

Newsletter
Dorset Group of Advanced Motorcyclists
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(Registered Charity Number 1050941)

Newsletter for April 2008

Recent events

19th March Social Evening

Despite the fact that we were unable to get a speaker on the night, and few people decided to turn out and be sociable, this turned into a very interesting and productive meeting. Representatives of Dorset Freewheelers came along to discuss a proposed change in legislation affecting vehicles running under blue flashing lights. It will shortly be compulsory for riders and drivers of such vehicles to have an advanced driving qualification such as those from RoSPA or the IAM.

We are arranging to train up their core volunteer group to IAM test level with the rest of the volunteers following on. After discussing the logistics of this operation and the willingness of the observing team to achieve these goals, the committee decided that we would cancel this year's open day as detailed in last month's newsletter.

6th April Social Run

Having woken up to a covering of snow on Sunday morning – although nothing like the quantity which caused the postponement of the British Superbikes meeting at Brands Hatch, I was pleasantly surprised to discover five other bikes turning up for the social ride. This included two members existing IAM members who have recently moved into the area and came along to meet us.

As the bulk of the snow seemed to be to the north and east of us we abandoned the scheduled route up to Cheddar Gorge and instead Kelvin led a run down to Lyme Regis where a tea and thaw out stop was held. Graham and Linda then decided to stay in Lyme and look around in the sunshine so Kelvin led us back inland via Beaminster and the odd farm track before the ride ended at Maiden Newton.

16th April Social Evening

Despite a very low attendance on the evening of only 8 people, 4 of them committee members, Antone gave a professional presentation on the hidden damage that can be caused to our ears and how best to minimise any further damage. He also explained some of the other specialised ear products they produce including custom fittings for phones and other audio apparatus such as i-pods etc. At the end of the session three of us had impressions taken of our ears and are now looking forward to receiving some oddly shaped bits of plastic in the post.

If anyone who could not attend on the club night wants to have impressions taken for a set of ear plugs Antone would be happy to arrange this to be done locally as he now lives in Dorchester. Please contact me for his telephone number.

Membership Matters

We are pleased to welcome the following new associates to the club who are all signed up for the skill for life programme and will be allocated their observer shortly:

Dave Buttle
Andy Dyer
Gary Edwards
Trevor Howells
Jim Humphries
Paul Keoghan
Brian Midgely
Garry Poole
Tim Reynolds
Keith Rock

We are also pleased to welcome three new members to our club who have passed their tests with other clubs. These are Steve Parker and Graham and Linda Thomas.

Training Matters

Kelvin gave an introductory guide to Roadcraft and how to use the system to the new associates from Dorset Freewheelers on 26th April as a preamble to them starting their training. A meeting is to be set up so that the associates and observers can meet and be paired off. Kelvin will advise details in due course.

As mentioned above we now have a number of new associates to be trained and so the onus is on existing associates who are undergoing training to get practicing between observed runs so that they can quickly get up to test standard.

Would associates who have been allocated an observer but have not been on an observed run for some time please remember that the onus is on them to contact their observer to arrange training runs. In the early stages particularly it is important that the observer and associate build a momentum from one run to the next so the associate does not forget the points from the last session.

If existing associates are not taking advantage of having an allocated observer, then priority will be given to a new associate who is showing greater enthusiasm and commitment to preparing for the test.

It is strongly recommended that all associates should wear a high visibility vest or jacket whilst out on training rides. These are readily available from a variety of sources – but why not be distinctive and get one commissioned by the club and embroidered with the club logo. Please contact Shaun or Sharon

Russell Chaffey is going on the Observer Training Weekend in Wales to hone his skills and practice observing with senior observers from other clubs in the south west and Kelvin Latham is also going to help observers from other clubs. It should be an

interesting and worthwhile weekend and we look forward to benefiting from their experience.

Events News

Our next ride out is this coming Sunday when we will be heading up to Exmoor. The ride will depart promptly at 10.00 am and we will have a stop on Exmoor for some lunch before heading back to Dorchester. The return distance will be about 120 miles.

As the evenings are getting longer and the weather starts to improve we are now having evening rides on the third Wednesday of the month. The theme this year is to have an enjoyable ride to a seaside location where we can have a fish and chip supper before heading home. The first of these rides will be on Wednesday 21st May and our destination will be Swanage. The departure point will be from outside Dorchester Town Football Club (by Tesco's petrol station) and we will be leaving promptly at 19.00 so please arrive in time for the briefing.

10th May, 12th July, 6th September & 8th November - SWAST 'First Bike on the Scene' first aid course, Euan and Kelvin have been on this course and found it very useful. For more information please contact Kim Davis on 01305 257643

I am currently filling up the calendar for the summer and as I confirm events I will be putting them up on the website, so for the latest please go to <http://www.dgam.org.uk/events> .

Shaun
Events Co-ordinator

Observers' Expenses

There is no charge for the guidance offered by the IAM, but significant expenses are incurred by Observers, who offer their time for no financial reward. It is, however, polite to make an offer towards Observers' running costs so that their enthusiasm for guiding others isn't dampened by the financial drain. The committee has agreed that Observers should be offered £5 per ride. It is then at the Observer's discretion what to accept.

Items of Club Insignia

Club badges are available to sew onto your own clothing at £5.00 each.

Hi-Viz vests are available to club members and associates. These are quality items with a fleece lining and have the club logo embroidered on to them. Various sizes are available and they cost £16.00 each. We are able to provide items of clothing, embroidered with the club logo. These available in a variety of colours and styles such as sweat shirts at £15.00 each, polo shirts at £13.50 each and tee shirts (men's and ladies' styles) at £11.00 each. Please contact Sharon Simmonds.

Other Matters

The IAM Motorcycle Conference is to be held at Warwick University on 28th June and all full members are entitled to attend. Again please contact Kelvin for more details.

Committee Contact E-mails

Russell Simmonds	<u>chief.observer@dgam.org.uk</u>
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Please contact any of the committee members by e-mail if you can help the club in any way and do come along to the club meetings and the social runs. If you do not have internet access you can leave a message with Euan on 01305 849295 or by post at 28 Greenacres, Puddletown, Dorset, DT2 8GF.

Safe riding to you all!

Russell, Kelvin, Alan, Euan, Shaun, Charles and Sharon

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 4 th May	Ride out to Exmoor c. 120 miles
Wednesday 21 st May	Fish & chip run to Swanage
Sunday 1 st June	Rideout to Army Air Museum c. 120 miles
Wednesday 18 th June	Fish & chip run to Lyme Regis
Sunday 29 th June	Motorcycle World at Beaulieu
Sunday 6 th July	Social ride TBC
Wednesday 16 th July	BBQ at West Bexington – 19.00 depart DTFC or meet on the beach at 20.00
Sunday 3 rd August	Social run around edge of Dorset c. 120 miles
Wednesday 20 th August	Fish & Chip run to West Bay

All Sunday ride outs leave Tesco Dorchester at 10.00am

All Wednesday evening talks are at the rugby club at 19.30 – please arrive a few minutes early.

All Wednesday evening runs leave Tesco Dorchester at 19.00

Please note new departure point for all Social runs