



TREADS

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The May 2015 Newsletter of AAMC

Editor's Bits – Morton

Andrew Dalton, at White Dalton Motorcycle Solicitors, has kindly agreed that we can include their published case notes in Treads. You may have seen these in *Motorcycle Monthly* or *Fast Bikes*. I get them in their newsletter each week, and read them eagerly as soon as I've confirmed that yet again I haven't won the bike they give away to the lucky holder of the appropriate number on one of their business cards, distributed at bike shows.

Andrew was at pains to point out that the law changes all the time, so while the answer was correct at the time of writing, things may have moved on – so check before making any decisions!

I've included two this month, one on insurance, the other one involving a helmet camera. Would anyone who uses one care to contribute an article on it?

I was surprised to read in the IAM mag "Advanced Driving" that the minimum recommended passing distance when overtaking cyclists is 1m at 20mph and 1.5m at 30mph. This doesn't seem much to me, so I checked the document it came from ([Sustrans Design Manual: Handbook for cycle-friendly design](#)), and that is indeed what it says. Hmm. What do our cyclists think?

Acronym of the month: STUDD – offers?

Legal Questions

(1) Do I cancel my policy?

I sold my bike to a mate who happens to be old bill. He told me if I don't tell my insurer I have sold the bike it's fraud. I don't really want to tell them as there will be a cancellation fee of £30, and the policy only runs for another two months.

Should I bother telling my insurer? In my view they are just grabbing more money from me that I shouldn't need to spend, and it'd be handy to complete another year of no claims bonus.

Answer

You will likely have an obligation as part of your policy to update them if you no longer own the bike. If you have not purchased another machine to transfer it to, then the policy should be cancelled.

The risk of you not cancelling it is, if someone else uses the bike and injures a pedestrian, for example, then in England and Wales your insurer will have to pay out for their claim. Thereafter, if you haven't complied with the terms of the policy, your insurer could come after you for their outlay which could run into thousands of pounds. Not good when it could have just cost you £30.

Andrew Prendergast, **January 2015**

(2) The camera never lies

I was knocked off my bike by an idiot of a car driver who was in the outside lane of a roundabout, indicating left to exit.

The roundabout exits into a dual carriageway so I went to pass him on the outside and take the same exit when the driver decides to flick the indicator on right, and knocks me sprawling off my

bike. There are no witnesses apart from my mate who was ahead of me, and, oh yeah, the camera on my helmet which captured the whole thing.

I sent this to my original solicitors who started going on about 'covert evidence' and 'inadmissibility' and even data protection, and told me I could not rely on it. They wanted me to make a 50/50 offer based on some case law. So I changed to solicitors who seem much more switched on. But their advice to me is a bit odd. They are telling me to keep this video secret until the other driver confirms his version of events in writing, which is "I was in the correct lane and this numpty on a bike just smacked into me." That is what he told the police.

The sharp eyed copper did not notice the GoPro on my helmet. I didn't get a chance to explain anything because the ambulance carted me away and the police have decided not to prosecute as there is 'insufficient evidence'. I am worried that the new solicitor is just trying to rack up his fee because the video is an open and shut winner for me. My new solicitor says I should accept nothing below 100 per cent and go to trial if needs be. Am I being fair to my new solicitors?

Answer

Your new solicitor knows his game and I totally agree with him. If you disclose the video evidence early the other driver may be tempted to 'trim his evidence' I have seen the video and it clearly shows what you have said but it is actually quite hard to work out where you came from or your speed. Your solicitors are showing good court craft. I have checked out your new solicitor and I note he is a higher criminal courts advocate - so his court craft is going to be good.

If the driver commits himself to a version of events like, "I was in the inside lane," - when he clearly was not and, "I was not indicating left," when he clearly was, anything else he says will be treated with at least grave suspicion by the court.

Show him the video and he will say, "I realised I was in the wrong lane so I carefully checked my mirrors and indicated right when this motorcyclist roared up behind me. He was already losing control of his bike due to his excessive speed, "or some similar bullshit. So your solicitors are giving you good advice and you should follow it.

The other driver's solicitors might moan about you keeping this video to yourself but it seems your solicitor has got a plan for this, which I think will work and he is certainly thinking your case through. They are preparing as though your case is going to trial rather than processing it. The 50/50 outcome only has some merit where there is an unclear or seriously disputed version of events - but you have the whole thing in beautiful HD. The new solicitor understands the rules of evidence and how to plan a case. You picked a good one!

Andrew Dalton, *September 2014*

White Dalton Motorcycle Solicitors

Web: www.whitedalton.co.uk

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Survey

There will be a 'Survey Monkey' survey from the Club in the next few days - could members please complete it.

Member Profile

Name: Sandra

Age: 44 (soon to be 45, but this really isn't a question for a lady - guess that means I'm not that much of a lady!!)

Occupation: Underwriter (life, disability and income protection insurance);

Years riding: 29 on & off with a break in there somewhere!

Continued over...

Length of service with AAMC

About 26 or 27 years (my memory doesn't serve me that well!), although before that I rode pillion on my brother's bike who was at the time club chairman.

Riding Qualifications

Sadly none as I'm too much of a scaredy cat to take a test. Nerves are a terrible thing.

1st bike

Tomos moped which kept breaking down and I didn't keep for long. This is basically a heavy-duty push bike with an engine; no pedals though!

Other bikes

Suzuki scooter (if you remember a Honda Vision, it's that sort of thing!), Honda CBN100, Yamaha YB100 - no comment on any of these as I'm sure you realise they aren't really worth mentioning! First proper bike Kawasaki GPZ305, very briefly a GPZ500s, more recently a Suzuki SV650 which I loved, did everything you asked it to. Cagiva V-Raptor 1000 - great bike which I bought because I could touch the floor! Triumph Street Triple, which I love - so smooth and more than capable.

Current bike

Triumph Street Triple

Favourite bike

Triumph Street Triple, does everything I want, its smooth, fun and still looks good too.

Next bike

I like the Yamaha MT-09 (not test ridden), but for the riding I do I can't justify the expense to change.

Worst bike

Tomos not that it's really a bike, I'm surprised it didn't put me off.

Foreign trip(s)

Several, some pillion touring round France when I first met Jaimie, then mainly the club bashes, so Epernay long weekend, Northern Spain & rode back through France and the last one we did was to the Alsace in 2010, although looking forward to the Normandy trip in September. Would love to tour NZ, but hiring 2 bikes is very

expensive, likely to stay on my bucket list only!

Favourite ride

No specifics, but love riding in Wales, Usk road is great, also from Crossgates to Newtown.

Favourite bike stop

Probably the Honey café, Bronllys. Great roads to get there, lovely setting especially if the sun is shining and good food.

Favourite hate

Not so much a bike related hate, but people joining a motorway without building their speed up.

Favourite racer(s)

Has to be Valentino

Many thanks to Sandra for this spontaneous contribution. She also thought to include Years-with-AAMC, which I had forgotten. We could also include an "Other Clubs" section - Carenza might need extra space for hers!

OK, who's going to be next? - Ed

A mountain of commitment. - Sue B.

Much to my surprise, a few days after I had booked an hotel on the North Devon coast for a few days away, I received a call from the manager of the hotel. Initially, I thought that this wouldn't be good news, but I was pleasantly surprised when she asked me if I'd heard about the bike event that they have from the hotel on the Sunday of our visit.

After further discussion I established that the 'bike event' referred to was a motorcycle hill climb event from Hartland Quay (near Bideford). It started just outside the hotel (we were told on arrival that the start meant the exhausts were in the ladies' toilets!) and the competitors

would race up the hill. And my! – there was commitment in these competitors.



The event itself was very low key and took the form of two practice runs, followed by two timed runs and a run off of the best 10. There were classes for all sizes of bike from 125 to litre bikes as well as two sidecars. There was even a “run what you bring” class of brave types who turned up on their pride and joy, lights, mirrors, number plates and all, and who tried to compete. Brave these boys certainly were. Posh, they were not. The atmosphere in the paddock was very friendly with competitors more than happy to talk to a couple of interested residents.



Without doubt the fastest machines were the motocrossers or supermotards, but for me the most impressive competitors were the two ‘mature’ gentlemen on the sidecar outfit no. 999. They were both of

retirement age but put 150% effort into each run. Look at the focus in the eyes. Amazing.



If you have never been to a hill climb – or even if you have but are still engaged by raw energy on a bike – I recommend it for a good day of entertainment and sociability. I believe there is a National Hill Climb Association and that there are other events local to our area, including an event at Prescott, Gotherington, Cheltenham. GL52 9RD on 25th April and again on 8 August. I expect many of you already knew that, but it was news to me!

Weekday ride 30th April 2015 - Stu

Thursday, the last day of April saw me setting out to meet the others in AAMC who have time for weekday rides. Nice sunny weather lasted until near Frome, when dark clouds moved in. Paul joined me, reporting sunny weather where he had come from also.



We had the great pleasure of meeting examiner Geoff but he had arrived to start an advanced test. Looking good Geoff.

So Paul and I rode to Stockbridge via Shaftesbury and Salisbury. All esses keeps it simple for me! A nice lunch and sunshine saw us readying our respective return journeys. Nice picture of the bikes. That was followed a few minutes later by a hail storm!

Paul was heading back to Bristol whereas I was heading south west. Owing to reported traffic delays near Winchester I reversed my route to Salisbury. That sumptuous A30 is too good to resist.

Salisbury towards Blandford, then towards Dorchester. I took the coast road to Bridport with the superb views of the Jurassic coast and called in at Lyme Regis for a well-earned coffee before the short stint to home. Thankfully the afternoon saw more sun than clouds but not very warm and down to 7° by the time I stopped.

This was my first ride in the UK for nearly two months, so thanks to Paul for his superb company. Hope to see you next time.

If you need to contact me about a ride it is best to email the day before. I don't always have my phone available for calls on the day of the ride. – Stu

Highway Code – New Version

Simon has had a message from The Stationery Office to say there will be a new edition of the Highway Code published on 1st June.

This 2015 edition includes the new drug-driving laws, HGV speed limit changes on single and dual carriageways in England and Wales, updated drink-driving limits in Scotland and general rule changes.

As a registered TSO customer, they are offering Simon a 25% discount off the list price of £2.50 as well as free delivery, so he's taking orders now! (The price works out at £1.88)

Please let him know by 1st June if you would like him to order you a copy when he orders his.

Karting - Saturday 16th May.

It seems I've been blessed with super powers. I know this seems unlikely but I can only believe it's true. You see I seem to have been blessed with the gift of choosing dates for social events that you can't make, a rare and special gift I'm sure you'll all agree.

It's with this news that I need to tell you that we've had to postpone karting. I've provisionally re-booked it for Saturday 19th September, so please add this to your calendars and I'll be in touch nearer the time with another booking form.

Thanks
Sandra

GEAR LEATHERS Ltd

Hello,

We are a Motorcycle leather company based in Cambridge and we alter/repair all makes of leathers, also we have a made to measure side to our business. I would like to ask if you can kindly refer us to your members who might be looking to have their race leathers repaired or any other work done. We can also seal water proof clothing and alter.

Please give your members our number 01223 476875. We would be glad to give them a discount on the mention of your club.

Regards

Maureen

Wells Classic M/C Club

Tortoise and Hare Run, Sunday 7th June

I hope you do not mind me sending you the attached details:

We organise a motorcycle event to raise much needed funds for Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance, please spread the word for this very worthwhile cause.

[Last year they raised £2,000 for the Air Ambulance - Ed]

The event is a very popular, good value for money one and is based on Wells, the Mendip Hills and the surrounding countryside. The event is open to all bikes and scooters etc. Full details of the event and all club details are on our website

www.wellsclassicmotorcycleclub.co.uk

Many thanks,

Chris Weeks

WCMC chairman and event organiser

Bike for Sale/Wanted

Classic Motorcycle for sale
Honda CBX550F2, blue/red/white, 11k miles, 'A' reg. Unrestored but show winner
£2,495 without warranty, £2,995 with.
Carenza

Wanted - Yamaha Serrow trail bike.
Same contacts.

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.

NB - We publish articles for the benefit of members - it is not an endorsement or recommendation. You must make up your own mind if you think something is suitable for you.

