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SEPTEMBER 2025



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Cover Image

Cover image: By from Derek Barker of Linda’s bike. The eagle-eyed among you will spot that this was taken at one of our English Heritage Site challenge locations.

Send us your pics! The best ones will feature on our magazine cover. Send the full-size file (not cropped) to: editor@suffolk-advanced-motorcyclists.com.

Next Issue

Copy deadline: Friday, September 19th.

Send via e-mail to:
editor@suffolk-advanced-motorcyclists.com

The Editors reserve the right to edit, amend or omit as necessary.

SAM is a registered charity: No. 1067800
IAM Group No 7219

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EDITORIAL MUSINGS

Tony Chyc

It may surprise some of you, but I have a couple of thoughts running through my mind. The first is the sharing of products that have either been excellent or terrible. It could be anything from foam earplugs to top-of-the-range bikes.

We have so much practical experience between us it would be a shame to waste it. I suppose it's the sort of thing that we might chat about when we meet up but sharing it with the entire membership would be even better.

My first contribution is both humble and cheap - Muc-Off Helmet & Visor Cleaner. If you're just out for the day you can clean your visor when you get home. Some of us more

disciplined than others about doing this...

It's trickier when you're touring but not impossible. But with the visor cleaner and a microfibre cloth it's done in seconds and very effectively too. I took a 32ml spray bottle with me on the last tour and at this

rate it's going to last years.

Definitely recommended.

For the record my standard method of visor cleaning uses two pieces of kitchen roll – one wet and one dry. The wet one gets rid of bugs and other dirt and the dry one (amazingly) dries it off. I don't know about the rest of you, but I don't take kitchen roll with me when I'm touring.

My other thought wasn't terribly profound either.

We pounce on some poor



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EDITORIAL MUSINGS

unsuspecting individual each month to do the Q&A article in the magazine. We often do this at group night which means it's a rush to get it done in time for the magazine to go to the printer. Wouldn't it be a good idea if we had several completed at any time that we could just use on a monthly basis? It doesn't have to be a great work of literature, just some simple answers to the usual questions. You can make it as long or as short as you like. You can also mention other aspects of your life as Claire Harris did in her article. I do like to remind her that bikes are much safer than horses. I guess that joke is wearing a bit thin now – sorry Claire. By the time you read this I will have approached as many of you as possible at group night. Form an orderly queue!

Sadly the “season of mists and mellow fruitfulness” is approaching but you don't need to tuck your bike up for the winter just yet. I'm not as “hard core” a rider as I used to be, but I do like to get out on my bike whenever possible all year round. I did wonder when I retired and therefore stopped commuting regularly on my bike whether I would need a battery charger. After nearly three years that hasn't been necessary.

Tony Chye

Leanda Hoyland-Linch

In the blink of an eye, it's September! What happened to Summer?

As I write, today has seen dramatic changes in weather, from ominous, dark skies followed by biblical rain, then bright sunny skies. I seem to be forever stripping down to a t-shirt then adding another layer as the temperature fluctuates (or maybe the hormones).

Autumn brings with it the usual unpredictable weather. Like many of you, I've enjoyed some long days' riding whilst covering the miles for the Heritage Challenge. Having enjoyed prolonged dry and sunny weather through July and August, my waterproofs have not seen the light of day, remaining stuffed at the bottom of my top box, along with other 'emergency' supplies such as tyre pressure gauge and inflator, puncture repair





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kit, bottle of water, and of course, the ubiquitous SAM thermos flask which has seen a lot of active service this year.

Choosing the optimum riding attire has been relatively easy as the weather has been consistently good. For me, anything over 12-15 degrees means the vented, airflow summer jacket is a safe choice, with a windproof layer if needed.

Having read Tony's article about product recommendations, I completely agree with his endorsement of Muc-Off visor cleaner. I've always carried a mini Muc-Off kit in my tank bag which I refill. There are other things I won't leave home without, and this got me thinking that we could write a set of articles on 'What's in my tank bag?'

I've already mentioned a few things I carry in my top box but here are today's (unedited) contents of my tank bag. I'd love to hear about yours!!

- iPhone plus charging cable (to charge on the go if necessary)
- Spare key fob batteries
- Oxford Screamer disc lock
- Ear plugs
- Mini Muc-Off kit
- Emergency cash and card
- Print out of Heritage Challenge
- Copy of bike insurance and V5 document
- Paper napkins (from afternoon jaunt - useful for drying a wet seat!)
- Swiss Army knife
- Mini torch
- Pen
- Hairbrush (for helmet hair)
- Clean rag
- Random receipts from various fuel stations in the UK and France,

bike shops and the odd SAM Jaunt destination.

- An out-of-date energy bar
- I.C.E. numbers

Maybe another question in the Q & A?!

I'm really looking forward to the Copdock Show this Sunday and will be there with my Suffolk Sound Radio Presenter headphones on. I'll be doing a live show between 10-12pm then walking around with a roaming mic, interviewing visitors and exhibitors. Please come and say hello - advance warning - you may end up on air! Please say hi to SAM's publicity team too.

If you know of anyone with an interesting story to tell who will be at the show, please get in touch.

On that subject, I must mention Karen Clarke, SAM Member, who recently completed an epic solo journey around Norway and Germany, over an outstanding 90 days! Karen will be sharing her story in the SAM Observer and on Suffolk Sound.

Finally, I was so proud to represent SAM as one of a few female motorcyclists featured in the IAM Roadsmart's 'Women in Riding' campaign. The featured women all have different, inspirational stories to tell, whether, like me, they've been lifelong bikers, or found their passion for motorcycles later in life. If you are interested in reading their stories, they can be found here:

<https://shorturl.at/1ClgA>

See you at Trinity Park,

Leanda Hoyle-Inch



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NEW MEMBERS, AWARDS AND GROUP NIGHT

IAM Test Passes

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

Nathan Harris

His Observer was Ian Bishop

Liam Tatum

His Observer was Claire Harris

National Observer Test Passes

Steve Mortimer has passed his National Observer Test.

Certificates and Awards

Christiaan VE

His Observer was Christiaan Taylor

Keith Lansdown passed with a First

His Observer was Bruce Pearce

Below: Keith Lansdown (left), and Christiaan VE being presented with their certificates by Tony Chyc, Vice-Chairman of SAM.



Group Night

Our thanks go to Chrissie Hart for her informative talk and presentation about photography.

Chrissie talked about the different applications and techniques required in different light, different circumstances, different subject matter and more, as well as displaying some of her beautiful work. This included some wildlife photography, motorcycles (that got you interested!) and more.

Whilst most of us are happy to 'point and shoot', and, it's fair to say that modern digital cameras allow us to get great results using this function, it was interesting to learn about ISO, shutter speed and aperture and how, rather than relying on 'Auto', the results can be so much better.

Were you inspired? Send us your bike pics!



Q&A: CHRISTIAAN TAYLOR, OBSERVER



First bike?

When I was 10, my family relocated from Reading to South Wales. My stepdad had a Honda CX500 at the time and quickly became pals with the owner of the local bike shop.

At the back of our house was a huge field which was common land, and on weekends the local kids, on all sorts of motorcycles used to congregate and ride around. I'd watch on in awe. Once in a blue moon the police would turn up and move them all on. Then one day, in the not-too-distant future, I came home from school and there in the garden was a bent and twisted write off that had been brought in for an MOT at the previously mentioned bike shop and

promptly failed and was condemned. It was a Suzuki OR50 (Google it) this was my first bike. If you sat on it square and rode it in a straight line, it would crab sideways something terrible. But if you weighted the left peg, sat on the right side of the saddle, and added a touch of left counter steer, it went in a straight line as good as any other bike out there. As the kids grew up and got themselves road legal bikes, these poor excuses for bikes were handed down to the next youngsters coming through the ranks. There was a pecking order of who got what & when. The goal and ultimate prize was a Honda CB 175, which I had the pleasure of temporary ownership of for a summer of fun in the field, before turning 16 and getting myself a Fizzy for the road.

Best ride?

This must be the NC 500. I went with my brother, most of my bike trips are with him. He's a liability but it adds to the fun. We decided to take 10 days to complete the trip (clockwise), we were in no rush. As we live on opposite sides of the country we decided to meet in Penrith. We got a B&B that night then alternated between B&B's and camping for the rest of the trip. We were very lucky with the weather, although it rained every evening, it wasn't until we'd stopped riding for the day. If it's on your bucket list, my advice is take your time, enjoy the ride and follow the brown tourist signs that lead you off the NC 500 route, to find some hidden gems. The views after every turn take your breath away. White sandy beaches and turquoise seas would have you believing you're in the Caribbean, if it wasn't for the temperature. The food we ate was

Q&A: CHRISTIAAN TAYLOR, OBSERVER

top quality. Sea food from a roadside van to cafes and restaurants. The people are wonderful and helpful with where to go and what to see. We had a great trip, until packing up camp in Inverness to head back to Penrith and my brother asks my opinion on his rear tyre. What do you think? (see photo).

This cost us a 70-mile trip in the wrong direction to get it changed. And, while they were at it, they changed his rear brake pads and drive bushes, both were well beyond their best. This cost me just shy of £400 because his budget for the trip was already blown.

Worst ride?

I think it was 2015 (don't quote me on that) my Brother, and an old Navy mate of mine, and I, road to Austria for a Tridays festival. A whole town was taken over by all things motorcycle. It was sponsored by Triumph. A brilliant weekend.

On the way home, we were due to stop overnight in Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany. We took our time getting there and arrived having had a good ride. The first thing we wanted after checking in was a cold beer, it had been a very hot ride. As the beers were being poured, I had an alert from P&O stating there was industrial action at Calais and no ferries were moving.

The three of us quickly got on the internet looking for alternative crossings. With web sites crashing due to the amount of people trying to book alternative crossings, my brother managed to get on Le Shuttle, my pal got a ferry from Dunkirk, both were



Q&A: CHRISTIAAN TAYLOR, OBSERVER

departing around midday the following day. They could relax. All I could get was a ferry from the Hook of Holland to Harwich. It was leaving in 8 hrs and I was 705km (438 miles) away. I ordered some food, finished my beer, packed up the bike and off I went. I made it in time, but I was numb from the nipples down by the time I arrived. Still a journey that sends a shiver down my spine when I think of it.

Furthest ride?

One year, I had the bright idea to take part in the Iron Butt 1000 on behalf of the Royal British Legion. I have been a member of the riders branch of the British Legion for around 13 years now. Being a veteran myself I'll always try and get behind a good military cause.

For those that don't know, the Iron Butt 1000 is 1000 miles in 24hrs. When I did it, you had the choice of the North or South route and you could do either, clockwise or anticlockwise. We (Brother again) opted for Northern clockwise route. All routes start at Squires Cafe Bar in Leeds. You then collect fuel receipts and log your mileage



on route, to be scrutinised at the end. I owned a Harley Davidson V-Rod Muscle at the time. Comfort and riding position was very nice. The downside was the tank range of 120 miles, if I was lucky. Also, it rained for 21½ hrs of the 22 hours it took us to complete the 1000-mile loop. I also found out that the digital display within the analogue instrument cluster, that displayed the trip mileage, wasn't waterproof and failed after the first 200 miles. I called HD who informed me that the instrument cluster wasn't watertight, and this can happen in heavy rain. Not ideal when logging mileage.

So, 22 hours of rain, sleep deprivation, hunger, fuel anxiety and probably the early signs of hypothermia was definitely my furthest ride in one go.

Best bike?

All my bikes have been my best bike, at the time. I passed my test in 1996 and brought a brand-new Suzuki Bandit 600cc. That was by far my best bike until Yamaha brought out the R6. I played Motorcycle City and Fowlers, in Bristol, off against each other and brought a new R6, but had them custom spray it in Marlboro colours. That bike was awesome, until I brought an Aprilia RSV Mille. This is the one I regret selling, but it bit back one day when I got overconfident in the Brecon Beacons. A road I knew like the back of my hand. I'd ridden it hundreds of times. It was my back yard, my playground. What I can tell you is the RSV Mille does not fly well and is rubbish off road. We'll leave that story there. 5 of us went out that day, I returned with an intact bike, and he

Q&A: CHRISTIAAN TAYLOR, OBSERVER

crashed his van on the way back to us, to collect our bikes. After that I brought a Kawasaki Zx7R in Black/Yellow. I loved the look of it with the huge air intakes at the front but didn't enjoy riding it. That went after a year, and I had a short spell away from bikes. But it's in your blood, right?

I'd always had sport bikes and wanted a change. Change I did, the afore-mentioned HDV-Rod Muscle. It used to set off car alarms along the sea front, grin factor 10 out of 10. With a Porsche designed engine it just wanted to lay 100m strips of molten rubber on the road and pull your arms out of their sockets. Tank range was rubbish, so I sold that and got my first Triumph Tiger 1200. It did absolutely everything I could ever want a bike to do. I kept that for 10 years and sold it to my brother. I brought another one, newer with a few more bells and whistles. I genuinely can't see me riding anything else other than a newer version again, sometime in the future. But I'll never say never (although I just said it twice).

An ex-associate, ex because he's now past his Advanced test, is trying to convert me to the GS appreciation society. But at 55, I don't feel I'm old enough to join yet.

Favourite Bike Shop?

I'm not really a bike shop groupie. I don't have a favourite. I ride a Triumph and as such it's serviced by Lings Ipswich. I've owned a Triumph since 2013 and have never had a problem with Lings or their customer care. I have been left gifts by the mechanic (long nose pliers under my seat), which was nice. I think their service price for a main dealer service is quite

reasonable. My bike has an extended warranty, so it also needs a dealer service. MOT's and tyre changes are done at RM Autos in Felixstowe. Just because it's local to me and they can always squeeze me in.

Favourite Pit Stop?

When I was an associate Graham (my Observer) took me to some great places for a pit stop. However, I was concentrating more on my riding than my geographical location.

Since becoming a local Observer and plotting my own routes, I have discovered some wonderful pit stops. But, as many before me have said, the Neathouse in Dennington has a certain gravitational pull where I'm concerned. A great selection of cakes and pastry baked goods as well as a breakfast menu and much more. It definitely gets my vote. And whichever direction you approach it from is a good ride.

Christiaan Taylor
Observer





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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 24th September. Subject: Topic: Planning and Positioning

Contact: Ian Bishop / Mike Roberts
7.30 pm to 10 pm.

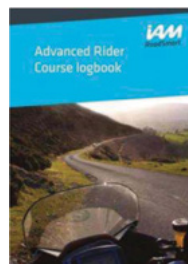
Mike Roberts

SAM Chief Observer

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

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



MOTORCYCLE DEXTERITY & CONTROL SESSIONS

Do your slow riding techniques need brushing up? Was the last time you did a U-turn when you did your CBT? Slow riding skills are essential for good machine control and SAM's Motorcycle Dexterity and Control sessions are the perfect way to improve. The next session is on September 27, from 9.00 am sharp, usually finishing around 1 pm.

Book your free place via the website:
<https://suffolk-advanced-motorcyclists.com/dexterity-control/>





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SAM IN SUPERBIKE MAGAZINE!

SAM was given a big mention in Superbike Magazine last month. (The magazine is online only these days).

The article featured Shaun Cronin, a retired Dorset Police Inspector who is now the Regional Service Delivery Team Manager for IAM RoadSmart.

Additionally, he has been involved in delivering BikeSafe, DocBike courses and more during his time in the force and after. He does it for the sheer love of helping others during his spare time.

Here's a snippet of the article but to read it in full, follow the link.

Shaun: 'I'm Suffolk based. Therefore, we're

lucky enough to have the Suffolk Advanced Motorcyclists and they're formed of a huge team of Observers.

They often offer the IAM RoadSmart Advanced Rider Course out of local dealerships, attending test ride events. This includes a taster of the course with a pre-planned route to get the most out of the motorcycle and more.

The Observers have to renew their IMI standard checks every five years, so you're in capable hands.'

<https://www.superbike.co.uk/article/why-choose-the-iam-roadsmart-advanced-rider-course/>



PILLION'S PERSPECTIVE: Part 3

So, the great day came when we set off on our trip to Norway. For anyone considering a continental holiday we can highly recommend the Harwich - Hook of Holland overnight ferry, which is so convenient from this part of East Anglia. It means that your holiday starts bright and early the following morning, with good roads in all directions: even the very busy coastal area has free flowing traffic.

This holiday was different from previous trips, being an organized tour with BMW Motorrad. There were ten bikes in total,

with five carrying pillions: somewhat predictably all of these were female. We had to get used to travelling in a group, although this wasn't obligatory after the first morning.

It was interesting to see how the other pillion riders interacted with their drivers: all but one had many years' experience. Some were more engaged with following the route – one even had the paper printouts stuck onto her leg! I've always taken the view that as long as I have a mental map of where we're going, I'm



PILLION'S PERSPECTIVE: Part 3

happy to leave the details to Tony, but this is probably a highly personal choice which each pair will settle on. I did feel some pressure to be a 'good' pillion - entirely self-imposed – and if anything, it made me more tense and less able to just go with the bike. It's a very fine balance because it is good to know what hazards lie ahead, but the pillion doesn't want to be second-guessing the line the driver will take or the degree of lean. After a few days I settled back into having a general awareness of the road ahead but was able to relax and enjoy the spectacular scenery.

On our last full day in Norway three of us hit a small but dangerous patch of loose chippings on a sharp bend. All of us came out unscathed, but probably our ability to go with the driver and trust their judgment was key to our safety. I had learned that lesson forty years ago on our honeymoon

when we went over a wet cattle grid on a bend: unaware at that time of the level of danger, I completely trusted Tony's handling of the hazard and the slight wobble soon recovered.

I was struck by the fact that all of us had been with our partners for decades, and even the less experienced lady obviously knew her husband's riding style really well, not that I'm trying to make a case for pillion riding as a recipe for marital bliss! The sense of being united against the many potential dangers brings a camaraderie which is common to other extreme activities. Of course, this harmony needs to extend to the discipline of dealing with our luggage and equipment. Normally we stay in one place for a few days and go on outings, but this trip was definitely an adventure with mostly overnight stops and some very early starts, so we got into quite a routine: we also discovered how convenient underfloor heating is for drying underwear overnight!

I realize that after nearly 500 words I haven't begun to tell you what an amazing place Norway is, but maybe that can wait till next month...!

Kate Chye



NORFOLK ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS

For information of our activities and meetings check NAM's website:

n-a-m.co.uk

Ed's note: Great to have more female contributors to the SAM Observer!

Look out for Karen Clarke's two part article, starting next month, about her epic, three-month, solo European adventure, plus an interview on Suffolk Sound with Leanda Hoyland-Linch.

SAM EVENTS: SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

SEPTEMBER 2025

Wednesday September 3rd

Committee Meeting 7.00 pm – 10.00 pm

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

Sunday September 7th

Copdock Motorcycle Show 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Trinity Park Conference & Events Centre, Felixstowe Rd, Ipswich IP3 8UH, UK

Sunday September 14th

Breakfast Run to March Hippodrome, Dartford Road, March, PE15 8AQ

Meet at Moto Techniks, Bury Road, Stowmarket, IP14 3QQ in time for the first group to leave for 08:30am

A distance of 75 miles taking around 1hr 45minutes.

Wednesday September 17th

SAM Group Night. Announcements at 19:30 We have a speaker booked for the evening, but he had a serious accident, and it isn't currently clear whether he will be able to attend.

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

Bar serving drinks, including soft drinks, etc.

NOTE: The Bar only accepts card payments - no cash.

Saturday September 20th

Saturday Jaunt to East Anglian Railway Museum – Platform 2 CO6 2DS

Meet at Stowmarket Tesco, Cedars Link Road, Stowmarket, IP14 5BE in time for the first group to leave by 12.30pm.

A distance of 40 miles taking around an 1hr 15minutes

Wednesday September 24th

Theory Evening – Planning and positioning 7.30 pm to 10 pm

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

Theory Evening. Come along and learn more about Roadcraft.

Meet in The Board Room

Saturday September 27th

Motorcycle Dexterity & Control

Sidegate Primary School, Sidegate Ln, Ipswich IP4 4JD, UK

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

SAM EVENTS: SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

OCTOBER 2025

Wednesday October 1st

Committee Meeting 7.00 pm – 10.00 pm

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

Sunday October 5th

Breakfast Run to Posh Pigs, Beccles, NR34 7TD

Meet at Ipswich ASDA Superstore, Goddard Road, IPI 5PD intime for the first group to leave by 08.30am. Route via Woodbridge, Reydon and Oulton Broad

A distance of 76miles and taking 2hrs

Friday October 10th and Saturday October 11th

Safe rider workshop

Please see the SAM calendar for further details of the sessions and how to book.

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

Wednesday October 15th

SAM Group Night. Announcements at 19:30 followed by results and prize presentation for the SAM Heritage Challenge

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

Bar serving drinks, including soft drinks, etc.

NOTE: The Bar only accepts card payments - no cash.

Saturday October 18th

Saturday Jaunt to The White Horse Inn, Boxford, CO10 5DX

Meet at Mototechniks Ltd, Bury Road, IPI4 3QQ in time for the first group to leave by 12.30pm

Route via Gt Finborough, Lavenham, Cavendish and Bures

A distance of 44miles taking 1¼ hrs.

Wednesday October 22nd

Theory Evening – Gears & Acceleration. 7.30 pm to 10 pm

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

Theory Evening. Come along and learn more about Roadcraft.

Meet in The Board Room

Please, please, please note that if you do not arrive by the stated time for ride outs, they may leave without you. It is also helpful if you sign up via Eventbrite so that we know numbers for catering and ride leaders.



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A LOOK BACK AT SOCIAL RIDES IN AUGUST

Afternoon Jaunt, Saturday 16th August - Scotsdales Garden Centre, Horningsea

On a dry, sunny and very warm Saturday afternoon, twenty-two enthusiastic members made the ride into deepest Cambridgeshire and the popular Scotsdale Garden Centre Café. The route designed by Vini took in a variety of roads (some may say tracks) but on a beautiful afternoon, the Suffolk countryside looked splendid. The Scotsdale staff were excellent in allocating seating for riders and everyone went away full and smiling (well almost everyone). A great afternoon all round.



A LOOK BACK AT SOCIAL RIDES IN AUGUST

Breakfast Run to Route 11, Attleborough, Sunday 3rd August

“That’s more like it”, dry roads eighteen hungry members and the forecast of rain late afternoon. It was noted it was a slightly chilly start to the ride with



temperature gauges showing 15C. If you were expecting grass in the middle of tracks and gravel traps, you would be slightly disappointed.

The route was a combination of lovely flowing sections along with many straight sections which tested the suspension set-ups. On arrival to Route 11, the café was quieter than previous years without us having to wait for free tables.

The breakfast menu provided riders with a good mix of traditional dishes and the ‘Desert Special’ - ‘Knickerbocker Glory’ - which were all consumed with enthusiasm. The rain held off for the journey back and only the Southbound A11 closure caused a slight delay.



A LOOK BACK AT SOCIAL RIDES IN AUGUST

Chip Run, Thursday 28th August Reg's Fish and Chip Run, Clacton-On-Sea

Alas, the last Chip run of the summer, saw SAM members return to Reg's in Clacton who provided a warm welcome to riders.

Four groups of five riders made their way through a few brief showers and low sun indicating that summer was on its way out and Autumn will shortly be with us.

The damp roads, low sun and tree line made riding difficult at times. Certainly a peak on the helmet would have helped.

The fish and chips as usual were lovely and prepared us for the ride home under headlights for the first time this summer.

Thanks go out to the Ride Leaders who navigated the roads (and Potholes) safely. We are already looking forward to next summer.

Phil DeBoise
(Social Ride Co-Ordinator)



NATIONAL OBSERVER RETIREMENT

As some of you will know National Observer Paul Ballard has recently retired, in the employment sense. He has decided that now is a good time for him to also retire from IAM/SAM coaching and concentrate on family life. He will still remain an active member of the group.

Paul has been an Observer with SAM for the last 9 years. For 5 of those years he was our Chief Observer, during which he guided the team through the Covid pandemic and the changes that imposed on us. He has of course helped numerous

members pass their IAM Advanced Test and also helped train many of the past and current Observers.

I would like to express SAM's gratitude for all Paul has done as an Observer for the group.

Mike Roberts
Chief Observer

WHERE ARE WE GOING AND HOW ARE WE GETTING THERE?

Breakfast Run Sunday 14th September 2025

Mototechniks, Stowmarket to March Hippodrome, Dartford Road, March, PE15 8AQ

[Wetherspoon Hotels | March | The Hippodrome](#)

Meet at Moto Techniks, Bury Road, Stowmarket, IP14 3QQ in time for the first group to leave for 08:30am

A week later than normal due to the Copdock Classic Motorcycle Club Show planned for the 7th September. This Breakfast run is around a distance of 75 miles taking 1hr 45minutes. We will set off westbound on the A14 until the Elmswell junction where we make our way to Ixworth using the A1088. Turning right, we head off towards Barningham via Stanton turning off at East Harling and making progress until we get to Watton. We're now in Fen country so don't expect too many hills and watch out for those right-angle bends. After passing through Feltwell, you will experience a nice straight road (must be Roman) and finally at Southery, you'll turn right on to the Lynn road, then left towards Ten Mile bank crossing the Great Ouse, keep going to the suspension bridge over the River Delph and you're on the final section heading into March where a hot cooked breakfast is waiting at the Hippodrome.

Saturday Jaunt, 20th September 2025

Stowmarket Tesco's IP14 5BE to East Anglian Railway Museum – Platform 2 CO6 2DS

[Platform 2 Cafe – East Anglian Railway Museum – A Visit England Quality Assured Visitor Attraction](#)

Meet at Stowmarket Tesco's, Cedars Link Road, Stowmarket, IP14 5BE in time for the first group to leave by 12.30pm.

Setting off from Tesco's, the route makes its way towards Needham Market where you turn right and head towards Barking Tye, Great Bricett and finally Bildeston. A quick left then right takes you on the B1115 towards Chelsworth and when arriving at Monks Eleigh, turn left off the B1115 onto the A1141 road for a short section. Then turning left towards Groton, through Boxford, turning left onto the A1071 where you'll turn right when you see the Polstead sign. A twisty section towards Great Horkesley and beyond until you go through Fordham, then Fordstreet turning right onto the A1124, follow the road through to Wakes Colne and the East Anglian Railway Museum. A distance of 40 miles taking around an 1hr 15minutes.

Please check the website calendar for any updates or changes and use our Eventbrite booking system to help forecast numbers on the day

SOCIAL RIDES: SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

Breakfast Run, 5th October 2025

Posh Pigs, Ellough Industrial Estate, Beccles NR34 7TD Tel: 01502 717596

Meet at ASDA Superstore, Goddard Road, Ipswich IPI 5PD in time for the first group to leave by 08.30am

The first days of Autumn sees us on a breakfast run to 'Posh Pigs' where the route starts off at ASDA's and skirts around the North side of Ipswich towards Tuddenham. The route goes Easterly on some twisties crossing the A12 at Woodbridge then its Northerly on the B1438 turning off at Wickham Market back onto smaller roads heading to Framlingham. Once in Framlingham turn right to pick up the technical B1119 and head off towards Rendham looking out for some hidden crossroads and right-angle corners. Crossing the A12 for the second time stay on the B1119 and shortly you will be in Sizewell C territory with 30mph speed limits complete with cameras. At Leiston take the road to Westleton (more cameras) staying on there until Blyburgh comes into view. Turn right onto the A12 for half mile then right again on the Southwold Road. Follow this road and turn left at Reydon and crossing the A12 for the third time at Wrentham. Straight across and make your way to Oulton Broad courtesy of Carlton Colville. At Oulton, turn left and head towards Somerleyton where you will start to head South going through Gillingham, Worlingham and then you will be able to take in the aromas of breakfast and Posh Pigs. A run of 76 miles taking 2 hours.

Saturday Jaunt, 18th October 2025

The White Hart, Boxford, Suffolk

[The White Hart, Boxford](#)

Meet at Mototechniks, Bury Road, Stowmarket IPI4 3QQ in time for the first group to leave by 12.30pm.

A new venue welcomes those SAM members on this Saturday Jaunt. A route of 44 miles taking around an hour and 15 minutes. The route goes around the Western side of Stowmarket picking up the B1115 going through Great Finborough, turning right at Hitcham on to a minor road. Head towards Lavenham and continue to Long Melford and Cavendish where you will turn left and come back on yourself and the smaller villages of Liston and Borley. Carry on skirting the south side of Sudbury, hitting the villages of Middleton, Henny Street and Lamarsh. Staying on minor roads make your way to Bures Hamlet, Bures Green, Dorking Tye (what great names) and finally Assisngton where you will turn right onto the A134 for a short stretch. Turn left at Leavenheath and go through Stone Street where you cross the A1071 and into Boxford. The White Hart Inn can be found on the right-hand side. The route is mainly on smaller minor roads taking in the countryside in the West of the county.

MEMBER INFORMATION

Contacts

Committee and Observers contact details.

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

Calendar

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: Mike Roberts, Chief Observer.

<https://suffolk-advanced-motorcyclists.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Observer-Associate-Charter-New-2022.pdf>

Caring SAM

Our customer service and complaints.

Contact: Brian Ellis: 07740 564097

Group Social Ride Charter

Group Social Ride Charter which should be read by anyone wanting to come on a social ride. Its link is:

<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>

Shop

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/>



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YOUR SAM COMMITTEE

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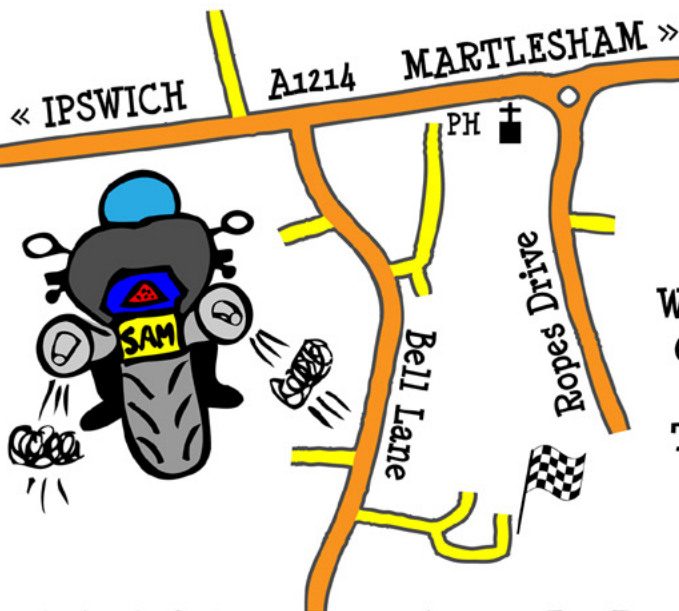
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No calls after 21:00 please.

Disclaimer

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