

WORCESTER & HEREFORD ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS



ESCAPING LOCKDOWN—SPECIAL EDITION

At last we can ride but what is our “new norm”?
Well it’s not what we’re used to...



SLOW RIDING DAY

First the bad news...we’ve had to cancel the 2020 Slow Riding Day. We had booked Throckmorton for 21st June and thanks again to Dennis Osbourne for facilitating access to the old airfield. We will publicise the 2021 date in the New Year.



CHAIRS FOREWORD CONT'D

OBSERVED RIDES

On the upside we can recommence observed runs from 15th June. Observers and Associates can get together and resume training with a few new rules.

Observers can find official guidance on IAMRoadsmart's website.

- Meet in an open space such as a quiet car park
- Bring your own food and drink for longer rides
- Briefing and de-briefing must maintain social distancing and/or be carried out online
- Take care at petrol stations – use plastic disposable gloves and wear a mask if busy
- Be aware that traffic and other road users are behaving slightly differently (see below)

I hope Observers and Associates have ridden since the end of lockdown and certainly ridden a few quality miles before getting back to their first training session. If however, anyone doesn't want to ride, for whatever reason – that's fine. Many are continuing with self-isolation. If you are ready then you can resume training, if not then we will wait until your circumstances allow you to ride again.

The IAM will resume testing in July.

GROUP RIDING

The latest step in easing lockdown means up to 6 people can meet. Our Group Riding Policy encourages groups of 3 or 4 – so not a problem but the challenge is to arrange the meet and groups formation without compromising the 'half dozen rule'. At the moment we are relying on Facebook and WhatsApp to organise groups for ad hoc rides because a normal WHAM ride start venue would attract too many riders in one place and the lack of destination cafes would, guess what, exceed the 6 person group maximum. In any case we could plan to arrive at a café only to find it stacked out.



CHAIRS FOREWORD CONT'D

If you aren't on our (closed) Facebook page or have a Whatsapp group then consider getting yourself on either or both! If you have any questions make contact with anyone on the committee and we'll try and help.

TRAFFIC – THE NEW NORM?

Since the end of May I've already ridden several hundred miles with trips to Thunderroad Honda, a handful of rides with WHAM observers and a couple of daytime Bloodbike duties on my own bike which took me from Worcester to Hereford then Warwick; and another trip from Worcester to Hereford, then Ross, Redditch and the Blood Transfusion Service in Brum.

Although traffic is beginning to build up again there are still significantly fewer vehicles on the roads. Many of them have got used to a lack of traffic and so some are travelling very quickly. As we all know, position for safety is key: to avoid cars cutting their apex, reacting to what you see and being in the right place for what you can't see (eg tight left handers etc)

I found that riding on what appears to be almost empty roads there's a tendency to push the pace. Those wonderful series of bends that are usually cluttered with slow moving traffic have opened out allowing brisk progress. It's become a playground out there! But please remember why you are an advanced rider, it's not just about your riding skill but most critically it's about being a "thinking rider". I found that wearing the logo'd Bloodbike hi-viz



naturally reminded me I was representing a charity that would not be best pleased if I was reported for poor riding, let alone obvious errors like crossing solid white lines. That thinking continues to when I'm riding 'anonymously'; I feel a responsibility to represent WHAM and advanced riding in a good light. We all need to consider that fragile line between making good progress and riding in a way that can lead to regret, embarrassment or even prosecution.

Ant Clerici, WHAM Chair



Affiliated to the Institute of Advanced Motorcyclists. Group No. 3260

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