

aamc



TREADS

The January 2009 Newsletter of AAMC

Editor's Bits

'Goodbye 2008'. Hello 2009.

Well what a year that was!! The Club started off with a very successful Skittles Evening, which was supposed to be fun but got a little serious at the end! The next event was the AGM at 'The Swan', which was well attended and reflected the members' interest. AGMs are notoriously badly attended, so we must be doing something right.

The riding season started off with Simon's ride being the first on the Diary of Events. Despite the poor weather which was experienced last year, torrential rain and flooding (caused because of heavy rain over very short spells), no Club rides were abandoned which shows what a hardy bunch (or should that be fool hardy?) of riders we are.

The B.B.Q. at Jim's was well attended (thanks Jim & Jan), remaining dry but it did go cold later with most retreating indoors.

The biggest problem from a riding point of view was the astronomic cost of petrol, which reached a record high. When you took into account the cost of petrol, a meal and coffee breaks this made a Club ride quite an expensive day out.

The two Club Bashes: – Stu's to Cornwall was well attended and everyone enjoyed themselves with weather being quite good, whilst Simon's trip to Spain, where one would have expected fine weather, did not fare so well. Still everyone made the best of it and came back happy.

November saw the cost of petrol dropping to a record low, and the last event of the year being 'The Pub & Grub' held at The Swan with Sue excelling as 'Mistress of Ceremonies' (you've got a job for life there) with the presentation of awards following the meal.

The low point of the year was Dave Tew's death when he lost his battle with cancer at the end of November. Seventeen members of the club attended his funeral and internment at the church in Clapton-

in-Gordano and at the Arnos Manor Hotel. Dave will be sorely missed.

The Club starts 2009 with the Skittles Match on 21st Feb and the AGM on the 31st March at The Swan. The AGM details will be confirmed in the next Treads.

Keith

View from the 'Saddle'

Sorry folks. I've found the horse but I can't find the saddle! (Normal service will be resumed as soon as possible. See next Treads.)

We have received the following from a club member:

I have found a company at the Bike Show called Glo-Marka who produce High Visibility items.

If anyone is looking for hi-vis stuff:

www.glo-marka.co.uk,
sales@glo-marka.co.uk

Chris

We have also received the following from Somerset Advanced Motorcyclists:

SOMERSET ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS present THE 2009 SOUTH WEST PENINSULA SPRING RALLY

Following on the success of the National, Welsh and Scottish Rallies, Somerset Advanced Motorcyclists announce the running of The 2009 South West Peninsula Spring Rally, to be held on Saturday 4th April 2009.

The rally has full IAM and ACU accreditation and is a road rally for riders of all skills on two and three wheels. Full details and conditions of the event, with entry form can be obtained via the Somerset Advanced Motorcyclists Website: - www.somersetadvancedmotorcyclists.org.uk

We are encouraged by the applications being received but still have some way to go to make our total entry. With spring now only a few months away, motorcyclists will be looking forward to some better weather and the opportunity to get on the bike and enjoy a good ride out. What better than to join our rally and experience some great motorcycling across the South West?

To make this event a success and establish it as a regular annual rally, we need your help in circulating details to all your members and encouraging them to hone up their skills and participate in what will be an enjoyable and memorable motorcycling experience.

Chris Howard

If any members would like to make up a team, please contact Chris.

chrishoward@lambrookprojects.co.uk

New Year's Day Ride.

Like most plans, this one started life as an idea. A work colleague asked me if the club did any rides in the winter. I said it did because we could advertise rides on the club website but then I wondered what sort of fool would lead a ride in the middle of winter.

Ah, that would be me then.

So, when and where? Let's start the year in the way we intend to carry on. Winter rides are a very different animal to summer rides. In the warmer weather twisty fast roads might be favourite. In winter normal A-roads are quite enough of a challenge. So who will come on this ride? Most sensible folk put their bike away for the winter, but there are a few of us who keep an eye out for those dry winter days.

I decided to do a recce. It was a cold crisp day on the Sunday before. The sun is an expected hazard at this time of year – it never gets very high and is often in your eyes around the next bend. I am thankful of my tinted visor (light tint, of course)! My recce took in an early B-road. Although a fairly well-used road it had not been

treated so it was very icy in places. For years I didn't own a car so I am quite used to riding in slippery conditions. I used to sometimes fall off, too, so I will be avoiding this stuff on the day. On the whole the day was going well. I had a nice lunch. The roads were drying out and I felt able to use more of the tyre's profile and was starting to really enjoy myself.

Then I got a puncture and had to wait about 2 hours for recovery. I got a bit cold.

On the day it was well below freezing and foggy. Not ideal but the forecast was for warmer weather south so I was happy to go. Three of us turned out for a pre-ride warm up coffee. Paul and Steve were the other musketeers. It must be said that, although a bit nippy, it was very picturesque across the Mendips towards Shepton. The freezing fog had bejewelled the trees creating an otherworldly wintry landscape. We continued to Blandford on what would normally be described as 'boring' A-roads but in these conditions will be described as 'safe' and 'comfortable'. Paul left us around now because of family commitments. We continued to Wareham a bit more boldly and risked some B-roads as the ice had by now disappeared. We arrived at the Durlston Country Park, Swanage, where they do a rather good homemade soup in the café, which really hit the spot. We decided to return via the Sandbanks Ferry to Poole. Steve took on the role of ride leader for the trip back up to Blandford and up over the top by Compton Abbas airfield and down to Shaftesbury, where we were suddenly back in winter

wonderland, and fog. Oh, we didn't bother with Zigzag Hill. We went our separate ways at Warminster.

I thoroughly enjoyed the day, as I hope my companions did. Thanks for coming.

Keep an eye on the website, I might do another one. (Or maybe someone else will!)

Nick

This shows that the club web site can be useful and ideal for those spontaneous last-minute rides.

I must say that on the day in question, having seen the conditions outside, I preferred the arm chair; mince pie and drink. Sorry Nick!!

Keith

The Skills Course for 2009.

Simon and the training team will be running the skills development course again this year, commencing with the first theory session on the evening of Thursday 2nd April at Simon's offices in Bristol. The first practical session will be on Saturday 4th April. These sessions will be at two-weekly intervals.

Would those interested please contact Simon.

There will be more details on the course together with an application form in the next issue of Treads.

New members for the committee.

With the AGM coming up shortly the existing committee would like to invite more members to join them to help organise events and publicise the club. We really need some new people to bounce ideas off. If you would like to join us please contact Simon or any other committee member, who will be only too pleased to give you more details. We recognise the need for new input so the club can continue to move forward.

We endeavour to issue Treads on a regular basis during the third week of the month. Therefore if you have any items to be published in Treads, can you please ensure that they reach the editor before or during the first week of that month. Contributions for Treads are always needed, whether they are motorcycle related or of general interest! Please don't be shy.

