

ChainLincs

THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE LINCOLNSHIRE ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS
IAM GROUP 7176, REGISTERED CHARITY 1049955, SUPPORTERS OF THE BMF



Merry Christmas and a Happy New year



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Lincolnshire Advanced Motorcyclists

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month starting at 8pm

at the Crown Inn, Glentham LN8 2EQ

Glentham is on the A631 about 2 miles east of the A631/A15 junction at Caenby Corner

The next issue of ChainLincs will be in February 2015.

Please provide any copy to the editor, Ian Firth, by **Friday 24rd January 2015** at the latest, earlier is better. You can send copy by email to

iancfirth@yahoo.com



WANTED YOU!

To help Lincolnshire Advanced Motorcyclists we need members to:
 Join the committee,
 Sell advertising in ChainLincs or the web site or
Put on a social run
 Help out at an event where we have a stand publicising the group
IF YOU CAN HELP PLEASE CONTACT A COMMITTEE MEMBER
HELP THE GROUP SURVIVE

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the December edition of ChainLincs. Hopefully on time this month! I have included Carli Smith's final blog on her advanced riding experience and Ian Morrison did send me the picture on page 10 so thanks Ian. I know I say this all the time but without you guys the newsletter would be a much poorer read, please keep them coming. I need your help to make this newsletter a worthwhile read. If you have anything for upcoming editions then please get it to me soonest.

We have also had 4 test passes in the last couple of weeks so well done to Carli, Ian, Gary, Nigel, Manny and Mark. As some of you will have seen on Facebook Mark achieved at First so an extra well done.

Many thanks to Lynne Watson and Kev Turner for spending some of their day on 15 Nov with Scunthorpe Car Group at their Mobile Display Unit in Scunthorpe city centre. A foggy cold start to the day but we had 3 positive enquiries about the Skill for Life package who will hopefully sign up in the next few months. We plan to be in Scunthorpe with the car group each month from now on so if any of you can spare some time once a month please let me know. The dates for the coming months are:

Jan 17th, Feb 14th, Mar 14th, Apr 11th, May 16th, Jun 13th, Jul 11th, Aug 15th, Sep 12th, Oct 17th, Nov 14th



If you haven't found the Facebook page yet search Lincolnshire Advanced Motorcyclists or follow this link [LAM Facebook](#) . Feel free to become a member and post anything bike related on there. The more members we can get to join the group page the more use we can make out of it, so if you are on Facebook look it up and ask to join. The page is getting plenty of use and postings now so hopefully other bikers are coming across it and having a look through.

Twelve members turned up for the Group ride on 9 Nov from a sunny and bright Brigg. Nine of us followed Lynne Watson (thanks Lynne) around the Lincolnshire 'Fens' and the other group comprised of an associate being check tested, an observer and an observer under training. Great ride with some interesting roads that were wet, muddy and slippery in places, oh, and the sun was low in the sky – what a combination!



Don't forget the Group ride this month on Sun 7th Nov from Willingham Woods. Please note the revised start time for the winter which for December is 1130 for 1200hrs.

At Decembers social meet on 3rd we plan to hold a festive quiz and a raffle, and there will be a small buffet, so come along and help raise a little money for charity and have a good evening.

LEBBS are still looking for riders in the Lincoln Area to help move blood etc. around the county. If you are interested you can contact Martin Wright at wo5131@hotmail.com or have a look on the LEBBS website (<http://lebbs.org/index.php>) for contact details.

From February 2015 Ian Firth has kindly agreed to take over editing ChainLincs - many thanks to Ian. Please send him you items for inclusion in future editions, his details are on page 2.

Mick

LEBBS CHARITY RUN – JULY 2015

A charity ride from Lands End to John O'Groats to raise funds for LEBBS is being planned for July 2015.

The plan is to ride to Lands End on Friday 24 July, B & B and then set off for John O'Groats on Saturday 25 stopping overnight and arriving Sunday 26, setting off back home on the Monday.

If you would like to take part then please let Steve Watson know as soon as possible. He can be contacted on his email watto56@live.co.uk

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

There are six test passes to report this month – well done to all candidates and their respective Observers.

Member	Pass Date	Observer
Carli Ann Smith	3 November	Andy Greenslade
Ian Firth	3 November	Andrew Kitchen
Garry Hume	5 November	Jerry Neale
Nigel Hobson	16 November	Ian Morrison
Mark French	19 November	Jeff Picking
Manny Buttigieg	22 November	Richard busby

The group membership is currently comprised as follows

Full Members	89
Associate Members	14
Total Group Membership	103

As can be seen, we have had an excellent run of test passes with others already applied for and allocated to an examiner. It is always good to get tests out of the way before winter if possible as restarting in the spring often seems to be problematical and a large percentage of the annual “drop out” figure can be attributed to this.

Please take note that from March to May inclusive, the monthly meeting is changing to Monday evening due to suggestions that some members have other commitments on a Wednesday plus it is also the main evening for Bike Nights. This change may be extended or become regular depending how this trial period evolves.

An issue has recently arisen regarding contribution towards Observers fuel costs in as much as an Associate was apparently unaware of any extra cost above the Skill for Life purchase price. It is clearly stated on the IAM website and the literature which I send out to all associate members on enrolling, that contributing towards an Observers fuel costs is something that should be discussed prior to commencing a series of observed runs. I hope this makes it clear to avoid further confusion.

Finally, it is with regret that I have to announce the passing of group member Anthony (Tony) Sivorn on 13 November. I am sure that all the membership offer sincere condolences to Tony's family at this difficult time.

That's all for this month, ride safe:

John Cheetham

SKILL FOR LIFE: CARLI'S ADVANCED RIDING DIARY | IAM AN ADVANCED RIDER...

Carli Smith

"All advanced riders from the IAM are old men..."

"Learning is boring – what do you want to do another test for? I already know what I am doing on the road and can ride fast ..."



The above phrases are a few of the negative things that people said to me about advanced riding and having completed the course with the IAM, I can honestly say what a load of tosh. Yes, I already have my licence, I've been riding for over a decade and have been lucky enough to do race schools, track days and BikeSafe – but I think you can always learn more.

As you may remember, at the beginning of the year, I headed out with Cambridgeshire police and completed the BikeSafe course – this gave me the advanced riding bug and I wanted to do more. I promptly signed up with my local group of the Institute of Advanced Motorists and embarked on the Skill for Life programme.

The programme teaches you 'The System' – Information, Position, Speed, Gear and Acceleration – a process you should go through when approaching any hazard. It gives you time to assess and make your riding plan – all of which is done in seconds. Through a series of ride-outs with your designated observer, you navigate round the local area and learn to put the system into practice.

There's no limit on the number of ride-outs that you can do – most people tend to do around 8-10 - and you organise them with your observer for a time and place which suits you both. I did a grand

total of five rides and thought they were brilliant. I discovered roads that I had no idea about and it was like going out for a ride with a friend – it didn't feel like a lesson, although I found myself learning so much.

The course itself costs £149 and there was a voluntary donation to my observer of £15 per ride to cover his fuel – at a local level, everything is done by volunteers on their own bikes and in their own time.

It's not just your riding skills that are tested – but also your knowledge of the Highway Code and road signs. Come on, if someone asked what coloured cats eyes were on the motorway closest to the barrier – would you know? I do now...

So, over the last few months, I met Andy Greenslade – my lovely observer – and we went for a ride through Lincolnshire. Motorways, single track roads, and dual carriage ways – we tackled them all. We even went through a ford!

Now if Marks and Spencer's made IAM observers, it would be Andy. Not only was he a former Police 'Class 1' and Special Branch Detective involved in covert police investigations, murder enquiries, sting operations and protecting the Royal family – cool huh?! He's a flying instructor, National Observer, Master Rider, Master Driver and Master Mentor for the IAM. But all that aside, he was a great guy who knew how to have a laugh but make sure I learnt things at the same time.



At the end of the ride, we'd stop and get a warm drink and debrief about the ride. What went well, what went wrong, where I could improve and he'd test me on road signs and the Highway Code. It never occurred to me what people might think if they heard our conversation or watched as we did figures of eight in the car park to illustrate my slow riding – but who cares...

You're encouraged to do the course on your own bike – one that you know inside out – something I can honestly say I do about the KTM. The little Duke did me proud throughout the whole course and held its own against Andy on his big BMW GS. Having ridden it all year, I was confident to use the engine and gearing to my advantage. On one particular ride out, we rode down an undulating road with a number of hair pin corners – just the kind of road that can trip you up, as if you go into one corner too fast, then you set yourself up wrong for the rest. Selecting the right gear on the KTM 390, I shimmied down the hill and was pleased that the Duke had so much engine braking as I was set up for each of the bends at the right speed and in the right place. Andy was impressed – phew...

Andy came out with seriously funny quotes – whether he meant to do it on purpose or not, I don't know... but one particular corker that I will always remember is:

“Your ride was musical – almost operatic – it flowed and I really enjoyed the tempo of the ride. When necessary it was fast and progressive like rock and others it was quiet, relaxed and restrained.”

It made so much sense. That's how rides should be, the tempo on the road changes as the traffic levels and speed increase. Riding is about rhythm and finding yours and can make a good ride, a great one.

I wouldn't have considered myself a 'bad' rider when I started the course. I looked far ahead and thought I was riding well, but since starting the training, I've become a more systematic and precise rider. It certainly doesn't take any of the enjoyment out of it, in fact it gives me more pleasure knowing that I am positioning myself in the best way on corners, getting on the throttle straight away and planning so far ahead that I know what other road users are going to do before they tell me. I leave room for their mistakes and keep myself safe. It's not just me, research done by the IAM revealed that [97% of people who took the test found riding more enjoyable](#).



The test itself wasn't anything to be scared of, my examiner, Andrew Trevithick is an ex-police rider and now works at the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership.

“Just pretend you're riding out with a friend and you're showing them everything you've learnt in the course.”

And that I did. The one-hour route included as many different types of road that he could find. My aim was to be progressive but be patient and show restraint. Pulling back up to the centre, his smile told me I'd passed before he could speak. I did it, I'm officially an advanced rider – I have a certificate that says so which means it must be true! I shall be heading to the next social night with the Lincolnshire Advanced Motorcyclists for my official certificate handover.

I would recommend the course to the young and old, the new and experienced riders and everyone those categories don't cover.

What's next for me now? I could always take more training and become an observer myself – now there's a scary thought...

Want to try it for yourself?

The Skill for Life course costs £149 and can be completed with your local branch of the IAM – I completed mine with [Lincolnshire Advanced Motorcyclists](#) . For more information visit the IAM website at: www.iam.org and click on the Skill for Life section.

UPDATES AND ADVICE ON ABOLITION OF THE DRIVING LICENCE PAPER COUNTERPART

In 2015, DVLA will no longer issue the paper counterpart to the photocard driving licence.

You can check your driving licence record [online](#), by [phone](#) or [post](#).

What this means for you

You do not need to take any action, just keep your current photocard driving licence.

If you have an old style paper driving licence issued before the photocard was introduced in 1998, this change won't affect you, and you should keep your licence.

The next time you need to update your [name](#), [address](#) or [renew](#) your licence, you will be issued with a photocard only.

Entitlements, penalty points and the status of your driving licence won't change.

What to do with your paper counterpart

When DVLA stops issuing the counterpart of the driving licence, those drivers who already have a counterpart may destroy it.

You'll still be able to use the counterpart driving licence to change your address with DVLA. You can also change your address [online](#).

Organisations and businesses that check the driving licence counterpart

DVLA is developing a new digital enquiry service for launch later this year that will allow organisations and businesses (such as employers and car hire companies) to view information they can currently see on the driving licence counterpart.

This new service will be offered in addition to the [existing services](#), but is designed for those who have a business need for real-time access to the information and may not wish to call DVLA or be in a position to use an intermediary.

Driving licence information via this service will only be made available to those who have a right to see it, and with the knowledge of the driving licence holder.



I stood and watched this bloke parking; it was a man by the way.
He got out after a couple of attempts and potted around the car.
I thought he would realise how badly he had parked, and have yet another go.
Nope.
He did reopen his door, take out a bag, and leave.
Look at pic2, showing clearly that someone in this family is an IAM car driver - thats why I was so interested.
Maybe this driver is not the car owner?
I blanked out the number plate out of some courtesy for the car owner.
The car is parked in a hospital car park so the driver may have been under pressure with a loved one being ill.
Nevertheless, other people need car parking spaces at hospitals, and we have a duty to set a good example, wherever we park, car or bike.
Remember, there is always someone watching you, so you might as well watch yourself and make that two scrutineers.

Ian Morrison





**ALL CLASSES OF MOT
1, 2, 4, 5 & 7**

From a Lincolnshire Advanced Motorcyclists Member

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Owned by an IAM motorcycle examiner and encouraged by Nick Sanders to form the company after



CONTACT DAVE FOR MORE INFORMATION

07887 528623

WWW.MOTOTOURS.CO.UK

DIARY OF EVENTS

Contact point: Dave Hall 01522 274989

The Sunday morning Group Observed and Social Runs are open to all members and also potential members who may be considering preparing for the IAM test. The prime purpose is to provide the opportunity for all to improve their skills through riding with fellow members. Potential members considering taking the IAM test may have an individual assessment ride. It should be noted that members are free to group up as they feel fit and embark on a purely social run of their choice without any "observing" etc., merely enjoying the opportunity to ride with fellow like-minded bikers. The runs last around 2 to 3 hours, usually with a mid-point refreshment stop, starting at the venues listed below.

Ancholme Leisure Centre (Brigg) DN20 9JH	South side of A18
Willingham Woods picnic site LN8 3RQ	A631 east of Market Rasen
Hartsholme Country Park LN6 0EY	South side of B1378, Skellingthorpe Road (off Lincoln Bypass)

Social runs will incorporate café stops unless an alternative is specified. Please try to arrive at the meeting point in good time and with a full tank of fuel. Please note that Group Social Runs are principally for group members only. Please let the run organizer know if you want to invite a guest. If carrying a pillion passenger you should ensure that this is covered by your motorcycle insurance policy.

It is you, as the rider who is deemed to be in control of your motorcycle at all times during an observed run.

DECEMBER

Weds 3rd - Monthly evening meeting at the Crown Inn, Glentham LN8 2EQ (A631) at 8.00pm. The evening will include a quiz and raffle.

Sun 7th - Group Observed Run from Willingham Woods. Meet 11.30am for 12.00am prompt start.

Weds 17th - Committee Meeting, Crown Inn, Glentham. Prompt start at 7.45pm

PLEASE NOTE - No Observers meeting this month.

2015

JANUARY

Weds 7th – Social for those that want to come along for a drink and a chat post-New Year at the Crown Inn, 8.00pm.

FEBRUARY

Weds 4th - Monthly evening meeting at the Crown Inn, Glentham LN8 2EQ (A631) at 8.00pm.

Sun 8th - Group Observed Run from Hartsholme Country Park. Meet 11.30am for 12.00am for prompt start.

Weds 18th - Committee Meeting, Offices of LK2 Architects, Nettleham. Prompt start at 7.45pm

Weds 25th - Meeting for Observers and those interested in becoming Observers. Venue - The Crown Inn, Glentham

MARCH

Mon 2nd - Monthly evening meeting at the Crown Inn, Glentham LN8 2EQ (A631) at 8.00pm.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE TO MONDAY EVENING.

Sun 8th - Group Observed Run from Brigg Leisure Centre. Meet 9.30am for 10.00am for prompt start.

Weds 25th - Meeting for Observers and those interested in becoming Observers. Venue - The Crown Inn, Glentham

ANYONE READY TO OFFER TO PUT ON A RUN OR OTHER EVENT TO LIVEN UP THE CALENDAR PLEASE CONTACT DAVE HALL ON 01522 274989