

West Sussex Advanced Motorcyclists

Newsletter - May-June 2019



Black or White

Quite often in life, things aren't black or white. There is nearly always black at one extreme, white at the other and a lot of grey in between. In the IAM, if you hear someone saying "it depends", invariably this is describing that large grey area. But thankfully the law and the Highway Code are at hand to reduce the amount of ambiguity (grey area) to a minimum, and the one I'm going to talk about today are solid white lines.

The law is quite clear about solid white lines that occupy the road to the offside of your vehicle. Unless turning right, passing a stationary vehicle, passing a road maintenance vehicle or pedal cycle doing less than 10 mph (16kmh), directed to do so, or in an emergency, no part of you or your vehicle should cross or straddle the line. It's the last part I want to draw your attention to, '*no part of you or your vehicle should cross or straddle the line*' and use it to help explain the safety aspect that's been written into the law.



When I'm out with my associates I simply tell them that the solid white line is a brick wall 12ft high and not even the end of their handlebar is allowed to scrape that imaginary wall. "But surely it's ok as long as our tyres don't cross the line?" they ask. No it's not, because if another bike came the other way doing the same thing, the bars would clash and you would come off.

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Diary for June 2019

Sunday 9th June 2019 10.00am WSAM Monthly Meeting

Today is our monthly gathering at Dial Post Village Hall, RH13 8NJ. The committee meet at 9.00am for an hour, and then after 10.00am everyone is welcome for tea, coffee, biscuits and a natter.

Following today's meeting, there may or may not be an official ride (see page 3)

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Black or White, continued.....

The solid white lines are there to put a physical space between two lanes to protect us and other road users. So, as long as no part of you or your vehicle crosses or straddles the line, and it's safe to do so, yes you are perfectly entitled to overtake.

A similar mindset should be used with mini roundabouts. Here we have to imagine that there is a 12ft column of bricks and again, no part of you or your vehicle should touch this column, unless your vehicle is not physically able to navigate the mini r-a-b due to it's size or turning circle. (not normally the case for motorbikes).



But this is where we have to be careful.

Unfortunately other road users aren't used to people obeying the law at mini r-a-b's, so if there are other vehicles there that could mis-interpret your road position and direction (for example you are turning right, but instead of riding across the mini r-a-b, you initially go left around the outside) be sure to make allowances for other road users and always be able to stop safely if required.

Welcome to WSAM

A warm welcome to the following new members this month.

Sarina Gallagher - Littlehampton

Alan Kinsella - Chichester

Brian Collins - Chichester

Rob Rattray - Shoreham

Test Passes at WSAM

Congratulations to the following people for passing their test.

Mark Kelly (Pass) - Obs Helen Seller

Gerald Lettres (F1RST) - Obs Rob Bright

Karen Petroulas (F1RST) - Obs Helen Seller

Steve Fordham (F1RST) - Obs Alan Cuthell

Waterproofing your boots and gloves

Last week I decided to re-proof my gloves and the liners to my boots. But how do leave them to dry without handling them and getting in a bit of a mess.

Simple, get a kitchen chair, take it outside and place some clingfilm, plastic bag, or newspaper over each of the legs. Then take your freshly re-proofed items and place them over each leg. And after a dry sunny afternoon you're sorted. Simple!



Don't forget to pay your Road Tax

Over the past few years, we've all seen cars, vans and other vehicles with a bright yellow clamp because the owner had not paid their road tax, but never have I seen a bike..... I suppose because I never thought you could clamp a bike.

Well think again, on my way home tonight I saw my first clamped bike. You have been warned.



Forthcoming Events

June club rideout needs a volunteer to take any members on a rideout following the monthly meeting on Sunday 9th June. It doesn't need to be any great distance and could be a local run. If you are happy to volunteer please either post on facebook or email me at johneroom@hotmail.com with the details.

The July rideout on Sunday 14th July will leave Dial Post Village hall at 10.30am, for an hours local ride out round some cracking roads, finishing at Max's diner near Hors-ham for brunch/lunch. Check out their menu [here](#), let me warn you Max's Special Breakfast is only for the bravehearted, or perhaps you prefer the American Waffle breakfast?



The Event will be posted on WSAM Face-book page so please register your interest or email me on johneroom@hotmail.com so I can reserve a table for us.

Weekend away.... date for your diary

WSAM are offering a weekend trip down to Dorset on weekend of 19th/20th October. More details to follow but put it in your diary and if you are on facebook you can register your interest on the WSAM events page.

Slow riding

The first slow riding session went well on the 16th May with the next session due on the 30th May. This is currently fully booked but please let John Moore know if you are interested in case a space becomes free. You can message me on Facebook or email me at johneroom@hotmail.com



Biker Biker Step up Patrols

Anti-theft volunteer group [Biker Biker](#) have stepped up their patrol and recovery work, returning bikes to their rightful owners completely free of charge. Working with Knights Recovery, a Kent-based independent recovery service, Biker Biker have saved hundreds of owners hefty official fees.

If you have a bike stolen and the police recover it for you, they charge £150 plus £10 per day storage – something Biker Biker feel is wrong. "Doing these free recoveries is so important to us," says Shane, Biker Biker's founder. "We are bikers at the end of the day and just want to see people reunited with their pride and joy."



Since Christmas Biker Biker, have even caught some thieves red handed, and the group have upped their recoveries considerably, now on average two a week. The money to support the group and their recoveries comes from fund raising at biker events. They have also increased their proactive work, attending BSB meets, the Southend Shakedown and the 1066 run to help raise awareness of their work. The group also hand out advice to fellow bikers about a range of theft deterrents they say really work.

"The police have been very supportive of what we do," adds Shane. "There's a few people out there now setting up similar things but they're not doing it properly. We're completely above board. The best thing that these people could do is come out with us to increase our support."



One of their most recent recoveries was a custom painted Ducati Multistrada 1000 which was stolen last year. The owner had rebuilt it with this father and spent considerable time and money adding the tricolore paintscheme.

Ducati launch electric bike

Ducati's latest MIG-RR e-mtb is now available to test ride at 136 European dealers, with slots bookable on a new specially-designed website.

Priced at €6250 (around £5412), the first bikes began arriving in dealerships in late January, with test rides now available through www.ebike.ducati.com/en/dt-locator.

UK dealerships hosting tests can be found in Manchester and Crawley.

Tapping into a growing segment of the market, designed to allow adventurous cyclists to explore previously unreachable climes on tough off-road terrains, details of the machine were first revealed to the public at Eicma 2018.



The MIG-RR is produced by Thok Ebikes, who are experts in both down hill mountain biking and BMX. Also involved in the project were Ducati's Design Centre and Aldo Drudi's D-Perf (Drudi is the man behind Valentino Rossi's iconic crash helmet designs). To help the bike conquer the rough stuff, it uses FOX Factory Kashima suspension with 170mm of travel at the front and 160mm at the rear. Weighing just 22.5kg in a size M with no pedals, there's also a trick set of carbon fibre Renthal handlebars, Mavic wheels, four-caliper Shimano Saint brakes and an 11-speed Shimano XT gear set.

Powering the MIG-RR is a 250 Watt Shimano Steps E8000 motor weighing just 2.8kg – making it one of the lightest lumps in this market. Producing a staggering 51.6ftlb of torque (that's more than a Yamaha R6) it's powered by a 504 Watt-hour battery positioned underneath the down tube of the frame.

See the promotional video [here](#).

And Finally.....

Hmm, not sure about you, but when I first saw this I was very impressed, but when he pulled up on the opposite beach, hmm, I was less impressed. See what you think, the clip is [here](#).

The second video demonstrates beautifully that the size and the looks are far less important than what you can do with it. Let me know what you think. Clip is [here](#).

That's all folks.

Max