



TREADS

www.aamc.co.uk

The May 2013 Newsletter of AAMC

Editor's Bits

I've been reading with interest the articles appearing in m/c magazines about the upsurge in 'adventure bikes'. It seems that a large number of riders who have sports bikes are changing to this sector. It appears there are 5 main contenders: BMW R1200GS; KTM Adventure 1190; Honda Crosstourer 1275; Triumph Explorer 1200; & Moto Guzzi Stelvio 1151. Also 2 others to consider: Yamaha Super Tenere (just reduced by £1000) and the Ducati Multistrada 1299.

It seems that most are used for commuting and touring, which you would expect, some for 'scratching' and little time for 'off-road'. Considering their size and cost, I'm not surprised at the latter. Of the 5 main ones only KTM has chain drive. The KTM was the bike most used for 'scratching'.

The summary was: -
Best Sports Ducati Multistrada
Best Off Road BMW GS
Best Commuter Yamaha Super Tenere
Best Luxury Honda Crosstourer
Best Tourer Triumph Explorer
Best All-rounder KTM Adventure
Best Alternative Moto Guzzi.

Now for the latest news on the Editor's position. **We have a Volunteer!!**
Chris has kindly offered to take over as Editor. I will be meeting with Chris soon and hopefully he will begin his new post with the June Issue.

I would like to thank all those who have sent in articles during my tenure as editor. I have enjoyed doing Treads.

Please support Chris and I am sure his computer skills will bring some changes.

Keith

View from the 'Saddle'

Better late than never.....

I hope that you are enjoying what must be the beginning of spring. It's been a while but I think that it is here now, albeit still taking its time.

You can tell that the season has changed away from winter by the hedgerows gaining colour, the increased bird song and the greater volume of bike traffic. Last week whilst travelling to work I saw some very shiny bikes obviously out for the first time this year being ridden somewhat erratically by fairly wild riders in spotless leathers [at least they were wearing leathers]. I don't want to sound a prude but is it really necessary to emulate Moto GP on the way to work? A colleague was complaining that they had seen *three* bikes abreast on the Bristol Ring Road all doing wheelies, I'm not sure what they were trying to prove.

Personally, I think that work can wait for me for another few minutes - I aim to get

there in one piece & enjoy my leisure riding on more suitable roads than commuter rat runs. The 'better late than never' line should be applied to motorcycle riding as well as the warmer[?] weather.

Take care and make the most of it.

Ipsga

Prescott Bike Festival

"Congratulations – you are a winner of tickets to the Prescott Bike Festival!" That was a pleasant surprise, as I'd forgotten entering the competition, on The Biker Guide's website. Two tickets saved us about £30, and – more to the point – ensured that we got off our backsides and went to Prescott on April 7th. It took only just over an hour up the M5, round the bends to Gotherington (GL52 9RD) and over a very bumpy field to park.

We went by car, as the M5 didn't offer many thrills and we didn't want to leave the dogs long enough to do an interesting off-motorway route (apology over), but naturally there were hordes of bikes parked in the field nearer the hill – wouldn't fancy that if it was wet. The variety was astonishing – a bit like a super bike show – and I could have spent half an hour inspecting them all, but instead was "encouraged" by my better half to get a move on and get to the hill.

The first things we saw were new Morgan 3-wheelers, one the factory car in Gulf racing colours I'd sat in at the NEC Bike Show, and two from the confusingly-named 3 Wheel Drive Ltd, who offer training on these hairy £30k machines. Buyers of new cars get a free half-day's training (paid for by Morgan) from Grade 1 advanced former police drivers. Acceleration and deceleration are said to

be phenomenal – to be expected from a 120 bhp, 100 ft lbs engine in a car weighing 500kg! The engine is an American S&S fuel-injected 56° V-twin sitting proudly out in the air at the front. Something tells me a Guzzi engine was used in prototypes – does anyone know for sure? They and other 3-wheelers (Scorpion, Grinall) were offering passenger rides up the hill for £15, which seemed reasonable even in view of the pretty tame speeds they were doing. Plenty of wind in the hair – or in my case, over the shiny pate.

If the variety in the bike park was impressive, that around the hill was something else! Vintage racers, classic British bikes, scooters, custom bikes,



trailies, every exotic make you could think of, they had the lot. Among the most impressive sights was that of tiny kids on monkey bikes bombing up the

hill – no doubt some future Scott Reddings among them.

Most of the runs looked pretty tame from a spectator's perspective, but



negotiating the tighter bends probably seemed hairy enough from the saddle, especially with big crowds watching – attendance in 2012 was 5000, and they were hoping for 7000 this year.



That contributed to the atmosphere, which was great – I even accepted the rock music as part of the fun.

There were over 80 trade stands: bike dealers, clubs, clothing (including a magnificent waistcoat I was dragged away from, featuring a huge Welsh dragon – or draig goch, in the language of heaven), artwork, restoration, etc. The website (<http://www.prescottbikefestival.co.uk>) gives a list, so I won't bore you with more detail. In fact, I'll stop here, just adding that we've already put a reminder in the diary for next year, and we'll go even if we have to pay to get in – what higher recommendation do you need? [And if you do need one, it's in aid of Severn Freewheelers.]



Morton

Motorcycle Training Days

Hi Everyone,

The West of England Road Safety Partnership is running a series of motorcycle training days throughout 2013, to cover those commuting to work by bike as well as general riding. The target audience isn't really advanced

riders, but if any of you know riders who might be interested or find it useful, please can you pass on the information. Perhaps you could use it as something new members could do prior to doing your training?

I have enclosed a couple of flyers at the back.

Thanks very much.

Garrad

Motorcycling Officer – Road Safety Team

www.southglos.gov.uk/roadsafety

We have been asked if we would put this into Treads. I imagine it would be quite nice with a wet ride there, surf and ride home after!!

Subject: The Surf School North Devon

Hi,

We are just dropping you a line to see if you guys and gals would be interested in a surfing session at Westward Ho! Beach? Maybe a ride out, a surf and a ride back! We are The North Devon Surf School and we currently work with 100's of groups who attend weekly or on activity day / trip basis.

We can accommodate up to 60 in a session. The cost is £15 per person including VAT and this includes all tuition, equipment and insurances - you just need to bring swimwear and a towel. The surf school is based at the entrance of Westward Ho! Beach and we have changing rooms, hot showers and a cafe on site. We've been running lessons for over 20

years with yearly repeat bookings from all and with great feedback too. We are fully qualified, insured, CRB checked and are also approved by Torridge District Council.

As I'm sure you're aware this is a great opportunity to enjoy the fabulous surfing conditions and to learn safely at a very affordable cost (the usual cost per lesson is £28).

Please call or email us with any questions or for further information.

Kind regards

Gemma

The North Devon Surf School Ltd
(01237) 474663

Skills Development Course 2013 – So far, so good.

This is my first SDC, though presumably not my last, and a very useful and entertaining experience it has proved to be. The meeting-room at Simon's factory has been packed for the first two theory sessions, and the great thing is the range of age and experience present, from recent-DAS youngsters to RoSPA'd pensioners.

The theory sessions obviously have a serious purpose in refreshing everyone's awareness of "the system", and they do this very well, in spite of – or because of – the banter that enlivens every session. This informal atmosphere makes it easy for anyone to chip in with questions about tricky situations they've encountered, or suggestions for dealing with them. Reminders of the Highway Code don't come amiss, either, as my RoSPA examiner summed up my Highway Code performance as "poor knowledge". I thought that was a bit harsh, based on just a few oddball questions, but (a) he passed

me anyway, and (b) his criticisms of my riding were all spot-on, and made it a great training exercise, if not with quite the result I was hoping for. Afterwards I resolved to revise the Highway Code regularly, but naturally.....

The riding sessions are always illuminating: not only do we get detailed, constructive criticism of our own performance, but we can observe our companions' and the observer's riding. Inexplicably, I started leaving flashers on during my first observed ride – I put it down to the unusual experience of being observed – and my observance of speed limits was somewhat lacking. Nothing absurd, but I'd become sloppy since my test. Still, I've got two years to brush up my all-round performance to move up a grade to Silver.

As an aside, isn't it nice when, out of the blue, someone does you a good turn for nothing? On the second ride, we found ourselves near an "airfield" (the inverted commas because – whatever the sign said, it hadn't seen a plane since WWII), with one of our number quite keen to find a toilet. I was leading, and approached a leather-and-chain-clad, much-moustachioed individual who, after a brief pause said "Toilets? Yes, over here" and led our convoy to his caravan, where we all enjoyed the use of his facilities. That would have been good enough, but then he offered us tea, coffee and biscuits, all gratefully received!

So, two down, three to go, and I am (and I assume all the others are) looking forward eagerly to the rest of the course and the development of the skills that will help to keep us alive and riding.

Morton

It's always nice to get feed back and it seems we are doing something right. Congratulations to the whole Team.

Freewheelers at Sainsbury's

Dear AAMC Members,

Freewheelers EVS was the inaugural chosen Charity for the Sainsbury's Odd Down Store in Bath in 2011. That involvement earned us £10,000 over the year to support the Charity and the support we provide to local hospitals and patients. Sadly, although we have continued our relationship with the Store we were not selected last year.

However, the nominations are now open for the 2013 Store Charity of the Year and there is a stand in store where you may collect a nomination form and propose Freewheelers EVS for 2013.

To make nomination even easier, you may also submit them on-line at

local.charity@sainsburys.co.uk

You must include the name and address of the Store which is:- Frome Road, Odd Down, BATH BA2 5RF
(But you could also nominate Freewheelers EVS to other Sainsbury's Stores near you too.)

You also need to include the Charity Contact detail, which is my home address, and your reason for nominating Freewheelers EVS.

Alternatively you may also visit www.sainsburys.co.uk/localcharity to download a .pdf form to print out at home and then drop into store.

Please help us to get nominated to the shortlist so that we at least then get the opportunity to visit the store to pitch to the Colleague Council for the chance of becoming their chosen Charity for 2013.

Thanks very much.

Andy

Parish News

There's a stack of stuff to put into Parish News this month, so here goes.

BikeSafe

The Club had a stand again this year at the National BikeSafe event at Castle Combe Race Track on Saturday 20th April. The Committee agreed we would offer free membership to anyone joining on the day, provided they were prepared to take Treads by e-mail, and that resulted in six new single memberships and one new joint membership! The weather was much better this year than last, and there seemed to be many more people in attendance, although I have no knowledge of the exact numbers. We were kept busy on the stand all day, which was great – much better than standing around bored. Thanks very much indeed to the whole team who helped make it a real success, especially Sandra and Sue who had spent hours putting together the super new graphics we had inside the gazebo. Hopefully we will have a new gazebo for the next event, as we're currently discussing it in Committee.

Curry Night

Mark has organised a curry night for us at Paprika in Whitchurch on Saturday 25th May. We went there a couple of years ago and had a good evening together, so we thought it was high time we went again. If you've not been before, there's a very extensive menu with many different meats, fish and vegetarian dishes, which are available in a range of 'spiciness' from extra mild (can't really taste any curry) to extra hot (can't actually eat it!). There's also a big range of extras. All in all, it's a very good dining experience. There is a form enclosed with further details. **As time is short, please contact Mark ASAP to book your place(s).** Family members are very welcome to join us as well. The more the merrier.

New Editor

You will have read in Keith's editorial that Chris has very kindly offered to take over as Editor with immediate effect. We're all delighted to have some new blood on board, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Keith on behalf of everyone in the Club for doing such a sterling job over many years (I seem to remember he took over from Robin in 2008). Keith will be staying on the Committee as Vice Chairman, so we haven't lost him completely.

BBC Local Radio

At around 2pm on Wednesday 29th May, Radio Bristol and Somerset will be doing a feature on Advanced Riding and Training, and Sue has been invited to go in and talk live on air about the Club and what we do. This will be great publicity for us and indeed all rider training in this geography. Do try to catch the programme if you can.

Ride to Work Day – 17th June

This year, the annual 'Ride your Bike to Work' Day will be held on Monday 17th June. Let's hope the weather is decent and a good number of us can support it.

Club Barbecue

We have changed the date of the Club Barbecue from that publicised in the Dairy of Events to **Saturday 20th July** to avoid a clash. If the weather is half-decent that day, we will be in Carenza's swimming pool from mid afternoon, generally splashing around making loads of noise and annoying her neighbours! The cooking will start around 6pm, or whenever we are ready to get out the pool. It's been great fun in the past few years and I encourage you to come along. There will be further details and a form enclosed with June Treads.

P.S. Swimming is not obligatory.

P.P.S. There are no neighbours near enough to hear us...thankfully.

Café Closure

Whilst out on a training session a couple of weeks ago, we stopped in Nunney for a drink at the Café de la Mere.

Unfortunately it was closed and there was a notice on the door that said it would be opening under new ownership at the beginning of April. As it was already well into May, I was left wondering which April they were referring to!

This is a great pity as it was a really nice café with excellent quality food and drink, and that day we had to go back up the road half a mile to the local transport café. Not quite what I had in mind at the time, but beggars can't be choosers.

So this is just a warning that it may still be closed if you intended to visit. I'll let you know if I hear more news.

New Members

This month I would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members. Cameron lives in Bath and rides a Triumph Speed Four. He has already been out on Andy's run, and hopefully that will be just the start.

The next group all joined at the recent BikeSafe event at Castle Combe.

Paul lives in Bristol and rides a Suzuki SV650; Simeon and Suzi live in Bath – he rides a Honda VFR 750 (or 400) and she a Kawasaki GPZ500S. Next is Graham who lives in Swindon and rides a Kawasaki Z1000; Nick lives in Yate and rides a Honda Hornet 600; Marcus lives in Keynsham and rides a Suzuki Bandit 650; Jim lives in Colerne and rides "Elephant, Victory and old British stuff"; and finally Mike lives in Mangotsfield and rides a Suzuki GSXR and KTM 250Exc. Phew!

We hope to see you all out on a Club Ride or at an event with us very soon.

Please don't waste your membership.

Simon