



TREADS

www.aamc.co.uk

The December 2013 Newsletter of AAMC

EDITORS BITS

– Chris

A somewhat truncated edition of Treads this month to get a couple of only-just-submitted articles to you and some important information regarding the club (see page 2). Alas, no View from the Saddle this month as a result. There are 3 committee positions which have become available for 2014 as some long-standing members have either stepped down or taken on a different role, so please consider a position on the committee – after all, a club doesn't exist without it's members or the work of those who organise the rides, training and social events. If anyone has any suggestions regarding social events and venues, let the committee know – they don't have to be bike orientated at all and you are not obliged to join the committee just because you have a suggestion! Events last year included a well attended karting event (well done Adan). Annual get togethers such as the P&G awards and the BBQ are a big part of the club's social side alongside the rides... speaking of which, if any of you want to let others know of your favourite routes the club is always on the lookout for ride leaders – just let Mark know!

P&G Night



The Plug & Grub night for 2013 was held at The Pelican, aka The Pelly, in Chew Magna – it appears a good evening was had by all who attended (I can't speak for those of you who didn't!)

The Pelly Barn was an excellent venue, a separate building from the pub where members could catch up on the latest goings-on without the hubbub of the main bar. Club ride videos, Sue's (infamous?) annual quiz and the club awards provided the entertainment at one of the Club's main social events of the year.

Along with this, excellent quality food added to a great social event which included the Chairman's presentation of the awards as follows...

Most attended ride
Simon (Fish & Chip Ride)

Wettest ride
Andy (North Wales Bash)

Best photo
Steve

Favourite ride
Sue

Most improved rider
Rob

Sorry about
Stuart (meeting at the wrong meeting point)

Special award
John

A big thank you to everyone who organised and attended and a special thanks to Stephanie Fowler of Fowlers Motorcycles for the very kind donation of all the gifts and, not forgetting, Paul for organising the manufacture of the trophies.

Roll on the events for 2014!

AAMC 2014

– The Committee

In advance of the AGM for 2014, which will be held in the Spring (details to follow), the Committee wanted you to know that there will be some changes to committee positions in 2014 and we hope that some of the membership will consider joining our merry band of Committee members. The following positions will be vacant at the AGM:

Webmaster – a position responsible for managing the website in terms of any day to day issues arising and for liaising with our designer when necessary, as well as implementing changes as necessary.

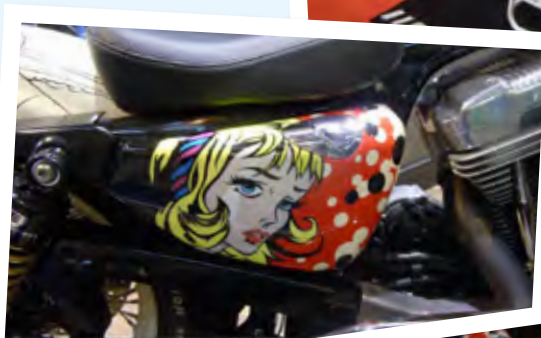
Events Officer – the holder is responsible for securing commitments for and arranging the Diary of Events each year, managing bookings and collecting money for events organised by the Club.

Publicity Officer – the holder is responsible for ensuring the information that the Club prepares is accurate and informative.

Please make an effort to come along to the AGM and help the Club socially, even if not in a formal position. It is always good to see members in our 'closed season', as well as on rides and events.

AAMC on Facebook

Some recent photos posted on Facebook – from Tim's visit to the bike show.



Parish News – The Vicar

Plug & Grub Annual Dinner

You will have read about the P&G in Chris's article on the front page, so I will keep this short. Despite some grumbles about lack of choice on the menu, the meal they served us was absolutely first class. Everyone enjoyed the food and indeed the entire evening, and we didn't get out until nearly midnight. Despite being a converted barn, the room was lovely and warm, and the service from the staff was very attentive. It really couldn't have been much better.

Thanks again to Sue for all the work she put in both beforehand and during the evening. The quiz and voting for favourite photos and rides takes a lot of time to organise. Nigel kindly produced some video footage of the Club Bash to North Wales to keep us amused between courses, and Paul organised the manufacture of the trophies. A very special thanks finally to Stephanie Fowler of Fowlers Motorcycles for giving us the awards.

2014 Bashes

There are two trips planned for Club Members during 2014. Stuart is organising a long weekend to Cornwall and I will be running a ten-day trip to the French Alps. Both have been advertised in previous editions of Treads, and we have had a good take-up from members so far. The booking process will be started shortly, so if you haven't already told us you want to come, please get in touch as soon as possible so we can include you. Both look like being great fun.

Renewals

The membership renewal process is moving on apace, and quite a few of us have already sent our forms and money back to Sue. If you haven't, please will you do so as quickly as you can. It gives Sue a lot of extra work when members are slow in renewing. Also, for the first year, we are giving you the opportunity of paying by online banking. If you want to take us up on that, 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 easy. This internet banking is very useful and we would like to continue to offer it, as long as you do your bit too, please!

Welcome

This month I would like to welcome the following new members.

Chris rides a Triumph Sprint GT and lives in Midsomer Norton. Chris was a member a few years ago until his job took him away, but now he's back and re-joined. Steve Junior is the other new member this month. He lives in Swindon and rides a Kawasaki ER6-F. Steve's parents – Steve Senior and Karen – have been very supportive members for a number of years. We all extend a warm welcome to you both and hope to see you out and about with us at Club events in the New Year.

Letters

Plug & Grub Annual Dinner

A big thank you to the Sue and the rest of the committee for the excellent Plug & Grub event last night at the Pelican. A great night of good food, laughs and entertainment. I've now uploaded the slideshow videos from the North Wales Bash if anyone is interested. The link is here:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/nigeldean/videos>

Cheers,
Nigel

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

Observation

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

Although Roadcraft has been revamped the main element of The System of Motorcycle Control remains the first element, INFORMATION. In order to create a plan to deal with a particular hazard, we need to have seen the problem developing. We use all our senses of sight, sound and smell to gather information and filter it in order to determine the risk to us. We have all seen the links to what may develop, such as a row of refuse bins waiting collection. Now, what could that be? These "observation links" help us form a plan to ensure our progress is controlled.

Cross views are another aid in seeing hazards and assessing risk. For instance, seeing a vehicle on another road approaching the same crossroads that you are should cause a reaction. Any ideas?

We also gather information from other road users, mostly by way of their light signals. A 'signal' can be given by a road user's position, like moving towards the centre of the road when approaching a right turn. We may not believe them, but at least there has been some warning that they are about to do something and we can react accordingly. How might you react?

Gaining a good idea of what is going on behind us is important when maintaining a safety margin. It is no good avoiding a problem in front when there

is another following. We should use shoulder checks and mirrors to maintain our rear view, and consider applying the "Lifesaver" as the last look into the blind spot before committing the bike to a manoeuvre.

Road signs also give clues as to what we might expect ahead. A sign that says 'elderly people crossing' may mean more hazards than the obvious. I expect that you can think of at least three associated potential problems, can't you? The weather is another form of sign. Poorly surfaced roads may retain more rain water, but even a wet motorway can increase the risk to a motorcyclist above that of a car driver. Do you know why?

The message is to look well ahead, to the side, to the rear with mirrors and shoulder checks. Use your eyes, ears and nose. Assess what you have detected. Decide how it will affect you and prioritise the hazards by recognising the risk to you as a motorcyclist. Plan your route through the hazards but have an alternative plan. Ride so that you can stop within your vision range on your side of the road. Practise is required to perfect the art of assessing risk from what you have seen. By applying yourself to it you will be faster over the ground as you develop the ability to see, assess and plan.

Something to say? Please don't be shy. E-mail editor@aamc.co.uk