

The Pride

The Katana Owners Club UK Newsletter

No. 53: Dec 2019



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Chairman's Ramblings

So here we are, just a few weeks since our AGM16 years..."dun't time fly when tha's 'avin' fun"?

We have a 2019 katana in the club! Welcome back to our fold one of our first members Alan, with his new machine, this is what we hoped as without new interest, it will be stale.

Just look at the classic jap magsCMM has remained the same and iswell the same.....Practical SportsBikes has amalgamated with PerformanceBikes and attracted a newer audience, not myself however but

A few months ago I was going through a really negative patch, we all do, basically time and motion would never sync....Changes at work, you know, management know betterbut! This coincided with the German 650 just laughing at me, as was the 250, etc. Add to this, the Taliban bus binned its gearbox while at the end of a cul-de-sac...a week before we were off to France, I mean I'm a grumpy f* * * * r to start with!

So this is why I posted the 650, offers... For 1 month .I received just 1 offer, and that was from someone who just wanted to have a winter project, didn't want it just wanted summat to do! I received 1 question of how much? But that's not an offer. So if anyone had offered 50p it would have been theirs. It is now away for the winter with jmac , who is fettling it, to pass the time!

I also left a few Facebook katana sitesJesus the Aussies , South Africans and Yanks are condescending and if it don't gleam it is a shed , if it isn't completely standard or super tricked up it is not worthy. Anyway I'm just grumpy now.

My pop up that was loaned out to PaulD while he sorted his 1100 out, is now home. Should anyone wish to loan it, let me know, it is here. However I may well be selling it in Marchish (if no one borrows it). Looking for £2750 from a club member, or £3500 to a punter.

Prices are on the up for these , This may be top end market price you

feel , but it will stop the buy it to sell on crowd as there won't be enough profit to make worth their while.

EuroKat August 2020. France ...all the info is on the website. So just a reminder that anyone travelling down is more than welcome to stay over at our gaff in France for a few days before and after if required. We can all travel together. Possible plan, leave on the Thursday, travel on A roads, stay in hotel Thursday night, arrive at site Friday middayish. Party Sat/Sun, return Monday arrive back on the Tuesday ...(subject to change).

The gaff is situated near Mayenne, village of Bias. Early in the New Year I can take names of those wishing for me to do a block booking which will be on Brittainy ferries from Portsmouth to Caen to see if I use my discount card to an advantage. I can ride up to the port and meet guide people if interested. It is 87 miles, so just under 2 hours, no motorways just lovely unhindered roads after Caen. Anyway I presented this at the AGM and will set up a post nearer the time, but if you're not online just contact myself direct.

While we are in EuroKat mode, it is our turn to do the 2022. But our options are: Scotland, a couple of choices here.....: Holland, just to prove to the Cloggies that it can be done, Florence Italy, because Francesco (who set the club up with George, Smand and I) lives there. It's an excuse to visit this historic city and tie in a summer holiday and bike meet.

What I personally don't want to do is this trend of finding a bikers camp site and just meeting up thereit's not our rally, we all end up spread about without the atmosphere.....I realise it has all the facilities that the older traveller may need, bunks etc and it may be that I'm just out of date*shock, horror* but that's my twopeneth, if I'm out voted then unlike other democratic systems ...we will actually carry out the majority vote! If anyone does!

We have funds in our kitties, but may need to top up, doubtful though will know more after we know more!

Congrats to FBJ who spent loads of time, on returning a GSX1000S

(UK) back to its former glory after it was "stored" by the original owner (see cover!). I say this because first time out it won best 80's Jap at the Stafford showa prize normally reserved for a select few on the VJMC Stand.

It may be known that I am not a fan of restorations, that doesn't mean I am not in admiration of those of you do them, the effort, patience, dogged determination. Let's hope it's not too clean to ride though.

Manc'ee KatNABD again? Wussey Kat has slipped by really, should we do our own or tag on as we have been doing, if so where? The answers maybe later in this edition in an AGM results page.

Really all I have to say now is Thank you. To original members who are still with us, to each of you who add what you do, may come across as a bit cheesy ...but when I look back on a date in 2003 it doesn't seem so long ago , so ...that's due to the people.

Club News

Short piece here as really the AGM will cover this for this issue of The Pride. Obviously I'm a little late in getting this one out but thanks to those of you who took some time to send me articles for inclusion, which if you didn't would make this a lot less interesting.

We've picked up a few new members since the last Pride and the Facebook page still gets new Likes, but has slowed a bit now. Remember if you do go out on your Kat try and get a good pic somewhere and send to me, so I can use on the FB page, as it's always nice to have new content there.

AGM, 17th November

This year's AGM was held at the Dashwood Arms, Piddington, Buckinghamshire. Some of us attended the evening before to check out the food/ beer etc. but at 1230ish on the Sunday, 14 people attended to shape your coming future.

Ok, so now on the club stuff. Chairman ...apparently Sparki's dog is too busy this year, and UB was actually there to decline our very fine offer of taking over everything, so I (Fossie) remain in my position of the chap with all the ideas ...with no actually idea of anything!



Manc'ee Kat rally 2020 ...Again to be held at the NABD rally, this rally has everything with no pretentious souls, it is always the 2nd weekend in May,

near Knutsford. Top event.

I will buy the tickets in advance with club funds, set up our area at the event and direct everyone to the area, collecting the ticket money back on the day.

Club subs ...remain as was £10 due in April. Can be paid by PayPal (preferred) to membership@katanaownersuk.club. Or at the NABD event. Or by cheque in the post.

Currently 62 paid up members, this is down from our normal 100 or so but is reflective of a one marque club membership.

Club funds are healthy and while we could probably give a free year we should be hosting EuroKat 2022. Can buy new tools etc ...club insurance is £135 a year. There is also the Pride printing (email preferred though!!! - UB) and web hosting. We also need to distinguish between members and the transient pop alongs. Hence the members area. Members generally get stuff from others members cheaper (or free!), as well the chance to borrow bikes and get stuff moved around, so £10 is a bargain ☺.

EuroKat 2020 France. As said, if required my gaff is open for visits to and from the event .

Kekat is our hotel expert and is looking into accommodation between Mayenne and rally site.

Laurent did mention he wanted dressing up ...so we are arranging our kit and will contact Jason to get printing set up.

EuroKat 2022 ...Our turn, couple of options, Scotland, Belgium or Holland. I need to contact the continentals to find out if there is a major issue to holding the event in July ...as per the first EuroKat. This is because of the ferry costs doubling for school holidays ...it must affect them as it does us.

Wusseykat rallynothing firmed up Kekat is going to look around...however we were invited to use the Dashwood arms , which is a good venue. Still time to sort .

Stafford show ...this was discussed as a means of upping membership, but general consensus is I don't think we'd get the numbers for our own stand ...we may look into a joint effort with Thumper club, as in the past we have had really good events with these guys (or maybe the ACS - UB).

Caldwell park ...if it is on again we will try to get more there this year for the weekend, hopefully with the ACS again.

We will distribute flyers ...The new katana owners should be around next year.

Regalia ...we are getting hoodies redone and beanie hats. Also looking in to a new t shirt design a more humour inspired design.

These can be sold to non-members but will be shipped with club info pack.

The electric Katana idea has been on a back burner for a while We will be looking into doing it as a club.

Next year's AGM ...Location ...it's up to you!

Lastly well done to SamK who was the only attendee on a Katana (see later in the Newsletter!

Tracks of my years: This Pride it's the turn of Smand

In keeping with the tracks of my years theme ...I have been asked to produce a list... Not in the slightest easy for me because unlike some it is a tune I prefer ...lyrics don't really feature ...but yep when I hear a tune, I am there! That said tunes turn up every day but on the day of interrogation when under the spotlights, this is what came to mind:

If you go away, Terry Jacks: ...My bedroom as a younger lady, played this all the time.

Bohemian Rhapsody, Queen: ...takes me to my first alone bus trip across to the other side of Manchester to meet family in the deep deep snow, for a Christmas get together.

Send in the clowns. July Collins: ...in the kitchen with Mum, she loved this ...played at her Funeral.

Substitute, Clout Irlam fair 1976:, it played on just about every ride over and over ...Teenagers eh?

Dreams, Fleetwood Mac: ...Everywhere , always.

Old friend, Simon and Garfunkel: ...way hay ...Steph's mini with all 4 wheels off the deck as we crested a hump back bridge in Sussex. This album along with Rumours was in the tape player constantly.



Whole of the moon. Waterboys: ...Conti club Manchester...Nurses night out on blue light nights!

Du Hast, Rammstein: ...Jillys (Rockworld) the lost boys up from Telford, 3 dance floors and the characters.

Smoke on the water. Deep Purple: ...Robyn our eldest was only 8 months old or so when in her Dads arms getting into the car she Spurted out

the opening riff!!

Spirit of Man. Phil Linnot from War of the worlds: The Girls were 7 and 8, we were driving to Florence in the first Taliban bus, the only CDs that would play was Oxygene Jean Micheal Jarre and War of the Worlds ...This track was their favourite ...No Nathaniel at the top of their voices ...led by Tam.

Many riffs and tunes have been missed in the making of this list, but it is a snapshot.

Award Winning GSX1000S

As you can see from the cover, John Martin's recently restored GSX1000S won best 80's at this year's Stafford Show in October.

Often when I go to shows you just see the finished bike with no hint as to how the bike started off before being restored. My favourite entries also have images of the before state so you can see how much actual work and time has gone into getting the bike where it is. So as pictures speak louder than words here are some before and after shots of where John started and where he finished up. If you want to see even more then John documented it in the Project section of the ACS forum at <http://aircooledsuzuki.co.uk/viewtopic.php?f=10&t=828>

From John "I was looking through a Facebook group over an evening, just a normal one, maybe performance bikes. Someone mentioned they were after a motorcycle project, a guy quietly responded and mentioned



he had a Kat project he might let go. I gave it a day or two, no one replied to him so I messaged him. So pleased I did. It was a Kat 1000, only 7000 miles, he purchased it new, parked it up in 1985. 100s of hi res pics later I was on my way to Edinburgh to collect".





A fair bit of work required there...!

The end result looks great (as you'd expect from John!)





Under the cloths shows attention to detail and John even had a little help from another club member, Sparki 😊

Notes from Europe: - Alexandre, Katana Club France

Hi guys,

These last few weeks, we were working for you - we spent a week-end at the Camping Moto Dordogne (just to make sure you'll be comfortable, you see), and to prepare the organisation of EK9 on August 14-15-16, 2020.



We had a great time with Hans & Trudy - they are from the Netherlands and are more comfortable with English than French, so it will be OK for you guys - and discussed the food, the music and all the logistics.

The only thing we could not foresee was the weather - it was drenching over there, so we did not ride as much as we wanted. That will be a good excuse for another trip, of course!

The band contract is under negotiation, and we are organising a special Saturday meal. We remember the Foie Gras was a big success at EuroKat 5 so that's the standard



we're aiming for – you shall not get only fries sausages for the whole week-end, no way! We might even throw in some vegetables...

Except for that, the TV guys that visited me this summer finally released their show on the net, so if you want to see me doing my Monsieur Katana act, you can click the link on next page :

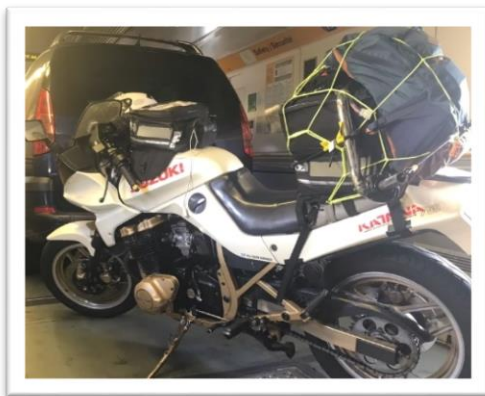
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=grRXlGsmq4g>

Surprising how the weather was terrible during shooting the show, too... But don't think this is typical of the area! In fact, we have booked the same scorching sun as we had for EK5 in Cussac Fort Medoc. So don't forget to come with your bathing trunks and bikinis - the swimming pool is great at the camping (and yes, I tried it for you, too!)

See you soon – Alexandre, Katana Club France.

Popping across Europe by SamK

I'll (Uncle Bob) set the scene here - Once the AGM date was set Sam messaged the forum to say he would visit, as he was picking up a GSX750SE he had bought and was taking back down to Alicante, where he is currently living. I thought initially he was picking up in a van



or trailer but come the day of the AGM, Sam arrived riding is Popup! He had flown into Scotland to see family the Thursday / Friday and then got the train down to Crewe on the Saturday to pick up the bike, give it a once over to check all was OK and then was going to ride it down to Alicante over

the next few days, which given it was already the 17th November, got him a fair share of respect! Added to that, he had decided to go see a mate in Holland, who was up nearer Assen, so really on the way!

Back to Sam - 3 days of riding so far (Wednesday morning at this point), and feeling surprisingly good. Got soaked going through Belgium on Monday but since then it's been dry. The bigger problem yesterday was riding into the low winter sun all day. Only the occasional cloud to give some relief.

The French motorway was sublime. Sparse traffic, smooth asphalt and a more sensible 130km speed limit, though I was only sitting at about

110 (70mph)

And then this morning...



Bike didn't complain at all. Choke on, press the button and she fired up immediately. However, the same can't be said for me. I think I'll wait for the temp to get above freezing. It's already up to -3°.

Turned out a good run. Just a bit cold until lunchtime.

Today (Thursday), started with rain. It was supposed to be showers, but it lasted for 2 hours.

Cruising speed went up as I just wanted to get away from it. The middle part was quite pleasant. More sparsely populated smooth motorway with nice long sweeping bends...

...and then came the mountain pass... and a drop in temperature! I was going to stop off for a photo, but it was too cold. This pass has a 8km tunnel. Going in the French side was cold... but the exit on the Spanish side is a higher altitude, and OMG cold!!!

If only I had one of the new Katana's which shows you the temperature ☺ (little forum in joke here! - UB)

The road out of the tunnel is a brand new motorway. It would be fantastic in the summer, but today it was above the snow line and had speed restrictions.

Got to the hotel just as it was getting dark. One more day to go...

Final day was a bit of a mixed bag...

Quite nice to begin with. Then after an hour or so, the wind picked up. This part of Spain is quite flat, but at an altitude of about 1000m (about 3300ft). After about 150 miles it suddenly goes into a 5% gradient downwards towards Valencia and the coast.

South of Valencia, the wind became really strong. The strongest wind I've been riding in for a long time. Then, strangely, go through an 800m tunnel and out the other end to hardly any wind at all! With about 40 miles to go, the rain started. Not too bad when the end is in sight.

So, the distance covered, according to the route planner, as my speedo cable had broken, was just under 2000 miles.

The chain was adjusted with 2 days left to go, but is now looking like a big elastic band.

I'd forgotten just how bad the mirrors are. You can't see what's directly behind and there's a big blind spot to the side. Ideally, they should be a couple of inches wider. Riding position for me was very comfortable. No aches or pains apart from my throttle hand. One of those manual cruise control thingy's would fix that.

Having a toll tag for France was great. No messing around at the toll plaza, especially good when it's wet and cold. I checked the usage on my toll tag and to get the length of France, north to south, cost me €49.40 or approx £42 in tolls.

The final advice for future is...

Don't ride across Europe in November!!!! Wait for the warmer weather.

Final note from Fossie - "Well that was a test ride matey!!!"

Life with Poppy by PaulD

As my 1100 Katana aka Beezlebitch was playing silly buggers AGAIN! I didn't have a roadworthy bike. The Mancy Kat was approaching and I think Fossie felt sorry for me as he offered to lend me his 750 pop up

until my own Kat was back in one piece.

I got my grandson to drop me off at chez Foss on the arranged evening to collect the bike and after dragging the bike out of the cat cave I was introduced to Poppy!



Now I've heard our glorious leader isn't a fan of washing bikes and without being ungrateful old Poppy did look like she had been dragged out of the canal lol. The bike fired up reasonably quick and after a quick safety check (kicking the tyres) I donned my lid and set off for home.

The bike felt very strange at first and bumping off the kerb I almost dropped it! I trapped my thumb against tank which was then that I noticed the clip on was bent! mmmm. That night I just locked Poppy in the garage and forgot about it. As the weekend dawned and with Manky Kat looming, I thought I had better get the bike looking like someone owned her. It took a couple of hours, a bottle of gunk and a full aerosol of Mr Sheen to get her looking respectable. The week before Mank'ee Kat, I was out walking my dog and I ended up twisting my knee by sticking my foot in a rabbit hole so Mank'ee Kat was cancelled for me, for 2019.

I had to do something about the bent handlebar as the bike felt distinctly odd to ride so I stripped the switch gear and lever off then removed the bar from the forks. Half an hour with my trusty brazing torch and a bucket of sweat later I had an almost straight bar. A quick touch up with some black Smoothrite and it was as good as new. Reassembling the bar and switch gear and the bike was good to go. I never got to ride Poppy much due to my knee and work commitments but a couple of short runs showed it to be VERY different to the 1100 in lots of ways. The engine seemed a fair bit smoother than the big Kat but it behaved more like a two stroke with little low down power and a need to rev it

hard to make real progress. I never really got used to the handling which was probably due to the 16" front wheel? The bike was very quick to fall into bends which was a bit scary on wet greasy roads. More time on the bike in dry weather would more than likely make me feel more at home.



MOT time loomed and a quick check round revealed nothing more than a tight chain and a very slow rear puncture. The chain was adjusted and despite being fitted with a Scott oiler I lathered it in chain lube. I deflated the tyre and popped it off the rim and then gave the rim a quick wipe round inside with some fairy liquid to clean any possible debris that might cause the puncture. A new valve fitted and the tyre re-inflated and Poppy was good to go. She passed the MOT with flying colours and no advisories.

Eventually I had to return Poppy to her rightful owner as her holiday had come to an end and in a way I was sad to see her go. I've developed a bit of a soft spot for the bike and there is a possibility she



might be coming to stay with me and her big sister permanently. Of course if she does there will have to be a full on resto as I don't do patina lol.

Seriously though, thanks to Fossie for the loan of Poppy, as how many people do you know would lend you their own rare classic bike?

Cheers mate you're a star.

WussyKat / YerTiz Rally

Again, WussyKat was held at the same time as the YerTiz rally on the 20-22 Sept. After last year's down pours, it was hoped that it would be drier this year (well it could really have been wetter...).

Pop-up was the main man organising this. There were a few less in numbers this year but those that went did have a good old time (from



what I can see from the forum posts).

Notes from the Forum by Uncle Bob.

The forum is still getting enough attention that I do visit each day to have a read, if not have a comment. **SpondonChris** has added to his [750/1100 Kat Modified](#) (click to view!) thread after a little break from updates, but it was worth the wait!

Of course we always have the latest Katana for sale posted up with our take on them sometimes. It was from one of these that **Fossie** posted about a 250 Kat at DK, that I then bid on and lost out to, but from that I did end up buying another that they had, so that was useful.

The good thing about the forum is they start with one subject like [Fork Chrome Plating](#) by **Rob65** and then end up with extra info, in this case about Cerakote burnished bronze!

Rob65 again did a good write up on his ESD at [Trigger's Broom \(and it's an ESD\)](#), which was a good Christmas read 😊

So do pop in to see what's going on from time to time and maybe do the occasional post, it's all part of our community.

Events

The first event of the year will probably be [Manc'ee Kat](#) (click for link to forum thread that Fossie has started).

Fossie says "As per discussions at AGM ...the Manc'eeKat rally will be at the NABD rally as per the last few years. 8-10 May 2020. Cheshire show ground just off junc 19 of M6.

Tickets are £30 pre booked or £35 on the gate . I will as per previous years collate the names, pay in advance, then collect on the day."

Of course 2020 is **EuroKat 9** Year! Alexandre has already checked out the site (see Notes from Europe). In case you missed the details before they are:

EuroKat 9

14-16 August 2020

Camping-Moto Dordogne - <http://www.motocamp.fr>

Campground in Saint-Aubin-de-Nabirat, France

Fossie is offering a stop off at his place in France and from there KeKat is looking at somewhere nice to stay overnight on way down to the campsite, so it's 2 leisurely days ride down. That then gives the possibility of the same trip the way back if required. Check the forum for details.

Of course we will try and do some other events. I'm hoping that the Classic Suzuki Trackday will go ahead again, as last years was just so much fun. No dates yet but will let you know once I have them. Hopefully we can join up with the AirCooled Suzuki group again.

Hopefully, even with EK9 in August, Wussy Kat will be back for September but the format etc is still to be decided.

The pub the AGM was at, Dashwood Arms, Piddington, Buckinghamshire, did say they could hold a camping event if we were interested as well, so that is something to look into. It was a great location and some interesting visitor attractions nearby (Hellfire Caves and Bekonscot Model Village {world's oldest one!}).

Stop Press: The Carole Nash Classic Bike Guide Winter Classic at Newark on 11/12 January 2020 will have John Martin and his ACS stand in attendance, which always has a few Kats on (hopefully John will have his 1000 there, but not 100% sure). I'll be going on the 11th!

If you have any other ideas, meet ups, ride outs, etc please let me know or post in the forum.

Tools and Other Items to Borrow

The list of tools to borrow is on the forum (Members Area) located at www.katanaownersuk.club/forum/viewtopic.php?f=46&t=7977. From there, it links to each tool with an image, short description and who currently has it. The idea is you pay the postage to the next person

who requires it. Please remember to keep us updated when you send an item onto someone else, so we can update the page. If you prefer not to store until the next person needs it, then you can always post back to Fossie. I still have to finish the links and images but I can do that once this edition of the Pride is finished. Here's the list of what is available:

- ❖ Brake Piston Puller
- ❖ Vacuum Brake Bleeder
- ❖ Brake Piston Return Clamp
- ❖ Suspension Spring Compressor
- ❖ Suspension Air Filler
- ❖ Compression Tester
- ❖ Valve Adjustment Tools
- ❖ GS 550/650 Shims
- ❖ Chain Riveter and Breaker
- ❖ GSXR Front Wheel Spindle Key

We also have DVD's of:

Japanese Manga cartoon series **Bakuon!! (2016)** The series takes place at Okanoue Girls' High School, where girls are permitted to ride motorcycles to school, and follows Hane Sakura, a cheerful freshman who becomes awed after seeing another student ride a motorbike to school. Taking an interest, Hane joins her school's motorcycle club and gets a motorcycle



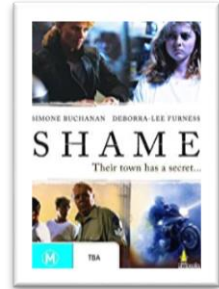
license. After buying her own bike, Hane begins her exciting, two-wheeled, motorized high-school life along her new friends; Onsa Amano, Rin Suzunoki, Raimu Kawazaki and Hijiri Minowa. Rin Suzunoki, rides a GSX400SSN Katana and her dad has a Yoshimure 1135 Katana. Some scenes due to cultural differences can be a little, shall we say, uneasy watching

The Australian film Shame (1988) which has a GSX750SF Popup owning lawyer (though at one point it mysteriously becomes an 1100

Katana Owners Club (Uk)

before becoming a Popup again!).

Tragic happenings result from conflict arising from the active feminism of Asta Cadell, a robust professional woman, after her motorbike breaks down in the fictitious township of Ginborak during a lone tour of outback Western Australia. Not an easy watching film, but worth a viewing.



The German film, Treffer (1984). In German, but a period story: Albi, Franz and Tayfun want little more in life than to ride their bikes, but things toughen up when they get unemployed.

For those not there JOGLE (John O'Groats to Lands End, 2005) CD follow the club for 872 miles in video and stills.

Robinsons



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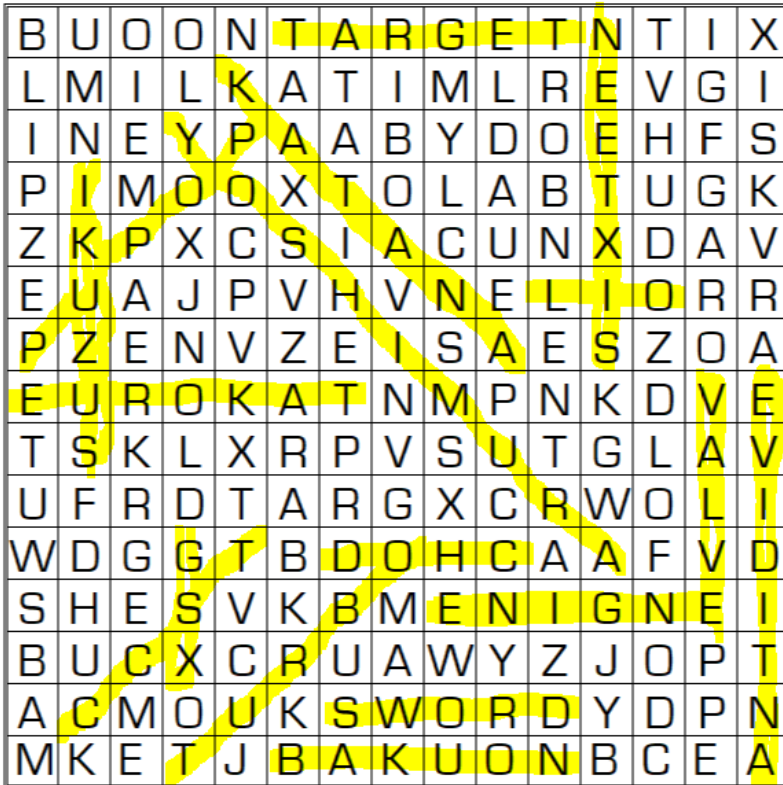
KATANA	GSX1100 Katana	SZ-SD 1982-1993
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Don't forget Katana Owners Club members get 10% off Suzuki Parts at Robinsons Foundry in Kent.

Call Parts and Accessories on 01227 454366 or visit

Pride 52 Puzzle Page Answers

The last Pride we had a Word Search and Spot the Difference. For those of you who had a go, here are the answers. Well done to Kryten who won the badges! (I'll pop them round when I next have a ride up North Norfolk way 😊).



KATANA

EUROKAT

ENGINE

SUZUKI

SIXTEEN

TURBO

POPUP

VALVE

OIL

DOHC

TARGET

YOSHIMURA

GSX

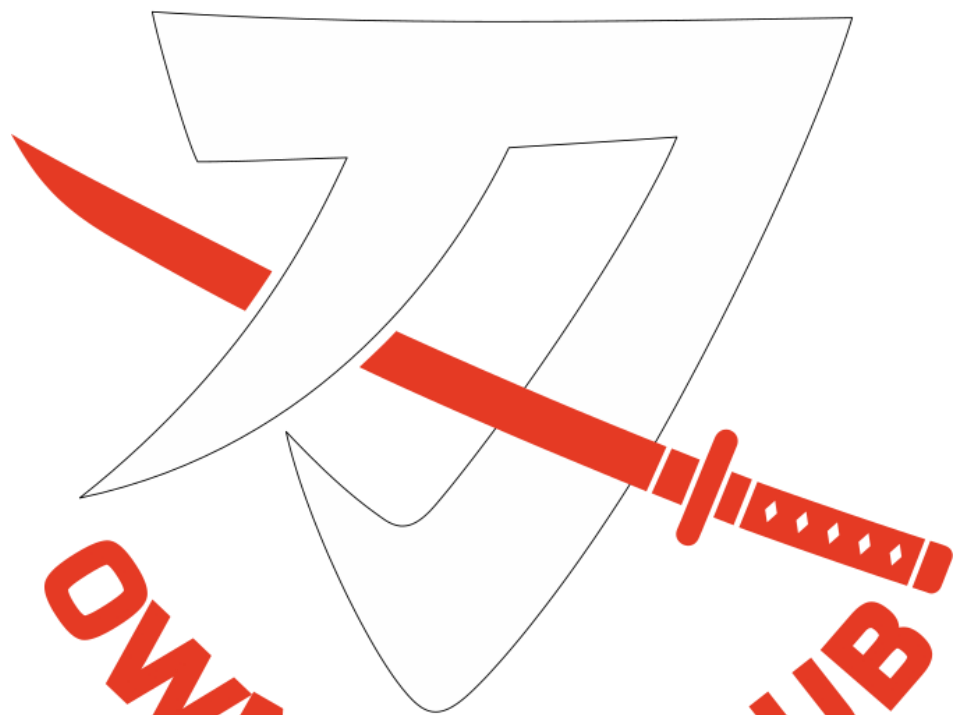
SWORD

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TSCC

BAKUON

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