

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

## **Newsletter for May and June 2008**

### **Recent events**

#### **4<sup>th</sup> May Social Run**

The scheduled destination for the May social ride was down to Exmoor, however as it had been raining heavily in Devon since the early hours of the morning and was forecast to continue all day, a revised route was arranged at the departure point before seven bikes set off.

As the weather was brightest to the north and east of Dorchester we decided on a route up to Avebury in Wiltshire. Heading up via Devizes we kept just ahead of the rain clouds until we had stopped for lunch at the Red Lion. After lunch the skies cleared a bit and we only had patchy rain as we came back on a more easterly route via Marlborough, Pewsey and Salisbury before the ride ended at pimperl and we went our own ways home.

Talking to the other riders over lunch they appreciated the difference of having a longer run than our normal 60 or so miles and the benefits and problems that arise on such a journey. It is noticeable that on a longer run people set in to a better rhythm with the bike than they do on a short run where they only get out of car mode towards the end. It is also interesting to see how people's concentration levels fluctuate on a longer run, especially as cold and dampness can induce tiredness which affects people's riding skills.

Certainly those on the run enjoyed the experience and the chance to watch other riders without associates feeling that they were under the degree of scrutiny that exists on a training run. I think that it is a good balance during the summer to have longer monthly runs interspersed with a few morning only runs. Please can those members and associates who have not been on many social runs let Shaun have some feedback on what they would like to do in future.

#### **21<sup>st</sup> May fish and chip run**

I was not able to go on this run and so am grateful to Alan Bushaway for providing the following ride report.

The run to Swanage was led by Shaun and I was the back marker. There were six bikes in between, which made a very good turn out for the first evening ride of the year. I was unfortunate that some people turned up and had a chat and then decided to get petrol before setting off, so a 7pm prompt departure turned into a 7:15 departure. At least we didn't have to stop part way round for fuel.

Shaun's run was 40 miles of interesting roads which took us in a round about route to Swanage via Higher and Lower Waterston, Milborne St Andrew, Winterbourne Whitechurch, Morden (not the one in Surrey), Sandford, Wareham, Corfe Castle (nearly). Then out towards Studland and turning right towards Swanage before reaching Studland.

The road between the chain ferry at Studland and Corfe Castle brought back a memories of a regular route for me when I was living in the Southampton area, when petrol was less for a gallon than it is now for a litre (I must be getting old)!

The only disappointment was that the main chip shops in Swanage were shut, so it was a hungry ride home. Also the public toilets were shut (I must be getting old)!

A very enjoyable run, even better considering that it was forecast to rain.

Thanks to Shaun for an excellent route and leading the run.

I was also unable to go on the Group ride on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June, and would be grateful if anyone who did go could provide a brief description to go in next month's newsletter.

## **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. Some of them have been allocated an observer and have started training whilst the others will be allocated their observer shortly:

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

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.

## **Group Social Runs**

Please be aware that all members, and associates who have had their assessed ride and been approved by an observer, are welcome to attend the advertised social runs.

These runs are run at a legal and responsible pace and there is no pressure on any rider to keep up with the group or ride more quickly than they feel comfortable with. Most rides are run using the marker system which will be explained to you during the pre-ride briefing. This allows everyone to ride at their own pace with the back marker ensuring that no one is left at the side of the road and no one should ever get lost.

These runs provide an opportunity for you to meet and chat with other members and associates, discover some interesting by-ways and watch other riders without feeling the pressure of your observer sitting behind you making notes for the debrief. So come along and join us.

## **Training Matters**

There was a group meeting of observers and the new group of associates from Dorset Freewheelers on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May at the Clay Pigeon venue on the A37. This was a handy meeting point being roughly half way between Yeovil and Dorchester so splitting the distance. Bike nights are being held here weekly and we had hoped to be able to get all our bikes together and take some photos for publicity purposes. Unfortunately it was a gloomy old evening with no photo opportunity due to the good turnout of bikes.

Most observer and associate pairings managed to dodge the vivid thunderstorms visible in the distance and arrive home reasonably dry.

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

## **Observer Training**

It is anticipated that we should be able to offer training for full members who wish to become observers in the autumn once a lot of the summer activities are out of the way and associate training has been moved forward. If you are interested in training as an observer can you please contact Russell Simmonds or Kelvin Latham and let them know.

There is a further training weekend arranged for observers and senior observers in Wales between 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> September. This will be on a similar format to the one that took place in April, but which no-one was able to attend. Cost is again £130 for the weekend although the committee will again see if this can be subsidized by the club.

In addition there will be a one day observer training course held in Exeter on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October, the cost for which will be around £30 per person.

If you are interested in attending either of these events, please contact Kelvin for more details and availability.

Finally, if we have any members who have previously done any observing and would like to become involved in observing with DGAM, can they please contact Russ or Kelvin.

## **Events News**

Our next ride out is next Wednesday evening, 18<sup>th</sup> June, and in keeping with the fish and chip run theme of this summer, the destination will be Lyme Regis. 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, with enough fuel, in time for the briefing so that the departure is not delayed.

**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

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July we will be doing a run over to Motorcycle World at Beaulieu. We will ride over as a group and then people can spend as long a time there as they want.

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August is the semi-finals of the European Grasstrack Championships which are being held near to Wimborne. Again we will ride over as a group and then people can spend as long a time there as they want.

For more details of these events please go to the website:  
<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 28<sup>th</sup> June and all full members are entitled to attend. Again please contact Kelvin for more details.

The IAM's next Regional Liaison Forum is on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September. It will be held in Langport in Somerset and any full members of the IAM are welcome to attend. Please contact Kelvin for more details.

## **Publicity Event**

We are planning to have a mass meeting at the Clay Pigeon to spread the word amongst the riders there that we do exist as a club and to let them know what we do and why it is important that we should all receive as much training as we can.

The evening we have chosen is Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2008 and we will aim to get as many members and associates there as holiday commitments will allow. We are hoping to have a dedicated parking area and will have our banner up and a good supply of leaflets to hand out. Further details will be in the next newsletter.

## **And Finally**

Thanks to Nic for this little bit of whimsy which shows that he, at least, still has a sense of humour – but he will need a new nickname soon!

Listening to my observer, (may his tank never run dry), and other club members discussing riding abroad reminded me of a story I heard some time ago.

It involved a riding holiday in Northern Spain, in particular the strange goings on in a car park in Bilbao. In Spain, as in the UK, bikers congregate in large numbers at weekends and, as this particular car park was being used by several local clubs as a meeting point, it was particularly busy that morning. At about 11.00 a large delivery lorry was ill advised enough to attempt to get into one of the car parks two entrances and became thoroughly stuck. As luck would have it the clubs were just starting to move out for their afternoon run. As we Brits seem to be the only country with a 'Queuing' culture my friend watched with interest as about 80 bikes funnelled into the remaining exit. Mayhem ensued, bikes fell, (or were pushed!) over, tempers were lost and then the fighting started, all to the sound of approaching sirens.

The moral of the story?

Never put all your Basques in one exit.

Nic Ashmore, (aka Capt Slow)

## **Committee Contact E-mails**

<b>Russell Simmonds</b>	<a href="mailto:chief.observer@dgam.org.uk"><u>chief.observer@dgam.org.uk</u></a>
<b>Kelvin Latham</b>	<a href="mailto:chairman@dgam.org.uk"><u>chairman@dgam.org.uk</u></a>
<b>Alan Bushaway</b>	<a href="mailto:associate.liaison@dgam.org.uk"><u>associate.liaison@dgam.org.uk</u></a>
<b>Euan Campbell</b>	<a href="mailto:newsletter@dgam.org.uk"><u>newsletter@dgam.org.uk</u></a>
<b>Charles Crowe</b>	<a href="mailto:secretary@dgam.org.uk"><u>secretary@dgam.org.uk</u></a>
<b>Shaun Steger-Lewis</b>	<a href="mailto:webmaster@dgam.org.uk"><u>webmaster@dgam.org.uk</u></a>
<b>Shaun Steger-Lewis</b>	<a href="mailto:events@dgam.org.uk"><u>events@dgam.org.uk</u></a>
<b>Sharon Simmonds</b>	<a href="mailto:membership@dgam.org.uk"><u>membership@dgam.org.uk</u></a>

If you need to contact Russell in a hurry please call him on his mobile (07980 211317) as he can't easily access e-mails at present.

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**

Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Fish & chip run to Lyme Regis
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Motorcycle World at Beaulieu
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	BBQ at West Bexington – 19.00 depart DTFC or meet on the beach at 20.00
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> August	European Grasstrack Championship nr Wimborne
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> 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**