

www.w-a-m.co.uk

**Club Night
8th February**

WAM AGM

WIRRAL ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS

Group Council 2010 ~ 2011 IAM Group 5115

Web Site <http://www.w-a-m.co.uk>

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Chief Observer	Mike Boston	chiefobserver@w-a-m.co.uk
Other Council members	Ian Webb, Terry Purcell, Dave Ashworth, Derek Jeffries, Nina Jeffries	

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L5 0RH

MAGAZINE TEAM:

Editor: Peter Lovatt
Duplication: Martin Tittley

Distribution:
Magazine Dispatchers and the
Post Office!

The Ed Sez...

Hi WAM members!
As this is the first
WAM magazine of
2011, I'll wish you a
belated Happy New
Year!

A big Thanks to everyone who helped out to organize and prepare food for our December club night, notably Rob C and Nina. I think everyone there appreciated



the effort put in and it was a bloody good night. For those who didn't turn up, shame on you! This is a Apple pie that Bob brought along. It did have WAM on the top, but someone took a slice and it ended up IAM.....

February is also the BIG ONE for WAM; it's our AGM. Here the WAM clan gather after dark and go through some strange rituals and rites just like some secret society, but without the rolled up trouser leg and funny handshakes. At least I think that what happens!!! Either that or have a good laugh!! So put this into your diaries and make an effort to turn up to put some input into your club. The date is 8th February 2011. Don't forget that we are always looking for new faces to join the group council. There are a few vacant positions this year, so if you think you have a few hours a month to spare, your help would be most appreciated. After all it is *YOUR* club!

And the final, finally, CONGRATULATIONS to everyone who has taken and passed their IAM test in 2010. If you are thinking of doing some observing, then ask any council member.....

Request for help
If you want to observe for Bike Safe, could
you please contact Chris Bowers on
07976847247
Or email cbowers1@sky.com

AGM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 31st Annual General Meeting of Wirral Advanced Motorcyclists will be held on:

**Tuesday 8th February 2011 at the RAFA Club,
Shrewsbury Road, Birkenhead, Wirral**

to present their:-

- 1. Annual report and accounts for the year ending 31st January, 2011 for approval by the group Members**
- 2. Election of Council officers - Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer**
- 3. Election of council members**
- 4. Any other Business**

Rob Cooper - Group Secretary

Group No. 5115

All members, Associates and Friends of the group and their guests are invited to attend, BUT only FULLY paid up members of the Institute and of the group may vote

AGENDA

Apologies for absence.

1. Minutes of previous AGM. Any matters arising and approval of. (Resolution No.1)
2. Chairman's annual report.
3. Accounts and Treasurer's annual report. Details and approval of. (Resolution No.2)
4. Group associate scheme and membership report
5. Election of group council members:

The following members retire in accordance with rule 6(c) of the group constitution:

Bob Irving,

There are ??? members for re-election in accordance with rule 6(d) (tbc)*

There may be a new member elected onto the council (t.b.c)*

(Resolution No.3)

Election of Officers and the Group Council:-

*CHAIRMAN	Rob Tutchings
*VICE CHAIRMAN	Dave Ashworth (t.b.c)
*HON.SECRETARY	Rob Cooper
*MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Luke Windsor
*ASSOCIATE COORDINATOR	Steve Walling
*CHIEF OBSERVER	Mike Boston
*HON.TREASURER	Lindsay Boston
*MINUTES SECRETARY	Peter Lovatt
*GROUP SHOP	Martin Titley
*EVENTS SECRETARY	Derek & Nina Jefferies
*NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Peter Lovatt
*MAGAZINE TEAM	Peter Lovatt/Martin Titley

*OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS Ian Webb, Terry Purcell,

Gary Burns

RETIRING COUNCIL MEMBERS

Bob Irving

(Resolution No.4)

6. Any Other Business

Voting will take place on Resolutions 1 to 4 as detailed above.

* final council members positions to be confirmed at AGM



WIRRAL ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS

Diary of Events

www.w-a-m.co.uk/diary.htm

February

8th Club night - AGM

**Tuesday 8th February 2011 at the
RAFA Club,
Shrewsbury Road, Birkenhead,
Wirral**

Wirral Egg Run

17th April 2011

REQUEST for MARSHALLS

**The Wirral Egg Run committee are looking for
Marshalls on the day**

**If you want to help as an individual please
contact them**

info@wirraleggrun.com



Left
Mike Sutton
receives his
IAM Test Pass
Certificate
from Our
Chairman,
Rob Tutchings

And below
Tim Brown
Receives his
IAM Test Pass
Certificate.



WIRRAL ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

I wish to apply to renew my membership of Wirral Advanced Motorcyclists for the year 2011/12 and enclose a cheque number: _____ made payable to Wirral Advanced Motorcyclists for £_____. My details are shown below and I agree to these being held, in accordance with the Data Protection Act, on computer file. I understand that my membership fee is renewable annually.

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: (Please tick)

- FULL MEMBER* £15
- ASSOCIATE £15
- GROUP FRIEND £15

***FULL MEMBERS MUST** have passed the IAM advanced motorcycle test and continue to be members of the IAM.

PERSONAL DETAILS:

Surname: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Bike: _____

Telephone Numbers: _____ (Home) _____ (Mobile)

_____ (Fax)

E-Mail Address: _____

IAM Membership Number: _____ Date of Test Pass: _____

Date of Expiry of IAM Membership: _____

I agree / do not agree to my details being held on a computer file.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this form together with your remittance to:

Luke Windsor
1 St Andrews Road
Bebington
Wirral
Merseyside
CH63 3DE

**REMINDER: Subscriptions are due at the
AGM in February and *MUST* be paid by
30th April at the latest.**

Paul Bleasdale
receives his IAM
Test Pass Certificate from Our
Chairman, Rob
Tutchings



FAME...at last!!! Hot off the presses - a full page article about Jean-Paul and his recent test-pass, in Unilever R&D's house magazine..."The Bridge". [right]

Martin

Hi Peter,

Can I please pass on my thanks to all concerned through the W.A.M., newsletter.

Passed my test on the 21st of November, not without incident. I'm sure the driver who decided at the last minute to turn right in front of me at traffic lights understood what Chris my examiner was conveying to him. Big thank you to all the observers who showed immense patients with me, especially Bob.

Safe Riding

Paul Racey

Just to let you know I passed today, 14th November. Started at Colwyn Bay station and went to Abergele, Dyserth, Minera and little places I can't remember yet alone pronounce! Ended up at Holywell/A55. Thanks for getting me involved - see you on a Sunday or at a club night.

Cheers

Tim

Jean-Paul rides to success

Being closely followed by a policeman on a motorbike might make any motorcyclist nervous – but for Jean-Paul Claessen it was part of becoming an official Advanced Motorcyclist.

The motorcycle test, taken after training with the Wirral Advanced Motorcyclists (WAM), involved a 90-minute ride on town and country roads and motorways with the police examiner behind, watching every move.

"He was a very advanced senior policeman riding close behind me, so it was a bit nerve-wracking. Also, it was dusk and the light was changing so it was quite challenging," said Jean-Paul, who was delighted to be told that he had passed.

Jean-Paul, Expertise Team Leader and Project Leader, has been riding a motorbike since he was 22, and passed his test in the Netherlands. Now – 22 years on – he still enjoys riding his bike. Family commitments mean he rides less often than he used to, but he can still be seen arriving at work on his Ducati.

"I thought this was a good time to sharpen my skills so I did a safety awareness course last year in Wales then joined the Wirral Advanced Motorcyclists to take it further," he says.

Jean-Paul did a six-week intensive course with WAM, riding from 9am to 2pm once a week with a trained observer behind him, looking at aspects such as positioning, cornering, overtaking, speed and – most importantly – safety, all on different types of road, and offering comments and advice.

Now that Jean-Paul has passed the Institute of Advance Motorists' Advanced Motorcycle Test he has become a full member of the Institute and of WAM. Next he plans to train as an observer with WAM and pass on some of what he has learned.

The lab's Martin Titley is a member of WAM's group council. If you'd like to know more about WAM you can contact him on x1476 or visit the WAM website at www.wa-m.co.uk.



Jean-Paul Claessen, left, receives his Wirral Advanced Motorcyclists Certificate from Chris Givors, IAM's North West regional staff examiner, at WAM's September presentation evening

Jean-Paul's day...

What's your morning routine?

Usually our daughter Ella calls one of us around 6.45... then I shower, get dressed, breakfast, brush teeth, go! (All with getting kids ready in parallel, but we do that together). Ella is three and our son Ryan is nine weeks old.

Jean-Paul Claessen is now an Advanced Motorcyclist



How do you get to work?

Usually car, sometimes motorbike.

What's the first thing you do when you get to the lab?

Get a coffee, then look at e-mail.

What is your role?

I've got two roles, Expertise Team Leader for SPPS (which is part of SPB – Sensory Perception and Behaviour) and Technical Project Leader for Oral Care Discover.

What's the best thing about your job?

Working with people and making a difference through, and with them, in both roles.

And the most challenging?

Combining it all... and meeting the diverse demands of programme and resource.

What do you do for lunch?

If time, lunch with friends in the Links to switch off for a moment.

What advice would you give to someone new in your department?

Absorb as much information as you can during the first three months, and start building a network with people across the organisation, as this will be vital for success.

How do you relax when you get home?

Drop work bag in a corner, have a family meal followed by a cuppa tea.

Who does the cooking in your house?

My wife Claire does 80 per cent of the cooking, and does the difficult and more innovative recipes (but then her background is chemistry...).

What would be your perfect evening?

Have a good meal and wine with friends in a countryside pub.

What can't you live without?

My family and friends, and a sense of humour to see it all in perspective.

Accidents

No matter how hard you work at your riding, no matter how hard you concentrate, you are still a road user and by virtue of the fact, you may have an accident one day. There are some simple steps you can take to ensure that, if you do have an accident you will protect your interests.

First your protection. By definition an accident scene is a dangerous location! The most important person in the world is you, therefore protect yourself by protecting the scene. This can be by directing someone else to warn the approaching traffic, or by using what ever comes to hand to provide some early warning. Remember that the longer drivers have you in view then the less likely emergency action will be required by them. If you have lost control on a bend you have just found the exact location that people end up in when they have lost control. Don't worry about congested traffic, leave everything where it is, the more congested then the slower the traffic will be going past you. Your bike with headlight on parked facing the oncoming traffic is a good way of warning the traffic, if some elses car is available use it (think of it as an expensive road cone!). Ensure if you are in the road that you are wearing something that a myopic driver will see.

Once the scene is secure then think of the casualties. Assess what assistance you need numbers and severity of casualties. But most important of all where are you! It sounds daft but under pressure people forget where they are, which towns they are between or which Motorway they are on. If you are not local ask some one who is, to summon the ambulance. First aid is a subject in itself, now is the time when you regret not learning more.

Once the dust has settled its time to think about the law. There are certain things which you **MUST** do when involved in an accident. You must stop. How long for? Well, this is where it gets a bit like estimating the length of a piece of string. You are obliged to stop long enough for any interested parties to take your name, index number, the name and address of the owner of the bike and insurance details. If you have an accident and don't give any of the above you must report to the Police as soon as possible, and in any case within 24 hrs. The importance of making notes at the time cannot be over estimated. Let's take the usual scenario. You approach a junction and a car pulls out on you forcing you to drop the bike. Your first thought must be, "why the hell didn't I remember what those wonderful chaps at Rapid Training told me about the safety position."

Here are some very important points:

Exact location.

If you don't know where you are, then ask somebody. If you've got a map, then note the location. If you are out on a day run in the middle of nowhere there is a

good chance that you won't be back this way for a long time, especially if the bike is in a heap on the verge.

Time and date. Details of the other vehicle and driver. If he/she admits liability, make a record of what is said, word for word. That counts for a lot. The damage to the other vehicle. Even if you didn't hit him, he may use your accident to get some old damage fixed.

Witnesses.

A good witness is worth their weight in gold. If the accident is indeed the other driver's fault, get the witness details and be nice to them. If the unmentionable occurs and the accident is your fault, wave the witnesses on as quickly as possible before the other driver gets a chance to get their names and addresses!!!

Marks on the road.

These are very important. They show all sorts about the accident. If the road surface is in some way defective, record the fact. Pace out the lengths of any tyre marks or scratches.

Photographs.

Once again, a simple thing like a few snaps of the scene and the damage to the vehicles is worth a great deal. If the old idiot in the cloth cap has indeed pulled out of you from a junction, then simply take a picture of what he would have seen as he emerged. If there are road signs which he has ignored then lets have a picture. Likewise, if there are signs which are obscured by hedgerows then we need to have that recorded.

Groups.

If you are a Rapid 'graduate' then there is a good chance that you may be riding as a group on a day out, or "jolly" to use the full technical term. If one of the team falls off then make sure that one of the group takes the initiative and looks after the evidence gathering process. If the Police attend and its your fault then be careful what you say. Don't be rude but you shouldn't make statements when you are shocked. Seek some advice as soon as possible.

If you were to believe the press over the last year or two, then riding a motorcycle is as dangerous as juggling Roman Candles in a gunpowder factory. Yet intelligent people still buy and ride motorcycles despite the life expectancy of a mayfly! Well I have yet to see the press or TV run a story with a happy ending if they don't have to. So is it as bad as that? Well yes and No but mainly NO. Yes of course bikes are dangerous but that is part of the appeal, do you see a sudden rise in the popularity of crochet or flower arranging? Fun! Yes that word that given the chance the powers that be would ban. Bikes are fun! There I have said it and the sky hasn't crashed down on me. We are into fun big style but we also want to live long and prosper, so reducing our risk while increasing the fun factor is the name of our game.

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Obituary - Mal Kirwan

Just as this magazine was going to press, I heard the sad news that Mal Kirwan has passed away. I don't have any more details at the time of typing this up. I never knew Mal personally, but I know he was well known in racing circles being a member of the Wirral 100 and did a bit of racing - he was a Former Lap record holder at New Brighton Prom races, and also not forgetting his main profession of being a solicitor and helping many a Biker out in Court. May I take this opportunity on behalf of the club to pass on Deepest Sympathies to his family and friends

Pete

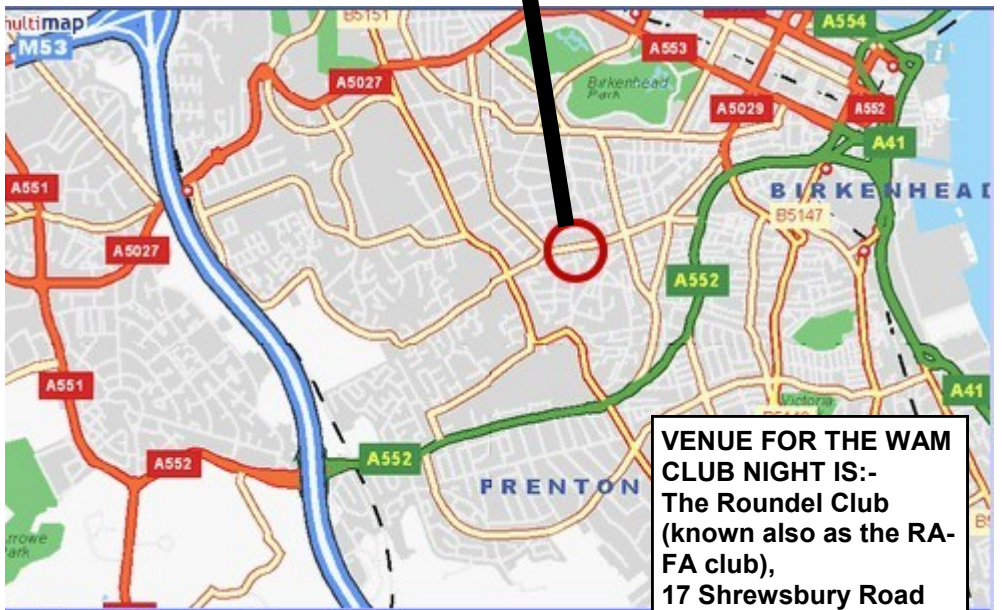
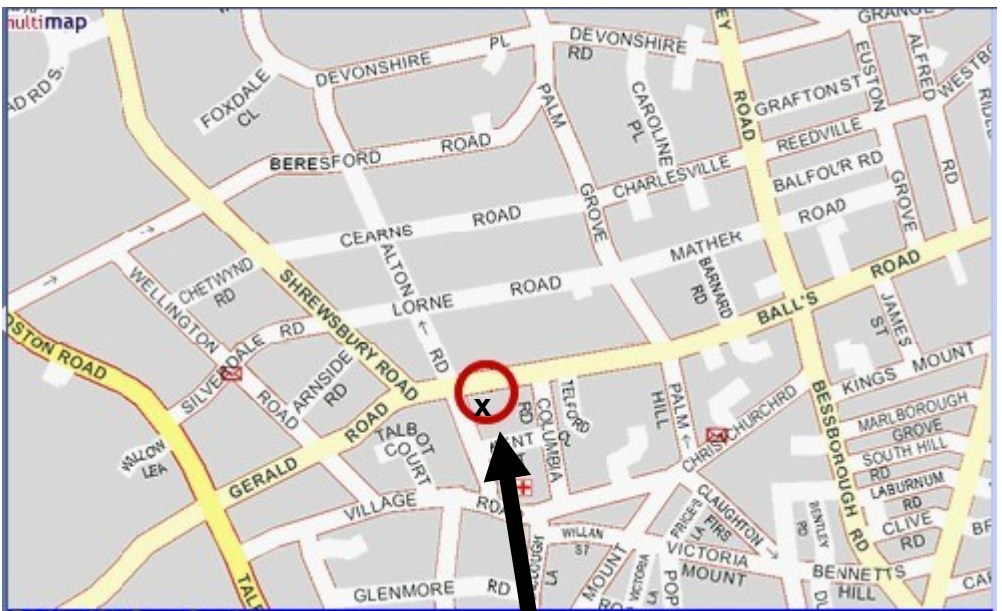
Pete, here is the release given to me by Marriotts. Launch evening is Thursday 27th January from 7pm. Anyone wishing to enter the competition needs to do so before then on the Kawasaki website. They will be having their own raffle and there will be refreshments (how good is anyone's guess!). Also, on the evening the shop upstairs are having 20% discount on all non genuine items. Friday and Saturday will have 15%. **For future reference, they are giving WAM members 10% discount where possible upstairs.**

Derek

Unique factory trip prize for 2011 Kawasaki launch night. Kawasaki has just announced the date for a national dealer launch night for its 2011 road bike range that includes a Free Draw for one lucky person and a friend to win a unique once-in-a-lifetime Kawasaki Japanese factory tour prize. Taking place at road bike dealers up and down the UK on 27 January 2011, the exciting night represents the perfect chance for Kawasaki fans old and new to spend some real "quality time" with the already popular Z1000SX and Z1000SX Tourer, the track focused Ninja ZX-10R, plus the much talked about new high-spec streetfighter styled Z750R.

With its biggest and best range for over a decade, Kawasaki's new season bikes will be displayed alongside such established popular range favourites as the recently updated Versys, the mean and moody matt black VN900 Custom and ever popular ZZR1400, Z1000 plus many, many more. Kawasaki dealers across the UK will be running special themed events on January 27 to celebrate the incoming new models where customers can also discover more about the recently launched Kawasaki Riders Club, see what special 0% typical APR and low rate finance deals are on offer and find out about the amazing national Free Draw to win fabulous Kawasaki prizes including the stunning money-can't-buy factory tour prize.

The first step for customers is to register for the competition online via the form on the Kawasaki News UK Facebook page before making their way to their local dealer on the evening of 27 January to confirm their pre-registration and enjoy the evening's activities. "With so much to see and do, including the opportunity to experience our new 2011 models and find out about our new Kawasaki Riders Club - plus the chance to win what will be a stunning trip to the Kawasaki factory in Japan for two people - this will surely be an unforgettable night that should not to be missed", commented Sales and Marketing Manager for Kawasaki Motors UK., Michael Johnstone.

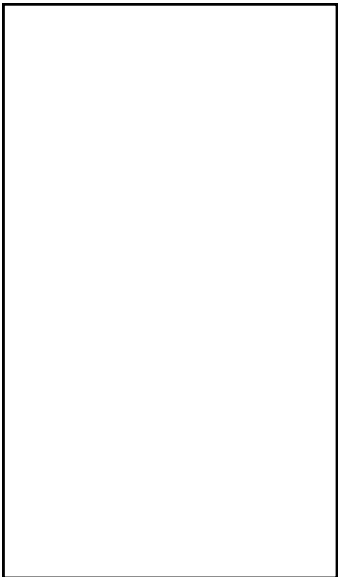


The date has also changed to the **SECOND TUESDAY** of the month.

You can park around the rear of the club in the CCTV monitored car park.

VENUE FOR THE WAM CLUB NIGHT IS:-
The Roundel Club
(known also as the RA-FA club),
17 Shrewsbury Road
Oxton
CH43 1UU

(it's situated on the corner of Alton Road—and the entry to the car park is also on Alton Road!)



DISCLAIMER:-

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Interested in doing the Advanced Car Test? Wirral Advanced Motorists are the people to see. Go to www.wirraliam.co.uk