



TREADS

www.aamc.co.uk

The January 2014 Newsletter of AAMC

EDITORS BITS

– Chris

Happy New Year!

I certainly hope that the recent storms will disappear and the roads will clear up as the riding 'season' approaches. I realise that many of you ride all year round so the recent weather can't have been much fun at all. I managed to get out for a brief run at the weekend if only an excuse to fire up the engine for an hour and then wash the bike. Although great weather, the surface was still a major problem with storm debris one of the more obvious hazards on the roads.

It seems I have noticed more bikes than usual out this winter. From one point of view, more bikers means more people are aware of the increased risks bikers subject themselves to – hopefully as more take to two wheels their car driving will benefit as a result. I can remember clearly after my bike training and taking my test that I immediately preferred shoulder checks to using the mirrors in the car as I had been recently made aware of the blind spots. Maybe anyone taking a driving test should have some skills training on two wheels too, or is that asking for trouble?

View from the saddle

Hello all, I hope everyone had a good Christmas and New Year. It takes weeks if not months of preparation and it's all over in a couple of days.

My new bike must have lost it's way in the post as I'm still waiting!

With peoples pockets being squeezed after Christmas all the time, working in the motor trade we see all types of cost cutting people try. Some of it is getting very risky, with brake pads worn so badly they are metal onto discs, the only reason the customer complained was that the alloy wheel had gone yellow with the rust from the metal fragments. Two front tyres worn to the limit with the inner edge THROUGH the canvas (see attached photo's) and with a child seat in the car too!!! Hopefully bike owners are a little more mechanically minded, but who knows.



On a lighter note, I've been watching 'Speed with Guy Martin' 8pm Sunday's on channel 4, which I've found very entertaining. The program is based around Guy carrying out various speed related challenges, and so far we've seen him ride a bicycle at over 100 mph on sand and also seen him ride a motocross bike across water! (I kid you not). Well worth a look if you have spare time. Just goes to show how down to earth some of the bike riders are compared to the car drivers.

On a slightly more sombre note, I'm sure we've all heard what happened to Michael Schumacher over the Christmas with his skiing accident. Life seems very cruel considering he achieved so much in F1 motor racing (seven world titles) with the risks so high, to now be so seriously injured in a slow speed spill whilst skiing with his family and friends. We wish him a full and speedy recovery.

Hope to see you all at the curry night on the 25th Jan. Seriously now looking forward to the summer and warmer/DRYER weather.

Safe riding, Tick Tock

Flexible Teaching

– Stu Bullock. Motorcycle Training Manager/National Senior Motorcycle Examiner.

One of the difficulties often reported back to me are those created by an obvious misunderstanding of Roadcraft. Someone once said to me that a motorcycle is safest when travelling in a straight line and upright. If I took that statement as fact then doing a wheelie is safe as I can do one in a straight line and will most definitely be upright. Well, for a while anyway. What exactly does Roadcraft say on the matter of a moving bike being upright, travelling in a straight line on a level course? Dopey me, why am I asking? Of course you already know that the bike will be at its most stable.

When I was undergoing a test recently I was asked if I ever consider putting my left foot down when stopping the bike. My response was that I make a consideration as to which foot will give me the safest position to retain control of the bike and be safe on every occasion that I see the need to stop. The response was. "I thought you could tell an advanced rider because they only ever put the right foot down".

Recently I asked a rider why they always rode around the edge of every roundabout regardless of whether there were any other road users present. The response was that his trainer required his students to always do that, even at advanced level.

From the first day that I began advanced riding I have been told that looking and assessing skills will develop with mileage ridden but whatever standard you reach always be flexible and consider all of the options open to you.



Rider education must be flexibly delivered to be effective wherever you ride, wherever you teach.

Once we begin to think in a fixed way that is how we will ride and how we will teach and frankly it is just not good enough to have this fixed 'always do' attitude. A great many riders also drive other types of vehicle and many will do less miles on their bike. Rigid thinking may not allow a rider to recognise that the risk to them is different when they are in a four or more wheeled box as opposed to being on two wheels and exposed to the elements.

I often hear people say about those who ride in jeans and no gloves that they should be banned from riding because they are unsafe. Rigid thinking. As a lad I often rode without a helmet, gloves or anything resembling today's protective clothing. Now, to put things right, I can use my experience to know for instance that sliding along tarmac whilst wearing shorts will hurt more than when wearing leathers or padded textiles and go for protection over style. That has to be set against riders' income and

journeys ridden, but the point is to think flexibly, assess the risks to you and look for all possible solutions that you can apply.

We are presented with a variety of problems, from those moving to those stationary, from deliberate to mistakes and we must have a variety of solutions to deal with them all. We should use experience but that may take some time to develop and so we need to accept that education must be flexibly delivered to be effective.

Hopefully, by the end of February, the worst of winter will have gone and we can look forward to more riding again as the seasons change. However, you will need to be flexible when planning the first ride, as something may happen to change the situation and you will have to have an alternative plan to deal with those changes. Riding, teaching and life in general are not very different are they?

BMF club affiliation

– Sue

Club members will know that we are a club affiliated Club with the BMF. Their recent correspondence with the Club has brought to light a couple of points that members may be interested in.

Firstly, and new for 2014, the BMF are please to introduce BMF Insurance. Affiliated club members may now receive large discounts on motorcycle insurance. Other personal and household insurances are also available. Affiliated members may access these insurances by telephoning a dedicated telephone line (0800 678 1504) and quoting their club discount code. Please note that the discount code for 2014 will be issued once the membership renewal

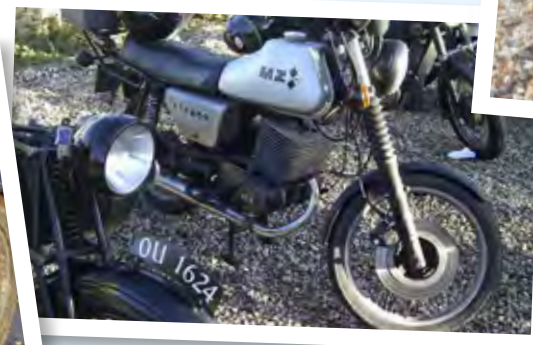
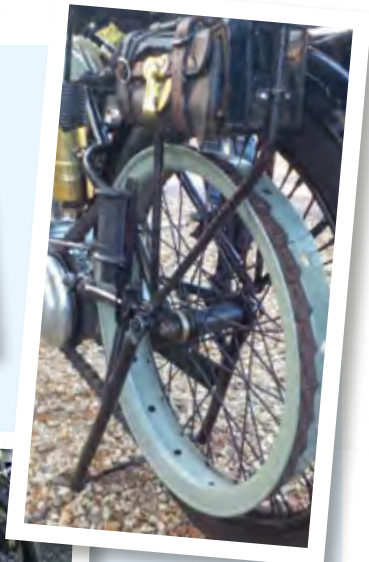
process is complete, so if you are still to return your renewal form and pay the membership fee (by cheque or online), please do this asap so that we may complete the process quickly.

Secondly, BMF also has a Facebook page (they are ubiquitous, aren't they?). They suggest you visit that, or follow Chris Hodder their government relations officer on Twitter @bmf_chris, if that is a preferred method of communication for you.

Thought you might like to know those two bits of additional info. Happy New Biking Year.

AAMC on Facebook

Some images posted from a Boxing Day meet for classic bikes at The Tipputs Inn.



Club Bash 2014 – Simon

At a Committee Meeting in late 2004, I found myself being arm-twisted to organise and lead a short trip to France during 2005, and in June that year nineteen of us left for a long weekend in Epernay in the Champagne region. That was the start.

The following year we went to Chamonix in the French Alps for a week, and we've been abroad every year since – one year a long weekend, the following a full week.

In 2012 Andy Smith kindly volunteered to organise a trip to the south of France, visiting such attractions as the Millau Viaduct, Gorges du Verdon, Pont du Gard and riding up the Route Napoleon, to name just a few. On our way back, we stopped for a night in the French Alps at a small village called Vaujany, just north of Alpe d'Huez, and stayed in a wonderful catered chalet, used mainly by skiers in the winter and cyclists in the summer. It was so good, we decided then and there we just had to go back.

So, for the continental trip next year, it will be a ride to Vaujany over three days, five nights at Chalet La Maitreya, and three days ride back. We will be using the Eurotunnel Shuttle to cross the channel, and the total distance from Bristol to Vaujany is about



770 miles. Experience has shown these trips are usually best undertaken in either mid June or early September to avoid the school holidays, and for this one we have picked early September, as some of the mountain passes (cols) we want to ride over will still be blocked by snow in June!

Andy has kindly been back in touch with the Dutch owner of the chalet and sorted out pricing and available dates for our trip. The plan is to leave Bristol on the morning of Thursday 4th September, and return home during the afternoon of Saturday 13th. That leaves Sunday to relax and sort out all your dirty washing before work on Monday!

Costing for the trip (using an exchange rate of €1.15 to £1) looks like this:

Travel down 800 miles (80 litres x €1.60/litre)	£	110
Tunnel Cost (Nominal) Folkestone to Calais	£	25
2 x Overnights	£	100
Five Nights at La Maitreya (€39 x 5)	£	170
2 x Overnights	£	100
Tunnel Cost Return Calais to Folkestone	£	25
Travel back 800 miles (as above)	£	110
Food and Refreshments 10 days x £35 per day	£	350
Fuel for Riding around in the Alps (500 miles)	£	70
Total per person	£	1,060

Please note this doesn't include any alcoholic drinks.

If you are interested in coming along, please let me know fairly quickly so I can give the chalet owner an approximate idea of numbers, although these don't need to be definite bookings at this stage. There are quite a few rooms in the chalet and they also own the chalet next door if we 'overflow'.

I really can't tell you how good the place is for quality and value, and I'm really looking forward to going back.

ROSPA Group Talk

– Simon

We have received the following invitation to a talk by the Gloucester RoSPA Group on Monday 27th January, and I thought it may well be interesting and informative. Any tips you can pick up may well save you from a nasty accident.

Dear all, ever had a vehicle pull out on you at a junction? Ever pulled out from a junction into the path of another vehicle? Ever wondered why such incidents happen?

There are numerous reasons such potential and actual collisions happen and most are more to do with human physiology (our eyes tell us lies), vehicle design and environmental factors than driver / rider ability. Want to know more?

Join us for a free talk designed for both drivers and riders by Stephen Wilkinson-Carr, RoSPA Senior Tutor, Glos RoADAR.

Monday 27th January 2014, 7 p.m. for 7:15 p.m. start. (ends 9:30 p.m.)

Main Function Room, CACSSA www.cacssa.co.uk
Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham
Glos GL51 9SL (N51 55.108 W2 6.696)

Hope you can make it.

Kind regards.
Stephen Wilkinson-Carr
Membership Secretary
Glos RoADAR

07976 644485 membership@glos-roadar.org.uk

Following an email sent out to members recently, Stephen has agreed to do a presentation just for us! A date is yet to be confirmed but 23rd April is looking possible. More details will follow. Thanks Stephen!

South West Peninsula Rally 2014

– Jez Martin, Somerset Advanced Motorcyclists

Somerset Advanced Motorcyclists are pleased to announce the running of the Sixth Annual South West Peninsula Spring Rally to be run on Saturday 5th April 2014.

Now firmly established as one of the most popular rallies within the motorcycle rally calendar it offers a great day out riding great roads across the South West suitable for all skill levels.

We would appreciate you circulating our announcement to all your members and we look forward to welcoming them for what should be another enjoyable day in the company of like minded bikers out to have a great days riding.

Please find attached our official announcement with full details and for application go to our Web Site : www.somersetadvancedmotorcyclists.org.uk or our new Google+ Community at <https://plus.google.com/u/0/communities/105657936766556865475>

We would appreciate any help you can give with the promotion of our event.

SOUTH WEST PENINSULA SPRING RALLY

A scatter rally for motorcycles across the South West. Plot your own route and visit sites on roads you may never have used before.

Saturday 5th April 2014

Starting and finishing in Langport, Somerset. You can opt for a Gold, Silver, Bronze or the special Lands End award. Great riding on great roads.

This is not a race but the event is held under an ACU permit

For all details, application forms etc. go to our web site:

www.somersetadvancedmotorcyclists.org.uk **OF** Google+ SWPSR Community



www.moto-pyrenees.com

– Alain & Veerle

We first want to wish you a great 2014 filled with good times on the bike, but also outside of the bike.

As every year, this email to tell you about our organizations motorcycle holiday – rides in the Pyrenees.

All information at our web site: www.moto-pyrenees.com

Our motto remains the same: no big business, but to share our passion for motorcycles with you !

What we offer you for 2014:

– **On-road:** motor holidays, nice accompanies rides along the beautiful roads and mountain passes of the Pyrenees (France, Spain, Andorra), visits and discoveries. 2014 at Moto-Pyrénées will be full of new features:

- 6 new routes
- Weeks "Especial España"
- And many other new discoveries, ...
- Some promo periods already fixed :
 - From 24 till 31 may
 - From 05 till 12 july
 - From 02 till 09 august
 - From 09 till 15 august
(already FULL: booking closed)
 - From 20 till 27 September

But other periods will be possible

- **Off-road:** beautiful off-road rides for all levels, in a paradise for enduro.
- **All-road:** a combination of beautiful roads accessible to your motor type.

Entire organizations, we can take care of everything (motor rides, tours, accommodation, meals, visits and sightseeing, transport motorcycles, shuttle train station or airport ...) Flexible packages and at mesure.

BOOK NOW your period for the year 2014, as places are limited !

And don't hesitate to share and send this info to all your motor friends.

More details, pictures en videos at our website: www.moto-pyrenees.com

Follow us also at Facebook, Twitter and You Tube

Do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

Happy New Year on the bike !

Alain & Veerle

Tel. : 00.32.4.77.93.00.35 (We speak English)

We publish the above article 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.

Motorcycle Roadcraft

– Simon

You may well be aware that a brand new updated edition of Motorcycle Roadcraft was issued by the Police Foundation last autumn.

RoSPA will start testing against this new book during 2014, so it's important we understand the differences between it and the old version.

To that end, I have arranged with Stuart Bullock (guru of all things motorcycling at RoSPA) to come along and give us a talk on the new book and the differences on Thursday 30th January, starting at 7:30pm using a meeting room at my offices.

Everyone is most welcome to attend (hope I can find enough chairs!). This is especially relevant for those of us who instruct advanced riding together with those of us who are RoSPA members and need to re-take the test every three years.

If you would like to come along, please let me know – probably best by e-mail – so I can make sure we can fit everyone in.

I will send out directions to those who tell me they are coming.

Thanks very much,

P.S. If you would like to come along but can't make this date, please let me know. I may be able to arrange an additional date.

Parish News

– The Vicar

Training

Elsewhere in this issue you can see some details of a presentation by Stu Bullock on the new Motorcycle Roadcraft book, recently published. The advanced training and tests will be based on this brand new edition from later in the year, so you will need to know it if you have any intention of taking or retaking an advanced test. If you fancy coming along, please get in touch with me ASAP.

Have you ever wanted to become a Club Tutor to help less experienced members get through an advanced test? If so, please get in touch with me and I will see if we can arrange an instructor's course. It's a very worthwhile and satisfying thing to do.

Renewals

The membership renewal process is nearing completion for this year, and the vast majority have already sent their forms and money back to Sue. If you haven't, please will you do so straight away, or you will be deleted from the membership list in the next few days. As you know, you can pay by online banking, but if you want to use that method, please will you also either return your form or advise Sue or me of any alterations to information we hold. If the information is correct, please just send one of us an e-mail to say that. Sue is currently trying to tie-up incoming funds with renewals and it's not as straightforward as it should be. This internet banking is very useful and we would like to continue to offer it, as long as you do your bit too, please!

BMF Discount Code

Please note that the 2014 discount code to be printed on the back of the diary (as in previous years) is AAM14P643

Congratulations

Congratulations to Matt on passing his IAM test recently. Matt only started learning advanced techniques at the end of the summer, and has done really well to pass in such a short time. Well done!

Diary

January

Saturday 25th

Curry Night at Golden Moments Indian Restaurant, Bath Road, Saltford BS31 3HQ. Meet at 7:15pm for a prompt 7:30pm start. Booking required by Saturday 18th.

Thursday 30th

Presentation on the new Motorcycle Roadcraft book by Stuart Bullock.

March

Friday 7th

Club AGM. Come and have a say in the running of your Club. Details in February Treads.

Sunday 9th

First Club Ride.

Club Bash to Cornwall 2014

Due to a recent cancellation, there is now a space on the club bash to Cornwall in June.

A single room is now available at £135 for three nights B&B. Dates are 20 to 23 June. Anyone interested contact Sue and Stu.



We missed this in the last issue:
Lunch on the last club ride of 2013.

Letters

2014 DIARY OF EVENTS

Mark, aided and abetted by Sandra, is currently putting together the 2014 Diary of Events, and needs people to run events and lead rides.

If there is anything you think you could help with, or indeed lead a Club ride, please will you contact either Mark or Sandra with your ideas.

Riding weather will soon be upon us, and we need to get this moving asap.

If you don't contact us, rest assured we will contact you. You have been warned!

Contact details are as follows: -

Mark – events@aamc.co.uk

Sandra – webmaster@aamc.co.uk

Actually, we would be extremely grateful for any support you can give.

Simon.

HOLIDAY SAFETY

With the Holidays upon us I would like to share a personal experience with my friends about drinking and driving.

As you may know some of us have been known to have brushes with the authorities from time to time on the way home after a 'social session' out with friends. Well, two days ago I was out for an evening with friends and had several cocktails followed by an after dinner liqueur. Feeling jolly I still had the sense to know that I may be slightly over the limit.

That's when I did something that

I've never done before - I took a cab home.

Sure enough on the way home there was a police road block, but since it was a cab they waved it past. I arrived home safely without incident. This was a real surprise as I had never driven a cab before, I don't know where I got it and now that it's in my garage I don't know what to do with it.

DEAR SUE

It is, with regret, that I shall not be renewing my membership for 2014. I have not done the old Kawasaki justice this year, in fact it has not even had the basic consideration of an MOT. I seem to be doing more cycling than motorcycling lately and have found that some of the distances needed to access interesting routes on Club rides have stretched my diminishing powers of concentration and endurance.

May I take this opportunity of saying how much I've enjoyed the Clubs activities both on and off the bike and the companionship of other Club members. I wish you and the Club every success in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Barry.

AAMC CURRY NIGHT

The first of this year's events is going to be a curry night. Mark has arranged for us to try a new location this year – Golden Moments Indian Restaurant in Saltford (between Bristol and Bath on the A4). It has a good reputation and you can see further details if you take a

look at its website <http://www.goldenmomentsbristol.co.uk>

It's not a huge restaurant, so places are limited and I would encourage you to book early.

We would be very happy for you to bring family members and guests to make this into another enjoyable occasion. It's a great reason to get together with friends when the motivation to get out the bike isn't quite there yet...

Hope to see you there. I'm looking forward to it already.

Simon.

THANK YOU

You may remember Rob passed his first RoSPA test a couple of months ago, and has kindly sent the following card.

To all the tutors at AAMC, a big THANK YOU for helping me re-discover the enjoyment of motorcycling. All the best.

Rob.

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@aamc.co.uk

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