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THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR TVM MEMBERS

*AUGUST 2023*

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Well St. Crispin's looked a little different in July and will continue to do so for some while. The bike parking, now at the front of the school, looked very tidy and the weather played ball, so gathering outside by the science block was not a problem. We look forward to interesting times ahead as the building work continues.

With not a lot else on offer from members I have made good use of a long piece from Paul Wells of Mountainseekers looking at European motorbike travel to some destinations they have used. Paul takes us round France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy and Slovenia, looking at the main passes for our beloved twisties and also some of the larger cities and towns with some useful suggestions.

Do remember if you aren't going with an experienced, organised trip and you are planning to take a group you are advised to use Alex Harding at Not Just Travel to avoid falling foul of the European Package Deal Directive. Visit <https://alexharding.notjusttravel.com>

If you are staying within the UK, how about doing the North Coast 300 rather than the hugely popular NC500. A route by Nigel Taylor is on the centre pages.

Enjoy your riding and keep the rubber side down!

*Slipstream*  
Slipstream Editor





# TVAM ROLL OF HONOUR

*BETTER BIKING*

## NEW MEMBERS IN JULY

Stuart Bale  
Mark Brooke  
Odette Collins  
Chris Day  
Andrew Eagles  
Nick Edwards  
Matthew Fairburn

Christopher Freer-Smith  
David Gelder  
Richard Haseler  
Anthony Haworth  
Michael Kelly  
Paul Lynes  
Barry MacGregor

Mark Morrish  
Paul Roswell  
Simon Walker  
Paul Pieri  
Nigel Richmond  
Charlie Young

## LATEST TEST PASSES

### Candidate

Sylvester De Koster  
Dave Mangan  
Stuart Saunders  
Andy Smith  
Phil Smith  
Gabor Suranyi  
Nigel Thorogood  
Danny Wozny

### Observer

Carole Hooper  
Andrew McWalter  
Crispin Walker  
Peter Dalglish  
Sukhraj Mattoo  
Charon Willis  
David Parker  
Sigurdur Petursson

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with a **FIRST** Pass

## NATIONAL OBSERVER VALIDATIONS

Jeremy Davies  
Sigurdur Petursson

Michael Hattey  
Mark Powell

Aaron McBarnett  
Paul Wells

## NATIONAL OBSERVER IN TRAINING VALIDATION

Ian Hatt

## NEW RUN LEADER/ BACK MARKER

Nick Caiger-Smith



*Test passes and new TObs and National Observer at the July meet*

## FROM THE SADDLE

After a blistering June, July has not been much to write home about. Nonetheless, I hope that you've managed to find some time in the saddle either here in the UK or touring abroad?

Fifty-six of us managed to dodge the showers at the beginning of July for the Observer Weekend in Wales. I was delighted that we had 12 Trainee Observers join us, with six members coming for their first time. It only represents around 35% of the Observer Corps and so I want to know how we can make it even more inclusive. We focused on giving feedback, using the 1-10 scalar technique, and on tips to better fill out Run Report Forms, so don't be surprised if your Observer tries some of these out on your next ride!

Much of the Committee's time last month was spent preparing for the huge changes at St Crispin's School. An army of volunteers arrived at 7.30am to plan out how best to make use of our allocation of the front car park and to ensure marshals were on hand to guide everyone safely in and out. We were blessed with some fine weather, which certainly helped. We are indebted to all of you that helped make the last St Crispin's work. Yes, we learned a few things along the way, and will make a few changes for this month. Hopefully by September, the School will have erected a temporary canteen that we will be able to use. Again, we thank you for your continued patience.

I often get questions about Groups.io, especially why some messages get posted and others don't. So, I thought I would explain how and why we use it. We've been using Groups.io since April 2019. Before that, we relied upon a number of Yahoo groups that were created by various members, over which, we had no control. Messages were sent by email – some of you still love email and some of you (like me) loathe it! Groups.io allows you to use email to post and pick up messages if you wish and there is a mobile app for those that prefer that. You choose how you want to be notified of new messages. For example, there is a Digest containing all the message text of up to 12 messages and the Daily Summary, which contains links to messages which can then be read online. Members opting to receive individual messages rather than a Digest or Summary appears to be the most popular.

The Committee have been tracking the usage of Groups.io as an indicator of member engagement since October 2019. The data shows a really high level of participation. In the last year an average of 97% of the membership were registered users (and in some months, that reached 99%). In the same year, on average, 466 posts by 167 members were made each month. The highest number of posts in a month was in September 2020, at 988 (by 255 members), which perhaps does not surprise, given it was at the height of Covid! The lowest number of posts in a month, at 305, was in March this year, which is a little more surprising but still a good level of engagement.

So why don't we use WhatsApp or any other social media tool for that matter? Well, there is a simple reason for that – compliance. As a Club, Company and Charity, any tool we use for Club business must be compliant with Data Protection, the Equalities Act, the Defamation Act and a whole lot more legislation. It is worth noting that Groups.io has no advertising and no tracking (so it's free from the prying eyes of your

favourite search engine). The club therefore needs to be able to control who has access, when access is revoked (i.e. if a member leaves TVAM) and to keep the space free from defamatory or other unwanted content. We also need to make sure as much of the content posted is relevant to as many of you as possible. With such a big Club, this isn't always an easy task and there is a fine balance to be struck between what some might call 'moderation' and others 'censorship'. To help in that distinction, we published some guidelines. The full set can be found here: <https://tvam.groups.io/g/allmembers/guidelines>. A few topics that sometimes cause confusion are:

- You may only post for sale items that are yours. You can't post on behalf of non-members and only motorcycling related items are allowed.
- You can't request support for other charities, however noble the cause. Potential exceptions are information on MAG activities, marshal support for the Reading Toy Run and comment on Air Ambulance activities, but not fund raising.
- Team runs can be posted on the Local Team calendar. For all-member club rides, messages are not sent to remind everyone about rides that are on the allmembers calendar but are included in the calendar summary every Friday. No reminders are sent for individual rides. Upcoming events are advertised on the Wiki banner, where possible.

Groups.io is the Club communications tool, with separate subgroups for each local team, for Observers (including trainee Observers), run leaders, and team leaders. It's also a great place to find out what's going on – check out the calendar – and some events are designed so that you can sign-up (RSVP) online too. There is information in the Wiki section as well as a host of documentation in the Files section, including electronic versions of all the advanced riding documents, SatNav routes (also available as PDFs), minutes of the various meetings and electronic versions of Slipstream. So please do make the most of it.

I am indebted to Andy Wedge and Chris Brownlee for running Groups.io, which is no easy feat and takes considerable time and effort.

Finally, just another plug for the excellent TVAM Online Quizzes. Brush up on your knowledge – how much of the Highway Code do you still remember? How many of you have updated your copy with the new one? What about your knowledge of the Advanced Rider Course (ARC), Motorcycle Roadcraft and Motorcycle Control? Two versions of the quizzes are available via the Groups.io Wiki (<https://tvam.groups.io/g/allmembers/wiki/25650>). Level 1 is designed to test your knowledge of the Highway Code and Road Signs and Level 2 adds in Roadcraft and the Advanced Rider Course. They are ideal if you are an Associate preparing for your advanced test. There is also a more detailed Observer quiz available via the Observer Wiki for those validating or re-validating as a National Observer, or an Observer about to undertake your National Observer validation or re-validation.

Here's hoping that sun comes out soon and you can make the most of it!

**Adrian Ellison**  
**TVAM Chief Observer**





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# Food for thought if you're planning a European trip?



With many of you thinking of heading to the continent we thought we would share with you some of the places we travel. Andy Griffin and I have been organising trips into Europe since 2014, calling our trips "Mountainseekers", to explore the twisty roads, so thought it might be a good opportunity to share some of the places we've visited and the roads we've ridden to give you some ideas and maybe help you plan your own trips and share what we've learnt whilst doing this.

Generally, we have a small group of people with us many of whom are TVAM members. Most of our days we ride for approximately 4-5 hours with regular breaks for fuel, coffee, (when they are open, more on that later), and lunch breaks. We try to pick reasonable quality accommodation generally within walking distance of a town to give options for restaurants and bars, but we also just use the hotel restaurants when that's more convenient.

We normally choose to use the tunnel for convenience, it's usually very easy and quick with an average 35 min crossing time but we've also had issues and when things go wrong, they really can be a pain. We once had a five-hour delay due to a cable coming loose in one of the tunnels meaning they had to try to work out how to send trains each way up the same tunnel until the problem was sorted which as you'll appreciate was very tricky and left us riding home in the dark having already ridden 250 miles to Calais. Obviously peak holiday season is best avoided, if you do go on a bank holiday weekend expect to wait at least a couple of hours before you get on. Passport control can be a bit of a pain, the French now need to stamp your passport in and out of the country and when you return you also have to remove your helmet to show your face at UK Immigration unless you have a flip front. Don't expect to get any special treatment as a rider either, if it's raining or roasting hot then you'll be in the queue like everyone else and some car drivers can get extremely narky if you try to push in front of them while they sit in their air conditioning with you cooking in your leathers.

Once into France the fun begins though, we generally do the first 100 miles or so on the motorway – (Péage, which is a paid for motorway, normally about 6-8



euros), because the north coast of France is not really all that interesting, lots of little villages and straight roads, so we head for Cambrai and stop for lunch.

There are many countries to head for with good, interesting roads so here's a few of them: -

### **Northern Vosges - France**

The Northern Vosges are essentially a low set of hills, heavily forested and with some great twisty roads, it's worth heading to Dabo and taking a trip up the hill to Le Rocher de Dabo (the rock of Dabo), it's got an amazing view across the Alsace region and if you spend the few Euros to go into the church you can climb to the very top and see for miles.

### **Vosges Mountains - France**

The Vosges is probably the easiest place to try out if you're a first timer, only 1400m at its peak so you're not climbing too high. The Route de Crete / Grand Ballon road is fantastic, nice and flowing to start with then into tight hairpin bends which have cobbled corners on the descent on the south side. There are numerous roads around the Vosges and you could easily spend two or three days exploring just this region with plenty of Col's and lakes to explore. Road surfaces are generally very good but, in the damp/wet watch out for the cobbled corners and the over banding can become slippery. Like all mountains the weather can change very quickly so if you start off in bright sunshine you could still end up in thick cloud or rain by the time you get up there so be prepared.



### **Black Forest Germany**

We love the roads around the Black Forest region, the road surfaces are generally excellent and the mix of flowing bends and hairpins along with amazing views make this a region to visit.

The B500 is probably the most famous road in the region and while many slate it as "not that great any more" we still think it's a fantastic road to ride for the views. It

became a bit of a mecca for bikers and that's caused problems with speed and accidents, so the German police have put in stringent measures so it's now quite restrictive to ride.

However, if you go a few roads either side of the B500 there are tons of fantastic routes to ride that are just as good or better. South of Baden Baden it gets really interesting with lots of very tight twisty roads that will really test your skills and if you like cuckoo clocks and teddy bears you have to head to Triberg and the house of a 1000 clocks.

## **SWITZERLAND**

Swiss roads are pretty amazing. They are so well maintained and there is such a choice of great places to visit and great roads to ride – these are some of the recent ones we've taken:

### **Fluhli pass**

This is a tight, exceptionally twisty route down to and through Fluhli, it's like riding a constant chicane for 5 miles so it's great fun.

### **Panorama pass**

This is a narrow road with passing spots so needs to be treated with care, road surface is good but blind bends and oncoming traffic is the primary issue. The reward at the top of the pass though is the most amazing panoramic view of the mountains and lake.

### **Grimsel Pass**

Simply put, it's one of the best passes in Switzerland. We rode it this time from the north side to the south. It starts off fairly open and flowing, gradually becoming tighter and more twisty. The lakes and reservoirs along the route are truly stunning. If you stop by the sign, you can go and visit the Marmots too then you have the most amazing twisty run back down to join the Furka pass.



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## **Furka pass**

The Furka is not as smooth as some of the other Swiss roads but they have been doing a lot of work on it. There's quite an uneven surface and combined with tight hairpins and steep climbs this will really test your riding abilities, still a very worthwhile road to ride and it's where Goldfinger was filmed back in the 60's.

## **Susten pass**

This is a stunning mountain pass, real mixture of long valley roads and hairpins with tunnels and steep climbs and a balcony road too – an absolute must if you're visiting this area.

## **Simplon Pass**

This is a nice easy pass at the Swiss side, quite open and flowing with stunning views dropping down into Italy with many tunnels including one with a hairpin bend in it. The final stretch on the Italian side (SS337) is not such a good road surface but is like a 5+ mile constant chicane so great fun to ride and takes you all the way down to Lake Maggiore.

## **Great San Bernadino pass**

The southern side (Italy) of the Great San Bernadino is quite open and flowing. As you climb this becomes tighter and tighter to the very top where there's a lake and it's almost constant hairpins all the way down into Switzerland, a really interesting road but last time was in thick fog so we couldn't see the landscape. The previous visit it was damp but clear and it's quite amazing, like another planet in places.

## **Splügen Pass**

This is one of the most technical passes we've ridden, really tricky with countless hairpins and due to landslides some of the road is just a gravel track. This one really isn't for the faint hearted and needs you to be on you're A game.

## **Ofen Pass**

Between Italy and Switzerland is the Ofenpass which is a nice high alpine route that has more gentle bends than tight hairpins through some great vista, pretty easy to ride with an excellent road surface.

## **Fluela Pass**

Effectively the continuation of the same road and another easy road to ride with a few nice hairpins taking you up to the ski resort of Davos.





*Hauptstrasse,  
Switzerland*



*Bernina Pass, Switzerland*

## **Hauptstrasse**

This is the drop down from Davos with some nice tricky hairpins and steep climbs and descents.

## **ITALY**

### **Maloja Pass**

This is a nice flowing mountain road with a good surface that gradually rises and becomes tighter and the views are amazing.

### **Bernina Pass**

Tight hairpins through the rocky outcrops that take you up through the hills to the large lake. A great road surface and again stunning views all the way.

### **Forcola di Livignio**

From the Bernina pass, turn off towards Livignio. This is a great stretch of road nestled in the mountain valley winding its way along – not too taxing to ride but well worth it and it takes you up to the Livignio lake and ultimately onto the tunnel, (paid for), which is one-way traffic and approximately 3.5km long so expect some loud exhaust tunes through there! However, this was closed Sep-Jan again this year, so we went a different route this time.

Piazzola Pass (SS301) is an absolute gem to ride. Massive vistas open up on a tight hairpin-laden road that takes you down to Bormio – you will get stopped at the top by customs to see if you bought anything in duty free Livignio.

### **Stelvio Pass**

We've ridden the Stelvio on many occasions in wet and dry. The Italian side of the pass is actually quite a decent road to ride but be warned it's absolutely rammed with traffic and on our last trip it was a Sunday morning and every bicycle in Italy had decided to climb it so it was even harder work than normal. At the top there's a good but expensive café and the views are amazing. The descent into Switzerland is very tight hairpins with a really poor road surface and terrible drivers/riders so in my opinion it's not the best one to do but we understand that it's one of those "bucket list" places to go – for me I'd be happy if we never did it again.

### **Jaufen Pass**

This is another one of the roads that was a real gem to find, it rises from Italy into Austria and starts off fairly open turning into multiple hairpins with decent runs in



between. The surface is excellent and the views across the mountains are just amazing – we did this the first time in about three feet of snow and it was just stunning – thankfully the road had been completely cleared though.

## **Slovenia**

### **Vrsic Pass**

We ride south through Austria to Slovenia and follow a route past the Mangart Saddle road, (which apparently is a very good ride but goes nowhere so it's a ride up and ride back), around a loop roughly from Tarvisio in Italy to Kransjka Gora in Slovenia. We rode this for the second time this year having done it back in 2019 and I have to say the road surface had deteriorated significantly in that time. This is a highly technical road with multiple hairpins that will really test your tyres on the west side of the pass and on the east side descent it's cobbled corners that are uneven and broken up so another one that we've decided we'll probably give a miss in future, it's also quite a busy road.

## **AUSTRIA**

### **Nockalmstrasse**

Many Austrian mountain roads are paid for roads and this was formerly the Porsche testing track based near Gmund. This is another absolute cracker of a road with a great mix of hairpins and climbs to test the best riders and with over 50 turns in 34km it'll really keep you on your toes.

### **Grossglockner**

This is a fantastic road, 48km with options to run up to the bikers meeting points – we went up to the glacier and it's well worth the trip. The road snakes up the mountain with ever-tightening hairpins to deliver you high up into the Alps. At 2500 meters above sea level it's not quite as high as the Stelvio but it's a much better road to ride. Again, a paid for road but well worth the money.

### **Gerlos Pass**

This was one of those accidental mountain pass roads that we didn't realise was a paid for pass the first time we did it. On the east side it starts off at the bottom of the valley on long and sweeping roads and gets tighter as you climb and drop back down to more sweeping bends – a nice easy pass for beginners but still fun to do.

### **Timmelsjoch**

If you want to test your skills this is a great place to do it. We came from the north, (Austrian), side which is a nice climb up into the hills with decent hairpins inviting you to test your tyres and bravery – watch out for the sheep running around unfenced on this side of the mountain! Then you pay your fee and can visit the motorcycle museum or just head off on the road which tempts you in with tight hairpins that you can see ahead and steep rises and descents with low walls giving a great view of the valleys below – road surface is pretty good and although it was fairly busy it was still easy to navigate along the route.

We've stayed in a number of towns and these are some of the best: –

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## Cities and Towns...

### FRANCE

Prices in France vary dramatically, not just by region but by hotel in certain towns however generally we've always found it to be pretty good value for money. We've always found people exceptionally friendly and welcoming to bikers. We've found that generally French drivers are more respectful of bikes and tend to give you lots of room and often driving practically off road to allow you to overtake – there's always the exception though and that doesn't necessarily fit for the city people so always be on your guard.

#### **Saint Quentin**

A nice little town not too far from the Tunnel with a good square of nice restaurants and bars and a reasonable selection of hotels nearby.

#### **Charleville-Mézières**

This a great town to stop in with a large cobbled square and lots of bars and restaurants to eat at, well worth a stop even if it's just for a coffee on the way through.

#### **Metz**



This is one of the bigger cities we go to, lots of options for hotels and a walk through to the centre of town rewards you with countless bars and restaurants.

#### **Pont a Mousson**

This was one of the first towns we stopped in, and we continue to return regularly, there's great accommodation at the Abbey which has been converted and is stunning, the town is over the bridge and again lots of bars and restaurants to choose from.

*Continued on page 20*



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# Scotland North Coast 300

Route by Nigel Taylor

Distance: Just under 300 miles

Start at the Loch Ness Inn in Drumnadrochit, a great base for exploring this area. Fill up at the garage in the village as fuel is a bit scarce up here. Head south on the A82 alongside Lochness for 10 miles. Take the A887 west then pick up the A87 passing Loch Cluanie to Shiel Bridge. Continue on the A87 stopping at Eilean Donan Castle on the side of Loch Duich. You can't miss it. The Dornie hotel or the Clachan pub are both good for morning coffee.

Continue to Auchtertyre and turn right onto the A890 heading north to Strathcarron. Turn left on the A896 to Lochcarron where you'll find fuel. Continue to Tornapress and take the right turn ascending Bealach na Bla cattle drovers road. Descend to the Applecross Inn for a well earned lunch with views across the sea to Skye.

The next section is 25 miles of scenic coast road rejoining the A896 at Shieldaig. Follow the A896 for another 15 miles to Kinlochewe where you will find fuel if you need it. We then head even further north on the A832 alongside Loch Marree to Gairloch where you can visit the Russian Arctic Convoys Museum. Continue on the A832 eventually joining the A835 to Ullapool for afternoon tea and fuel.

Retrace the A835 south. Just after Contin take the right turn onto the A832. Follow the route back to Drumnadrochit for refreshments, an evening meal and reflection on 280 miles of some of the most rugged scenery in the UK.



Garmin and Tomtom files are in the file library on [groups.io/allmembers/Files/Routes/](https://groups.io/allmembers/Files/Routes/)

If you have a favourite ride you would like to share on these pages, please get in touch to add it to this series - [slipstream@tvam.org](mailto:slipstream@tvam.org).





## Mulhouse

This is a big city so there are lots of options for hotels, but we choose a traditional one in the old town which is a short walk to great restaurants and bars.

## Gerardmer

This is a lakeside town with amazing views and great walks. The town is not large, but it's packed with restaurants and bars so well worth a visit.



## Saint Claude

This is close to the Swiss border and a great staging point to ride through the twisty Jura Mountain roads into Switzerland – the D436 to the D1005 through Gex and onto Geneva is a great stretch of road.

## Epernay

This has been a favourite on all of our trips and almost always features – hotels can be expensive but the walk along the Avenue de Champagne is a great sight and where you can buy fizz by the glass or bottle, lots of bars and restaurants to choose from as well.

## Troyes

This is a “got to see” city, the centre is ancient timber buildings with many streets that look like they are a scene from Harry Potter. Hotels are not always that cheap, but the choice of bars and restaurants is excellent – we stop a little outside the main town and walk in – takes approximately 15 mins.

## GERMANY

We've found Germany to be good value for money generally but quite big differences in hotel costs depending where you are in the country. Food is excellent and well-priced and drinks are pretty reasonable, probably slightly cheaper than the UK

## Trier

This was the seat of the Roman Empire in Germany so it's an historic town with plenty to see, (thanks Peter Archibald for that information), the bars and restaurants are excellent and not too expensive and there are plenty of hotels to choose from.

## AUSTRIA

We've found Austria to be good value for money depending on where you stay, the price of hotels is reasonable and the cost for food and drinks is probably slightly cheaper than the UK.

## Lienz

This an interesting town with a mix of old and new buildings, lots of hotel choices and plenty of bars and restaurants to choose from.



## Imst

We chose this area after initially considering Innsbruck which was much busier and more expensive. Imst is tucked away and not a big town but has several very nice hotels and more importantly is a great setting off point to head either to the Timmelsjoch or Grossglockner passes as it sits between the two.

## ITALY

Italy is generally good value; hotels are reasonable depending on where you want to stay and food and drinks are not too badly priced. However, the Italian driver is a very unusual individual and can be quite aggressive so be on your guard and hang back if you're not sure and don't think that just because you've made the overtake that's the end of it, they will often try to re-take their bit of road and then slow down again. Road surfaces in Italy can be great or absolutely awful so be prepared.

## Livigno

This is a ski resort so although there are many hotels some may not be open in summer – this is well worth a visit though as it sits nicely in the landscape with views in every direction, traditional ski lodges abound and there are plenty of restaurants and bars to choose from. Oh and it's also a duty free state if you have room in your panniers!

## Morbegno

We've stayed here several times and there is a good choice of hotels and in the town there are plenty of places to eat and drink – it's well placed to get to the

Stelvio, down to the lakes or back up toward Switzerland but some of the roads around it are a bit boring, mostly trucking routes so try to get away from them as quickly as possible.

## SWITZERLAND

Everything is a premium in Switzerland so expect to pay much more for fuel, food and accommodation. On our last trip one of our guys was charged 9CHF for a bottle of fizzy water! The thing that keeps drawing us back though is the quality of the roads they have and fantastic places to visit.

### Brig

This a medium-sized town with lots of new building but the centre has kept many of the original old buildings, lots of hotels, bars and restaurants to choose from and an easy run to the Furkha or Simplon pass, (take the old road on the latter, it's much more fun).

### Chur

This is not a cheap place to visit! There are good hotels near the city centre and you have to visit the old walled town, it's packed with buildings dating back to 1500's. Lots of places to eat and drink but do expect to pay a premium for everything.

### Andermatt

This is great town to visit, very picturesque and where they filmed James Bond – I believe Goldfinger but don't hold me to that. There's a good choice of hotels and prices vary massively but we found a good value, very comfortable hotel in the centre and there are lots of places to eat and drink.



*Pont-a-Mousson, France*



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We try to plan things well in advance so we know where we are stopping for fuel, coffee and lunch but the best laid plans often fall to pieces, and we are well known for finding closed coffee and lunch stops because certain places just don't open on certain days so try to have alternatives planned if possible. The other common issues we've had are road closures, so we've spent many hours honing what we feel are the very best routes only to get there and there's a closure often with no marked diversion so know your routes as best you can and have alternatives that you can fall back on. Knowing how to fully use your sat nav is essential if you need to detour so spend the time on the internet learning all the tricks.

There are lots of other great routes all through central Europe to explore and we feel we've only scratched the surface. If you are a competent and confident rider then you really should consider getting away for a week or two or even just a long weekend to the Vosges. Your riding skills will be remarkably improved by the time you return, and if that's all too scary to start with then take a couple of friends and head for central Wales, at the very least try to get on a 7Ws, 3Rs weekend, or Welsh Wanderers - the roads are amazing and with great company.

I hope that's given you food for thought and who knows we might even see you on one of our trips in the future.

**Paul Wells**



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# 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](mailto:socialruns@tvam.org). Keep an eye on the [groups.io](https://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](https://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!

### AUGUST 2023

WEDNESDAY 9	<b>GNATs WEDNESDAY EVENING SOCIAL RIDES</b> Join GNATs for an evening ride with usually a finish including a supper stop. See GNATs calendar on <a href="https://groups.io">groups.io</a> .
SATURDAY 12	<b>LUNCH IN WILTSHIRE</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
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 <a href="https://tvam.org/Shop/Courses">tvam.org/Shop/Courses</a> .
SUNDAY 13	<b>GREEN TEAM RUN - Hosted by WAGs</b> Details to be posted on <a href="https://groups.io">groups.io</a> in both the allmembers and the hosting team's calendars. A monthly run for Full Members.
SUNDAY 13	<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 <a href="https://groups.io">groups.io</a> as you may need to RSVP.
WEDNESDAY 16	<b>GNATs WEDNESDAY EVENING SOCIAL RIDES</b> Join GNATs for an evening ride with usually a finish including a supper stop. See GNATs calendar on <a href="https://groups.io">groups.io</a> .
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.

**If you have any runs, courses, events or trips to add for 2023 please email them to [socialruns@tvam.org](mailto:socialruns@tvam.org) or [slipstream@tvam.org](mailto:slipstream@tvam.org)**

Social Run
  Trip
  Event
  Track Day or Training Run/Trip
  Course

WEDNESDAY 23	<b>GNATs WEDNESDAY EVENING SOCIAL RIDES</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> 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
SUNDAY 27	<b>WOBBMOB FOURTH SUNDAY SOCIAL RUN</b> Join the WOBBMOB on their monthly ride out, sampling some great roads and coffee stops along the way. 4th Sunday of each month. Check out the WOBBMOB calendar for further details.

## SEPTEMBER 2023

SATURDAY 2	<b>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.
SATURDAY 2	<b>POET'S CORNER</b> Run across North Hampshire, Wiltshire and Dorset on some fantastic roads, 165 miles further details to follow in groups.io calendar. Meet at McDonalds, Basingstoke Leisure Park, Worting Road, Basingstoke, RG22 6PG at 8.15am for 8.30am departure. Run Leader Mark Spittles 07753 931570. Limited to 10 riders.
SUNDAY 3	<b>GNATs FIRST SUNDAY RUN</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 3	<b>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.
SUNDAY 10	<b>WOBBMOB T-Run (T)</b> Join the WOBBMOB Training Run. All Observers, TOBs, Associates and Full Members welcome. See entry on groups.io all members calendar and WOBBMOB calendar on groups.io
SUNDAY 10	<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.
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.

Social Run
  Trip
  Event
  Track Day or Training Run/Trip
  Course

SATURDAY 16	<b>ABC COURSE - ODIHAM (T)</b> Attend our Advanced Braking Course at Odiham. Book via the TVAM shop at <a href="http://tvam.org">tvam.org</a> – 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	<b>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. Now fully booked.
	 
SATURDAY 23	<b>BREAKFAST AT CHOPPERS</b> A short run of 60 or so miles to a coffee and a fatboy breakfast stop back by midday. 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.
SATURDAY 23	<b>CLAMs FOURTH SATURDAY RUN</b> Details to be posted on <a href="http://groups.io">groups.io</a> . See CLAMs calendar for latest.
SUNDAY 24	<b>GREEN TEAM RUN - Hosted by WOBBMOB</b> Details to be posted on <a href="http://groups.io">groups.io</a> in both the allmembers and the hosting team's calendars. A monthly run for Full Members.
SUNDAY 24	<b>WOBBMOB FOURTH SUNDAY SOCIAL RUN</b> Join the WOBBMOB on their monthly ride out, sampling some great roads and coffee stops along the way. 4th Sunday of each month. Check out the WOBBMOB calendar for further details.
TUESDAY 26	<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 <a href="http://tvam.org">tvam.org</a> and head for the shop – Track and Training Days.

**If you have any runs, courses, events or trips to add for 2023 please email them to [socialruns@tvam.org](mailto:socialruns@tvam.org) or [slipstream@tvam.org](mailto:slipstream@tvam.org)**

## OCTOBER 2023

SUNDAY 1	<b>GNATs FIRST SUNDAY RUN</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 1	<b>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.
FRI-SUN 6-8	<b>7Ws TRAINING WEEKEND, LLANDRINDOD WELLS (T)</b> Staying at the Metropole Hotel with a focus on Associate training See groups.io all members post and calendar to register interest.
SATURDAY 7	<b>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 8	<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 8	<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.
SUNDAY 15	<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.
SATURDAY 21	<b>CLAMs FOURTH SATURDAY RUN</b> Details to be posted on groups.io. See CLAMs calendar for latest.

Anything for the calendar - email [slipstream@tvam.org](mailto:slipstream@tvam.org)

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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;

**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 15th October, North Oxford BMW, from about 2.30pm**

**Saturday 4th November, Bahnstormers Maidenhead, from about 2.30pm**

**Sunday 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](mailto:bikesafe@tvam.org)

**Simon Rawlins**



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## Gavin Grewal Legal Eagle

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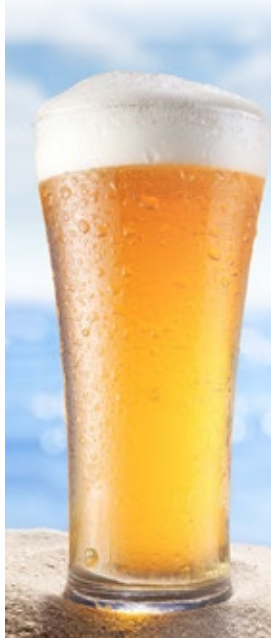


The *Slipstream* legal corner brought to you by Gavin Grewal of White Dalton Motorcycle Solicitors. Gavin is a qualified Solicitor in England and Wales and a passionate biker. He has 13 years of policing under his belt and he currently rides a ZZR1400, GSA1250 and a Suzuki TL1000R. TVAM members are invited to put legal questions (bike related of course!) which may be answered in future articles to [gavin@whitedalton.co.uk](mailto:gavin@whitedalton.co.uk)

### A Summer tippie...

When enjoying the summer months, it can be quite tempting to have a drink, whether at a pub on a ride out with friends or enjoying a weekend away at a motorcycle show. There are lots of good weekend shows such as ABR in Warwickshire or the MCN show at the East of England Show ground.

However, what happens if you wander back to your bike, a bit worse for wear, to open your top box? An act as simple as retrieving something, key in hand, might mean you fall foul of S.5(1)(b) of the RTA 1988 for being in charge of a motor vehicle with excess alcohol. First of all, this article relates to England and Wales, as Scotland has even lower alcohol levels!



There is a defence if you can show there was no likelihood of driving the vehicle whilst the proportion of alcohol in your breath, blood or urine remained likely to exceed the prescribed limit.

The word likelihood means a risk that ought not to be ignored and the court, interestingly, stated that the intention of the accused not to drive is only one factor in deciding whether there is a risk that he may drive and that 'a man's intention may change, especially at night when influenced by alcohol'.

In the case of *CPS v Thompson* the defendant was found asleep, drunk, in his van by police officers. The keys were in the ignition, the heaters on, but the engine was not running. The defendant was arrested and at the station blew 106 µg/100 ml (the legal limit is 35 µg/100 ml). The works van had a homemade mattress and sleeping bag inside as the defendant travelled and slept away for work. Albeit these weren't used at the time of the arrest. The court initially acquitted him at trial on the basis he had no intention

to drive, however, the Crown Court quashed the decision on the basis the court failed to focus sufficiently on the wording of the defence i.e. the defendant gave no evidence as to his likely breath alcohol limit when he intended to drive. Medical evidence may have assisted here. The burden was on the defendant to prove this defence on the balance of probabilities.

It is always worth co-operating with a constable in uniform, if a preliminary test is requested. It is an offence if, without reasonable excuse, you fail to co-operate with a preliminary test. Those preliminary tests are for a breath test, impairment test or drug test. The latter is to determine whether you have any one of the seventeen controlled drugs in your system, above a specified limit. Interestingly, the police can only test for two of them at the roadside, cannabis or cocaine. The other fifteen only coming to light if tested after a blood sample is provided.

Much of this might not be relevant to us sensible riders but it might become relevant if you are ever involved in an accident and the other driver falls foul of the complex drug/RTA laws. Safe riding all.

**Don't forget if you have any legal questions that are bike-related,  
Gavin is very happy to hear from you - [gavin@whitedalton.co.uk](mailto:gavin@whitedalton.co.uk)**

**Gavin recently gave a talk to SAMs and  
WOBMOB have him in for a legal talk this month.**

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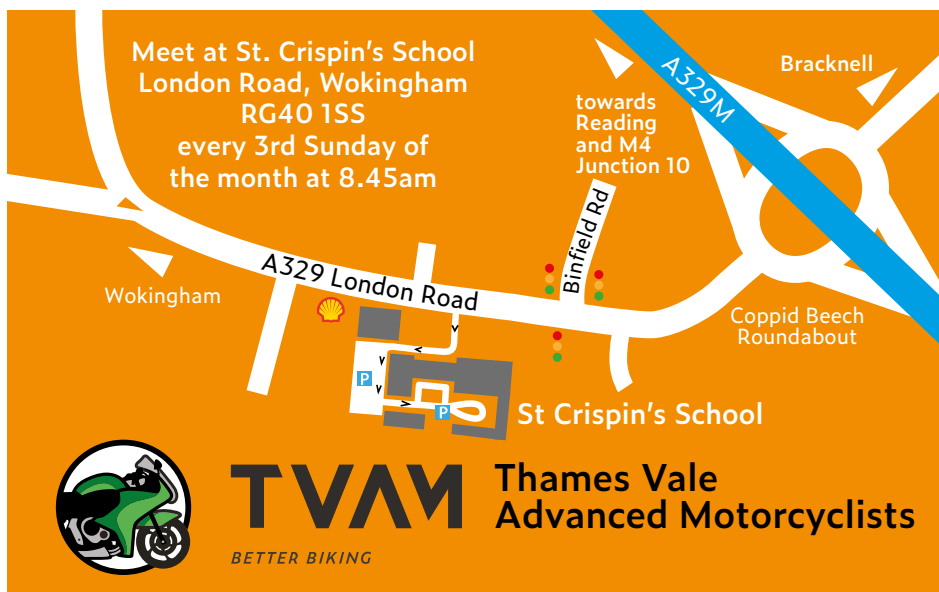


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## CLUB MEETS

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](https://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, GU20 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  
Meet 2: Wednesday evening rides throughout the summer months – register with GNATs on [groups.io](https://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](https://groups.io) for details

### Slough (SAM)

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

### Wantage & Newbury (WAGs)

When: Second Wednesday of the month  
Where: The Fox Inn, High Street, Hermitage, RG18 9RB  
Time: 7.30pm

### Wokingham & Bracknell (WOBBMOB)

When: 3rd Tuesday of the month  
Where: Binfield Social Club, Forest Road, Binfield, Bracknell RG42 4HP  
Time: 7.30pm (social) for 8pm (meeting)

## OBSERVER CONTACTS

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Cross Check link		www.tvam.org/cross-check-request
Observer Health Checks	Andy Wedge	observerhealthchecks@tvam.org
Observer Interest	Nina Bosley-Grey	observerinterest@tvam.org
Observer Training	Adrian Ellison	observertraining@tvam.org
Test Passes	Peter Browne	testpasses@tvam.org
Trainee Observer Coordinator	Hev Smith	tobcoordinator@tvam.org

### OBSERVER FORUM (mailing list):

Observer Group <https://tvam.groups.io/g/observers>

## LOCAL TEAM CONTACTS

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

Basingstoke (BAR)	Graham Carter	basingstoke@tvam.org
Camberley (CLAMs)	Richard Kerbey, Ruth McDowall	camberley@tvam.org
Great Northern (GNATs)	Gary Jackson	wycombe@tvam.org
Reading (RAMs)	Ben Graham	reading@tvam.org
Slough (SAM)	Danny de Matos, Stephen Cudd	slough@tvam.org
Wantage & Newbury (WAGs)	Paul Gilmore	wantage@tvam.org
Wokingham & Bracknell (WOBBOB)	Andy MacWalter, Allie Gane	wokingham@tvam.org
Green Team	Nick Edgley	greenteam@tvam.org

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

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Great Northern (GNATs)	Gary Jackson	wycombe.social@tvam.org
Reading (RAMs)	Ben Graham	reading.social@tvam.org
Slough (SAM)	Danny de Matos, Stephen Cudd	slough.social@tvam.org
Wantage & Newbury (WAGs)	Paul Gilmore, Mimi Carter Jonas	wantage.social@tvam.org
Wokingham (WOBBOB)	Andy MacWalter and Allie Gane	wokingham.social@tvam.org
Green Team	Nick Edgley	greenteam@tvam.org



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*Slipstream* editor and designer: Salli G - [slipstream@tvam.org](mailto: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@tvam.org](mailto:slipstream@tvam.org) 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](mailto:advertising@tvam.org).

TVAM enquiries: 0118 402 4800 TVAM Website: [www.tvam.org](http://www.tvam.org)

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## CLUB CONTACTS

### Committee ([committee@tvam.groups.io](mailto:committee@tvam.groups.io)): Who are they? Photos on [groups.io](https://groups.io/groups)

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

**Committee Meetings:** These are held at James House, Mere Park, Dedmere Road, Marlow, SL7 1FJ  
 Next Meeting: (M – Marlow/Internet), 13th September 2023 (M), – 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](mailto:secretary@tvam.org) before the meeting date.

### Special Roles:

Advanced Bike Control	Chris Caswell	<a href="mailto:advancedbikecontrol@tvam.org">advancedbikecontrol@tvam.org</a> or <a href="mailto:abc@tvam.org">abc@tvam.org</a>
Advanced Plus (previously EAR)	Andy Wedge/Adrian Ellison	<a href="mailto:advancedplus@tvam.org">advancedplus@tvam.org</a>
Advertising	Salli Griffith	<a href="mailto:advertising@tvam.org">advertising@tvam.org</a>
BikeCraft	Di Woodcock	<a href="mailto:bikecraft@tvam.org">bikecraft@tvam.org</a>
Bike Maintenance	Adrian Ellison	<a href="mailto:bikemaintenance@tvam.org">bikemaintenance@tvam.org</a>
BikeSafe	Simon Rawlins	<a href="mailto:bikesafe@tvam.org">bikesafe@tvam.org</a>
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Girl Torque	Salli Griffith, Dee Smith	<a href="mailto:girltorque@tvam.org">girltorque@tvam.org</a>
Groups.io Support	Andy Wedge, Chris Brownlee	<a href="mailto:groups.io@tvam.org">groups.io@tvam.org</a>
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Leaflet Supply	Barrie Smith	<a href="mailto:leaflets@tvam.org">leaflets@tvam.org</a>
Look Lean Roll	Lesley Bugby	<a href="mailto:llr@tvam.org">llr@tvam.org</a>
Meet & Greet Team	Catherine Russell	<a href="mailto:meetandgreet@tvam.org">meetandgreet@tvam.org</a>
Midweek Runs	Alan Hudson	<a href="mailto:midweekruns@tvam.org">midweekruns@tvam.org</a>
Offroad Riding	Mark Barrett	<a href="mailto:offroad@tvam.org">offroad@tvam.org</a>
Pillion Rider Course	Alan Hudson	<a href="mailto:prc@tvam.org">prc@tvam.org</a>
Red Zone	Mel Hakhnazarian	<a href="mailto:redzone@tvam.org">redzone@tvam.org</a>
Run Leader & Back Marker Course	Vickie Krevatin	<a href="mailto:runleaderbackmarker@tvam.org">runleaderbackmarker@tvam.org</a>
Social Media	Kyriakos Chrysostomou, Aaron Braich	<a href="mailto:socialmedia@tvam.org">socialmedia@tvam.org</a>
Social Run Co-ordinators	Nick Edgley, Salli Griffith	<a href="mailto:socialruns@tvam.org">socialruns@tvam.org</a>
St Crispin's Sunday Runs	Alan Mossman	<a href="mailto:sundaysocialruns@tvam.org">sundaysocialruns@tvam.org</a>
Tea & Coffee Bar at St Crispin's	Carole Hooper	<a href="mailto:coffeebar@tvam.org">coffeebar@tvam.org</a>
Toy Run	Steve Harris (volunteers for Dec Toy Run)	<a href="mailto:toyrun@tvam.org">toyrun@tvam.org</a>
Track Skills Days (Training)	Dave Hepworth	<a href="mailto:circuitsskills@tvam.org">circuitsskills@tvam.org</a>
Webmaster	Steve Dennis	<a href="mailto:webmaster@tvam.org">webmaster@tvam.org</a>

### Website:

TVAM Website [www.tvam.org](http://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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