



RIDECRAFT

CHAIRMAN'S RANT!

Hope that everyone who came to the January Club meet at The Coore Arms at Scruton enjoyed themselves - it felt that I had not really been away, and the new owners made us feel very welcome! It has been decided that we will continue to stay at the Coore Arms as it does tick most of the boxes!

There was a Committee meeting last Saturday and Malcolm Lonsdale, the IAM Region 4 Motorcycle Advisor, attended and he mentioned that NAB's Test Passes were up on last year and thanked everybody involved for their fine efforts.

It was also decided at the Committee meeting that we should have a stock merchandise clearance sale to make way for new stocks, and this will be on sale at the coming meeting.

We have booked the rear room at the Coore for the izi Motorcycle Academy for their talk this month, and Malcolm Lonsdale will again be attending - so a good turnout to support this talk would be great.

Then the following month, 31st March, we will have Harry and Warren giving us a light-hearted and informative talk on track riding and general machine control. These guys race the track and know their stuff, so please come along if you can.

Don't forget we have now rescheduled the Slow Riding Day for Saturday 14th March at Hipswell school - all welcome.

The AGM has been booked for Tuesday 28th April at the Coore Arms back room. The posts up for grabs will be Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity & Sponsorship Manager(s), Newsletter Editor, Events Manager(s), Training Manager(s), Membership Administrator & finally expression of interest re Chief Observer. (All dates on Forum - Meetings).

So now's your chance to have your say in how NAB is run, if you are interested in one or more of these positions you know what to do!

Enjoy your riding, but most of all stay safe

Peter Waite, Chairman

Noggin & Natter

Your next Social Meeting :

TUES 24th FEB

7.30 pm

The COORE ARMS,
Scruton, nr Northallerton



MEMBERSHIP BITS MEMBERSHIP BITS MEMBERSHIP BITS MEMBERSHIP BITS

- No new members this month
- Belated congratulations to Iain BURGESS who was successful on his Advanced Bike Test in December - well done - and officially the last one of 2008! Humble apologies Iain!
- Don't forget your RIDEOUT COORDINATORS - Elly & Phil - will be looking to get the season's **Rideout Calendar** filled as soon



as possible - so dig out those diaries and pick a date you would like to organise a ride before they get booked up!

- For those who are not yet registered on the **FORUM** - why not!?? Get on, use it and keep informed!
- Finally - a gentle reminder that **RAFFLE Prizes** are very welcome at each of the monthly meetings (The Management!)

The Small Print . . .

Please note that the views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists), NAB (Northallerton Advanced Bikes) or its Committee

SLOW RIDING TRAINING

Saturday 14th March 2009

09:00 to 15:00 hrs

RISEDALE SCHOOL, HIPSWELL, CATTERICK GARRISON

DL9 4DB

<http://www.axcis.co.uk/map/37046.html>

Members of the Training Team will be at Risedale School between 09.00 and 15.00 hours so that any NAB member / associate can turn up and participate in learning some new skills or just brush up on skills you already have.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided and you are invited to attend at anytime between the posted hours to have a go.

This is intended to be a fun day and a chance to get together with other members. There is no test; it does not matter if you are a complete novice or you keep putting feet down, just come along and enjoy the experience.

There will be Senior Observers on hand to assist and give advice and the NAB tent will be available if the weather turns against us.

Any enquiries either before or on the day please contact Dick Cresswell on 07742 056202

Just by way of a pictorial reminder that spring, and quite possibly summer, are just around the corner . . . here is Harry enjoying some winter sunshine in Spain last year !

It is also a subtle reminder that Warren & Harry will be giving a light-hearted & informative presentation on Track Riding and General Machine Control at the meeting at the end of March.

These guys ride the track and bear the scars to prove it - come along and be informed and entertained !



Quote of the day . . . “ Bikes don` t leak oil, they mark their territory ! “

EXPERIENCE SINCE PASSING THE TEST

Thanks to Nicky Bragg I passed my IAM test last year. I'm glad I did the training. There have been three instances since, when a mixture of the roadcraft I learned for my test and the skills I learned at i2i helped me avoid obstacles in the road on blind corners or cars turning across my path. One of these, in the wet and dark, was seriously heartstopping and I don't think the car driver had any idea what had happened.

So much of it is such common sense! Rather gruesomely I was looking at some motorcycle crashes recorded on You Tube the other day. All I can say is that if you keep to your own side of the road on blind bends it helps a lot.

I don't know about others but I have found other motorcyclists often to be a significant hazard. Usually it's because they try to take the racing line. On a right hander for them, left hander for me, this can bring us into a close passing manoeuvre with a high closing speed. Because of the IAM observation advantage, it's down to me to avoid the nasty.

I think that having a system to follow, and to judge your own performance against, is one of the strengths of the training. It means you continue to learn. Still, there are some issues that occur to me about the system that I thought I'd share.

Firstly, I sometimes felt when I was training that some of the requirements of the system interfered with the simple job of knowing what was going on ahead. Making sure your trainer can see you using your mirrors, keeping a close eye on the speedometer for maximum accuracy and making sure you demonstrate that you are looking into side roads can sometimes leave little time for looking straight ahead at where you are going. It's my observation that where side roads have decent sightlines I can check side road traffic with a glance to my left or right in good time for the junction but that where the sightlines are poor, I have to be almost on top of the junction before I can see anything, by which time evasive action would be impossible. Most important in my view is being well placed to be visible to side road traffic rather than showing your awareness by head movements.

I discussed these issues with JF before my test and he gave me some very sensible and reassuring advice to help me make my own judgements about prioritising risks and about the tester observing my position and speed, as well as my head movements, to understand what I was taking account of.

Secondly, I still have some qualms about using the width of the road to the maximum in corners. The closer I get to the centre line or kerb, the more I have to concentrate on that to avoid difficulties, which detracts from my concentration on the road ahead. But if I re-focus on the road ahead I steer more directly ahead and move towards the centre of the lane. Also, I am afraid of getting too close to the curb because of the rubbish there. Perhaps I will lose grip. And finally, I sometimes feel that I should leave more room at the centre of the road in a left turn because the counter-steering which will get me back into the centre of the lane, away from oncoming traffic, first takes me even closer to it. So I try to make the right compromise.

All this takes up concentration and no-one said motorcycling was easy. But I sometimes wonder if the system is a little too prescriptive and over-developed. Other things being equal, the simpler it is the less time will be spent in concentrating on it rather than on the road.

Do others have similar issues? I expect JF is regretting passing me now!

Bill Cross

Any other stuff . . .

Most importantly now, we do need to get the forthcoming season`s RIDEOUT CALENDAR sorted . . . as soon as poss !

Historically, we have held the first organised Rideout of the season on the first Sunday in April, and this year that falls on the 5th - so not very far away now !

If you would like to volunteer for this or any of the other dates throughout the riding season, please get in touch with Phil & Elly, our new Rideout Co-ordinators, who will be happy to give you an further information you may require.

Make a Diary Note

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING DATES

Sun 1st & Sat 7th March 2009

i2i OBSERVER TRAINING Days
For new Trainee Observers

Tuesday 31st March 2009

COORE ARMS Pub Meet - talk and presentation on Track Riding by Harry & Warren

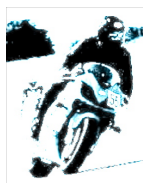
Sunday 5th April 2009

Should be the first ORGANISED RIDEOUT of the season - do we have a willing volunteer yet ??

Thursday 28th May 2009

i2i CROFT CIRCUIT Event
Previously mentioned and you must have already done the MCI and MC3 to attend.
25 places still available on this event !

Let us know if you are aware of any rides / events which you think other NAB members would be interested in !



SAFE-RIDER

CBT - TEST - ADVANCED

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(Call Simon on 01969 625110)



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(Call 01325 267569) mmtdarlington.com



White Bros



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WHITE BROS MOTORCYCLES in DARLINGTON are kindly offering NAB members a 5 % discount on clothing & accessories. (Tel. 01325 466422)

www.whitebroshonda.co.uk

Have your say !

Any items for the newsletter - please send by email to the address below.

The newsletter is normally ready for publication one week before the pub meeting

jayeph@tiscali.co.uk

RIDE SAFE & ENJOY !