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Club Night
13th March
IAM Examiner talk

WIRRAL ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS

Group Council 2012 ~ 2013 IAM Group 5115

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

Chairman	Rob Tutchings	chairman@w-a-m.co.uk
Vice Chairman	Vacant	vicechairman@w-a-m.co.uk
Honorary Treasurer	Lindsay Boston	treasurer@w-a-m.co.uk
Membership	Luke Windsor 0797 907 1701	membership@w-a-m.co.uk
Associate Coordinator	Derek Jeffries	associatecoordinator@w-a-m.co.uk
Honorary Secretary	Rob Cooper 0151 648 4503	secretary@w-a-m.co.uk
Events Organiser	Derek Jeffries & Nina Jeffries	events@w-a-m.co.uk 07957341692
Newsletter Editor & Minute Secretary	Peter Lovatt	newsletter@w-a-m.co.uk
Group Shop	Martin Tittle 0151 632 3570	groupshop@w-a-m.co.uk
Chief Observer	Mike Boston	chiefobserver@w-a-m.co.uk
Other Council members	Dave Ashworth (07779305114) Steve Walling Colin Jones Tim Brown Mark Graham Ian Roberts Dave Spotswood	

CONTACT WAM

Rob Cooper
Coopers Upholstery
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Everton Valley
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MAGAZINE TEAM:

Editor: Peter Lovatt
Duplication: Martin Tittle

Distribution:
Magazine Dispatchers and the
Post Office!

This is the first WAM magazine after the famous WAM AGM in February. On the opposite page we have a new list of who is doing what, and more importantly, we have some new names inducted onto the Council.

Talking of the AGM, this issue has the minutes from the meeting (assuming I can decipher my terrible handwriting!!) and the main point at the meeting was raising the WAM membership fee to £20. This is the first increase in the subscription fee for a good few years. Also discussed was trying to get funds from other sources, and one of those sources is Gift Aid.

So inside this issue you will find the WAM Membership renewal form, AND there is a new box to tick on it - *do you want to get a paper copy of the Newsletter*. If NO is selected, you can get the latest newsletter from the WAM website - go to <http://www.w-a-m.co.uk/newsletters.html> for online version (and others going back about 3 years!). If YES is selected, you will get the usual paper version thru your letterbox. This is one way the group are trying to save on costs, especially postage.

One last thing from the AGM.....

Congratulations to Tim Brown for being 'Observer of the Year'.

Another thing to mention - there is a change of speaker at the March Club night on the 13th, it is now going to be John Hughes, one of the IAM examiners, and this

would be an ideal opportunity for Observers and Associates alike to come along and ask some questions, especially as we have our first FLC starting up in March.

Finally there is a new e-group been set up to discuss Official Group Rides out, riding techniques, FLC matters, and similar topics ONLY. Details inside this issue.

And a final finally, Thanks to Derek for organising the WAM visit to the Mersey Tunnel back in January. I'll sort some pix out for the next issue.....
Pete



WIRRAL ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS MINUTES OF AGM, 14th FEBRUARY 2012 RAFA Club, Oxton, Wirral

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:-

Chris Bowers, John Ashdown, Rob D'Cruze, Fiona Richardson

MINUTES OF 2010 AGM:-

No matters arising. Minutes approved by Ian Webb and Les Morris

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:-

I would firstly like to thank those that have served the Group Council over the last twelve months:

Linz the treasurer, Dave as Vice Chair, Rob the Secretary, Luke in membership, Steve who has co-ordinated the associates, Derek and Nina for taking the lead with arranging the social events with help I know from Ian Webb our previous social secretary, Martin and the group shop and club night raffles, Pete as Webmaster and magazine editor and of course Mike for keeping all the Observers in check as Chief Observer.

This is of course, not in any particular order of importance. Each of the above is hugely important. Without this team of volunteers, there would be no Wirral Advanced Motorcyclists motorcycle group. We work as a team and everyone does their bit towards the success of this local motorcycle branch of the National Road Safety Organisation, The Institute of Advanced Motorists for motorcyclists.

My 2nd term as Chairman started off at last years' AGM on the 8th February 2011, and this lead straight into the core activities of the club: Sat 5th March was Observers day, a gathering of about 25 us to arrange the observing for the year ahead and check-test our skills that had lay dormant throughout the winter period. The following Tuesday the 8th March was club night with entertainment from Steve and Rhona from Hein Gericke showing us their latest promotions.

Fixed Length Course 1 started on Saturday 12th March with about 6-7 associates the course continued for the next 6 Saturday mornings up to the 16th April.

April club night on the 12th April had Dave and Diana from 'So Many Roads' at Eastham to give us a very informative talk on Crash Helmets.

May 10th 2011 welcomed Peter Rodger, The Chief Examiner of the IAM all the way from Chiswick on his Yamaha FJ1300. He gave us an informative presentation and there were plenty of questions afterwards.

Saturday 4th June was the start of Fixed Length Course 2 with another 6-7 associates and the move to our new training premises at Cheshire Lines Building in Birkenhead. The term Flexible Fixed Length Course crept in and the usual 6 week course extended to 7 weeks to the 16th July plus extra evenings out, taking advantage of the long summer evenings.

June club night on the 14th welcomed Merseyside Police Officers PC Mick Abram and Sgt Paul Mountford from the local Traffic Unit for a chat and presentation on all things relating to motorcycles and the Police and details of the motorcycle training scheme Ride Safe Back Safe.

The Summer BBQ was on the next club night on the 12th July. Much good food was enjoyed by about 40 members and guests, and it didn't rain!!

Sunday the 17th July saw the 1st Official Club Run for some-time. The weather was a bit grim and we only went to Whitchurch and the Ponderosa before returning to Wirral with about 12 members. The shorter route and only a few riders to keep in check allowed Dave and I to get the technique of the group runs sorted out. August the 9th club night saw me otherwise engaged riding my GS across Kent, Sussex and Surrey along some of my old favourite country roads on a lovely warm summers evening. Vice Chair Dave looked after the evening with social club chat evening and a photo presentation from Pete.

Sunday 21st August saw me return from my jolly jaunts down south to arrange and lead one of the most successful days out I think WAM has experienced in many years. This was the club run to The Elan Valley in central Wales. Lunch at the visitor centre saw about 40 WAM members and friends. Some of the group at the Elan Valley on 21st August. Although the group had split in two, both groups took some lovely roads to get there. On the way back, the official group that I lead came back up the West Coast through Machynlleth and via Bala for a late afternoon ice cream by the lake in the intermittent summer sunshine, Bala Lake. We all got back to the Tudor Rose at about 7ish to have a head count and make sure we were all back in one piece. Dave kindly did a full report that appeared in the September magazine,

Fixed Length Course 3 started on Saturday 10th September, again with another 6 or so associates. This course continued on most Saturdays through to 22nd October.

September Club Night was presentation night with Senior Area Examiner Chris Givons. Another very funny evening of entertainment and presentations to our recently successful Associate passes.

Sunday 18th September was the 3rd Official Club Run to the East, a change of direction for Wirral Advanced Motorcyclists to the Lancashire Hills to Rivington Barn north of Bolton and on the return to Southport for afternoon tea (at McDonalds!)

The weekend of 7th-10th October was the WAM weekend to Llandrindod Wells and ride-outs around beautiful central Wales.

Clubnight on 11th October was Rob the Secretaries' quiz night: thanks to Rob.

Sunday 16th October and the 4th and last of the season Official Club Run to the Peak District. The Cat and Fiddle in the thick fog for morning coffee and along the ridge of the southern pennines and across to Whitchurch for a late lunch.

November 8th was Auction Night: from some donated motorcycle gear that we didn't really know what to do with, spawned the idea of all of us donating some

old motorcycle related items and from that we managed to raise about £160 ! we now intend making this a regular end of season event.

The Christmas Buffet on the 13th December was a huge success with about 40 members and guests in attendance. The food was great and the raffle with donations fetched about another £160 for club funds. The jury is still out as to whether the pork pies should be hot or cold!

The most recent club night in January saw a presentation from one of our new members regarding Northwest Blood Bikes, followed by Webmaster Pete who gave us all a lesson in Sat Navigation systems.

Saturday 28th January 2012 was the Mersey Tunnels Tour: very interesting at a time when sometimes it's just best to stay indoors.

So there we are. A whistle-stop resume of a year in WAM, all for £15 per year. But, that is not sustainable and hence the subs need to be raised, more details in the treasurer's report, and therefore: In an effort of attract possible Sponsorship and Gift Aid we are going to spruce up the website and turn the official e group chat room forum specifically for official club runs and a question and answer forum for Associates, Trainee Observers and Observers that wish to join in with hints tips and explanations of riding techniques on becoming, and very importantly remaining at the high standards expected of the IAM's Advanced Motorcyclists.

Talking of standards; I cannot stress this point strongly enough: the level of questions, answers and comments on the website e group (and at club nights with visiting guests) must be able to stand up to scrutiny, either by the IAM or any prospective sponsor. Therefore we cannot afford to have any bad language posted on there, or any suggestion that illegal riding may have taken place eg descriptions of accidents or use of defective bikes. If that should untowardly happen, keep it yourself. Do not inadvertently incriminate yourself or WAM.

This new official e group will primarily be aimed at Associates undergoing training on the fixed length courses, and full members of WAM and the IAM who wish to take part in the monthly official club ride-outs.

The old WAM e group for unofficial rides will continue but not with a direct link to the WAM website. This will evolve over the coming weeks.

The status of group friends and who can do what is currently under review.

What do we have coming up in 2012:

The first meeting of the new Group Council is Monday the 27th February.

Observers Day is Saturday 10th March, Mike for a quick word on what that will entail.

The start of the 1st Fixed Length Course of 2012 is the following Saturday, 17th March, concluding 7 weeks later on the 28th April.

The next club night on the 13th March will see 32yr old Jenny Tinmouth giving us an insight into life as a British Superbike racer.

The first Official Club run is Sunday 25th March and then every 3rd Sunday until October. I hope to have routes to various destinations to include The Lake Dis-

trict, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Shropshire, and mid-south, central and north Wales, but not all on the same day ! details to follow soon.

Derek has produced a spread-sheet of forthcoming club nights, most of which are provisionally filled, but are subject to change + other social events eg the Manchester Ship Canal Cruise to Salford Quays on the 19th May.

There is talk of starting up the summer evening fish and chip runs but whether they will be in official club run format or not has yet to be decided. It is also hoped more members will help with an additional official club runs on the 1st Sunday of each month. Anyone interested please speak to me.

My Chairman's report finishes by re-iterating my thanks to All members of WAM. All those that have joined us in recent years and taken part in the flexible fixed length courses. Without the new joins / associates we would just be like any other motorcycle club, and of course The Group Council and everyone who does there bit.

It is the advanced rider training that we do well. All the associate riders learn a huge amount to make them safer riders, they become full members, quite often going on to become observers and then in turn passing on those vital hints and tips on how to become and very importantly remain a safe and progressive motorcyclist and therefore representing and being part of a national road safety organisation, the IAM.

May we all have a safe and enjoyable 2012 motorcycling year with Wirral Advanced Motorcyclists and all that it has on offer.

Additionally, Mike B ran through details of the Observer Day on the 10th March, which will include the risk assessment.

TREASURERS REPORT:-

Firstly, thanks to all of you, without your support WAM wouldn't be able to keep running! Now to the formal stuff! We, the WAM Council Members, have discussed over the last two years the need to increase our Annual Subscription Fee, the Club has not made a profit in that time and Funds have dwindled just by paying our minimum running costs! We have discussed at our meetings the need to increase our Annual Subscription from £15 to £20 and to find ways to increase our funds. Mike joined WAM in 2001 and I followed him in 2003 and in that time our Membership fee has not increased and in today's climate, that's not bad going! General running costs of the Club have increased along with everything else from the Room Hire to Stationery and Postage!

We have made several attempts to boost our Membership Numbers but sadly we have not produced any significant increase. We held an Auction Night at the back end of last year, auctioning off some motorcycle gear that a Member had donated to the Club and some items that Members brought along to try and increase Club Funds and together with the raffle proceeds we raised £158.86 on the

night. A "Donation Bucket" was at the Christmas Party for anyone to give whatever they wanted as a contribution to the running of the event which proved to be a great help to the overall cost of the event and along with the raffle we raised £145!

For your £20 you will get the following:-

Membership to Wirral Advanced Motorcyclists for the next year

Ten WAM Magazines a year

Monthly Club Nights with guest speakers (or in the quieter months, some form of entertainment provided by a Club Member, a Quiz or a Photo Show)

Eight Sunday IAM Official Runs (March to October third Sunday in every month) with a view of increasing this to two a month.

Support for further training to Observer and the new National Observer Qualification when it is rolled out

Annual BBQ

Annual Christmas Party

Hopefully, now that I have explained the reasons why we need to increase Club Funds you will support our proposal.

Current a/c £2572.41

Report approved by Derek Jeffries and Sue Windsor and Dave Ashworth

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:-

MEMBERS BREAKDOWN

Assoc Fixed Length Course	ASSFC	21
Assoc Non-Fixed Length Course	ASSNFC	2
Full Memebr	FULL	65
Group friend	GF	7
Honorary	HON	3
Other	OTH	7
Awaiting Test	AT	0
TOTAL MEMBERS		105

We had an increase in full members for 2011, the total number of members is up on 2010

ASSOCIATE COORDINATOR REPORT:-

We had 3 FLC's in 2011 and some were more than 6 weeks, so became the flexible FLC!

There were 21 associates

There is a flaw in the IAM system of informing groups of passes, and relies on

chasing up test applicants on an individual basis. The group does not get the test result automatically.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS/OFFICERS:-

The following members retire in accordance with rule 6(c) of the group constitution:
Terry Purcell, Ian Webb, Gary Burns

Members for re-election none

The following members offer themselves for election onto the Council:-
Colin Jones, Dave Spotswood, Ian Roberts, Mark Graham, Tim Brown, Dave Ashworth

Approved by Mike Boston and Sue Windsor

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND THE GROUP COUNCIL:-

CHAIRMAN	Rob Tutchings
VICE CHAIRMAN	position vacant
HON. SECRETARY	Rob Cooper
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Luke Windsor
ASSOCIATE COORDINATOR	Derek Jeffries
CHIEF OBSERVER	Mike Boston
HON. TREASURER	Lindsay Boston
MINUTE SECRETARY	Peter Lovatt
GROUP SHOP	Martin Tittley
EVENTS SECRETARY	Derek and Nina Jeffries
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Peter Lovatt
NEWSLETTER TEAM	Peter Lovatt/ Martin Tittley

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS Dave Ashworth, Steve Walling, Colin Jones, Dave Spotswood, Ian Roberts, Mark Graham, Tim Brown

RETIRING COUNCIL MEMBERS Terry Purcell, Ian Webb, Gary Burns

Approved Derek Jeffries and Lindsay Boston

Increase in Subscription fee to WAM:-

Renewal forms delayed in Newsletter and Website

WAM are trying for Sponsorship in 2012

Increase in fee to £20 with immediate effect from the AGM (14th Feb, 2012)

Tony Linton: Gift Aid option on WAM renewal form. Need to get the wording correct, as it can be claimed for the current year and retrospectively. Would the £20 fee be enough?

Bob Irving: Explain Gift Aid – basically claim back basic rate tax from Inland revenue, checking against name and postcode. Also person filling in form needs to be a tax payer.

Further question: Any contribution from the IAM themselves? [reply - no]

Observer fuel expenses are put into one ‘pot’ and divided by number of observers turning up and getting their Observer Record card ticked and recording number of hours.

£20 fee voted on, with majority in favour, one against.

Approved by Mike Boston and Sue Windsor.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:-

Observer expenses when observing outside of the FLC and Observer receives fuel money. Should inform Associate Coordinator, and any donated fuel money goes to the Observer.

Club Magazine is online. We are going to put a tick box on the renewal form with a simple YES/NO if member wants to receive a paper copy. This will help cut costs, in printing and postage. There is a minimum quantity limit on print runs. How about charging for the magazine?

Ideas for fund raising in the pipeline.

Adrian Cowley: can offer company sponsorship – adverts in club magazine and web site in return. AC is a ROSPA member, and is in RoDAR. Link web site to Bloodbikes, more publicity to increase WAM membership. Bloodbikes are now in Sefton, N/Wales, Lancashire and Cheshire. Perhaps WAM be affiliated to Bloodbikes group? Discuss at February 2012 council meeting.

Rob C: Constitution – nothing in it to stop us forging an affiliation at an AGM, but needs to be in Agenda and voted on.

Possible publicity with Bloodbikes:- Bike Shows (shippons, etc) and Egg Run. Pointed out that take up for advanced riding has been low on these. Would that change with Bloodbikes there?

IAM don’t retest regularly (only voluntarily), Rospa every 3.

Trophy presentations:-

Best Associate Award Ken Smith (not present)

Best Observer award – goes to Tim Brown

Gary Clarke Memorial Trophy goes to ??? decide at Feb Council, award at March 2012 club night

Rear Observation Trophy goes to ??? decide at Feb Council, award at March 2012 club night

Thanks to everyone for turning up



WIRRAL ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS

Diary of Events

www.w-a-m.co.uk

March

**13th Club night - John Hughes, IAM Examiner
at the RAFA club**

**Ideal opportunity for Associates to ask a
question!**

This is the link for the WAM Official Forum, set up for Members of Wirral Advanced Motorcyclists ONLY. It is a forum for Associates, Observers, and members of WAM to discuss Official Group Rides out, riding techniques, FLC matters, and similar topics ONLY

To join you MUST give your name and Postcode when you Subscribe.

Group name: WAMOfficialForum

Group home page: <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/WAMOfficialForum>

Subscribe: to subscribe to the group send a BLANK email to
WAMOfficialForum-subscribe@yahoogroups.co.uk

Unsubscribe: to UNsubscribe to the group send a BLANK email to
WAMOfficialForum-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.co.uk

WAM Official Ride Out

On the Sunday 25th March 2012, 10am British Summer Time.
Remember this is the day the clocks 'SPRING' forward.

There will be an Official IAM Wirral Group (5115) Organised Club Ride Out in accordance with IAM Policy, (Medium Pace) starting at the Tudor Rose Car Park, Two Mills, Parkgate Rd, Wirral CH66 9PD. The Briefing will be at 10:00am

Please be prompt with a full tank of fuel.

To Lake Vyrnwy via North Shropshire:

Ride leader will be Robin Tutchings using the drop off system, and will be medium paced.

Route: Wirral – Lake Vyrnwy via Truck Stop, A41/ A49, Prees Heath: TR, A540, TL A5117, TR A41, and follow the A41 around Chester, past Broxton, around Whitchurch to the Truck Stop at j/w the A49. After morning coffee exit south onto the A49 to Prees Green. TR onto B5065 to Wem. Exit Wem on the B5063 and soon after TL onto B4397, cont through Baschurch to the A5. TL and then soon after, right onto the B4396. Follow across A483 along A495, part and cont on B4396 to Abertridwr. TR onto B4393, and follow clockwise around Lake Vyrnwy.

Lake Vyrnwy – Wirral: at the far northern tip of the lake, TL onto the unclassified road to Rhos-y-gwaliau. TR B4391 and then B4401 to the A5 at Corwen. TL to the café by the river on the left. Continue on A5 to Cerrigydrudion, TR onto B5105 to Ruthin and onto the A494 to Wirral.

Please note: This a Medium distance ride with each section between stops taking about 90 minutes.

For I.A.M. Insurance reasons this Ride Out is for full members and Associates. This is also a great opportunity for non members wishing to join WAM. They are permitted one Official Group Organised ride out per year following an initial assessment, provided they are considering joining the IAM group to complete the Skills For Life Course! Anyone requiring to be Observed please bring it to the attention of one of the ride out team on the day.

If numbers are large we may have to have more than one group in which case there will be one further group with a leader and sweeper.

If it snows heavily the ride maybe cancelled, other than that the weather will not stop this thoroughly good day out.

Ride pace: Relaxing, gentle and progressive covering a reasonable mileage.

Appendix: TL=Turn Left. TR=Turn Right. J/W= junction with.

Sweeper = Person riding at the rear who will have an enormous amount of patience, knows where we are going, and will look after the rear of the group!

If any other Full members are interested in leading another Group Organised Ride Out or have good ideas for future ride outs please contact:

Ride Out Team Organisers:

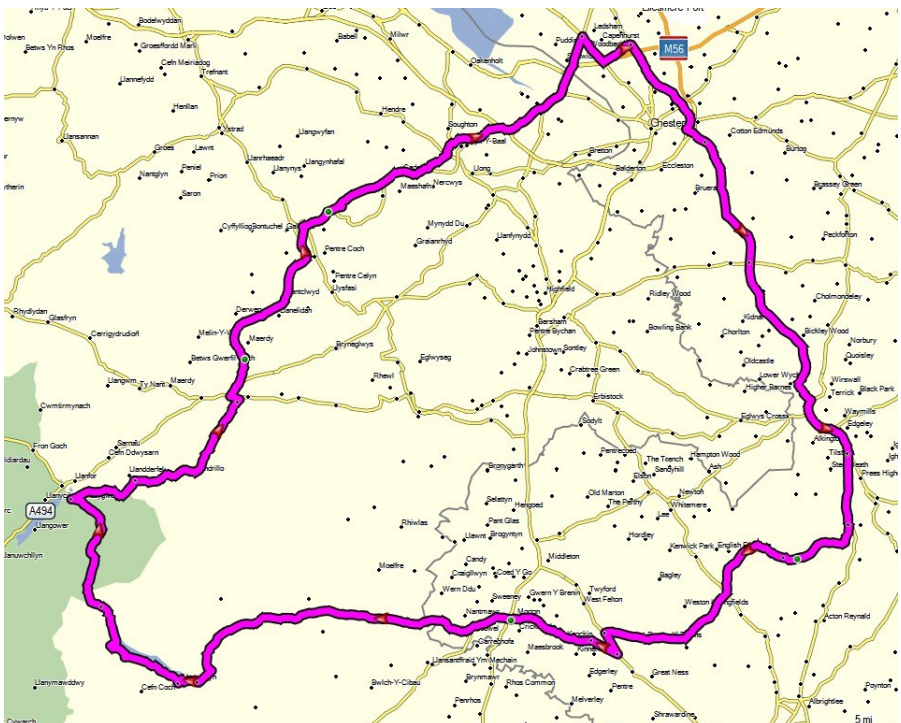
WAM Chairman: Rob Tutchings 07784 959 236. Lead Bike.

Dave Ashworth 0151 648 7390 / 07779 305 114. Tail End Charlie

WAM Chief Observer: Mike Boston 07834-652-243.

© RT.

The route!



IMPORTANT WAM DATES

Observer Course

Please email Mike our **Chief Observer** on chiefobserver@w-a-m.co.uk for more info

There is an Observer Course taking place on the 10th March

The Observers day is at the Cheshire Lines Birkenhead, Address and the Car Park entrance is from Shore Steet

Cheshire Lines building
Canning Street
Birkenhead
CH41 1ND

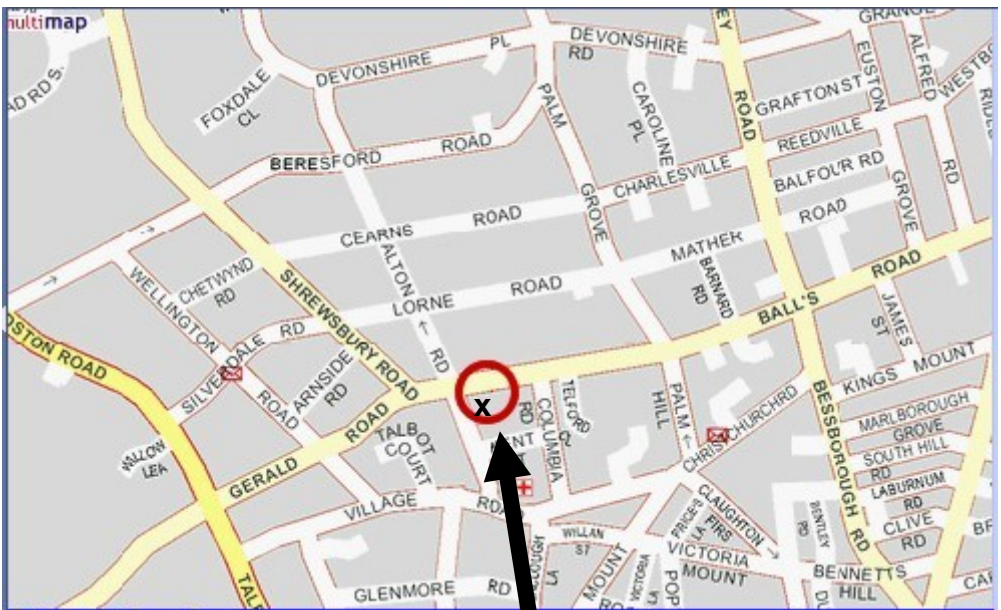
Fixed Length Course 3 dates 2012

17th March	Week 1	Introduction to the course, Objectives, Explain about Roadcraft, Demonstration ride.
24th March	Week 2	The 4S' Safety, System, Smoothness, Speed
31st March	Week 3	Positioning, Observation, Corners and Bends, Over takes, Limit points
14th April	Week 4	Town work, Motorways
21st April	Week 5	Corners, Bends, Revision period
28th April	Week 6	Assessment rides for test and de-brief

Possible future Events:-

please contact events@w-a-m.co.uk for more info or to confirm interest

Go-Karting – possible April or May 2012

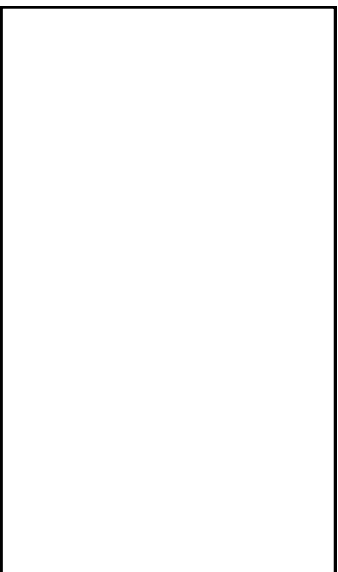


The date has also changed to the **SECOND TUESDAY** of the month.

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:-

The articles published herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Institute of Advanced Motorists Ltd, or the Wirral Group of Advanced Motorcyclists. They are the opinions of individual contributors and are published with the view that free expression promotes discussion and interests. So you have been warned.

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