

## THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR TVAM MEMBERS





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#### FROM THE LAPTOP

Spring – and what better time to get back on the road on two wheels!

Well now that we are into ever more lighter evenings and longer days all we need is a little less of the wet stuff and more settled weather – and warmer!

I recently attended the Welsh Wanders weekend in Wales and although it was a little damp on the Friday we were pretty lucky the rest of the weekend with some awesome runs around the marvellous Welsh roads and great hospitality at the Commodore in Llandrindod Wells.

As mentioned in our Chairman's piece, 7Ws was also in town, and although we spied a starburst here and there we didn't get too intertwined. Planning is better for later in the year with Welsh Wanders towards the end of September and 7Ws in early October, both being open now for expression of interest.

A reminder that the local groups are running T-Runs for your benefit, so get yourselves out there and enjoy some informal feedback on your riding. Check the calendar in here and on groups.io for all the social rides, courses, track days etc so you don't miss out.

Enjoy your riding and keep the rubber side down!

Slipstream Editor

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#### **NEW MEMBERS IN APRIL**

Ali Bovis Mark Coggle David Craig Brian Streeter Damon Jones William Leon James Lindsey-Halls Tony Marques Gary Miller Jake O'Neill Terry Tomkins Rebecca Whiteside

#### LATEST TEST PASSES

#### Candidate

Clifford Bunce John Buttfield Guy Salazar-Lewis **Observer** 

Peter Dalgliesh Andrew Storey

#### TRAINEE NATIONAL OBSERVER VALIDATION

Michael Hattey

#### NATIONAL OBSERVER VALIDATION

John Sinclair

#### **NEW RUN LEADER/BACK MARKER**

Mark Thomas



Test passes, new National Observer (NOb), a Trainee National Observer (TNOb), Trainee Observers (TOb) and a new Run Leader in April

#### **FROM THE CHAIR**

I'm writing this piece at a really busy time for the Club, with the riding season really getting off to a fantastic start and so much going on for all members.

I'm just back from France where I have spent 4 days, with 3 friends (TVAM members), visiting 3 of my great, great Uncle's graves. They all served in the Allied Forces in WW1 and unfortunately never came home. Whilst the weather wasn't always in our favour, it was certainly a great long weekend riding around the French countryside, on some great roads, that clearly looks significantly different than it would have 125 years ago.

If you have never ridden abroad, then a trip across to northern France is a great way to get some experience. Do look at the specific road traffic laws though, as priority on junctions is not as clear cut as it is in the UK. In fairness, the locals appear to understand that us Brits are unlikely to get it right all the time and are relatively tolerant of our errors!

Whilst I was away in France, both 7Ws and Welsh Wanders took over Llandrindod Wells in mid Wales. Apologies that the Club didn't manage to coordinate better on the timings for these two trips, as we know that many people like to attend both weekends where possible. We promise to do a better job of getting the dates sorted so there is less likelihood of a clash in future (WW September – 7Ws October '23).

7Ws appears to have been another successful training weekend, with 17 Associates, 12 Observers, 5 Trainee Observers and 8 Full Members having a great time.

Welsh Wanders saw 31 Club members away for a weekend of social riding on the fantastic Welsh roads.

Thank you to the organisers of both of these Club events that are put on for the benefit of the membership and new dates for both weekends are already announced in the late summer, early autumn.

And the fun didn't stop there. The last weekend in April saw both a Core Skills Day and BikeCraft both hosted in the Sixth Form Block at St Crispin's.

The Core Skills Day saw 8 new Trainee Observers working with 8 Full Observers and the Training Team to develop their communication and observing skills. This is a day of workshops and breakout sessions where the Trainee Observers learn ways to meet new Associates and take them through an observed riding session. It's just one of the many disciplines that our Trainee Observers have to complete in order to become an Observer with TVAM/ IAM RoadSmart.

I was lucky enough to sit in on the BikeCraft day that was being hosted by our excellent BikeCraft team. Di Woodcock, Richard Barker, Paul Naish and Steve Mason took 11 members through the fundamentals of riding, working in harmony with your machine and making progress, all in a classroom environment with some great images, videos and practical advice. Thank you all for a really informative day. I cannot recommend this course highly enough for Associates working towards their test and Full Members wishing to refresh their own knowledge.

We have lots coming up in the next month between the May and June Club Meetings. There are no less than 12 social rides on various dates; Castle Combe Skills Day on 23rd May; the RAMs T-Run on 28th May; Look Lean Roll on 11th June; Run Leader & Back Marker course on 17th June and of course St Crispin's on the 18th June. All are published in the Slipstream and Groups.io calendars and regular reminders come out weekly on Group.io to jog your memory. Why not join another local team for a social ride or try something new to keep up your skills? If any Observers are available to support the T-Runs throughout the riding season, I'm sure that you'll be welcomed with open arms by the various local teams. The more we can work together, the better for all our members.

I'm just off now to pack for 3Rs, the Full Member Training Weekend in Llandrindod Wells that takes 20 Full Members and 10 Observers to Wales for a balanced weekend of social and observed rides, with plenty of tall tales and banter in the bar afterwards. Hopefully you'll be able to read about it in next month's Slipstream.

Whatever you're planning on doing this month, have fun and ride safe everyone.

Barrie Smith TVAM Chair



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## TVAMAND IT'S OFF7WsTO WALES000WE GO!

#### 7Ws through the eyes of some participants

#### An Observer – Carl Flint

I could not help overhearing a conversation at a recent St Crispins, between a group of long serving Observers about the forthcoming 7Ws. One mentioned that the fun had left the club with all the emphasis on training and less on social rides and asked what is the point of having a training session so far away in Wales? I thought that sounds bonkers, we all know that Wales has wonderful roads, perfect for training and it is great fun.

Take an Associate called Phil for example. Phil aka Barnes Wallace, because Phil had his top box come off on several occasions on his way over to Llandrindod! How it missed the other bikers in the group and how they managed to find it each time, remains a bit of a mystery! Anyway, on Saturday I was assessing Dave Brooks,



Trainee Observer and Dave was observing Phil. We were both delighted that Phil was not bringing his top box! Dave asked Phil what he would like to focus on during the day and Phil said positioning and bends. Dave mentioned he had some very good roads in mind that would give Phil plenty of opportunity to develop his skills. So, did I see Phil have fun during his training? You bet he did, with Dave's very good demonstration of lines to take and the roads with long sweeping bends, it was perfect for Phil and the improvement we saw in the consistency of his riding during the afternoon was a big step forward.

On the way to Llandrindod on Friday, I was observing Graham Emerson and I bumped into him at the bar on Saturday evening after he had been out doing his ride. He had a grin on him as wide as the Cheshire Cat. I asked him how his day was, knowing full well he had really enjoyed himself and had lots of fun.

The notion that the Starburst system (a trio of an Observer with two Associates or Trainee Observer and Associate) excludes fun for the Associate is just bonkers. It is harder work for the Observer or Trainee Observer. They need to have routes that allow the Associate to work on the areas that were raised in the opening discussion. But that is soon forgotten when we all get out there and have the privilege and fun of riding the wonderful roads in mid Wales.

#### A Trainee Observer – Mark Powell

When I last attended 7Ws in September 2022, I was a PTOb, a provisional Trainee Observer. By this 7Ws I had progressed to being a TOb. This meant I could take a much more active role in the weekend on my journey to becoming a fully qualified Observer. For the trip to Wales I was allocated Kevin Dunwell as my Observer. He



shared his route up to Wales with me in advance and I loaded it into both my BMW connect and my Garmin XT. Kevin also loaded it into his Garmin XT. At the start point I gave the run briefing to Sylvester, our Associate for the day and off we went. It became clear within the first 30 miles that the three sat navs were not in complete agreement and I added a loop that Kevin was not expecting! But all rides are a voyage of discovery and despite some rain on the way we had a good ride up. Kevin provided me with some valuable feedback on my observing skills.

Friday night, a few beers, a good meal and introductions to riding partners for the Saturday. Andy McWalter was my Observer coach for the day and we discussed different approaches to route planning. That is code for I was supposed to have prepared a route for the Saturday but had not realised that, so Andy and I worked out a circular route with options. We also spoke with Ed, our Associate for Saturday to find out what he wanted to work on and planned accordingly.

Saturday morning, thick fog! After a hearty breakfast I went through the ride brief with Ed and off we went. Mid-morning coffee and snacks, the sun came out, some great roads, stopped for lunch. In the car park over lunch, Andy's back tyre decided to let all the air escape and it was as flat as a flat tyre can be! I knew the theory



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but had never had to fix a puncture before. The three of us worked together to find the leak (not so easy with a completely flat tyre), sticky string in the hole, pump tyre up and away we go. Learning point for me is that without putting air in the tyre we would never have found the leak. I carry 4 CO2 canisters. Would that be enough to put air in, find the leak, and then have enough to inflate a GS back tyre to a riding pressure? Andy carries a small compressor so not a problem there. We felt we needed a reward so rode to Aberystwyth for ice creams on the sea front. Then back to the hotel. Andy gave me some useful tips on observing during the day and a good debrief after. Gentle run back on Sunday.

A quick thank you from me to Simon and Si from the Training team who did all the on-site management and the rest of the training team that organised it. And to all the Observers who gave their time to help us TObs and Associates to develop our skills. Much appreciated.

#### A Provisional Trainee Observer – Richard Lawson

I just wanted to offer my own feedback to the 7Ws weekend from 21st to 23rd April, which was, in short, a fantastic three days of motorcycling. I attended as a pTOb, so my principal role was to shadow the Observers and the Associates I was







Getting ready for the off on a foggy Saturday morning (photo Sylvester de Koster)

Repairing the puncture (photo Mark Powell)

grouped with for the Friday and Saturday rides. I always get a lot from shadowing and the combination of learning from highly skilled TVAM Observers, watching keen Associates develop and experience some of the very best roads in the UK, made it an excellent weekend for me. The emphasis of enjoying the rides was constantly reinforced by everyone in the training team and the vibes I got from the weekend were really positive and relaxed. I enjoyed great company, made new friends, experienced awesome scenery and rode some really beautiful Welsh roads.

I'd like to thank Observers Dave Parker and Michael Hattey again for having me along on their Observer Rides, and for kindly asking for my own feedback with the Associates, as this made me feel valued and kept me on my toes. I wish Associates; Dave & Danny, the very best with their cross-checks and tests – you guys are both very competent riders and, I'm certain, even more polished after this weekend. I'll definitely go back and do another 7Ws, and maybe I'll be an Observer myself by then!

#### An Associate – Graham Emerson

It was the first time I had attended the 7Ws and I was a little anxious on what would be expected and how limited the riding under training may have been. How my worries were so ridiculous goes like this. I met Carl and Dave on arrival at the wandering kitchen and into debrief/chat about what IPSGA and system means to us and a quick chat about our ride to the first heading. We geared up and headed off taking it in rotation for being observed then a coffee and chat with some useful pointers and off again to catch some very thick fog and a line of traffic as we got round some tree felling.

As we moved on, the roads became more engaging with some overtaking opportunities followed by lunch at a lovely garden centre that knocked out a very nice omelette and again debrief with pointers. Some weather caught us just as we stopped for tea, but I couldn't believe another hour and a bit had passed – I was enjoying the roads so much as the rolling countryside passed by. Now Dave up front being observed by Carl on a fantastic road with a lovely combination of sweeping bends and tighter turns yielded more progressive riding and we had also left the drizzle behind. A fantastic ride capped the day as the rain caught us as we



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filled up just around the corner from the hotel. Day 1 was good. Dave grinned at me, "Just wait for tomorrow it gets even better....."

So a couple of beers, dinner and met Paul and Tom for Saturday's ride. A chat and a debrief and at 8.30am the fog was thicker than grandma's vegetable soup, so a short bumble down the road to a coffee stop for an hour 'talking bollocks' a.k.a., bikes, sports, work, women, not all in that order. Now the skies had cleared and up the hill to some of the funnest roads one could wish for, with Tom who was training to be an Observer watching me, being watched by Paul, who saw everything we both did. Lots of pointers and feedback on better road positions led to better entry everywhere and overtaking became easier and the riding seemed very progressive and very quickly the fun factor was in full effect, which whilst learning is a hell of a thing to achieve. A fantastic spot at Aberporth for lunch, more riding, more great roads getting better and more progressive as we went down to Aberystwyth for ice cream and the piece de la resistance.

The ride back. Putting into practice what we had learned with the Observer now leading followed by Observer in training with me picking up a great demonstration of how it's done. Progressive and now the 'funometer' in the red zone as we rode through Wales in an afternoon which I shall long remember. As we arrived back Carl caught me grinning like a Cheshire Cat, and asked me to pen my thoughts in a paragraph. So there we go, I'm afraid too much fun for just one paragraph.



Fun in Aberystwyth (photo Mark Powell)



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#### **READER'S REPLIES**

#### TIGER 900 GT PRO

Having read Nick Tasker's review of the triumph Tiger 900 GTPro I thought it might be useful to respond from an owner's perspective.

I purchased my 2020 Tiger, at 6 months old and with 600 miles on the clock, from Bulldog Triumph.

Two points before proceeding: Firstly, I do not have a particular allegiance to Bulldog Triumph, nor indeed to any other dealer or manufacturer. Secondly, I fully appreciate that we live in a society where people are free to express their thoughts openly.

I've been riding on the roads for around 46 years, have had far too many bikes to remember from 50cc two strokes to 1100 cc sports tourers. The Tiger being my first experience of an adventure bike and previously riding sports tourers, it did take a bit of getting used to, mostly that was me rather than the bike.

My Tiger is now very nearly 3 years old and has 17,000 miles on the clock. I am very pleased to report that I have suffered none of the issues raised in last month's article. Shortly after purchase I did have a small problem with the quickshifter, which was resolved rapidly and effectively, and the bike has given me no further issues.

I would very happily buy another one, should I have the need to.

For many years I rode a variety of Japanese machines, mostly the ones with the wings on. In 2018, when looking to replace my Observing bike the Street Triple 765R fitted the need very nicely and still performs admirably. So, 2 years later, when looking to replace my touring bike, I had no hesitation in returning to Triumph. Indeed I am now the very proud owner of three Triumphs, having just purchased a 20 year old Speed Four, and no regrets.

I would actively encourage members, if you are looking for that style of bike, pop into Bulldog Triumph and ask for Jason. Have a look, sort a test ride and decide for yourself.

Happy riding folks Andrew Hunter



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## THE SPRING OUTING

"The weekend was fantastic for me."

"Keep it as it is. It is perfect. I've already signed up for September!"

Robin's group gather for their Saturday run briefing

From the top of Hellfire Pass on Ian's Saturday run

lan's run gets ready for a fantastic day's riding







#### **Next Welsh Wanders** 22-24 September

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#### **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED**

As you know Thames Valley Police operate their BikeSafe initiative each year, and TVAM support this by attending each training day they run to meet their candidates. Historically this has proven to be a good recruitment opportunity for us, and getting more riders to consider advanced riding courses in general as Rospa and other IAM

Roadsmart groups also attend.

The 2023 BikeSafe dates have been released and, if possible, we would like to ensure we have cover for these dates. There's no riding involved, it's meeting candidates, chatting with them about their experience of the day and promoting what advanced riding courses can do for them, of course whilst telling them about the best group in the country and what we can do for them that other groups cannot offer as well! If possible, we also like to take email details so they can be contacted later.

The dates and final debriefing points for this year are as below;

Saturday 20th May, Bahnstormers Maidenhead, from about 2.30pm Sunday 21st May, North Oxford BMW, from about 2.30pm Saturday 22nd July, Bahnstormers Maidenhead, from about 2.30pm Sunday 23rd July, North Oxford BMW, from about 2.30pm Sunday 27th August, North Oxford BMW, from about 2.30pm Saturday 2nd September, North Oxford BMW, from about 2.30pm Sunday 3rd September, North Oxford BMW, from about 2.30pm Saturday 30th September, Bahnstormers Maidenhead, from about 2.30pm Sunday 1st October, North Oxford BMW, from about 2.30pm Sunday 1st October, North Oxford BMW, from about 2.30pm Sunday 1sth October, North Oxford BMW, from about 2.30pm Sunday 1sth October, North Oxford BMW, from about 2.30pm Saturday 4th November, Bahnstormers Maidenhead, from about 2.30pm Saturday 5th November, North Oxford BMW, from about 2.30pm

If you can help by spending approximately 90 minutes at these dealers, drinking coffee and talking to like-minded riders, then please let me know either at the Training Desk at St Crispin's, through groups.io, or by email - bikesafe@tvam.org

**Simon Rawlins** 

#### **TVAM CALENDAR** SOCIAL & TRAINING RUNS, TRACK DAYS, TRIPS & EVENTS 2023

If you have a run for the calendar please send details to socialruns@tvam.org. Keep an eye on the groups.io calendar for the latest news. Also check local teams.

#### JOINING LOCAL TEAM SOCIAL OR TRAINING RUNS

Many of the local teams now post their runs here. Many rides use either a database or an RSVP on the groups.io calendar to allow you to sign up for a ride, and it's now much easier to subscribe to a local team to participate. From the **allmembers** area click in the menu on **Subgroups** and look down the list at **Subgroups You Can Join**. Click to join, then you can access their calendar and run database to sign onto the run.

You can adjust subscriptions from that group afterwards to receive fewer or more notifications or unsubscribe from it. Easy peasy!

MAY 2023	
wednesday 17	<b>GNATs WEDNESDAY EVENING SOCIAL RIDES (B)</b> Join GNATs for an evening ride with usually a finish including a supper stop. See GNATs calendar on groups.io.
thursday 18	<b>BRANSCOMBE FOR LUNCH (B)</b> Run to the coast for lunch at Sea Shanty beach café. 240 miles finishing at former Little Nellie's Diner around 6pm. Meet at former Little Nellie's Diner, Newbury Road, Kingsclere, RG20 4TA at 8am for 8.15am departure. Run Leader Mark Spittles 07753 931570. Limited to 10 riders. See groups.io calendar.
saturday 20	<b>SAMs T-Run (T)</b> Join the SAMs Training Run. All Observers, TObs, Associates and Full Members welcome. See entry on groups.io all members calendar and SAMs calendar on groups.io
sunday 21	<b>ST CRISPIN'S SUNDAY - 8.45am</b> Members' monthly meet at St Crispin's School, Wokingham. Observed rides for Associates and Social Runs for Full Members.
TUESDAY	<b>CASTLE COMBE SKILLS DAY (T)</b> TVAM circuit skills days at Castle Combe. Ideal for all levels of experience from cautious riders and circuit novices through to more experienced riders. For more information and to book go to www. tvam.org and head for the shop – Track and Training Days.
wednesday 24	<b>GNATs WEDNESDAY EVENING SOCIAL RIDES (B)</b> Join GNATs for an evening ride with usually a finish including a supper stop. See GNATs calendar on groups.io.
saturday <b>27</b>	<b>CLAMs FOURTH SATURDAY RUN (B)</b> Details to be posted on groups.io. See CLAMs calendar for latest.
Social Ru	n 🗾 Trip 📕 Event 📕 Track Day or Training Run/Trip 📕 Course

sunday 28	<b>RAMs T-Run (T)</b> Join the RAMS Training Run. All Observers, TObs, Associates and Full Members welcome. Two informal observed runs in the morning for Associates/Tobs, also available to Full Members. After lunch there will be a marked social run back to Calcot. Total run mileage 160 miles. Meet at McDonald's Calcot, RG31 7SA, at 9am for a 9.30am departure. To attend please sign up via RAMs calendar entry on groups.io. Any questions email Mel or Ness - mel@ melsmotors.co.uk; vanessaboudier@outlook.com
sunday 28	<b>WOBMOB FOURTH SUNDAY SOCIAL RUN (B)</b> Join the WOBMOB on their monthly ride out, sampling some great roads and coffee stops along the way. 4th Sunday of each month. Check out the WOBMOB calendar for further details.
wednesday <b>31</b>	<b>GNATs WEDNESDAY EVENING SOCIAL RIDES (B)</b> Join GNATs for an evening ride with usually a finish including a supper stop. See GNATs calendar on groups.io.
JUNE 202	3
SATURDAY	<b>SAMs FIRST SATURDAY RUN (B)</b> Meet at Jenner's Cafe, Ray Mead Road, Maidenhead, SL6 8NP at 9am to join SAMs run. See SAMs calendar for latest.
sunday 4	<b>GNATs FIRST SUNDAY RUN (B)</b> Join the GNATs for their first Sunday of the month run. Go to GNATs on groups.io for run details and to sign up.
sunday 4	SEAN'S FIRST SUNDAY SOCIAL RUN (B) All day ride with WAGs, starting at a different place each month. Check WAGs calendar on groups.io as you may need to RSVP.
MONDAY 5	<b>GNATs MONDAY EVENING SOCIAL RIDE (B)</b> Join GNATs for an evening ride with usually a finish including a supper stop – this week on a Monday. See GNATs calendar on groups.io.
saturday 10	<b>GREEN TEAM RUN - Hosted by GNATs (B)</b> Details to be posted on groups.io in both the allmembers and the hosting team's calendars. A monthly run for Full Members.
sunday	<b>LOOK LEAN ROLL (T)</b> One course that is a must. Look out for the latest courses in the web shop on tvam.org/Shop/Courses.
sunday <b>]]</b>	WAGs SECOND SUNDAY SHORTY RIDE (B) For those who don't want to be out too long - half day ride. Check WAGs calendar on groups.io as you may need to RSVP.
wednesday <b>14</b>	<b>GNATs WEDNESDAY EVENING SOCIAL RIDES (B)</b> Join GNATs for an evening ride with usually a finish including a supper stop. See GNATs calendar on groups.io.
Social Rur	Trip Event Track Day or Training Run/Trip Course

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SATURDAY	COTSWOLD MOTORING MUSEUM & TOY COLLECTION (B)
17 SATURDAY	Join Steve for a great ride-out to this fascinating museum of motoring, toy & general memorabilia located in Bourton-on-the- Water. £7.50 entrance fee reduced to £6.30 for groups of 10 or more. Free, private on-site parking arranged for a maximum of 12 motorcycles (bring a side stand support). Approx. 160 mile 6.5hr round trip including 1.5 hrs for museum/lunch. Meet 9am for a 9.30am departure at Jenners Café, Maidenhead, SL6 8NP with full tanks. Run Leader Steve Selby 07785 522 913 steve.selby@hotmail. com – see calendar groups.io to book your place (pillion passengers welcome).
17	<b>RUN LEADER &amp; BACK MARKER COURSE (T)</b> You want to lead a run or back mark and want to know how to do a good job with planning and guidance, then this is the course for you. Register your interest on tvam.org/Shop/Courses.
sunday 18	<b>ST CRISPIN'S SUNDAY - 8.45am</b> Members' monthly meet at St Crispin's School, Wokingham. Observed rides for Associates and Social Runs for Full Members.
wednesday 21	<b>GNATs WEDNESDAY EVENING SOCIAL RIDES (B)</b> Join GNATs for an evening ride with usually a finish including a supper stop. See GNATs calendar on groups.io.
thursday 22	<b>THE LONGEST DAY - VALLEY OF THE ROCKS - EXMOOR (A/B+)</b> A long day's ride to and across Exmoor (400+ miles), the ride will be limited to 10 riders, will be a marked ride and is only open to full members. A SatNav route will be available. The distance is long and the pace A/B+ to TVAM standards. Return by 8pm. Meet at Andover Services, A303 Westbound at 7.30 am for 8am departure. Run Leader Mark Spittles 07753 931570. See groups.io calendar.
saturday 24	<b>CLAMs FOURTH SATURDAY RUN (B)</b> Details to be posted on groups.io. See CLAMs calendar for latest.
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wednesday 28	<b>GNATs WEDNESDAY EVENING SOCIAL RIDES (B)</b> Join GNATs for an evening ride with usually a finish including a supper stop. See GNATs calendar on groups.io.

#### Anything for the calendar - email slipstream@tvam.org

JULY 2023	
SATURDAY	SAMs FIRST SATURDAY RUN (B)
]	Meet at Jenner's Cafe, Ray Mead Road, Maidenhead, SL6 8NP at 9am to join SAMs run. See SAMs calendar for latest.
sunday 2	<b>GNATs FIRST SUNDAY RUN (B)</b> Join the GNATs for their first Sunday of the month run. Go to GNATs on groups.io for run details and to sign up.
sunday 2	SEAN'S FIRST SUNDAY SOCIAL RUN (B) All day ride with WAGs, starting at a different place each month. Check WAGs calendar on groups.io as you may need to RSVP.
wednesday 5	<b>GNATs WEDNESDAY EVENING SOCIAL RIDES (B)</b> Join GNATs for an evening ride with usually a finish including a supper stop. See GNATs calendar on groups.io.
saturday 8	<b>LEPE COUNTRY PARK FOR BREAKFAST (B)</b> Details to be confirmed on day. Meet at former Little Nellie's Diner, Newbury Road, Kingsclere, RG20 4TA at 8am for 8.15am departure. Leader Mark Spittles 07753 931570. Limited to 15 riders.
saturday	<b>GREEN TEAM RUN - Hosted by SAM (B)</b> Details to be posted on groups.io in both the allmembers and the hosting team's calendars. A monthly run for Full Members.
sunday 9	<b>LOOK LEAN ROLL (T)</b> One course that is a must. Look out for the latest courses in the web shop on tvam.org/Shop/Courses.
sunday <b>9</b>	WAGs SECOND SUNDAY SHORTY RIDE (B) For those who don't want to be out too long - half day ride. Check WAGs calendar on groups.io as you may need to RSVP.
wednesday 12	<b>GNATs WEDNESDAY EVENING SOCIAL RIDES (B)</b> Join GNATs for an evening ride with usually a finish inclusing a supper stop. See GNATs calendar on groups.io.
saturday 15	<b>ABC COURSE - ODIHAM (T)</b> Attend our Advanced Braking Course at Odiham. Book via the TVAM shop at tvam.org – Track and Training Days.
sunday 16	<b>ST CRISPIN'S SUNDAY - 8.45am</b> Members' monthly meet at St Crispin's School, Wokingham. Observed rides for Associates and Social Runs for Full Members.
wednesday 19	<b>GNATs WEDNESDAY EVENING SOCIAL RIDES (B)</b> Join GNATs for an evening ride with usually a finish including a supper stop. See GNATs calendar on groups.io.
Social Run	Trip Event Track Day or Training Run/Trip Course

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saturday 22	<b>CLAMs T-Run (T)</b> Join the CLAMs Training Run. All Observers, TObs, Associates and Full Members welcome. See entry on groups.io all members calendar and CLAMs calendar on groups.io
sunday 23	<b>KEITH'S ANNUAL ISLE OF WIGHT RUN (B+)</b> The now infamous annual run to and around the Isle of Wight is back for its third year. So join Keith and Allie Gane (back marker) for a great day out, but please ensure that you read the information for this event on the groups.io calendar entry before emailing Keith Miller to bag your place.
sunday 23	<b>WOBMOB FOURTH SUNDAY SOCIAL RUN (B)</b> Join the WOBMOB on their monthly ride out, sampling some great roads and coffee stops along the way. 4th Sunday of each month. Check out the WOBMOB calendar for further details.
wednesday 26	<b>GNATs WEDNESDAY EVENING SOCIAL RIDES (B)</b> Join GNATs for an evening ride with usually a finish including a supper stop. See GNATs calendar on groups.io.
sunday 30	<b>ROBBIE'S FIFTH SUNDAY RUN (B)</b> Grab a fifth Sunday run with WAGs starting in Wantage. Details to be posted on groups.io. See WAGs calendar for latest.
AUGUST 2	.023
wednesday 2	<b>GNATs WEDNESDAY EVENING SOCIAL RIDES (B)</b> Join GNATs for an evening ride with usually a finish including a supper stop. See GNATs calendar on groups.io.
saturday 5	<b>SAMs FIRST SATURDAY RUN (B)</b> Meet at Jenner's Cafe, Ray Mead Road, Maidenhead, SL6 8NP at 9am to join SAMs run. See SAMs calendar for latest.
sunday	<b>GNATs FIRST SUNDAY RUN (B)</b> Join the GNATs for their first Sunday of the month run. Go to GNATs on groups.io for run details and to sign up.
sunday	SEAN'S FIRST SUNDAY SOCIAL RUN (B) All day ride with WAGs, starting at a different place each month. Check WAGs calendar on groups.io as you may need to RSVP.
wednesday 9	<b>GNATs WEDNESDAY EVENING SOCIAL RIDES (B)</b> Join GNATs for an evening ride with usually a finish including a supper stop. See GNATs calendar on groups.io.
saturday 12	<b>LUNCH IN WILTSHIRE (B)</b> With some great roads in between. Approx. 130 miles round trip finishing at Sutton Scotney around 3pm. Meet at former Little Nellie's Diner, Newbury Road, Kingsclere, RG20 4TA at 8.30am for 9am departure. Run leader Mark Spittles 07753 931570. Limited to 10 riders

Anything for the calendar - email slipstream@tvam.org

sunday 13	<b>LOOK LEAN ROLL (T)</b> One course that is a must. Look out for the latest courses in the web shop on tvam.org/Shop/Courses.
sunday 13	GREEN TEAM RUN - Hosted by WAGs (B) Details to be posted on groups.io in both the allmembers and the hosting team's calendars. A monthly run for Full Members.
sunday 13	WAGs SECOND SUNDAY SHORTY RIDE (B) For those who don't want to be out too long – half day ride. Check WAGs calendar on groups.io as you may need to RSVP.
wednesday 16	<b>GNATs WEDNESDAY EVENING SOCIAL RIDES (B)</b> Join GNATs for an evening ride with usually a finish including a supper stop. See GNATs calendar on groups.io.
sunday 20	<b>ST CRISPIN'S SUNDAY - 8.45am</b> Members' monthly meet at St Crispin's School, Wokingham. Observed rides for Associates and Social Runs for Full Members.
wednesday 23	<b>GNATs WEDNESDAY EVENING SOCIAL RIDES (B)</b> Join GNATs for an evening ride with usually a finish including a supper stop. See GNATs calendar on groups.io.
saturday 26	<b>CLAMs FOURTH SATURDAY RUN (B)</b> Details to be posted on groups.io. See CLAMs calendar for latest.
sunday 27	<b>GNATs T-Run (T)</b> Join the GNATs Training Run. All Observers, TObs, Associates and Full Members welcome. See entry on groups.io all members calendar and GNATs calendar on groups.io
	Join the GNATs Training Run. All Observers, TObs, Associates and Full Members welcome. See entry on groups.io all members calendar
27 sunday	Join the GNATs Training Run. All Observers, TObs, Associates and Full Members welcome. See entry on groups.io all members calendar and GNATs calendar on groups.io <b>WOBMOB FOURTH SUNDAY SOCIAL RUN (B)</b> Join the WOBMOB on their monthly ride out, sampling some great roads and coffee stops along the way. 4th Sunday of each month. Check out the WOBMOB calendar for further details.
27 <sup>SUNDAY</sup> 27	Join the GNATs Training Run. All Observers, TObs, Associates and Full Members welcome. See entry on groups.io all members calendar and GNATs calendar on groups.io <b>WOBMOB FOURTH SUNDAY SOCIAL RUN (B)</b> Join the WOBMOB on their monthly ride out, sampling some great roads and coffee stops along the way. 4th Sunday of each month. Check out the WOBMOB calendar for further details.
27 sunday 27 septemb saturday	Join the GNATS Training Run. All Observers, TObs, Associates and Full Members welcome. See entry on groups.io all members calendar and GNATs calendar on groups.io <b>WOBMOB FOURTH SUNDAY SOCIAL RUN (B)</b> Join the WOBMOB on their monthly ride out, sampling some great roads and coffee stops along the way. 4th Sunday of each month. Check out the WOBMOB calendar for further details. <b>ER 2023</b> <b>SAMs FIRST SATURDAY RUN (B)</b> Meet at Jenner's Cafe, Ray Mead Road, Maidenhead, SL6 8NP at

sunday 3	<b>SEAN'S FIRST SUNDAY SOCIAL RUN (B)</b> All day ride with WAGs, starting at a different place each month. Check WAGs calendar on groups.io as you may need to RSVP.
sunday 10	<b>WOBMOB T-Run (T)</b> Join the WOBMOB Training Run. All Observers, TObs, Associates and Full Members welcome. See entry on groups.io all members calendar and WOBMOB calendar on groups.io
sunday 10	WAGs SECOND SUNDAY SHORTY RIDE (B) For those who don't want to be out too long – half day ride. Check WAGs calendar on groups.io as you may need to RSVP.
sunday 10	<b>LOOK LEAN ROLL (T)</b> One course that is a must. Look out for the latest courses in the web shop on tvam.org/Shop/Courses.
saturday 16	<b>ABC COURSE - ODIHAM (T)</b> Attend our Advanced Braking Course at Odiham. Book via the TVAM shop at tvam.org – Track and Training Days.
sunday 17	<b>ST CRISPIN'S SUNDAY - 8.45am</b> Members' monthly meet at St Crispin's School, Wokingham. Observed rides for Associates and Social Runs for Full Members.
FRI-SUN 22-24	WELSH WANDERS (B) Spend a weekend riding around in beautiful Wales. Louise, Ness, Andy and Ian would be delighted to show you some of the roads they know and love. This social riding weekend combines great roads with a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. Based at the Hotel Commodore in Llandrindod Wells, the format is a full day riding on Friday; a full day ride out on Saturday and then a more direct ride back to England on the Sunday. Price for the weekend is £110 per person sharing a twin or double room and £120 for a single. Price includes two nights three-course dinner with coffee/tea, and full breakfasts both days. All welcome, register interest now – https://forms.gle/ N996VxmDmfiXfKSd8.

#### **TVAM Run Ratings**

- A: Skilled/progressive for confident riders on all types of road.
- B+: Progressive pace for the confident, focused rider.
- B: Medium paced, relaxed ride.

Trip

- C: Suitable for first timers or those looking for a MORE leisurely pace. No overtaking within the group.
- T: More formal training run observed/social ride with an element of coaching.

Social Run

Event

Track Day or Training Run/Trip

Course

#### Anything for the calendar - email slipstream@tvam.org





The *Slipstream* legal corner is brought to you by Gavin Grewal of White Dalton Motorcycle Solicitors. Gavin is a qualified Solicitor in England and Wales and a passionate biker. He currently rides a ZZR1400 and a GSA1250. Gavin also works as a Roads Policing Officer having racked up 12 years' experience with two different police forces. TVAM members are invited to put legal questions (bike related of course!) which may be answered in future articles to gavin@whitedalton.co.uk

#### A track day risk

A lot of us enjoy our motorcycles on the road, whether in the UK or abroad. Some of us enjoy track days. This piece is on the risks associated with track days. Not the obvious risk of crashing your motorcycle but rather your legal liability to others.

At the time of writing this piece, there is no provider of insurance for track days other than for your own motorcycle. So, the insurer will cover your motorcycle if it is crashed (usually subject to a hefty excess) but I cannot find an insurer willing to cover third party risks.

At the extreme end of the spectrum, if you crashed your motorcycle on a track day and it cartwheeled off, catching fire and setting fire to 10 other bikes, you currently cannot insure against such a risk. Potentially leaving you liable for those 10 motorcycles which were destroyed in a fire.

A more realistic example is that of pushing too hard, on track, and crashing into another biker. If you injure them and damage their motorcycle, there is a real risk you will be held liable in court. The usual response I get is 'no, it is a track day'... 'you cannot possibly sue someone for getting it wrong at a track day'. Yes, you can. The usual common law rules still apply. Track days are a non-contact sport, so crashing into another biker is going to take some explaining. If you attend track days at Silverstone Circuit, one of their rules is that 'no biker will come within 6 feet of another rider'. This is fairly important, as this is the basis upon which all riders agreed to ride on track. Other track day organisers, MSV for example, have clauses such as 'all agree not to ride dangerously or recklessly'. This is why signed terms and conditions and briefings are so important. If you are in breach of those rules, it can be used as evidence against you.

There is unlikely any claim against the track day owner or organiser, as they are not responsible for someone else's poor riding. They will be responsible for failure to risk assess and implement safety measures (if something goes wrong) but thankfully, such cases are very rare.

You are not responsible for mechanical defects unless you have failed to ensure your motorcycle is fit for track use. For example, if you suffer a catastrophic engine failure resulting in oil all over the track, as long as you have properly maintained your motorcycle, you wouldn't be held liable if others crashed on that oil spill. The duty of care we owe other road users, is very similar to the duty we will owe fellow riders on track. So, it is important to understand the risks associated with riding on track. Not every accident will result in a successful claim, but you need to be aware, if you crash into a fellow rider's Panigale. You might be in the crosshairs for a £30k claim!

#### IAM ROADSMART 2023 SKILLS DAYS - BOOK NOW!





CROFT Length: 2.1miles County: Yorkshire

BLYTON PARK Length: 1.6miles Lincolnshire



MALLORY PARK Length: 1.4miles Leicestershire

Tuesday 22nd – Blyton Park

Tuesday 19th – Mallory Park

Tuesday 26th – Thruxton

August

September

THRUXTON Length: 2.4miles Hampshire

Monday 22nd – Thruxton

June Monday 12th – Mallory Park Tuesday 20th – Thruxton – LADIES' DAY

#### July

Mav

Wednesday 5th – Croft Wednesday 12th – Mallory Park

Session duration: Full day Cost: £215 per person For full information go to www.iamroadsmart.com/events/skills-days



#### Call 0300 303 1134 to book

#### 

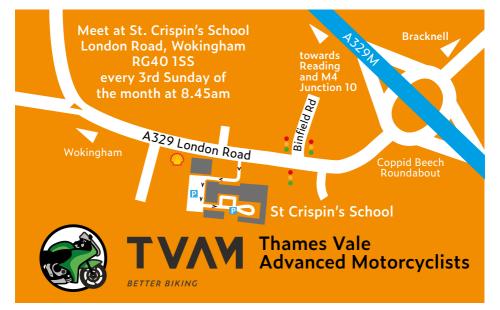
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#### **CLUB MEETS**

We meet from 8.45am on the 3rd Sunday of each month at St. Crispin's School, London Road, Wokingham, RG40 1SS. We welcome any wanting to come for an observed ride, or to see what we are about and just grab a coffee and a biscuit – and you can join here!



#### LOCAL TEAM MEETS - contact your local team for online meeting times.

To join a team other than your own, go to groups.io all members and see Wiki - Join a subgroup

#### **Basingstoke (BAR)**

 When:
 First Monday of the month

 Where:
 Iron Bull Roadhouse Cafe, Water End

 Park, Old Basing, Basingstoke, RG24 7BB

 Time:
 7.30pm

#### Camberley (CLAMs)

- When: 1st Tuesday every month
- Where: The Windmill, London Road, Windlesham, Surrey, GU2O 6PJ Time: 8pm

#### Great Northern (GNATs)

- Meet 1: After each St Crispin's for coffee at The Farm Café, Ashridge Manor Garden Centre, Forest Road, Wokingham, RG40 5QY
- Meet2: Wednesday evening rides throughout the summer months - register with GNATs on groups.io
- Meet 3: Rideout first Sunday of the month.

#### Reading (RAMs)

When:	First Monday of the month
Where:	Fox and Hounds, Theale, RG7 4BE
Time:	8pm – ride beforehand see RAMs group in groups.io for details

#### Slough (SAM)

First Saturday of the month
Jenners Riverside Café, Ray Mead Road,
Maidenhead, SL6 8NP
9am

#### Wantage & Newbury (WAGs)

When:	Second Wednesday of the month
How:	Ye Olde Red Lion, Chieveley, RG20 8XB
Time:	7.30pm

#### Wokingham & Bracknell (WOBMOB)

When:	3rd Tuesday of the month
How:	Join us - wobmob@tvam.groups.io
Time:	Zoom call at 8pm

#### OBSERVER CONTACTS

Aardvarks Allocations Assessments Cross Checks Cross Check link Observer Health Checks Observer Interest Observer Training Test Passes Trainee Observer Coordinator Adrian Ellison Peter Browne Andv Wedae Simon Whatley

Andv Wedge Andy Wedge Adrian Ellison Peter Browne Hev Smith

aardvarks@tvam.org allocations@tvam.org assessments@tvam.org crosschecks@tvam.org www.tvam.org/cross-check-request observerhealthchecks@tvam.org observerinterest@tvam.org observertraining@tvam.org testpasses@tvam.org tobcoordinator@tvam.org

#### **OBSERVER FORUM (mailing list):**

Observer Group

https://tvam.groups.io/g/observers

#### LOCAL TEAM CONTACTS

Dana Gottschalk, Ben Graham

Danny de Matos, Stephen Cudd

Jez Brown, Bri Walmsley

Gary Jackson

Paul Gilmore

Nick Edalev

#### TEAM LEADERS (teamleaders@tvam.org): Quarterly meetings - Zoom - 7.30pm Graham Carter

Basingstoke (BAR) Camberley (CLAMs) Great Northern (GNATs) Reading (RAMs) Slough (SAM) Wantage & Newbury (WAGs) Wokingham & Bracknell (WOBMOB) Andy MacWalter, Allie Gane Green Team

#### SOCIAL CONTACTS (socialleaders@tvam.org):

Basingstoke (BAR) Camberley (CLAMs) Great Northern (GNATs) Reading (RAMs) Slough (SAM) Wantage & Newbury (WAGs) Wokingham (WOBMOB) Green Team

Mark Spittles Caroline Harvey Garv Jackson Dana Gottschalk, Ben Graham Danny de Matos, Stephen Cudd Paul Gilmore, Mimi Carter Jonas Andv MacWalter and Allie Gane Nick Edgley

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Slipstream editor and designer: Salli G - slipstream@tvam.org Editorial team: Kathy Wright, Nick Tasker, Robin Hennem and Paul Harris Copy deadline: 3rd week of the month. To ensure your article or information is included please inform the Editor to book space - slipstream@tyam at the earliest opportunity, issues are planned well in advance of send to print date which is generally the first Sunday of the month. Advertisement sales: advertising@tvam.org.

TVAM enquiries: 0118 402 4800 TVAM Website: www.tvam.org

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#### **CLUB CONTACTS**

#### Committee (committee@tvam.groups.io): Who are they? Photos on groups.io

Chairman	Barrie Smith		chairman@tvam.org
Chief Observer	Adrian Ellison		chiefobserver@tvam.org
	SMS/WhatsApp	07444 790968	
Secretary	Ian Gaitley		secretary@tvam.org
Treasurer	Bjorg Arnadottir		treasurer@tvam.org
Membership Secretary	Dave Simmons	0118 402 4800	membership@tvam.org
Slipstream Editor	Salli Griffith		slipstream@tvam.org
Green Team Leader	Nick Edgley		greenteam@tvam.org

**Committee Meetings**: These are held at James House, Mere Park, Dedmere Road, Marlow, SL7 1FJ Next Meeting: (M - Marlow/Internet), 14th June 2023 (I), - all meetings normally on second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. If a member wishes to attend they should contact Ian Gaitley - secretary@tvam.org before the meeting date.

#### **Special Roles:**

Special Roles		
Advanced Bike Control	Chris Caswell advancedbikecontrol@	
Advanced Plus (previously EAR)	Andy Wedge/Adrian Ellison	advancedplus@tvam.org
Advertising	Salli Griffith	advertising@tvam.org
BikeCraft	Di Woodcock	bikecraft@tvam.org
Bike Maintenance	Adrian Ellison	bikemaintenance@tvam.org
BikeSafe	Simon Rawlins	bikesafe@tvam.org
Café and Stopover Database	Chris Brownlee	cafedatabase@tvam.org
Events	Barrie Smith	events@tvam.org
Events Diary (non-run events)	Salli Griffith	eventsdiary@tvam.org
Girl Torque	Salli Griffith, Dee Smith	girltorque@tvam.org
Groups.io Support	Andy Wedge, Chris Brownlee	groups.io@tvam.org
Incident Reporting	Training Team	incident@tvam.org
Leaflet Supply	Barrie Smith	leaflets@tvam.org
Look Lean Roll	Lesley Bugby	llr@tvam.org
Meet & Greet Team	Catherine Russell	meetandgreet@tvam.org
Midweek Runs	Alan Hudson	midweekruns@tvam.org
Offroad Riding	Mark Barrett	offroad@tvam.org
Pillion Rider Course	Alan Hudson	prc@tvam.org
Red Zone	Mel Hakhnazarian	redzone@tvam.org
Run Leader & Back Marker Course	Vickie Krevatin runle	eaderbackmarker@tvam.org
Social Media	Kyriakos Chrysostomou, Aaron Braich	socialmedia@tvam.org
Social Run Co-ordinators	Nick Edgley, Salli Griffith	socialruns@tvam.org
St Crispin's Sunday Runs	Alan Mossman	sundaysocialruns@tvam.org
Tea & Coffee Bar at St Crispin's	Carole Hooper	coffeebar@tvam.org
Toy Run	Steve Harris (volunteers for Dec Toy R	un) toyrun@tvam.org
Track Skills Days (Training)	Dave Hepworth	circuitskills@tvam.org
Webmaster	Steve Dennis	webmaster@tvam.org
M/- L - L -		

#### Website:

TVAM Website www.tvam.org The website gives you access to the web shop for booking courses, trips, training and track days.

#### TVAM groups.io

groups.io is the system used by TVAM to share details of news, events and much more. https://groups.io/groups

You will automatically be added to the system when you join TVAM so you can get involved in the conversations with other members. There are local team and special interest groups available for you to join also. Get involved and find out what's happening.

Correspondence Address & Tel: 23 Comet Way, Woodley, Reading, Berkshire, RG5 4NZ.

T: 0118 402 4800

#### **Registered Office:**

Thames Vale Advanced Motorcyclists is a charitable company limited by guarantee, and is a group within the IAM. c/o Durrants Accountants, 24 Wellington Business Park, Dukes Ride, Crowthorne, Berkshire, RG45 6LS. Registration Number: 03556042. Charity Number 1069767.



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