

## **HBAM's Latest from the Chair**

The summer is now here with wonderful riding weather, lighter nights and group night ride-ins taking place, more training on offer and a calendar filling up with events. The winter programme is complete having given us great speakers, entertainment, food for thought and lots of ideas for training and travelling further afield.

As usual the committee have been working away to keep things running as smoothly as possible, certainly not achievable without the huge commitment and support of all the willing Observers, ride leaders and behind the scenes volunteers. Our Chief Observer has also had his hands full delivering an intensive training programme for new Observers with another set of new recruits to follow closely behind. Great work by all involved and very much appreciated.

We are sad to see our Events Co-ordinator and our Ride Out Co-ordinator both standing down from the committee at the next AGM, that being said, we are pleased that this is due to their business and careers flourishing. We will now be on the look out to fill these roles, they are both open to all members with no requirement to become a committee member so do please let me know if you are interested or would like more information.

There will be on going support from the committee and the Observer team.  
[Chair.hbam@gmail.com](mailto:Chair.hbam@gmail.com)

## **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**

Please look out for the HBAM email asking you to opt in to receive HBAM news and information on training and events. Without opting in you will only receive member renewal and HBAM business information! You can also use this link:  
<https://mailchi.mp/44445c6f601a/hbam-gdpr>

## **HBAM Ladies Group**

HBAM has an active ladies group facilitated by Beth Sutton with communication via 'HBAM Ladies What's App' group. Beth and HBAM female colleagues including Ride Lead and TEC arrange ride outs for women members to get together as a social activity with the additional value of riding expertise on hand. Members of the group can also bring along female friends who want to find out what HBAM is about.

Contact [bikerbethhbam@gmail.com](mailto:bikerbethhbam@gmail.com)

Further to recent requests from the ladies group, we will now be organising free HBAM taster rides for groups of female riders who want to improve their riding and get a better understanding of what HBAM does. Please let us know if you have a friend or colleague who may be interested. Once we have an idea of level of interest we can then set a date and location.

Contact [post.test.hbam@gmail.com](mailto:post.test.hbam@gmail.com)

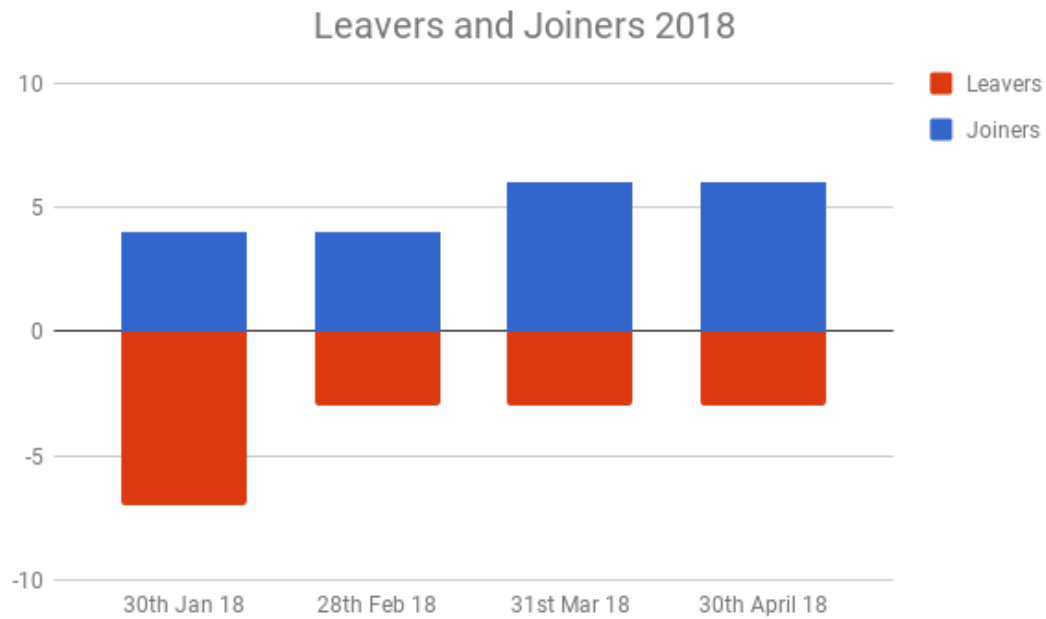
## **Discount for Friends and Family**

HBAM can offer a £25 membership discount on the IAM Advanced Riding Course following a HBAM taster ride. This offer is delivered only through our recruitment team.

Contact [recruitment.hbam@gmail.com](mailto:recruitment.hbam@gmail.com)

## **HBAM's Health**

Numbers of HBAM leavers and joiners have been a topic of interest recently so I have included some statistics for information. While not conclusive as stand alone figures, over a period of a year you will see certain factors such as membership renewals will influence the data. While we accept some members will stay for a limited period to achieve their green badge we will try and acquire feedback from leaving members as to their reasons for departure to help us improve the service. A link to a short survey will be included in the HBAM membership closing email for us to gain this information.



## Some thoughts on Rideouts from Vice Chair Rob Beasley

### What's so special about an HBAM Group Rideout?

Some riders love Group rides, some never want to go near them. For those who love them, the attractions are being led along roads you've not been on before, seeing new places, and most importantly, having some company to share the ride with. Everyone's idea of the perfect rideout is different, depending on how much spare time one has, or how long one likes to ride for, and many other individual preferences.

HBAM's rideout programme aims to offer a range of rides so that members will be able to find plenty that suit them over the course of a year whatever they are looking for.

But there are some things that all HBAM rides share: They will all have been designed to be Safe, Legal, well planned and enjoyable. Pete Morgan created our Group Ride Policy many years ago and it has stood the test of time. Anyone who has been on a HBAM ride will appreciate the care and planning that has gone into it, and how much it differs from some non IAM rides in terms of how safe one feels as a participant. All the participants contribute to this feeling, so in what way do they do that?

## **The Ride Lead**

Dave Thompson handles the training program for new Ride Leaders, but it is then down to those individuals to create their own ride within the guidance they have been given. At several points during the ride, every rider on it will be directly behind the leader and watching what they do. Whilst we make it very clear in every briefing that 'you are responsible for your own safety', the leader's individual style will be infectious and will have an impact throughout the ride. It is key to the perception of HBAM's ethos, especially for those new to our Group, so it is hard to overstate just how important a high riding standard is for the Ride Leader.

A good rideout is one where the preparatory publicity is clear and concise. It tells you clearly where and when to meet, the duration in distance and best estimate of timeframe, with intermediate stop points and fuel availability set out. It describes the ride and who is eligible to attend, but it does not tell you how you should ride on it, other than riding in accordance with group policy, having consideration for your own and others safety and for your own capacity.

The pre ride briefing needs to brief, whilst still covering anything of significance about the upcoming ride that needs to be noted. There are well established guidelines for the brief that all Ride Leaders will be aware of and will use. Riders haven't come to listen to a lecture, and attention will wander and key points missed if too much detail or instruction is given. An opportunity for questions will be given, and anyone new to group riding will be taken to one side and given extra pointers.

Ride Leaders do not have to be Observers, it is not their role to deliver riding guidance, only to provide a route that will enable participants to practice the skills they have been helped with by their Observers and Mentors, and to demonstrate a good riding standard themselves. And of course on a lengthy ride, to find somewhere to stop en route for a good cuppa and feed!

In choosing a route, the Ride Leader will be mindful of who in HBAM it is targeted at.

An Associates Only rideout will have a good mix of road types, but will take into account that many participants are developing their skills and concentration levels, and will have shorter riding duration between stops. Observers will be asked to come along, not just as TEC, but to be available for anyone who wants some ad hoc assessment or help with an aspect of their riding.

An All Members ride will be similar, but might be to a more distant destination.

A Green Badge Holders ride (for those who have passed the IAM RoadSmart test) will probably contain lengthier technical sections to give a greater and sustained challenge.

So it is only the nature of the route that differs, all ride leaders expect no more of the participants than that they will endeavour to ride to a good IAM RoadSmart standard with care, consideration and courtesy to other road users throughout.

### **The Riders**

What about the riders' contribution to a good rideout? Firstly, to arrive in good time before the briefing on a bike that's in good order (checked over the day before, and with enough petrol in the tank). After signing on, they will be on their bike ready to go when the leader commences the ride. They will mark in a safe place when it is indicated by the leader, turn off their indicators, and clearly show the route direction to other riders, and be ready to rejoin when the TEC approaches. They will stay in place until that happens, even if it means a long wait because of an incident back along the route. They will leave space for others, and not impede others who want to make progress, by taking rear observation appropriately and avoiding rapid acceleration when someone clearly is looking to pass them. If they anticipate leaving the ride before the end, they will do so at a break point well before or after the main group leaves, or will have pre advised the TEC, then dropped to the tail of the group, before showing the TEC they are leaving.

### **The TEC**

A good TEC helps a free flowing ride by making themselves visible to waiting markers, riding in isolation so as not to be hidden by other riders or vehicles, and will show a waiting marker when they can rejoin the ride by an arm signal or headlight flash. They will monitor the riding of individuals within their view so that they can give an informed opinion if (and only if) the need should arise. But their principal value comes into play in the unlikely event of an incident occurring, when they will give assistance and management of the situation, and recover the ride.

### **Does an HBAM ride never go wrong then?**

OK, no one is perfect, and things can go wrong. But on our rides we expect everyone to keep their cool and understand that anyone can make an error in navigating or their riding. That individual will probably be kicking themselves for doing it and won't need anyone else to do it too! If another rider causes you a problem, they may have simply misunderstood or had a temporary lapse. At the

next stop, tell the ride leader or TEC about it, no one else, and leave it to them to sort out - they will know what to do to resolve it in a calm but highly effective manner.

### **The result?**

With all these things in place, everyone can be assured of an enjoyable and suitably challenging ride in good company.

An HBAM ride out really is special!

## **Celebrating Success**

Tony Mulhall has been leading the way, working with people to achieve their Masters qualification and further develop a core team of National Observers with Masters qualifications culminating in the launch of a 'Masters' programme for all members. The programme is working well with a 75% success rate at distinction level and an overall pass rate of 100%, there are another 14 members in training and a waiting list to join the programme. There are a total of 28 Masters in the group, 16 are National Observers and a further three Local Observers in training.

### **Recent Masters successes - all with distinction**

Graham Bass.	Mentor - Stephanie Evans
Martin Munday.	Mentors - Stephanie Evans and John Presland
John Winchester.	Mentor - John Presland
Mike Arkley.	Mentor - Tony Mulhall

### **Latest Green Badge Holder Passes**

<b>Associate</b>	<b>Observer</b>	
Gary Neville	Jeff Pope	First
Gabor Szekeres	Alan Laws	First
Mark Hunt	Alan Yandall	First
Steve Pinkerton	Jeff Pope	Pass

## **Events**

### **Trail Riders Fellowship (TRF)**

The TRF will be organising the ride programme for the already sold out ABR festival of 500 riders in the UK in Chacombe near Banbury July 6th - July 8<sup>th</sup>. This will include Green Road rides AND Black top rides to an advance motorcyclist

standard with IAM ride leaders/ NOs /Masters including Mario. TRF are inviting suitably experienced IAM ride leaders to lead runs in the area

Saturday 7th is the main riding day. Complimentary tickets will be provided for the event. Accommodation is camping if required – most local run leaders are simply riding for the day then staying at home. Please contact Mario Costa Sa direct if you are interested.

Adventure Bike Rider are the leading community involved in big bike/adventure bike riding in the UK if not worldwide, and a reach out of 100ks of motorcyclists. <https://www.adventurebikerider.com/event/adventure-bike-rider-festival-2018/>

Contact [mario@trf.org.uk](mailto:mario@trf.org.uk)

### **BIKESTOP Ladies Evening 14th June**

“We have always had a dedicated showroom for ladies, we have added some great new products for 2018 and so want to invite all our lady customers to our first "Ladies Evening" Thursday June 14th 6.30pm to 8.30pm. This will include refreshments and guest presentations on bike maintenance and safety plus a promotion/prize draw!”

<https://www.bikestop.co.uk/events>

Ride safe

Fiona

**Chair**