed shelter. The next day was very dull for our run to Larne and the P&O ferry. Larne was a rather drab place but we were lucky as just as we got on the ferry the heavens opened up and it was still

precipitating on landing back in Scotland. As we made our way inland the weather improved and was great for our run home.



Can't take the pace

TomTom has now been sacked and future accommodation is to be agreed by all. Lesson learned, Spain and the Picos mountains next year.

Believe it or not, we had a great laugh, good long days in the saddle with good friends who can all take the stick that we all like to dish out.

You know how things happen in threes. No. 1 son had crashed his bike, I had dropped mine and then No. 2 son, who races in the city car cup, crashed his car last Sunday in a race at Snetterton. I had also personally achieved three mishaps: a broken pair of glasses on the way to Scotland, dropped the bike on the way to the ferry and had our car hit in a Macdonald's by a man reversing out of his parking space as we were passing. Things can only get better.

Ride safely

Howard.



Club Merchandise

Please see below for the link to your Club shop with a few items of apparel now available, beautifully embroidered with the Club logo:

<https://customsportskit.co.uk/other-clubs/south-cheshire-advanced-motorcyclists/>

Editor's Plea

Many thanks to this month's contributors. Keep telling me about your biking adventures, bloopers, ambitions, bike reviews, new kit, top tips, personal sale items and any bike, riding or road related issues that are, or should be, a matter for concern. Please attach photos separately, ideally with a list of captions.

david@creedy.net

For Sale/Wanted

For Sale

A brand new, never been fitted, tank bag for a BMW R1200 GS Nov 2006 to July 2013. Large, pointlessly sitting in my wardrobe when someone could be making use of it £65.

Tel. Chris Steel 07773480492.



Why not sort through all those unused items, which seemed essential at the time, and turn them into cash. Alternatively, if you are desperately hunting for an item, send the details for listing in the next issue. There is no charge for advertising personal items. Don't forget to include your contact details.