

Fenny Stratford Bikers Newsletter

The motorcycle section of the Milton Keynes Advanced motorists Club

This Newsletter is independently produced and the views expressed are not necessarily those of the IAM or the MKAM.



www.mkam.co.uk
December 2011

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Charlie our social secretary has been successful in locating and booking a place for our Christmas dinner. This year it will be at the Wavenden Arms, in Wavenden at 7pm.

Thursday 8th December

Places are limited, so please state your intention of coming (and if partners are coming as well)

A deposit of 10 will be required but will send info out on how to get it to Charlie.

Chris' Comment

Chris' Bit

Well almost the end of another year and the bike is another year older (must get along to the NEC this weekend). **On reflection I think it's been a very successful year for the club. A good number of test passes achieved, two groups of Observers attended National Observer Training Weekends, attendance on 1st Sunday at 45 + each month, excellent tours to Wales/France and some very enjoyable social rides.**

Of course this success can only be achieved with support of the many in the club who give up their free time to work associates and organise events. My thanks therefore to all those involved in making our club a success in particular, Jules 1st Sundays, Tony K & Chris Col social rides, Hugh routes & destinations, John P newsletter and last but not least Rod for all his help and support.

Looking forward please note that 1st Sunday rides in Dec/Jan & Feb will commence at 10.00am hopefully giving any frost/fog time to clear before we set out. You will also note that the first Sunday in January is New Years Day we have therefore pushed back the 1st Sunday ride to the 8th. Consequently the so-

cial ride has moved to the 22nd. Start times for Social rides may also vary dependent upon destination and the weather forecast at the time, please check the diary & your emails for confirmation.

Finally may I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year. As always, if you do manage to ride during the next few weeks, ride safely.

Chris

Ed's ramblings

After the mild weather so far it was a bit of a shock to wake up to white grass and cars. I still used the bike but out came the heated jacket and on went the heated grips. Out came the winter gear and thermal tops. It is not that bad yet but things are turning. The roads at least in most part were dry, which was good, but still managed a small slide on one corner. Looks like winter might be here. I suppose it is only right the Moto GP has finished, the World Superbikes and British Superbikes are over and so is the Formula 1 so it must be winter. My zip parted on the way home from work today and it got a bit draughty. I had the heated liner on but it struggled to keep up especially when the speed rose. I thought I had to get a new jacket but after pulling hard the zip pulled back down to the bottom and all seemed fine again. I will have to keep an eye on it but hopefully it will last longer. Of course the zip on the trousers is not compatible with the other jacket. Although it is a more summer type jacket it does have a supposed warm lining so I could get the trousers to go with that but it would not be anywhere near as weather proof.

Not much has happened on the biking front for me this month. I have been using the bikes for court **and work but not for anything exciting. I haven't even put anything extra on any of them. I didn't** even get to the NEC show not sure if any of you did? I made up my mind this year to go to watch BSB races and to go to the NEC but I failed on every count? Well there is always next year.

I was talking to a salesman the other day at work and he was telling me he hadn't ridden a bike for about 15 years and decided to get back riding. He went to the shop and was going to buy a CBR600 but when he sat on it it seemed a bit small so the bike salesman said he ought to get a Fireblade as it was bigger; so he did. We all know that a CBR600 is a good bike and would have suited him well whereas a Fireblade is not a bike for a born again. I do not know which bike shop he went to but I would have thought they should have been a bit more responsible. The colleague said he was surprised how much power the bike had and that it scarred him a bit and thought he could only safely use it on nice dry days. He was led to believe that it was the same as a CBR600 just a bit bigger. Even though he has left it insured etc. Over winter he was not going to use it.

This reminds me of a friend who had a series of over 1000cc bikes. I used to go out with him and sure enough down the straights he was very fast but cornering was terrible. He knew he was bad which made it even worse. He used to wobble round the corner not daring to lean very far and then blast down the next straight. One day we took his sisters CBR600 for an MOT and he rode it. The transformation was incredible. He was smooth and cornered well. He even rode round the outside of a car on a roundabout and he even said it felt good. I told him he should get one of his own instead of **persevering with the bigger bikes but he said he could not 'lower' himself to ride a "small" capacity** bike. Soon after that he drove into a ditch at slow speed as he thought he could not lean any further and gave up riding all together. I tried to get the Fireblade rider to go to I AMs and he thought he

would next summer.

I have sent Santa a few letters, I am not sure he is in charge of the lottery so I will have to settle for some winter gloves (I have already bought them) and some winter socks.

It will soon be Christmas and at least it is a week off work (well travelling to it anyway) but this year I have family coming from America and the house will be full I am not sure if I will have time to write the newsletter at the end of December so this might be the last one this year.

I hope you all have a good Christmas and the weather is not too bad and we can all get out on the bikes.

LOOK out for RED Bull in Milton Keynes they are having a celebration in the city centre on the 10th December. It even includes a motorbike stunt rider!

Check out www.destinationmiltonkeynes.co.uk/Visit_us/Sports_and_activities/redbull_racing_milton_keynes_2011 or the red bull site but when I looked it was a bit difficult to find on the red bull site as it was so new. ED

BIKE MAINTENANCE

MKAM bike section people have expressed an interest in learning a more about the technical aspects of their bikes, particularly sufficient to enable them to do their own servicing.

It's taken a while to get there but we're now getting close to being able to arrange something, ideally starting in early 2012. If you would be interested in attending something like this (and by the way there will have to be a charge for it) would you please contact Dave Searle, preferably by email at fullmembers@mkam.co.uk, or at 0771 638 5950. This will **be open to all MKAM members whether they've passed their Advanced Test** or not.

MKAM members will get priority on places however if the course isn't full we will consider opening it to others. So if you know anyone else who might be interested please let us know.

If you have any questions please contact Dave as above.

Next Month's 'Observer Led Ride'

Sunday 4th December 2011

Meet at [9.45am](#) with a full tank of petrol

To make the allocation process easier please, please will you let Jules know in advance if you plan to attend. (jules@mkam.co.uk or [07793 893902](tel:07793893902)) Most of the allocation work is carried out by Jules the evening before based on responses she has received. If everyone lets her know that they **are coming beforehand then it's simply a name ticking and stress free exercise for her. If you wish to get back earlier, or would like a shorter route for any reason, again just let Jules know beforehand and it can be arranged.** Finally, if your plans change at the last minute, you can always text or call her on Sunday morning.

Wednesday evening pub is now The Wheatsheaf in Bow Brickhill

The Wednesday evening rides start from the little Chef and finish at
Wheat sheaf in Bow Brickhill

FULL MEMBERS

If it's a while since you've passed your test and you're wondering what to do to maintain your Advanced Riding standard get in touch with Dave Searle. The group can now offer Full Members rides on 1st Sundays and on other occasions, plus occasional 121s designed to give you personal feedback **on how well you're riding and to avoid getting into any bad habits.**

Cheers Dave (see contacts' section)

First Sunday Runs

It was manic yet again. The good weather brings people out so please **take note of the following Some do's and don'ts.**

Don't take up all the car park it is a working Little Chef and other people are allowed to eat and drink there so keep with the main group.

Do reply to Jules to say if you will or won't be there.

Do introduce yourselves if new. And get booked in with Jules (the small one) so you can get paired up and off as soon as possible.

MK AM Diary Dates 2011

December

- 4th 1st Sunday Ride 10.00am Fenny Little Chef
8th **Christmas Meal, contact Charlie for further details**
18th Social Ride 10.00am Fenny Little Chef destination -
Oundle

January 2012

- 8th 1st Sunday Ride 10.00am fenny Little Chef
16th **Observer's meeting MK police station 7.30**
22nd Social ride 10.00am Fenny Little Chef - destination
Wellsbourne

Events/Diary ideas & suggestions to Charlie please –

socialsec@mkam.co.uk

Note times for 1st Sunday runs is start at 10.00am so be ready to start at 10.00am December, January and February

Also note the new routes

Congratulations

I am sure more people have passed please let me know. I also know that we have a few people ready for their tests so if your observer says so get your riding checked out by a senior and go for it especially as the weather is holding up.

Demo Ride



European Parliament and Council Regulation on the approval and market surveillance of two and three wheel vehicles and quadricycles [COM(2010) 542 final]

Ever heard of this? No, neither had I until recently. Try reading some of the documentation and I guarantee your eyes will glaze over within the first chapter. Unfortunately this kind of regulation could have a big impact on our enjoyment of riding bikes. In a nutshell it proposes to stop the tuning of motorcycles and will make home servicing very difficult. They propose the use of on board diagnostics to detect the fitment of non-standard parts. One **area being targeted is the 'power train', which can include anything from the throttle through to the rear tyre.** Would you want to be restricted to using the tyres recommended by the manufacturer? Pay for genuine parts only?

Well three of us from MKAM decided to join the protest ride to Brussels to add our support. Myself, Mike Annetts (R1200GSA) and Dennis on the RSV Aprilia joined about 200 other riders in Brussels. We left MK at 5 in the morning on Tuesday 22nd Nov. It was a foggy ride down to Folkestone to get the train but setting off into France was much clearer. We entered Brussels in sunshine, a very busy city and with a distinct lack of road signs. Sat-Nav was essential in finding our way to the European Parliament and although I tried my best to lose Mike, the three of us arrived together.

Having overwhelmed the parliament access here the group was directed to a more suitable meeting point in Cinquantenaire parc near the European Commission Headquarters.



Assembly area in the park



Here there was an address by Steve Farrell of MCN, Chris Hodder from BMF, Ian Mutch from MAG and British MP Mike Weatherley. Weatherley is a biker and had ridden there for the demo. Danny John-Jules from Red Dwarf had also ridden in.

Personally I thought it was a poor turnout for such an important event but then considering **it's late November and lots of bikes are laid up for winter it shouldn't have been a surprise.** The ride through the city was lead by the police with our way cleared back to the European Parliament. It was a proud moment to be taking part in this demo and representing biking in general. There was an address here by a UKIP MEP, concluding the demo ride.

Having spent some time in a restaurant outside the parliament building we set off back to Calais. Leaving Brussels, Mike on his fully equipped adventure bike came to the rescue of a stranded mother and child with a flat tyre at a busy petrol station where nobody would help them. To my amazement he produced a compressor from one of those cavernous panniers and even had a digital pressure gauge to check it. Far too efficient for me!!

Having demonstrated how kind hearted us bikers can be, we continued our journey. Arriving **home at 11 o'clock at night and in freezing fog it was the end of an exciting, eventful and satisfying day.** I hope we made a difference, at least we did something positive rather than **just roll over and accept it. I've since learnt that an impact study has been announced because of the work done by the lobbying associations.**



Mike to the rescue



European Parliament Building

Future events

We have the Christmas meal on the 8th of December. 28 people now coming along, I'm looking forward to this.

We need more people for the brewery tour, we currently have 8 and are being offered the 11th of January to be tagged on with another group. If we can get this up to 20 we can have an exclusive tour on the 10th as first requested. Just £14 for an evening out including food and brewery samples.

First bike on scene, first aid course. I have 3 people interested in this so far. You never **know it just may save someone's life. If you would like to be included let me know.**

A Saturday evening watching Ice Hockey in MK. Dates to be offered shortly.

Anyone interested in a summer tour into Austria? Stopping at a bike friendly hotel and exploring some fantastic riding routes. More details shortly.

Anyone interested in going to the theatre? Louise from the car section tells me she organises trips and we are welcome to join them.

I'm looking into a day doing Trials riding at a venue near Luton. Bikes and kit provided. If you fancy learning off road skills let me know.

Charlie Constant social-sec@mkam.co.uk 07763 874016

Riding Improvement

OVERTAKING IMPROVEMENT DAY

Overtaking is one of the best bits of riding a bike. Done effectively it allows us to safely and unobtrusively get past the traffic and get on with enjoying the ride rather than sitting in a queue. Watching it done well I always think it's like poetry in motion. But even after passing the Advanced Bike Test it's one of the things that most noticeably varies between riders who've just passed and those have gone on to further improve their riding, either with the Full Members Group or by becoming Observers. As it's also one of the most dangerous things that we do it's quite understandable that overtaking can make even Advanced riders a little nervous when it comes to doing it.

So, if you've passed your Advanced Bike Test and would be interested in doing an overtaking improvement day please get in touch with Dave Searle (fullmembers@mkam.co.uk) and let him know.

Numbers will be limited and places will be offered on a first come first served basis.

The date for this session has not yet been agreed. The first priority was to gauge the level of interest. The session will either be run before the winter sets in or early next spring.

We expect that the day will consist of both classroom and practical sessions and will either be a Saturday or a Sunday. Please let us know if you have a preference.

If this is successful further sessions will be run in future.

Dave

Could you put a bit in the news letter asking for those who have passed their test to email me a copy of their feedback/ test score sheet or bring me a copy on the first Sundays.

It is to see if there are any area for us to refine in order to increase the skills within the club.

Cheers,
Derren

Events

See previous page and all the events being organised by Charlie. It is your club so let us know if you want this sort of thing or anything else. Charlie is putting a lot in to organising events so if you want it to continue it is up to you to support him.

There are also lots of ideas on improvement days again let Dave know if you want this!

First Aid

A while back the group ran a paramedic training session for First Bike on Scene. This is essential First Aid for bikers to enable us to look after our mates or anyone else who might have a bump, while we wait for the professionals to arrive.

If you would be interested in attending a similar session in Milton Keynes can you let Charlie Constant know please. Our current expectation is that we'd run this at a weekend but please say if you would like to do it but can't make a weekend. If there's enough demand we'd think about putting an extra one on during the week.

There is likely to be a small charge to cover what it costs us to get someone in to run the course (unless of course you know a suitably trained professional who would do it for free).

You can reach Charlie at Email - socialsec@mkam.co.uk or mobile - 07763 874016

Snippets

Sales: sales@ultimateear.com
Ultimate Ear Protection
2a Bedford Road
Sidcup Kent
DA 15 7JP
United Kingdom
Support: customerservice@ultimateear.com
Tel : +44 (0) 208 309 4385
Fax: +44 (0) 208 309 4384



Commercial Corner

Tyres

Brackley Yamaha nee Sliders, (NOW SHUT)

Nick Ward runs Daventry based mobile tyre fitters NJW Motorcycle Tyres (work can be done at your home or work-place). MK is not the firm's usual area but if your job is bigger (I needed 2 repairs and 3 new tyres) or sufficient notice is given, he'll sort you out. Nick was very friendly, helpful and professional. Contacts - web <http://njwmotorcycletyres.co.uk/index.htm>; email sales@njwmotorcycletyres.co.uk; phone 07813 584227.

Dealer/Workshop

Forza Italia, just outside the track entrance at Silverstone, have now expanded into the unit next door and have employed trained mechanics to service Italian bikes. They are also dealers for Moto Guzzi. They are always helpful (have free coffee) and willing to discuss your needs.

[Forza Italia](#)

[Silverstone Track, 01327 858916](#)

Insurance

[Adelaide insurance special insurers for IAM Members](#)

I've cut my insurance renewal costs by 32% by going to ebikeinsurance.co.uk. They gave me discount for IAM membership, (which doesn't happen everywhere) and they also throw in 365 days of continental cover.

Safe 'n Sound Motorcycle Alarms

Fitted a Meta to my new CBR for me ten days ago. Bazil did a really neat job and gave me a good price. I shall use them again for future bikes.

93, Marlins Turn, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 3LW.

Tel 01442 235591,

Mobile (Bazil) 0771 8737101, (Bruce) : 0771 8737102
email bikealarms@btinternet.com

Cables and more

The speedo cable I bought was purpose made had a spare inner and was still cheaper than the original. They do throttle cables as well. The company is Venhill and can be looked up at <http://www.venhill.co.uk/> or contacted on

Tel. +44 (0) 1306 885111

Fax +44 (0) 1306 740535

For great service.

[Grafton Motorcycles](#), behind the BP garage by the H8/H9 roundabout

Clothing

Skins

Halvarson gear, OCC tee shirts, coffee shop and more.

Friendly and informative staff as well as good coffee try

Brackley High Street. (next door to 'Keep Biking')

Tyres / MoTs / workshop / bike sales

After phoning around recently I called Gardner & White in Stoke Goldington and got a better price for a set of tyres than anywhere else that I'd called. They also do MoTs and can sell your bike for you. You agree a price with them, they stick it in the showroom window and advertise it in the press, take all the enquiries etc. For more info ask for Paul on 01908 551387 or visit him in the bike workshop.

Bike cleaning

WWW.Motokleen.co.uk Contact Alan on 07983 702960 did a great job of cleaning the bike

Nick Ward has found a good independent ex woolaston engineer to service his BMW.

Ian Joyce

01933 663561 07890085891

Sticky Tyres at Telford offer IAM discounts on fitting tyres to rims.

CLUB CONTACT NAMES + NUMBERS

Remember these club officials are volunteers and should be given some peace unless very important

| | |
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| Chief Observer | Admin Co-ordinator |
| Chris Clarke Tel: 01869 324701 Mob: 07875 599106 (club events only) e-mail: chris.clarke@mkam.co.uk | Julie Ingrey Tel: 01525 751414 Mob: 07793 893902 e-mail: jules@mkam.co.uk |

| | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--|
| Mid Month Social Ride Co-ordinators | | Full Member's co-ordinator |
| Tony Kockelbergh Tel: 01908 568969 Mob: 07789 685620 e-mail tonyk@mkam.co.uk | Chris Coulson Mob: 07980 288337 | Dave Searle fullmembers@mkam.co.uk 07716 385 950 |

Charlie Constant social-sec@mkam.co.uk 07763 874016

NEWSLETTER

john@mkam.co.uk

If you could let me have any items, letters or responses to anything you want including in the newsletter before the last weekend of the month I would be most grateful. Having said that, I can always cope with a last minute item but my deadline is to get the newsletter out the weekend before the first Sunday of the month.

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| Examiners | | | |
| | Gary Haynes | John Atkinson | Ralph Luker |