

The SAM Observer

February 2012



IAM Group No. 7219



Registered Charity No. 1067800

www.suffolk-advanced-motorcyclists.com

Kevin Stark presenting certificates to:-

Brian Foster



Martin Drury



Your Committee

No Calls After 9pm Please

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Secretary	Martin Andrew	01473 614057
Treasurer	Judy Chittock	01473 737356

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David Rudland	01473 401362	Karl Hale	01359 241552
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Leia Dowsing	07841 699081	John Sillett	01473 219488
Ralph Fogg	07986 859848	Martin Leach	01473 717713
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To see 'The SAM Observer' in its full colour glory, visit the website

WEBSITE ADDRESS

<http://www.suffolk-advanced-motorcyclists.com/>

*SAM is a registered
charity – No. 1067800*

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Disclaimer

The articles published herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Institute of Advanced Motorists or the Suffolk Advanced Motorcyclist Group. They are the opinions of individual contributors and are published with a view that free expression promotes discussion and interests.

Next Issue

Closing date for copy – **Friday after club night**. Send via e-mail or on a USB memory stick (which will be returned) or even hand-written, not a problem. The Editor reserves the right to edit, amend or omit as he feels fit.

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Annual Advertising Rates:

£50 for half page and £75 for full page. Advertise on the SAM website for an additional £25.

Chairman's Chat

Dear Reader,



Welcome to the February edition of our SAM magazine. 2012 got off to a very good start for SAM with 22 bikes turning up for the New Year's Day ride out, not only that but plenty of ride leaders as well, fingers crossed that the same enthusiasm continues throughout the year. January's Quiz night was very successful with Martin Andrew leading his team to victory. My thanks once again to Mike Roberts, I appreciate how much time and effort he puts into the preparation of this annual event.

“To be, or not to be, that is the question.” Maybe I'm being a bit dramatic quoting Shakespeare then referring to the SAM magazine. But as time goes on the dilemma of the SAM magazine is becoming as complex as Hamlet's notion of being or not being.

Let me explain the dilemma in everyday language. Should the SAM magazine go on or not? How important is the SAM magazine to you?

We currently spend around 50% of the group's income publishing, printing and posting the magazine. The basic question is, do we reduce the cost or increase our income?

There are several ways we could reduce the cost. The simplest option would be to ask all members to view the magazine electronically, be it by email, on the website or even on a Kindle. Some members have suggested we reduce the size of the magazine. Regular items such as Committee contact details, the Observer/Associate Charter, SAM discount scheme could be provided on an information sheet to all members. Another suggestion has been to produce the magazine every two months. How do feel about these suggestions? Would you bother to re-join SAM in the future if you didn't receive a regular paper copy of the magazine?

If you consider the SAM magazine, in its current format, to be an essential element of group life, would you be prepared to pay a little more in subscriptions come 2013?

The committee would really appreciate your views; therefore we invite you to join us for an open discussion after the formalities of the AGM on February group night. Unless I have an influx of other ideas between now and then, the options we will consider are:-

- ☺ Keep the paper version of the magazine, financed by an increase in subs come 2013.
- ☺ Reduce costs by producing a magazine every two months.
- ☺ Ask all members to view the magazine electronically.
- ☺ Develop the SAM website to cover all elements of group life, but not published in a magazine format.

I know the AGM is not the most interesting evening, but I would really appreciate your opinion on the magazine and therefore urge you to join us on Tuesday 21st February. If you would like any further information please contact me.

Have a great month; I look forward to catching up with you soon.

Best wishes,

Beverley

Secretary's Scribbles



Welcome to the Sam AGM 2012, which hopefully (fingers crossed) will be my last as Secretary of SAM. That's right, you heard here, after quite some time (I'm not sure if it's five or six years service) that it's time to move on. It's been great working with so many wonderful people on the committee over the years and it's not quite over yet. Until we can find some wonderful, kind volunteer (i.e. sucker) I've been asked to stay on to jot down notes and write up the minutes of future committee meetings.

On the subject of minutes, please find over the page a copy of last years (2011) minutes of the SAM AGM.

Best wishes,

Martin

Minutes of SAM AGM 2011

Meeting began: 19:37

The outgoing Chairman, Richard Toll welcomed all members and guests including the IAM's Regional Group Coordinator, Tony Clarke.

Test pass certificates were presented.

The Chairman (not re-standing), Secretary and Treasurer then stepped down from the meeting whilst the Vice Chairman (Karl Hale) discussed the committee nominations.





The Vice Chairman announced that the only nomination received for the post of Chairman was Beverley Rudland. This proposal was put to the vote and Beverley was unanimously elected.

Last year's AGM minutes were discussed and upon the proposal of Stuart Young and seconding by Paul Newman they were accepted unopposed by the membership.

The audited accounts were proposed for acceptance by David Rudland and seconded by Ray Spreadbury. There were no objections.

Beverley then chaired the rest of the meeting. The Secretary and Treasurer were individually re-elected. Four new committee members (Nicky Clouter, Paul Spalding, Linda Barker & Tim Harrington) were individually elected. The rest of the retiring committee members (Derek Barker, Karl Hale, Mike Roberts, John Sillett & Rob Day) were re-elected by block vote. There were no new nominations from the floor and no objections to any elected posts.

Presentation of trophies.

-  Gosden Trophy: Steve Cook*
-  Maddock Trophy: Sonny Westley*
-  Chairman's Trophy: Martin Andrew*
-  Rob Day Trophy: Paul Newman*

The AGM ended at 20:05

SUFFOLK ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS

Registered Charity Number:-1067800

Income and Expenditure Account as at 31st December, 2011

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Income		
Subscriptions	4,510	3,944
Gift Aid Tax Refund	861	947
Donations	0	333
Interest	0	0
Advertising Income	400	450
Promotion Income	3,035	500
Sundry Income	249	0
Balance Transfer from Social Fund	<u>1,927</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>10,982</u>	<u>6,174</u>
Expenditure		
Group Administration	4,190	3,171
Insurance	691	618
Observer Training	739	288
Training, Manuals and Books etc	391	279
Promotion	956	1,919
First Aid Courses	<u>25</u>	<u>300</u>
	<u>6,992</u>	<u>6,575</u>
Excess of Income over Expenditure	3,990	-(401)

Balance sheet as at 31st December 2011

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank	8,953	4,963
Current Liabilities		
Sundry Creditors	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Assets	8,953	4,963

Represented By:-

Accumulated fund

Balance as at 1st January 2011	4,963	5,364
Excess of Income over Expenditure	<u>3,990</u>	<u>-(401)</u>
	<u>8,953</u>	<u>4,963</u>

SUFFOLK ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS

Social Fund

Income and Expenditure Account as at 31st December 2011

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Income		
Attendance Fees and Social Events	1,348	2,395
Donations	20	0
Interest	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>1,368</u>	<u>2,395</u>
Expenditure		
Room Hire and Social Events	844	1,867
Sundry expenses	55	26
Charity donation	50	1,000
Transfer to Charity Accounts	<u>1,927</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>2,876</u>	<u>2,893</u>
Excess of Income over Expenditure	-(1,508)	-(498)

Balance sheet as at 31st December 2011

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank	0	1,508
Cash in Hand	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>0</u>	<u>1,508</u>
Current Liabilities		
Other Creditors	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Assets	0	1,508
Represented By:-		
Accumulated fund		
Balance as at 1st January 2011	1,508	2,006
Excess of Income over Expenditure	<u>(1,508)</u>	<u>-(498)</u>
	0	1,508

Judy Chittock, Treasurer

CARING SAM



We at SAM like to pride ourselves on having a very good and highly regarded club. We know when things go right but how will we know if they do not? This is something we would like to address and our Vice Chairman Karl Hale, as part of his role is now appointed customer service / complaints point of contact. If there is something that is lacking with the club or something you as a member (associate or full) have experienced within the club and would have rather not, please contact Karl.

Your views can then be brought to the attention of the committee or dealt with more discretely. Either way you will be informed of the plan or outcome. You can contact Karl on 01359 241552 or email vicechairman@suffolk-advanced-motorcyclists.com

New Members

A warm welcome is extended to our most recent new associate member:

Lee Haden-Scott

If anyone else has joined us and not had a mention yet, let the Editor know and we will put that right

IAM Test Passes

This month two members has passed their Advanced test.

Mick Davis
Mike Rauch

his Observer was
his Observer was

Mike Roberts
Richard Toll & Chris Smith

When you pass your advanced test please let
Derek Barker or Susan Smith know.

Motorcycle Dexterity 2012

& Control Days
(a.k.a. Slow Riding Days)

For every motorcycle spill that makes the local papers, there are many more which never get much publicity. How many of you in your time riding have never struggled to keep your bike upright while manoeuvring in a parking area, or had to take a big dab with either foot while negotiating queues of commuter traffic? Not many (if any). Very often in these situations the rider grabs a handful of front brake, shortly followed by the resulting sound of expensive plastic and metal making contact with the ground.

The SAM MD&C Days give you the opportunity to practice the art of riding a motorcycle slowly, and to learn the techniques that will help you do it.

This year the venue will be the playground of Sidegate Primary School, Sidegate Lane, Ipswich. IP4 4JD (Map in the Calendar on the SAM website).

Please contact the Senior Observer to book your place for the date you are interested in attending. **Before you attend one of SAM's Dexterity days, you must inform your Insurance Company that you intend to practise slow speed machine control in a school playground and ask them to confirm that you will have full cover for this activity.**

Dates of 2012

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Senior Observer</u>
Saturday 17 th March	09:00	Bob McGeady
Sunday 22 nd April	09:00	David Rudland
Saturday 19 th May	09:00	Karl Hale
Sunday 17 th June	09:00	Chris Jackson
Saturday 14 th July	09:00	Chris Smith
Sunday 19 th August	09:00	Derek Barker
Saturday 15 th September	09:00	Mike Roberts
Sunday 21 st October	09:00	Richard Toll
Saturday 17 th November	09:00	Rob Day



Each session starts promptly at the stated time and lasts up to 4 hours depending on numbers attending.

Please bring a drink and something to eat as we will have a break and there are no cafés nearby.



Membership Fees for 2012

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Standing Order Reminder

We are now nearing the time for subs to be paid. This is a reminder to ask all members to pay their subs by standing order on the 1st of January 2012. For members who set up a standing order in 2011, you do not need to fill in a renewal form unless any of your details have changed. Membership cards will be issued on receipt of the standing order payment.


A standing order mandate can be found on the website under the 'Join us' heading with the renewal form. If you get this magazine via email you can follow the link to the renewal form, or type it in your web browser. Once completed please print it out and give it to Linda or Judy.

<http://www.suffolk-advanced-motorcyclists.com/sam-membership-renewal.html>

If you use internet banking it is possible to set up a standing order online without any sort of form (this may depend on your bank).

Information you need:-Sort Code: 20-92-08 Account No: 10363650

 Account Name: Suffolk Advanced Motorcyclists

 Reference: Enter your initials & surname, these will appear on SAM's bank statement

It could not be easier, once you have set up your standing order you will not have to think about it again, it will just automatically be debited from your bank account in January each year.

Full Member £20.00

Joint Full Members £23.00

Associate £139 - Skills for Life. Includes the current issue of "How to be a Better Rider" and your IAM Test fee for new members.

Expenses to Observer for observed rides is £10.00

Any queries please email Linda Barker at linda.barker@btinternet.com or Judy Chittock at judy.chittock@btinternet.com.



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Who do you think you are...?.

🏍️ Name along with photo: Rodger Welham



🏍️ Occupation: Oil burner technician

🏍️ Been a member of SAM since: August 2009

🏍️ Best thing about belonging to SAM: Chip runs

🏍️ First bike ridden and when: Ariel Arrow when I was sixteen

🏍️ Current bike(s): Suzuki DR-Z400SM

🏍️ Best bike ever ridden: DR-Z

🏍️ Worst bike ever ridden: Jawa 350

- 🏍️ Favourite road: Unclassified road from Rattlesden to Gedding hill and B1113 Stowmarket to Old Newton. Haven't ridden abroad.
- 🏍️ Favourite drink: Abbot Reserve (from the cask)
- 🏍️ Favourite food: Camel burgers, as served in Jerusalem market
- 🏍️ Favourite TV show: Family Guy
- 🏍️ Hobbies: Brewing and drinking beer/cider, CAMRA, photography, fishing, kayaking, playing guitar, doing nothing, watching the world go by
- 🏍️ If you could change one law, what would it be: I would abolish the law requiring the wearing of seat belts and helmets. Both are advisable of course but it should be a personal choice not to wear instead of a criminal offence.
- 🏍️ Person you admire most: Equal – three women who reached the top of their field: Margaret Thatcher, Kate Bush, Julian Clary
- 🏍️ Any ambitions still to achieve on a bike: Do a wheelie
- 🏍️ Where would you like to retire to, if you could go tomorrow: Iceland. Iceland Rocks!
- 🏍️ Valentino Rossi or Barry Sheene? My favourite rider was Rocket Ron Haslam. He wasn't a superstar but he did win the Macau GP three times. When his GP days were over he did some good work with Norton. Then there was Mike Hailwood. He won just about everything: He used to ride (and win) 125cc, 250cc, 350cc & 500cc all in one race meeting. He won the 500cc championship four years in a row. He won the Isle of Man TT on 250cc, 350cc & 500cc, again all at one meeting. Valentino Rossi claims to be the GOAT but he only rides one race at a meeting. I reckon Mike is/was the Super GOAT.
- 🏍️ Chips or Bike Cops? Chips (accompanied by a Camel burger)

- ♣ Classic or Modern? Getting a feel for both these days as I am a member of the Ariel Owners Motorcycle Club. I haven't got an Ariel though.
 - ♣ Leathers or textile? Textile for me, leather for her
 - ♣ V twin or Flat 4? Two stroke twin
 - ♣ Did you like the program kick start - yes / No / Too young to remember: I must be too young because I've never heard of it. It was how my Ariel Arrow started though.
 - ♣ Most embarrassing bike drop: When I was 16 I ran into the back of a car stopped at a pedestrian crossing in Bury St Edmunds. Both pavements and the crossing were full of people going to work and kids going to school, and all of them looking at me. In mitigation, all I can say is I must have been distracted by some mini-skirted 'talent' – I was only 16 after all!
 - ♣ Most miserable journey on a motorcycle: Any time it rains.
 - ♣ My additional question:
- My five worst things (because I can't think of ten right now)
- ♣ A runny nose inside the helmet
 - ♣ Parsnips – Yuck, they are inedible
 - ♣ Dogs
 - ♣ Left-handed electricians
 - ♣ Tea bags left in the sink
 - ♣ When I open a cupboard door and everything falls out and none of it is mine.
 - ♣ Pedestrian lights that stay red so long the pedestrian is 100 yards down the pavement before they change back to green. And while we're at it, pedestrians who press the button and don't wait for the lights leaving the traffic stopped at red and no one crossing.
(*&^%\$£@!

Rodger Welham

A biker musician faces the music (weather).

As a full-time working freelance musician I travel about 17,000 miles a year, mainly around the lower half of the UK - on my motorbikes. They are my main form of transport. And as I have to be on time at venues of various sorts, I have no choice about the weather I ride in. The worst, of course, is ice, snow, fog, very high winds and streaming rain, especially in various combinations, and particularly as I always have to return at night.

As I get older I take far more interest in weather forecasts - as much, if not more, than when I used to live on, and sail, boats. But when I was young, I would go to jobs on my bike almost regardless. Such is being young.

For example, a number of times I rode through thick snow, and once got cut off from Chelmondiston (where I live) - along with other vehicles - by deep drifts, until a police 4-wheel drive came through which enabled me to ride along his tracks. (The bike was on a CX500 'sports' - although it was a fully-faired tourer).

Now, I know from my brother, who has lived most of his life in central Canada which has many months of deep snow each year (and average temperatures of minus 12, but often getting to minus 40 or so), to drive steadily and keep going, and this definitely works on a bike too.

So I was rather miffed one night, making my way home through snow, when I got as far as the Freston cross roads having to stop behind a car that was waiting to turn right. And just to add injury to insult, it also knocked me off the bike. The driver had (eventually) revved up furiously, making the rear wheels spin, causing the car to slide in an arc backwards towards me so that the rear end hit my right leg and pushed the bike and me over onto the snow-covered embankment. I had a whacking bruise for a week or two afterwards, and walked with difficulty.

The only other time I came off in similar conditions was when I was carefully riding down a steep hill along an car track in the now half-melted-then-frozen snow. I saw the lump of ice, knew I couldn't avoid it, or stop, so I hit it, and so over we went. Took me ages to pick the CX up because it was a right old lump

and top heavy - it just sliding across the road as I tried to right it and my feet had no purchase either.

Even though I now can't believe I was that blasé, I'm surprised to find myself having ridden my Pan European 1100 in that snowy weather last year when I worked at Colchester's theatre for 6 weeks. Until, that is, I finally gave up using the bike after coming across 'runs' of thick ice, snaking across the road in the lead up to the theatre. Bit of a shock - but I managed to stay on. Phew! But to avoid it going home I decided to take the other road out, only to find a smooth sheet of ice all the way down. I had no choice but to keep going, and made it!

After that I took to using the old Micra I share with my son-in-law. Good job too - soon after one journey back took 6 hours, 3 of which was sitting outside Stratford St Mary in deep snow on the A12 because 2 lorries were stuck at the bottom of the hill. (Great car in the snow by the way - almost like having a 4-wheel drive).

Last winter also saw me making my way up to Leicester for Christmas through very thick fog, and at night which is always a bit uncomfortable, especially as juggernauts and cars unbelievably always seem to thunder past me.

Heavy rain in the pitch dark on busy single carriage roads is rather unnerving. The worst journey in such conditions was in the autumn a couple of years ago, making my way back from deepest Surrey on my fully laden Beemer (keyboard, amps etc) - headlights behind and ahead of me, the rain on my visor refracting the light so that I could hardly see where I was going or where the side of the road was - which was also thick with wet leaves too. Not nice.

High winds are far less of a problem I find, on heavy bikes, especially my BMW R1150RT. This is like an immovable object, whereas my head, which isn't, gets bashed to one side in sudden cross-wind gusts. If I were to be blown off I feel the bike would just carry on!

I found the Pan to be less stable in such conditions, as when I rode it in last December's gales, to London. I thought at first to give it a miss, but when I stepped outside to listen to the winds I thought it'd be OK - I'd ridden in winds like that before, I told myself, albeit on the Beemer, so off I went.

Mm, well. Savage north westerly gusts had free rein to viciously blast broadside across the A12 where the road was elevated or where tree cover or

hedges stopped. At one point a gust actually knocked the front wheel to the left. Oops, wrest it back.

A few miles before the M25 there's that high-walled section and I thought things would be really sheltered there, but the wind was being funnelled in a mad, turbulent way. I felt I was in a crazy spin drier, making it hard to know what to do to control the bike.

By the way, on the way back I stopped at the new 8-Ball Diner near Kelvedon on the A12, to give myself a break from wrestling with the gales before setting off to join battle again! This is very much a transport cafe, very like the Ace Cafe - and it needs the custom it seems to me. So do stop there if you are making your way up from the south. Hopefully SAM can go there for one of the Breakfast runs, using the country routes.....?.

I would think that most bikers have all sorts of tales of scrapes to tell, so why do we put ourselves through it? Easy - biking is just great and cars are boring!

Andrew Sterling

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March's Breakfast Run 2012

Sunday 4th March

POSH PIGS BECCLES

NR34 7TD

Ride Coordinator TBA

9:30 for 9:45 start

Tesco car park Stowmarket

Turn Right out of car park, continue straight through housing estate until T junction, **Turn Left** then immediate **Right**, at next T junction **Turn Right**

Turn Left at roundabout onto **B1113**

Turn Right at **Finningham** White Horse PH

Turn Left at T- junction onto **A140**

1mile **Turn Right** onto **B1117** to Eye

In Eye **Turn Right** AT T-junction then immediately left staying on **B1117**

Watch out for **Left Turn** sign posted **Halesworth / Laxfield**

Continue **B1117** to **Halesworth**

In **Halesworth** **Turn Right** at first roundabout ahead at **2nd Turn Right** at **3rd** on to **B1116**

Pass under Railway Bridge and follow road for approx ½ mile **Turn Left** on to **B1124**

Turn Left at T-junction onto **A145** to **Beccles**

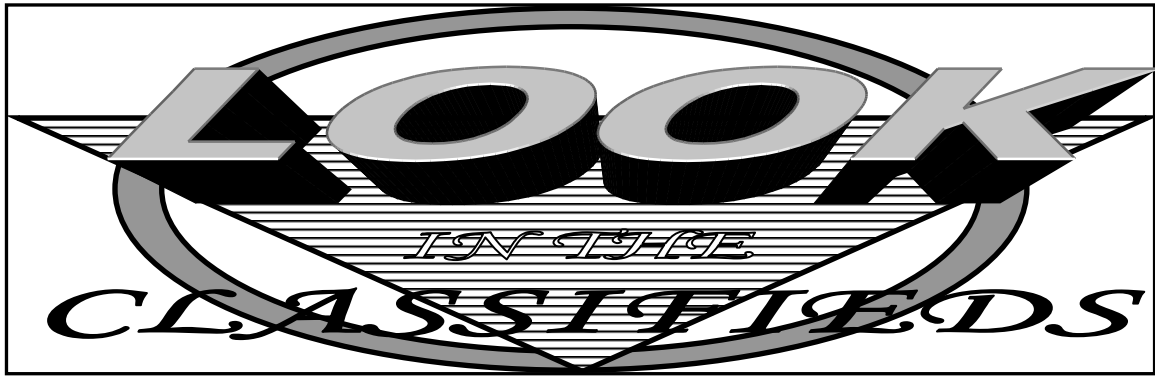
When in **Beccles** follow signs for **Ellough Heliport**

Posh Pigs will be sign posted and on you're left within **Ellough Industrial Estate**

Very poor weather route

Make tea and toast and go back to bed!





<http://www.suffolk-advanced-motocyclists.com/>

All adverts will be valid for one month, If the Editor is not told the following month that the item is still for sale the advert will be removed.

Send your classified items to the Editor, contact details on page 3

Price for non-member classifieds is £5

London to Brighton sponsored cycle ride. 17th June 2012



I mentioned this in last month's Scribbles. Many a moon ago I took part in the London to Brighton British Heart Foundation's sponsored cycle ride and have never managed to conquer Ditchling Hill just outside Brighton.

So this year I thought it would be a great Idea for me to try again. Also I thought that the club would like to join in. So far we have a good number who have expressed an interest. Because of this I propose that our sponsorship money should be split ⁵⁰/₅₀ between the BHF and SAM's charity of the year.

So fish out your bicycles, oil them up, pump the tyres up to 60 PSI, means less friction, bring a pack lunch, although that is not essential as there are plenty of pit stops along the route, after all its only 50 miles

Come and join us

Martin Andrew

Suffolk Constabulary BikeSafe

Suffolk Constabulary runs a series of BikeSafe Workshops aimed at all riders who want to improve their skills and ability to become better and safer riders.

BikeSafe is run in the spirit of a nationally run biking initiative where education is the key not enforcement, in a conflict free environment.

The BikeSafe Workshops are held at Suffolk Police Headquarters, Martlesham Heath. They begin on a Friday evening and run through to Saturday afternoon, are suitable for all qualified riders regardless of biking experience. They include classroom sessions on road craft, with special attention given to positioning and cornering. An escorted ride out session on the road with a class 1 Police motorcyclist will give you a personalised assessment of your riding performance.

On your final afternoon there will be an informative classroom session hosted by a guest speaker offering first aid tips.

You will also receive a bag of biking goodies, lunch and refreshments, all this for only £55

For more information or to book a place:

Email: bikesafe@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Telephone: Hayley Batterham or Kevin Stark on 01473 613750

Workshop Dates for 2012

March 9th ~ 10th

April 20th ~ 21st

May 4th ~ 5th

June 15th ~ 16th

July 13th ~ 14th

Help is required to promote SAM at BikeSafe.

If you would like to offer your help for about an hour on the Saturday of any of the above dates (lunch provided), then please contact either :

Nigel Chittock (01473 737356) or Paul Spalding (07879-844618)

Too Cold for Scotland

An idea for a ride to God's motorcycling country, commonly called Scotland, soon had support from Keith Gilbert, Glen Mures, Ray Spreadbury, Chris Nunn, Tim Elms and myself: two GSs, two Pans, a Tiger and a Tenere. The proposal was to travel in late October after car tourists had left freeing roads for motorcyclists but before it got too cold.

A Sunday breakfast meeting quickly agreed a plan. Next Friday, early start and ride to first stop at Auchterarder, then across central Scotland to Western Highlands, down west coast, via Fort William and home.

So it was that on Friday 21st October, we were safely embarked on a ferry to Calais, enjoying calm seas, good breakfast and warm weather. The forecast of rain, wind, cold and snow in Scotland had forced a quick re-think – Strasbourg here we come!



Despite a disjointed start to the trip with failure to meet up with Chris at Marks Tey and getting separated through heavy Dartford traffic and filtering, a 6.30am start from Ipswich saw us all safely on 9.40am ferry.

Oh the joy of French roads and little traffic! At Calais, the need for some quick miles saw us on A26/E15 to St Quentin. Here we left for some pleasant country roads (D946) to Vourziers. It may not have been Scotland but it was still cold despite thermal layers and heated grips and a stop for hot coffee in Marle was a welcome introduction to French hospitality. Because we wanted to keep the trip flexible, planning each day as it came, we had not booked any accommodation in advance. In what became a routine, a combination of Garmin GPS and local tourist information was used to find potential hotels. Then Keith was despatched to check availability and quality and Ray to negotiate a good deal. A comfortable room, good food and a few drinks marked the end of a successful 200 miles into France.

Next day, breakfast and banter over who had the noisiest bedroom companion, which was easily won by Ray who suffered Chris going on a midnight prowling for his missing wallet - which wasn't!



After scraping frost off bikes, we pushed east through damp overcast weather, along A4 motorway to Strasbourg via Metz and onto Colmar via A35. This was the start of serious advanced riding in *Ballons des Vosges* with good progress along sweeping bends, climbs, twisty roads and then single track unclassified roads through the forests. This was challenging stuff especially for a newcomer to this riding like myself. A rest and coffee in a quiet mountain restaurant in

Cornimont with only a local hunting party for company saw us ready for the next stage.



Now we headed north on D420 to St Die before more excellent motor biking roads (D32, D414, D914) to Luneville for the night after ~400 miles of fast hard riding. An excellent riverside hotel in this picturesque town, with pizzas and wine in bustling friendly restaurant capped a great day.

Sunday dawned bright and crisp and after moving the Pan into sunshine to melt the covering of ice, it was time for breakfast with the team. Here the highlight was an automated fresh orange squeezer that fascinated everyone. Today's route would take us further north through the WWI battle fields near Verdun. With route agreed, GPS's programmed, we set off. Unfortunately, after only two miles, one of us (the other Pan rider, no names) decided to take the wrong slip road onto the dual carriageway, travelling in the opposite direction. We eventually regrouped in a service station for petrol and coffee and much micky taking. The route now took us from Nancy, onto D964, around *Lorraine* to St Mithiel and thence Verdun. A slow ride through town past memorials and museums before heading to Montfaucon d'Argonne. Here a monument (see January cover photograph) records the local battle and victory over the Germans by a combined French, British and American allied force. This battle was part of the 'Grand Offense' from September to November 1918 when

about 500,000 allied soldiers attacked the 'Hindenburg Line' which was defended by ~ 190,000 Germans. Although the allies lost 187,000 dead and wounded, the Germans suffered ~100,000 casualties and were forced to sue for peace: it eventually led to Armistice Day on 11th November at 11am. From the monument, we rode to the nearby the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, which is the largest in Europe with 14,246 graves.



We then continued on deserted rural roads north towards Buzancy. It was time for afternoon tea and in a small hamlet near Landres-et Saint Georges we pulled up at a suitable looking place. It turned out to be a museum of relics, artefacts and publications from WWI run by a Dutchman. It had been visited



by Michael Palin on one of his world tours and framed on the wall was a photograph of his visit with comment by Palin, "All this way to visit a French war museum and its run by a Dutch bastard!"

From there through Sedan and Charleville-Mezieres. The plan was to find a suitable hotel in the small village of Montherme. Unfortunately, it proved too small and mostly closed for winter. After checking out a dodgy railway-siding hall and local riverside campsite, the decision was taken to head back to Charleville for the night. A narrow hill

climb with wet hairpin bends provided a final bit of excitement for the day after another 180 miles covered.

In Charleville, the receptionist at a modern hotel gave way to some hard bargaining by the Ray-Keith duo and we had a bed and the bikes a warm underground park for the night. A walk in the town centre revealed a deserted main square and after some local fruit beers, we went to the only open restaurant. A disappointing meal was only partly alleviated by some free wine after we complained.

Next day (Monday) was a ride to Calais for the 3.20pm ferry home. However, the enjoyable riding was not finished as we crossed into Belgium along good roads to Chimay. The only indication that we had crossed the border was a change in the colours of signs and road markings. It was on the TV at a local café, we heard the sad news of the death of Marco Simoncelli at the Malaysia MotoGP. We continued on excellent roads through *Avesnois* and back into France. At Cambrai, we picked up A26 motorway to reach Calais after another excellent day's riding (178 miles).

Back to Dover and competing with lorries to get off the ferry and into the joys of Britain's over-crowded roads, Dartford tunnel, major filtering and home to Ipswich in time for the Archers after 143 miles.

All in all a fantastic bike road trip - great experience in new location, on challenging roads ridden with panache in good company. Four days, 1,245 miles. Now, where to in 2012 - Scotland?



David Wood

SAM Discount Scheme

Motorcycle Clothing Centre, Wymondham. www.motorcycle-clothing.co.uk 01953 606922, -10% off full price stock.

Orwell Motorcycles, Ipswich. www.orwell.co.uk 01473 257401, Discounts always available, please ask + Discounted MoTs.

Dave Barkshire Motorcycles, Norwich. www.davebarkshire.com 01603 722800, - 10% off parts & accessories etc.

Colchester Kawasaki Ltd. www.colchesterkawasaki.co.uk 01206 860006, 10% off clothing and accessories.

T.K. Cope, Colchester. www.tkcope.com 01206 868663, Up to 10% off clothing and accessories.

MaxMoto, Bury St Edmunds. www.maxmoto.co.uk 1284 701170, 10% off parts, clothing, accessories. (Not tyres). 5% off workshop jobs. Certain exceptions may apply!

Lind Motorrad BMW, Norwich. www.lindmotorrad.co.uk 01603 622655, 10% off parts & accessories.

Washbrook Service Station. www.washbrookmotorcycles.co.uk 01473 730282, At least 10% off accessories in stock, (not tyres), + discounted Mots.

Davey Bros Motorcycles Ltd, Ipswich. www.daveybros.co.uk 01473 254488, Discounted Mots.

Ipswich Motorcycle Accessories. www.ipswichmca.co.uk 01473 257515 10% off all stock.

Autofit Ipswich Ltd. www.autofitipswich.co.uk 01473 723325, Discounts available, ask for Adrian Fitch.

Lings, Ipswich. www.lings.com 01473 272789, 10% off Helmets, 5% off clothing, 5% off parts. Items must be in stock.

Mototechniks Ltd, Stowupland. www.mototechniks.com 01449 775775, 10% off clothing, helmets, accessories, oils, (not tyres), 5% off workshop jobs.

Chris Self Motorcycles, www.chrisselfmotorcycles.com 01473 225990, who is offering SAM members the following package:- MOT's £25, Non-OEM service items, oils, plugs, filters batteries etc - 10% discount. Pairs of ZR rated tyres, fitted and balanced to bike - 10% discount. ZR rated tyres fitted to "loose" wheels -15% discounts.

Parkinson Motorcycles, Colchester. www.parkinsonmotorcycles.co.uk 01206 368500, 10% off accessories & clothing.

C. J. Ball of Norwich. www.cjball.com 01603 307500, 10% discount on labour for servicing, not during peak summer months.

RiderMount, Layham. www.ridermount.com 01473 823351, 5% discount on orders placed at www.RiderMount.com for all SAM members. Providers of GPS mounts etc.

Just Helmets. www.justhelmets.co.uk 01912 755444, 10% when using the discount code "IAM"

BikerTidy. www.bikertidy.co.uk 01933 274323, Manufacturers of kit storage systems, bike stands, lifts etc. 5% discount on orders placed by phone,.

Proof of identity will be required, e.g. IAM and SAM membership cards to be shown. If any other dealers would like to be included, please contact either

Nigel Chittock

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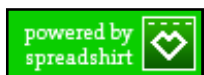
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Mob: 07776 204332

www.chrisselfmotorcycles.com



SAM has two online shops where you can purchase garments and gifts with the SAM logo on them. In both cases you can save on postage costs by getting together with other SAM members and combining your purchases.



The first shop is with a company called Spreadshirt. All the items in this shop use one of three types of “printing”. With the flock or flex “printing” the logo is cut from a sheet of material and then applied to the item. Flock is similar to a fine felt, and flex is a plastic/nylon type material. For the digitally printed items the logo is printed on to a special transfer sheet and then applied to the item.



The second shop is with a company called SewPersonal. All the items in this shop have the SAM logo embroidered on them in a choice of Green, Silver or Gold. *NB. The initial prices you see displayed within the shop do NOT include the cost of the logo. This will be added once you select your colour option.*



You can visit either shop online via SAM’s website

<http://www.suffolk-advanced-motorcyclists.com/sam-shop.html>

February's Editorial 2012



What a bizarre month this has been, very little rain, warm, only had a few frosts at night. 1st of the month, New years day I went on the breakfast run to Sudbury about 20 hardy souls turned up and it was a good run. Afterward I went up the A143 to Bury where I was meeting the rest of the family at my parents for lunch. That turned out to be an 80mile round trip

Saturday 14th I had another Observed ride, which was better this time, didn't feel so deflated but I still need to sort my corners out, "riding like an old fart" springs to mind... A friend sent me a link to Youtube of 2011 Roseville Police Motor Competition using the new Kawasaki GTR1400 which like my old girl is a heavy old beast and this chap was throwing it around the course as if it was a 50cc. That would make my Observer's eyes pop out of his head.

Group club night saw, for those that missed it, the famous Mike Roberts Quiz night, and again it didn't disappoint, with questions like: What is the other name for the Chinese gooseberry? Of course one table had to win, which happened to be table 2



Thank you to the following who have contributed to this month's magazine:

- ☘ This month's cover picture was provided by the Editor from the Breakfast run to Southwold. Mike Roberts who did the picture editing and graphical work.
- ☘ Kevin Stark presenting certificates to members that have passed their test. Pictures provided by Derek Barker
- ☘ Martin Andrew for the minutes of the last AGM and for his hard work as the club's Secretary.
- ☘ Judy Chittock and Linda Barker for keeping the books and providing the accounts
- ☘ Who do you think you are...? By Rodger Welham. If anyone would like the list of questions please email the editor. Can be sent in word format so all you have to do is fill in the blanks.
- ☘ Andrew Sterling for his article on facing the music.
- ☘ John Sillett for arranging this month's Breakfast ride out.
- ☘ Martin Andrew for arranging the London to Brighton Cycle ride
- ☘ Too Cold for Scotland by David Wood.
- ☘ Nigel Chittock for the SAM discount scheme.
- ☘ Pictures from the First Breakfast run of the year, by The Editor.

Safe Riding

Felix..

Editor for

Suffolk Advanced Motorcyclists and Kawasaki GT club magazines.

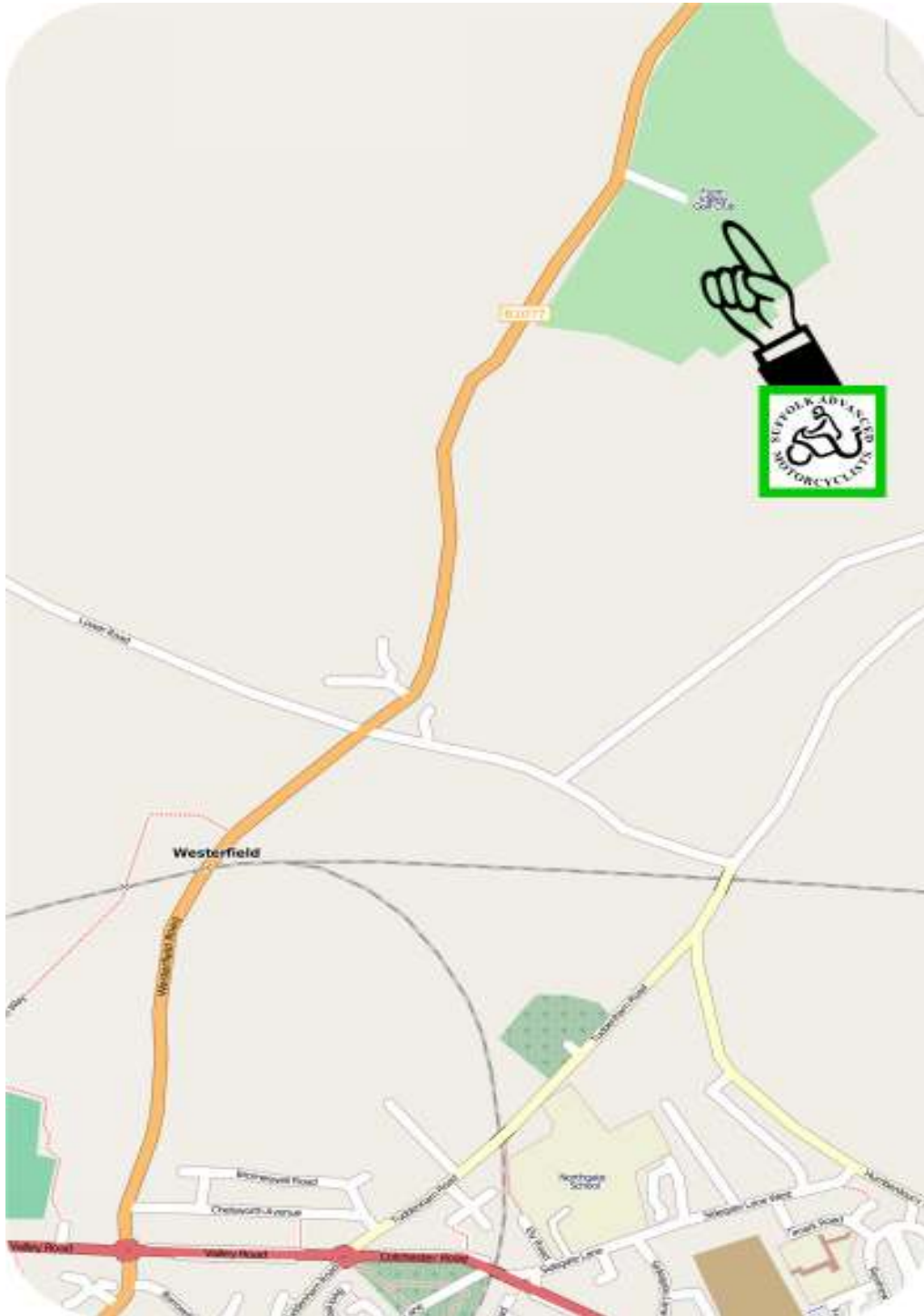
If you'd like to help save the Group on the printing and postage costs of your monthly 'hard copy' of the 'SAM Observer' by opting to receive an email notification instead, then please give me your email details on Group Night or send me an email.

I hope that you have been enjoying the reports that members who go on ride outs have written, and as you can see it doesn't have to be a wordy passage, so feel free to scribble a few words down, a few pictures and next month you will have another great magazine to read.

Our Venue

Group Nights start at 7:30 pm on the third Tuesday of every month at The Valley Restaurant, Fynn Valley Golf Club, Witnesham. IP6 9JA

All facilities, including bar and restaurant are available from 6pm.



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Observer Associate Charter

Purpose

The purpose of the Charter is to make clear the definition of what is expected in Observer / Associate relationship.

The Observers

Have made the effort to train, not only for the IAM test but have taken part in extensive Observer training to become Observers for the group. They are a valuable asset to the group and give of their time freely, except for a small contribution from the associates for their expenses. Observers attend regular refresher training sessions with Senior Observers, support theory nights and Riding Dexterity days.

The Associates

- 🐾 Are expected to have an equal commitment with the goal being the IAM test.
- 🐾 Are to be available for regular observed rides ideally every two weeks with at least 100 practice miles being covered in that period. Continuity cannot be maintained with regular gaps of three weeks or more or no miles between observed rides.
- 🐾 Must agree the dates of the next runs at the debriefing and must practice any improvement recommendations between the runs.
- 🐾 Will where possible attend a riding Dexterity Day to improve their slow speed manoeuvres and control.
- 🐾 Must make an effort to study the theory by reading 'How to be a better rider' and the Highway Code plus attend club Theory Nights when possible.
- 🐾 Cancellation of a planned run due to poor weather conditions will be at the discretion of the Observer. If after a period of one month, an Observer has not heard from the Associate it will be assumed that interest has been lost and the Associate will be placed back at the bottom of the waiting list.
- 🐾 When the Observer feels the associate is riding consistently at the test standard a Cross check will be arranged with a Senior Observer.
- 🐾 The Observer will give as much help and encouragement as possible but the onus is on the associate to endeavour.

SAM Events for your Diary

February 2012

Tuesday 21st **SAM Group Night.** AGM & announcements at 19:30 followed by debate on the future on the magazine. Very important that everyone attends. It's your club and this is your chance to have your voice heard.

Thursday 23rd **Theory Evening.** Come along and learn more about Roadcraft. 19:30. Topic: Brakes, Gears and Acceleration

March 2012

Sunday 4th **Breakfast Run.** Posh Pigs, Beccles.

Saturday 17th **M/C Dexterity & Control.** Sidegate Primary School, Ipswich. 09:00 – 13:00

Tuesday 20th **SAM Group Night.** Announcements at 19:30 followed by John from Halvarsons/Jofama Bike Gear

Thursday 22nd **Theory Evening.** Come along and learn more about Roadcraft. 19:30. Topic: Overtaking

April 2012

Sunday 1st **Breakfast Run.** Hollywood Legends, Swaffham

Tuesday 17th **SAM Group Night.** Announcements at 19:30 followed by Sam Manicom - Tales from a Globe Trotter

Thursday 19th **Theory Evening.** Come along and learn more about Roadcraft. 19:30. Topic: Observation, Planning and Positioning

Sunday 22nd **M/C Dexterity & Control.** Sidegate Primary School, Ipswich. 09:00 – 13:00

Thursday 26th **Chip Run.** TBA

Other Events that you might want to put in your Diary

March 2012

Saturday 10th ~ Sunday 11th **MCN Scottish Motorcycle show**, Royal Highland center. Ingliston Edinburgh

May 2012

Friday 11th ~ Sunday 13th **NABD, Astle Park, Chelford Cheshire**,
www.nabd.org.uk

Saturday 19th **BMF Show**. East Of England Showground,
Peterborough

June 2012

Sunday 17th Join Club SAM for **London to Brighton cycle ride**. Contact Martin Andrew for details

July 2012

Friday 6th ~ Sunday 8th **BMF Kelso BikeFest**, Borders Union Showground, Kelso. www.thebmfshow.co.uk

September 2012

Friday 14th ~ Sunday 16th **The BMF Tailend show**, East of England show ground, Peterborough.
www.thebmfshow.co.uk

Moto GP Calendar 2012

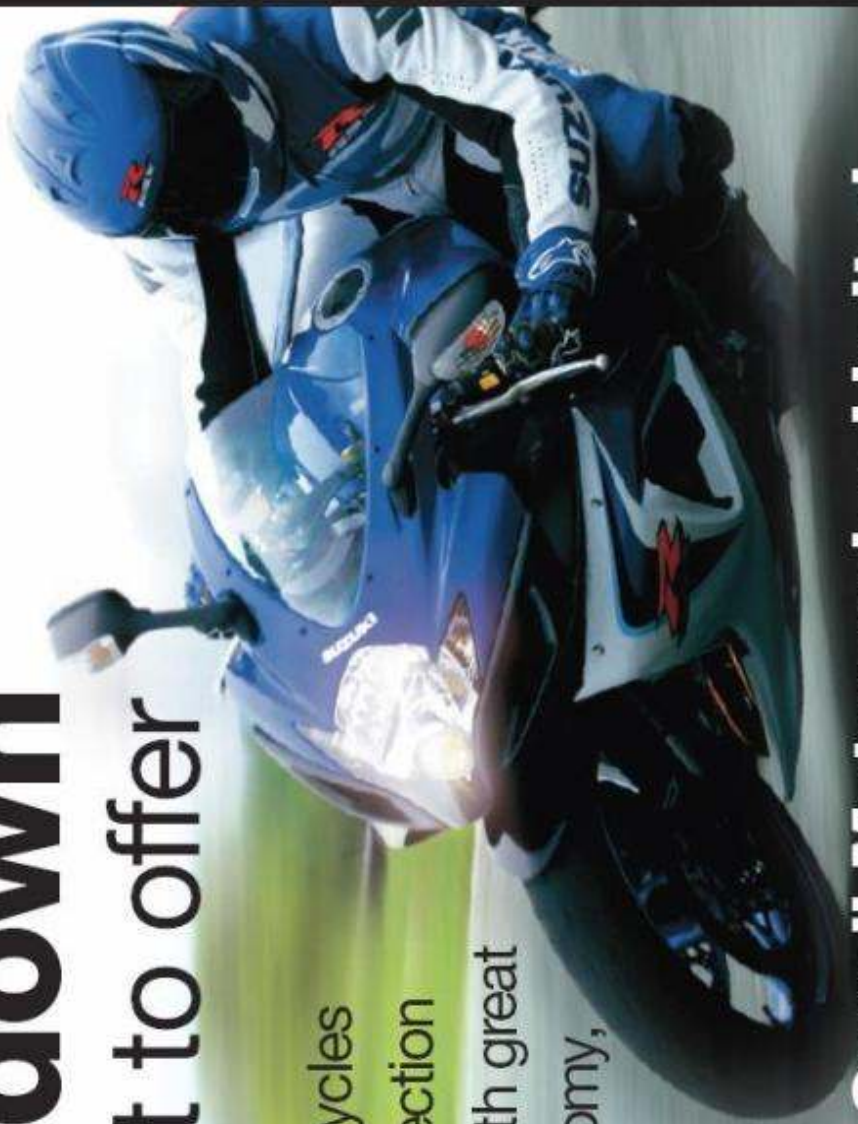
June Sunday 17th **Silverstone**

SBK World Super Bike Calendar 2012

May Sunday 13th **Donington Park**
August Sunday 5th **Silverstone**

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New Year's Day 1st January 2012 Breakfast run



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