

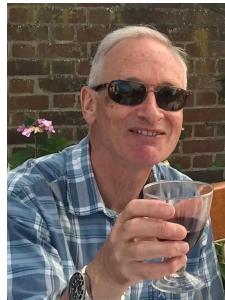


Suffolk Riders



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Chairman's Update.

It's been a month of mixed emotions. On the upside the weather finally turned warmer, and at last I took the linings out of my trousers and jacket, but you can have too much of a good thing! I hate to complain about good weather, but riding home with Karl from a visit to la Hogue farm shop on the

16th it was 29 degrees in the shade and too humid to be pleasant, even at 70mph on the A14.

Also on the good news front in June we held two selection days for new tutors-in-training, and congratulations to Clare, Ian, Martin, Steve, Richard and David for being selected to start training as tutors. We will be starting their training on Saturday 3rd July with a classroom session on some theory, and then get out onto the roads to put it all into practice. I have been a tutor for over 6 years now and I find it extremely satisfying to watch an associate's standard of riding – and confidence – steadily improve until they are ready for the RoSPA test.

On the downside it was a big disappointment to the Committee to have to cancel our planned group night on Monday 28th at Needham Market Community Centre. We were all looking forward to meeting up with all the members of the group over a beer or a cup of tea, and especially to meet the new members who have joined us over the last year during Covid lockdown when it was not possible to meet up in person.

However it was not to be. We are now anxiously looking as the rising Covid cases and wondering whether July 19 really will be 'freedom day',

or another damp squid. The Committee met in June and decided the situation was too fluid to make arrangements for a meeting in July. It should have been the annual treasure hunt, so apologies to all those of you who were looking forward to hunting for the answers to clues about Suffolk villages!

Many of you will know I was hoping to lead a group to the Dolomites in September. I haven't cancelled the hotels yet, but the signs are not looking good, especially for a route that was planned to go through five countries including Germany. In the meanwhile, plan B is to go to Wales. I've never ridden my bike in Wales and am looking forward to filling in the gaps in my UK riding. The roads look great and at least they speak English (well most of them anyway...) Safe riding everybody. *Phil.*

June Events

Fish & chip run to Aldeburgh - 23/6/ 21 David Wood

After an entertaining ride along Suffolk twisty roads, fish and chips in sunshine at Aldeburgh under watchful eyes of locals. Chris, Clare, Jeff, Kevin, Neil and Mike



Group Training Ride 20th June 2021 – Sizewell Tea Hut, Farther's Day! - Stephen W.

Well, a much reduced turn out for our second Group Training Ride this year, maybe the weather had something to do with it? It promised to be wet, but in fact the water was on the roads and not falling from the sky! We picked probably the most challenging route to ride in wet conditions. If you have ridden around the Hollesley peninsular you will know how much sand is deposited on the lanes by the many tractors, and you will know that this turns into silt after heavy rain. So progress was measured and everyone was watching the road for standing water and slippery silt! But advanced riders do not stay at home if it rains, we need to practice in all conditions, and examiners don't cancel tests if the road is wet!

So the five brave souls who turned out did well, and no doubt added to their reserve of skills to draw on 'when the going gets tough'. All appeared to enjoy themselves, and yes there were some puddles...well floods would be more accurate! The biggest and best of all was on the road to Blaxhall, 100 yards or so of dirty, deep water, verge to verge! New associate Alan Huett lead our group fearlessly through the muddy 'soup' on his K1600GT, which for the time being became an adventure bike as he stood up on the pegs in true off road style! We all followed behind, safe in the knowledge that if there was an unseen pothole Alan would find it first!

I should have stopped to take a photo (but, no one dared stop!) However, I do have some pics of the Sizewell Tea Hut after we had all dried out! Sunshine guaranteed for the next GTR!





Welcome!

A warm welcome to the following new members who have joined in June. We hope to see you at club nights, group training and social rides. From experience, it can be a little daunting to join an established organisation where members have known each other for some times. Why not start with the group training rides, introduce yourself to likeminded members, learn from experience riders as well as other associates and just enjoy yourself. Perhaps you might even be tempted to write a short biography for this newsletter, so we can learn a little more about you. *Ed.*

Andy Cletheroe Jan Scott David Ward



CONGRATULATIONS!

A very 'well done' to **Neville Goodchild** and **Steve and Catherine Valentine** who have all passed their 3-year test, achieving a gold standard. Very experienced riders: if ever you get a chance to ride with them take it up and learn by osmosis. *Ed.*

July Events

Ride to Tydd Gote Pumping Station: Wednesday 14th July - Steve Last

Internal Drainage Boards (IDB) manage water levels in an area, known as an internal drainage district, where there is a special need for drainage. IDBs undertake works to reduce flood risk to people and property and manage water levels for agricultural and environmental needs within their district. There are 112 IDBs in England whose districts cover 1.2 million hectares (9.7% England's landmass). They play a key role in reducing flood risk to over 600,000 people and nearly 900,000 properties. They operate and maintain over 500 pumping stations, 22,000 km of watercourse, 175 automatic weed screen cleaners and numerous sluices and weirs. See https://www.ada.org.uk/member_type/idbs.

We have arranged for a visit to a pumping station operated by North Level District IDB. This will be an opportunity to learn more about IDBs in general and about the engineering equipment and challenges to manage water levels and prevent flooding.

We will have a guided tour of [Tydd Gote pumping station](#), near to Wisbech, which is situated on North Level Main Drain and pumps excess water into Foul Anchor Sluice, where it then flows into the River Nene. Major improvements were made in the period 2007 to 2010, installing four Scania DC16 diesel engines to drive the pumps which can move 200 tons of water each per minute. In

addition to these four diesels there are two electric motor driven pumps.

As North Level IDB staff are available only on weekdays, the visit is scheduled for Wednesday 14th July when up to 10 people can be given a guided tour in two groups of five. We shall leave Stowmarket Tesco at 9am to arrive in time for the start of the tour at 11am.



After the visit, we shall go to a nearby café for lunch before return ride home.

To reserve your place, please email [Steve Last](#).



Biker Down Courses

There's a tendency for bikers to ride in pairs or groups and if one is involved in an accident, the first person on the scene is usually a biker. Would you know what to do if you found yourself in the same situation? It would cost you only 3.5 hours at a course near you and could prove time well spent.

If you are interested (*go on, you know you should Ed.*) visit the website of the [Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service](#), and book a slot.

Upcoming Biker Down Courses in Suffolk

Course date: Saturday 24 July

Location: Lowestoft South Fire Station

Time: 10am to 1:30pm

Course date: Monday 9 August

Location: Ipswich East Fire Station

Time: 6pm to 9:30pm

Course date: Saturday 21 August

Location: Bury St. Edmunds Fire Station

Time: 10am to 1:30pm

Course date: Saturday 11 September

Location: Ipswich East Fire Station

Time: 10am to 1:30pm

Course date: Monday 20 September

Location: Bury St. Edmunds Fire Station

Time: 6pm to 9:30pm

Course date: Monday 27 September

Location: Lowestoft

South Fire Station

Time: 6pm to 9:30pm



Club Notes.

To all members: keep your Suffolk Rider record up to date (please). - Stephen W.

Would you like your membership information to be up to date and accurate?

Would you like us to know who to contact in case of emergency?

Would you like us to offer you help passing your 3-year retest, before your test date?

Suffolk Riders would like to keep your membership details up to date, and if you can answer 'yes' to the above questions you can 'help us to help you'!

Did you know you can read and update all your membership information held on MemberMojo, anytime? If you have not taken a look lately please sign-in and see if the details are correct and up to date. You can do the update yourself by just clicking on the 'Edit' button, make the changes in the various fields then click the 'Save' button before leaving the screen. Our system complies with current GDPR regulations so your details are safe. You may read the club's Privacy policy by clicking on No. 6 in the [Suffolk Riders Document Archive](#).

If you 'don't do websites' then just drop me a line anytime you have new or changed information, and I will make the changes for you.

Some examples of typical updates: new telephone numbers, retest dates and grades, first test date, grade and RoSPA membership number, etc. If we are not aware of these changes we cannot help you get the most out of your membership.

However, if you change your email address - please email me and our webmaster with details, because we use the MailChimp service to send out group emails; *it is separate to MemberMojo!*

Incase you do not remember how to access your membership details there is a simple guide detailed below.

We really do appreciate your help, in helping us, help you!

Cheers,

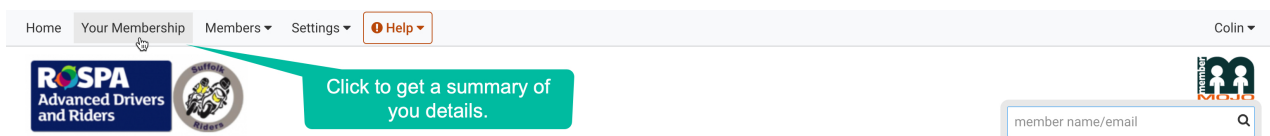
Stephen

[Membership Secretary](#)

How to check and update your membership details:

1. Open the Suffolk Riders website www.suffolkriders.org.uk

2. Click on the 'Join us / Renew' button in bottom RH corner of page. This will open the MemberMojo window.
3. In the top RH corner you will see a 'Sign In' button, click on this to open the Sign In screen.
4. Enter your email address that is currently recorded on our system. If you created a password, and can remember it, enter this and click 'Sign In with password'. If you do not have your password then there is a link below to 'Sign In without a password'. This will send you an email with a link which you should click on to sign into MemberMojo.
5. The screen should now present you with a menu selection along the top: click on 'Your Membership' for a 'Summary' of your membership details.



Options listed below include 'View or Edit' your details; this takes you to a screen containing your current membership details.

Options	
My Details View or edit your membership details.	<input type="button" value="View or Edit"/>
Payments View your payment history.	<input type="button" value="View Payments"/>
Password Set or change your membermojo password.	<input type="button" value="Set Password"/>
Member Directory Lookup other member contact details.	<input type="button" value="Member Directory"/>
Additional Membership Start a new membership that shares your email.	<input type="button" value="New Membership"/>
Admin Notifications Choose to receive a daily summary or when applications require approval.	<input type="button" value="Edit"/>

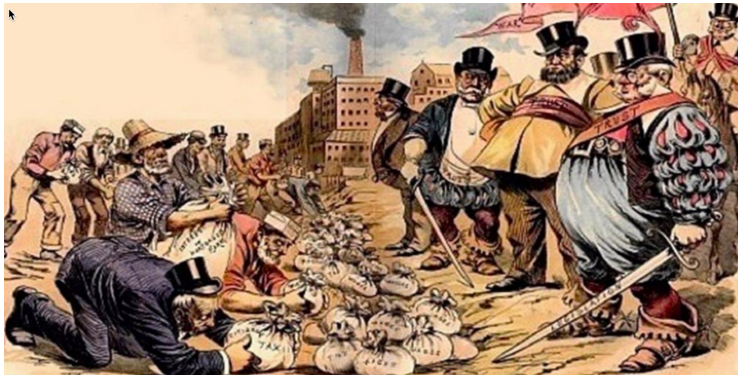
If any have changed then click on the 'Edit' button in the bottom RH corner and scroll through your details to make any updates. You might even add a photo!

Be careful you do not accidentally delete anything! The first entry field 'Surname' will be automatically highlighted, if you enter anything without first clicking your cursor off that field your surname will be changed or delete! If this happens just re-enter it.

6. Once you have made all the changes, and checked them, click the 'Save' button.
7. To sign out click on your name in the top RH corner of the screen and click the 'Sign Out' link. Job done!

PayPal - a rant.

I don't think that I would be challenged often about the unproven statement that Robber Barrons have been around since mammals came into existence during the Jurassic period, about 200 million years ago. Since homo sapien appeared in Europe about 40k years ago, we have managed to have evolved the Robber Barron to a life form at the very top of the food chain: from the chap with a big sword that knocked down your door and demanded whatever



provisions you had managed to acquire, through the church that had the keys to heaven and demanded payment for passage, and monarchs who grabbed the church's ill gotten gains, to the businessmen of the industrial period who took people's labour for a pittance. Of course the list goes on, but with the growth of the computer age the subtly and thievery has taken on a new dimension.

I recall a story, possibly apocryphal, where a young computer programmer working for an American bank added a piece of code to the transaction software where small rounding errors of a fraction of a cent were directed to the bank's last account, in alphabetical order. He then opened an account in the name of (and I'm making this bit up) Mr. Zozzini. Years passed and he became a multi-millionaire, until one day a new customer opened an account in the name of Mr. Zuzzini.

The secret he stumbled upon was to take pennies from millions of people. Today we have a number of Robber Barrons who practice the same art.

I'm only going to single out one, as he was a cofounder of a particular scam that has evolved to affect (steal from) millions including Suffolk Riders. His name is Elon Reeve Musk who cofounded a bank called X.com, evolving into the ubiquitous PayPal, which eBay bought for \$1.5 billion in 2002. Maybe I do him an injustice, as he is the creator of many jobs, a skill not found amongst our ruling class.

However, PayPal is now owned by a group of around 200 individuals who are called amongst the financial community the PayPal Mafia.

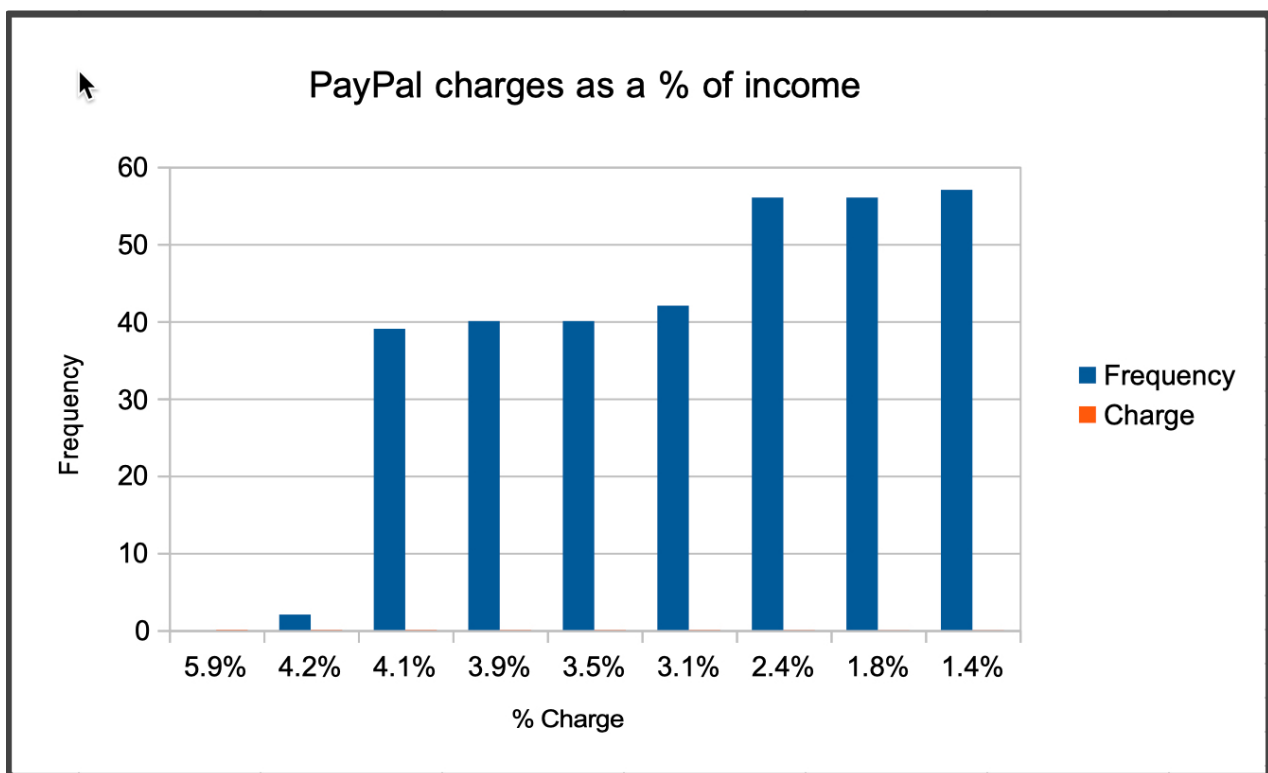


My wife says I'm only jealous, and possibly, to quote Robbie Burns: "O, wad some Power the giftie gie us, To see oursels as others see us!" She may be right.

When I first attended Suffolk Rider committee meetings back in 2019, our then treasurer, Ray Spreadbury, used to rail against the charges levelled by PayPal.

He could see what was taken from every member who paid theirs subs and tried on several occasions tried to get the group to put some sort of embargo on its use. However, the very clever sweetener is 'convenience,' its ease of use by a punter. Just give us your email and bank details, and we'll take care of it for you. What could be simpler? Our current treasurer, Jeff Martin, is also railing at PayPal's charges, but he has taken analysis of charges a stage further. He found that, in essence, PayPal take an 'arbitrary' cut, not your fixed price product as you'd expect from an honourable company. As guardian of the club's finance he felt duty bound to write to the company, showing evidence of theft. And, like so many big companies, his efforts have disappeared into a corporate black hole.

Suffolk Riders is a 'Not for Profit' company, and should only pay a minimum fee. But if you look at the table, you can see that the majority of charges exceed the minimum. Such a wide range on only two quanta of income; £25 to renew and £125 to join. In fact the total charges by PayPal levied on the club from last year's subscriptions was 2.44%, that's the equivalent of two member's fees.



One of the club's long-term goals is to be self sufficient, so we must manage our finances in the best manner possible. To that end, the committee have begun an experiment to try to extricate us from this Robber Barron, and, from next year, we will not offer PayPal as a means to convey your subs to the club's bank account. Cash and BACS are so easy, the latter only requiring the entry of a Sort Code and Account Number in a 'new payment' box on your on-line account. If you haven't paid by BACS in the past, why not setup a new entry now: Sort Code = 40-15-22, Account No. = 81843699 and put your full name in the Reference: simples! You don't have to enter an amount, just hit Save. Even a cheque attracts only a small charge. So please, please, please help your club and don't ask for PayPal. *Rant over Ed.*

WHO IS UP FOR A COUPLE OF NIGHTS AT THE TROUT INN, BEULAH? -

Keith Gilbert

It's a while since Suffolk Riders paid a visit to Beulah and stayed with Dave and Heather at The Trout Inn in Beulah (pronounced byoo-lah)..

Limited number of rooms, good food, good beer and spotless, and for those that worry about their bikes, off road parking.

This trip is intended for members who have so far not ventured away from local rides. Bury St Edmunds to Beulah is 230 miles and using a cross country route this will be an easy ride with three stops - breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea. Due to limited accommodation we will ride as a group, or, unless you prefer, routes will be available for those wishing to make their own way.

The accommodation will be bed, breakfast and evening meal at The Trout.

There will be a ride out the following day taking in the [Elan Valley](#).



Current room rates at £80 including breakfast. Register serious interest asap by [email](#), so dates can be fixed with The Trout and details sent out. [See their website](#).

This is likely to be a 2 night mid-week trip, depending on room availability and number of responses.

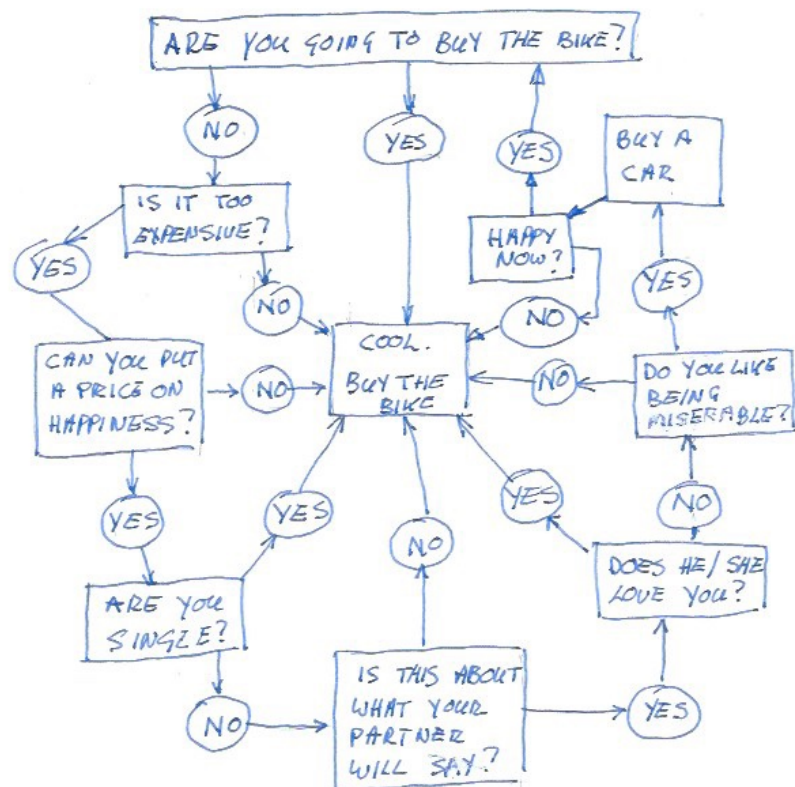


The Last Laugh Word

This month's contributions are from the usual crew, my thanks to them.

I write this after just watching the England v Germany match; what a great lift for the country after so much pain and suffering for so many. I was lucky enough to watch the same teams play on the 30th July 1966. A young whipper-snapper of 21 with his whole life before him; about to become a mature student (kids from my background rarely went to university) and in two months to marry a lady who would keep me for the next four years. NB I have returned debt many times over. This time the elation was the same but the frame has suffered a fair degree of wear and tear. And am I wrong, the game has changed? Gone is the flowing attacking football, to be replaced by a tactical game, probe, pass back, probe, rinse, repeat. I've little knowledge of the game, but, imho it seems to have lost something.

Enough of my musings, it's quite lonely sitting here, so if you have a question or the seeds of a contribution, please call or send me an email. I'm grateful to Bakson, who, having seen this image from last month's laughs, set out a flow diagram to help in the decision making process Ed.



With apologies to a poster I saw in Repton Motorrad. Bakson

**RIDING A
MOTORCYCLE IS
10% HANDS AND
FEET AND 90%
MIND AND EYES.**

