



January 2009

Junction 11

The Monthly Newsletter of Reading HOC



Welcome to the January 2009 issue of Junction 11, the monthly newsletter of the Reading Branch of The Honda Owners Club. We meet from 7.30pm on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at The Swan Public House, Basingstoke Road, Three Mile Cross, Berkshire, RG7 1AT. If you ride or just have an interest in bikes at the moment, pop in and say hello, we're a friendly bunch that likes bikes and enjoys a good social gathering. For more information about Reading HOC contact Allie, our Branch Secretary on 07954 603217 or email Reading@hoc.org.uk. We look forward to seeing you soon at The Swan.

Latest News

I hope everybody had a great Christmas and New Year break. Although the hours of daylight are getting longer now, we have been hit by a particularly cold spell which has kept many of us off our bikes.

On **Sunday January 18th 2009**, we had our first ride-out off the New Year to the Jolly Miller in North Warnborough for Sunday Lunch. We then rode on to West Meon before returning home. See report on page 2.

At the branch meeting on the **28th January 2009** we have a guest speaker in the form of Andy Hunter from the Institute of Advanced Motorists. This should prove both interesting and educational so come along and learn some new techniques.

Don't forget **HOC Reading** branch merchandise is now available. Currently the range includes polo shirts in a variety of colours and sizes including ladies fitment, mugs and external bike stickers. All of the items are adorned with the new club badge which was designed by Gaz. Orders can be placed through the branch treasurer Marion, treasurer@reading.hoc.org.uk See the merchandise section on page 5 for details.

It's been a great few months for the new Reading HOC, the branch is running very smoothly and that's all down to the members who have supported it, so well done to you all. Special thanks must go to our committee though who have worked extremely hard to get this club up off the ground and flying, we wouldn't be in such a strong position without your efforts.

Remember to check us out on the web at www.reading.hoc.org.uk and join in on our forum at <http://s3.excoboard.com/exco/index.php?boardid=10339>

Reading Branch Meeting 14th January 2009, The Swan

The first branch meeting of the New Year got off to a good start at The Swan. Unfortunately Allie couldn't attend so Mick made all the announcements. The very successful Christmas raffle was discussed and a decision was made as to which charity would benefit from the profit made. Further details will be released at a later date. The next Honda Test Day was discussed along with some anomalies in our calendar. Hopefully the dates will be sorted out soon and be republished on the website and HOC National Diary of Events.

The forthcoming Sunday's ride out was discussed and a revised meeting time of 12.00 was decided upon as three of us were partying on the Saturday night.

We welcomed four new members at the meeting. Ian and Angie from High Wycombe who ride a Pan European. Tony from Silchester who is an IAM member and rides a CB1300. Finally we welcomed Bob from Reading who rides, yes you guessed it, a Pan. Hopefully you enjoyed your evening and will all come back and see us again at the next meeting on the 28th of January where we have a guest speaker from the IAM.

The usual good food was available at The Swan so if you fancy a bite to eat, get to the meeting a little early and enjoy some fine home cooked fare before we get down to business.

See you next meeting.

Reading Ride Out 18th January 2009

Our first ride out of 2009 took place on Sunday 18th of January. The ride was originally planned to be fairly short and local to Reading with lunch in a biker friendly pub, due to the unpredictable weather at this time of year. Earlier in the week the weather forecast had predicted rain and high winds. However the day turned out very nice with good periods of sunshine and mostly dry roads. The run left Sainsbury's petrol station at Calcot a little later than planned due to one person arriving late, me! I blamed it on the westerly head winds I encountered on the M4. A total of six of us made the ride which was led by Mick on his CBF1000. Also present were Taz (Varadero), Bryan (CBF1000), Bob (Pan European), Chris (VFR400R) and a new visitor, Jonathan (VFR800). The exit from Sainsbury's is quite busy at the best of times and we may change our rendezvous point for future ride outs, in light of this.

After joining the M4 we headed eastwards back to junction 11 and turned south through the village of Three Mile Cross, passing our normal meeting place of The Swan. After passing Wellington Country Park we reached the A30 at Hartley Whitney in north Hampshire. We travelled westwards to Hook where we crossed the M3 and made our way into North Warnborough for our scheduled lunch stop at The

Jolly Miller. A good selection of food was offered at the pub and we were made most welcome. Over lunch we decided that as the weather was so nice we would extend the run further into Hampshire. After leaving the pub we headed southwards towards Alton, passing RAF Odiham which operates Chinook helicopters. At Alton we crossed the A31 and joined the A32 and proceeded down the Meon Valley. We stopped at Loomies Café at West Meon. This is a regular bikers meeting place and is very busy during the summer months. It is also unfortunately a bit of a black spot for motorcycle accidents and the road is heavily policed in warmer times. We took a little break here and had some much needed hot drinks. I also decided to take on some petrol at the adjacent station but was quite surprised I only managed to get 9.5 litres in the tank which meant I was averaging about 54MPG. We left West Meon and turned west onto the A272 and headed towards Winchester. As you approach the A31 you get terrific views of the city from a very high vantage point, sadly today it was a bit dull and you couldn't see very much. After joining the A31 we headed east towards Alton. The riders returning to Reading split off here, while Mick and I continued up to Farnham enjoying a spirited ride. Mick turned off at the Blackwater Valley Route and I continued along the Hogs Back where I joined the A3 and headed back towards London.

What was originally intended as a local run turned out to be a very enjoyable day out and I ended up covering about 165 miles. Thanks to Mick for organising a great route.



Chris, Bryan, Taz, Mick, Jonathan and Bob at Loomies Café, West Meon

Member Profile

Chris Ward (Reading Branch Webmaster and News Editor)

Age:	51
Lives:	Epsom, Surrey
Current Bikes:	1989, Honda VFR400RK 1972, Honda CB350F0 1984, Honda Z50R
How Long Have You Been Riding?	38 years
Favourite / Dream Bike:	Honda VFR750R RC30

Best Biking Moments:

Loads, they mostly involve my 400 and one litre superbikes.

Worst Biking Nightmare:

I "T" boned a car that pulled out of a side turning on my way home from college one night; the little old lady driver didn't see me! Although I somersaulted over the car I wasn't too badly injured and didn't break any bones only covering myself in bruises. The bike was written off as was my clothing but she did accept full liability.

Biking Ambitions:

To own a VFR750R.



Official Reading HOC Merchandise



Reading HOC Mugs

£7.50 each



Reading HOC Polo Shirts
£15.00 each
Available in S, M, L, XL, 2XL & 3XL
Red, Green, Blue, White and Grey
Ladies Skinny Fit also available



Reading HOC Sticker
£2.50 each
A high quality sticker 10cm in diameter

All orders for branch merchandise should be placed with Marion, our branch treasurer. A polo shirt order form will be mailed out upon request. Merchandise will be delivered to the next branch meeting subject to availability to save on postage. If postage is required this will be added at cost.

For enquiries or order placement, contact Marion, treasurer@reading.hoc.org.uk

Future Events

Date	Event	Location
2009		
January 28th	Branch Meeting Guest Speaker Andy Hunter, IAM	The Swan
February 11th	Branch Meeting Learn to play poker	The Swan
February 15th	Local Ride Out, Pub Lunch	TBC
February 25th	Branch Meeting Poker for real	The Swan

For more information on ride-outs, contact Mick, chairman@reading.hoc.org.uk

Reading Branch Contacts

Mick	Chairman	chairman@reading.hoc.org.uk
Allie	Secretary	reading@hoc.org.uk
Marion	Treasurer	treasurer@reading.hoc.org.uk
Chris	Webmaster	webmaster@reading.hoc.org.uk
Chris	Newsletter	news@reading.hoc.org.uk

Reading Branch Website www.reading.hoc.org.uk

If you have any material for inclusion in the monthly newsletter or wish to be added to the mailing list please mail Chris at news@reading.hoc.org.uk

Until next time keep on riding but make sure it's safely.