

# Bournemouth & Wessex Advanced Motorcycles



Web: [www.bwam.org.uk](http://www.bwam.org.uk)

Group No 1208 affiliated to the Institute of Advanced Motorists  
Registered Charity No 1077931

e-news letter No 3



## January - February 2007



### View from the press - this next month

Oops missed December completely - apologies for that - must have been the stress of Christmas or something.

Anyway few important bits in this months e-news which is why I've promoted my bit to the front:

- Club AGM in February
- Membership survey

18<sup>th</sup> February sees the Club AGM which is your chance to vote out the existing committee and replace it with your own choice or simply re-elect the current lot (minus a few exceptions). You will find a nomination form a few pages on, so please print it out, fill it in, and send it in to Martin Saunders with your nominations before 11<sup>th</sup> February. Please don't forget also the Steve Strong Trophy for the exceptional services to BWAM.

Thank-you to the two associates that replied to the November appeal for views this information has been passed on to the committee for its consideration. Partly as a result of this, and as part of an action from a previous club committee meeting I have included membership survey for you to fill in and return. If this can be done before the AGM then it will provide something more lively to debate on the 18<sup>th</sup> than who's doing what, I look forward to reading your comments and hearing your views. If you could forward these to Martin Saunders at the earliest opportunity it would be appreciated. This will be valuable information for the incoming committee to use in planning for the year ahead.

73's 'til next time, Ed

### View from the top - few words from your Chairman

Well, it's 2008 "Happy New Year". This will be my last newsletter entry as Chairman for BWAM. The AGM is next month and I'll be stepping down from the committee after five years; three as Training Officer (chief observer) and two as Chairman.

A few of the changes in the last 5 years:

- Observer guidelines and syllabus created and released
- Observer teams created to support Observer training and Associate preparation
- All observers trained and reached either 'Qualified' or 'Senior' status
- Test pass rate and numbers up
- Simplification of the operation so that no one person is over-stretched
- Website infrastructure created to manage associates, induction, group statistics and provide observer support

It's been a great pleasure to have been able to play a part in the direction and structure of the group. I'm proud of what has been achieved over the last five years. The essence of the changes has been to create an environment that will allow the group to grow organically, without the normal constraints of overburdening any one person. After all, we're here to enjoy our motorcycling.

I've been lucky to have been supported by such good people in the committee and the observer/examiner team.... and as we all know, it's important to stay lucky!

Thanks and regards to all,

Nigel Jones

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Any comment or articles for the next addition please forward to Mark at [newsletter@bwam.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@bwam.org.uk) with the word e-news in the title  
Please ensure your input arrives before Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February

## View from the sharp end – your chief observer's view

Two of us went for a ride the Sunday morning before Christmas. It wasn't too cold but the weather was damp, with mist and fog patches.

I lead heading towards Salisbury. After we had done 10 miles or so the fog became thicker and more regular rather than patchy. I also noticed that the traffic could not decide what, if any, lights to put on. Vehicles that we followed and oncoming traffic were totally inconsistent in their choice of lighting. Most vehicles had side lights on, better than none, but low beam and fog lights would have been better.

People obviously could not decide which to choose or, I think more to the point, was that in the circumstances because they could see the road fairly well they thought headlights were not needed.

From our point of view (ha!) the trouble with this was, that if we wanted to make progress it was difficult to see distant oncoming traffic with none or just side lights on. Also when closing upon traffic ahead with no lights on, things could have become even more interesting.

This really highlighted (ha ha!) the 'for' view of having permanent daytime running lights, as some people obviously do not understand that the idea of having lights on not only enables them to see, but more to the point in these conditions, to be seen by other road users. It would have made our journey safer and ultimately theirs.

We stopped just before Salisbury and decided the safest approach to this was to head back home via Blandford searching for better weather and road users.

Oh and why don't motorcycles need to legally have a rear fog lamp like a car?



## View from the darkside – associate comment

Again little comment from the associates – hello, hello anyone out there???

The committee is looking for an associate liaison person – want to volunteer? Get your name on a form find someone to second you and get the application in (please). You don't need to be an associate, the important thing is that you represent them 😊

Associates – your views please e-mails me at [newsletter@bwam.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@bwam.org.uk) please, you have a view and it's important

## View from the underside – membership

The flurry of cheques continue and in comes the money .... And out goes the bills.

The membership list reads a little green at present, with a total of 140 members on the club membership list, some 48 have outstanding membership yet to pay, that is they are somewhere between a month and a year in arrears (I thought of using 'late' but this sounded a little politically incorrect). The good news being if you're over a year late your name is consigned to the 'left' list and I won't both you again .....

So now you've played with £ broken your Christmas toys, started the New Year resolution of going to the gym 4 days a week and looked at that new 2008 model of your favourite sport bike, take a few minutes to write the cheque for only £8 find a stamp and an envelope and  
**COUGH UP!**

Then I'll return your membership status to white and remove you from the naughty list .....

And Associates, ring your observers today and remind them to

😊 GET ON WITH IT! 😊

😊 Stay safe & stay upright in 2008 😊



## Club committee:

Chairman:	Nigel Jones	<a href="mailto:chairman@bwam.org.uk">chairman@bwam.org.uk</a>
Group Secretary:	Martin Saunders	<a href="mailto:secretary@bwam.org.uk">secretary@bwam.org.uk</a>
Treasurer	Andy Mansfield	<a href="mailto:treasurer@bwam.org.uk">treasurer@bwam.org.uk</a>
Vice chairman:	John Topping	
Membership Secretary:	Mark Bezzant	<a href="mailto:membership@bwam.org.uk">membership@bwam.org.uk</a> 07891 886689
Chief Observer:	Steve Hines	<a href="mailto:chief_obs@bwam.org.uk">chief_obs@bwam.org.uk</a>
Events Co-ordinator:	Chris (Turbo) Green	<a href="mailto:events@bwam.org.uk">events@bwam.org.uk</a>
Associate Liaison	Vacancy	<a href="mailto:associates@bwam.org.uk">associates@bwam.org.uk</a>
Newsletter Editor:	Vacancy	<a href="mailto:newsletter@bwam.org.uk">newsletter@bwam.org.uk</a>
Webmaster:	Martin Booth	<a href="mailto:webmaster@bwam.org.uk">webmaster@bwam.org.uk</a>

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

## Classifieds

### Club shop

January SALES all must go .... Sweatshirts, tee-shirt, polo-shirts available from the club shop - all sizes - variety of colours - contact Andy in advance of club night at [treasurer@bwam.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@bwam.org.uk) and he'll bring along a selection of what's left

**Articles** For next months newsletter, e-mail to [newsletter@bwam.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@bwam.org.uk) by 24<sup>th</sup> February please.

**Ads** etc always welcome - happy to run promotional campaigns for products, firms, shops etc connected either with BWAM or motorcycling - no fee - just a donation direct to Dorset Air Ambulance please (not to BWAM), contact [newsletter@bwam.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@bwam.org.uk)

## Email address troubles

I'm having trouble with the following members e-mail addresses. I've not published your e-mail address as it will only increase the spam you currently get, please could you up-date me with your current addresses - [newsletter@bwam.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@bwam.org.uk) - cheers

Martin Sheppard  
Mark Priest  
Dave Waldron  
Adam Keenan  
Phil Cole  
Bob Johnson

Peter Warren  
Gary Knight  
Brian & Debbie Williams  
Gary Moore  
Tim Gray  
Richard Ferguson

## BWAM AGM 18<sup>th</sup> February 2008

As with all organisations such as ours there is an annual round of elections to the club committee, with some people going and some happy to stay and sometimes even a competitive vote on who should take a particular position.

All posts are up for election, so please feel free to fill in a voting slip and nominate a candidate.

The posts are:

Chairman:	Vacancy
Group Secretary:	Martin Saunders
Treasurer	Andy Mansfield
Vice chairman:	John Topping
Membership Secretary:	Mark Bezzant
Events Co-ordinator:	Chris Green
Associate Liaison	Vacancy
Newsletter Editor:	Vacancy
Webmaster:	Martin Booth

The only committee post missing from the AGM vote is that of the Chief Observer who is elected from by his peers to lead the Observer Team. This vote will occur on the 21<sup>st</sup> January at the next Observer's meeting. *(Long live Steve - Ed)*

**Steve Strong Trophy** - the Steve Strong Trophy is awarded at the AGM each year to the club member who, in the majority opinion, has done most to benefit the club during the past year.

✂

To: BWAM Secretary, Martin Saunders, 4 Brookside Road, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 2BL  
Steve Strong Trophy Voting Form

I wish to nominate ..... for the Steve Strong Trophy.

Name ..... Signed .....

Please return to Martin Saunders before 11<sup>th</sup> February

✂

To: BWAM Secretary, Martin Saunders, 4 Brookside Road, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 2BL  
BWAM committee proposal form

I would like to nominate ..... for the position of .....  
on the BWAM Committee

Proposed by (name) ..... Date .....

Seconded by (name) ..... Date .....

Please return to Martin Saunders before 11<sup>th</sup> February

## JANUARY 2008

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January**

#### **Second Sunday Ride-out**

Avon Forest Park ready to leave at 10:00

Chris (Turbo) Green will lead this years first Ride-Out to blow those Christmas & New Year cob webs away. It will be a ride for all levels including Pillions (Back seat Riders) we will be doing a Mystery tour of the varied Airfields hopefully back to Avon Forest by 13:00ish.

Please support the Run and "Observers please bring your Associates!!!"

We will stop for munchies en-route.

For those Associates that have not been on a group ride, this is a good chance to enjoy a Group riding session running the marker system, please check with your Observer first that you have been cleared for Group Rides to save any disappointment on the day.

..... so expect lanes, bumps and to have to wash your bike on Sunday afternoon ☺.

### **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January**

**Club Night - Meet the examiner - Chris Smith**

Cobham Social Club starting at 20:00

CALLING ALL ASSOCIATES - Here's a night for you

This s a rare chance to ask the examiner all those questions that you wouldn't dare raise on the day ..... So take advantage of this privileged opportunity and ask away.

Although aimed at associates there should be plenty to keep everyone interested - long time member to observer alike.

There'll be a small prize for the most original question asked as judged by Chris

### **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January**

**Observers Meeting (observers only)**

Ferndown Police Station entry at 1930 (be early!)

Agenda to follow from Steve Hines

Any observer volunteering to take notes?

## February 2008

### **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February**

#### **Second Sunday Ride-out - Dorset's Border**

[Avon Forest Park](#) ready to leave at 10:00

Mark Bezzant will lead a ride round the perimeter of Dorset, starting from Avon Forest, south to the coast, then round the northerly circumference of our fair county. The round trip will finish at Lyme Regis for coffee, etc around lunchtime.

The ride will be suitable for all, Pan's, Pillion's and Piaggio's alike. Pace will be dictated by the conditions, the packs' ability but mostly Mark's old 850 RT. Associates will be especially welcome as the ride will be on roads typically found on a test route; that is, where the roads and the rider competence dictate the speed not the make & model of your bike.

Looking forward to seeing you all there .....

### **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February**

#### **Club Night - AGM**

[Cobham Social Club](#) starting a 20:00

Out with the old, in with the new ... Voting slips are attached in this newsletter (page 4) along with a list of the all the club posts.

Remember, the club is a democratic organisation, if you want to volunteer for a post please do, don't worry whether someone else already occupies the post, get it put to the vote.

Think ahead, think what you can do, think how you can help that club by being part of next committee. Decide what you want to do and start to get support NOW! Your club needs you!

#### **Your club, your choices:**

We're always looking for different things to do and different speaker to ask to club nights, so put on your thinking caps and explore your minds, forward your ideas to Chris (turbo) Green at [events@bwam.org.uk](mailto:events@bwam.org.uk). Don't forget Chris hasn't got to think it all up, you can do that, he just needs to find you a slot in the diary.

Club social rides. Fancy leading a ride or just got somewhere you fancy going, mention it to Chris or drop him a line at [events@bwam.org.uk](mailto:events@bwam.org.uk) and see where you can take the club

#### **Few things to think about for the future:**

Track day at Castle Combe? 2008? Anyone interested? Lobby Chris Green at [events@bwam.org.uk](mailto:events@bwam.org.uk)

Don't know where to meet? Click here: <http://www.bwam.org.uk/places.php>

# **BWAM membership survey**

Name .....(Optional)

## **About You**

- Associate member
- Full member  for ..... years
- Observer / Senior observer  for ..... years

Why are you interested in the IAM/BWAM (cross out as appropriate)?

a. Road safety / Cheaper insurance / keeps me off the streets / Other

b. Social rides / Club nights / Motorcycle anorak / Other

## **Guidance (Associate members)**

1. How many rides have you been on with your Observer? .....
2. How often do you get out with your observer? .....
3. Who initiates the session? Me / My observer
4. Would you benefit from classroom theory sessions? Yes / No
5. Do you understand what is expected of you as an associate? Yes / No
6. Has your observer encouraged you to go to Club night? Yes / No
7. Have you been on a Club social ride? Not yet / Yes, occasionally / Yes, all the time / Never will go!
8. On a scale of 1-4 what do you think of your observer (1 - crap ... 4 - walks on water)? .....
9. Regardless of how good your observer is, what is the one thing you would change if you could? .....

## **Guidance (Full members)**

1. Since passing your IAM test have you been out with an observer? Yes / No  
If yes: Once / twice / several occasions. When was the last time? ...../..... (mmm/yy 'ish)
2. Is there sufficient opportunity to get your ride assessed by an Observer? Yes / No
3. Should there be specific technical clinics run (i.e. cornering, slow riding, etc)? Yes / No  
If yes specify topics: .....
4. Should you have to re-take your IAM test every 3 or 5 years? Yes / No
5. Have you ever considered be an observer? Yes / No. But, .....

## **Anything you want to add?**

# **BWAM membership survey (2)**

Name .....(Optional)

## **Social (Rides)**

1. Do you go on club social rides? Never/occasionally/nearly always/always

If you don't go:

Why not? No interest / not convenient / Other .....

What can we do to encourage you to go? .....

2. What is the best social ride you've been on? .....

3. When should social rides occur? Saturday / Sunday / Weekdays / Other .....

4. How long should rides be? 3 hours / 5 hours / all day

5. Where do you want to visit on a club ride? .....

6. Are you interested in Wednesday night social rides through the Summer months? Yes, every week / Yes, once a month / No, can't make it / No, wouldn't ever go / other .....

7. What is the best part of a social ride? Coffee before / the route / the destination / coffee at the end / other .....

8. Would you be prepared to lead a club ride? Yes / No

9. Are you interested in track days? Yes / No

10. Are you interested in off-roading? Yes / No

11. What are you interested in combining with a social ride? .....

12. Are you interested in touring with the club? No / Weekends / Multi - day / UK / Abroad

## **Anything you want to add?**

# **BWAM membership survey (3)**

Name .....(Optional)

## **Social (Club nights)**

1. Do you go to club nights? Never/occasionally/nearly always/always

If you don't go:

Why not?.....

What can we do to encourage you to go? .....

.....

.....

Those who go to club night, why do you go? .....

.....

2. What was the best club night you've been to & why? .....

.....

3. Would you be prepared to organise a club night (arrange a speaker, etc)? Yes / No

4. Is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month the right time for club night? Yes / No

5. Is Cobham Social Club a good venue? Yes / No

6. What else do you desire of a venue? .....

.....

7. Are summer evening ride-ins to club night worth continuing? Yes / No

8. Are monthly club meetings: too often / just right / not enough

9. What should BWAM do to make club night friendlier? .....

.....

.....

10. Should BWAM abandon club night altogether? Yes / No

## **Membership (All)**

1. What do you expect from your BWAM membership? .....

.....

.....

2. Do you expect more, if so what more? .....

.....

3. Will you be willing to help the committee with organising events? Yes / No

4. Do you have any skills that you can offer the club? .....

.....

5. Other than POWDER do you have any interest in how your bike works? Yes / No

6. Do you get the right information about club activities? Yes / No

7. What is the best method of providing you with information about the club and its activities?

Post / E-mail / website / Other .....

8. What is your best experience in BWAM? .....

.....



## Test passes

November saw a maelstrom of test passes (if that what you call them?) with Gary Knight's success kicking off the month on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, Glenn Chapman and Martin Finney both on 19<sup>th</sup> and Jane Christopher rounding it off on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to all of you, and keep up the practice now the test pressure is off.

Well done to the observers, Chris Green, John Spinks, Bob Gould and Martin Bartlett respectively for the hard work and dedication that goes into turning out the test passes.

## New Trainee Observer

Steve, Chris and the rest of the observers would like to welcome Gary Watton to the Observer Team. Gary is the club's latest trainee to start to learn the subtle and delicate art of becoming an observer (the subtleness and delicacy of a pound of tripe hitting a concrete floor from 6 feet, that is ... ☺). Closeted under Chris Green's (pan)wind Gary now has to strive for that near perfect ride every time - good luck Gary.

## Want to be an observer?

If you think your ride is good enough (consistently test standard, including social rides!!), fancy spending hours in the rain at roadsides trying to impart advice to others on how they might improve their ride, spend Stella time with senior observers (while they shout at you for some minor misdemeanour), and get paid nothing; well, contact Steve Hines BWAM chief observer. Steve will happily accompany you on a ride and have a cosy & friendly little chat about what is expected of a BWAM observer (Hint: Buying the tea always creates a good impression). So if you do fancy it, contact Steve at [chief\\_obs@bwam.org.uk](mailto:chief_obs@bwam.org.uk)

## Just for fun -

What is the 'Space for the Ace'?

- The area on your tank where you paint the number of baby bunnies you've run over this month.
- The gap between two cars on a roundabout into which you are going to seamlessly merge.
- The area of your sleeve where you conceal extra playing cards.
- A gap in the traffic ahead which you can comfortably occupy having come from another lane, preferably without having to brake.
- The slender piece of road between the 'O' and the 'W' on a 'SLOW' sign in the road where you can safely brake without locking the wheels

Answer on page 46-48 of Not the Blue Book (new version). Can you remember the other 4 things to consider before overtaking?

The answer to last month's *Just for fun* was of course answer f. A pair of Zaphod Beeblebrox glasses which turn completely black when danger is present

## Membership subscriptions

The following club members are a little adrift with there subscriptions:

195	Tim Balmer	525	Richard Girdler	397	Tim Gray
540	Paul Seymour	30	Terry Dibden	85	Simon Vianello
188	Nigel Baker	268	Kelvin Latham	404	Michael Blount
435	Tom Alsford	533	John Real	539	Mike Edwards
279	Adrian Armstrong	411	Peter Trepess	141	Keith Chappell
266	Tony Cullen	413	Richard Ferguson	20	Euan Campbell
29	Chris Del-Pinto	52	Mark Ledden	56	Dave Meason
68	Keith Pike	210	Dave Orvin	295	Ian Newey
415	Peter Seymour	420	Martin Booth	449	John Evans
470	Ian Turnbull	471	Paul Ottaway	330	Geoff Giles
340	Maurice Byrne	491	Gary Moore	156	Peter Durrant
429	Nick Mason	560	David Hans	23	Phil Chick
383	Jim O'Rafferty	551	Robert Truman	565	Jane Christopher
578	Ray Curry	219	Ian Pyle	432	David Parry
520	Roy Hitchings	556	Jason Chalk	564	Martin Finney
569	David Hopkins	574	Glenn Chapman	580	Robert Moore

Subscriptions due as we go to print in January:

521	Debbie Williams	526	Brian Williams	115	Ray Shipley (SO)
572	Paul Frost				

Subscriptions due in February and March are:

355	Mick Fowler	348	Jackie Trowbridge	168	Bob Gould
529	Richard Sewell	542	Craig Boyes (SO)	47	Bob Johnson
78	Andy Smith (SO)	201	John Spinks	380	David Pusey (SO)
568	Colin Spender	571	Malcolm Pitcher	575	Tim Rockey
456	Nick Weeks (SO)	360	Brain Trowbridge	392	Peter O'Neill
316	Philip Parker	583	Steve Armstrong		

(SO) means you pay by Standing order - so you don't need to worry!

Subscriptions rates are still £8 for members and £16 for associates.

Please make cheques payable to 'BWAM' or sign up for a Standing Order. 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:

BWAM membership secretary, 99 Weston Road, Portland, Dorset, DT5 2DA

## Observed runs and associates preparing for test

### 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 observed sessions. This will avoid inconvenience to the Observer and fellow Associates on the same ride for everyone has to stop for fuel.

### Test Application

It would be appreciated if all Associates would send off their test applications when requested to do so by their observer. This will generally be after your pre-test, but is at your observers discretion. If you have lost or do not have a test application form, please get your observer to download you one from the [observation deck](#) on the message board or contact the [membership secretary](#).

**IMPORTANT** Please enter the preferred area for test as Bournemouth or Poole. Also please enter the your IAM reference number in the first box, this is your membership number which begins with an 'A'. You can help the IAM out by entering '1208 BWAM' in the last box on the form even though it says for 'IAM use'.

### Club Observers

The latest up-dated observer organisation chart

