

# Bristol Advanced Motorcyclists (BAM)

Super Sunday Newsletter - October 2018



Meet like-minded people, become a safer rider and have fun

Social events every month



Great ride outs for Associates and full members taking in great locations and scenery



# **SUPER SUNDAY NEWSLETTER OF BRISTOL ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS**

## **October Edition**

BAM IS AFFILIATED TO  
THE INSTITUTE OF  
ADVANCED MOTORISTS  
(GROUP No. 1258)

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Image - FRONT COVER - BAM

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Bristol Advanced  
Motorcyclists  
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[www.bamo.org.uk](http://www.bamo.org.uk)

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## **Welcome to the Bristol Advanced Motorcyclists (BAM) Super Sunday Newsletter**

Welcome to everyone, particularly those who are here for the first time, on Sunday 7th October 2018.

This is also the Group's first time trialling a Super Sunday Newsletter ahead of next years publishing of the the Magazine and an electronic booklet format only.

Those who subscribe to have a hard copy posted to them as part of their annual membership with BAM will continue to receive hard copy versions as the Group is fully aware of preferences of members to read the hard copy rather than on online version, or perhaps have the luxury of both.

In this inaugural edition we provide an insight to BAM and what it means to you as a first timer, an Associate and a full member.

The Autumn edition of the Chain Link Magazine is going to print in October. Deadlines for entries will be Monday 15 October.

Enjoy the the rest of your Newsletter and remember if you want to write in email me [editor@bam-members.org.uk](mailto:editor@bam-members.org.uk)

Keep your motor running,

Tony – Chain Link Editor

## Chair's Write Up – Timmy's Twoddle

For those that are unaware, there's been a bit of a shuffle on the Committee, John Crawford resigned from the position of Chair at the beginning of August. The Committee have thanked him for all his efforts over during his term. John is still carrying on his National Observer duties and organising rides so is still very much a valued member of the group.

As Vice Chair it is down to me to stand in as Interim Chair, so this month's "Chairman's Chatter", or "View from the Chair/Saddle", or even Timmy's Twoddle, whatever you want to call it! (Ed: I've called it Timmy's Twoddle) is very much off the cuff and probably sparse. However, I would like to take this opportunity to focus on some of the positive outcomes that have arisen over the last couple of months.

### 4 F1RST

Congratulations to the Lam/Lane family all 4 members Sam, Katie, Indigo and Oscar (Mother Father and 2 sons) all passed their IAM Test all gaining a F1rst. Well done to them and all that were involved with their training.



### Their first, F1RST

During August's Super Sunday event, not only did the Group sign up 13 new Associates we are proud to announce that 3 recently qualified Local Observers all enjoyed presenting a F1RST pass certificate to their very 1st Associates. Well done to Local Observers; Mark Gollop, Richard Holloway and Tony Batty.

Both Jim and Pat BAM's joint Chief Observers are now busy organising the training schedule for the next batch of Trainee Local Observers.

## **Super Sunday Ride Outs**

This is going from Strength to strength, and is very much aimed for the membership. Thanks to Heidi, Geoff and the ride leaders for making this now a regular monthly event. Jenny Wills also deserves a mention as she is also heavily involved in the group ride outs alongside Geoff and Heidi.

The Super Sunday event also keeps going from strength to strength, there really is a Buzz around the school, and it's not from the bees!

So the last 3 months has seen BAM sign up 20 Associates in July, 13 in August and 12 in September. 45 in total which I believe is a record number over a 3 month period. It's fantastic that as a group we are able to attract and seamlessly accommodate that many.

It is also great that someone who has just recently gone through the whole process, from the Initial Super Sunday assessed ride, right through to taking his test with Tony and gaining a first. Thanks to Dave Thomas for submitting that article which will appear in the Chain Link this month.

September's Super Sunday welcomed 12 new Associates, 25 in total for the last two months. Who knows how many we will have at October's Super Sunday

That's all for the time being

Ride Safe.

Tim Wrighton

# SUPER SUNDAYS ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS

The first Sunday of every month, except January, a wide variety of bikes and bikers meet up in King's Oak Academy, Kingswood, all with the same intent – to get the most from their biking.

There are the first timers who come along to go out on an assessed ride. This is free and carried out by a team of trained volunteer observers. This is a great way to find out if you could get more from your riding by signing up to complete the IAM RoadSmart Advanced Rider course. This course will improve your biking skills and the safety of you and other road users.

Once you have enrolled, you are known as an Associate. Associates are allocated an Observer to

take them through their training, additionally at Super Sundays all Associates will get the chance to meet the Examiner, attend a class room session on bike techniques or ride with a different Observer for a cross check of your progress. The last Super Sunday you need to attend is when you get presented with your IAM RoadSmart Certificate!

But this is just the beginning, Bristol Advanced Motorcyclists is a club with an active calendar of social events, talks, ride outs and trips away. It is also the route for further training if you'd like to learn how to pass on your newly acquired skills to others.



## Who?

Whether you want an assessed ride, a refresher ride for current members, or just to meet up with friends, then:-

- Arrive between 9-9.15am and register first, ready for a 9.30am start
- Grab a bacon butty and/or a cup of tea
- Get allocated an Observer for your assessed ride and off you go
- Previously enrolled Associates to attend the “Meet the Examiner” or the theory session **before** you set off on your observed ride.

## Where?

King’s Oak Academy, Brook Road, (off Tennis Court Road), Warmley, Bristol BS15 4JT



## When?

Every 1st Sunday of the month (except January)

## How much?

It’s **FREE** on your first visit to a Super Sunday event. The IAM RoadSmart Advanced Rider course costs £149. There are offers available for individuals under 30 - sponsored by South Gloucestershire Road Safety



# Free taster sessions

Discover how to be a better rider  
with Bristol Advanced Motorcyclists

If you've ever wondered what advanced riding skills look like and whether you'd like to develop your own, our free taster sessions are a fun way to find out.

These sessions bring advanced riding to life. They last around an hour and may be on a one-to-one format or held during a friendly, group event day.

Our volunteers will provide an inspirational demonstration of what we're all about - for free.

**"A couple of simple tips had an amazing effect on my riding"**

## Who's it for?

Our tasters are for anyone who wants to improve their riding skills but would rather try before they buy. It doesn't matter what motorcycle you ride, what age you are (as long as you have a current driving licence) or your level of experience.

You could be a professional rider who wants to add a qualification to your CV, a seasoned rider keen to stay safe, a new rider who doesn't want to stop at the motorcycle test, or someone who has wanted to improve their riding but has never got around to it.



## Benefits in a nutshell

- ✓ *Simple format - no commitment*
- ✓ *Help and advice to be the best you can be*
- ✓ *Free sessions with qualified volunteers*
- ✓ *10% off an Advanced Rider Course*

The road safety team have been kindly sponsoring our new under 30s members during the past couple of years by refunding the IAM RoadSmart Advanced Rider course fee upon a successful pass of the IAM RoadSmart test.

## Are you under 30?



Get yourself  
**Advanced Rider  
Training**



[www.bamo.org.uk](http://www.bamo.org.uk)





# WELCOME – NEW ASSOCIATES

A big BAM welcome to the following new Associates. We have had a bumper 3 months since July so you can get a an idea how popular the Bristol Advanced Motorcyclists Group is:

George Bardsley	Gastao Beaumont	Nathan Brew	Alice Brookes
Mark Callaghan	Jason Fordham	Harriet Grove	Paul Hill
Will Kelleher	Indigo Lane	Richard Leaver	Ian McDonald
Steve Poole	Martyn Rood	Steve Sollars	Neil Trimby
Tim Walton	Rob Webb	Rob Withey	Tristan Worcester
Ellie Ager	Marc Andrews	Debbie Atterton	Terry Baker
Colin Ball	Pete Ball	Ray Bamford	Tim Bishop
Steve Bush	Ingrid Chauvet	Ken Cochrane	Phil Davis
Sean Franks	Tony Gapper	Steve Godfrey	Bryan Huish
Gary Lyttle	Claire Mitchell	Geoff Needs	Sam Rawlings
Alastair Sadler	Paul Stanier	Vicky Studley	Martosz Szydlowski
Malcolm White			



Associates under 30, have an additional bonus of being eligible for a full refund, courteous of South Gloucestershire Council Road Safety Young Rider's scheme.

BAM's Super Sunday event runs on the 1st Sunday of the month, and gives an excellent platform for associates, new members and gives potential members the chance to "try before you buy" with a free assessment.

For more info visit the BAM website [www.bamo.org.uk/](http://www.bamo.org.uk/)

Dave Thomas has submitted a write up on his experience as an Associate with BAM to a Test F1RST pass.

### How I did it – a passing experience

Having recently passed my advanced motorcycling test, I thought why not share my experience with those that are still training or thinking of taking their test. Yes, at times it was frustrating but with some persistence with the IPSCA system I now find it second nature.

So why did I enrol? A number of things drove me to join BAMO including a desire to become a motorcycle instructor, a car accident earlier in 2018 that made me think about my driving style and habits. I had also been out on a bike safe course with ex police instructors and had a great time learning new skills, they also made me realise that my steed and rubber of the time were far more capable of staying on the road than I was. So not to be out done by my kid brother who qualified last year, I decided to get on and do exactly what I had been thinking about for some time, I attended the April Super Sunday, had an observed ride and signed up as an associate.

My first ride out in April with my observer provided me some improvement points and subsequent Super Sunday rides with a different observer every time provided me opportunities from different viewpoints on how to improve my riding. Pointers including rear observations (I altered my mirror positions), path of least risk and road positioning were extremely useful enabling me to practice on my daily commute around the A4174 to work. If you do nothing else, attend the Super Sundays, they are great for meeting likeminded individuals, having a bacon butty and coffee plus you get great feedback from highly experienced and qualified local observers.

I should also mention that BAM also conduct ride outs for both full club members and associates. I found these vital to understanding how to ride in a group, the marker system and go to places never before visited whilst having fun on two wheels. I plan to do more of these to hone my riding out of position skills in preparation for my plan to now train as a local observer.

So, having been allocated my observer we agreed dates to meet and undertake a series of observed rides in the local countryside, each time stopping about the halfway point for me to assess how I thought things had gone with supporting feedback from my observer. Over the next few months they gave me the opportunity to get out and practice one of my favourite pastimes, get to see places I hadn't been to for a long time plus understand the riding areas I could improve on. Getting my first clear assessment sheet of "ones" was an occasion I will not forget and a milestone for me in understanding that practice and persistence was starting to

pay off, the next ride where I repeated it confirmed I was on the right path and my observer recommended me to undertake my Pre-Test Assessment known as the PTA.

This is where things sped up immensely, possibly this was down to lucky timing, however I took my PTA with the BAMO vice chairman, a great ride to Tetbury where I thought my previous “clear runs” would be repeated. I wasn’t that bad but a long day at the office, over confidence, the heat and riding into a setting sun showed that I still needed some development. I should say that these are my observations and not those of my observer who still thought I was at the standard sufficient to take my test, needless to say his observations of the ride provided me yet again another positive opportunity to learn on areas where I could improve and practice. Having applied for my test soon after, I was astounded to receive a call from the examiner the next day inviting me for a test the following Saturday starting at Riders Brislington. Stewth that was quick, that’s only three days and gave me little time to sort myself out and practice in earnest.

My insider tips on how I planned for this are: -

- Recce the Riders location, there are multiple bus lanes which you can use and a myriad of speed limits, some obscured by the copious vegetation.
- If you are unable to visit the location in time such as me, use Google Street View, it’s up to date at the moment and gave me a great insight into ALL routes and road signs to/from Riders. Beware that other examiners may start elsewhere though my advice remains the same.
- Go for a practice ride the day before. I took Lady Thomas out for a short spin, so she could point out all my bad points giving her a hazard running commentary all the way – that’ll teach her to let me have an intercom. Having exited Riders right to Stockwood, we took the Wells road to Chew Magna then onto the lakes café for a brew taking the longer route through Bishop Sutton on the return leg. What a stroke of luck for me, this was practically the reverse of my test route, so I knew a lot of the hazards from the day before.
- Finally, I went out way before my allotted 11:30 test time, had a good long ride on unfamiliar roads to sharpen myself up ending at Riders for a brew and inevitable bathroom break to calm myself before the test.

As for the test, I treated as just another observed ride and having done six or so previously, nerves were much less than they could have been, it was a steaming hot day and the examiner was very calming explaining clearly what he was looking for. For instance, minor indiscretions whilst they could add up to a fail, he was seeking clear evidence of good roadcraft and demonstration of the advanced riding system. It was a great ride out until I got to Chew Magna where having fluffed a footing at a T junction and taking a wrong turn, I was starting to think I was heading for a fail but kept on going returning to Riders about an hour later.

This is where I can say the examiner told me I had passed, FANTASTIC WOOHOO! Additionally, he gave me more feedback about why. His comments included really good rear observations (remember the mirror reset I mentioned earlier), witnessing man and machine in perfect harmony (his words - honest) really good and confident pace coming out of Chew in the

national limit zone, many others keep it well below apparently, but it is a great curvy road and I was actually starting to have some fun, also backing off the speed where the road narrows with multiple hazards.

So, if I had to give any newbies advice it is: -

- Listen to the observers – they really know their stuff and will help you positively learn how to be a better rider.
- Go to the Super Sundays – more observers = wider view on your style.
- Go on the associates rides out they're great fun, really testing initially, I found the concentration required was phenomenal but got easier with time and they really help your skills.
- Practice, practice practice. My weekly mileage is around 100 miles commuting but this pretty much doubled with observed and other rides.
- Plan for your test and go out for an hour before to apply the system – it really works!

Finally, my thanks go to all those who have given up their free time to help me through this very pleasurable and enlightening experience; my observer Tony Batty, observers Tim, Richard, Mike, Darren, Co-chair Tim for my PTA, Geoff and Heidi for the associate rides and examiner Tony.

Dave Thomas

Keep those wheels turning



## OCTOBER 2018

SUNDAY

7

**BAM SUPER SUNDAY – OBSERVED RIDE**

SUNDAY

7

**BAM MEMBERS RIDE OUT**

Nick Perry - Route TBC

WEDNESDAY

10

**BAM CLUB NIGHT – COALPIT HEATH VILLAGE HALL**

Speaker TBC

## NOVEMBER 2018

SUNDAY

4

**BAM SUPER SUNDAY – OBSERVED RIDE**

WEDNESDAY

14

**BAM CLUB NIGHT**

Speaker TBC

SUNDAY

TBC

**BAM BREAKFAST RIDE OUT**

Details TBC

## DECEMBER 2018

SUNDAY

2

**BAM SUPER SUNDAY – OBSERVED RIDE**

WEDNESDAY

12

**BAM CLUB NIGHT**

Speaker TBC

SUNDAY

TBC

**BAM BREAKFAST RIDE OUT**

Details TBC

## JANUARY 2019

SUNDAY

**BAM BREAKFAST RIDE OUT**

TBC

Details TBC

## FEBRUARY 2019

SUNDAY

**BAM SUPER SUNDAY – OBSERVED RIDE**

3

WEDNESDAY

**BAM CLUB NIGHT**

13

Speaker TBC

SUNDAY

**BAM BREAKFAST RIDE OUT**

TBC

Details TBC

### Ride outs

There are a variety of ride out events for members who have passed the advanced rider course or a pre-test assessment, and also for Associates currently going through the advanced training. Geoff and Heidi organise the ride outs.

Contact [rides@bam-members.org.uk](mailto:rides@bam-members.org.uk) if you want to get involved or simply want more information.

### Trips away

The Group organise trips away in UK for weekends and a trip to Europe.

Watch out for news on the BAM social media, Facebook and Twitter, on the website or in the monthly Newsletter and the BAM Group Magazine, Chain Link.

## BAM CLUB CONTACTS

### BAM Committee

Chair	Tim Wrighton	<a href="mailto:chair@bam-members.org.uk">chair@bam-members.org.uk</a>
Vice Chair		<a href="mailto:vicechair@bam-members.org.uk">vicechair@bam-members.org.uk</a>
Chief Observer	Jim Caola	<a href="mailto:chiefobserver@bam-members.org.uk">chiefobserver@bam-members.org.uk</a>
Deputy Chief Observer	Pat McManus	<a href="mailto:chiefobserver@bam-members.org.uk">chiefobserver@bam-members.org.uk</a>
Associate Liaison		
Secretary	Sue Nolan	<a href="mailto:secretary@bam-members.org.uk">secretary@bam-members.org.uk</a>
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Events Co-ordinator	Vacant	
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### Special Roles

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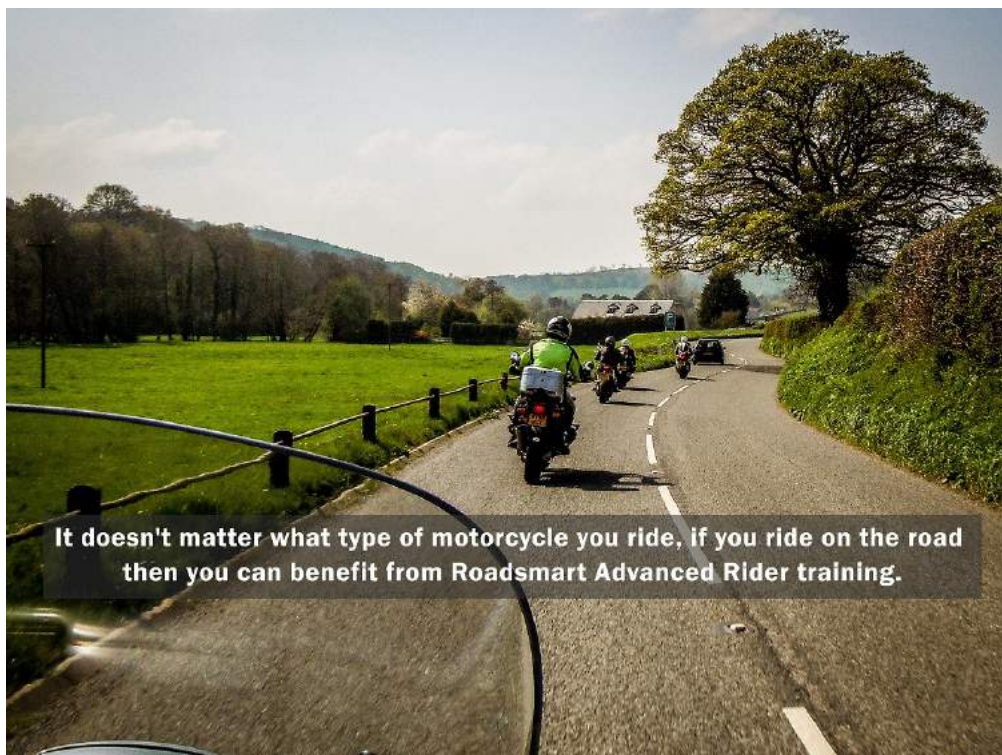
### BAM CLUB NIGHTS

Coalpit Heath Village Hall  
214 Badminton Road Bristol BS36 2QB  
Every second Wednesday of the month  
Arrive from 7.30pm

### SUPER SUNDAYS

Kings Oak Academy  
Brook Road, Kingswood Bristol BS15 4JT  
Arrive between 9-9.15am

INFORMATION ABOUT THE ABOVE EVENTS WILL BE POSTED ON THE BAM FORUM, SOCIAL MEDIA AND EMAILS  
WILL BE SENT TO CLUB MEMBERS – IDEAS FOR SPEAKERS ALWAYS WELCOMED



It doesn't matter what type of motorcycle you ride, if you ride on the road then you can benefit from Roadsmart Advanced Rider training.



Be the best that you can be

Become an Advanced rider

Visit the Bristol Advanced Motorcyclists website

[www.bamo.org.uk](http://www.bamo.org.uk)