



TREADS

www.aamc.co.uk

The OCTOBER 2020 Newsletter of AAMC

EDITORS BITS – Stu Bullock – 07711898178

Writing this edition is as challenging as those before, with little club activity to fill the pages. I did organise a weekday ride, and all six places were taken. It was a big change to meet people not seen for a while, exchange experiences as well as having a pleasant ride. I did have to remind myself a couple of times that there were riders following! Hope it didn't show too much that I enjoyed myself tremendously.

Grateful thanks to people for supporting the club at the few events laid on and also huge thanks to those who take on the role of organiser.

There are several organisations concentrating on mental health issues through the autumnal months. It's an important issue and often sufferers cover up very well, managing their illness in silence. It is not at all easy to admit to yourself, let alone others, that anxiety and depression are affecting you. Cries for help are often silent and it is only by looking closely at a loved one's behaviour can small clues be detected.

I mention this because, if you can help in any way to support mental health charities, the funds will be well used.

Recent surveys carried out by Police Commissioners in the South West, are alleging the general public would like to see higher fines, longer periods of a licence ban, more penalty points, for those who drive dangerously and those who exceed speed limits.

As I have reported to you before, camera technology is racing forward and darkness, changing motorway lanes in road works, are no longer barriers to receiving fines for speeding.

Interestingly, all Police Forces in England are signed up to a simple system for receiving clips

of film from members of the public dashboard cameras. The various forces appear to have differing views on how much funding they apply to the collating and investigating claims made by motorists that another motorist has offended against one or more of the many traffic regulations in force.

Quite how the system works is not known to me, although each force has produced stats to show they do follow some allegations through to prosecution. Perhaps I'll ask Andrew Dalton for his thoughts and experiences on this subject.

So, it appears the general public are becoming more belligerent and unaccepting of others mistakes. Listen out for the sounds of the Tumbril rolling in to your town centre, ready for the public flogging, ducking or hanging.



12529233highres www.fotosearch.com

CHATTY CHAIRMAN – Simon Gough

This month I'd like to extend a warm welcome to new member Chris G who lives in Bradley Stoke and rides a ZX10R. Despite the current restrictions, we hope to see you out and about on a Club ride or social event very soon.

TREADS - NEXT PUBLICATION DATE

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 the next TREADS, can you please ensure that they reach the editor at the latest by;

SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2020

Submissions accepted:

- In MICROSOFT WORD format. (May be edited to fit available space).
- Photo's as separate JPEG files, not embedded in the text.

We publish articles for the benefit of members – none are an endorsement or recommendation unless explicitly stated. You must make up your own mind if you think something is suitable for you.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

FORGIVENESS.

Sometimes, the first step towards forgiveness, is realising the other person was born an idiot. (Unknown).

RIDE REPORT – Wednesday 7 October Weekday Ride – Stu Bullock

10am on a surprisingly sunny morning, 4 riders, Simon, Chris, Nigel and me, set off from Bugden's service area near Wellington. Destination, Compton Abbas airfield for lunch. With all the rain and farmers activity in recent weeks, the route was a bit of a lottery but I hoped to find it clear of liquid mud, which some smaller roads were affected by.

Crossing the Blackdown Hills to Crewkerne, then crossing Toller Down to join the A37 to Dorchester. A bit of a wibble through the town to pick up the A35, then A354 to Blandford. Then, Higher Shaftsbury Road to the airfield, 1hr 50minutes ride time.

We were pleased to welcome Carenza and Adan into the 'team' and the following excellent

lunch. We were treated to the spectacle of a number of Tiger Moth aircraft flying in to the airfield. Interesting to watch the pilots restarting procedure, without them losing any body parts.

After an extended meal time, we set off to our respective homes still in much better weather than anticipated or forecasted. Thanks to you all for supporting the club on this weekday ride.



*Flights 'round the bay', Compton Abbas airfield.
Stock image S. Bullock.*

VIEW FROM THE SADDLE – Tony W – Am I alone?

Am I alone in mourning the demise of the sports tourer? This type of bike has a reasonable following within the club, but when I looked around the dealers for a replacement for my trusty BMW K1300S there was very little to choose from in shaft drive sports tourers.



*Demise of the classic shaft drive sports
tourer. Image courtesy T Walmsley.*

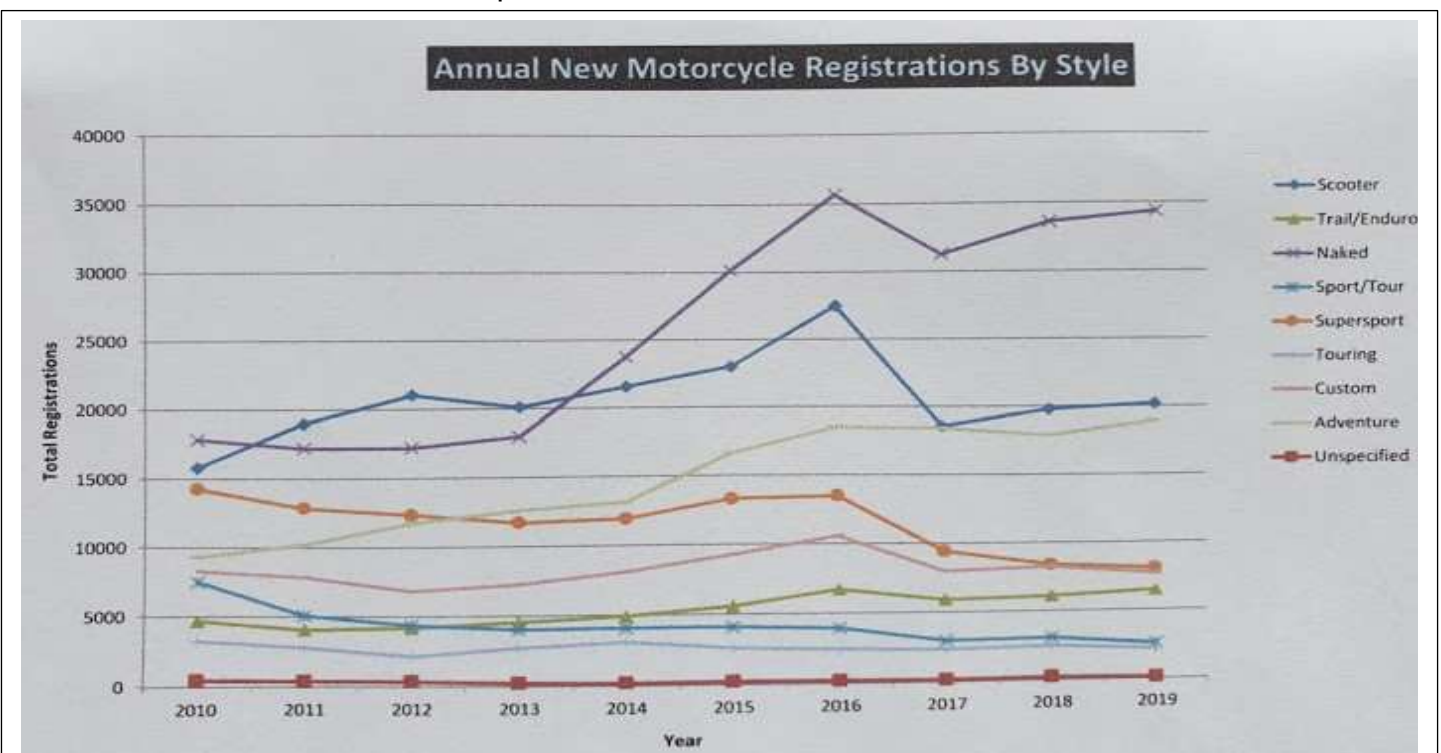
There is little to excite me in the BMW range except for the BMW R1250 RS but I have never liked BMW's arrogance about its twin opposed cylinder bikes. I much prefer a sleek four cylinder housed discretely within a fairing. No Honda VFR1200 with its pug nose which was discontinued in 2017. It seems that dropping sales and Euro emissions have pretty much killed what was once a much more popular market segment. With my specification of smooth flexible engine, good wind protection, semi sport riding position, comfy seat and luggage system: instead I was directed toward the somewhat heavy and bulky full tourers. Not great round town! Or instead, I was shown adventure bikes and told how popular they are. I even booked a few test rides and was impressed by their performance but I just can't get my beloved shaft drive sports tourer out of my head.

As part of this piece / whing / plea to the manufacturers I thought I would take a look at how much of a minority I was in. The MCIA (Motorcycle Industry Association) provide a wealth of statistics which are free to download in a concise pocket guide pdf. See an extract below showing the registrations of different bike styles since 2010. I thought this would be of interest to our AAMC's membership.

The graph shows that Naked bikes, although the best sellers back in 2010 (circa 18,000 registrations), have dramatically increased their market share and circa 34,000 of these bikes style were registered in 2019. Scooters are the next largest category closely followed by Adventure bikes which had circa 19,000 registrations in 2019. This represents a doubling of sales since 2010 and closely matches the percentage increase in Naked bike registrations. So, what about Sports Tourers? This segment has declined threefold from circa 7,500 in 2010 down to a lowly 2,500 in 2019. I hope you find the graph interesting. I certainly have and it has confirmed that I am very much in a minority in bike choice. Each to their own!

(Thanks to Tony for having the time too add his thoughts to TREADS. He is not completely alone, as I too have had the dilemma of what to buy to replace my K1300S.

In the end, I decided to keep it, as nothing else can give me the ride the K1300S does. I then went all retro, and added a 'naked' Honda CB1300 to the stable. This confirmed to me that motorcycles constantly develop as technology progresses. Both of my bikes are 1300cc 4-cylinder engines, both have two wheels, both are red and white.



Graph courtesy of MCIA pocket guide 2020.

That's it by way of 'the sameness'. All down to development. Cars are all very similar and I suspect motorcycles will go the same way, as demands for less carbon emissions keep being made. The next big development will be electric motorized motorcycles. Ed).



*Look similar but really chalk and cheese.
Stock image, S. Bullock.*

LEGAL QUESTIONS – Andrew Dalton

Disclaimer: *The legal advice and statements contained within this/these article(s) is correct at the time of printing. Andrew Dalton is a trial lawyer, with White Dalton Motorcycle Solicitors.*

Q1. Cancelled Bike Holiday?

If you had a biking holiday planned in Europe, or indeed anywhere else in 2020 but you find yourself stranded at home, can you demand refunds for deposits paid or tickets booked?

Well first let me tell you I share your pain – as I write I should be on my Husqvarna 701 on the Portuguese leg of the Trans Euro Trail but instead I am in warm Blighty with my bikes sitting idle on trickle chargers. Next, the answer depends on several factors...

Ferry Cancellations

If a ferry trip is cancelled by the carrier you are entitled to a full refund. If you cancel then the terms and conditions of your booking will determine what, if any, refund you are entitled to.

In my own case I cancelled my Brittany Ferry travelling to Santander but with poor timing,

because a week or so later, Brittany cancelled it anyway, so I took a hit of 30% of the ticket.

The rules operate on an EU level and travel between EU ports is covered by strong consumer rights. British ports still count as EU ports until 2021, subject to any further extensions.

Condor Ferry leaving Poole Harbour. Stock image, S. Bullock.



Post the Brexit extension such safeguards will be a matter for the UK government but if you sail to an EU port with an EU registered carrier even following a complete 'no deal' exit, you will be covered by EU law.

Bear that in mind for booking next year along with your green card and international driving permit. There are safety exemptions for a foul weather cancellation, but otherwise, if your trip is cancelled you are entitled to a refund.

What If You Just Don't Go?

However, if the carrier can carry you, but you choose not to go, or local conditions are such that you cannot travel freely on arrival, then if the carrier can fulfil their obligations, then you have no legal right outside of your contract to be refunded.

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is very much more fact dependent, what cover you have determines what is insured. A generic position for every policy is impossible, but insurance policies tend

to follow similar lines. Most travel insurance policies will pay-out, subject to an excess, if you cancel travel to a foreign land based on government advice.

COVID Exemptions On Travel Insurance

I have already had COVID exemptions imposed on my own travel insurance policy which came up for renewal in May 2020. The rule of thumb is that a travel insurer with a policy pre-dating March 2020 will allow for a refund of lost fares to a destination on the government list of unwise destinations.

Most policies will not extricate you if you travel against government advice. This is for commercial reasons. A cancelled ferry ticket is a lot cheaper than 12 days in foreign intensive care.

Your Rights

As with all insurance, the fundamental rights are contained within the terms of your contract, and the factors which determine how your contract is written are an interplay between the costs of your premium, the risks that you are covered for, and the costs of remedying situations you might find yourself in.

Also be alert to your policy of travel insurance as many exclude motorcycles in their entirety – some will allow cover for small capacity motorcycles, subject to the wearing of ‘appropriate protective clothing,’ many exclude hospital treatment arising from the use of a motorcycle, and especially larger capacity bikes.

Andrew Dalton

Bike Magazine August 2020

Q2. Just how likely are you to be stopped if you're riding with tyre mousses? And are you even breaking the law?

Do the police actually have the power to detain my bike and check whether or not I have mousses in? I keep valves in my wheels and

there is no obvious method of testing whether the tyres have mousses in them.

For those of you who missed the piece on the law of knobbly tyres, I was of the view that mousses, whilst useful, did not meet the construction and use tests and are therefore, technically, illegal. John asks the question “so, will I be caught?”.

The police do have the power to stop you for any reason, but being mindful not to be accused of harassment, they usually record one, such as asking you to produce documents. For a bike which has been out on the lanes it could be to stop you to tell you that your number plate is obscured, and at this point you have the ‘attitude test’.



*The Rocks Police Station, Sydney, Australia.
Stock image, S. Bullock.*

If you are pulled over by ordinary car (i.e. not a police pursuit vehicle) and the officer gets out of the car wearing a black rather than a white cap then the reality is that whilst they have exactly the same powers as a road traffic officer, with one exception relating to high speed pursuits, they are unlikely to be fully versed in road traffic law. Obviously, they will know that you need to be displaying a number plate and the police national computer check will soon reveal whether or not your bike is insured and taxed. All constables have a working knowledge of road traffic law.

If you catch a road traffic officer on a bad day and you are running your bike on mousses you could be in for a significant amount of inconvenience, but not a huge amount of difficulty.

If the officer thinks that your tyres are suspicious and he puts a pressure gauge on them, a tyre with mousers will read zero. The police officer would then have grounds for impounding the vehicle as, in his opinion, it would be dangerous to take on the road. The tyre itself is unlawful under the construction and use regulations. The police officer would be well within his rights then to take the for further examination, either by an officer authorised for vehicle inspection, or another suitably qualified civilian vehicle examiner to explain this mysterious 0 psi. The police officer would be using his powers in a way which a magistrates' court would find reasonable.

Depending on the mood of the officer, he could either impound the vehicle there and then, tell you that if you moved the bike again you would be committing a further road traffic offence, and if you started the bike up he would nick you for a further offence of taking a vehicle onto a road with defective tyres. He could tell you to have the vehicle recovered, or he could issue you with a vehicle rectification notice. Whichever way he does it, he can make your life difficult. If he does not have a tyre pressure gauge then there is no obvious defect on the machine, the machine is not objectively dangerous, and he would have no such powers. In short, you take a calculated risk when you ride a bike on the road or the byways with mousers.

The chances of an officious police officer having the knowledge and equipment to make a charge stick are small. However, if you combine mousers with a small and illegal number plate, a bad attitude, a noisy pipe, and inconsiderate riding, then you make yourself 'nick-bait' and being nick bait is best avoided.

Andrew Dalton

Adventure Bike Rider March/April 2017



AAMC CLUB EVENTS – Please note - Club events are listed first. Please contact Helen C to fill in any empty dates with Club events,

Other non-club information that may be of interest to you is listed separately and in blue print.

Events can change with little notice. PLEASE check with the ride leader if in doubt.

Everyone is doing their very best to organize rides for Club Members, that comply with current Covid19 travel and socializing guidelines. As guidance changes, the Ride conditions may change.

Nigel has kindly organised a club WhatsApp page, [AAMC Spontaneous Rides](#). This is for members to advertise club rides during the COVID19 crisis. Please contact Nigel Dean, 01454 885343 - 07736 275406 - nigelwestdean@gmail.com for access to the site.

In order to attend a Club Ride/event, first contact the ride/event leader, either through WhatsApp AAMC Spontaneous rides, or by telephone. The allowable places will be allocated on a first come first go basis.

NOVEMBER

Saturday 21. P&G Club Celebration Dinner – Helen C – Riverside Inn, Saltford.

Many thanks to those who have already contacted Helen to express interest. You will receive all necessary information before the event.

WANTED – Ride Leaders for 2021

Helen C

Mob:

ALSO WANTED – Club ride/event reports.

Just a few words in WORD, or email to editor@aamc.co.uk I'll sort out grammar/spelling/punctuation. It's OUR club and we need to know what is happening. **In order to associate – we need to communicate.** – Stu Bullock, Editor

OTHER 2020 EVENTS NEWS

BMF DISCOUNT CODE.

Code for 2020 – CLB20FMB

Club members can use the above in conjunction with the Club Name, to receive discounts on advance tickets to all BMF rallies and events; discounts on Insurance and other BMF member benefits.

