

Chairman's Report to the Annual General Meeting, IAM Derbyshire Advanced Motorcyclists

Monday 14 March 2016

Good evening everyone and a very warm welcome to our AGM.

A special welcome to our guests Dave Shenton and Ian Firth, who will be delivering a presentation to the group taking your questions shortly later.

2015 was quite a year for our great club. Not only did we attract more new associates than we have managed in recent years, but we also collected the Runners-Up 2nd place prize in the IAM Group Achievement Awards. This success does not come easily, and my sincere thanks goes to all of the individual members who have contributed in such a positive way to make us one of the very best advanced riding groups in the country.

I can report that we are well ahead of the national average for performance figures. We have a significantly high first-time pass rate and F1rst grades, plus we also train riders quicker than most other groups, too. This is due to the skill, dedication and experience of all of our group observers, to whom I am extremely grateful and proud.

Many of our group observers are currently working towards their IMI qualifications, and we are well on course to meet the deadlines imposed by IAM head office. You will know that our Observers are managed by Geoff Salt, and I remain very grateful for his leadership of this difficult and complex task.

We enjoyed some wonderful group rides over the last year, and it is thanks to Gordon Constable for his imagination and commitment to this important aspect of our group. I am also grateful and proud of everyone who has stepped forward to volunteer to lead and help organise group riding.

None of this success and performance happens by chance. It is a result of the dedication and hard work that each and every member puts in to our great club, combined with the positive message we send out to the wider motorcycle community. Many individuals work tirelessly behind the scenes, and they all know just how grateful I am for their endeavours.

Over the last year, we have all worked very hard to strengthen our relationship with colleagues at Derby RoSPA, and I'm very happy with the progress we have made. There are other joint events planned for 2016, which I hope you will enjoy and support.

Also in 2015, we welcomed a wonderful mix of guest speakers to our club nights, and I'm grateful to everyone who came along to talk to us. I trust you enjoyed these evenings, and found them interesting and informative.

2016 has already started strongly; we joined our friends at IAM Nottingham group for a wonderful day out last Sunday, and our new Associate registrations are setting new heights.

There are big changes ahead for the IAM this year, which you will hear more about from Dave & Ian. The IAM are looking to reach out to a younger audience and modernise the advanced test. The new test standards will roll out shortly, once the trials are complete, which will see a major change in the way we go about our business of helping riders to achieve the advanced standard. We need to be ready to embrace this change and meet the new demands and challenges that lay ahead.

Finally, I would like to thank each and every member for making our group so great. It is a huge honour and privilege to be your Chairman, and I will continue to work hard on your behalf to give you exactly the club that you rightly demand and deserve.