

SUFFOLK ADVANCED  
MOTORCYCLISTS

# The SAM Observer

April 2015



Registered Charity No. 1067800

IAM Group No. 7219

D. Bird

[www.suffolk-advanced-motorcyclists.com](http://www.suffolk-advanced-motorcyclists.com)

This month's cover picture is a scan of the painting of Derek Barker presented to him by the SAM Observers on his retirement from the role of Chief Observer. Derek continues as a National Observer for SAM  
Mike Roberts did the cover picture editing and graphical work.



Beverley Rudland presenting

The Maddox Trophy, going to the member who has made an outstanding contribution to the running of the group was awarded to Susan Smith.

The Gosden Trophy, going to the associate who has shown sparkle and enthusiasm was awarded to Craig Evans

Chairman's Trophy, presented at the discretion of the Chairman in recognition of the outstanding contribution to the running of the group, was awarded to Paul Spalding.

# YOUR COMMITTEE

No Calls After 9pm Please

## OFFICERS

Chairman	Steve Gocher	01473 430643
Secretary	John Sillett	01473 219488
Treasurer	Bryan Duncan	07879 654122

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Vice Chairman	Martin Drury	07595 277831
Chief Observer	Karl Hale	01359 241552
Buddy Co-ordinator	Vicky Smith	01255 830352
Caring SAM	Brian Ellis	07740 564097
Group Nights	Trevor Read	07775 594899
Publicity	Martin Drury	07595 277831
Publicity Co-ordinator	Glyn Hill	07986 319163
Discount Scheme	David Arbon	01473 684206
Webmaster	Mike Roberts	01473 718915
Magazine Editor	Felix Oliver	07712 649860

## COMMITTEE SUPPORT MEMBERS

Membership Secretary	Linda Barker	01473 327555
Associate Co-ordinator	Susan Smith	01206 251946
Admin Support	Sara Hale	01359 241552

## NATIONAL OBSERVERS

Mike Roberts	01473 718915	David Rudland	01473 401362
Derek Barker	01473 327555	Richard Toll	01473 401363
Stuart Young	07931 350799	Leia Dowsing	07841 699081
Lee Gage	07732 753623		

## OBSERVERS

John Morgan	01473 711699	Steve Gocher	01473 430643
Paul Newman	01473 620450	Simon Phillips	01473 830671
Tony Chyc	01206 231782	Chris Smith	01206 251946
Paul Spalding	07879 844618	André Castle	07730 526674
Ruth Elmer	07783 007100	Ross Mckinlay	07986 838028
Tim Murgatroyd	07901 332757	John Sillett	01473 219488

## I.A.M. EXAMINER

Kevin Stark 07801600378

If you would like to help out on the committee come along to a meeting and see what you can do to help out, after all many hands makes light work

# CONTENTS

Awards presented by Beverley Committee	by André Castle	2
Chairman's Chat	by Steve Gocher	5
IAM Test Passes		7
Associate Members		7
Cover Pictures	by Mike Roberts	8
From the Midnight Sun to SAM Theory Evening	by Andy Liffen	10
SAM Breakfast Run	by Karl Hale	15
Thursday's Chip Run	by Vini Evans	16
Coming soon.... 😊	by Vini Evans	17
Pictures of the Quiz night	by Karl Hale	19
Editorial	by Editor	19
Advertise Here	by Committee	21
Members Information	by Mike Roberts	22
SAM Dates for you Diary		23
Pictures from the trip	by Andy Liffen	24
Our Venue		27
		28

## 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.

## WEBSITE ADDRESS

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

SAM is a registered Charity ~ No. 1067800

All Official Correspondence to: **John Sillett**

37 Bishops Hill, Ipswich, IP3 8EW. 01473 219488. 07801685362.

John.sillett1@ntlworld.com

# CHAIRMAN'S CHAT



A very warm welcome to the April edition of the SAM Observer. In my short time as chairman I'm realising just how big Beverley's shoes really are! It's been a busy but nonetheless enjoyable month for me with everything considered. Not only taking on and understanding all of the elements of the group and the work involved from a new chairman's perspective but socially too. It's included a weekend ride to Whitby, an abseil off of the Larpool Viaduct (in aid of my god daughter Zoe's mission to Peru this Summer)

and a last minute decision to accept an invitation to ride out to Brighton to enjoy the sights and smells of the Sunbeam Motor Cycle Club's Pioneer Run, open to all pre 1915 machines.

<http://www.sunbeam-mcc.co.uk/runs-and-events/pioneer-run/>

I'd like to share with you some of the important news from March's committee meeting, my first as chairman. The reluctant decision was made to return to supporting a different charity each year. Following the very sobering presentation, from a motorcyclists perspective, by Ben Hall and Dr Andy Mason at February's group night Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (SARS) has been chosen for 2015. This decision was made all the more difficult considering the invaluable service St Elizabeth Hospice provide and that we've also supported them over the past six years. A consequence of this decision being that we won't be organising a motorcycle run for the hospice as we've done annually since 2009. Despite the disappointing news, Danny Thorington fundraising officer for the hospice, is incredibly grateful for our previous efforts and welcomes any future support.

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

The other news being the strain the current ride coordinator and ride leader team are under in supporting our planned social ride commitments. The dilemma we're facing is that social rides need to be planned and published well in advance of each event. This requires a commitment, again in advance, by a ride coordinator and up to three ride leaders. We are narrowly managing to cover the next couple of month's social rides, but beyond that, previously

organised social rides face the danger of being cancelled at the last minute. Leia Dowsing, National Observer in charge of ride coordinator / ride leader training, has agreed to run a training session to be held sometime in May. So, if you're a full member and would like to give something back to the group then please give the opportunity to join the ride coordinator / ride leader team some consideration. Please take the time also to read the details of the email you should have received by now and contact Leia if you'd like to know more or to register your interest.

Another very important announcement before I go. If you didn't make it to March's quiz night you won't have heard that there is a major trial going on... a Cake Trial! That's right, we now have cake at group night!! So if you enjoy a piece of cake, as I know one or two of you do, please partake in purchasing a slice as I'd hate to see it go.

This month's group night guest speaker is Peter Riley who is presenting the range of Helite motorcycle airbag vests. I for one am hoping to see a demonstration of the airbag vest in action and may even volunteer to be a guinea pig...

Cheers

*Steve*



Vintage Harley Davison



**Helmets:** SHARK LS2 VCAN

**Clothing:** RICHA RAYVEN SPADA BULL-IT JEANS

**Luggage:** GIVI MOTO BIKETEK RICHA

**BOOTS:** TCX RICHA

BATTERIES BRAKES(EBC) LOCKS LUGGAGE

OPTIMATE OILS CHAINS/SPROCKETS ETC

**NEW WEBSITE** [WWW.IPSWICHMCA.CO.UK](http://WWW.IPSWICHMCA.CO.UK)

41 UPPER ORWELL STREET IPSWICH

TEL: 01473-257515

## IAM TEST PASSES

Congratulations to the members who have passed their  
Advanced test this month.

Joe Bassett                      his Observer was                      Lee Gage

When you pass your advanced test please let  
Karl Hale or Susan Smith know.

## NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to our most recent Associate members:

Stephen Holman    Ian Mackenzie

If anyone else has joined us and not had a mention yet, let the Editor know and  
he will put your name in the next issue

# ALL YEAR BIKER

MAKE. LIFE. EASY.



Contact Steve Brinkley on 07505150138 - [steve.brinkley@allyearbiker.co.uk](mailto:steve.brinkley@allyearbiker.co.uk)  
Book online at [allyearbiker.co.uk](http://allyearbiker.co.uk). Regular venues in Sudbury, Ipswich & Southend  
Probably the best investment you'll make on your bike.....

## “THE SAM OBSERVER” COVER PHOTO

Calling all of SAM's photographers out there. Photos are required for 'The SAM Observer' cover, which I am sure you must have spotted is in full colour.



So if you have a cracking shot that has one or more motorcycles in it, is all your own work, and you think it would look good on the cover, I'd be very pleased to see it.

There is now a special topic on the SAM Forum where you can show small copies of potential magazine cover photos for all to see. (Just look in the Members Only section) Full instructions and requirements are listed there. I can't promise to use all, some, or any of the photos posted, but you may get a call from me asking for the original file from your camera.



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

# MOTOTECHNIKS

- Specialists in BMW & Superbike Servicing
- Used Bike Sales
- Repairs & Servicing
- Tyres & MOT's
- Clothing & Helmets
- Spares & Accessories
- Full Diagnostic Facilities
- Main Dealers For:

## STOCKISTS OF:

- RST CLOTHING
- AGV HELMETS
- SHARK HELMETS
- GOPRO CAMERAS
- RICHA CLOTHING
- LADIES CLOTHING
- SPADA CLOTHING
- MOTOCROSS SPARES & ACCESSORIES
- AND MUCH MORE



01449 775775

Tothill, Bury Road,  
Stowmarket. IP14 3QQ



[www.mototechniks.com](http://www.mototechniks.com)



# FROM THE MIDNIGHT SUN TO THE SILK AND RHUBARB ROADS.

## Part Two.

It is after midnight and having arrived in Å (the southernmost village on the Lofoten Islands, Norway) I found everything to be locked up and in darkness - well murky twilight anyway. My fruitless search for a camping spot eventually led me through a small tunnel and into the village bus station; this was basically a car park half full with campervans. Having searched the surrounding area – including behind the extensive drying racks full of hanging fish – and finding nowhere else suitable I put up my tent between a parked car and a campervan, as my tent was freestanding it meant I could pitch it almost anywhere.

I woke early the next day in my scenic campsite. It was a grey day so the mountains were unfortunately lost in the clouds but the Islands themselves were decked in autumnal colours even in early June which gave them a wonderful otherworldly feel.

Heading north again my first stop was the Lofoter Viking Museum with its reconstructed long house and Norse house gods. The archaeological finds here are fantastic and the museum really brings the Viking age back to life, well worth a visit and the coffee is good too!

Next stop was Eggum. I had seen lots of adverts for this place with an enigmatic looking amphitheatre overlooked by a stone tower. The route took me across the narrow island of Moskenesøya through some small and rather foggy roads. I must say that I was more than a little disappointed. The ‘amphitheatre’ turned out to contain a cafe and toilets and the tower was built during the war by the Germans as a radar post. Not so enigmatic after all!

Returning to the mainland, this time via a bridge, I continue north. After passing a still frozen lake I see a campsite and manage to find a pitch that is not covered in snow. Outside the campsite entrance are some field guns and a monument to the Narvik campaign. This marks the point where the Norwegians managed to stop the German advance during the Second World War.

Waking to a wet, chilly day I take the road towards Alta. The landscape is becoming more exposed and barren now. The road follows the Lyngen coast and is backed by enormous mountains, a truly jaw dropping sight. Lunch today was a pancake filled with brown cheese (very good) and of course coffee.

Alta is famous for its prehistoric rock carvings. The town itself has a frontier feel to it; the most popular things here seem to be pickup trucks, snowmobiles and chainsaws. The campsite is just outside of town and after yet another dinner of camping food the two Super Blackbirds and their British owners that I had met a few days before turn up. We have a chat over a brew and I find out that they have both settled in Norway and have families here now, they both speak Norwegian (not easy!) and are very proud of their adoptive country. They warn me that fuel will become scarce from now on and to fill up where I can, thanks for the warning chaps!

Leaving Alta I decide not to go to Nordkapp, apparently there is a pricy toll on the road in and it is not even the most northerly point, which is actually Knivskjelodden and requires a three hour hike on foot to reach.

I turn inland as I follow the smaller Route 98 and head east towards a high pass. The landscape here has a truly wild feel to it, there are many frozen lakes and there is still snow in the valleys. I start to see small herds of reindeer, they still have their pale winter coats and some of the markings are gorgeous.



The tarmac, which had been pristine, disappears suddenly for around 10km - this section is still under construction and is just compacted dirt and rocks – time for some peg standing and dodging of bulldozers! Beyond the road works

the road was much smaller and soon dropped in elevation. I spot an Arctic Fox in its summer coat with freshly caught prey in its mouth, being this close to nature puts a massive smile on my face!

Taking the Varanger tourist route I am exposed to the wind off the Barents Sea which is bitterly cold. Stopping at a lay-by to put on some more layers I am greeted by an Austrian who is touring in his car, he very kindly gives me some cinnamon rolls which he claims is the best food in Norway.

The road follows the coast towards Vardø, there are reindeer everywhere and the land resembles tundra with barely a tree in sight. Vardø can be seen from miles away due to the huge white radar dome standing on a hill; it is an island just off the Norwegian coast and is reached by a tunnel which goes down 88 metres that I call the giant U bend due to its shape.

My first stop is to look around the fortress which is the furthest north and east in Western Europe; it is also the only one in the Arctic Circle. My next stop was to be the North Pole pub once I had found somewhere to sleep, this proved rather problematic. The terrain and small size of the island meant wild camping was out, there were no hostels and the hotels and B&B's were too expensive. The local tourist office was in the small harbour, it was shut but they did allow camper vans to park there and connect to their electrical supply. Feeling this was slightly elitist I decided to pitch my tent there too. The rather ironic part to this was that I was just fifty metres from the North Pole pub but spent my evening only gazing at the facade as I was not sure how secure my belongings and my tent would be. At least I had a bottle of local beer with which to toast my final night in Norway.



After an early morning wash using my diminishing supply of wet wipes it was time to head for my final destination in Norway and the most northerly point of my trip. The Arctic steppe is gradually replaced by broken ridges of rock thrusting up from the ground; it feels rather like riding through the fossilised teeth of countless dragons. Arriving at the tiny hamlet of Hamningberg I can literally go no further, the road finishes here.

Shortly after starting back along the coast the weather takes a turn for the worse and I am soon soaked and cold despite my protective layers and heated grips, I seek shelter in a petrol station/hardware stores' small cafe to breakfast on raisin rolls and coffee.

The road to the border follows the Tana River which belongs to the Sami people and is a favourite of fly fishermen looking for trout. The border crossing was over in seconds and I enter Finland. The road surface immediately improves and soon I am riding along at a quicker pace from one sweeping bend to the next, the weather has improved too, fantastic! Finland can be summed up in two words - water and trees - mile upon mile of lakes, rivers and forest.

I stop in Inari to visit the Siida museum which chronicles the history of the Sami peoples and their reindeer herding traditions, some of which still continue today. It also has a great section on the Arctic including a film about the northern lights. Finding a campsite I pitch my tent on the lake edge and treat myself to a tin of Sodd (lamb broth) that I had obtained in Norway - I only bought it because of its name and not as it turned out, its taste.

Continuing south I stopped for brunch at a small roadside khiva (cafe) and had a huge slab of freshly smoked salmon followed by a pancake with cloudberry jam and ice cream, talk about roughing it!

Following the E75, as you cross the Arctic Circle, you will find Santa Park. This is of course the real home of Santa Claus and not a tourist trap! Having said that it was quite fun and I did send a couple of Moomin postcards home resplendent with genuine Santa Post-marks.

Further down the road, with over 400 miles under my belt, I was feeling quite tired and rather smelly as I had not showered for a few days. I managed to find a nice B&B along a gravel road and decided to treat myself to one of the self contained rooms in the converted barn. It was nearly deserted and a wonderfully peaceful (and clean) end to the day.

Leaving the following morning after possibly the biggest breakfast selection I have ever tucked into I soon encounter some of quirkier sides of Finland

including Frisbee golf, a road-side stop with an obsession for church bells and I met my first Russian bike gang, the Wolf Skulls – perfectly friendly if a little intimidating!

I am going to stay with my friend Jari at his cabin. We met on my first visit to Finland a few years before through Horizons Unlimited, my wife and I had spent Midsummer – which is bigger than Christmas here – with him and his family. Horizons Unlimited is a great place for up to date information on motorbike travel to any part of the globe.

The next few days are spent drinking Karhu beer, scotch and mojitos - eating too much - attempting to row on the lake - reviewing my kit choices (Jari had previously ridden to Vladivostok and back) and Finnish sauna complete with birch twigs. It is tough this travelling lark, honest.

Time to move on, next stop Russia. I have very large butterflies in my stomach as I say goodbye to Jari and head for the border, I had ridden into Russia briefly once before but this time I am on my own. I taught myself the Cyrillic alphabet so that I can at least read the road signs and I hope the few Russian words I know will come in handy.

It is a fine day and the beautiful countryside helps to relax me but I am still feeling nervous as I roll up to the Finnish border post, the formalities - such as they are - are over in minutes. Two of the border guards take a friendly interest in my bike and wish me luck!

OK now for the Russian side. At the first booth I am handed the migration card which has to be filled out in duplicate (at least these are now printed in both Russian and English). After asking the guard, in Russian, whether she speaks English there is a brief conversation over her walkie-talkie and I am approached by another guard and asked very politely in English to follow him. I am taken to the main building where I am handed the customs forms printed in English, these are again filled out in duplicate. Then I am directed to the next section of booths where my forms and visa are checked and my bike and luggage given a fairly cursory search before all my documents are stamped and I am warned not to lose any of them! A hundred metres on I stop again at the final check point and after checking my documents I am let through. It has all taken about an hour and a half in total, not bad.

A big smile stretches across my face, I am in Russia and now the adventure really begins.

Andy Liffen

To be continued..... ☺

# CHRIS SELF MOTORCYCLES LTD

SERVICING - MOT'S - PARTS - SALES

**RING FOR BEST PRICES ON**

**TYRES-BATTERIES-BRAKE PADS  
CHAINS & SPROCKETS**

DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE TO CLUB MEMBERS

UNIT 1A, HOLYWELLS ROAD, IPSWICH

**Tel: 01473 225990**

**[www.chrisselfmotorcycles.com](http://www.chrisselfmotorcycles.com)**

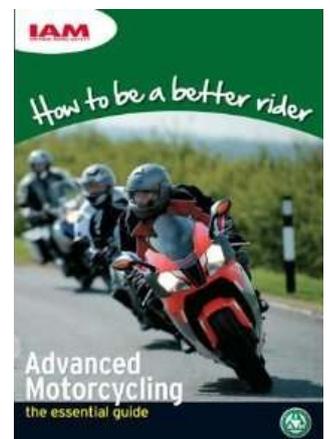
## SAM THEORY EVENINGS

As most of you know, on the Thursday evening, directly after Group Nights, SAM holds its monthly Theory Evening. Based on an ever revolving subject list of important rider skills these nights are an informal evening of facts and lively banter all aimed at improving your ride based on the information in "How to be a better rider".

Each session covers one of the four main topic areas;

Overtaking  
Cornering

Planning & Positioning  
Gears & Acceleration



Mainly aimed at Associates going through the Skill for Life course, these evenings are also a good way for full members to brush up on their theory and add their experiences and questions to the session.

The great benefit of attending these sessions in the classroom means it saves time on the road, covering theory and has the added advantage of an opportunity to discuss any issues you may have generally on your Skill for Life Course.

Karl Hale,

SAM Chief Observer

# BREAKFAST RUN 2015

**3<sup>rd</sup> May,**

Whitwell Station, Reepham, NR10 4GA

<http://whitwellstation.com>

Tel: 01603 871694

The 3<sup>rd</sup> of May is Steam Sunday when entry to the railway site is free and you can purchase tickets to go on the train (£2.00 an adult and £1.00 a child or a family ticket is £5).

Meet at Stowmarket Tesco's, **IP14 5BE** and fill in 'Contact Number' sheet in good time for the **08:45** Briefing and subsequent departure.

## **All riders must attend Briefing.**

Ride Co-ordinator: Brian Ellis,

Follow Gun Cotton Way to join the **B1113** through Old Newton to the junction with the **A143**.

Cross over into Rickingham and **turn left** at the end of Botesdale High St and keep on the **B1113** to the junction with the **A1066** at South Lopham.

**Turn left** then immediately **right** and carry on to Kenninghall staying on the **B1113** past Banham until **turning left** onto the **B1077** through Attleborough to Great Ellingham.

**Turn right** to Hingham and at the **B1108** **turn right** until taking the **left** fork – Bell Road, just past Kimberley.

Cross the **A47** with caution at Honingham. **Turn left** onto the **A1067** at Morton on the Hill.

Carry on through Great Witchingham and keep an eye out for Nowhere Lane on the **right** (brown 'Tourist' sign to Norfolk Wildlife Park).

Just after going under the bridge **turn right** into the station.

**Please** check the SAM Calendar and SAM Forum on-line for last minute changes/cancellations. On the Forum you will also find the routes as text, route cards, and on Google Maps / Streetview, along with a photo of the destination, so you can familiarise yourself with the route before the day.

# THURSDAY'S SUMMER CHIP RUN

**28<sup>th</sup> May**

**Rumbles Fish Bar, Barrow, IP29 5AF**

**Tel: 01284 811795**

Meet Stowmarket Tesco's top car park, **IP14 5BE** and fill in 'Contact Number' sheet in good time for the **18:15** Briefing and subsequent departure.

**All riders must attend Briefing.**

Ride Co-ordinator is Glyn Hill.

Take the **A1120** down the hill turning **right** at the lights at the bottom towards Stowmarket centre.

At the **roundabout** take the **second exit** – Needham Road – then the **first exit** at the first mini roundabout then **second exit** at the next mini roundabout and along Combs Lane.

On reaching Finborough Rd **turn right** then **first left** at the Shepherd and Dog being the road for Woolpit but take the **second left** to go through Rattlesden and on to Felsham.

**Turn right** on the Bury road until meeting the **A134** and **turn right** again.

Into Bury, **turn left** at the **first roundabout**, then **right** at the next.

**Turn left** at the **double mini roundabout** onto Horringer Road.

At Horringer **turn right** onto Westley Lane.

At the junction **turn left** on Westley Road and follow all the way to Barrow.

The chip shop is just over the crossroads at the green.

Ample parking on hard surface.

# SOCIAL RIDES

Please note that it is you, the rider, who is deemed to be in control of the vehicle at all times during an Observed Run and during all other Group activities and that the Committee of Suffolk Advanced Motorcyclists cannot and do not accept any liability whatsoever for any injury to person or damage to vehicle occurring in the course of any rally or other event organised by the Group. Any member attending such an event does so entirely at his or her own risk and must maintain their own insurance to cover any said injury to person or damage to vehicle and must be riding a road legal vehicle, having valid road tax, insurance and MOT certificate (if applicable).

Participants on S.A.M social rides are advised of the Events Committee's guidelines as follows:

- 🏍️ You will be expected to provide a suitable means of carrying a map of the route
- 🏍️ If possible, have breakdown cover for your machine.
- 🏍️ Be responsible for your own safety
- 🏍️ Rides will commence promptly at the published departure time.
- 🏍️ Have a FULL tank of fuel
- 🏍️ No more than 5 in a group.

**AUTOFIT** (Ipswich) Ltd



**FOR YOUR MOTORCYCLE TYRES**

**KEEN PRICES**

**HELPFUL ADVICE**

**Autofit (Ipswich) Ltd**

**8-10 Britannia Rd., IPSWICH, IP4 4PE**

**Tel: 01473 723325 Fax: 01473 723373**

# SUFFOLK ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS

Chief's Challenge

2015

?

Coming Soon!!!!!!!!!!



The winning team



Mike and Derek

Pictures from the quiz night.



# The IAM has driven a great deal.

So you can drive a great Volvo V40 R-Design.

In the Euro NCAP collision test, The Volvo V40 scored the best result ever recorded. As well as featuring a range of class-leading safety systems, this elegant 5-door hatchback is an absolute pleasure to drive.

Today, a partnership between the IAM and Volvo means you can benefit from a hugely valuable offer – as well as servicing, finance and accessory deals – at your local Volvo dealership. Get the inside story on offers across the full Volvo range now.

Find out how much you could save at [iam.org.uk/volvo](http://iam.org.uk/volvo)



Your local Volvo dealer:

M.R.King & Sons  
46 Quay St, Halesworth IP19 8EY  
01986 874464  
[www.volvocarshalesworth.co.uk](http://www.volvocarshalesworth.co.uk)

Fuel consumption for the Volvo Range in MPG (l/100 km): Urban 18.8 (15.2) - 74.3 (3.8), Extra Urban 34.9 (8.1) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined 26.4 (10.7) - 83.1 (3.4). CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions 249 - 88g/km. MPG figures are obtained from laboratory testing intended for comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect real driving results.

# EDITORIAL



Today the 20<sup>th</sup> March was the solar eclipse and at 9:30 I dashed outside to watch with my welding mask in hand but it was thick cloud so didn't see a thing, Ironically after lunch the sky became clear and it was a beautiful afternoon.

This month I managed to do a few miles, First there was the breakfast run, but as usual I was a wee bit late so instead of going to Stowmarket I went through Walsham Le Willows and crossed the A143 and waited with my camera to photograph the groups as they passed. Three groups came past with the last group having six riders so I tagged on the back as I thought that must have be the last group.

Breakfast run was to March with a round trip of 120miles, blew a few cobwebs out. Then bought the bike to club night, it was the famous Roberts and Barker quiz night, see pictures on page 19. Again there were a few troublemakers 😊 who were not happy with the marking.... It all gets very competitive

Not much to say this month, Today 21<sup>st</sup> is the first day of spring but winter is desperately trying to hold on, cold and wet this morning, not that I'm wishing the year away but it would be good to have a few warm days. My poor bees are getting ready to collect this year's honey.

Safe Riding **Felix..** Editor

Bowman's Barn, Back Street, Gislingham, Suffolk. IP23 8JH.

Tel: 07712649860

[editor@suffolk-advanced-motorcyclists.com](mailto:editor@suffolk-advanced-motorcyclists.com)

## Thank you

To all the members who have contributed to this month's magazine. 😊

But..... what about the rest of you.... 😞

## CLOSING DATE FOR COPY FRIDAY AFTER CLUB NIGHT

<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;"><b>ADVERTISE HERE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;">£25 FOR 1/8 PAGE</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">ANNUAL ADVERTISING RATES:</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;">ADVERTISE ON THE SAM WEBSITE FOR AN ADDITIONAL £25.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Contact:</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;">Felix    07712649860</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Sam.editor@btinternet.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">£35 FOR 1/4 PAGE £50 FOR 1/2 PAGE £75 FOR FULL PAGE</p>

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

Don't forget to take your cameras and a notebook to record your trip then you can write a nice article about it for your favourite magazine. I have a word template if anyone would like it, email me and I'll send you a copy which has all the formatting re-set on it. Please remember that we use Times New Roman as the main font for the magazine at a size 16 so that when the printer converts the A4 pages down to A5 the font looks like a 12. I like pictures to be separate to your articles because I can make them bigger or small to fill the page

## MEMBER INFORMATION

A lot of useful information about SAM and its activities is available on our website. Below are some key links members will find useful.

### CONTACTS

Contact details of SAM's Committee & Observers, complete with photographs so you can recognise everyone.

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

### CALENDAR

Our online calendar with relevant links which can also be linked to your smartphone. Contact: Mike Roberts

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

### OBSERVER ASSOCIATE CHARTER

What is expected of the Observer and Associate while preparing for the IAM motorcycle test. Contact: Karl Hale

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

### CARING SAM

Our customer service & complaints procedures. Contact: Brian Ellis

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

### DISCOUNT SCHEME

Proof of identity will be required to be shown. (e.g. Current IAM/SAM membership cards). Save your membership fee, and more, by using these retailers who give a discount to SAM members. Contact: David Arbon

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

### ADVERTS

Got something to sell? Want to see what other members are selling? See our online adverts section. Contact: Mike Roberts

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

### SHOPS

T-shirts, sweatshirts, fleeces, hats, and more are available from SAM's two online shops. Contact: Mike Roberts

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

### FORUM

All the latest news and discussion on all things SAM and motorcycle related. Have a read, and then register to join in. Contact: Mike Roberts

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

# SAM EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

APRIL 2015

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>** **SAM Group Night.** Announcements at **19:30** followed by Guest Speaker from Helite Airbags <http://www.helite-motorcycle-airbagjackets.co.uk>. Bar and restaurant serving all types of food/drinks including teas and coffees.

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>** **Theory Evening.** Fynn Valley Golf Club. Come along and learn more about Roadcraft. **19:30**. This month's topic: **Planning & Positioning**

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>** **Motorcycle Dexterity & Control Day. Associates only.** (a.k.a. Slow Riding Days) Sidegate Primary School, Sidegate Lane, Ipswich. **IP4 4JD 09:00** The opportunity to practice the art of riding a motorcycle slowly, and to learn the techniques that will help you do it. Contact: Derek Barker **01473 327555**

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>** **First Summer Chip Run.** Evening Chip Run to Botesdale chippie **IP22 1BS** Meet Stowmarket Tesco's, **IP14 5BE** in good time for the **18:15** Briefing and subsequent departure. All riders must attend Briefing.

MAY 2015

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>** **Breakfast Run,** Whitwell Station, Reepham. Meet at Stowmarket Tesco's, **IP14 5BE**, Meet in good time for **08:45** Briefing and subsequent departure. All riders must attend Briefing

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>** **SAM Committee meeting.** Fynn Valley Golf Club. **19:30**

**Fri 8<sup>th</sup> ~ Sat 9<sup>th</sup>** **Safe Rider.** If you can help the Publicity Team on the Saturday of this event, please contact Martin Drury on **07595277831**

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>** **SAM Group Night.** Announcements at **19:30** followed by Guest Speaker. Bar and restaurant serving all types of food/drinks including teas and coffees.

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>** **Theory Evening.** Fynn Valley Golf Club. Come along and learn more about Roadcraft. **19:30**. This month's topic: **Cornering**

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>**      **Summer Chip Run**, Botesdale chippie IP22 1BS. Meet Stowmarket Tesco's IP14 5BE in good time for **18:15** Briefing and subsequent departure. All riders must attend Briefing

## JUNE 2015

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>**      **SAM Committee meeting.** Fynn Valley Golf Club. **19:30**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>**      **Breakfast Run**, TBA Meet in good time for Briefing and subsequent departure. All riders must attend Briefing.

**Fri 12<sup>th</sup> ~ Sat 13<sup>th</sup>**      **Safe Rider.** If you can help the Publicity Team on the Saturday of this event, please contact Martin Drury on **07595277831**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>**      **Hints and Tips Ride.** A chance to refresh your road riding skills. Further details will be added near the date

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>**      **SAM Group Night.** Announcements at **19:30** followed by Guest Speaker, Bar and restaurant serving all types of food/drinks including teas and coffees.

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>**      **Theory Evening.** Fynn Valley Golf Club. Come along and learn more about Roadcraft. **19:30.** This month's topic: **Gears & Acceleration**

## NOTE FROM EDITOR

Please check the SAM Calendar & Forum for further details and for any changes after going to press. Especially in winter months when the weather can be unpredictable.

## 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.

## NORFOLK ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS

**3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month**, 19:30, at Dunston Hall, A140,  
Norwich, NR14 8PQ

Chairman,	Rob Chandler,	01493 730409
Secretary,	Alex Mason,	01603 716735

# come on down we've got a lot to offer

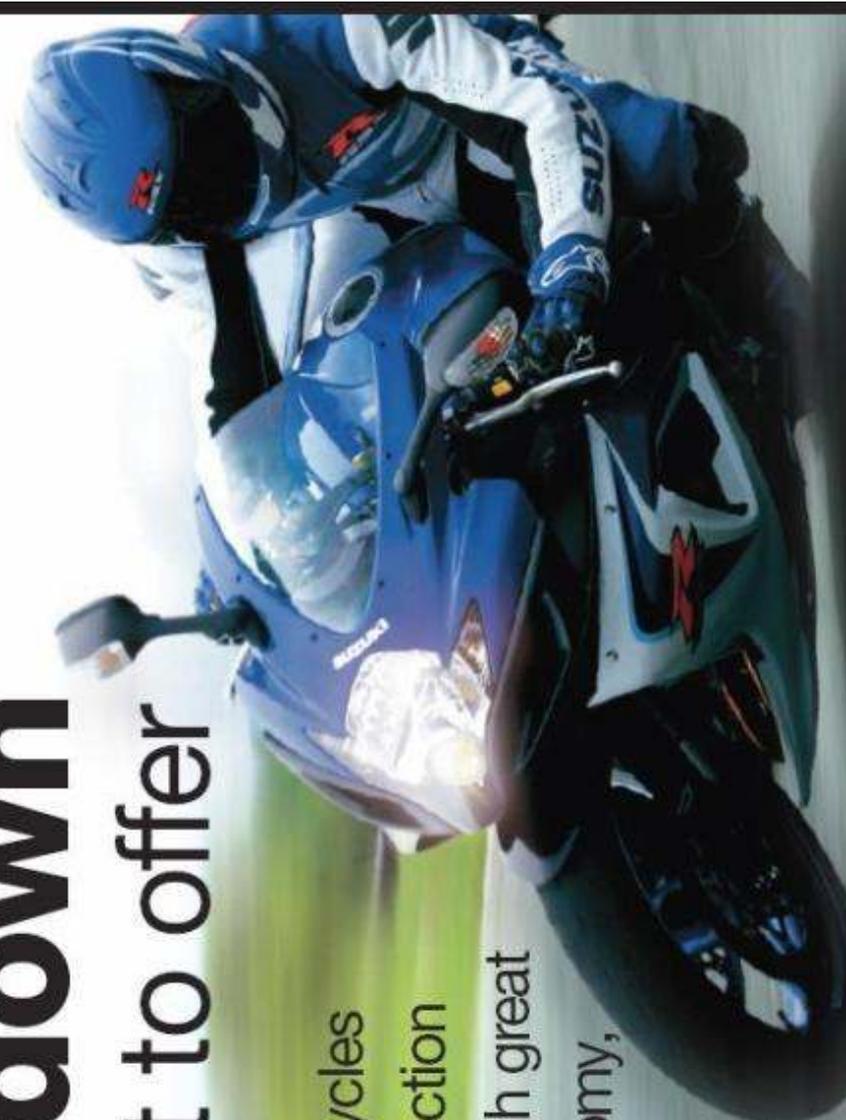
See the latest range of motorcycles  
and scooters and our vast selection  
of clothing and accessories with great  
names like Frank Thomas, Suomy,  
Arai and Alpine Stars.



**Orwell Motorcycles Limited**

200 Ranelagh Road • Ipswich • IP2 0AQ

Tel: 01473 257401 • [www.orwell.co.uk](http://www.orwell.co.uk)





Give me a bell!



Finish roads.



Finland, the land of water and trees.

By Andy Liffen

**ROYAL MAIL**

**POSTAGE PAID GB  
COLCHESTER 483**

**IF UNDELIVERED RETURN TO  
TFL BRIGHTLINGSEA CO7 0SQ**

**2**

