

Well here we are, the start of this years biking season and what a glorious start it's been. The first days of good weather after such a hard winter are always well received.
This issue we've got news of a Yorkshire Bike show and some info on getting yourself ready for the first few rides of the year.

If you've got any comments, suggestions or enquiries about an event or you just want a natter please feel free to contact us at; qualityyorkshireriders@gmail.com or ring 0113 24 75804.

Dates for the Diary:

General:

30th April – 2nd May, Into the Valley Rally, South Dalton
9th May – Heart of England Bike Show, Warwickshire
15th & 16th May - BMF Show, East of England Showground, Peterborough.

West Yorkshire BikeSafe Dates:

22/04/2010	12/06/2010
01/05/2010	26/06/2010
15/05/2010	03/07/2010 LO
22/05/2010	10/07/2010
27/06/2010	24/07/2010
29/05/2010	27/07/2010

(LO = Ladies Only)

Contact PC Iain Cook to book a place on wyp@bikesafe.co.uk or call 01924 293055

Humberside BikeSafe Dates:

2nd May	20th June
8th May	26th June
23rd May	3rd July
6th June	18th July

To book your place ring 07989 396 795

North Yorkshire BikeSafe Dates:

23rd May	20th June
18th July	8th August

Call 01904 618870 or email: northyorkshirepolice@bikesafe.co.uk to book.

Before you go:

You've probably already had the bike out the garage at least once this year, unless you've been stranded somewhere thanks to the Icelandic volcano, but just in case you haven't here's a few things worth checking before you head out for that first ride of the year, or even the second or third…

- Tyres. If the bike has been stood for any length of time they may have lost some pressure so start there. Have a look over the both tyres for tread levels (1mm is legal minimum for bikes – look for the wear markers…) and any damage e.g. punctures, cracks, deformation. If you've ridden over winter have they squared off? While you're there go over the wheels too, damaged rims or loose spokes can also cause problems.

- Brakes. These may have seized or corroded over winter if left unattended. And it's surprisingly easy to think 'I'll replace those pads in the spring' and then forget all about them! If you've got rubber lines check those too for cracks, leaks or bulging under pressure (you may need an assistant for this, they can bring you out a cuppa on the way…) and it's worth doing a rolling brake check when you first get off the driveway.

- Fluids. Oil, water, brakes, fuel. Anything that can leak should leave a tell tale pool on the garage floor but on occasion they can hide inside the faring so it's work checking over before setting off. Slow fuel leaks can evaporate before dripping off the bike.

- Chain. Inspect, clean, oil and adjust the chain as necessary. Simples! Surface rust from a winter in a damp garage should come off with a rough cloth but serious corrosion may well warrant a replacement. Chains which part company with the bike while on the move can lunch gearboxes and engine casings and even remove a foot if you're very unlucky.

- Electrics. Bulbs and horn are the basics which can fail without you noticing but on occasion other more expensive items such as immobilisers and alarms can be problematic. Give everything which is supposed to work a check.

- You. Yes it's a cliché but you will be rusty if you've not ridden for a few months so take a while to get used to being back in the saddle. Even if you've ridden all winter you may find that the more adventurous lean angles required for twisty roads take you a bit by surprise at first compared to the more upright commuting you've got used to. In addition there are a lot more potholes and associated debris on the roads this year and they're more often than not on the riding line so your favourite routes might not be quite as you remember them! Riding requires high levels of concentration, observation, anticipation and decision making. Keep your brain in shape to cope with all of this by keeping it hydrated (tea) and giving it energy (like a bacon sarnie...) but water and fruit work just as well. Heading out for a 3 hour blat round the dales is bit demanding on both the brain and the bum so consider starting off with something slightly shorter and working up to longer runs.

  Check your kit too, has your lid got a bit loose? Is the stitching on your gloves still together? Can you still fit into your leathers?!

  It maybe worth getting a riding check up if you've been off of the bike for a while, the IAM and RoSPA do short check ups and most rider training schools will be happy to give you a refresher. In addition there's police Bikesafe courses which run in most areas.

  Where-ever and whatever you ride this year, enjoy.

Bikesafe Show:

South Yorkshire Police is proud to announce that they will be the hosts of the 2010 National BikeSafe Motorcycle Show being held at Sheffield Arena on Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 June. The event is completely free with free entry and free parking.

The National BikeSafe Motorcycle Show sponsored by **Get On** offers something for all bikers. In addition to motorcycle attractions, leading manufacturers and trade stands there will be an opportunity for every rider to take a free 45-minute ride-out with an advanced police motorcyclist. Find out more on the show's dedicated website **www.bikesafeshow.co.uk** and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.





As well as being the main sponsor of the National BikeSafe Motorcycle Show the Get On team will also be attending and offering non-riders and riders who want to get back into motorcycling the opportunity to take a free ride in their controlled environment.

BikeSafe is a national initiative run by UK police forces to promote better biking, improve the safety of motorcyclists on the roads and increase rider enjoyment through creating better riders. Make sure you are part of the National BikeSafe Motorcycle Show 2010 and register your attendance to receive information on how to enter our free prize draw to win a brand new Honda CBF600N!

If you've got any queries about the event please get in touch via the contact page of the BikeSafe website at www.bikesafeshow.co.uk/contact

Potholes:

As you may well have noticed the potholes have been breeding furiously over the winter months and have colonised almost every stretch of tarmac in someway. It's not a lot of fun dodging them and while it's easy to swear into your crash helmet as you crash through yet another one it requires a little more effort to actually pick up the phone or go 'on-line' and report them. But that's what we need to do.

It's all well and good complaining that the council don't fill them in but unless someone reports them they don't know they're there. And having a truck driving about with a load of runny tarmac on just looking for them isn't the most productive and cost efficient way of dealing with the problem either. So, below are the contact details for a number of local highways departments, take note of them and get those potholes reported. It might not be you that hits it, but it might be your best mate…

North Yorkshire:

0845 8727374 or email:
highways.northyorkshire@northyorks.gov.uk

Kirklees:

0800 731 8765 or email:
highways.ross@kirklees.gov.uk

Wakefield:

0845 8506506 or email:
Highways@wakefield.gov.uk

Bradford:

01274 431000 or email:
www.bradford.gov.uk

Leeds:

0113 2224407 or email:
highways@leeds.gov.uk

Calderdale:

0845 2457000
engineeringservices@calderdale.gov.uk

Alternatively find the right website and report them through the official form – all councils should have one on-line. Or go to http://www.potholes.co.uk/ Until they are all filled in (stop laughing at the back) look as far ahead as you can and get in position early to avoid them and to avoid having to swerve around. Be prepared to change your line too as they are prone to appearing on the riding line.

Name the Bike!



No-one correctly identified the last 'Name that Bike' picture as a Suzuki Bandit; I must admit it was a tricky one.

I've tried to make this months a little easier and hopefully someone will get this one.

If you know what this is then let me know by the end of May and if you're correct and the first name pulled out of the hat you'll win a copy of the IAM's new book 'How to be a better rider'.

There's no cash alternative, the judges decision is final etc etc.