

ChainLincs

THE NEWSLETTER OF

THE LINCOLNSHIRE ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS

IAM GROUP 7176, REGISTERED CHARITY 1049955, SUPPORTERS OF THE BMF



Ian Firth

IAM Central England and Wales Regional Operational Manager
April's guest speaker, with his new bike



April

2016

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Lincolnshire Advanced Motorcyclists

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/301610040008772/>

Follow us on twitter at :- @lincsbikers_iam

Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month starting at 8pm
at the Nags Head, Middle Rasen, LN8 3JU

Middle Rasen is on the A631 about 1.5 miles west of Market Rasen

The next issue of ChainLincs will be in May 2016.

Please provide any copy to the editor, Lynne Watson, by **23rd April** at the latest,
earlier is better. You can send any articles by email to

lynne.iam1@gmail.com

EDITORIAL

Hello and welcome to the March edition of ChainLincs. There are some good articles from people in this month's newsletter and my thanks go to them. I need your help to keep it going so all stories, photos, events or information you think will be of interest to other members, please send to me for inclusion. My email is lynne.iam1@gmail.com

We are also including pieces on members of the group so if you read something that one of them has done or is planning on doing and you fancy having a go or joining them, get in touch. If enough people contact them (or me) an event or ride out can be organised.

Also, if you have an unusual job or hobby send me a short piece about it and it can be included in the magazine.

If you want a ride out and its short notice, put it on our Facebook page, there may be others that are free and would like to join you.

What ever you do

Have fun, *Lynne*

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CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

Welcome to the April edition of ChainLincs, once again thanks to Lynne Watson for editing and if last month's is anything to go by this will be another bumper edition. Lynne certainly found plenty to fill the pages, which I know can be time consuming.

Another good turnout for the March social meeting where Michael Pace gave a talk about motoring/riding and the law. Unfortunately I was unable to make the meeting but thanks to Roland for organizing and for Michael for coming.

Don't forget Ian Firth will be our guest speaker in his official capacity at the April meeting on Monday 4th.

Six members and a potential member turned up for the ride out from Hartsholme Park this morning.



The mist lifted early and the sun came out. Dave Hall lead us Grantham way stopping for coffee and cake or sausage butties at Syston Park Farm Shop. Thanks Dave, good run and it was a great day for it.

The next ride out is on 10th April from Brigg Leisure Centre. Meet there at 0930 for a 0930hrs start.

I definitely won't be there as I am marshalling the Air Ambulance ride out that

Roland has organised. Hope some of you can make it.

We are always looking for observers should you have the time. Anybody interested in becoming an observer don't forget the Observers meeting at the Nags Head on the last Weds of the month (check the details in the diary of events on the back page of ChainLincs and events page on the group website www.l-a-m.co.uk). Just go along and find out what the training involves, Jerry will be pleased to help you.



For the new, and existing, members don't forget to find our Facebook page Lincolnshire Advanced Motorcyclists [here](#) and ask to join so you can post and join in. We are also on Twitter at IAM Lincolnshire (@lincsbikers_iam).

One last thing! I am sure some of you have already seen that Mark French is riding 1300km across India to raise money for the Lincs and Notts Air Ambulance. This is his Justgiving page <https://www.justgiving.com/Mark-French3> so please sponsor him. His target is £5000.

Hope to see you all soon, stay safe
Mick

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Group Web Site: www.I-a-m.co.uk

We have no new members or test passes to report this month.

The group membership is currently comprised as follows

Full Members	93
Associate Members	13
Total Group Membership	106

It's almost group membership renewal time (1 April) for those whose membership number is 742 or below. I am unfortunately running a little late preparing the renewal forms etc. They should however be mailed out prior to the end of March. As mentioned last month, don't forget to put a stamp on the return envelope.

That's all for this month, ride safely:

John Cheetham

Social 4th April 2016

Our guest speaker in April is Ian Firth, IAM Central England and Wales Regional Operations Manager. Ian will update us on the discussions held at the recent Spring forum, including the rebranding of the IAM. He will also talk about:

- IAM Strategic Vision
- IAM House
- Website update
- New Standards
- Membership updates

Come and discuss these, your input may help to guide the policies of the IAM. Our observers have already helped greatly in the planning of the new standards to ensure that they're suitable for everyone.

March's Social

Michael Pace is a partner at Andrew & Co Solicitors and heads the motor law and personal injury team. He gave a very interesting and humorous speech on the intricacies of the law and how these are used to help promote justice.

Michael is a keen motorcyclist and spent 6 weeks traversing Northern India, a favourite place of his and one he would like to revisit at some point.

He recently had to take a driving course and felt that it should be compulsory for everyone to redo this every 10 years.

Michael spoke about some of the cases that he has dealt with over the years, with some good advice if we ever find ourselves in a similar situation. Obviously, his best advice is to call him!

We then had a very interesting and lively discussion on Speed Camera's. Are they in the right place? Do they help road safety? Are they in accident hotspots? Those who attended had no compunction on stating their views!

IAM Skills Days

Tuesday 12th April the IAM are holding a Skills day at Mallory Park. There are still a few vacancies for members and non-members to buy. There has not been one in the CE&W Region for some time now. The link to the Skills days is:

<http://www.iam.org.uk/drivers/motorists-courses/driving-assessment/skills-days>

This is a good opportunity for riders gain experience and develop their skills in the safe environment of a racing track.

Charity Ride 10 April 2016

Don't forget, if you are unable to attend the Sunday Ride out with us, there is the Charity Ride Out taking place on 10 April in aid of the Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Air Ambulance. For more information either go to the Facebook page or contact Roland Johns directly. Contact details in the Committee Member information.

Come and be part of something BIG this July!



The IAM 60th birthday motorcycle festival is on 2nd July 2016 at the National Motorcycle Museum at Solihull.

If you enjoyed the ROAR event last year then this going to be even better and bigger to celebrate the IAM's 60th birthday. Four times British Superbike winner Steve Plater will be the compe're. He was very popular as compe're at the Roar Event last summer.



is



If you have a classic bike then the IAM would like to hear from you. They are looking to showcase one motorcycle for each of 60 years.

Tickets for the MCN Festival

There are 2 tickets available for the MCN Festival at Peterborough 14 or 15th May, if anybody is interested. They cost £15.00 each, but reasonable offers considered. Please email me if you would like further information. Lynne (email address in Committee information)

Member BioPic



Ian Firth, Central England & Wales Regional Operations Manager

As a young lad, my only experience of a motorbike was being pillion on my brother's Honda 900F the day I signed up to join the RAF in 1980 and a ride in a sidecar of a friend's combination set up. My road to finding bikes was somewhat limited.

In 1981, that all changed when I was selected to join a royal protection team looking after the safety of Prince Feisal Bin Hussein of Jordan, who was learning to fly with the RAF. Part of being on the team meant that I was required to ride a motorbike. I was sent in the summer months to RAF St Athan in South Wales to learn to ride.

My instructor was a white haired gent with many years' experience in teaching Police riders and a member of the IAM. After a day of reading up on the highway code, learning about bikes and sitting a theory test that the RAF made us do, a colleague & I got to meet the bike we would learn on, a Bombadier Can Am 250, for which the military had dispensation for learners. After a few weeks of days out on the roads, I took my test in Barry and passed first time, before taking a few days converting on to Armstrong 400 trail bikes and then on to the Norton Interpol 2, Police bike. Looking back, we were not taught to pass the test. We were taught many advanced skills that are still employed today.

After 2 years on the protection team driving nice cars and not so nice trail bikes, our man returned to Jordan & I was posted where bikes were no longer required. I never owned my own bike until 27 years later when I bought a bike to commute to work in Lincoln. My choice of steed being the new Honda NC700X, which gave great fuel economy. I soon realized that things had changed in 27 years so took a BikeSafe course & was recommended towards the IAM. In June that year, I approached the IAM stand at Lincoln Bikefest and grabbed a leaflet and a few ChainLincs, signing up online a few days later.

I was over the moon when, on my first session, I met my observer Andy Kitchen on the same bike as myself, albeit newer and with 50 more cc. Luckily, much had stuck in my head since 1987, so Andy said I just needed to polish up my lines and a few minor details. Four sessions later and he said I was ready to go. On the check ride with Don Ford, I would have barely scrapped through, making a couple of nervous mistakes, but Don saw I knew where I went wrong and said I should be fine.

One morning in early November, I passed my IAM test with Andy Trevithick. I found the whole course and test experience to be really positive and importantly, good fun. A few months later, I was staring redundancy in the face when Mick Smith forwarded an

email to all members regarding a Regional Manager vacancy with the IAM. With 12 years working in the voluntary sector as a volunteer manager, I thought, why not try?

In April 2015, I started working as the Regional Operations Manager (ROM) for Central England & Wales covering the area from Ipswich, up to the Humber and all the way across to Wales and as far South West as Cirencester. I even cover my bike learning patch that includes RAF St Athan and Barry. In that area, I support 62 IAM groups, including cars as well as bikes. One of the first things I had to do within the IAM was complete my advanced car test, which I did after 2 sessions with Lincoln Cars, gaining a F1rst (Thanks to my bike training).

My role as ROM sees me communicating with groups and Chiswick on a daily basis. Often, I am asked to clarify things or look into complaints, but most of the time I am supporting groups by visiting their committees and updating them on changes; coordinating projects such as free taster sessions; looking for ways to recruit new members and assisting, planning and attending events. These events can include skills days, conference and forum meetings and the ROAR event last year. I also spend a lot of time working with Road Safety Partnerships, such as the Wales Motorcycle Accident Reduction Partnership, where we look at post-test training for bikers and funding streams that we can use to bring costs down for riders in order to entice them to take training they otherwise would avoid. Results include funding from Police & Crime Commissioners, local Authority and the Welsh Assembly. A large part of my work means travelling, often during evenings and weekends to meet the volunteers who give so much time to Road Safety. A big part of my work over the coming months will be rolling out the new standards to all the groups in my region.

Overall, it is a very interesting job with periods of routine interspersed with periods of work that are so diverse, it keeps the work very interesting. In my own time, I volunteer with Lincolnshire Blood Bikes, trying to do one weekend per month, or else I can be found on the golf course or on my Kawasaki Z1000SX sports tourer. One day, they just may be able to combine riding a sports tourer with golf. When they do, I may look at retirement!

Free Taster Sessions

Do you know someone who says they wouldn't mind having a go at Advanced Riding but never seems to follow it up? Well now they can, at no cost to themselves. The IAM have launched a campaign offering free one hour 'taster' assessment rides.

These sessions are designed to introduce IAM advanced riding techniques to those interested in improving their riding skills using the IPSGA system and to promote safer riding. Those interested should sign up via the IAM website.

Road Safety Campaign – Aimed at Motorcyclists

Lincolnshire Police are beginning a week long regional road safety campaign aimed specifically at motorcyclists using our local roads. The campaign runs from March 21st – 27th March, supporting the NPCC (National Police Chiefs' Council) National Motorcycle Week of Action.

The purpose of the campaign is to improve rider behaviour, improve road safety and contribute to a reduction in the numbers of those killed and seriously injured.

A dedicated team of Police motorcyclists will be using marked and unmarked bikes, supported by traffic cars, to engage and educate motorcyclists as well as dealing with any offences identified while on patrol. The focus will be on routes that have a history of high motorcycle casualties and will also be supported by mobile camera vans which will be enforcing the speed limits on these same routes.

Nationally the numbers of motorcyclists being killed or seriously injured is on the increase; last year a total of 51 riders and one pillion passenger lost their lives across the East Midlands, many of these fatalities happened between April and October.

Motorcycle users remain the road user group with the highest rate of collisions and casualties per mile travelled. Motorcyclists make up just 1% of total road traffic but account for 19% of all road user deaths.

Chief Inspector Phil Vickers, who is heading up the regional campaign said, "Along with enforcing the law our campaign also aims to offer advice to riders to help improve their road skills, make their riding safer and more enjoyable while also encouraging them to take further training, either through their local Police or Council road safety teams."

So, be aware if you're out and about this week. According to research Biker's should be doubly aware on 5th April. This is the most dangerous day of the year to ride a motorcycle! Remember and use IPSGA.

Thursday is the most dangerous day to ride a motorbike, whilst the weekend is the safest time to ride. *Might have to disagree with that!*

Motorcyclists in their 40s are the most susceptible to accidents with over 7 out of 10 claims (71%) involving people aged between 41 and 48 years.

Bikers named David are the most vulnerable on the road, accounting for 15% of total claims, followed by those called Paul (14%) and Andrew (11%).

In a bid to cut the number of casualties and increase awareness of bikers an e-petition has been set up campaigning to ensure compulsory bike-related questions are included in the driving test. The petition can be found at: www.bikerpetition.co.uk It already has over 33,000 signatures and is backed by the MCIA, MAG and BMF, three of the most influential motorcycling organization bodies.

Observers Meeting

By Jerry Neale

This month Andy Kitchen has some help for associates looking to do a little extra homework between their observed rides. These are also great tools for any member to do in order to maintain their programme of continuous personal improvement.

1. Keep 'lifesavers' (over the shoulder look to the rear) to a minimum, as you're generally better off looking where you're going rather than where you've been. Good, regular use of your mirrors and shoulder checks (a 90 degree check to the right or left, when changing position on the road) should ensure that you continually know what's happening behind and around you. Use a 'lifesaver' to check any blindspot which your mirrors or shoulder check do not cover. Each observation should be purposeful and effective – don't just move your head by habit.
2. When using your mirrors, don't just move your eyes. A positive movement of the head gives a clear indication to your Observer, Examiner and fellow riders that you know what's happening around you. It also indicates to other road users that you know they are there.
3. Good observation depends on you looking up – If you look into the distance you can still see relatively close up, but if you look close up you can't see in the distance.
4. Look on '**Main beam not dipped**'.
5. Ride with as many other Advanced riders as possible. Look at what they do and never be afraid to ask questions or query why they did something.

Are you interested in becoming an observer? To find out what's involved come along to the next meeting and see for yourself, you might be pleasantly surprised! We will be pleased to see you.

Congratulations to Roland Johns on passing his Local Observer Qualification.

Rambling On

I've been asked by Jerry to add my five- pennyworth to help associates between observed rides and full members who are looking to maintain their program of continuous personal improvement, I think he means to keep their riding standards up.

In addition to what Ian said last month, which is all good stuff, I will mention Roadcraft. I know the IAM think it's too advanced for an associate to take in if read on its own, but read in conjunction with HTBABR it gives a greater understanding of what advanced riding is all about.

As for advice, I like an associate to put in some miles, in most cases just to allow the new system of riding to settle in. I had one associate that, between observed rides, he re-rode the entire route we had ridden the previous session and back again, sometimes more than once . On the pieces of the ride that I had made comments on , he would ride them over once as he had ridden it, then again as I had advised, and then again his way and his conclusion was 'John had got it right, the system does work'.

This meant that when we went out on the next session I could move him on to the next stage without having to cover the old ground, because the old faults seldom repeated themselves , no wonder he became a very good senior observer.

As for the members that have passed their test, that would like to keep their riding standards up to scratch, there is always the Sunday morning rides. I know some members don't like to think that an observer will be watching their every move, but it's not anything like that. The Sunday rides were originally for full members to ride in a small group and go off for a ride where they choose and ride to a good standard. Then have a chat among themselves about the session, no observer giving a detailed blow by blow account of the ride, so if the riding was of a good enough quality there would be little to talk about. It's not a lot to ask for a couple of hours 2 or 3 times a year to put your riding standard on the line.

Or if they are seriously committed to improving their riding, become an observer or even take the Masters Test.

Group Clothing

There is a wide range of group clothing available to order, with our Lincolnshire Advanced Motorists logo on it, you can also add the IAM logo and a name if desired. There are a number of colours available, for full details contact Kevin Turner via email. Details shown in the Committee Information.

Name						
ITEM	DESIGN	SIZE	QTY	Name to be embroidered (leave blank if not required)	PER ITEM	TOTAL
Polo Shirt with	Group Badge				£8.50	£
Polo Shirt with	Group Badge + IAM Logo				£10.50	£
Sweatshirt with	Group Badge				£10.00	£
Sweatshirt with	Group Badge + IAM Logo				£12.00	£
Fleece with	Group Badge				£14.00	£
Fleece with	Group Badge + IAM Logo				£16.00	£
T-shirt with	Group Badge				£7.00	£
Colour required:					TO PAY	£
PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED WITH ORDER						



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

From a Lincolnshire Advanced Motorcyclists Member

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Here at Moto Tours we are passionate about what we do. We have experienced motorcycle guides who have been to the locations before, so we are not going in blind.



CONTACT DAVE FOR MORE INFORMATION

07887 528623

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 hours, usually with a mid-point refreshment stop, starting at the venues listed below.

Ancholme Leisure Centre, Scawby Brook, Brigg, DN20 9JH

South side of A18

Willingham Woods Picnic Site, LN8 3RQA631

east of Market Rasen

Hartsholme Country Park Cafe, Lincoln, LN6 0EY

South side of B1378,
Skellingthorpe Road

Group 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 or social run.

DIARY OF EVENTS

APRIL

- Monday 4th - Monthly evening meeting at the Nags Head, Middle Rasen, LN8 3JU (A631) at 8.00pm. Guest speaker Ian Firth
- Sunday 10th - Group Observed Run from Brigg Leisure Centre. Meet 9.00am for 9.30am prompt start
- Sunday 10th April – Charity ride out in aid of Air Ambulance
- Monday 11th - Committee Meeting, Nags Head, Middle Rasen. Prompt start at 7.45pm
- Wednesday 27th - Meeting for Observers and those interested in becoming Observers. Venue the Nags Head, Middle Rasen, LN8 3JU (A631), commencing 7.45pm

DIARY OF EVENTS

MAY

- Monday 2nd - Monthly evening meeting at the Nags Head, Middle Rasen, LN8 3JU (A631) at 8.00pm
- Sunday 8th - Group Observed Run from Willingham Woods. Meet 9.00am for 9.30am prompt start
- Wednesday 25th - Meeting for Observers and those interested in becoming Observers. Venue the Nags Head, Middle Rasen, LN8 3JU (A631), commencing 7.45pm

JUNE

- Monday 6th - Monthly evening meeting at the Nags Head, Middle Rasen, LN8 3JU (A631) at 8.00pm
- Sunday 12th - Group Observed Run from Hartsholme Country Park. Meet 9.00am for 9.30am. prompt start
- Monday 13th - Committee Meeting, Nags Head, Middle Rasen. Prompt start at 7.45pm
- Wednesday 29th - Meeting for Observers and those interested in becoming Observers Venue the Nags Head, Middle Rasen, LN8 3JU (A631), commencing 7.45pm

JULY

- Saturday 2nd July IAM 60th birthday celebrations at National Motorcycle Museum in Birmingham
- Monday 4th - Monthly evening meeting at the Nags Head, Middle Rasen, LN8 3JU (A631) at 8.00pm.
- Sunday 10th - Group Observed Run from Brigg Leisure Centre. Meet 9.00am for 9.30am prompt start
- Wednesday 27th - Meeting for Observers and those interested in becoming Observers. Venue the Nags Head, Middle Rasen, LN8 3JU (A631), commencing 7.45pm

August

- Monday 1st - Monthly evening meeting at the Nags Head, Middle Rasen, LN8 3JU (A631) at 8.00pm.
- Sunday 7th - Group Observed Run from Willingham Woods. Meet 9.00am for 9.30am prompt start
- Monday 8th - Committee Meeting, Nags Head, Middle Rasen. Prompt start at 7.45pm
- Wednesday 31st - Meeting for Observers and those interested in becoming Observers. Venue the Nags Head, Middle Rasen, LN8 3JU (A631), commencing 7.45pm