



TREADS

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The March 2013 Newsletter of AAMC

Editor's Bits

I'm doing this entry on the 2nd of March and the weather seems to be on the change at last.

I don't seem to get on very well with programmes on my computer!! You may recall that I bought a Senna Intercom Set now that Val has decided to come out on the bike. Well, I received an upgrade for the unit that will improve the Bluetooth response with my Garmin, which I had to download to the unit. Simple!! I spent a couple of evenings trying, but to no avail. I sent emails to Senna in America asking for advice and they were extremely prompt in replying when you consider the time difference between our two countries, but I still could not get the download to work. I spoke to a friend who came round and we spent about two hours before we succeeded. I paired the Senna to my Garmin and it worked perfectly. Or so I thought!

I use BaseCamp as the programme to plan routes on the Garmin, which you connect to your PC with a USB lead to the Garmin. This uses the maps stored in the Garmin and displays them on the computer. Well mine didn't!!! So on the phone again this time to Garmin UK. I got through to an operator who was absolutely great; he went through all the checks with me and decided that my Garmin was at fault. It was covered by the guarantee, so he gave me details on how to send it back to be replaced.

He also sent me an email confirming what was required along with a claim number. I've posted it back and need to 'track it', so that I will know when they receive it.

I should receive the new one in 10 to 14 working days.

I'm not holding my breath.

We shall see.

Keith

Club Trip to Brittany - June 2013

If you want to go on this trip **YOU MUST ACT NOW.**

This year, the foreign 'bash' will be heading to the south coast of Brittany towards the end of June. It will be a long weekend as opposed to a week away, as this often attracts members who find it easier to be away from home for a shorter period.

The details are as follows: -

Travel overnight from Plymouth to Roscoff on Wednesday 26th June, leaving Plymouth at 10pm;

Stay three nights bed and breakfast at the Grand Hotel des Dunes in Lesconil on the south coast of Brittany;

Return late afternoon from Roscoff to Plymouth on Sunday 30th June, arriving back in Plymouth around 9pm, and home just before midnight.

The total accommodation cost for a single person on a bike staying in a single hotel room with an outside four-berth cabin on the way over and a reserved seat on the way back (i.e. me) **is £332.25**. If you chose a smaller two-berth inside cabin, that would reduce it to £311. Two people on one bike with a double or twin hotel room and four-berth cabin would be nearer £350.

On top of this would be petrol and food / drink for the time we are away. I expect to ride around 800 miles in total, which will cost about **£120 in petrol** and will budget to spend a further **£200 on food and drink**. If you wanted to reduce the cost the obvious alternatives are to share a hotel room or a cabin, and be careful about what you drink.

Please would you let me know straight away if you are interested in coming along. I currently have firm bookings from five members. I am happy to make the bookings on your behalf if you would like me to. If this is the case I will need some information and will let you know what that is when you confirm you are coming.

If you would like to share a cabin or hotel room, please let me know and I will try to organise it, but there aren't that many of us at present, so it might not be easy or even possible.

The deposit is £30 per person, with the balance payable at the end of April. Bookings on a credit card cost a further £5.

If you are interested in coming along, please let me know straight away. We always have great fun on these trips.

Thanks very much.

Simon

View from the 'Saddle'

A History of Motorcycling.

One of the privileges of being a committee member is that on about two occasions per year you are invited (arm twisted) to provide the lead article for Treads. In my case this leads to scanning numerous magazines, newspapers and books looking for a suitable item to inspire, copy or plagiarise.

On this occasion however nothing inspiring came to hand so it was back to the old stand by "A History of Motorcycling". Not the definitive history but more a personal one.

My first Motorcycle (I do use this term fairly loosely) was a Velo Solex. This French machine was unusual in motorcycle terms in that it was front wheel drive. The engine was mounted to the steering head there were no gears and drive was provided by a roller pressing down on the front tyre. The engine was raised and lowered by a lever-operated cable so that drive could be disengaged. This was a system that may well have operated successfully in warmer dryer climates but on the wet roads of Bristol it was not good. Like all hot blooded 'Yoofs' I had to be first away at the traffic lights, and this lust for speed usually resulted in the revs screaming and the roller spinning away wearing an indentation in the tyre accompanied by a smell of rubber and clouds of smoke. In short order this resulted in the ride feeling as though you were continually riding over rocks because of the misshapen tyre. The reliability was not good either and it was not long before it was pushed into the darkest corner of the shed and for all I know it may still be there...

Next came my first proper bike – a mighty BSA Bantam. It was advertised in the local newsagent's window for the princely sum of £10 (yes TEN), so off I went to have a look. I had no one to give me advice and as you have probably guessed from my first purchase I knew nothing. Exuberance and desire meant that I had bought the bike before I even rang the bell. I handed over my £10 and as part of the purchase I was given two minutes instruction on how to ride as I had no clue how to ride a proper motorcycle. I survived that first ride home unscathed and there started my motorcycling career. The BSA taught me much about motorcycling, like modifying for speed (fitting Ace Bars) Maintenance (decoking the exhaust) and crashing (mostly crashing).

These experiences convinced me to get some training, so Supermax 250 (I never did get it going properly) Honda 125 trained and with a full licence in my pocket my motorcycle BUYING experience began. The BSA was followed by a Suzuki TS125, Triumph 250 Trophy (an awful bike), NSU Trials, BMW R100/7, Suzuki GS1000S (the ice cream van), another Honda 125 trials, Norton 650SS, Moto Guzzi Le Mans, Laverda 750SF, Yamaha YR5 350, Yamaha RD250LC, Norton ES2 500, Ducati 900 SS, Ducati 748, Cagiva Gran Canyon, BMW K1200RS, Honda Fireblade, Ducati ST4, Aprilia Tuono, BMW R100RS, Ducati 749, Hond 650 supermoto, BMW K1200LT, KTM 640 supermoto, another Tuono, BMW R1200GS, another Moto Guzzi Le Mans, Gilera Saturno, BMW K1200S. A long list and very varied, but all fun.

I don't suppose the list is yet complete so hopefully much more Serious Fun to look forward to.

Roll on summer.

Scratcher

First Club ride of 2013

Thanks to Andy who stood-in for Simon (with his broken wrist).

8 riders met at the Cross Hands, Old Sodbury on the VERY COLD morning of Sunday 10th March (I think Simon must have known this)! Chris only stopped to say hello and he was off to work.

Andy used a route to the Haynes Motor Museum for the coffee stop. Here Paul left as he had fallen on Saturday and was not feeling too well, also Mac on his Kawasaki left at the same time.

On they went to Dorchester with light snow where they stopped for lunch. On the way back there was snow / rain around Shepton Mallet but it dried up before they arrived back at Radstock. Just COLD.

Well done to these hardy souls and thanks again to Andy.

Honda Off Road Centre

Hi there,

We wondered if you were interested in our new company, to bring guests, as it's a great way to team-build?

We are the all-new and exciting Dave Thorpe Honda Off Road Centre, in association with Honda UK, bringing riders of all abilities Off Road Experience Days.

Our events cost: -

Enduro £199 per person, (great group discount can be arranged).

We are situated in the heart of Off-Roading South Wales, just 15 miles from Cardiff. We have full use of over 35km of Forestry Commission land and green lane trails, perfect for our Enduro days. We provide you with Honda's 2013 range of bikes,

brand new One Industries kit, lunch, certificate and expert tuition from British Championship contender Stephen Sword. In a group, there will be 10 – 15 riders and 3 instructors to accompany the group. If you were to bring 12 guests, we would only charge you for 10! – Bringing 10 + riders also guarantees you the venue to yourselves!

Taster Day £199 per person, (great group discount can be arranged).

The Taster Day is a new and exciting Experience day made up of Enduro in the morning, then lunch, followed by a go on the Trials section and an afternoon on the Motocross track! Again, we provide you with Honda's 2013 range of bikes, brand new One Industries kit, lunch, certificate and expert tuition from British Championship contender Stephen Sword. In a group, there will be 10 – 15 riders and 3 instructors to accompany the group. If you were to bring 12 guests, we would only charge you for 10! – Bringing 10 + riders also guarantees you the venue to yourselves!

Motocross Day £150 per person.

At The Dave Thorpe Honda Off Road Centre we have a perfectly graded and practically all weather Motocross track. We provide you with Honda's 2013 range of bikes, brand new One Industries kit, lunch, certificate and expert tuition from British Championship contender Stephen Sword. In a group, there will be 10 – 15 riders and 3 instructors to accompany the group. Bringing 10 + riders also guarantees you the venue to yourselves!

If this is of any interest to you, please feel free to call on 07734 943798.

Molly Jackson

Dave Thorpe Honda Off Road Centre

Please note the above advertisement is not a recommendation by the Club.

View from the Chair

If things go to plan, you should receive this issue of Treads just before Easter. If you get it by post, you should find enclosed your BMF Card, Helibike Card and green sticker, whereas they will be posted separately if you usually get Treads by e-mail.

Diary of Events

Mark has done sterling work on the 2013 Diary of Events, which is now just about complete and should be printed and ready to post out shortly after Easter. Expect it to be with you very soon.

Karting

This year Mark thought it would be a good idea to replace the usual skittles with something different, and suggested a karting event instead. This proved very popular and seventeen of us turned up on a rather chilly Saturday afternoon (2nd March) to have a series of races around the indoor track at the South West Karting Centre in Cheddar. We all had a great couple of hours there, and the winners were as follows: -

- 1st Adan
- 2nd Graham
- 3rd Arnie
- 4th Nick
- 5th Brian

Thanks to everyone who turned up to support, as well.

Skills Development Course

The annual training course will start this year on the evening of Thursday 4th April and continue over five Thursday evening theory sessions and five Saturday practical sessions. I have enclosed a sheet with further details as well as a booking form. We are already past the closing date for applications, but there are still a few places available, so please get in touch with me straight away if you are interested. Everyone is welcome to come

along and there will undoubtedly be a wide cross-section of members and riding abilities present, so there's no need to feel awkward or different. Training is all about learning to do things better. We all need it from time to time however good we think we are.

New Short RoSPA Diploma Course

RoSPA has developed a new shorter (2-day) Diploma Course for Advanced Instructors. This will run in addition to the existing five-day course, but will be considerably cheaper. There is a sheet included with Treads that contains more information, which may well be of interest if you want to become an advanced instructor. If you want to chat about it or have any questions, please either contact me or Stuart, whose numbers are on the bottom of that sheet.

Welcome

I would like to extend a warm welcome this month to two new members - Tim who lives in the village of Butcombe and rides a Ducati ST3 S ABS, and Rick who lives in Portishead and rides a BMW R1200RT. We hope to see both of you out and about on a Club ride or other function very soon.

Wrist Update

You will remember I managed to break my wrist in a skiing accident at the beginning of February. Well I'm pleased to report the plaster has now been removed, but unfortunately things are still far from good. Perhaps I'm being impatient, but it is very painful and I have only very limited movement. I just wish it would hurry up and get better! I'm not looking for sympathy, but I can't drive or ride, so please don't be surprised by my lack of attendance - it's not a personal slur! By the time this weather gets better over the next few weeks I hope I will be able to get out once again. I really can't wait.

Simon.

Letters

Hi Simon,

Thanks for the latest edition of Treads, which I always look forward to reading.

I read with interest the article on the new BMW S1000RR HP4. I gave up riding some 2 - 3 years ago now and confess to having lost touch with what is out there; who would have thought a BMW would ever look so sexy?

I do however share the concerns about over engineering. I well remember, as will Stuart, the introduction of the Ford Sierra 4 x 4 patrol car. It was a complete revelation, as it seemed that no matter how hard you pushed it, it stuck like glue - well, almost!!! Eventually it would reach a point where it would let go, and by that time it was travelling so quickly that the results were often spectacular to say the least - and this was in the hands of Advanced Traffic drivers.

I followed a few students over the years who had the latest trick machinery and went into bends at ridiculous speeds because the bike could do it, but with no regard for 'what if' or their own capabilities. Needless to say I did not stay with them and we had an interesting chat at the change over point.

As we all know, we should always aim to be able to stop in the distance we can see to be clear on our own side of the road, but sometimes we only pay lip service to that maxim - adrenalin is a powerful mistress. I always preferred to say, wherever you are and whatever the situation, think 'What if'.

Best wishes to you all.

Dave

(For those who don't know Dave, he is a former liaison officer between Avon & Somerset Constabulary, Motorcycle Section and AAMC.)

The Diary of Events for 2013 will be issued immediately after Easter.

P.S. Stuart told me about the wrist - I always said it takes a certain kind of lunatic to strap 2 polished pieces of wood to their feet and hurl themselves down a mountain.....

Letters 2

Hi Simon

Wheeler Motorcycle Services have just done a full service on my bike, including new battery, two new Pirelli Diablo tyres, MOT and a collection / delivery as it was unrideable.

Fantastic service and price. I'd like to recommend them to club members.

Best wishes.

Jerry

http://m.wheeler-motorcycle-services.com/site/mobile?dm_path=%2Findex.htm&fw_sig_site=34497914&fw_sig_url=http://www.wheeler-motorcycle-services.com/&fw_sig=e3c595a9964db2ca229e205112e27d13&fw_sig_access_token=e813785e5842d0a5535452c6cb68d55ea1dc5d1f&fw_sig_premium=1&fw_sig_time=1363727049410&fw_sig_is_admin=0&fw_sig_permission_level=0&fw_sig_permissions=none&fw_sig_tier=0&fw_sig_social=1&fw_sig_api_key=522b0eedffc137c934fc7268582d53a1&fw_sig_session_key=c72fe063e552f2dc1e728bb44fda04034964c996329b4f27b19353915b0be942-34497914&fb_sig_network=fw

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.