

Andrew Phipps

I joined the Institute of Advanced Motoring in July 2016, with the goal to pass my advanced motorbike test and further improve my riding skills. This was extremely important to me because I was a relative newcomer to motor biking, having passed my full test in 2009. Although this test provided me with the minimum requirements to ride safely on the roads, I felt that IAM could offer me courses that would help me to become a better, more confident and safer rider.

I was assigned a personal observer named Sarah Shanks-Pell to mentor me. I felt at ease with my mentor from the outset and a regular set of weekly ride outs was organised between us. Typically, observed rides can last between one to four hours. Each route is different and pre-determined by the IAM mentor without you having prior knowledge.

Your mentor regularly assesses your skills whilst on an observed ride. At the end of each ride the mentor will evaluate and discuss your performance against the IAM scorecard of standards expected for your training, after which all comments, observations or particular areas for improvement are recorded. This is carried out in a relaxed setting.

In between ride outs, IAM organises a monthly meet up. I always look forward to these because it gives me the opportunity to meet new people or new members as well as taking time to socialise with my existing friends at the club as well. This relaxed atmosphere allows me to have fun and socialise at the same time.

I firmly believe that the IAM advanced motorbike course greatly improved my riding ability. The weekly ride outs and ongoing assessment and discussions about my riding improved my confidence as well as my observational awareness, ultimately allowing me to enjoy my riding even more.

I am glad to be part of the IAM group and am also grateful for the new skills and training that my IAM mentor provided me. This certainly contributed to me passing my test first time. I would have no hesitation in recommending the institute to anyone else.

Regards

Andy Phipps