



TREADS

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The December 2014 Newsletter of AAMC

EDITORS BITS

– Chris

At this time of year there are few rides to report as everyone settles in for the 'long, dark tea-time' of the year. As a result Treads may appear a little on the lean side.

I notice with a little interest the amount of hi-vis in the photo opposite. I am aware that many people have opted for the hi-vis for many years but there seems to be a little more in this shot that I would usually have expected!

A couple of years ago I spoke to an experienced, advanced rider who didn't wear hi-vis and 'quoted' research that the bright colour broke up the outline of the rider making the *shape* less recognisable as a motorcycle.

I have never looked into any research on this (if anyone has, please let me know) but what shape is a used sticking plaster? I only ask because in the food industry they are *coloured* blue because blue is not a natural colour expected to be seen in food and it would be easily spotted if a blue plaster fell off into your steak and chips.

The downside I guess is that if everyone wears hi-vis then it is expected and, perhaps, a motorcycle becomes more readily 'not seen'. But can all those coppers be wrong?

Last Ride of 2014 – Simon

We had an unexpectedly good turn-out on a day when the weather was variable, to say the least. It drizzled at Severn View as we gathered under the porch canopy, but it did look to be clearing from the west, so twelve bikes with one pillion (including one new member and one guest) set off over the bridge and up through the back lanes to Monmouth where we took the B4233 to Abergavenny. They had recently resurfaced that road, so without all the mud it would have been rather a nice route...

From Abergavenny it was somewhat familiar main roads through to Crickhowell, then a right fork at the old AA box onto the A479 and over the Mynydd Troed to Talgarth. We just missed the Honey Café as we took the short-cut through to Three Cocks (yes, really!) and we arrived in Hay-on-Wye for our lunch at the Granary Café. (Do you ever get the feeling I plan my routes by café? Can't imagine why...)

There was a heavy storm outside whilst we replenished ourselves in the café, but it had mostly blown-over by the time we came out. From Hay, it was back down the Golden Valley to Wormelow, where we turned right onto the old Hereford to Monmouth road (now the A466) and back to Monmouth. The Wye Valley beckoned and there was still plenty of time to fit in a tea stop, so we finished the ride at the Abbey Mill with a drink and cake. It just had to be done, you know. You can see us all sat outside in the photo.

Apart from some spots of rain here and there and plenty of mud on the road, it wasn't as bad as I had feared. I must remember to wash off the bike sometime...

Thanks to everyone who took the trouble to come along and especially to Mark and Helen for going back-marker.

See you all next year.



View from the Saddle

– Keith

I recently deleted old Treads from my computer and one article I looked at was Simon's about his puncture on holiday.

I thought I would ' Google ' Tyre puncture repair kits. This seemed to be divided between two types, 1 – Rubber plugs and 2 – Liquid injected into the tyre before, i.e. 'just in case '

1 – Looking at the rubber plug ones they all seemed to require removal of the cause of the puncture i.e., a nail, piece of glass whatever. Then 'reem out' the hole, apply glue to a rubber plug and press into the hole using the tool provided, extract the tool leaving the plug in the hole and trim level with the tyre surface. Re-inflate the tyre. Simple! Reading the comments this seemed to be dependant on the user, the hole shape and the users skill in fitting the plug. You could still need to use your Breakdown / recovery policy!

The Tour Company that I use recommend one called 'Stop and Go' but it appears to me to be the same as many others.

2 – Liquid injected into the tyre(s) before getting the puncture. Again there seemed to many of these on the market.

With these you inject a measured amount into the tyre after removing the tyre valve core, remembering not to have the valve positioned on the ground (this makes injecting the liquid almost impossible)

The liquid is in a plastic bottle with a graduated scale on the side, connect the plastic tube to the valve and bottle and inject the required amount of liquid by inverting the bottle and squeezing.

Disconnect the tube, replace the valve core and re-inflate. You are recommended to ride for about 4 miles to allow the liquid to coat the whole inside of tyre. With this method you must do your daily checks as the liquid seals the hole preventing deflation, the liquid is coloured and shows on the tyre surface. If you do have an object in the tyre, if you have the courage you can pull it out without deflation and the tyre can still be used.

It's important to remember that whichever method is used they are EMERGENCY ONLY and should not be used as a permanent repair. Get the tyre repaired properly as soon as possible.

I had a Honda Silverwing super scooter which I used a liquid sealant called Ultra-seal (which is now called

Puncture safe) and went on a tour of Scotland. I did my daily checks and the tyres were OK on the day I was coming home. The following morning I checked the tyres and found a piece of steel rod about 3mm in Dia. in the rear tyre. I checked the tyre pressure and this was OK. So as I was home I pulled the rod out (about 75mm long) expecting to hear the air coming out of the tyre but no. I checked the pressure again and it had lost about 1 psi. Needless to say I had the tyre replaced as the rod was on the edge of the tyre. Maybe I was just lucky ! I have put this in my Can-am, maybe tongue in cheek, time will tell.

All the M/c tyre producers do not recommend either of these methods which is bit strange considering they all now use liquid sealants in their car tyre roadside puncture repair kits having done away with the spare wheel!

Really I think you still require to have Breakdown/ Recovery insurance!!

Plug & Grub

Hi, just wanted to say a big thank you to yourself, Sue and Sandra and all involved in organising last nights event. We really enjoyed ourselves and Sue's quiz was good fun, Sue obviously put a great deal of effort into it.

Look forward to seeing you all come the spring, or curry night!

Rob.

BMW Rider's Manuals

– Tim

I have passed this on as it may be of interest to the club members that run BMW bikes. It was forwarded to me from CW Motorcycle club member

If you want to download your bike manual go here:-

BMW Motorrad International <http://www.bmw-motorrad.com/com/en/index.html?content=http://www.bmw-motorrad.com/com/en/services/manuals/manuals_main.html¬rack=1>

AAMC Weekend Bash 2015 – Stu and Sue

Hello all. More news about the AAMC long weekend bash for 2015.

Destination Cumbria, and the wonders of The Lake District. We have arranged B&B accommodation at The Oddfellows Arms, Caldbeck, Cumbria, (<http://www.oddfellows-caldbeck.co.uk/index.html>)

The dates. We shall travel northwards on Friday 5th June and return on Monday 8th June 2015.

Costs. A twin/double room costs £80 per night B&B. £240 per room for the weekend. Single £40 per night B&B. £120 per room for the weekend.

Change of detail for those who have booked already; your final deposit will become due on Monday 12 January 2015 latest.

Please ensure you put that date in your diary as the room will become available to re-let afterwards. We cannot guarantee to remind you.

For those who have not yet booked; please can you do

so by the above date.

This club bash will visit some wonderful parts of Cumbria and also into Scotland. The weather will be wonderful, as will the company. So don't miss out; send us an email and we will send you a booking form by return. Please complete the booking form, include all details requested and post to S Bullock.

Details will NOT be retained after the trip.

If you wish to share a double/twin room please make your arrangements and let us know who the room occupants are on the attached booking form.

Make out cheques to S Bullock. Payment can also be made by electronic transfer to HSBC Bank. Please notify us by email when you have made the transfer.

We look forward to the trip being all the better for you being there.

Parish News – the Vicar

All the Club events have now been and gone for this year, and it just leaves me to thank everyone who helped organise rides and other social occasions. Without everyone's input we wouldn't be able to run the Club in the successful way we do, so a huge "Thank you" from me to everyone who organised events and all of you who supported them.

Plug & Grub

We chose a new location this year for the Plug and Grub Annual Dinner - the White Hart in Iron Acton. It's always difficult to know what a place is going to be like, but Sandra made sure it 'fitted the bill' for us, and it turned-out to be really good. We had a room to ourselves without disturbance from anyone, and Nigel Dean kindly provided some video footage from the Club Bash to the French Alps in September, which we showed on the projector screen during the evening. The food was good and the service excellent. It's never easy to get the food right when you're serving 25 people at the same time, but they did really well. Sue had worked hard on the quiz - it must take hours to come up with those awkward questions - and together with thinking about our favourite ride

during the year and the photos on the website, kept us all fully occupied. We may even go back there again next year.

Club Bashes -2015

As I said last month, the proposed trip to Normandy in September 2015 sold out within 24 hours of putting it out, so I am offering to run another trip as well if anyone is interested. I'm well aware it is still a long way away, but to date no-one has contacted me, so I'll keep repeating this request in Parish News until the spring. Please feel free to let me know if you would like me to organise something for a weekend in France. I don't need any excuses for that!

Stuart has sent out details of the other long weekend he's organising in the Lake District for June next year and had a few bookings so far. Unfortunately the chap who now owns the pub / B&B where we stay has been somewhat less than accommodating (sic!) and insisted we book everything by the end of December. Very helpful. Stuart is trying hard to get that deadline extended to the end of January. If you would like to come and haven't yet contacted Stuart, please do so ASAP.

Renewals

It's membership renewal time again and if you haven't yet renewed there will be a reminder enclosed with this issue. Please do your best to renew quickly and send it back to Sue, as it makes her life a lot easier if it's done early.

2015 Calendar

Sandra has been doing sterling work on the Diary for next year, but there are still quite a few empty slots. Please have a think about what you could do to run a ride or other event and then get in touch with Sandra so you can agree a date and confirm everything. You can ring her in the evening on 07876 068756 or email events@aamc.co.uk

If you need some advice or just want a chat about something you've been thinking about, or even help with organising something, please contact me or any member of the committee. We'll be only too pleased to give you any support you need.

Facebook Teach-In

If you have as much trouble using Facebook as me, you will be pleased to know we've organised a teach-in session. It's on Wednesday 14th January at 7:30pm in a meeting room at my office. The Club does have a few really clued-up members on computers and social media, and some will be around that evening to help anyone set-up a Facebook page and demonstrate how to run a social media account, so you get what you want and give nothing away. It's open to all members and I'll definitely be there.

Instructors Course

We're planning to run an instructor's course in early March over a couple of weekends. The provisional dates are for the theory on Sunday 1st with the practical on Saturday 14th. These will be all day sessions so we can cover the topics in one go. Three members have expressed an interest to me over the

past few months and I will be getting in touch with them individually (as long as my addled brain can remember who they are...), but if there is anyone else thinking about becoming a tutor, please let me know. The course will also be a good refresher for existing tutors and will act as an update for all of us on the latest thinking from RoSPA.

Committee Positions Vacant

Keith has let us know he will be standing down as Club Vice-Chairman at the AGM on 4th March, so we will be looking for a replacement. Chris has also said he will be standing down as Editor with immediate effect, so we are desperately looking for a new Club Editor to be in place by mid-January at the latest. If you can help at all with the Editor's post, even for a short time, please get in touch with me or any member of the Committee.

Test Pass

I'm delighted to say that Steve Buckley recently passed his first RoSPA test at Gold. Steve only joined the Club in September, having been an IAM member and tutor for a short time, and after only two training sessions with us took his RoSPA with Geoff. A tremendous achievement. Well done Steve.

Congratulations

Whilst on the subject of great achievements, I thought I would let you all know that Nigel B recently got engaged to Karen. I hope this wasn't top secret, or I'm in for the high-jump! I'm sure you would all join with me in wishing them all the greatest happiness for the future.

Happy Christmas

And finally, Christmas is nearly upon us, so I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year. Very best wishes.

We publish articles for the interest of members – it is not a recommendation or endorsement. You must make up your own mind if you think it suitable for you.

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