

West Sussex Advanced Motorcyclists Newsletter - February 2019



Are you helping to save the Planet?

Last month I mentioned that under the IAM Eco-Riding guidelines, if you're riding along a NSL, cruising at or near the limit (either 60 or 70) then you should be in 6th gear..... and did it cause some comments. So this month I thought I would cover the other Eco-Riding guidelines.

Automatic Start-stop technology is now common on most cars, but not on motorcycles, so it is down to the rider to turn off the engine when it's not necessary to keep it running. The easiest scenario to deal with are level crossing gates at a railway. If you are in a queue, waiting for the gates to come up, then hit the kill switch straight away and stop the engine. When the lights stop flashing and the gates come up, then start your engine so you are ready to pull away. No excuses, no question, just do it.



So what about temporary traffic lights? If you arrive as the lights were turning red, then I would definitely turn off the engine, and if the lights were already red and I was the 3rd vehicle or more in the queue, I would also turn the engine off. What you need to be careful here is not being an annoyance to other road users by holding up drivers when pulling away.

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Diary for February 2019

Sunday 10th February 2019

WSAM Monthly Meeting

Today is our monthly gathering at Dial Post Village Hall, RH13 8NJ. During the winter months the committee will meet at 10.00am for about 30 minutes, so from 10.30am onwards all are welcome for tea, coffee, biscuits and a natter.

Wednesday 20th February 2019

WSAM Nosh Nite at the [Worlds End Pub, Patching](#) BN13 3UQ from 7.00pm

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Everyone else has been waiting too, so as soon as the lights turn green (and it's safe to proceed) you should swiftly be on your way. Delaying your departure by having to start your engine will need to be avoided wherever possible, so you'll need to use your brain and experience. If they were turning red as you arrive you know that there will be a significant wait and by watching the other vehicles coming through, and also seeing if they are 2, 3 or 4 way lights.



If you're not sure where you are in the sequence and you are right at the front with vehicles behind, after the last car comes through you start your engine again. Then if more vehicles come through and it is obvious you aren't going anywhere, turn off the engine again.

The other area which helps eco-riding is in your planning. There is no point accelerating in a 'brisk and business like manner' if you can see that just up the road you'll be slowing down again. Not only does this waste fuel, but also wastes brake pads, looks messy, and lets the Examiner know you haven't planned. Again, raise your vision, use your head, blend it with your experience and plan.

Welcome to WSAM

A warm welcome to the following new members this month.

Gavin Wright - Climping
Dale Pearson - Henfield
Ian Cosgrove - Emsworth
Gary Wood - Horsham
Seamus Fenton - Hurstpierpoint
Francis Kosek - Haslemere
Steve Larkin - Cophthorne
Mark Bailey - West Grinstead

More woes for BMW

Up to a thousand BMW bikes sold in the UK last year with spoked rims could be at risk of multiple spokes working loose, leading to compromised wheel integrity.

The issue also affects all spoked-rim BMW R nineT Scrammer and BMW R nineT Urban G/S models and any wheels sold as accessories if built in the same February-June 2018 manufacturing batch.

A BMW spokesperson has confirmed that all UK dealers are aware of the problem, and that a technical service bulletin was issued in October 2018 instructing them to check all affected bikes at their next service. While each case will be considered on individual merit, wheels with seven or more loose spokes will be replaced with a new wheel under warranty.



But some BMW owners whose bike hasn't been serviced since the campaign was issued may be unaware of the problem. In that instance, we would urge all owners of bikes built within the affected period to have their bike checked immediately.

There has not been a recall issued, but BMW have told MCN that they consulted the DVSA over the issue, and that no recall was issued "as the potential issue is not safety critical," adding: "BMW knows of no accident or catastrophic wheel failure caused by loose spokes." There have been some cases reported on social media and forums, ranging from loose spokes to claims of wheel failures, but BMW add: "A loose spoke, or number of loose spokes, may translate to a change in ride noticeable to a rider.



"Should this occur, a rider should schedule a free inspection at their BMW dealer. There is no possibility of a critical failure due to loose spokes."

Many of the affected bikes were fixed before they were even delivered to their first owners, but a significant number were delivered prior to the service campaign taking effect. BMW say the issue "was caused by the application of a specific coating applied to the spoke nipples, which had the potential to cause insufficient spoke tension during initial tightening."

It's this that has led to spokes working loose in some cases, with owners reporting instances occurring within the running-in period, long before the first service was due. "The manufacturing process has now been changed to eliminate this potential issue," according to BMW.

Members Nosh Nites 2019

Three more dates have been added to the WSAM Calendar for the very successful Nosh Nites, which will see them extend well into 2019. All WSAM members and their partners are welcome to attend and although they are titled 'Nosh Nites', if you would rather just come along for a drink and a natter, that's fine too.

If you know of any other venues that would be both suitable and welcoming, please let Helen, or anyone else on the Committee know. Thanks

Weds 20th Feb, Worlds End Pub, Patching.
BN13 3QU from 7.00pm

Weds 13th March, Kings Arms, Fernhurst.
GU27 3HA from 7.00pm

Weds 17th April, Black Horse Pub, Findon.
BN14 0SX from 7.00pm

Members trip May 2019

There are still a couple of places available, but the hotel need us to confirm numbers pretty soon. Have a read, and if you do fancy coming, please let us know ASAP

Conscious that they would like to organise a Members trip away, the Committee have arranged a 3 day/ 2 night break based at the Metropole Hotel in Llandrindod Wells, Wales. See hotel details [here](#).

Making your own way to Wales and beginning on Friday 3rd May 2019 at 5.30pm, this is being promoted as a

'Weekend for Members who enjoy a safe, progressive ride.'

We are offering 20 spaces to Members and arrange a supervision ratio of 2 Members to 1 Observer. On Sunday afternoon, there will be a group ride back to Sussex for everyone who wishes to come back 'en bloc'. If you wish to make your own way home, you are free to do so. The cost of this weekend will be £174.00 each which will cover 2 nights Dinner, Bed & Breakfast and include all the Observation and training sessions.



If you would you would like to join us , please forward your £100.00 deposit to Rob Bright, with the reference Wales 2019 followed by your initials. So for example my payment reference would be 'Wales2019MW'.

At the same time please email both Rob & myself so we can add your name to the list.

Should you have any questions, please contact either myself, or any member of the Training Team.

Deposit Details

The bank Sort Code is: 40 43 48

Account Number: 41229621

Ref for these payments: Wales 2019??

Amount: £100.00

Then please email myself and Rob

rob.bright@btinternet.com

max@larryland.co.uk

Officially the cut-off for confirming with the hotel is 31st January, but we have a little slack, so if you would like to snap up one of the last spaces, please confirm with us ASAP.

Moto Gymkhana, anyone interested?

One of our Observers, John Moore, posted this on Facebook, so I thought I would share.

Anyone interested.?.....there are very real steps happening to create a club in the South East...I did an experience day last year and then entered the final competition last year and thoroughly enjoyed myself so don't think you have to be a pro to do this....I am going up for the first competition in March if anyone road fancies coming along to compete or just watch. See their website [here](#).



Are Ducati going electric???

The future is electric," says Claudio Domenicali - Ducati CEO

Ducati is planning to build an electric bike. We don't know when - the company's officials are still cautious in their statements - but they admitted that Ducati's first electric motorcycle will debut in 2020 or 2021. "The future is electric", declared Claudio Domenicali at a student event at the University of Bologna. Domenicali is also saying that Ducati is not far from starting production on an electric motorcycle model.



This is not the first news concerning an electric motorcycle from Ducati. They guys at Asphalt&Rubber are quoting another Ducati official - Edouard Lotthe (Managing Director of Ducati Western Europe) - he stated, about a year and a half ago, that an electric model, as well as a scooter, are in the works.



The new electric bike will be probably based on VW Group's electric technology - the car giant is planning to electrify all its brands in the near future. So, with some help from the VW R&D it won't be such a tough job for Ducati to build an e-motorcycle. However there were those rumours about KTM buying Ducati - this would probably change the plans.

The latest big name to enter the electric Society is Harley-Davidson who just announced the price and specs for their Live-Wire machine. Also, Piaggio Group unveiled the electric Vespa scooter, BMW Motorrad has the C-Evolution big-scooter (using BMW i3 battery), and KTM has the Freeride E-XC.

And Finally.....

We first meet Colin Furze back in 2011 when he set the Guinness World Record for the longest motorbike. Don't remember, see it [here](#). Since then he's gone on to do similarly crazy things, and [this](#) is his most recent.

The second one has nothing really to do with motorcycling, but I thought it was a brilliant way to visualize a concept. Ever since I was a young boy, I understood what this 'box' did, and why it was so important, but could never fully understand of visualize how it actually worked. It might be a 1930's film, but it did the trick for me. See it [here](#)

That's all folks.

Max