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MARCH 2024



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Cover Image

Cover photo: Supplied by Eric Aldridge of his BMW R1250RS.
If you have any great photos we can use, please share them. The best ones will feature on our magazine cover or in our new gallery. Please send the full-size file (not cropped or reduced) to: editor@suffolk-advanced-motorcyclists.com.

Next Issue

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EDITORIAL MUSINGS

I haven't done many miles on my bike this month. It's the result of a combination of rubbish weather and a busy life.

I did manage an observed ride with one of my associates on a dry day but even then some of the roads were wet and there was plenty of debris on them. Even the A12 and A14 have been affected by flooding recently, never mind the minor roads.

I have been able to do some trip planning for later this year and even next year. I've paid a deposit on the World of BMW trip to Norway next year and I know another SAM member and his wife are also booked on the same trip. Can we turn it into a SAM ride??? I've also booked a ferry from Harwich to Hook of Holland for May this year. We will be meeting up with family and friends in Germany and Luxembourg and finishing off with a few days in Holland before catching the ferry back. I'm hoping to ride some of the Alpenstrasse that runs through southern Germany just north of the Austrian border. It should be good preparation for next year's trip to Norway.

Spring is almost here – snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils are everywhere so the weather should be improving. Sadly, the British weather doesn't always follow the script... If you are out on your travels don't forget to take a few photos and send them to your editors. A few words about your trip are always welcome too. It doesn't have to be a magnum opus; a paragraph will do. Photos tend to be in jpeg format by default. It helps if your

comments are in Word format (docx) or open document format (odt). Only one of the editors can open documents in the pages format used by Apple. We realise that not everyone who rides a bike will be tech savvy so if you're not sure just ask us.

There will be plenty going on in SAM this year with a varied programme of group nights as well as the rides and training. I've been involved in the training side of SAM for many years and find it very rewarding but it's also good to see members at the social events and rides.

Tony Chyc



MAN FLU, MASTERS, MUSIC & MICROPHONES...

Despite battling for what felt like an eternity with a mother of a cold (dare I say it was on a similar scale to 'man flu'?!) I've managed to get out on my bike a fair bit.

Masters training has started in earnest and I've enjoyed some fantastic ride-outs with Geoff, my mentor. Last Saturday the weather was so warm and Spring-like, we enjoyed a tasty outdoor lunch at the fabulous café on the green in Dennington. (I highly recommend the salt beef sandwich, loaded up with pickles).

Since passing my advanced test last year, my confidence has soared and I'm really enjoying the training, putting into practice all those skills I learned as an Associate.

As well as doing the Masters, I have a biking-packed year ahead: Ride Leader training next month, the Folembay track weekend in August with some European touring afterwards, and of course, SAM's



social and Hints and Tips rides and Reiten's friendly Saturday ride-outs. Mototechniks' Italian Day and Mototechfest are not to be missed as well as the Hadleigh and Copdock Shows. I'll be adding a lot more miles with the SAM calendar challenge and following the BSB and British Talent Cup around the circuits.

I'm still bathing in the afterglow of the AGM and Awards evening when I was very surprised, grateful and proud to be awarded the Bob Gosden Trophy for 'the Associate who has shown sparkle and enthusiasm'. It was a huge personal achievement and I know there are many other worthy contenders for the title. Well done to all the award winners. See p21.

Between writing this, I am researching professional microphones - the reason? Well, in addition to motorcycles, I'll be indulging my other passion this year - music - as I am joining GenX Radio Suffolk as a presenter. A few years ago, I helped set up and present on a community radio station and loved it so I'm excited to be joining a station with over 40,000 weekly listeners. I'll be using the show to talk about bikes and biking, (among lots of other inane chatter about whatever takes my fancy) and as it is likely to be a live weekend show, there'll be plenty of shout outs to the biking community. I'll also be doing interviews - so watch out if you see me heading your way. You've been warned!

Please keep sending your articles and pics in - we love receiving them and will always publish where space permits.

Leanda Hoyland-Inch



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NEW ASSOCIATES, TEST PASSES & CERTIFICATES

New Associate Members

A warm welcome is extended to our most recent Associates and new Members.

Alex Harris

IAM Test Passes

Congratulations to the members who have recently passed their advanced test:

Bruce Pearce

His observer was Terry Fellows

Matt Lunn passed with a First.

His observer was Ian Bishop.

When you pass your advanced test please let Mike Roberts or Geoff Scott know.

Certificates

Bruce Pearce

His observer was Andy Robotham.

Matt Lunn

His observer was Ian Bishop.



Below: Bruce Pearce being presented with his certificate by Geoff Scott, Continuous Training Co-ordinator.



Below: Matt Lunn being presented with his certificate by Geoff Scott, Continuous Training Co-ordinator



Rob Day, founder member of SAM, Ex Observer, Ex-Chief Observer, Ex-Chairman, Ex-committee member. Ex-everything now.

First bike?

A 98cc Excelsior when age 13 (63 years ago). Followed by various old bits of Britain's finest i.e. 197cc Villiers engined Francis Barnet, rigid framed BSA 350 Empire Star, basically a frame, engine and two wheels. All you need as an adolescent falling off expert.

My first road bike was a BSA D3 Bantam (SYB 90) which cost £6. I passed my motorcycle test, such as it was in 1964, on that. Eventually, it was buried in a mate's back garden.

Best ride?

Wow, so many. The stand out ride for charity with our very own Derek Barker and Johnny Sillett was Land's End to John O' Groats (856 miles) in 17hrs and just 13½ hours riding time.

Lots of European rides with great roads and memories. France and Belgium touring and leading WWI War graves tours for SAM. I liked those trips with great company. Germany Harz and Schwarz Wald, Spanish Picos are magic, central Spain and Portugal for culture and scenery. Now I love bimbling about in Rural France. I guess our retirement prezzie ride in New Zealand, both Islands in a month, was one of the most rewarding and satisfying experiences.

Worst ride?

I'm sure there have been a few but you seem to be able to erase them from memory. Recently I rode alone to the National Motorcycle Museum in

Birmingham. Horrible weather, horrible traffic (trucks). I was bored and absolutely hated it. The ride, that is, not the museum.

Best bike?

Well, those that know me, know I can't seem to see past my BMs. I've had a dozen in the past along with the odd Yamaha trail bike and a 1300 Pan European briefly - it came to me too late as it was too heavy for me. That's pretty much my only involvement with Japanese bikes. They were good, and I've test-ridden a few more over the years, even Italian, but always rode home on my BM and thought, yup I have the best bike for me.

The best of the bunch for me was a 2010 1200GS, less complicated than the latest versions. It was the last of the oil head engines and was sweet. Had it for 60000 miles and unfortunately like all modern stuff eventually the finish starts to deteriorate if you ride a lot. Me and that bike fitted each other like a glove, and I felt I could do anything with it.

Favourite bike shop?

Ha, ha, I have some lovely memories of the mickey taking and bantering at Revetts in Ipswich. Currently it has to be Reiten BMW. When they opened, they said they wanted it to be a different experience. They didn't lie, it IS a different experience, especially for someone like me. Tight as being able to peel an orange in my pocket so I don't have to share. I bought a bike off them when they opened, and I have mine serviced there. I go there a lot and drink

Q&A: ROB DAY

their coffee and sometimes lunch on a Saturday FOC, and they still treat me with friendship, civility, they are friendly and obliging and yes, it is different.

I also like Mototechniks in Stowmarket, a very friendly dealership. I've known Simon and Luke for a while and unfortunately, I haven't purchased a bike there. If I were attracted to what they sell I wouldn't hesitate to buy there. Nice people

Favourite pitstop?

The best quality fry up brekkie has to be Posh Pigs at Beccles. Otherwise anywhere that serves up proper HOT tea and cake when you need a break.

How long have you been a SAM member?

In 1989 I was a founder member of SAM and was made a Life Member in 2003.

What is the furthest distance you have been on your bike?

A nice bimbble down to Split in Croatia via France, Luxembourg, Germany, Austria, Italy and Slovenia with a whole load of friends was a great trip. We then crossed the Adriatic in what could only be described as a rusty old bucket of a ship and returned via Italy and France.

In one day, obviously the previously mentioned Land's End to John O' Groats 856 pls, and we could have gone further. You settle into the inevitability of the journey and not the destination.

Rob Day





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Are you ready to take on the biggest and best challenge yet?

This one is the tenth consecutive challenge and will cover a larger area than any other. If you choose to take it on you could find yourself exploring Scotland, Wales and other locations, all over the UK.

As it's a calendar challenge you will not need to visit all twelve locations, just choose the ones that appeal to you and for each photo sent to me as proof, you will gain an entry into the prize draw to stand a chance of winning some money-off services or goods supplied by Suffolk Triumph:

1st Prize £200

2nd Prize £100

3rd Prize £50



The challenge will run from January 1st - October 31st 2024, with the draw taking place at Suffolk Triumph, Foxhall Road at November's group night.



It is open to all fully paid up SAM members, full, joint or associate.

To enter all you need is a calendar which will be available at group nights for a minimum £5 donation to The Motor Neurone Disease Association.

Alternatively I can post you a copy for an extra £2.30 to cover postage.

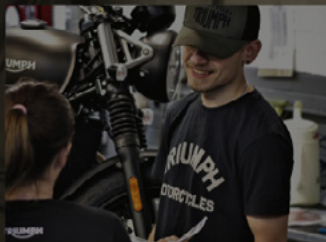
For any further information please contact me at nigel.chittock@btinternet.com

Nigel Chittock

Calling SAM Ladies!

Are there any of our female members who would like to join other like-minded lady motorcyclists on the occasional ride out? If you are interested, please email: editor@suffolk-advanced-motorcyclists.com.

We will pass your details on to other riders and if there is enough support, we will provide a ride leader and a route!



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HINTS AND TIPS RIDE - 25th MAY 2024

Hints & Tips

Saturday 25th May, 2024

Start and Finish

The George Public House
George St
Hintlesham
Ipswich
Suffolk
IP8 3NH

Arrival time

8.45 for 9.00

There is plenty of parking on site.

Briefing

(You must be there for the briefing)

What to expect

All the usual things you expect, and hope for, from a Hints and Tips Run: getting up early, riding lovely roads, discussing riding tips and chatting with like minded people, and of course, food at the end, if you wish.

You will also have your riding looked at and be given general feedback in the group. This is informal and a relaxed way of keeping up or gaining knowledge of advanced riding.

General information

The ride will last approximately two hours and cover fifty miles.

Refreshments can be purchased before and after the ride at the pub.

Open to associates, full members, non members, and pillions.

There are a finite number of spaces so if you are interested please book on a first-come-first-served basis with

Ian Bishop.

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Ian Bishop

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OBITUARY: PHIL BALDWIN

Sadly I have to report that a significant ex-member of SAM has passed away.

Phil Baldwin

Phil came to SAM as an Associate Member, went on to become an Observer and during his tenure also passed a ROSPA Diploma qualification then subsequently became our Chief Observer for a few years.

At the time he worked for Green King at Bury St Edmunds and his job description required him to be periodically retrained.

Phil brought that notion of retraining to the Observer Corps and thus the Observer COTS (Continuous Observer Training) became a large part of Observer training and remains part of Observer training today.

Phil and his wife Sue, also an advanced motorcyclist, had a great love of the Yorkshire Dales and eventually he managed

to secure a job with the Wensleydale Cheese Factory at Hawes.

They bravely moved lock stock and barrel from Bury St Edmunds to the Dales and eventually settled in Bainbridge.

Phil was a brilliant engineer. He had the ability to find solutions to sometimes difficult engineering problems, including stainless steel fabrication and welding, as you might expect working for a brewery.

I was a recipient of that expertise when the four into one exhaust system on my then motorbike decided that it should be five separate pieces.

I know many of the current membership won't know who Phil was, but should know that his contribution to SAM in his time here was significant and part of the success that SAM was, and still is, today.

I, for one, won't forget him.

Rob Day

SAM THERMOS FLASK CHALLENGE

Don't forget the SAM Thermos Flask Challenge is still running!

The next award will be made in June so there's plenty of time to get snapping and send us your pics of the ubiquitous flask in weird and wonderful locations.

Next time you head out, maybe to one of the destinations on the 2024 Calendar Challenge, remember to fill your flask, pop it in your top box and get creative! Send to: editor@suffolk-advanced-motorcyclists.com



Right: Peter Ward's winning entry last year.

SAM RIDE LEADERS

Due to a very full programme, we will be offering two days of Ride Leader Training this year.

This will consist of a small classroom session followed by a ride to show you are competent to lead.

Any members that would like to consider becoming a Ride Leader, please contact me: trevor.read51@gmail.com.

Please see page 25 for details.

Trevor Read
Social Ride Co-ordinator

Ride Leaders

Eric Aldridge
Ken Beckinsale
Mike Roberts
Chris Bond
Jeremy Duszynski
Brian Ellis
Vini Evans

Graham Clements
Steve Hart
Andrew Sparrow
Andrew Robotham
Les Smith
David Wood
Robert Rhodes



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SAM THEORY EVENINGS

On the fourth Wednesday of every month, 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 the Advanced Rider Course Logbook.

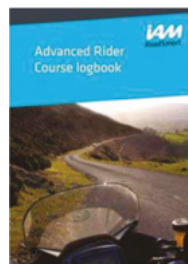
Each session covers one of the four main topic areas:

- Overtaking
- Planning and Positioning
- Cornering
- Gears and Acceleration

Mainly aimed at Associates going through the 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, with the opportunity to discuss any issues you may have on your Advanced Rider Course.

Next theory night: Wednesday 27th March, 2024, 19:30 - 22:00.
Subject: Cornering with Paul Ballard.



Mike Roberts

SAM Chief Observer

Remember you can register for this event on the SAM website!

Below: Check out SAM National, and Chief Observer, Mike Roberts' series of useful Youtube videos covering theory and riding skills.

Follow Mike: www.youtube.com/@mikeroberts





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FEBRUARY AGM AND AWARDS NIGHT

The AGM and the Annual Awards, attracted a very large turnout on February 21st. SAM Chairman, Glyn Hill, welcomed everyone before giving a brief synopsis of the SAM year, 2023.

Membership on December 31st stood at 296 (in 2022 it was at 250). The peak membership during the year was 305 with 51 new Associates and six Full members.

Group and theory nights continued all year with three meetings at dealerships. Attendance at group nights increased to an average of 50, largely due to Bob Rhodes' efforts to find interesting speakers.

There were 40 test passes (nine Firsts) - a credit to our dedicated Observer Team. At year end there were 11 National Members and eight Local Observers.

In addition to active training the Observer Team arranged theory nights and slow riding and dexterity days during the summer.

Four members have now passed the IAM Masters - three with Distinction.

Glyn thanked both Geoff Scott and Paul Ballard who have stepped down from their roles after five years. Paul led the Observer Team and Geoff hands the Associate Coordinator role to Bob Rhodes but will continue as Continuous Training Coordinator. Geoff arranged eight continuous assessment rides during 2023 to encourage riders to maintain/improve their riding skill and this will continue.

Two training sessions for Ride Leaders were organised as well as regular, well attended Social Rides arranged by Trevor Read. We had excellent new routes and

venues provided by Vini Evans with even more new venues to try in 2024. There are now 15 Ride Leaders with room for more.

The website continues to be administered by Les Smith, assisted by Dave Franklin.

The Publicity Team led by Glyn and Dean and a band of helpers, undertook demo days and attended shows to promote the club. At the Copdock Show alone we enrolled nine new members on the day.

We now have two magazine Editors, Leanda and Tony, who have given the magazine a facelift. They welcome new ideas and articles from the membership.

Glyn reminded everyone about the SAM Flask Challenge for photos of the flask taken in unusual locations.

Below: Eric Aldridge being presented with The David Arbon Ride Leader of the Year Award by Trevor Read.



FEBRUARY AGM AND AWARDS NIGHT

Nigel Chittock successfully arranged the SAM Challenge, sponsored by Orwell's, with routes around East Anglia and 71 entries and 38 completed entries.

The 2024 SAM Calendar Challenge, sponsored by Suffolk Triumph is live and will be the last Challenge organised by Nigel.

SAM supported CCMC on two fun runs and at the Copdock Show providing marshals. CCMC donated £3000 to SAM so volunteers will be welcome in 2024.

We held one charity ride during the year for the MND Charity.

Sadly, David Rudland, an active member of SAM as Secretary and an enthusiastic Observer, passed away.

The Committee has a few vacancies and there is always space for enthusiastic

members who are willing to give their time to help the running of the club.

After the presentation of certificates, the AGM commenced.

Geoff Scott read a statement from ex-Chief Observer, Paul Ballard who thanked everyone for their support during his tenure and also welcomed Mike Roberts as new Chief Observer.

Geoff Scott stood down as Associate Co-Ordinator, a role now taken by Bob Rhodes. Geoff will continue as Continuous Training Co-Ordinator for SAM.

Trevor Read was voted in as Vice Chairman and all other committee members were re-elected

Bryan Duncan, SAM Treasurer, gave a summary of the Club's healthy finances

Below, left: Nigel Chittock being presented with The Maddock Trophy by Glyn Hill. Below, right: Leanda Hoyland-Linch being presented with The Bob Gosden Trophy by Geoff Scott.



FEBRUARY AGM AND AWARDS NIGHT

followed by a short break for everyone to refill their glasses.

The second part of the evening, the Annual Awards saw the following five awards presented:

The David Arbon Ride Leader of the Year Award presented by Trevor Read to Eric Aldridge. Chosen by Ride Leader Team secret ballot.

The Bob Gosden Trophy presented by Geoff Scott to Leanda Hoyland-Linch Awarded to the Associate who has shown sparkle and enthusiasm. (Bob Gosden is a retired IAM examiner and member since 1979)

The Maddock Trophy presented by Glyn Hill to Nigel Chittock. Awarded to a member who has made an outstanding

contribution to the running of the group. (John and Jenny Maddock founded SAM in 1989. Sadly, John passed away in 2015.)

Rob Day Trophy presented by Rob Day to Tony Shearman. Awarded to the outstanding Observer who qualified during the latest Observer training programme. Chosen by Observer team. Trophy was constructed and donated by Rob, a former Chief Observer and founder member.

The Chairman's Trophy presented by Glyn Hill to Eric Aldridge. Awarded at the discretion of the Chairman in recognition of an outstanding contribution by a member to the running of the group.

If you would like to view the AGM minutes, Financial Statement and Chairman's Statement, here's the link:

<https://rb.gy/hvrzruk>

Below, left: Tony Shearman being presented with The Rob Day Trophy by Rob Day. Below, right: Eric Aldridge being presented with The Chairman's Trophy by Glyn Hill.



ALL THINGS BEING UNEQUAL

Balancing Risk

Following on from my last article on equalisation and the Safety Bubble, this time I want to look at how you can develop your riding plans further when dealing with hazards.

Previously I used the term 'equalisation' to describe keeping hazards an equal distance away from you. This 50/50 split is often all you need, but at other times the actual risk of danger from individual hazards will be different.

Roadcraft talks about anticipating, and prioritising, the hazards we are about to encounter, to formulate our riding plan. This means we can apply some form of weighting, or percentage, to each hazard based on how risky we think it is. We can then adjust the shape of our safety bubble,

which is often just depicted as a nice even oval.

Things to consider are:

- the actual hazard
- its closeness
- the road layout
- is the hazard moving?
- your speed of approach

For example, you may consider the potential risk of a vehicle emerging from a nearside blind junction to be much higher than that from an approaching car in the oncoming lane. So you may go for an 80/20 split. Replace that oncoming car with a large HGV which you know may encroach on the centre line, and you may adjust that to 60/40.



ALL THINGS BEING UNEQUAL

Balancing Risk



Written down this may sound over analytical, but I've found that once riders start applying basic 50/50 equalisation of hazards, they then start to naturally refine

that further by balancing the perceived risk. However, understanding what we are doing, and why we are doing it, means we can apply the technique much better.

So next time you are out riding, think about the potential risk of each hazard you are approaching, and try to balance the risk to keep yourself as safe as possible.

Mike Roberts

IAM Roadsmart National Observer

Catch me on YouTube:

www.youtube.com/@mikeroberts

RIDE LEADER TRAINING DATES

To all members

The social rides are a very important, and enjoyable part of SAM.

Whilst we have a good team of ride leaders, we could always do with more volunteers as the programme is very full.

We have twelve Breakfast Runs, twelve Saturday Jaunts and five Chip Runs throughout the year, with our Hints and Tips and additional charity runs on top.

With all the commitments we have in the diary already, the two dates we are offering for Ride Leader training are Saturday, 27th April and Saturday, 11th May.

The programme consists of a classroom session to run through the member's charter and guidelines on leading a group. This will be followed by a ride led by you, observed by an Observer with routes issued to put into your Sat Nav.

If you think this is something you would like to do, please email me at:

Trevor.read51@gmail.com with your preferred date and I will sort it from there.

The only criteria is you must be a full Member of the IAM and SAM.

Trevor Read

Social Ride Co-ordinator

WHERE ARE WE GOING AND HOW ARE WE GETTING THERE?

Breakfast Run, Sunday 3rd March

The Liberator Restaurant at Old Buckenham Aerodrome.

Meet at 08.30 at Beacon Hill Services.

Route via Coddensham, Ashbocking, A1120, Earl Soham, Dennington, LAXfield, Fressingfield, Weybread, Harleston, and Pulham Market.

A distance of 45 miles taking around 1.5 hours.

Jaunt, Saturday 16th March

The Blue Egg, Great Bardfield, CM7 4PY.

T: 01371 811801

<https://www.theblueegg.co.uk/knead-food/>

Meet at 12:30pm at Whitehouse McDonalds, IPI 5NP, which is behind the filling station at Asda. Taking the A14 all the way to Claydon, head past the incinerator on the way to Bramford, but turn off to the right to Little Blakenham and Somersham. Turn left just after the Limeburners and on to Bildeston and Great Waldingfield. Next it's through Clare to Steeple Bumpstead and then down to Finchingfield. Carry on along the B1057 through Great Bardfield, bearing left onto the Braintree road and in just under a mile enter the barn complex of the Blue Egg on the left. The café goes under the name of 'Knead Food'.

SOCIAL RIDES: MARCH and APRIL

Breakfast Run, Sunday 7th April

Green Pastures, Bergh Apton, NR15 1BQ, 01508 480734

<https://www.greenpasturesnursery.co.uk/restaurant/>

We shall meet at Mototechniks, Tot Hill, Stowmarket, IP14 3QQ in good time so that the last group can get away by 9am. Following the road out through Wetherden, we'll join the A1088 to Euston before cutting across to Kenninghall and New Buckenham. Staying on the B1113 to Mulbarton then across to Stoke Holy Cross and Framingham Pigot. A short stretch down the A146 – Loddon Road - brings you to Bergh Apton. Turn right into Mill Lane and 'Green Pastures' is almost immediately on the left.

Jaunt, Saturday 20th April

Country Kitchen, Assington, CO10 5LW, 01787 210242

<https://www.assingtonbarn.co.uk/>

To accommodate our friends in the west of the county we'll move the departure point this time to Bury Tesco, IP32 7JS. Meet at 12.30pm. Leaving Bury on the Westley Road it's out to Barrow then left to hook up with the A143 at Depden. Before colliding with Haverhill we'll turn left at Kedington and take the A1017 to Great Yeldham where we'll branch off to Sudbury. A short hop down the A134 takes us to the turn-off to Assington and about a mile further on finds the Assington Barns complex.

Chip Run, Thursday 25th April

The Codfather, Sudbury, CO10 2EQ. 01787 882100

<https://www.codfathersudbury.co.uk/>

It must be summer – or close to it, as Chip Runs are back. 6pm is the last departure time so please try and be 'somewhere in the vicinity' of B&M at Copdock, IP8 3TT from around half an hour before. We'll loop round through Washbrook village to Raydon and Stoke by Nayland. By way of Wormingford it's off to Bures and then out on the Pebmarsh road to Castle Hedingham. Then it's that enjoyable road back to Sudbury to find a parking space on the market place then a short stroll across the road to the chippie.

Vini Evans

SAM EVENTS: MARCH and APRIL

Please see website for updates

MARCH 2024

Sunday March 3rd

Breakfast Run to The Liberator Restaurant at Old Buckenham Aerodrome.
Meet at 08.30 at Beacon Hill Services.

Wednesday March 6th

Committee Meeting 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Saturday March 16th

Saturday Jaunt to The Blue Egg, Great Bardfield
Meet at 12.30 Whitehouse McDonalds (Asda)

Wednesday March 20th

SAM Group Night. Announcements at 19:30 followed by a presentation by IAM Bike Track Security System
Kesgrave War Memorial Community Centre, Twelve Acre Approach, Kesgrave, Ipswich IP5 1JF.
Bar serving drinks, including soft drinks, etc.
NOTE: The Bar only accepts card payments - no cash

Sunday March 24th

Motorcycle Dexterity & Control
Motorcycle Dexterity & Control Days give you the opportunity to practice the art of riding a motorcycle slowly, and to learn the techniques that will help you do it.
The event starts at 9.00 am SHARP usually finishing around 13.00, the venue is the playground of Sidegate Primary School, Sidegate Lane, Ipswich. IP4 4JD

Wednesday March 27th

Theory Evening - Cornering
Kesgrave War Memorial Community Centre, Twelve Acre Approach, Kesgrave, Ipswich IP5 1JF.
Theory Evening. Come along and learn more about Roadcraft.
Meet in The Board Room.

SAM EVENTS: MARCH and APRIL

Please see website for updates

APRIL 2024

Wednesday April 3rd

Committee Meeting 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Sunday April 7th

Breakfast Run to Green Pastures, Bergh Apton.

Meet at 08.30 at Mototechniks, Stowmarket

Wednesday April 17th

SAM Group Night. Announcements at 19:30. Instead of a speaker we will have a bring and buy stall. There may be some bargains...

Kesgrave War Memorial Community Centre, Twelve Acre Approach, Kesgrave, Ipswich IP5 1JF

Bar serving drinks, including soft drinks, etc.

NOTE: The Bar only accepts card payments - no cash

Saturday April 20th

Saturday Jaunt to Country Kitchen, Assington

Meet at 12.30 at Tesco, Bury St. Edmunds

Wednesday April 24th

Theory Evening – Planning & Positioning

Kesgrave War Memorial Community Centre, Twelve Acre Approach, Kesgrave, Ipswich IP5 1JF

Theory Evening. Come along and learn more about Roadcraft.

Meet in The Board Room

Thursday April 25th

SAM - Chip Run to Cod Father, Sudbury

Meet at 17.30 behind B&M Home Store, Copdock



KEEPER OR CHOPPER?

I miss my mate Steve Goocher, SAM chair for many years. So, in his memory (he's not dead, don't worry) I figured I'd go all in and build a spreadsheet. Obviously not as detailed as Steve would like but I hope he'd still approve. And, not any random record of mpg each month, comparing the Honda sports bike he owned to his Tiger, with quarterly summaries comparing year-to-date figures with previous years to see if his riding was appropriate or resulting in an increased cost - that would be sad.

No, my spreadsheet will enable me to compare my model of bike ownership - and to establish a feel for the cost of regularly chopping a bike vs holding one for a number of years. Because we have a choice as long-term bikers, much as with other aspects of our lives like our jobs, holiday destinations or our partners. Do we stay with what we know and trust or do we opt for variety and regular change as we pursue perfection?

So, I figured I'd run the numbers for three options - two real life costings I've done and the regular chopper model that many SAM members seem to follow.

First up is the rather crazy world of my first ever bike. I say bike loosely because it was a scooter - which as am sure you know is as low down my cool list as any top boxed GS. In my defence I saw the error of my ways and have avoided such embarrassing riding choices since, but I was young, stupid and skint.

So, the scooter cost me £1,650, got crashed twice, stolen (whilst uninsured) and then recovered seven years later. I then had to pay a ransom to the thieves who

demanding £250, otherwise known as Wiltshire police, £300 to get it legal again and it was then stolen a second time a couple of weeks later. I ended up recovering it and selling it as scrap for £200. So, all in I was down £2000 on a bike that I did about 200 miles on.

At £10 a mile - the scooter was possibly the most expensive bike in history - you could buy a fully loaded GS for £20k - do 2,000 miles on it, burn it and it would cost the same per mile. Although the scooter would be more fun obviously.

Next up is my Kwaka for the past eight years, the keeper model. I did well in buying it for £7.5k one year old, with 3k miles on it. Like lots of bikes, someone had bought it and decided it wasn't for them. £3k off list for a nearly new bike, what's not to like? Holding it for eight years meant some tasty bills, especially in the past two to three years - a new set of brake discs coming in at £700 and valve clearances are never cheap.

Being Japanese - and having a smooth owner and a well-oiled chain meant the bike never needed a new chain and sprockets - 65k miles too. All in I reckon I spent around £4k on maintenance over eight years, and I traded it for £2k meaning a total cost (excluding tyres, insurance, road tax) of £9,500 or 14.5p a mile.

The chopping model - change every two years once the warranty runs out, will minimise maintenance expenses but obviously you take a hit on the depreciation and trade-in values. This is going to vary between bikes, offers, trade in values - but I have done an estimate for the exercise. Buy a £15k new bike and trade

KEEPER OR CHOPPER?

it in for £10k after two years with 16k miles on it - with minimal servicing (£500) I reckon you are paying £5.5k for 16k miles or 35p a mile. That should be easy to work out based on what the garage is offering you and how many miles you've done.

So chopping is more expensive, twice as expensive but you get a nice shiny new bike every couple of years. Another way to think of it is I paid around £1200 a year for a bike for eight years vs £2750 a year for a new bike every couple of years - you pay your money and make your choice.

But the real lesson is simple, leaving an uninsured bike in the hands of your kid brother, getting it nicked and then having to pay the police fees for its recovery before getting it nicked again, it isn't going to be a cheap form of biking.

But as well all know, in Suffolk insurance premiums are nice and cheap – for a reason. Far fewer scooter thieving b*****s in this neck of the woods.

Nick Braley



JAUNT TO KERSEY MILL

It was an unseasonably warm and unusually dry day when a large group met at Beacon Hill for the February Jaunt to Kersey Mill.

After being allocated our groups, we were soon on the road, heading into Needham Market, then on to Stowmarket, Combs Lane, followed by Rattlesden and Cockfield Green. We joined the A134 and continued to Sudbury, then through Newton Green and onto the Hadleigh by-pass where we turned left onto the A1141 towards the beautiful Kersey Mill.

Our group, led by Mike Roberts, had a great run and enjoyed mostly dry roads, though there was still some evidence of previous heavy flooding in places, with soil and sand deposits and very wet gullies, all requiring extra vigilance.

The ride offered plenty of variation and opportunities to practice advanced riding skills - slow speed riding through the towns and balancing at junctions together with plenty of chances to overtake. It really was a perfect day to ride and many of us enjoyed adding a few more miles to our respective journeys home after enjoying

an alfresco late lunch/afternoon tea at the stunning Kersey Mill.

The food was great - especially the coffee and walnut cake (which sold out quickly!) and it was good to sit outside. It's a lovely venue with some interesting independent businesses based around a courtyard.

The next jaunt is Saturday March 16th, and the popular chip runs will start in April. See p26 for details.

Leanda Hayland-Jinch



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17th



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 and Observers, complete with photographs so you can recognise everyone.

<https://suffolk-advanced-motorcyclists.com/contact-us/>

Calendar

Our online calendar with relevant links which can also be linked to your smartphone.

Contact: Les Smith

<https://suffolk-advanced-motorcyclists.com/sam-calendar/>

Observer Associate Charter

What is expected of the Observer and Associate while preparing for the IAM motorcycle test.

Contact: Paul Ballard

<https://suffolk-advanced-motorcyclists.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/SAM-Members-Group-Social-Rides-Charter.pdf>

Discount Scheme

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

<https://suffolk-advanced-motorcyclists.com/disc>

Shops

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

Contact: Mike Roberts

<https://suffolk-advanced-motorcyclists.com/sam-shops/>

Caring SAM

Our customer service & complaints procedures.

Contact: Brian Ellis: 07740 564097



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YOUR SAM COMMITTEE

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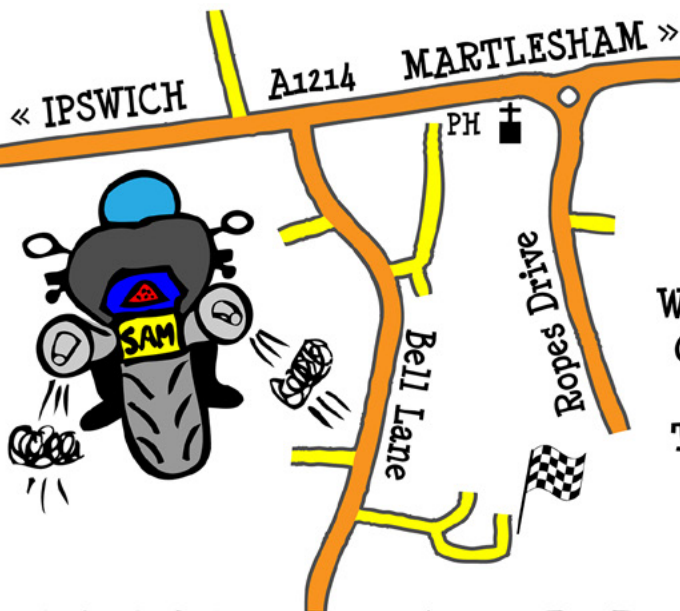
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No calls after 21:00 please.

Disclaimer

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WHERE WE MEET



Kesgrave
War Memorial
Community
Centre
Twelve Acre
Approach
IP5 1JF
(not to scale)



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