



Weekly Newsletter 6th August 2021

News for ALL our advanced riders

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Editorial

To be an advanced biker you need to stay up to date and think about your riding. This has always been true of SAM members who like nothing better than sharing their opinions on bikers, bikes and biking. This week there has been a lot of comment about the UK Government's proposed changes to the Highway Code. MAG (Motorcyclists Action Group), IAM RoadSmart and every online and printed motorcycling news source has commented. Most believe that a move closer to the European model of a hierarchy of responsibility for harm to more vulnerable road users. The consultation omitted to include motorcyclists, but it also didn't specify children, old people or the disabled either! The published furore was concisely captured in [Kevin Williams video](#) broadcast last Sunday. It's worth a watch and it will give you, as if you needed any encouragement, a lot to talk about. We've had a couple of contributions from SAM members this week that should give you a smile and a place to meet and eat. If you have anything to share with all you SAM friends just send it to sam-editor@iam-sheffield.bike. SYSRP (South Yorkshire Safer Roads Partnership/Fire & Rescue) continue their great work in promoting road safety, including safer riding. The internet has been a bit quiet with other news this week. I think it was stunned by the proposed changes to the Highway Code. But I've ferreted out the most interesting bits and you can always tell me if I have missed something. I did discover an old article from Blood Bikers advice on Winter riding that is included. There's a link to a BMW article about its history in motorcycling. Lastly, can shorter riders benefit from 'UpBiker Wedges'? I'm not sure, but what do you think about this item and lots of other interesting stuff too.

Read, enjoy and share. Until next week...

Stay healthy and ride safe, Ed.

SAM News



Saturday morning rides are always very popular - come and join us, 9am every week, at Meadowhall Retail Park Sheffield S9 2YZ... Ride safe!



*Describes most SAM Club members perfectly!
(thanks to SAM Member Richard Longdon for sharing this smile)*

SAM Club member Fran Thompson writes:

"I've recently discovered a new cafe on Blyth Road (A634). It's called Revs and Relics and I called in the other day with Debbie Fulton. It's a great place with lots of historic bikes and memorabilia. Apparently they have been open since 2020, but I have ridden past a few times without realising what it was. At the moment they do food on Mondays, Tuesdays and Saturdays (I think?) Definitely Saturdays anyway. I took a few pictures (below). "

Opening hours from Revs & Relics [Facebook page](#):

Monday	10:00 - 17:00
Tuesday	10:00 - 17:00
Wednesday	10:00 - 17:00
Thursday	10:00 - 17:00
Friday	10:00 - 17:00
Saturday	10:00 - 17:00
Sunday	CLOSED

Fran's pictures





SAM members have you got some news to share? Send it to sam-editor@iam-sheffield.bike and share it with all your SAM Club friends...

SAM Social Media



Disappointing that once again the Government launches a major announcement on transport policy, which ignores motorcycling. The new Highway Code seems set to focus on cycling and walking, doing little to address motorcyclists' vulnerability.

([UK National Motorcyclists Council](#))

Authorities in Europe seem to forget that motorcyclists also are human beings who have families and friends. They have the right to be considered in road safety policy as much as all other road users. ([FEMA](#))

History of road safety,
The Highway Code and
the driving test

Driver licences were first introduced in Britain by the Motor Car Act, 1903, purely as a means of identifying vehicles and their drivers.



All motor vehicles had to be registered, display registration marks and be licensed annually at a cost of 20 shillings (£1).

The fee for the first driving licence, which was obtained over the counter at Post Offices, was 5 shillings (25p).

Failure to sign your driving licence with your 'ordinary signature' could lead to a fine of up to £5. [Read more...](#)

In 1921 there were only 1 million drivers in Britain. By 1939 this figure had risen to 3 million. But it was only during the 1960s, when cars became more affordable, that motoring really took off.



Ready for the off...
(photograph courtesy of Mark Pashley)



Meetings are for club members, observers, associates and ANY biker interested in taking an advanced rider course. Meetings are usually for one of these purposes:

- members take the opportunity to catch up with each other and generally socialise
- observers will be taking their associates out as part of their preparation for the advanced test
- other members will form smaller groups and ride out usually for breakfast somewhere
- Bikers who want to learn about how to become an advanced motorcyclist

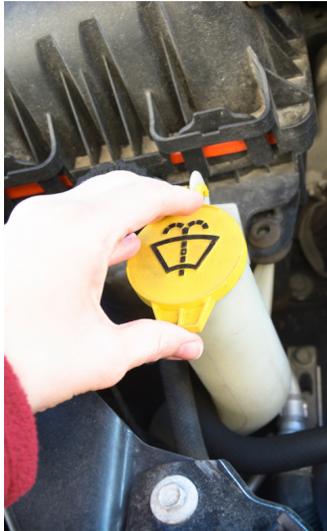
If you'd like to find out more about us, join us at 9am any Saturday throughout the year, at Meadowhall Retail Park, Sheffield S9 2YZ, just off J34, M1.



If you're out & about on your bike this week, please consider carrying our Biker I.C.E. Card. It gives emergency services staff vital information about the right treatment for you, should you be involved in an accident.

<https://iam-sheffield.bike/biker-i-c-e-card/>

South Yorkshire Safer Roads Partnership



MAKING SOUTH YORKSHIRE
ROADS SAFER
www.sysrp.co.uk

Check water levels, coolants, and washer fluid.

Keep those windshields clear - check that the washer fluid is topped up. [See more...](#)

Underinflated or overinflated tyres can adversely affect your braking distance, steering, fuel efficiency and the lifetime of your tyres.

Check your vehicles handbook for optimum inflation measures. [See more...](#)



MAKING SOUTH YORKSHIRE
ROADS SAFER
www.sysrp.co.uk

Check tyre pressure, uneven wear, side wall damage, and tread depth - you must have a minimum of 1.6mm tread depth.



MAKING SOUTH YORKSHIRE
ROADS SAFER
www.sysrp.co.uk

Check yourself. Are you fit to drive? Drink, drugs, fatigue, and emotional state all have an impact on how safely we drive.

Are you fit to drive? Drink, drugs, fatigue, and emotional state all have an impact on how safely we drive. Find out more at sysrp.co.uk

Good Morning South Yorkshire. Heading out on a road trip soon? [See more...](#)



**MAKING SOUTH YORKSHIRE
ROADS SAFER**
www.sysrp.co.uk

Most people agree that getting a good nights sleep, taking regular breaks (every 1-2 hours) and having a good cup of coffee helps them stay focussed and safer at the wheel.



Drivers who don't take risks - we salute you.

<https://youtu.be/qlmzYPacZkw>

Are you a new driver? Been driving for years? Planning a well deserved road trip? Find out more at sysrp.co.uk/news



**MAKING SOUTH YORKSHIRE
ROADS SAFER**
www.sysrp.co.uk

Plan your route before leaving, and identify opportunities for you to take a break if necessary during your journey.

Around the motorcycling web



There's a reason we keep going back for more. For some, it's the freedom, the control, or the ultimate personal or

competitive challenge. It's the need for speed, the thrill of being on the edge and always heading into the unknown. It's pure adventure and the chance to test our character and better ourselves. Or even to prove ourselves against the best. But nothing quite beats the feeling of achievement after overcoming a grueling week, sometimes two, of roadbook racing, which demands more than mere riding ability, testing even the most talented and prepared riders. [Read more...](#)

Building Character: A Father-Daughter Ride to Remember



It's March 2021 and there is a foot of snow outside. The unexpected snowfall had altered my riding plans. As owner of RockyTrax, I was planning to scout a ride that would eventually become a route in a self-guided bike tour. The interruption, however, gave me time to reflect upon a special dual-sport ride I shared with my daughter two springtimes back. [Read more...](#)



On a nearly annual basis the media in this country is inspired to report stories about motorcycle fatalities on our nation's roadways. Invariably, these stories paint motorcycle rider deaths as a product of irresponsible riders who live in states that have some level of helmet choice. Frequently they report statistics that prove their narrative but fail to paint a full and complete picture. The lens with which these stories are reported often takes the

naïve view that crashes can be made "safer" if only bikers somehow followed government helmet mandates. [Read more...](#)

There's plenty to consider when it comes to selling your bike. Do you still have all the paperwork? What condition is it in? How much is it worth? When it's time to upgrade your vehicle, it's important you follow all the right steps to make the most from your sale and handover the vehicle in its best shape. Whether you're selling a moped to upgrade or simply want a new bike, read our handy checklist below. [Read more...](#)



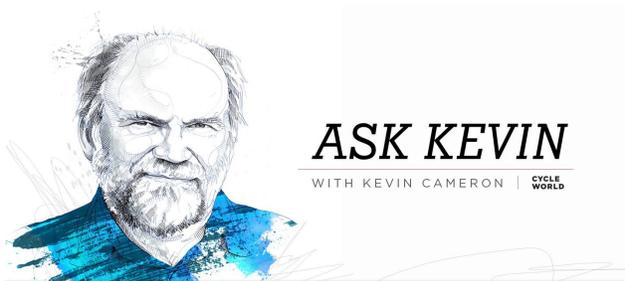
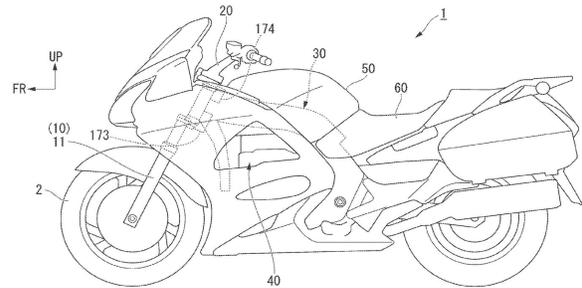
Bikesure rates the UK's best off-road biker tracks

It's hard to beat the thrill of an off-road biker track. Sand, mud, jumps, hill climbs and the occasional fall, all combine for a great day's

adrenaline-filled entertainment. Here the team at Bikesure rate the best off-road biker tracks the country has to offer. [Read more...](#)

Honda Patents Self-Steering Motorcycle

New design features auto-steering tech to minimize crash damage. We've already seen that [Honda](#) can make a bike that can balance on its own and maneuver at walking pace—the [Rider Assist and Rider Assist E concepts](#) demonstrated that a few years ago—but the firm has applied for a patent on a bike that uses a self-steering system in the real world to avoid accidents. [Read more...](#)



Idle Thoughts On Carbs

Racing is about speed. So why do racing carburetors have idle systems? While it's true that there exist carburetors that lack an idle fuel system

separate from their main fuel systems, such as the Lectron, the long-ago Wal Phillips "injector," and Mikuni's short-lived zero-cutaway carb, the great classic racing carburetors such as Amal's GP series and Mikuni's VMs do indeed have idle systems. What some racing carbs do *not* have is a throttle-slide idle stop

screw, whose job it is to hold the slide open just enough to admit airflow sufficient to maintain a steady idle. [Read more...](#)

Yamaha lays out a plan for the future:
New models, new niches and new power sources

Yamaha has outlined a plan that pushes the firm towards carbon neutrality by 2050. That's a long way off but the firm gives strong hints about the models it's working on right now.



Interestingly Yamaha predict we shouldn't be expecting a rush of mainstream electric superbikes anytime soon. The firm only targets 2.6% of riders to adopt electric by 2030, followed by a sharper increase to 20% by 2035 – which doesn't bode well for the [GUK Government's consultation](#) on potentially banning the sale of petrol-powered bikes by 2035. [Read more...](#)



Highway Code to support bikers

The Highway Code has been given an update to be published in the autumn that will create a hierarchy of vehicles designed to protect vulnerable road users.

In the current Highway Code everyone on the roads is given equal responsibility for their own (and each other's) safety, which doesn't really take into account

the danger a HGV poses to a motorcyclist and not the other way around.

In the updated code road users will be instructed that the onus is on less vulnerable users to look out for the interests of more vulnerable users. So HGVs should look out for cars, cars should look out for bikes, bikes for cyclists and cyclists for pedestrians etc. [Read more...](#)

Blood Biker winter riding guide: top tips from the experts

It is sadly time to accept that "proper" winter is finally here and with it comes a barrage of fresh challenges for the dedicated, year-round motorcyclist.



With the nights drawing in at an alarming rate, for many riders it's now dark on the way home from work and - for some - dark on the way into the office, too.

This can be quite a daunting prospect for a new rider and remains challenging for even the most experienced - with the lower temperatures reducing grip levels and fatiguing you more on longer rides. [Read more...](#)



Everything You Need To Know About Motorcycle Fuel

There's more to it than just octane.

For many riders, putting gas in their bike is as simple as rolling up to your nearest gas station,

putting a credit card in the slot, and filling up the tank. For the majority of riders, that's all they need to know, other than what to do when it comes time to put their bike in storage. [Read more...](#)

How To Clean and Lube Your Motorcycle Chain

Cleaning and lubricating your drive chain will extend the working life of your motorcycle drive chain and sprockets. Given that a dirty chain and sprockets will reduce the ability of your engine to efficiently transfer drive power to your rear wheel, sapping the power you enjoy so much. However, the steps on how to clean and lube your motorcycle chain is not always as straightforward as it may seem. Following this guide will ensure your success! [Read more...](#)



Watch BMW Take You Back To The Beginning Of Its Motorcycles

Motor is rad, and so is history. Buckle up, fellow moto history nerds, because BMW Group

Classic has a special treat in store for you today. *Inside BMW Group Classic* is a YouTube series that typically focuses on the company's storied automotive history. That's totally fair, because not every company has as broad and deep a history as that of Bayerische Motoren Werke. [Watch and read...](#)

Short Riders, Do UpBiker Wedges Seem Like A Good Idea To You?

There's another, simpler way that could seriously change your riding life.

Short riders face a particular set of problems. Generally speaking, the shorter your inseam, the more difficult it becomes to ride larger motorcycles because you simply can't reach important things [very easily](#). I know this because I'm a short rider (5'3"-ish) who's been riding for the past 16 years, give or take. [Watch and read...](#)



[more...](#)

Alone: Onward Through the Fog
Sometimes you don't know where you are, the name of the town or even the state. The place is located by days and miles. It is remembered by highway proximity. And by what kind of terrors gripped you there. [Read](#)

PUBLIC CONSULTATION FOR 2022 ISLE OF WIGHT ROAD RACES BEGINS

A six week public consultation process to hammer out the details and timings of the inaugural Isle of Wight Road Races is to begin next week. AFTER false starts enforced by the global pandemic, motorcycle road racing is set to take place on the isle of Wight, as a public consultation into the running of the event begins. Shortly after being officially announced in 2020, the global pandemic really took hold, immediately throwing the first running of the event into jeopardy. Due to take place in October this year, it was hardly surprising that in [February this year](#), the Diamond Races was officially postponed until 2022.



MIRROR, SIGNAL, MANOEUVRE: HOW TO OVERTAKE ON A MOTORCYCLE

Overtaking other vehicles on a bike is just one of the many positives of riding a motorcycle. Here's how to nail an overtake. OVERTAKING other vehicles out on the road, when done correctly, is one of the many and varied ways that us bikers save time and ease congestion on the UK's roads. Done incorrectly through and overtaking could become dangerous and, on occasion, an illegal act. Here's how to prevent the latter! [Read more...](#)

Part One: Highway Code Confusion

Blog post posted on 29/07/21 | 0 x 

[Advice >](#)

Changes to the Highway Code are imminent and one of the changes is to promote Walking and Cycling but how familiar are you with the existing rules

and guidance?

IAM RoadSmart has taken part in the inaugural meeting of a new publicity committee dedicated to clear communications for all road users of the new 'hierarchical' changes.

The consultation outcome should be published soon, followed by legal changes laid before parliament and then, following approval by MPs, these should all become law early in 2022. [Read more...](#)

Opening doors without checking first

Do you always check to make sure the road is clear before opening your door? Not just your mirrors but the surrounding areas. Despite the Highway Code stating that you MUST check before opening your car door, this rule is often ignored and is to blame for thousands of accidents every year. Do you remember being taught about

Dutch Reach by your driving instructor?

Part Two: Highway Code Confusion

Blog post posted on 29/07/21 | 0 x 

[Advice >](#)

Dutch Reach, is not currently included in the Highway Code, despite excitement over recent years that it might be added. We are still waiting. However, Rule 239 says you MUST ensure you do not hit anyone when opening your door. [Read more...](#)



According to a [recent survey](#) there are many reasons to get stressed when driving or riding. As traffic gets heavier with the ease of restrictions what are the things that are getting your blood pressure rising? In this

article we address the top 10 and how to avoid them, reduce them or prepare for them.

Tips and Hints by Richard Gladman, Head of Driving & Riding Standards & Product Development for IAM RoadSmart. [Read more...](#)

Can you remember the last time you checked your tyres? One in five motorway breakdowns are caused by problems with a tyre.

Driving with incorrectly inflated tyres – even as little as 10% below or above – makes your braking distance longer, your vehicle harder to steer, uses more fuel, more quickly, and shortens the lifespan of your tyres, forcing earlier and more frequent replacement.

Before you set off this morning, check your tyre pressure! [Read more...](#)





Recently passed but nervous to drive?

Our Young Driver Assessment is a relaxed, 1-hour session specifically designed for drivers aged 17-26.

You can sit in your car with one of our experts and focus on the areas of driving you find most challenging.

To find out more, please visit: www.iamroadsmart.com/YDA



Our Young Driver Assessment can help settle those behind-the-wheel nerves. [Read more...](#)

There has been a significant rise in the number of newly qualified drivers losing their driving licence within the first two years of passing their test, reveals a Freedom of Information (FOI) request by IAM RoadSmart.

Significant rise in newly qualified drivers losing their licence

Posted on 30/07/21 | 0 x

The worrying finding by the UK's largest independent road safety charity shows disqualifications have risen sharply among this group in 2018, 2019 and 2020 to 5,401, 7,484 and 7,975 respectively.

Driving without insurance is one of the top reasons newly qualified drivers are falling foul of the Road Traffic (New Drivers) Act, with more than 12,000 caught driving without insurance documents since 2018.

“Not a track day!” – riding Thruxton on a Zero S

Blog post posted on 02/08/21 | 0 x 

[Members Submission >](#)

Once a wartime airfield, the historic Thruxton motor racing circuit prides itself on being among the UK’s longest, at

2.4 miles. Also the fastest — mainly because of the fabulously long and floaty Church Corner, which describes a long arc leading into a super-fast straight and winds up with a chicane just before the pit lane. Zero motorcycles have a far shorter pedigree, but they can lay claim to a piece of history, as the first electric motorcycle brand to survive more than a decade in the international market, offering a proper production line and dealer networks. Now you’d expect the meeting of these two motoring institutions to be some PR-facing occasion where young speed freaks get their knees down on a few of Zero’s 110bhp SR/Fs (as they did recently at Luna Seca, California). [Read more...](#)

Two members who recently ‘passed’ their tests took the time to speak to Richard Hewitt, Chairman of IAM RoadSmart's Worcester &

Hereford Advanced Motorcyclists, about their F1rst qualification. One member didn’t feel they had quite achieved a F1rst; and the other not understanding why he’d received the accolade. [Read more...](#)

What makes a F1rst Class Pass?

Blog post posted on 29/07/21 | 0 x 

[Members Submission >](#)



Want to become a safer rider? Our Advanced Riding Course can help. The roads can be a dangerous place, even for the most alert and cautious riders. While you can never be 100% safe, becoming an advanced rider will equip you with the skills to correctly anticipate, and plan for, the hazards you encounter on your rides. Find out more at:

<https://www.iamroadsmart.com/courses/advanced-rider>

Take care and ridesafe

Paul Conway (on behalf of the SAM Committee) Sheffield Advanced Motorcyclists

Charity no. 1089671 IAM Group no. 4152

Extra bits

- Next SAM Committee Meeting: TBA
- Next SAM Club Night: TBA
- Autumn Breakfast Meet: October 2021 - details to follow.
- Gift Aid Form: Gift Aid allows UK charities to claim back the basic rate tax already paid on donations. This means we can claim back from the government on your behalf 25p for every £1 donated, boosting the value of the donation by a quarter. Use this link to fill in the form on the SAM website and send it to treasurer@iam-sheffield.bike.

- Not getting your SAM emails? If any member is NOT getting SAM Club emails, first check your junk folder, then send a request to sameditor@iam-sheffield.bike. Pass on this message to any members who are complaining about not getting their SAM Club emails.
- Changing your email address: If you change your email address then let me know so that we can keep you informed of all the exciting things
- happening in your club.
- IAM RoadSmart member discounts: SAM members, are you making the most of your IAM RoadSmart membership? There are lots of discount savings that can offset your IAM RoadSmart and SAM membership fees, so grab a bargain TODAY!
- Share with your friends: Know someone who is interested in biking? Why not share this SAM Update and help them to be an advanced rider.
- Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) & [Instagram](#).

What are we about...

The Sheffield and District Advanced Motorcyclists (SAM) are an independent charity that provides public education, and training in advanced motorcycling skills. Its aims are to increase public awareness and understanding of motorcycling and the advanced knowledge and skill skills required to ride safely on public roads. It is an affiliate group of the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM RoadSmart) and works closely with statutory and non-statutory organisations in promoting public information and education on motorcyclists and motorcycling in its designated region. SAM's volunteer motorcyclists are all trained to and maintain national standards of advanced motorcycle riding. They provide ongoing guidance and support to prepare motorcyclists for UK nationally recognised advanced motorcycling tests. SAM works closely with other charitable groups who require advanced motorcyclists to support public events, NHS dispatch rider services and many other socially responsible activities. SAM provides an essential public service in encouraging, promoting and

marketing improved safety on public roads in the UK and internationally through IAM RoadSmart. SAM also has a very active social events programme that encourages its members, family, friends and the public, to both support the charity's socially responsible objectives and enjoy the camaraderie and support provided by the club.