

# D.A.M.

*Rider News*



# I.A.M

**DRIVING ROAD SAFETY**

*Derby Advanced Motorcyclists*

**July 2013**

## *Next Meeting*

Wednesday , 17<sup>th</sup> July 8pm Start

The Royal Oak, Ockbrook, DE72 3SE

Summer Social Evening

Will be announced at Club Night

## *Next Rideouts*

**If you go on the rideout please get some photos and send in a short report on what you thought about the ride and the destination.**

## *Contributions*

**If you would like to contribute to the News Letter please email**

**[damnewsletter@derbyam.org.uk](mailto:damnewsletter@derbyam.org.uk)**

# *Congratulations*



***Peter Simmonds receives his certificate from his observer Richard Aikitt***

***Certificates have arrived for the following people:***

***Dennis Trump (observer Paul Hopewell)***

***Ray DeBar (observer Geof Salt)***

***Nicole Stewart (observer Gordon Constable)***

***David Watson (observer Stuart Yeowart)***

***Mick Waterfield (observer John Tizzard)***

***Congratulations one and all, please come along and collect your certificate at club night.***

## *RideOut Report* by Nicole Stewart

### **Club ride out to RAF Cosford – Where were you?**

Ok, so it was raining a bit – well, a lot, actually at times. But we had a great ride. My first.

Gordon led four of us (me, Paul, Hugh and Robert) along a lovely, twisty route to Cosford. I think we sort of managed the ‘group riding / second man drop off technique’ but with only five of us in total we kept pretty well together.

And the RAF museum at Cosford was great. Cheap parking for starters – three bikes squeezed into one space for the price of one ticket. Cuppa in the café then free admission to the museum. Loads to see including the German Dornier that has recently been brought up from the bottom of the Channel. Covered in barnacles, housed in two poly tunnels and getting squirted with water – and smelling absolutely revolting – it will apparently take about three years to be preserved.

The other exhibit that really caught my imagination was the hangar dedicated to the Cold War. Having been a tad too young to appreciate it at the time, the information displays about the social contrasts between East and West were fascinating. Could have stayed there for ages but we had a ride home to crack on with.

Whilst not looking overly glam in my ‘romper suit’, it works a treat at keeping me warm and dry. So, thanks Gordon, for a great day out.

## *Club Night Report*

*As there was no News Letter in June, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Roy Stevenson for answering our questions at the May meeting.*

*As well as the 'which foot down' and highway code type questions, Roy was asked about his favourite bike. His reply was his Police Rotary Norton. The acceleration was so good that a new back tyre was needed almost weekly!!*

## Masters Story

*Hello group, I thought that it would be a nice idea to respond to the Chairman's plea for material to publish in our regular newsletter, by writing about my recent journey with Derby IAM motorcyclists.*

My name is Stephen, and I have been a group member since March 2012. I currently ride a 2010 BMW R1200GS but, like 99% of owners, the only time it has been off-road is to fill it up with petrol.

My initial contact with the IAM stretches back to 1996, when I successfully completed a qualifying course in the British Army. This allowed me to apply for full IAM membership (car) without having to undergo a test. I should point out at this stage that my army qualifying test was 4-hours long and part of a very arduous 8-week course, so if any of you are thinking that I got an easy 'ride' in to the IAM, you can think again! The course that I passed was very difficult to get on to in the first place, and it was even more difficult to pass.

Due to many traumatic experiences in my army service, I now have a condition called service-related combat Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Some of you may have heard something about this illness, but I can assure you all that it is a very debilitating condition. If any one would like to know more about the condition (but NOT my personal experiences), please ask me during one of the group nights and I will be happy to educate you further. However, I can tell you that PTSD does strip you of all confidence and self-esteem, and makes normal day-to-day life incredibly difficult. At one stage, I had great difficulty in even getting out of bed, let alone actually going outdoors, and my social interactions with people were virtually non-existent.

I have been very well cared for over the years by the two main service charities, namely Combat Stress and Help For Heroes; Combat Stress are responsible for the treatment of service veterans with PTSD, whilst H4H are responsible for the recovery phases. As soon as we all agreed that I was relatively stable enough, we set about trying to find an activity that would help me to get 'back on my feet' again. After a great deal of head-scratching, we settled on combining my passion for motorcycling with my proven motoring skills. Subsequently, H4H agreed to fund my IAM motorcycle Skill For Life course, and I eventually joined Derby IAM Motorcyclists in March 2012.

My initial IAM motorcycle training was completed with our very own membership secretary, Richard Ballard. I found Richard to be an extremely professional and competent observer, and I shall always remain very grateful to him for his patience, tolerance and advice. Richard educated me about 'The System' of motorcycle control and how to apply it to my riding. I learnt a great deal from Richard, including the highly controversial "right-foot" rule!

Following pre-test rides with Graeme Willett and Tony Grimshaw, I attempted my IAM motorcycle test on 02 October 2012 in Market Harborough, Leicestershire, and was awarded a 'First' grade pass.

Tony then agreed to my request to push myself further by becoming a local group observer, and following some accompanied rides, I was let loose with my very first associate member in January 2013.

Shortly after my test success in October, I became aware of the new IAM Masters test through their marketing campaign and also Tony's test report that was published in this newsletter. I informed H4H of the new course and they immediately agreed that this would be a tremendous opportunity for me to continue to build in confidence and skill, which would benefit my overall recovery. H4H

funded a mentored package for me, and I soon became connected with my Masters examiner, Graham Buxton. Graham was amazing at talking me through the Masters process and finding more about my motoring history, experiences and ambitions. I found that Graham was very approachable, and he would often accept my telephone calls and answer any questions that I had about the Masters test standard, and I quickly learned how to think the Masters way.

After careful consideration, Graham allocated our very own senior observer, Tony Grimshaw as my mentor. Tony was another very accommodating and professional observer who went above and beyond what was required in order to meet my needs, for which I shall always remain very grateful to him.

We began riding on a weekly basis, and I relished in taking my riding skills to a new level, whilst learning the Roadcraft manual cover-to-cover, as well as improving to learn motorcycling and general roadcraft skills. I also expanded my reading of the Highway Code and Know Your Traffic Signs publications, which proved that despite my 'first' there was still so much more to learn.

My reading, and indeed my practical riding, presented many interesting topics of debate, and I think it is fair to say that everyone who was involved with my Masters process learned something new along the way. For example, the rules and advice governing filtering and zig-zag lines at pedestrian crossing places opened up a whole can of worms and led to some lively and in-depth debating! I even engaged the services of a former army colleague of mine who is now a Police Officer with the Central Motorway Police Group in Birmingham; even he had to look up the answers and ask some more experienced Police Officers! Suffice to say that I now have the definitive answers and current police thinking on the subjects!

It wasn't too long before Tony invited John Lickley from the Region 3 training team to accompany us on a ride-out, during which John videoed our session so that I could see myself in action and study my riding abilities in great detail. This was an absolutely brilliant training tool, and I am very, very grateful to John for giving me his time and attention on two separate occasions.

If anyone ever has the opportunity to their ride videoed, I would not hesitate to accept the offer because it is such a brilliant training tool. You really do get to see your riding from a different perspective, and you can actually see the mistakes you are making. These might only be small mistakes, but you will learn so much from seeing it in real-time that you cannot fail but to improve. I am now in the market for a good video camera for my motorcycle, which will benefit my future associate members and others with whom I ride.

Before long, I attempted my Masters test and was examined by Graham in June 2013. I was absolutely delighted to pass first time and be awarded a Masters pass with distinction (81%). I was able to demonstrate to Graham my in-depth knowledge of Roadcraft, the Highway Code and Know Your Traffic Signs publications. During the ride itself I was able to banish all of my nerves, as I kept listening to John Lickley's advice – "just RIDE!"

Here are a few quotations from Graham's test report;

"We had an interesting discussion about filtering and the Highway code, of which he has extensive knowledge."

"He has excellent appreciation of hazards, maintaining wide safety margins. He also makes good use of the gearbox and combines this with 'acceleration sense' to achieve a very smooth ride."

"His overtakes are well planned... at one point he overtook three vehicles in one manoeuvre by good anticipation and observation."

"His approach to cornering is excellent. He was always in the correct position and used the 'vanishing point' correctly."

"He stuck rigidly to speed limits throughout the test but wherever possible he made good progress."

The whole process from the start last year to where I am today has done me the world of good, in

that my confidence in dealing with people and the great outdoors has improved no-end. Not only have I conquered my fear of being outdoors and in strange, new environments, but I have also proved to myself that I am still able to achieve success and make a positive contribution to something worthwhile. I have had to get myself organised; I've had to learn how to establish and maintain new relationships; and I've had to learn new skills and accept criticism when I don't get it right.

But I think most importantly, I have taken on the two challenges and, no matter how severe my disability has affected my life, I have succeeded.

I find that to ride safely requires 100% attention and concentration all of the time, and I think that I have demonstrated that I am capable of riding to a very high standard. (I have also achieved a RoSPA GOLD in recent weeks – sssshhh!).

The challenge I now face is to keep myself occupied and engaged on something positive, so I am taking advice from my new companions and carefully considering my next move with the IAM. I am very keen to improve my abilities that will make me a successful observer, and I would like to achieve the new IMI qualification in due course.

I realise, and hold the deep-rooted opinion, that there is always something new to learn about motoring, and that every single ride is an opportunity to learn more about myself, my skills and the needs of all other road users. To that end, I will continue to study all relevant motoring books and publications, and will always have a great deal of time, respect and admiration for the more experienced members of Derby IAM motorcyclists and the IAM in general.

So, come on then. If I can overcome adversity and achieve a Masters with distinction, what can YOU do?

I wish you all well, and I look forward to getting to know more members of the group.

With the very best of luck to all associate members, and especially to anyone who takes the Masters test.

# *Air Ambulance Event*

Lads and lasses

At the last Region 3 forum meeting we raised the question of us supporting the air ambulance in its initiative to organise a mass ride into the Brackley Bike festival on the 18th of August, in support of a new helicopter that they have put in the air.

Dave Shenton met them originally and said that we would do our best to support them in guiding their riders from the Five start point to Jacks Hill Cafe in Northampton. To date we have had very little commitment from you as groups and we are getting to a situation where we need to be sure that we can fulfil our promise to help them. I attended the last organisational meeting of the air ambulance people on Saturday last at the Hinkley Island Hotel on behalf of Dave Shenton and an awful lot has gone into the publicity to date and the general feeling is that it is going to be a big event.

To give you some more idea of what is happening at the actual event you can look at <http://www.theairambulanceservice.org.uk/get-involved/events/motorsport-events/rescue-ride-out>

As you can see there are 5 starting points and the IAM have committed to guiding the riders to Jacks Hill Cafe in Northants where the police will take over.

The important part being that we will be no more than guides, we will not be blocking roads or anything of that nature but as above we are pretty confident that it is going to be big. Suzi Perry and Steve Parish are involved and promoting, MCN have promised that it will be well covered in their paper later this month, Bridgestone and Triumph are both major supporters and have mailed 40,000 people between them, IAM are on all the flyers and something in the region of 40,000 of those have gone out to date. It is for Air Ambulance which in itself is likely to attract publicity and with 1,500 bikes on the move to one event we are expecting news and media coverage which is a big reason for IAM being part of it in the first place.

Whilst they appreciate that you all have your own diary of events throughout the summer, there has been a good amount of notice for this initiative and the IAM would like your support to give it the best chance of

success.

We appreciate that you are all working hard to get people trained to test, but as well as that, as a body, we need more publicity to keep us in the public eye and ultimately to help grow our membership.

In an attempt to move forward I have had a more rational look at the start points and our group structure, a lot of you are miles away from the start points plus you would be going even further to Brackley, so it is not logical for you to support it.

I have slimmed it down to 3 start points that we need to cover as a region, we need at least a rider at the front and a rider at the rear of each group and we need to split each start point into 6 groups, that is 12 people minimum on each site.

The 3 sites that we need to cover

Triumph HQ

Normandy Way

Hinkley

LE10 3BZ

Coventry you are roughly 10 miles away from there and Lichfield you are 25 miles away so how about you each getting at least 6 people and probably 12 if you can to cover that start point.

National MotorCycle Museum

Coventry Road

Solihull

B92 0EJ

Birmingham are on top of it and are committed to supplying some people Redditch you are roughly 21 miles away can you find at least 6 people and maybe 12 to cover this point and

Dronfield Sainsbury's

Wreaks Lane

Dronfield

S18 1NW

Derby are the only group that make any sense to cover this site so if you can get as many as possible and I will try and bring some of my personal crowd to support you from this site.

Can you all please have a think A.S.A.P. try and get some outline commitment and get back to me direct or bring it to the region 3 forum on the 13th of this month.



Given the likely publicity we need to make this look like a well planned operation and the simplicity of the routes that are agreed with the police should make mean that it will not be to difficult.

To reiterate the event is on Sunday the 18th of August, there will be 300 bikers at each of the starting points they will be split into groups of 50 by the air ambulance volunteers on they sites.

An IAM member will need to give a safety brief to the assembly prior to the ride but we will then lead them to Northampton via a very simple straightforward main routes which has been agreed with the police. The necessary risk assessments have been done for the event and we are agreed that we can use full members they do not have to be observers.

In short I am looking for someone to organise a minimum of 12 riders to act as guides from each site, this which will allow us to have a rider at the front and the rear of each group.

Whoever takes on the task will be invited to a logistics meeting at the Hinkley Island Hotel, along with myself, on the 3rd of August to thrash out any final detail with everyone involved.

Every one taking part will get an identity garment, will gain free entry to the event and will be hosted by IAM staff on site at Brackley, there will be no payment for milage or fuel etc.

Where we have 2 groups covering one start point you can either work together or as individual groups on the day, that final detail we can sort on the 3rd of August.

Finally not wishing to alienate anyone if anyone at all outside these suggested groups wants to get involved get back to me.

looking forward to your replies

Cheers

John Lickley

Region 3 Group Support

Telephone:- 01213232609

Mobile telephone:- 0797 926 7257

Email: [john.lickleyRGC@iam.org.uk](mailto:john.lickleyRGC@iam.org.uk)

## Adverts

This section is to advertise trips, events, things, pretty well anything with a vague bike connection. There is no implied recommendation, so if it's

going to cost you money, then make sure that you check it out for yourself. Good luck.



### Derbyshire Blood Bikes

Soon to go operational ferrying blood samples from the walk-in centre on Osmaston Road to the Path Lab at the Royal Derby Hospital. Not a great distance but a big step forward for DBB.

[www.derbyshirebloodbikes.org](http://www.derbyshirebloodbikes.org)

BikeSafe is running again throughout the summer. If you know someone who wants a crack at Advanced Riding, but don't want to join us for whatever reason, then here's an alternate route for them. Full day courses are being run on :



- . Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June
- . Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July
- . Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September

A new departure is to do the Theory Sessions over 2 evenings and the On Road Session at a date convenient to the Rider and the Instructor. The dates for the evening sessions are:

- . Mondays 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May
- . Mondays 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> August.

Check out their web site for details of how to sign up:

. [www.bikesafe.co.uk/Police-Forces/Derbyshire.aspx](http://www.bikesafe.co.uk/Police-Forces/Derbyshire.aspx)

*Well I Never!*

Our Wonderful English language in full flow...

**Cocktail lounge , Norway :**

**LADIES ARE REQUESTED NOT TO HAVE CHILDREN IN THE BAR.**

**Doctors office, Rome:**

**SPECIALIST IN WOMEN AND OTHER DISEASES.**

**Dry cleaners, Bangkok :**

**DROP YOUR TROUSERS HERE FOR THE BEST RESULTS.**

**In a Nairobi restaurant:**

**CUSTOMERS WHO FIND OUR WAITRESSES RUDE OUGHT TO SEE THE MANAGER.**

**On the main road to Mombassa, leaving Nairobi :**

**TAKE NOTICE: WHEN THIS SIGN IS UNDER WATER, THIS ROAD IS IMPASSABLE.**

**On a poster in Johannesburg :**

**ARE YOU AN ADULT THAT CANNOT READ? IF SO WE CAN HELP..**

**In a City restaurant:**

**OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK AND WEEKENDS.**

**In an Irish cemetery:**

**PERSONS ARE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING FLOWERS FROM ANY BUT THEIR OWN GRAVES .**

**Tokyo hotel's rules and regulations:**

**GUESTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SMOKE OR DO OTHER DISGUSTING BEHAVIOURS IN BED.**

**On the menu of a Swiss restaurant:**

**OUR WINES LEAVE YOU NOTHING TO HOPE FOR.**

**In a Thai bar:**

**SPECIAL COCKTAILS FOR THE LADIES WITH NUTS.**

**Hotel , Yugoslavia :**

**THE FLATTENING OF UNDERWEAR WITH PLEASURE IS THE JOB OF THE CHAMBERMAID..**

**Hotel , Japan :**

**YOU ARE INVITED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CHAMBERMAID.**

**In the lobby of a Moscow hotel across from a Russian Orthodox monastery:**

**YOU ARE WELCOME TO VISIT THE CEMETERY WHERE FAMOUS RUSSIAN AND SOVIET COMPOSERS, ARTISTS AND WRITERS ARE BURIED DAILY EXCEPT THURSDAY.**

**A sign posted in Germany's Black Forest :**

**IT IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN ON OUR BLACK FOREST CAMPING SITE THAT PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT SEX, FOR INSTANCE, MEN AND WOMEN, LIVE TOGETHER IN ONE TENT UNLESS THEY ARE MARRIED WITH EACH OTHER FOR THIS PURPOSE..**

**Hotel, Zurich :**

**BECAUSE OF THE IMPROPRIETY OF ENTERTAINING GUESTS OF THE OPPOSITE SEX IN THE BEDROOM, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THE LOBBY BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE.**

**Advertisement for donkey rides, Budapest :**

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO RIDE ON YOUR OWN ASS?**

**Airline ticket office, Copenhagen :**

**WE TAKE YOUR BAGS AND SEND THEM IN ALL DIRECTIONS.**

**A laundry in Rome :**

**LADIES, LEAVE YOUR CLOTHES HERE AND SPEND THE AFTERNOON HAVING A GOOD TIME..**

## *Know the Law*

*Ignorance of the Law is no excuse.*

*Pass on any tips or new legislation*

**Do you know of any Cafes, Pubs, Shops etc that are good destinations for a ride?**

**Share with us, we could do a club rideout.**

**We can always find a leader if we have a route.**

## *Destination*

## *Me and My Bike*

*Love your bike? Or maybe not!*

*Lets hear about your love/hate relationship with your current or a previous bike.*

**Come on Associates, how's it going?**

**Is training as you expected?**

**What has surprised you most?**

**Good or Bad, share your experience.**

## *Associate News*

## *Any More Ideas?*

*If you can think of a relevant topic area let us know and we'll get it included.*

*This is your News Letter so make a contribution!*

# Events Calendar

Date	Event Details
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>CLUB NIGHT</b> – Royal Oak, Ockbrook
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> or Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	<b>Rideout – Nothing planned yet – Any ideas ?</b>
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> July, 1pm	<p><b>Slow Riding</b></p> <p><b>At the Meadows, Derby</b></p> <p>Let's have some fun whilst practising Slow Riding.</p> <p>Let's see if we can find the people capable of winning the ASHES for D.A.M.</p>
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> August	<p><b>Escort riders from Dronfield to the Brackley Bike Festival</b></p> <p><b>See Tony for details</b></p>
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> August	<b>CLUB NIGHT</b> – Royal Oak, Ockbrook
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> or Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Rideout – Nothing planned yet – Any ideas ?</b>
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>CLUB NIGHT</b> – Royal Oak, Ockbrook
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> or Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	<b>Rideout – Nothing planned yet – Any ideas ?</b>
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September, 7:30pm	<b>Committee Meeting</b> – Nottingham Road Fire Station
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	<p><b>CLUB NIGHT</b> – with a difference -</p> <p>Royal Oak, Ockbrook – <b>BEER FESTIVAL</b></p>
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> or Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>Rideout – Nothing planned yet – Any ideas ?</b>
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> November, 8pm	<b>CLUB NIGHT</b> – Royal Oak, Ockbrook

Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> or Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Rideout – Nothing planned yet – Any ideas ?</b>
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December, 8pm	<b>CLUB NIGHT</b> – Royal Oak, Ockbrook

## **Committee Members**

Chair	John Tizzard
Secretary	Stuart Turner
Associate Co-ordinator	Stuart Turner
Treasurer	Mick Ford
Membership Secretary	Richard Ballard
Test and Guidance	Tony Grimshaw
Runs Co-ordinator	Gordon Constable
Newsletter Editor	Vacant
Webmaster	Vacant
Auditor	Dave Whitlock
Committee Member	Pete Macrorie
Committee Member	Bob Whitmore