

Making Progress

The Plymouth Advanced Motorcyclists Newsletter

April 2019



It's warming up!

Hello and welcome to this, albeit later than planned, Spring Newsletter. The Clocks have changed, The AGM has passed, the days are getting longer and Plymouth Bike Nights are Go! These small signs can only mean one thing - **more time on our Motorcycles!!**

We've already had some great group rides since March arrived; Our first (rather chilly) evening Rookie Ride to Salcombe took place, Dave Pickles guided 18 riders to a veritable feast at Trenant Camp Site. Mark J took 15 riders on a day ride on some varied roads with a 'sort of railway theme' and we look forward to Stefan's half day ride (21st April) and Jerry's full day ride (5th May) - details of these will appear soon on the **Blog**.

If you fancy leading a ride, (*its great fun as you don't have to stop!*) no-one minds where we go and on what roads, so pick some of your favorites and some mates will come with you . It doesn't have to be a Sunday, Saturday is good for many of us, and now with the evenings drawing out there's always an evening dash for a burger popping up – thanks mainly to Steve Puckering.



PHOTO:

18 or more PAM motorcyclists and pillions enjoy Soup, Cakes, Tea, Coffee and a warming log fire at **Trenant Caravan and Camping Park nr. St Neots** all for donations in the name of Charity
Thank you Mr. Pickles (the baker) and his Friends at Tranant

Treasurer and membership secretaries report

Welcome to the April treasurer and membership report

This newsletter coincides with the end of the PAM financial year, which runs from March 1st- February 28th. At this time the treasurer is tucked away in his cave grinding figures away on his slide rule and shouting obscenities at anyone who tries to disturb him....



Actually, its not that bad. All the end of year requires, is to produce a summary of the clubs financial position at the end of the financial year. I do this by adding up everything we've spent and received, then checking this matches the bank balances from the end of last financial year to the end of this financial year. Hopefully it all tallies up! I then add up any money we are owed, any money we owe, and the current value of any capital objects we have, the sum total of all this is what the club was worth at midnight on 28th February this year. It may sound an arduous task requiring mathematical genius, but clearly it isn't as I do it! All it needs is some good spreadsheets, keeping it up together as you go through the year and about 6 Hours of my time once the bank statements are in. The accounts are all done now and have been submitted to our auditor.

The club bank balance, was a healthy £6892.60 at the end of the financial year.

A good number of us attended the AGM on 8th April, where I gave a full report - Happily most of you managed to stay awake for the buffet afterwards!

Our current membership is 115, with 27 of these being associates, 88 full members, 3 of which are fellows of the IAM.

During the period January to March, 11 of our members have renewed their subscriptions. I have also sent out 8 reminders to members that their renewal is due. As I write, 2 members who were sent reminders, have yet to renew. Hopefully we will receive their membership shortly. I am pleased to report we only have one member who hasn't renewed their IAM Roadsmart membership but I am confident they will renew shortly. Always keep an eye on your Email Inbox, as I no longer post reminders, but now email them out to you. If I know however that you have a standing order set up, I will not send you a reminder. If you would like a standing order form, to avoid the worry (and the nagging from me), then please let me know and I will happily send you one that you can take to your bank.

The majority of you now will also have received the PAM GDPR statement, which enables you to protect your privacy, by opting not to be mentioned in any club publication either in print or on the internet. These opt out statements are sent out each year upon you renewing your membership. Should you require an opt out form at any time, please do not hesitate to contact me. Look out for a copy in your in-box after renewing your membership, and read it carefully to ensure you are familiar with it.

I have also completed the 2018-19 gift aid claim, and submitted it, I estimate the amount we will receive is around £270, and this is from 55 full members who have completed **gift aid** forms. This provides a valuable source of additional income for your club. Imagine what our claim would be if the other 33 full members who haven't yet completed a form did so! If you haven't completed a gift aid form before, and would like to, please contact me.

It costs you nothing.

Finally, some more of my biking history.

Last time, I told the sorry tale of my brand new Honda super sport SS125, which expired after too long trying to keep up with my friends more powerful bikes.

Having suffered broken piston rings, it was rebuilt to its former glory by the dealer, replaced by a new shiny red 1971 Yamaha YCS180cc. This was a twin carburettor 2 stroke revelation particularly after a 125 four stroke. It was great fun, easily faster than my friends Honda CD175. It did have a strange tendency for the front wheel to lift in the air though! I won't add the story of how I was riding home carefully in a 40MPH at 11pm one night, to be overtaken by a triumph saint police bike.

I am sure his speedometer was wrong as he asked me what I could smell.



When I sheepishly said I wasn't sure, he replied "Hot engines, where I've been trying to catch up with you!" You can understand now why the police started using BMW's and Honda ST1100's!

I enjoyed riding this for nearly 2 years including transport for courting with the lady who is now my wife. A tremendously enjoyable, fun bike, Oh how I wish I had tucked it away for prosperity.

Unfortunately, even though it was ridden extremely carefully, 2nd gear expired so it was sold and replaced by a 1960 matchless 350 Single. Oh dear, no danger of sudden unexpected wheelies there then.....

Ride Safe, *Kevin Moorey*

Adverse Camber is on the Case – Again!

Have you ever wondered how insurance premiums appear to levitate, as if by magic, at every renewal date? It now happens with every single insurance product purchased by us gullible punters. This year I've come to realise that non violent verbal conflict is the way to drive down insurance costs. Here's a recent scenario concerning my car and motorcycle insurance.

The policy was with an insurer purporting to specialise in low cost insurance for members of a certain group of riders and drivers. Once again there was another considerable price hike and so I started to shop around. The multi vehicle policy I had covered my motorcycle, my car and my wife's car. The cost had increased at renewal by a totally unacceptable amount so I simply didn't renew and switched to another provider, instantly saving over £300. A second bike was also insured under a different policy with the first insurer and when I spoke to them, they were able to match another provider's quote by reducing the renewal amount by 50%. It's the same the whole world over (now where have I heard that refrain?)

When I queried the cost of my mobile phone contract renewal quote, my land line and broadband, the roadside assistance contract, the gas boiler contract it was always the same. They either matched a competitor's quote, like for like, or they knocked a considerable chunk off the renewal cost. Simply by calling them results in a significantly better renewal cost. To be specific, anything between £50 and £100 off the renewal quote. If they can do that, then why can't they simply keep renewal costs more competitive? It has to be that most of us are suckers, or too slothful and just renew blindly. It's scandalous and it amounts to customer loyalty being punished, when really it should be rewarded.

So, don't stand for it; **shop around and ditch the chancers!** Loyalty appears to have no place in today's market place. **So just to drive the message home, my family has saved over £1,000 this year alone, just by challenging or switching.**

Ride Safe folks, *Adverse Camber*

Don't forget you can write to Adverse Camber c/o PAM Newsletter



That's another fine mess you've got me into!

By Nic Brown

Two of PAM's Observers, Neil Gardner and I, are also Ambulance Community First Responders.... and its all down to being an advanced rider – thank you PAM!

A First Responder is a volunteer within the community who has been trained by the Ambulance Service, and attends a seriously ill or injured person in advance of the ambulance's arrival.

For years I rode a green BMW K1100LT – the flying brick – fabulous bike but eventually it wore out and was sold, and in order to get on a bike I joined the Bloodbikes (and also bought a new bike like you have to)!

That is where Neil and I met. We had been riding around delivering blood, transplant tissue etc for a couple of years when the Ambulance Service invited us to become First Responders. My favourite bike for that job was a 800 GSX which started life as a police motorbike for the Olympics. (Photo above)

Responders attend emergencies where it is essential for the patient to receive immediate life-saving care. This includes conditions such as: cardiac arrest, chest pain, breathing difficulties, unconscious patients, fitting, stroke. We also attend less serious events if the ambulance is delayed. To deal with those emergencies you need oxygen and masks, defibrillator, blood pressure machine, thermometer, oxymeter, dressings, bandages etc and a GPS pager linked to Ambulance Control plus mobile phone. The bikes panniers became quite full, and heading off at night in rain on blue lights to save a life certainly needs advanced riding!

Although Responders are told you won't be sent to scenes of significant trauma or risk, we are sent to 'lacerations' and sometimes the boundary of that is a bit blurred. I have been called out to quite a few difficult events. As we are told in training, if someone is in cardiac arrest you cannot make it worse!

Overall it's a highly rewarding experience helping people, and you receive great training and a level 3 qualification: plus a T shirt.

Living under 2 miles from Derriford Hospital and Ambulance Station I remain surprised at the number of calls I go to, but then it's rare for an ambulance to be sat waiting: they are busy almost all the time. With that in mind I left the Bloodbikes 3 years ago and went fundraising to set up a Community First Responder group covering North Plymouth – it went live last July.

Sadly the arrangement between the Ambulance Service and Bloodbikes has lapsed, so Neil transferred to a Responder group in Ivybridge. Our role is now in our cars, but it was being advanced riders that started us on our journeys.

St Patricks Day - ½ Day ride

Dave Pickles devised a cracking Half Day ride out on St Patrick's day. Cold and blustery and with a mixture of sunshine and showers saw us riding the stunning coast road between Cawsand and Looe. But the surprise coffee stop proved novel and entertaining. Dave's friends, the Parry Family, run a beautiful and secluded campsite at Trenant Farm near St Neot. Here we were treated to freshly made home made soups and cakes (some of which were baked by Dave himself - and delicious they were too!).



This was a spectacular short day ride and we are all looking forward to a repeat next year on or near St Patrick's Day!

Full Day ride – 7th April

Mark Jensen led the ride on 7th April which wound its way to Totnes on the old Avonwick road then onto the Moor via Poundsgate Widecombe (avoiding sheep) and Haytor (which was chilly!), Eventually we were allowed to stop for a very warming coffee in Bovey.

It was a fairly progressive ride from here mainly on the A377 until Torrington where we had a delightful lunch at the Puffing Billy, from here we headed for Launceston via Bradworthy and Holsworthy as riders split off to find their own way home

A super ride, I made it 176 miles with lots of variation, requiring both restraint and progress

If you would like to lead a ride here are our scheduled dates

April 21st **Half Day ride – Stafan leading**

May 5th **Full Day ride – Jerry leading**

May 19th **Half Day ride – Vacant**

June 2nd **Full Day ride – Vacant**

July 7th **Full Day ride – Nic Leading**

July 21st **Half Day ride – Vacant**

August 4th **Full Day ride – Liz Leading**

August 18th **Half Day ride – Vacant**

Sept 1st **Full Day ride – Vacant**

Sept 15th **Full Day ride – Vacant**

We're all in this together - So please contact Mark if you could help out and lead a ride on one of these vacant dates or maybe you have another date or idea? - **Let us know!**

Dates for your Diary

For further information on these events please check the website

<https://iampamroadsmart.org.uk>



20 th April	CRD Associate Training Day
21 st April	PAM Half Day Ride
5 th May	PAM Full Day Ride
10 – 13 th May	PAM WALES Weekend
11 th May	Olive Branch Foundation Ride (Non PAM Event)
13 th May	Monthly Group Social Event
19 th May	PAM Half Day Ride
25 th May	CRD EVENT Full member development day
2 nd June	PAM Full Day Ride
5 th June	Rookie Ride out
8 th June NEW	PAM Challenge (<i>Sneaky PAM Preview Next Page</i>)
16 th June	PAM/CAM BBQ
18 th June	Thrupton Skills Day (fully booked)
22 nd June	CRD Associate Training Day
3 rd July	Rookie Ride out
7 th July	PAM Full Day Ride
8 th July	Monthly Group Social Event
20 th July	CRD EVENT
21 st July	PAM Half Day Ride
4 th August	PAM Full Day Ride

An appeal for help..

It takes a lots of work to keep the Plymouth advanced Motorcyclists wheels turning and we need more volunteers to spread the workload.

In Particular, we need 2 or 3 people to join Alan on the Social Events Team and are currently in need of a Vice Chairperson to take of from Barry as he is in his final year (of 3)

If there something else you feel your skills would suit and have time, either on an adhoc basis or able to commit say, 3 hours a month to the task please get in touch with any of the current team members.

Your Committee: Barry, Kevin, Philip, Adrian, Simon, Mark J, Jonny.
Training Team Adrian, Mark H, Jo C, Mark J



treasure hunt challenge & bbq
£10 per Rider or
£15 with Pillion

Cost Includes
Entry into event
Evening BBQ or Hot Buffet
Camping in Walkhampton

What 's Going On?

Fun Treasure Hunt event on the road with some additional on bike and off bike and maybe off road challenges along the way.

It's split into sections, which you can choose to complete or not, as you wish, but the more challenges completed successfully, the more points.

SATURDAY

Open to **PAM, CAM and DAM** Members, Associates and friends who are capable of remaining **Safe and Legal**, including learners

SUNDAY

Full Day Ride to IAM Standards in Devon & Cornwall

Preview for PAM

MORE DETAIL TO FOLLOW



So that's all folks, But with so much going on over the next few months I hope to see articles flooding in from everyone ready for the next issue early July

All articles short or long are welcomed, whether they about a CRD event, Ride out or anything Motorcycle related

One last thing.. I have put a suggestion box on the 'Club Pages' section of the website as somebody suggested it was a good idea (see it works!)... So if you want me to announce something on the blog or want to see a change in what we do or you simply an idea for the Group

Please make use of the
Suggestion Box



Philip has recently sent me the 2019 AGM Minutes

I will send the via a separate email to all member

If you do not receive them by tonight and would like a copy please contact me