



Bournemouth & Wessex Advanced Motorcyclists



Newsletter — April 2006

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NEWS

Read all about it

BWAM subscription increase

At the recent AGM (see last month's issue) it was agreed to support our local Air Ambulance, the voluntary emergency service which is of such value to motorcyclists, by way of a small subscription increase.



Effective immediately, £2 will be added to the subs for Members and Associates, enabling an annual donation to the Air Ambulance of around £360. For further details see Membership Matters on p10.

New Club Secretary

Martin Saunders has agreed to become the Secretary of BWAM, taking over from Paul Savage, who resigned at the end of the Club's year but kindly continued to deputise until Martin's appointment.

As the official interface between the Club and the IAM, whose full-time salaried staff generate increasing paperwork, the Secretary's workload has risen significantly in recent years. On behalf of the Club, Nigel thanked Paul for his sterling effort, and welcomed Martin to the post.

Goodbye Hugh

Hugh and Dorothy Williams have relocated to France following Hugh's retirement. At the March Club Night, Hugh was presented with a montage of

photos by which to remember Club members, and a gift token to choose a memento of more practical value.

Hugh's effort and contributions over the years as Senior Observer, Auditor, Newsletter article author, and enjoyable social rides organiser, have been greatly appreciated and will be much missed, said Nigel.

Hugh said that he would remember his times with BWAM as the best in his life, and thanked the club for all the enjoyment. But this would just be *au revoir*, for he was already in contact with his local group of *motards* and hoped to arrange exchange visits with BWAM in future.

V2 targets Bournemouth & Wessex

A new visor cleaning solution called V2 has been ... well, *launched*. The new V2 Sponge looks like a normal sponge, but is made of tiny microscopic fibres which, the manufacturer claims, turn it into a super effective crud remover!



The boffins at the finest materials technology lab in Europe have laboured for 10 years to perfect and deliver a miracle material, said to have 900 times the surface area of a normal sponge yet light, flexible, and inexpensive.

The V2 Sponge needs no solvents or chemicals, just water. It grips the caked-on muck and lifts it from the visor - a solvent and scratch free method of making a superb cleaning job on even the muckiest, messed up visor. You don't have to carry water with you - wet it before you leave home and drop it into its heavy-duty watertight grip-seal bag before popping it into your pocket or underseat storage.

Technologically advanced, solvent free, and it fits in your pocket! The V2 Sponge can be bought online from the Visor Vision Web site at URL: <http://www.visorvision.co.uk/>

Visor Vision offers BWAM members a 10 percent discount on the price of V2, in return for free advertising space here (see p7). At the checkout of the online shop, or when ordering by post or phone, quote the special code.

They have also provided samples, and so watch out for consumer reports in the next issue.

Forthcoming Events

How's your diary looking?

2nd April — CW Motorcycles Open Day

CW Motorcycles of Dorchester — four times voted the UK's best bike dealer by *RiDE* readers - is hosting an Open Day with Police participation, at its Sideways Motorcycles premises at Crossways. A day out talking and demonstrating bikes and safety with the Mobile Unit.
Sunday 2nd April at Sideways Motorcycles, Crossways

17th April - Club Night

Preceded by Committee meeting
Monday 17th April, 8:00pm at Cobham Social Club

15th May - Club Night

Monday 15th May, 8:00pm at Cobham Social Club

21st May - Chocolate Box Run

Led by John Spinks. Travelling through picturesque Dorset, pillions very welcome. Further details to follow.
Sunday 21st May, departure TBA.

19th June - Club Night

Preceded by Committee meeting
Monday 19th June, 8:00pm at Cobham Social Club

17th July - Club Night

Monday 17th July, 8:00pm at Cobham Social Club

21st August - Club Night

Monday 21st August, 8:00pm at Cobham Social Club

18th September - Club Night

Preceded by Committee meeting
Monday 18th September, 8:00pm at Cobham Social Club

16th October - Club Night

Monday 16th October, 8:00pm at Cobham Social Club

20th November - Club Night

Preceded by Committee meeting
Monday 20th November, 8:00pm at Cobham Social Club

Test Passes

Felicitations are due this month to ...

Keeping the Examiner busy, there are no fewer than four successful Advanced Tests to report this month.

- **Adrian Lambert** passed his test on 25th February having benefited from the observing of **Martin Bartlett**.
- Also on 25th February, **Ian Turnbull** passed. Ian's Observer was **Chris Reed**.
- March successes (so far) include **Paul Seymour** on the 18th. No record exists of an Observer to claim any credit.
- Finally for now, **Peter O'Neill** also passed on 18th March. Observer: **Mark Bezzant**.

Well done to all!

Forthcoming Forthcoming Events

Newly appointed Events Organiser hits ground running

Radical stimulus for the Club's social side! A taste of things to come, so far:

- Go-karting
- Slow Riding competition
- Track Day
- Meal Night after a Ride-In
- Summer BBQ probably Chesil Beach car park
- Treasure hunt

All dates are "to be announced".

Any more ideas? If you've got a plan then I can help make it a reality for you and the Club. Let me know your ideas because I'd like to get involved.

Chris Green

IAM Region One Forum

Report from the event on Saturday 25th February

I was led to believe that straws don't come any shorter than this one, so underwhelming was the response to Secretary Paul's request for nominations to attend. Weston-super-Mare was the venue and with the forecast of snow I was content to settle into a nice warm car, feed in the GPS info and enjoy the drive. I won't bore you with where I actually went as I have absolutely no idea, but I finally emerged from the little lanes at Wells in a very foul mood. If you want to turn a 2-hour jaunt into a 3-hour trauma go and buy one of these bloody things.

The meeting was held in a refrigerator called the Grand Atlantic Hotel, on the sea front. "Past its former glory" is the polite form of "knackered" that best describes this reason why foreign holidays are so popular amongst those still young enough to be able to get travel insurance, with a buffet lunch obviously best suited to its present clientele. I am pleased to say, though, that the subject matter of the meeting proved adequate compensation for the 2-bar electric fire that the management had so kindly provided to heat the small ballroom.

I had been led to believe that the car brigade dominate these gatherings, with some slight, somewhat reluctant, recognition of us motorcyclists (even though most of us had arrived by car). Not so these days, with membership of motorcyclists doubling in the last four years and set to continue at a similar rate. This is proving too tempting for the bean counters at the IAM and suddenly bikes are in. Initial reports were given from the top table before some discussion ensued regarding the apportionment of the day. Bikes want more time and aren't interested in listening to all that car stuff. So instead of the odd half-hour at the end, we now get an earlier start time and 3 hours segregated from the cars.

So taking the 2-bar electric fire with us we departed for our own meeting, after the Slimmers World lunch. I won't bore you with a full account because it wasn't, well, boring. Tim Soper is working hard to set up training sessions for Senior Observers with the intention of de-mystifying the test requirements and establishing a "level playing field" in terms of standards, to which end 2 nominations will be invited from each of the 14 groups within the area to attend the day at Portishead Police HQ. Classroom and practical sessions will fill what seems to be an interesting day. Very oddly, though, the IAM doesn't seem to know just how many Senior Observers it has, even though the certificates are issued from IAM House. Strange.

There are moves afoot to mirror the Police Bikesafe scheme. For 25 quid, Assessment rides are to be offered to the public which will involve a written debrief and the status of "Associate of the IAM". Nothing wrong with that as a revenue earner, but it is the groups who will be expected to do these assessments in return for a fiver for the kitty. This seemed to the meeting to be neither particularly well thought through nor well presented and quite clearly opinions are going to differ as this is developed. Tempting as it may be for the IAM, there do seem to be some fundamentally important issues to be carefully considered before we at group Observer level rush out to do for money for the IAM, but at financial cost to ourselves, what we presently do for free. The concept of charging needs careful thought from the legal perspective, and I'm not the only one to be more than slightly worried about it.

So there was enough meat in the day to make the effort worthwhile. The Forum Annual General Meeting is next month at Taunton, and with these issues on the table we should show an interest. I know where Taunton is so the GPS can go screw itself instead of me.

John Spinks

Special Offer 10% Discount to all BWAM Members*

V2 SPONGE™

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*At the checkout of our online shop, enter the code [] in the redeem discount code box to get 10% off of all your purchases. Offer is valid until 3rd June 2006, 1 use per customer. Code can also be used on telephone orders.

Views from the Following Position

As the Chief Observer sees it

As Chief Observer I see my role as not only maintaining the standard of Associate preparation for test, but also as maintaining riding standards after test, within the group for all Members.

As a group we all have a duty to ride to a certain standard as we are paid up members of BWAM and IAM. I know that once you have passed your test it's yours for life, but after a couple of years some aspects of your ride may need bringing back to standard. So don't forget that as a group member you have access to Observers who can offer their services to you as well as Associates. Just because you passed your test doesn't mean you can't improve still further, better to treat it as the beginning of a new personal standard which can be continually improved upon, as long as it's maintained correctly.

At present group members can usually find a helpful observer at Avon Forest, Sunday mornings 9.30-10am, if they would like an observed ride.

But I would like to extend that and suggest that if you would like an observed ride, or have issues with any aspect of your ride you would like to discuss, then please contact me or any other Senior Observer, and we will organise something. Surely this is a service you as a member will take up, when required, as it will help to maintain our already high group standard and the continued search for safer, more enjoyable motorcycling.

Another way members can make more use of the group's resources is to use the BWAM website to contribute and share riding experiences with each other on the messages, notice board site. I have put a couple of tales there to get things started.

Thanks to everyone for this opportunity in my new role as chief observer, fortunately when I get things wrong there are plenty of people around me who know how to fix it. Please bear with me as I try a few different things in an attempt to improve even further our safe enjoyment of motorcycling, but then that is the object of the group and its members, isn't it?

Steve Hines

IAM Groups Better Riding Skills Day

Safe and systematic at Cadwell Park

Martin Hopp is a Senior Observer with the Fenland Group and happens to be a commercial trainer as well. Many Groups / people (including me) have benefited from his machine control courses as well as his “Better Riding Days” at Cadwell. The days at Cadwell are the safest track days that IMHO can be had. ALL the instructors are Nurburgring instructors (including Jon Taylor, our Southern Staff Examiner).



I have persuaded Martin to put an additional day on available to IAM Group members (including Associates) on 15th August. (It will be available to members of that other road safety charity as well.) It started as a Region 7 initiative, but is available nationally. Full details can be found at

<http://www.hoppridertraining.co.uk/BetterRiding.asp>

You can then follow the link to Booking.

For the special IAM / RoSPA Cadwell Booking Form click here:

<http://www.hoppridertraining.co.uk/upload/uploads/CadBookingIAM.doc>

Mart will be setting out his stall at the Motorcycle Conference in May, but the Cadwell Day may well be fully booked by then.

Kind Regards and Safe Riding.

Tony Clarke

IAM Regional Motorcycle Advisor, North London and Eastern England

Membership matters

Increase in subs

At the recent AGM it was proposed that we support the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance, which serves this area, by way of a small increase in the subs, which have remained at the same level for many years.

The Air Ambulance relies entirely on voluntary contributions. Although a charity it does not qualify for Lottery assistance. Up until recently it had been supported largely by the AA but this assistance has now been terminated. Costs are enormous and the replacement of the helicopter is imminent which, though bringing operational improvements, will increase still further the financial strain.

There can be none among us who would seriously question the potential value of this local facility to a pastime such as ours. Motorcyclists feature high on their list of casualties, and their rapid response times mean that survival rates are so much better. We have a vested interest in their continued operation and it was the feeling of the meeting that we can assist, albeit in a small way.

It was agreed that £2 will be added to the subs, enabling an annual donation to the Air Ambulance of around £360. Consequently membership rates will be:

Members	£10
Associates' first year	£24 (this is collected from the IAM)
Associates' renewals	£18

These new rates take effect from 1st March, 2006. Would those who have set up Standing Orders please make the necessary amendments.

Subs renewals

The following subs are due in April: Tom Alsford, Alex Beattie, Gary Burton, Mark Camfield, John Challis, Phil Cole, Mike Farrall, Phillip Ford, Paul Gardiner, Kelvin Latham, Ray Passmore, Kathleen Pearson, Brian Purnell, Dave Sanford.

If you who wish to pay your subs by Standing Order using forms available at your Bank, the club's Sort Code and Account Number are **30-99-56** and **(0) 1944635** respectively, and the reference will be the first 10 letters of your surname plus the 3-digit club reference number, with no spaces in between, eg **MANSFIELD367**. *Please be sure to include this reference so that we can identify your payment.*

Alternatively send a cheque to:

38, River Way, Christchurch, Dorset. BH23 2QR
telephone 01202 267797 and e-mail membership@bwam.org.uk

Subs at present are £10 for members and £18 for Associates renewing.

Overdue subs

There are 25 or so dating back to June to whom I have written, some twice. We do take a very relaxed view on overdue subs to the extent that I don't write until you're at least 3 months in arrears but it is important to respond please, as I automatically delete your membership after the second letter. The envelopes are very pretty these days so you know that you've received them.

John Spinks

Link of the Month

Liberty — Wireless and a whole lot more!

At last there's a Bluetooth wireless communications device specifically for bikers that fits your existing helmet, does everything you want it to do — and it's British!

Produced in the UK by Intaride, the Liberty Bluetooth product offers a wide range of communication possibilities: intercom, bike-to-bike, music, telephone, GPS, radar detector ... all from one unit and all covered in the same purchase price.

Music is stereo and automatically mutes when over-ridden by the GPS. The small helmet-mounted 'pod', connected to earphones and microphone, offers 20 hours of continuous music and can be recharged on-bike or from the mains.

Available soon, Liberty will cost £349 (on-bike hub + 2 pods and headsets), but you can email Intaride now for the special introductory offer price of £299 complete.

<http://www.intaride.com/liberty.html>



Club Shop price list

Please see Sandie Gear at Club Night for any of the following items from the Club Shop.

Available To Members

IAM Metal Badge	£6.50
IAM Square Badge	£6.50
IAM Key Fob	£3.00
IAM Lapel Badge	£3.00
IAM Stick Pin	£2.50
IAM Cloth Badge	£3.00
IAM Vinyl Badge	£1.20
IAM Reflective Disc	£0.70
IAM Tank Wings	£1.10
IAM Helmet Sticker	£1.50
IAM Small Sticker	£0.20

Available To Members and Associates

Pass Your Advanced Motorcycling Test (IAM)	£7.99
Motorcycle Roadcraft: The Police Rider's Handbook (IAM)	£11.99
The Highway Code (DSA)	£1.49
Know Your Traffic Signs (Dept of Transport)	£2.50
Not the Blue Book (by Dave Jones)	£4.50
The Assessment of Advanced Motorcycling (by Dave Jones)	£4.50
BWAM T Shirt	£10.00
BWAM Polo Shirt	£14.00
BWAM Sweat Shirt	£15.50
BWAM Baseball Cap	£7.50

Your Committee

Chairman	Nigel Jones	
Secretary	Martin Saunders	
Treasurer	Andy Mansfield	
Vice Chairman	John Topping	
Membership Secretary	John Spinks	01202 267797
Chief Observer	Steve Hines	
Guidance Co-ordinator	Mark Bezzant	
Events Co-ordinator	Chris Green	
Associate Liaison	Howard Avery	
Newsletter Editor and Webmaster	Martyn Dryden	

Other volunteers:

Club Shop	Sandie Gear
Auditor	Doug Grimes
Photocopying	Malcolm Merry

Access to membership information (names and addresses) is restricted to Committee members for mail purposes only.

Email addresses

To contact any group official by email, please use the following addresses:

Associate Liaison	associates@bwam.org.uk
Chairman	chairman@bwam.org.uk
Chief Observer	chief_obs@bwam.org.uk
Events Co-ordinator	events@bwam.org.uk
Group Secretary	secretary@bwam.org.uk
Guidance Co-ordinator	guidancecoord@bwam.org.uk
Membership Secretary	membership@bwam.org.uk
	John Spinks 01202 267797
Newsletter Editor	newsletter@bwam.org.uk
Treasurer	treasurer@bwam.org.uk
Webmaster	webmaster@bwam.org.uk

You can send a quick note, easily and conveniently, using the form on the BWAM Web site at the following URL

<http://www.bwam.org.uk/people.php>

Your Observers

The latest organisation chart appears on the next page. Welcome to two new Trainee Observers to further strengthen the BWAM capability: Paul Gardiner joins John Topping's team, and Tim Dunsby joins Nick McMullen's. And congratulations to John Topping upon passing his triennial Senior Observer test, essential to maintain our high guidance standards.

Observer Expenses

There is no charge for the guidance offered by the IAM, but significant expenses for Observers, who offer their time for no financial reward. It is 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 £7 per ride. If there are two Associates then they should offer £3.50 each. It is then at the Observer's discretion what to accept.

Fuelling

Can all Associates please make sure that they have enough fuel in their bike before they begin their ride. This will avoid inconvenience to the Observer and fellow Associates on the same ride.

IAM Membership Matters

Test Application

It would be appreciated if all Associates would send off their test applications by their third or fourth ride. This indicates to us the Associate's commitment towards their guidance and the test. The fee for the test is £45.00, which includes £15.00 for your first year's membership of the IAM. The £15.00 will be refunded to you if you fail the test. If you have lost your test application form, further copies are available from the Membership Secretary.

IMPORTANT

Please write 'Associate Preparing For Test' at the top of your application and also the Group number '1208' in the box at the bottom of the page.

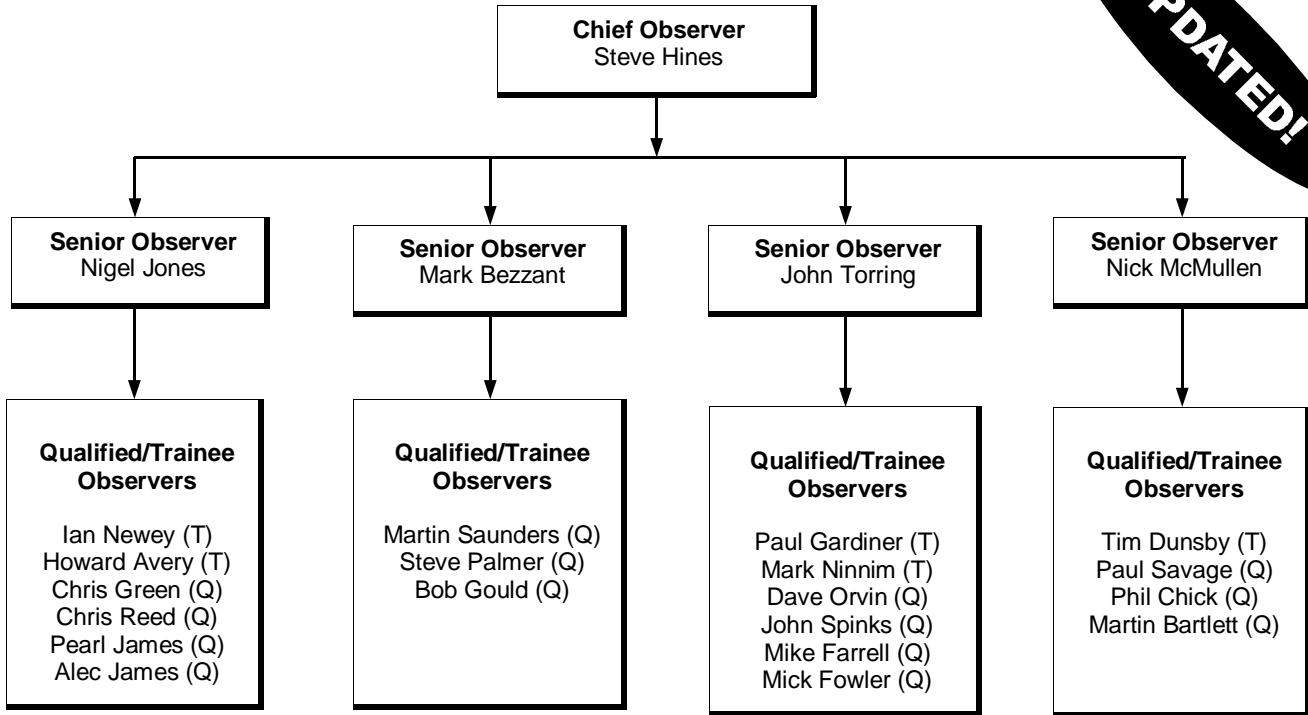
Club Membership

The IAM fee is separate from the Bournemouth & Wessex Club Membership, therefore once you have passed your test you will still need to pay the £10.00 annual subscription to BWAM in order to remain a member of the Club.

BOURNEMOUTH & WESSEX ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS

Observer Organisation Chart

UPDATED!



Notice Board

Something to sell? Offer a service to members? Free advertising!

Throw over panniers for sale

As new Oxford pannier set, used only half a dozen times. The set comes with two expandable bags, waterproof covers, shoulder carrying straps and various bungees. Great option for those who haven't got or don't want hard luggage. Cost £110 new bargain at £50 ONO Contact Mark Ledden on 01202 249573 or Mobile 0798 1048696

Apartment in Los Christianos, Tenerife

First floor; 1 bedroom; large lounge + sat TV; fully fitted kitchen + w/mach; balcony overlooking swimming pool. Level access to pool + promenade, 10 min stroll to town. Rental c£200 pw. Malcolm or Marie Merry 01202 381871

Gervis Court Hotel

A biker friendly hotel close to the pier and shops, bars and restaurants. The seafront, beach, and BIC are only a short walk away. We pride ourselves on our well-maintained and presented gardens. We are one of the fine hotels in Bournemouth. For your choice of holiday accommodation in Bournemouth, the Gervis Court is ideally placed for you. All rooms are non smoking, please check out our tariff page for more details.

<http://www.gerviscourthotel.co.uk/tariff.htm>

Tel 01202 556871 or email enquiries@gerviscourthotel.co.uk

ACF-50

Are you letting your bike corrode away? Is salt melting the metal this winter? Use ACF-50 and say "No!" to corrosion. John Topping has some amazing deals available to BWAM members only. Catch up with John at the Club Night or contact him at Worldwide Aviation 01202 511282

To get your advert on the Notice Board email it to newsletter@bwam.org.uk