

Birmingham Advanced Motorcyclists Newsletter

March 2009

www.b-a-m.org.uk



Oh, I do like to be beside the seaside...



Inside this issue:

Ironman Run report

BAM Forum update

Flipper Time - new season

Birmingham Advanced Motorcyclists Chairman's Bit



Has someone dropped something?



Do you like my pink helmet?



Can't beat a dirty biking weekend



Official Photographer comes over all dirty



Aberdovey beach in February

More pictures inside
and see pages 6 and 7 for the full story



After a few weeks of not riding my bike, due to weather and other commitments, I finally got to sling my leg back over early in January. My first run was a quick trip up the M42 to Pidcocks on a cold (zero degree) Saturday morning to have a suspension strut replaced under warranty and whilst there the guys reminded me that my rear tyre was getting a little low. I made a mental note to get a new tyre in the next few weeks however little did I know that the following week my low tyre was going to pick up a puncture out in the countryside.

The following Saturday I met up with the group, for a pleasant, albeit cold, run up through Tamworth and then on towards Alrewas and Uttoxeter. However on approaching the village of Elton in a 40 speed limit (thankfully) the handling went very soggy and I pulled into a side road followed by Clive Putnam and Andy Johnson.

Clive promptly pulled a repair kit and compressor out of his top box, with Andy reading the instructions (yes, with me not being very technical I just stood there and held the bag of bungs and added my encouragement). Within 20 minutes we were on our way back to Coleshill to get a new tyre fitted. Thanks to Clive and Andy for following to make sure I got there safely.

The morals of the story: 1. Don't let your tyres get down to the wear markers as they pick up punctures easily! 2. Always ride with Clive Putnam behind you as I reckon he carries just about everything in his top box except for the kitchen sink 3. Always carry your own repair kit with you (my puncture repair kit is now in my tank bag along with my RAC card!). 4. If you are going to break down, do it in Elford, we had offers of help from two of the villagers - I wasn't brave enough to request 3 cups of tea, two Danish pastries and a cream bun! Clive, Andy - thanks for your help. Got me out of a right pickle!

The first major BAM event of 2009, the Iron Man Run, took place in Feb and was a great day out. The weather didn't class it as Iron Man however the road conditions certainly did. Thanks go to Graham for organising the run and everyone

who turned up to support it. Associates - for additional training please make use of the Saturday and Sunday runs and also the Wednesday night runs starting in April (see the calendar for dates and times). There is also the Slow Riding day on Sunday 26th April at Sutton Fire Station. Not only is this a valuable skill to get under your belt but also great fun to do.

The BAM Forum is now in full swing and is a great resource for keeping up to date with BAM events, obtaining copies of routes and getting help & advice from other BAM members. If you've not signed up please give it a try.

Our Guest Speaker at February's Club night was Sergeant Richard Breeze who not only stepped in at the last minute but did a very thought provoking presentation. If you know of anyone who might be interested in presenting to BAM about a biking related subject, please contact Roy Aston at roy.aston@blueyonder.co.uk

And finally, please enjoy your biking and if you've got any suggestions on how we can improve the group or things you'd like to see please drop me a note at bamchair@yahoo.com

Adrian Court



Birmingham Advanced Motorcyclists

Editors Section ...



Despite possibly the worst weather for 18 years, all of the BAM ride outs took place as scheduled, although there have been a couple of occasions whilst organising Sunday runs that I wished that some of you weren't quite as keen and hardy. I don't mind riding on slippery, crud coated roads, I just find the cleaning of bikes, trousers, jackets and boots very, very tedious. And then when I do give the bike a proper clean I am a little dispirited to see the damage that has been wreaked across certain parts of my 3 year old bike. Not Pretty.

I was further dispirited to find that one of our local councils has done a great job of ruining some of our great local roads. I am not talking about the salt, grit and pot holes that have been liberally spread across our favourite stretches of tarmac, but unfortunately something more permanent, by way of the imposition of some ridiculous speed limits. The B4098 from Fillongley to Over Whitacre has been reduced from 60 to 40, (that's a 33% reduction!!!) and the B4116 from Over Whitacre to

Atherstone has been reduced to a 50....! This is one of my favourite stretches of road and I have great memories of a very enthusiastic ride along there with Adrian, Quentin and Brian Holton a couple of years ago.

If our Grandparents could travel down that road on their old BSA or Ford Anglia at 60mph then why can't we on our Fireblades or Audis equipped with ASB, ESA, ESP, head up display and infra red night vision! The cynic in me believes that it just means that there will be a greater propensity to impose bigger fines. I will save my rant about the ridiculous 20mph speed restriction on the M42 at 11.30 at night for another day!

Having said all that, my spirits were lifted by the 1st proper ride out on the Iron Man run to Aberdovey. In the main we were lucky with the weather and as the day progressed the road conditions improved and allowed some of us to enjoy some spirited riding on some cracking roads. Although he wasn't there some thanks should go to Tony Spence who devised the route 3 years ago, but unfortunately never completed it because he went the wrong way out of the car park on the sea front in Aberdovey, and consequently missed out on some great roads on the way back.

One of my jobs as editor is that I get to be custodian of 10 years worth of previous BAM Newsletters. My predecessor Steve Beggan handed them to me in the pub at Solihull last Christmas. I'd

had a few drinks and was using the train, so I looked like some kind of sad trainspotter type carrying that little bundle onto the train. Anyway as someone with a bit more time on my hands than I'd ideally like, I decided to look at some of these old copies. "On This Day In History" 10 years ago it was announced that Julian Grubb, Fred Brown, Steve Doughty, Alan Boulter and Steve Lloyd had all become members, Marcus and Neil Murray are sporting some quite ridiculous facial hair and an observer got £5 towards his cost, (its only just gone up to £8 last year). If anyone has copies of BAM Newsletters dating prior to April 1999 and you don't want them let me know.

The BAM diary for 2009 is already taking shape and quite frankly there is loads going on. An extra full members run has been put in the diary for March, there's a training weekend in Wales, a week away in Scotland, an Easter Egg run and the dates for the Thundersport 500 are published as well. The best way to keep up to date with all these events is via the BAM Forum. There are already 90 people in the club who get to hear about things before you do, so get logged on at www.bamforum.co.uk. It's really very good. In fact its brilliant.

Future articles for the Newsletter should be sent to me at grahamahay@hotmail.co.uk

Graham Hay

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The recent snows had been sowing the seeds of doubt in my mind about the running of the Ironman, BAM's annual sortie in the cold weather to sort the men from the boys. Would be it be an Ironman to remember for its vicious weather or would it be cancelled due to a surfeit of snow? They say that fact is stranger than fiction and this years Ironman was no exception. It was one of the mildest in my memory due to a sudden change in the weather.

Sunday 15th February dawned grey and mild in the West Midlands. Detailed perusal of weather reports the night before had indicated a fair chance of some sun in the afternoon. In this, we were to be disappointed.

21 bikes turned up at McDonalds with only two pillion amongst them. New bikes on display comprised yet another bike for Paul Newman (a BMW1200GS to replace the previous RT) Isn't it strange how Paul always gets bikes that are quicker than ours and they go round corners better too! I can't work it out. He must have been born lucky. Another new bike on show was a black, sparkly Yamaha FJR1300. When I looked at it I noticed - no clutch lever. After a moments thought the penny dropped. One of the new automatics. I am sold on automatics for cars but not so sure for bikes. I did not get a chance to quiz the owner but it certainly went rapidly past me on a couple of occasions.

The destination was Aberdovey between Aberystwyth and Barmouth on the Welsh coast. The route involved a journey through Hagley, Bridgnorth and the B4368 to Harry Tuffins Supermarket in Craven Arms. The café at the supermarket was welcoming as usual. Most of us restrained ourselves and stuck to coffee or a sandwich but Mick the drummer ordered a full breakfast with chips. The next road on the agenda was one of my favourites; a continuation of the B4368 from Craven Arms to Newtown. This is a fine if somewhat twisty road when in its prime. Unfortunately the recent snows and the local farmers had wreaked havoc on it. Copious quantities of both gravel and mud were present which made for a restrained passage. Towards



Ok we can go now Mick has finished his breakfast & chips

Kerry
Forest there is a downhill S bend that was particularly well endowed with gravel which led to the downfall (literally) of Andrew Johnson's immaculate 600 Honda. Despite being little more than a walking speed tumble a mirror was lost plus a fair dose of gravel rash inflicted on the fairing. Fortunately there were no injuries other than bruised pride and ego, no doubt. When I have done similar things I have found that the injury to my pride/ego is at least as bad as the pain in my wallet!

The last twenty miles to Aberdovey along the B4518, the mountain road from near Dylife to Penegoes and the A493 were a positive delight. The roads were dry, largely mud and gravel free and testing in nature. I doubt if I saw more than 10 vehicles coming the other way during the whole of the twenty miles. Great fun.

Aberdovey would have been beautiful if the promised sun had materialised. It didn't, so it appeared somewhat uninviting, although there were a few families enjoying (?) themselves on the beach. Not bad for mid February. Talking of the beach, Paul and Sharon were noticed engaging in some antics in the sand. Sharon was lying on her back in the sand with her feet in the

air and Paul was taking photographs. Your guess is as good as mine. The car park in Aberdovey is large, convenient and a Pay and Display. I didn't see a single ticket affixed to a BAM machine. What a load of tight wads we are! Lunch was a choice between fish and chips or variety of sandwiches/baguettes. Both were consumed with relish. I am a great enthusiast of ice cream but being the middle of February I managed to prevent myself from venturing into the ice cream shop for a treat.

When Colin Daniels finally graced us with his presence, (Ed; it's because he used to work for the Gas Board so he thinks 2.15pm means any time between 1pm and 5pm) we embarked on the home ward journey. The run back took place on drier, cleaner roads and was all the better for it. The run ended at the services at the A5/A49 junction east of Shrewsbury at about 16.15. Too long was spent supping coffees, in my case, a vanilla latte. Consequently we were going to run into darkness before regaining home territory. We had a choice, the boring but quick M54/M6/A38M or a more enjoyable route via Bridgnorth, Hagley and home. About seven of



Pay & Display !!?



He lets me clean it afterwards as well

us settled on the latter and enjoyed a fairly frantic, ride back in the failing light. We elected to continue using second man drop which worked well until Hagley where the trail went cold. Fortunately, I knew where I was so, Colin Wyatt and myself, forged our own route back to the southern extremities of Birmingham. By the time we were traversing the Lickey Hills it was really dark. I had not taken the opportunity to clean my visor at the last stop. A big mistake. The last few miles were really difficult. Motto: clean your visor whenever you can!

Another Ironman completed, an enjoyable day with plenty of riding, a lot in testing conditions. Our thanks to Graham Hay for picking up the route at short notice and acting as an excellent lead man all day. The forgotten hero of many rides is the last man. In this case, Ray Evans on his smart RT, who filled the post to perfection.

See you all on the next Ironman

Richard Atkinson

Hi all its Flipper time 2009, we have had our winter lay off to rebuild and or refresh our bikes and our ego's. Mine has had all the filters changed, new oil and chain and sprockets, so I am ready for the new season with Thundersport GB. The package they have offered includes televised races on the Sunday of the race meetings.

Apparently Marcus has actually done some work on his bike this winter; he must really be serious about trying to beat me this year...ha...ha. We will also be joined for the first time by Joey

Racing starts on the 13th, 14th and 15th of March at Mallory Park, so let's have a good turn out to watch the mayhem begin. With the amount of CB's registered to race we should have full grids for most meetings. The full list of all the meetings will be posted on the BAM Forum, the website and also on www.thundersportgb.com



I have been lucky enough this year to be sponsored by one of our own members, William Spanfelner and his I.T. Company VERETECH, so I must thank him immensely.

So here's to seeing some of you at the race meetings.



Friday 13th March - Mallory Park (Spring Cup National)
Saturday 14th March - Mallory Park (Spring Cup National)
Sunday 15th March - Mallory Park (Spring Cup & Race of the Year)

Saturday 11th April - Thundersport GB testing
Sunday 12th April - Cadwell Park (King of the Mountain)
Monday 13th April - Cadwell Park (King of the Mountain)

Friday 8th May - Pembrey Circuit testing
Saturday 9th May - Pembrey (Celtic Cup)
Sunday 10th May - Pembrey (Celtic Cup)

Friday 5th June - Thundersport GB testing
Saturday 6th June - Oulton Park (Earl of Oulton)

Friday 10th July - Thundersport GB testing
Saturday 11th July - Snetterton (Races for Aces)
Sunday 12th July - Snetterton (Races for Aces)

Thursday 23rd July - Donington Park (MOTO GP)
Friday 24th July - Donington Park (MOTO GP)
Saturday 25th July - Donington Park (MOTO GP)
Sunday 26th July - Donington Park (MOTO GP)

Friday 28th August - Thundersport GB testing
Saturday 29th August - Brands Hatch (Race of the South)
Sunday 30th August - Brands Hatch (Race of the South)

Friday 11th September - Thundersport GB testing
Saturday 12th September - Anglesey (Copper Island Trophy)
Sunday 13th September - Anglesey (Copper Island Trophy)

Friday 16th October - Thundersport GB testing
Saturday 17th October - Rockingham (Thundersport Finale)
Sunday 18th October - Rockingham (Thundersport Finale)

Saturday 1st of August to Sunday 9th August 2009

There are a limited number of places, (12) available for this year's tour of the West Coast of Scotland

The cost of the tour will be approximately £550 to include Hotel Accommodation and ferry crossings.

THE TOUR INCLUDES:-

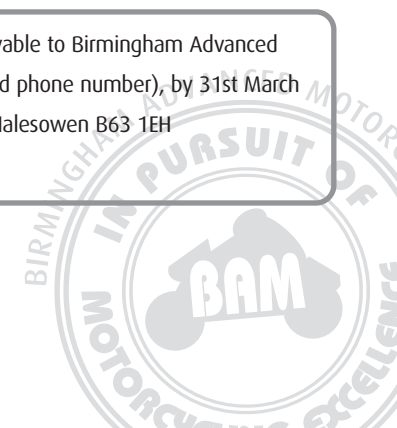
- Distillery Tour
- Trip to the Isle of Skye
- Visit to John O'Groats
- Trips to Point of Ardnamurchan (Britain's most Westerly point) and the highest pass in Britain

ITINERARY

Saturday 1st August - Depart from Stafford Services at 9.00am - Girvan	250 miles
Sunday 2nd August - Tobermory Isle of Mull	200 miles
Monday 3rd August - Tobermory Isle of Mull	120 miles
Tuesday 4th August - Plockton	180 miles
Wednesday 5th August - Plockton tour	120 miles
Thursday 6th August - Tongue 150 miles / John O'Groats 250 miles	
Friday 7th August - Inveraray	200 miles
Saturday 8th August - Inveraray	140 miles
Sunday 9th August - Home	320 miles

TOTAL mileage 1780 miles

To secure a place on this tour please send a cheque for £225 made payable to Birmingham Advanced Motorcyclists with your contact details on the back, (Address, E-mail and phone number), by 31st March to Quentin Davies, Upper Lutley House, 50 Lutley Lane, Hayley Green, Halesowen B63 1EH
 For further information Quentin can be contacted on 07899 818875



You must be a Full Member of BAM / IAM. Bikes must be road worthy and attendees should arrive at the departure point with a full tank of fuel. Further fuel stops will be at approximately 100 mile intervals. Each run usually involves a full days riding with food and fuel stops designed as part of the route. The 2nd Man Drop off system will be used. Those unfamiliar with this system should speak to the organisers on the day for a brief explanation. Where possible proposed routes, on word and Garmin will be posted on the BAM Forum www.bamforum.co.uk

Unless otherwise stated all Full Members Runs start at 9.00am prompt from McDonalds in Small Heath.

DATE	ORGANISER/S	AREA	APP MILEAGE
Mar-15	Graham Hay	Skegness	280
Apr-26	Richard Atkinson / Les Pratt	Oxfordshire	200/250
May-10	Quentin Davies / Clive Putnam	Wye Valley	200/250
Jun-21	Adrian Court / Clive Putnam	"Secret"	200/250
Jul-19	Mick Barker	TBA	TBA
Aug-02	Fred Brown	Aberystwyth	250/300
Sep-13	Liz Robinson / Marion O'Brien	TBA	TBA

BRIEFING

You must read and understand the following briefing in order to go on these runs:-

THESE RUNS ARE OPEN TO BAM FULL MEMBERS ONLY

- You must also be a fully paid up member of the I.A.M.
- A pillion passenger is acceptable.
- The Leader and Lastman shall be identified.
- Safety is No.1 Priority. Every rider is responsible for their own actions and any consequences that those actions may have.
- Traffic Laws must be obeyed at all times. Your motorcycle must be road legal and roadworthy.
- System is 2nd person drop, straight ahead unless a marker is placed. All roundabouts to have a marker at exit where safety permits. The marker to position themselves accordingly.
- If any rider wishes to leave the ride they must inform the Leader or Lastman before doing so, to avoid any confusion by the following riders.
- There will be an outward route and a return route; any riders who wish to make their own way back may do so.
- Riders are not allowed to overtake the Leader.
- Route details showing Petrol/Rest stops to be issued prior to start. Please arrive with a full tank of fuel.
- Any Rider who acts dangerously is to be reported to the Leader/Organizer who will take appropriate action. A Rider could be warned or excluded from the ride and will be reported to the Group Committee for any further action.

(A fuller account of the 2nd person drop can be viewed on our Club Web Site under the Events section and it is essential that all are familiar with it for safety)

All persons on the ride will be deemed to have read and understood these instructions. They will be posted on the club web site and displayed in the club newsletter on a regular basis.

Friday 17th to Sunday 19th April 2009

This year's BAM training weekend will take place in North Wales staying at The New Inn at Llangynog, near Bala. Make your own way to Llangynog on Friday 17th to arrive after 5 pm, (evening meals end at 8.30 pm), training Saturday and Sunday Morning, travel home Sunday afternoon.

The weekend is open to Full members only, no associates on this occasion sorry!

Spaces are limited to 12 and you will have to share a room!

BAM MEMBERS CHOOSING OPTION ONE WILL TAKE PRIORITY.

OPTION ONE

Observer Training = £40 B&B - fuel, drinks and meals will be at your own cost Briefing, route planning, riding improvement, overtaking, rider improvement skills, debriefing

OPTION TWO

Rider Skills Training = £80 B&B - fuel, drinks and meals will be at your own cost

For full members wishing not to undertake observer-training option two will concentrate on rider improvement skills.

Full payment is required by cheque payable to Birmingham Advanced Motorcyclists (no cash please) by the closing date of Wednesday 19th March 2009. Your cheque will not be cashed until you have been successful in obtaining a place. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis however priority will go to members wishing to take option one.

Post or hand your applications with a cheque for the full amount to Steve Beggan, 6 Primrose Croft, Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 0JR. Confirmation will be by email. So hurry as a place on this fantastic weekend will go FAST!

Ride smooth, ride safe

Steve Beggan

BAM Training Weekend 17th to 19th April 09

Name: _____ Membership no. _____

Signed: _____ Delete non choice: **Option One / Option Two**

Email address: (PRINT) _____

EVENTS 2009 Birmingham Advanced Motorcyclists

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mon						1st						
Tue						2nd			1st			1st
Wed				Club night Tally Ho 20:00	1st	Club night Tally Ho 20:00	3rd	Club night Tally Ho 20:00	2nd	Club night Tally Ho 20:00		Club AGM Tally Ho 20:00
Thu	1st			2nd		4th	2nd		3rd	1st		3rd
Fri	2nd			3rd	1st	5th	3rd		3 Moor Days	2nd		4th
Sat	Run 10:00 MCD Small Heath	3rd		4th	2nd	Run 9:00 MCD Small Heath	Run 9:00 MCD Small Heath	Run 9:00 MCD Small Heath	3 Moor Days	3rd		Run 10:00 MCD Small Heath
Sun	4th	1st	1st	Run 9:00 MCD Small Heath	Run 9:00 MCD Small Heath	7th	5th	Full 2nd Members Run Scottish Tour	Run 9:00 MCD Small Heath	Run 9:00 MCD Small Heath	Run 10:00 MCD Small Heath	1st
Mon	5th	2nd	2nd	6th	4th	8th	6th	Scottish Tour	3 Moor Days	5th	2nd	7th
Tue	6th	3rd	3rd	7th	5th	9th	7th	Scottish Tour	8th	6th	3rd	8th
Wed	Club night Tally Ho 20:00	4th	4th	8th	Club night Tally Ho 20:00	Evening Run MCD Small Heath	Evening Run MCD Small Heath	Club night Tally Ho 20:00	5th	Club night Tally Ho 20:00	4th	9th
Thu	8th	5th	5th	9th	7th	11th	9th	Scottish Tour	6th	10th	5th	10th
Fri	9th	6th	6th	10th	8th	12th	10th	Scottish Tour	7th	11th	6th	11th
Sat	10th	7th	7th	Run 9:00 MCD Small Heath	Run 9:00 MCD Small Heath	13th	11th	Scottish Tour	Run 9:00 MCD Small Heath	Run 9:00 MCD Small Heath	Run 10:00 MCD Small Heath	7th
Sun	Run 10:00 MCD Small Heath	8th	Run 10:00 MCD Small Heath	12th	Full Members Run	Run 9:00 MCD Small Heath	Run 9:00 MCD Small Heath	Run 9:00 MCD Small Heath	Full Members Run	13th	Slow Riding Day	Run 10:00 MCD Small Heath
Mon	12th	9th	9th	Easter Monday	11th	15th	13th	Scottish Tour	10th	14th	9th	14th
Tue	13th	10th	10th	14th	12th	16th	14th	Lakes Tour	11th	15th	10th	15th
Wed	14th	11th	11th	Committee 19:30	Evening Run 18:30 MCD Small Heath	Committee 19:30	Committee 19:30	Evening Run 18:30 MCD Small Heath	Committee 19:30	16th	11th	Committee 19:30
Thu	15th	12th	12th	16th	14th	18th	16th	Lakes Tour	13th	17th	12th	17th
Fri	16th	13th	13th	Training Wknd	15th	19th	17th	Lakes Tour	14th	18th	13th	18th
Sat	Run 10:00 MCD Small Heath	Run 10:00 MCD Small Heath	Run 10:00 MCD Small Heath	Training Wknd	16th	Run 9:00 MCD Small Heath	Run 9:00 MCD Small Heath	Lakes Tour	Run 9:00 MCD Small Heath	Run 9:00 MCD Small Heath	Run 10:00 MCD Small Heath	Run 10:00 MCD Small Heath
Sun	18th	Iron Man 15th Small Heath	Full Members Run	Run 9:00 MCD Small Heath	Run 9:00 MCD Small Heath	Full Members Run	Full Members Run	Barn Bash Sutton Coldfield	Run 9:00 MCD Small Heath	Run 9:00 MCD Small Heath	Run 10:00 MCD Small Heath	20th
Mon	19th	16th	16th	20th	18th	22nd	20th		17th	19th	16th	21st
Tue	20th	17th	17th	21st	19th	23rd	21st		18th	20th	17th	22nd
Wed	Committee 19:30	Committee 19:30	Committee 19:30	Evening Run 18:30 MCD Small Heath	Committee 19:30	Evening Run MCD Small Heath	Evening Run MCD Small Heath	Committee 19:30	Committee 19:30	Committee 19:30	Committee 19:30	23rd
Thu	22nd	19th	19th	23rd	21st	25th	23rd		20th	24th	19th	24th
Fri	23rd	20th	20th	24th	22nd	26th	24th		21st	25th	20th	Christmas Day
Sat	24th	21st	21st	Run 9:00 MCD Small Heath	Run 9:00 MCD Small Heath	27th	25th	22nd	Run 9:00 MCD Small Heath	Run 9:00 MCD Small Heath	Run 10:00 MCD Small Heath	26th
Sun	Run 10:00 MCD Small Heath	Run 10:00 MCD Small Heath	Run 9:00 MCD Small Heath	Full 26th Members Run Slow Riding Day	24th	Run 9:00 MCD Small Heath	Run 9:00 MCD Small Heath	Run 9:00 MCD Small Heath	27th	25th	22nd	Run 10:00 MCD Small Heath
Mon	26th	23rd	23rd	27th	25th	29th	27th		28th	26th	23rd	28th
Tue	27th	24th	24th	28th	26th	30th	28th		29th	27th	24th	29th
Wed	28th	25th	25th	Evening Run MCD Small Heath	Evening Run MCD Small Heath		Evening Run MCD Small Heath	Evening Run MCD Small Heath	30th	28th	25th	30th
Thu	29th	26th	26th	30th	28th		30th		27th	29th	26th	31st
Fri	30th	27th	27th		29th		31st		28th	30th	27th	
Sat	Run 10:00 MCD Small Heath	Run 10:00 MCD Small Heath	Run 10:00 MCD Small Heath		30th		Run 9:00 MCD Small Heath	Run 9:00 MCD Small Heath	29th	31st	28th	
Sun					Run 9:00 MCD Small Heath				30th		Run 10:00 MCD Small Heath	
Mon									31st		30th	
Tue												

Observed Runs - Start at McDonalds, Small Heath (Summer 9.00am) Winter 10.00am - January, February, March, November and December
 Evening Runs - Start at McDonalds, Small Heath (18.30) Full Member's Runs 9.00am
 Club Nights - (1st Wed's) 8:00pm (Tally Ho) Committee Meetings - (3rd Wed's) 7:30pm (Solihull)

The Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) run training sessions for motorcyclists at race circuits to help improve their rider skills and machine control. On Saturday 21 February they ran the first ever similar session for cars at Mallory Park race circuit.

Due to 20 + years experience in my motor racing career I was invited along to help run the event. There were separate sessions for morning and afternoon instruction. Some decent cars turned up - Porsche, Audi, VW, Jaguar, Aston Martin, Mitsubishi Evo, Subaru, Mazda Rotary, Seat 350bhp, Skoda RS besides lots of other less high performance, ordinary road cars.

It was a truly fantastic day, the feedback was exceptionally good and the feeling is that the car sessions will now become a regular schedule like the bikes are now.

I got the opportunity to take my car out, a Mercedes E320 CDI and it transformed my perception completely of what the car would do. Generally I drive it like an 'old man' on the road. Not that I am one, I normally let the car drive me as it does everything so smoothly and so well. I have always felt the car was more luxury than race and on the road it's impossible these days to dig even a fraction of potential out of any car.

I clicked it into Sport mode to enhance the transmission shift points and took it out. Wow! It became a Mercedes Silver Arrow and was big time up for it in every department. OK it's a reasonable sized and heavy machine to throw around but I just had to be impressed. It is very quick and did everything - (steering, braking, handling) perfectly. I was instilled with so much confidence I pushed it hard. Approaching Gerrards at 100 + mph, set it up for the corner, the car was so predictable I accelerated through and out of it. The rest of the circuit was an equal delight.

There was a guy there who took a Mercedes S Class around. It used to be owned by Lehman Brothers before they imploded. That's even bigger than mine and he did well too. So as to make it more fun for him he switched off the ABS, ESP, Traction Control etc. I respected him for that. I left all my 'gizmos' switched on as at those speeds running off the track would have resulted in more than a couple of scratches.

It felt really good to get 'racing style' again after a long time in retirement from the sport. It's made me want to do it again! So I am doing. I have booked for instruction on the IAM motorcycle course in July. I know I need and will benefit from additional skills to be quick, safer and more controlled on two wheels and can't wait for the extremely professional tuition.

It's brilliant to do this. Why? Well it's great fun with highly professional advice from super people. But more than that, it provides essential skills for the road so as to be safe and drive with due consideration to others - one of the main features of the IAM.

The fact is that anyone can do this, with any ability and any car or motorcycle. It's not about training to be a racer. It is not race training, its road training in a controlled environment to enhance driver skills so that we are fully aware and in control of our machines at all times when on the road.

I would highly recommend this to anyone.

John H Stalker

Sincere thanks to Rich Breeze for stepping in at short notice and attending our February meeting - his presentation was extremely thought provoking and certainly puts into context exactly why we so strongly advocate good planning and anticipation. There has been plenty of comment on the BAM Forum so I know his message got through to a number of people.

Bookings are a bit thin towards the end of the year so as ever, if anyone has any special requests or knows someone who can keep us entertained just let me know

Regards

Roy Aston - roy.aston@blueyonder.co.uk

Forthcoming Guest Speakers for 2009

March - Mick Extance

www.mickextance.com

Mick's exploits in the 2009 Dakar Rally

May - Brian Davis

www.intaride.com

Motorcycle communications and stuff

April - Bob Jackson

www.airso.co.uk

Blue Light Runs and the likes



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**IT'S BACK
BY POPULAR
DEMAND**

Entering is simple - Think up a witty caption for the photograph shown here and then either :-

E-Mail it to the editor at grahamahay@hotmail.co.uk or hand it in at the April club night. Don't forget to include your name address and telephone number.

Deadline for entries - Wednesday 15th of April 2009. The winner will be shown in the next newsletter. Entries will be judged by the BAM committee. The judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into

Slow Riding Training - Which one do you prefer?

Slow Speed School

Location: Mallory Park

Learn how to really control you and your bike in those difficult to manage situations. Build confidence for the next time you have to stop in any situation when you feel that the world and his dog are looking at you!

- Tight turns, right and left
- Gradients, up and down
- U-turns
- Clutch and throttle control
- Improve your balance at 0-2mph

Half Day £100 Full Day £150

Slow Riding Day

Sun 26th April 2009

Location - **Sutton Fire Station**

LEARN HOW TO CONTROL YOU AND YOUR BIKE IN DIFFICULT TO MANAGE SITUATIONS - RIGHT & LEFT TURNS, U TURNS, CLUTCH AND THROTTLE CONTROL AT WALKING PACE, BALANCE CONTROL AND CONFIDENCE

10am till 2pm **Cost - FREE**

Tea will cost you £1 all day with biscuits.

NB BAM will also be doing a Slow Riding Day on Sunday 8th November - watch out for more details coming soon.

Ian Sole Charity



At the end of March / beginning of April 2009 I am trekking the Beijing section of the Great Wall of China. Through sponsorship I hope to raise as much money as possible for the charity, Reach, who help and support children with hand or arm deficiencies. This is an often overlooked but much needed charity who aims to help affected children and their families, allowing them to share experiences and information whilst helping them to seek out and find the best advice and treatment. For more information please see their website - www.reach.org.uk

If anyone would like to sponsor me I have a just-giving fundraising page which can be found at justgiving.com/ianlottagoodworkforcharitysole

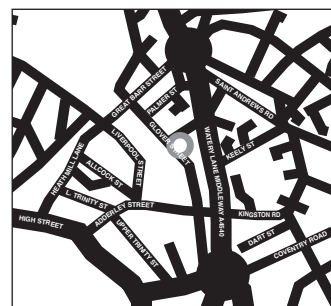
I am also having a raffle that will be drawn in mid March by the West Midlands Branch Coordinator for Reach. Prizes that will be of interest to bikers such as yourselves include a good selection of Autoglym cleaning products, a Hein Gericke prize and a £15 voucher for Streetbike. Other prizes include weekend tickets to the Moseley folk festival, a meal for 2 at Stratford's oldest pub, a handyman's services for a day, a ladies a haircut and styling by a top Birmingham stylist, tickets for the Black Country Museum and more items to be confirmed nearer the date.

Tickets are £2 a strip and can be bought from me by contacting me on my mobile 07878 750642. Thanks for taking the Time to read this, any questions please do not hesitate to contact me

Ian Sole

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The BAM runs provide a great opportunity for associates to meet with their observers, get some additional training from a different observer or even get an observed ride out with a senior observer.

The BAM run was originally designed as a means for associates to meet with observers, (and it will always will be), but once you've passed the IAM test the BAM runs provide a great a chance to meet up and get out on your bike, what ever the weather.

The runs are designed with a bit of town work, (that's partly why we meet in the city centre, so we can get that tiresome bit over and done with!!!) followed by a mix of roads through towns, villages and the highways and byways around the Midlands. Each route is designed to challenge your rider skills whilst hopefully bringing a smile to your face.

The routes are varied, Shrewsbury, Ledbury, Craven Arms, Uttoxeter, Worcester, Wellesbourne, Banbury are just a few destinations where we finish up at a one of the culinary delightful venues such as Tescos, MacDonald's, Burger King, Little Chef or favourite biking venues such as Harry Tuffins. We might end up at the same place but it's nearly always via a different route. Associates can get debriefed, whilst their observers scoff breakfast and cups of tea. Meanwhile full member's work out how they managed to get lost on the route and who did the most ridiculous overtake on the way there.

The return journey is also organised with the second man drop off system utilised to bring everyone back to Birmingham. Alternatively you can make your own way back or as often happens we take off further a field to benefit from the dry roads and sunny weather!!!.

So who should come on the BAM Runs

- If you're Observer is busy, on holiday or too busy at work,
- If you want to get as much training in as possible before your test
- If you've passed your test and need to sharpen your skills
- If you're a full member and your mates are too busy gardening, decorating, or cleaning the car/bike
- If you're a full member and you fancy going out for a couple of hours but can't decide where to go to find some of the best biking roads around Birmingham
- If you've passed you're IAM test and are considering training to be an Observer
- If you're an observer looking to give a bit more time and take out a different associate

Basically everyone who is a member of BAM is welcome and it provides a great opportunity for all club members to get out on our Bikes.

If you've never been before or have just joined BAM, the runs start from MacDonald's just off the island at the end of the Small Heath Bypass, at the bottom of the hill from the Birmingham City Football Ground. The island is allegedly feared by some but it's not exactly busy on a Sunday or Saturday and there are 2 exits both of which get you into MacDonald's car-park. If its wet, snowing or cold we will probably be found inside, otherwise we will found loitering outside.

BAM Runs are on alternate Saturdays and Sundays at 9.00am April - November and 10.00am December - March. During the summer there are also runs on Wednesdays at 6.30pm, which allows you to test your night riding skills on the way home!!

Check the events Calendar in the Middle pages of this Magazine or contact the organisers

A run co-ordinator will be present on each Saturday Run



Graham Hay
Sundays
07881 841447



Colin Daniels
Wednesdays
0121 243 6045

BAM RUN TIMES



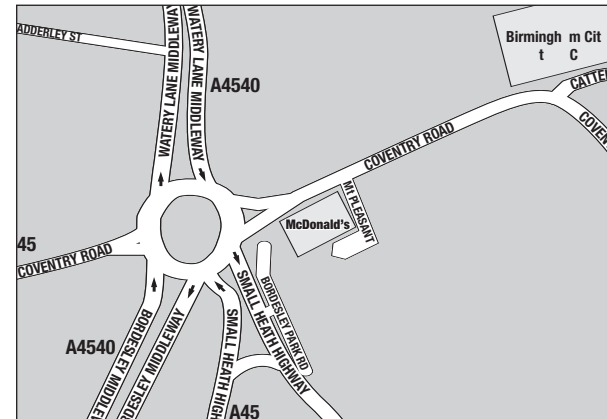
BAM RUNS

Winter Meeting Times until the end of March

Saturday - 10.00am Sunday - 10.00am

Summer Meeting Times from April onwards

Saturday - 9.00am Sunday - 9.00am Wednesday - 6.30pm



The meeting place is the McDonalds Restaurant just off the island at the end of the Small Heath Bypass and at the bottom of the hill from Birmingham City Football Ground.

109 Coventry Road, Small Heath, Birmingham, B10 0RJ

ASSOCIATES

These runs are provided to help you with your training in addition to training runs that you may already do with your current Observer. They enable you to get extra practice and meet up with other associates, Observers and Full Members.

If you've not been on one before why not come and give it a try?

Full members are also welcome

PLEASE NOTE

1. To go on any BAM runs your motorbike must be road legal and roadworthy
2. You should arrive with a full tank of fuel
3. Associates are required to pay a £8 contribution to the observer's expenses for an observed run and debrief



Group Meetings Welcome to New Members Recent TEST Passes . . .

GROUP MEETINGS

All group meetings are on the **first** Wednesday of the month and will be at the Tally Ho Police Training Centre, Pershore Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B5 7RN. Please check out the club website www.b-a-m.org.uk for directions. **STARTING AT 8 PM PROMPT**

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

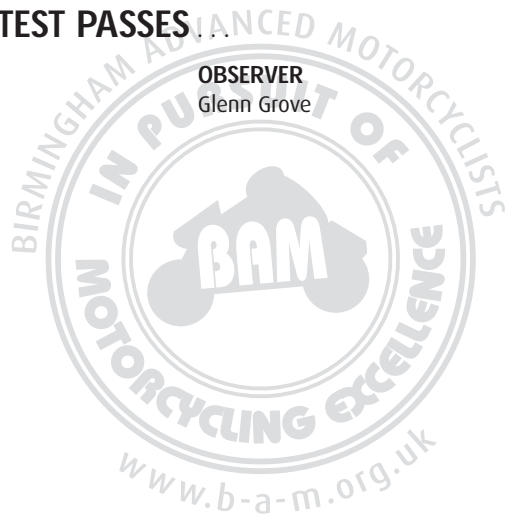
Charlotte Poole
Jason Taylor
Ian McLaughlin
Trevor Harris
Andy Bonner
Wilson To
John Walker

Akram Mohammed
Mathew Silverton
Jonathan Tiley
Robert Jones
Michael Watson
Jason Green
Carl Jones

Recent TEST PASSES

ASSOCIATE
Richard Skyte

OBSERVER
Glenn Grove









BAM Training

Area Co-ordinators - all associates read on

For you to be allocated your own observer to train on a one to one basis, you will need to have submitted your test application form and IAM membership fee. This should be sent (if not already done) to the membership secretary; **James Fallon** and marked '**Associate under training**', with the group number and name (3203, BAM) on the bottom left of the application form. (See membership page for details). Then contact your area Co-coordinator relative to your home postcode as listed below

You will then be given your OBSERVER

	Marcus McCormick Chief Observer Mobile: 07970-901929		Neil Murray Observer Training & Co-ordinator Telephone: 07939 072444
	Colin Daniels North-West Area co-ordinator Telephone: 0121 243 6045 07801 737988 B1,2,3,18,19,20,21,42,43,66,67,69,70,71		Suki Gosal North-East Area co-ordinator Telephone: 0247 650 1502 07790 573540 B4,6,7,8,23,24,33,34,35,36,37,44,46,72,73,74,75,76,77,78,79
	Steve Beggan South-West Area co-ordinator Telephone: 0121 744 1166 07841 506482 B15,16,17,29,31,32,45,60,61,62,63,64,65,68, 96,97		Marion O'Brien South-East Area co-ordinator Telephone: 0121 705 9417 B5,9,10,11,12,13,14,25,26,7,28,30,38,47,48,49,50,80,90,91,92,93,94,95,98

BAM Membership Information

Group No. 3203

Fees for 2008/9

FULL MEMBERS - £10.00

ASSOCIATE RENEWALS - £12.00

NEW ASSOCIATES JOINING THE IAM's 'SKILLS FOR LIFE' SCHEME - £109.00 (existing IAM MEMBERS - £91.00), which includes the IAM test fee (£35), IAM membership, BAM initial membership, a copy of "Pass Your Advanced Motorcycling Test" a copy of the Highway Code and a framed certificate on passing the test.

BAM membership subscription is on a rolling renewal basis, i.e. 12 months from your initial joining date.

If you are a full member of the Group, you must continue to pay the IAM subscription separately when notified by them.

For membership details, or to rejoin (reminders will be sent when renewal is due), or if you have had a change in your membership details (address, telephone, e-mail etc), please contact the Membership Secretary.

When an Associate passes the IAM motorcycling test and becomes a full member, the Membership Secretary should be advised of their IAM number and their BAM badge should be return to him for upgrade (or supply a fresh passport photograph).

If your membership status has changed, please return your badge to the Membership Secretary for updating.



Membership Secretary

James Fallon,
11 Hannon Road,
Kings Heath,
Birmingham B14 6BS

Telephone: 0121 624 0812

e-mail: BAM_IAM@blueyonder.co.uk



The Complaints, Grievance and Disciplinary Procedure can be obtained by contacting any committee member.

WWW.B-A-M.ORG.UK



Ever turned up for a club run and you've been the only one there? Ever searched for contact details? Ever run out of run report forms? Missed out on events?

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- CALENDAR

SEE ONLINE

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- MEMBERS INFORMATION
- MEETING DETAILS
- CONTACT DETAILS
- GOOD ROAD GUIDE

HAVE YOUR SAY!

www.b-a-m.org.uk

BAM Clothing

We currently have two great items of clothing available which are supplied with the BAM logo embroidered in green on the left breast (as worn).

These items are on display at club night in the canteen on the first Wednesday in every month. T-shirts can normally be purchased on the night (subject to availability) and the roll neck tops are available by order only.

T-shirts

Colour: black
Sizes available - S, M, L and XL
Price - £8.50 each



Roll neck tops

Colour: black
Sizes available - various (by order only)
Price - £12.50 each

If there is a particular type of clothing that you and maybe other members of BAM would like to purchase to wear, please let Martin Doran know on club night and he will make enquiries to see if they are available and at what price.

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