



TREADS

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The July 2013 Newsletter of AAMC

EDITORS BITS

– Chris

Ever make a bad decision? A lack of accurate information can lead to bad decision making... but is it that simple?

I know this isn't a book club but I am going to mention a fascinating read about how we make decisions and why we sometimes make bad ones.

The book, *Thinking Fast and Slow* by Nobel Prize winner Daniel Kahneman, illustrates through examples how your conscious and unconscious minds work together to come to what we think are good decisions. You will be very surprised how often we all make bad ones.

So why did I bring this up? In *Roadcraft* there is a suggestion to review your ride, look at good points and bad and the decisions you made and why. This book may not help you make a good decision but I think it may well help you realise why you may have made that decision at all. ■

There is a YouTube video that someone has produced to illustrate some of the points mentioned in the book – if you're particularly lazy (and I choose the word 'lazy' carefully – read the book), here it is: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JiTz2i4VHFw>



2013 Ride of Respect

– Rob

It is a dull and cloudy Sunday morning, as I draw back the curtains. I just hope it will stay dry, for today is Sunday the 16th of June. A special day for the 2500 or so riders and bikes that took part in this years "Ride of Respect" I, my Mrs and my trusty eleven year old SV650 were proud to be one of those bikes.

Since 2010, the ride has started at Hullavington Airfield, just north of Chippenham, Wiltshire, and took in some of Wiltshire's picturesque countryside, before arriving at Wootton Bassett. This was before the Royal was added to the name of this, now famous town in Wiltshire. Famous not only for seeing over 10,000 motorcycles, of all shapes and sizes, ride through the town's high street that year, but also famous for sadly the route which many a fallen service

person had taken as part of their final journey.

There were to be two more rides through Royal Wootton Bassett during the following years. Each one on Mothering Sunday, as a mark of respect for the mothers who had lost the sons and daughters, while serving for the country. Indeed, for the most part the rides had been largely organised by three such mothers.

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➤ Ride of Respect – continued

But started life as a Facebook discussion, amongst a group of bikers.

Since 2011 the repatriations from RAF Lyneham, through Royal Wootton Bassett ceased. The operation had been transferred to RAF Brize Norton. So for 2013, the "Ride of Respect" was to start of from another airfield, this time in rural Oxfordshire. Dalton Barracks, just west of Abingdon was the venue for just over 2500 bikes to gather on that rather dull Sunday morning. This time though, instead of mothering Sunday, it was to be on Fathers day. Being June, instead of March the weather should have been better, but then this is England!! Nuff said!

Our time slot for arrival was 10am. As we departed from Swindon on the A420, it was quite clear that some sort of big biking event was on! Nearly every petrol station, lay by and service area was lined with bikes, all (presumably) headed for the same place as us. As we turned off the 420 at Kingston Bagpuize bikes seemed to be everywhere. The roar, scream and buzz of these two wheeled monsters broke the sleepy silence of the little hamlets through which they rode. But all very good natured and well behaved and all with the same goal.

As we arrived at Dalton Barracks we were checked in, identified by our wrist bands and tag on the bike. Then shown to our parking place on the main runway. Once parked up I opened up the pillion seat and took out the Union Jack flags, cable ties and insulating tape! Time to decorate the bike and time for us all to do something we Brits are not very good at – being patriotic.

The aim of this years ride was to raise funds for the British Legion.

After only 45 minutes we were called to our bikes and were soon marshalled along the runway and out of the airfield, passing in front of the lenses of several professional photographers. Some of the marshals stood by their machines waving flags and even the police riders would occasionally sound their sirens! Even the AA man waved!

The route for this ride was to take in some really scenic parts of Oxfordshire and lots of little villages along the way. Between Dalton Barracks and Brize Norton the route covered about 24 miles, nearly all of which was covered at a leisurely pace of 30 mph on "B" roads. Heading north to start with, then crossing the Thames at Swimford on a toll bridge (thankfully free to bikes).

At each village, and places in between, there were folks waving flags clapping and photographing us on their phones or iPads, only too pleased to see the bikes. Occasionally we would see a mother, or grandfather holding up a photo of presumably, a lost loved one. Then the route headed west and on towards Carterton and Brize. Finally the ride passed

very slowly and quietly (the sounding of horns ceased) in front of the new memorial garden, on the new repatriation route out of Brize to Oxford. Where as the occasional reeve of engines, sometimes to the rev limiter, was heard along the route, at this point every bike was gently coaxed along on tick over. Every rider and pillion showing their mark of respect.

A little further down this road an AA sign signalled the end of the ride. Many bikes stopped here to watch and wave the rest of the ride through. For us, it was time to set course for home, via the garden centre at Lechlade for lunch.

I have taken part in each ride since 2010 and I will never forget that first ride through Wootton Bassett, and the lump in my throat as I saw so many people there, clogging up the high street and welcoming us through. None of the rides since have had that effect on me. But the feel of camaraderie, of people with a common interest, on a common cause does tend to make one feel proud. On that cloudy Sunday in June, I felt very proud indeed. ■

Weekday rides – Stu

So far a trip to Compton Abbas Airfield (the day fairly flew by) and Bovey Tracey Marble Factory (Marble, ous) have been well attended and smoothly run. Nearly!

My fault entirely that Paul and Andy waited at the stated start point that was 9 miles from where I was waiting. Wrong information and lack of checking the events list caused the error that I repeat was all mine.

However, soon corrected and a good run to the outskirts of

Exeter and through the Teign Valley to The House of Marbles (<http://www.houseofmarbles.com/about/family-fun-devon/house-of-marbles/15/>) near Bovey Tracey, Devon. A nice luncheon was partaken and followed by a run through Devon countryside to Crediton and on to The Old Well for a well earned cuppa. All in all it has been well worth organising (in the loosest possible way) these weekday trips and of course at this time there is still one more to go...

View from the 'Saddle'

– Mark

A DAY WITH M.O.R.E – MOTORCYCLE OFF-ROAD EXPERIENCE

This event is held at Brake Hill Farm, Brigstock, near Northampton and is run by specialists to give a taster to people of what off-road motorcycling is all about. It was held for a day last year and proved very popular so they decided to extend this to 4 days this year to allow 400 people to have the opportunity to take part. Even with the extra capacity, all the places had been taken within 3 hours – proving the popularity of the event.

To take part I had to register my interest online from 9am on a particular day in May and then if I was successful in getting a place I would be informed via email. I've wanted to do something like this for a while so for £15.00 I thought I'd give it my best shot and luckily I was accepted and booked onto an afternoon session on 16th June which I later discovered was Father's Day and also the start of our annual leave week – Oops!!

Anyway the day dawned and we set off for the 3 hour trip up to Kettering and the location which turned out to be a large field in the middle of nowhere with tents, trailers, toilets and the obligatory burger van dotted about in a vague circular fashion!

Fortified by a picnic (yes I did ignore the burger van!) I had to register on the day as well and was allocated a place in the Yamaha team – the others being Honda, Kawasaki, KTM & Suzuki. It was a lucky break as I would have chosen Yamaha anyway as they are the bikes I have been looking at when I visit Fowlers. I wonder if Helen would notice another bike in the garage

Each team had 10 members so 50 people were riding in the afternoon session in total. It could have been chaos but it was well-managed and thought out so it all worked like clockwork which was very impressive.

We were kitted out with boots, body armour, helmet, gloves,



trousers & top and cunningly I had the red boots so was easier to spot when Helen was trying to get some action shots! We then had various briefings about the bike, safety and what was happen over the course of the afternoon by our instructor, Barry Johnson, a top British and international motocross rider himself.

We then made our way to the practice area to get on the bikes and ride on the training track which was kidney shaped and situated on the side of a slope so that we could be assessed and corrected if we were doing something wrong. This process was repeated 2 or 3 times until Barry was satisfied that we were all at a reasonable standard to progress out on the main track.

It would be worth saying at this point that there were all shapes and sizes and abilities there – some had never sat on a bike before and some had been riding for some years and yet by the end of the afternoon's session everyone had been given the chance to ride on the main track which was all credit to the instructors who were firm but with a bit of banter which got the message across without it being too heavy-handed!





I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and I think it's given me more confidence in handling my own bike; it was amazing that riding on loose gravel, over or through pot holes etc and the bike tyres were still really 'grippy'. It was exciting and different from the day-to-day riding and I had to push myself to greater limits which was an excellent experience for me. All the manufacturers offered a further range of courses to try and there is a Dirt Bike Show at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire later in the year. (www.dirtbikeshow.co.uk)

I would definitely recommend this to anyone – it was well worth the money and the drive there and back wasn't so bad either. So next year make sure you register as soon as it goes live if you are interested in doing it as the places are sure to get snapped up quickly. (www.rideoffroad.co.uk)

And for me personally ... well, perhaps my next route is to do something similar with BMW to see what my bike is capable of but using someone else's so mine remains pristine without any dents or scratches. I may need a long weekend pass for this one... so I'll start working on that now! What are my chances do you think??! ■

Out on the main track we were not allowed to overtake the lead rider, whilst another instructor moved up and down the line, giving instruction or encouragement to us as necessary.

Riding was easier than I expected, though what surprised me most was being told only to use the clutch to pull away; the bike was quite happy to allow gear changes without pulling the clutch in first.

My main concern was that I would lose the front end and come off but in the briefing we were told to sit as far forward as possible

putting as much weight as possible over the front wheel. To turn left you needed to stick your left leg forward and vice versa to turn right which all sounded a bit dubious to me but guess what ... it worked; not once did I feel the front end lose grip, though some would argue that is due to large amount of ballast I was carrying!

My only gripe for the day was that we were not allowed to overtake or race to see what that might feel like, though that would come in a whole day's course apparently; after all this was only a taster.



North Devon Ride – Tim



I think I will win the hottest ride of the year award if there is one, meeting point was Morrisons car park in Bridgwater.

After a few false starts we left the car park and headed down the A39 Watchet, Dunster and then the climb up Porlock hill, weather was getting warmer as we got closer to the coast. We had some fantastic views of the Bristol Channel to our right hand side which make up for the restricted speed limits.

We stopped at Lynton for a late morning coffee stop, everyone was enjoying the break and refreshments. We rode out of Lynton and then followed the fantastic road through the Valley of the rocks and then on to Woody bay with a very steep drop if you dared look to your right.

I had decided to miss the beach swim today (forgot my gear) so we stopped for lunch a couple miles from Woolacombe at a lovely country pub called the 'Grampu's Inn near Lee. At this

point the heat had got to Mark so he decided to strip off from his motorcycle gear and become a cyclist; this did not help when he placed his order at the bar!



We all enjoyed the stop and with talk of finding a local camp site the only problem would have been the lack of camping gear so we set off across Exmoor via Simonsbath. I made a strategic decision to stop for ice cream and of course a cream tea was on Marks agenda.

We all made it back to Bridgwater around 5.00pm to then head off home. I enjoyed the ride and the company and of course North Devon. I will look out for the prize in the post at the end of the year! ■



Visorcat

– Geoff,
RoSPA Examiner

A few months ago I purchased a visor cleaning device called "Visorcat" which although looks just a little bulky, proved not to be when put to the test. It is a British made and designed product that fits over the left hand glove to enable both wiping and cleaning. A reservoir of cleaning fluid (supplied) leads to the sponge strip which is covered by a protective flap, keeping the sponge moist and clean.



When you wipe one way, the flap opens so the sponge can clean the visor. Wiping the other way utilises the twin wiper blades to clear the residue.

There is no doubt that this gadget provides the motorcycle rider with improved vision which of course leads to greater safety. I use this clever device every time I ride, even on the rare sunny days, as it's excellent removing the bugs and other nasties with one or two wipes across the visor. RoSPA members can buy "Visorcat" online at a 15% discount using the Code RoSPA or rospa in the discount box. The web address is www.visorcat.com. ■

Brittany 2013

– Adan

Just a quick one to say I had a really good time in France with the club. Good roads, food and company, would recommend it to anyone who hasn't been over on the bike before.

We rode to Plymouth, caught the ferry to Roscoff, and stayed in Lesconcil in Brittany. The hotel wasn't very far from Roscoff - around 130km, but by the time Simon had gone the scenic route via his "biking roads" map, a day later we were there! The Hotel was excellent, only a short walk from the sea, very clean and the food was great.

We spent the days riding around via the best roads on Simon's map, only stopping at the sight of good coffee or French cuisine, and the occasional U turn which I'm sure Simon added in for Skills training!



Would like to say thanks to everyone who made the trip enjoyable, really did have a good time, met some new friends and

will look forward to doing it all over again. Thanks to Simon for organising it and making it possible. ■



Parish News

– A message from the vicar.

There's not much to report in the parish this month, so here goes...

- We've received an e-mail about a charity ride in aid of Help for Heroes. It's on Sunday 15th September, meeting at Keynsham Masonic Hall at 9:30am and leaving at 10:45am to ride to Warminster Barracks. There is a £10 per adult and £5 per child donation from all attendees which will go to the Charity. For further details, please contact Mark Arscott on 07929 060496.
- The current spell of warm and dry weather has certainly brought out more members than usual on the rides and to the social events. The fish and chip run was well subscribed, as you can read elsewhere in this issue, as well as the barbecue, foreign bash to Brittany and Club rides in general. Long may it continue warm and dry.
- Due to a change of date outside his control, Stuart will now be leading his weekday ride to Dartmouth on Thursday 1st August.
- Finally I would like to welcome the following two new members to the Club this month. Shaun lives in Bristol and rides a BMW R1200GS, and Geoff lives in Frenchay and rides a BMW R1100RT (these BMWs are getting everywhere). Shaun came on Sue's evening ride and seemed to enjoy it. Geoff has just been out with me on an assessment ride but is yet to venture out on a group ride. We hope you are both able to join us at many future events and make full use of your membership.

Simon.

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.
E-mail editor@amc.co.uk

50 Shades Of Grey

– Pam

The missus bought a Paperback,
down Shepton Mallet way,
I had a look inside her bag;
...T'was "Fifty Shades of Grey".

Well I just left her to it,
And at ten I went to bed.
An hour later she appeared;
The sight filled me with dread...

In her left she held a rope;
And in her right a whip!
She threw them down upon the floor,
And then began to strip.

Well fifty years or so ago;
I might have had a peek;
But Mabel hasn't weathered well;
She's eighty four next week!!

Watching Mabel bump and grind;
Could not have been much grimmer.
And things then went from bad to worse;
She toppled off her Zimmer!

She struggled back upon her feet;
A couple minutes later;
She put her teeth back in and said
I am a dominator !!

Now if you knew our Mabel,
You'd see just why I spluttered,
I'd spent two months in traction
For the last complaint I'd uttered.

She stood there nude and naked
Bent forward just a bit
I went to hold her, sensual like
and stood on her left tit!

Mabel screamed, her teeth shot out;
My god what had I done!?
She moaned and groaned then shouted out:
"Step on the other one"!!

Well readers, I can't tell no more;
About what occurred that day.
Suffice to say my jet black hair,
Turned fifty shades of grey.

Letters

No letters this month! I guess you are all out enjoying the great weather and riding conditions.

In the meantime here is another look at that photo of Simon in Brittany... I feel a caption competition coming on! Email editor@aamc.co.uk if you have something inappropriate to say.

You see what happens when we don't get any letters!
Chris.



Something to say? Please don't be shy. E-mail editor@aamc.co.uk And send some photos in too!

Diary

July

Saturday 20th

Mark

Club Barbecue.

Sunday 21st

Mark

Club Ride.

August

Thursday 1st

Stuart

Club Ride to Dartmouth.

Sunday 4th

Andy

Club Ride to Hampshire.

Sunday 18th

Mark

Club Ride.

September

Sunday 1st

Jim

Club Ride to Bishops Castle.

Friday 13th to Monday 16th

Andy

Club Bash to North Wales.

Sunday 29th

Sue

Club Ride.

October

Sunday 6th

Nigel

Club Ride and Mystery Tour!