



iam
RoadSmart



APRIL 2018



From the Editor

Okay it's not really Top Gun its UPDATE, but the bike, the jet I couldn't resist... (Thanks to Chris McFerran for the photo).

So I'm sitting here, thinking about what I could write for this addition of UPDATE apart from 'where has the time gone?'.

For me I had a phenomal year on the bike in 2017 - I did a little over 18,000 miles and ticked off many countries and places that I wanted to go (in fact this time last year I was riding at midnight over the top of Dartmoor on an amazingly clear and beautiful night - that was an experience!)

Back to 2018, and I've done less that 200 miles so far - which was noticeable when I did manage to get a free weekend with good weather. I felt uncomtfortable with the bike; my cornering was rigid, my gear change jerky and it just didn't feel right. I was annoyed with myself more than anything - which also had a negative effect on my riding as well.

Interestingly I was reading an article about maintaining a learned skill. You have have to put regular effort in to that skill otherwise it could start to diminish in as little as 5 days! So I'll see whether that will work as an excuse to get out of jobs around the house as I need to keep my biking skills tiptop :)

So what do we have for this edition of UPDATE? Well firstly I do owe an apology to Brenda Smith. Brenda had written an article on the Ladies only ride out that took place in September to be included in December's issue, but it completely slipped my mind (I blame Christmas and the Christmas parties).

Secondly this edition is more photo based - UPDATE exists on members sharing their experiences, so if you have been on anything bike related, and you're happy to share with the group then please send it over. The email address is update.hbam@gmail.com.

Ride safe.

Richard Malloy,
Editor, Update.



From the Chair

Coming to the end of the off season period, we still seem to be just as busy as in our initial stages, we are now 5 months into developing and delivering on the HBAM plan.

Things appear to be going very well with the majority of our actions completed and the remaining looking achievable.

Following our recent successful 'Meet the Committee' group night setting out the work we have been doing, I thought I would capture some of it here for the wider membership.

While I have the overview and work on specific projects and the wider partnerships, each committee member has responsibility for particular areas within the plan. With regard to official paperwork, the majority of our policies have now been refreshed and are available on the web site for information and we continue to update and organise the web site to make information easier to find, do let us know if this works well for you.

<https://www.hbam.org.uk/>

In terms of communication, we are making great efforts to become more responsive to member enquiries and concerns. We hope this is evident through social media and personal requests via email and phone calls. Rob B has made good progress on developing more integrated and responsive systems for back office work and is working with Pete M our web administrator to look to HBAM's future IT needs.

John P and I attended the IAM Spring Forum to hear about their current plans and get an up to the minute briefing on general data protection regulation (GDPR), I think all the work Richard M has done on this will stand us in good stead to ensure compliance, however a toolkit is being produced to support local groups in this work.

The highlight of the event was the 'Star Performer Award' presented to our Chief Observer Tony Mullhall for his commitment to Masters mentoring within his group, taking up the role of chief observer and tackling the new Observer training programme. Congratulations.

We have also spent time with Herts Firebikes to discuss how we can continue to work closely on Bikerdown and Slow Riding training with both our organisations supporting Lind Motorrad on their recent March event. We have also had a recruitment presence at Bikestop at their first ride out of the year on the same weekend.

Bedfordshire

<https://www.bedsfire.com/COMMUNITYSAFETY/ROADSAFETY/Pages/BikerDown!Courses.aspx>

Hertfordshire

<https://www.hertfordshirerider.co.uk/blog/2017/2/1/hertfordshire-biker-down>

We will also be confirming our presence at the Air Ambulance Charity fund raising event on Sunday 20th May. For any rider that wish to register to join the ride, please see the link below.
<https://ehaat.org/events/motorcycle-run-north-weald-family-fun-day/>

The call for volunteers to help with recruitment and marketing in the last newsletter was successful and I can inform you that we now have a team of three, I am really pleased to introduce Suzanne Aldridge, John Carter and Stephen Wilkes. They have met already, put together an exciting marketing and recruitment plan, and are getting to work on supporting our training and events programme. Contact details are being set up as I write and will be available on the website.

Thank you to all those members who have been in touch, providing your views on the work we do, we appreciate your contributions. Please contact any of the committee or myself with any feedback or ideas you have for taking HBAM forward. Chair.hbam.@gmail.com

Ride Safe

Fiona Breaker-Rolfe

Chair



From the CO

As I write this I am looking out my window rain and more rain.

Winter is usually a time for planning and preparing, we have had some really good travel based presentations in our winter group nights. For some of us those plans might now be getting a bit more adventurous, although I cannot see Iceland or China being on my agenda for 2018.

As a newish Chief observer my winter has been all about plans and it is good to see the most important of those plans turn into action. The first 9 new observers are starting their training under a new intensive training programme and I would expect to see them active by mid-May. We will take a short break from observer training and start the second group in early Summer. If you think observing could be for you feel free to get hold of me and have a chat about it.

Other people's plans have also started to result in actions, the first Slow Riding and Look, Lean and Roll courses have been a real success, many thanks to Alan Yandall and Rob Beasley. The real first true mark of spring is the first group ride of the year, one I was pleased to TEC with Sean Sweeney as the ride lead. I have rarely been able to find time for group rides, but I was pleased to join this one remembering the pleasures that can be had.

In preparation for this role I did take advantage of sitting in on a ride lead training course as a refresher for me. Observers are crucial to the success of the training side of the group, but ride leads are similarly important to the social side of the group. Finding Ride Leaders is always a challenge for the ride out co-ordinator, Paul Lake. A shortage of Ride Leaders means a shortage of rides, so can I encourage you all to consider taking on this role. It can be a lot of work to plan and arrange a good ride but all the happy smiling faces at the end makes it well worthwhile. Contact me or Dave Thompson if you need more information on the role or the training.

As spring arrives we naturally turn to the idea of getting the bike out, checking it over and maybe servicing it for the miles ahead. Have you thought about checking over your potentially rusty riding skills as well? Look at the group calendar for details of forthcoming training events like Slow Riding and Look, Lean and Roll

One of my personal beliefs is that refresher training is key to maintaining skill levels whether it is with HBAM or outside providers, and I have happily used both. I would encourage everyone to take up HBAM opportunities to review and refresh your skills, no matter where you are. I hope you all enjoy your riding through months ahead.

Tony Mulhall
Chief Observer



Group Secretary

Firstly, I would like to say a big thank you to Roger Prater who has informed us that he will be standing down as our Auditor this year.

It is not a role that quickly comes to mind when thinking of HBAM and its work; but is a very important 'backroom' task that Roger has fulfilled for 14 years now, and that was preceded by 3 years as our treasurer. I am pleased to say Roger will continue his HBAM membership.

By the time this UPDATE is published I hope to have had two inclusions in IAM Roadsmart weekly news, INFORM.

The first will publicise our slow riding events, co-ordinated by Alan Yandall, and the second Look Lean & Roll co-ordinated by Rob Beasley.

Both guys have small dedicated teams of Observers helping people to develop specific skills alongside their individual observed rides. These are just two examples of positive contributions to HBAM's important role of enhancing road safety.

I am aware of other work is being done by HBAM members; I am always happy to receive a brief note on an activity, together with a photograph, and I will plan them into programme of regular timed pieces for INFORM. My aim is to keep HBAM's excellent work in the news but spaced out, so we don't become commonplace!

During the forthcoming spring/summer (I refer to the calendar seasons rather than the actual weather!) HBAM will be teaming up with our sister car group (Home Counties Advanced Drivers) to publicise (and hopefully recruit new members) the IAM and our respective groups at the Herts County Show, Classics on the Common (Harpenden) and the Steam and Country Fayre at Shuttleworth (Bedfordshire). If you attend any of these events, please do come and say hello together with a word of support and encouragement to our recruitment team.

As mentioned elsewhere we continue to work with potential 'partners' in our area. Lind BMW are undertaking some changes within their building which will result in a room Observers and Associates can use for briefing and debriefings on observed rides, and we are discussing other mutually useful benefits.

When time allows we hope to be in discussion with other dealerships in the area. Time and resources are always important, perhaps particularly so for volunteers, and our calendar shows several weekends when we will be stretched to cover all the activities planned, but I am sure we will find the way through.

The current Observer training being managed by our Chief Observer, Tony Mulhall, supported by Simon Rixon and Observer mentors will bring much needed additional resources.

As ever, the Officers and Committee welcome your thoughts.

Safe, enjoyable riding through the summer season and beyond

John Presland

Group Secretary

The Committee



Secretary
John Presland
sec.hbam@gmail.com



Chair
Fiona Breaker-Rolfe
chair.hbam@gmail.com



Vice Chair
Rob Beasley
vicechair.hbam@gmail.com



Chief Observer
Tony Mulhall



Treasurer
John Mugford
treas.hbam@gmail.com



Associates Co-ordinator
Grant Hallworth
associate.hbam@gmail.com



Membership Secretary
Joy Smith
MemSec.hbam@gmail.com



Ride Co-ordinator
Paul Lake
Rideouts.hbam@gmail.com



Events Co-ordinator
Justin Keen
Events.hbam@gmail.com



UPDATE Editor
Richard Malloy
update@hbam.org.uk

Other Office Holders



Website Administrator
Pete Morgan
webadmin@hbam.org.uk



Webmaster
Keith Morgan
Not on the Committee

Congratulations!



Douglas Palmer
Observer: John Wigglesworth



Mark Hunt
Observer: Alan Yandall



Pawel Kisiel
Observer: Stephanie Evans



Perry Gear
Observer: Neil Ritchie

Masters



Mark Lawrence
Observer/Mentor: Tony Mulhall

Test passes

Gabor Szekeres
Ian Harrop

Observer

Alan Laws
Derek Ade

Welcome new members

Anthony Common
Chris Welch
Daniel Tyler
Danny White
Darren Elgin
David Clark
Friederike Rummenhohl
Jack Aboody
Joshua Cansell
Louisa Jackson
Mark Wiseman
Martin Shaw
Peter Steel
Robert Thomson
Rudi Hass

Ladies All Abilities Ride out.

Beth Sutton (Ride Leader) and Stephanie Evans (TEC) very kindly organized a ladies ride out Saturday 30th September 2017.

The ride started from Stevenage where I joined five other ladies, most of whom I had not previously met.

There was a range of bikes and abilities and Beth and Stephanie soon made us feel at ease.



The weather was very kind to us, a slight chill felt by some, but dry roads as we headed out towards Barton and Harlington along the twisty B655. From there we headed through Woburn where a magnificent stag watched us pass by.

I must admit I don't really know where we headed from there! I do know there was a great variety of roads and pretty villages along the way and after 50 miles or so we arrived at Buckingham Garden Centre for a very welcome cuppa and cake.

This gave us an opportunity to get to know each other a little more and also to pass the time of day with a group of London based advanced motorcyclists who arrived shortly after us.

We set off once again along lovely roads and villages and an interesting little tiny hamlet which turned a few locals' heads. A short petrol stop found us close to Chipping Norton and Bicester before finally arriving at our lunch stop, where Beth had booked us a table at The Carpenters Arms, Fulbrook nr. Burford.

The lunch was very welcome with good food, great service and a chance to chat amongst ourselves.

Soon it was time to leave for our homeward journey and final destination, Aylesbury, where the ride finished at McDonalds.

A big thank you must go to both Beth and Stephanie for a really lovely day. I am sure the group enjoyed the route and the company as much as I did. I feel we all did our bit with marking and nobody was left behind or got lost. There were some good chances to test our abilities with narrow lanes, varying speed restrictions, lots of twisties, but also some great overtaking opportunities.

I arrived back in Stevenage after a very enjoyable day, dry, still light with 190 miles on the clock.

Look out in the future, maybe another sometime...

Brenda Smith

Club night - February

Tom Luther presented his Icelandic trip to the group at the club night in February.

If you missed that night, then you can read about his adventure in December 2017's edition of UPDATE.

Photos courtesy of John Mugford.



Look, Lean & Roll

A selection of photos from April's Look, Lean & Roll training course. .

Thanks to all the volunteers who put this event together. Keep an out eye on the Forum / website / Facebook for future courses. Photos courtesy of Chris McFerran.



Biggleswade to Bangkok

At March's club night we had a presentation from 'Biggleswade to Bangkok' by John Duxbury.

Photos courtesy of John Mugford.

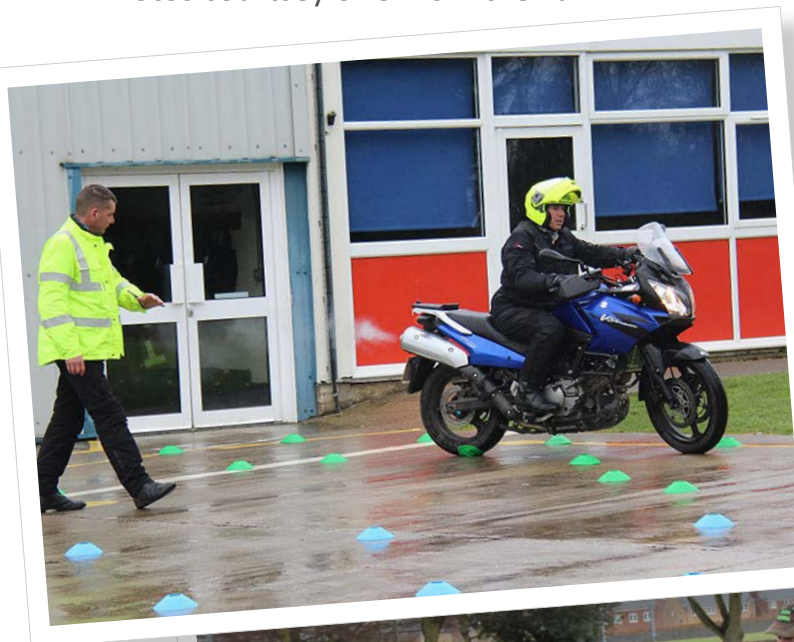


Slow Riding course

A selection of photos from May's Slow Riding Course.

Thanks to all the volunteers who put this event together. Keep an out eye on the Forum / website / Facebook for future courses.

Photos courtesy of Chris McFerran.



South Wales Associate Tour 2018

The weekend of the 6th to 8th July will the Associates Tour to Monsmouth.



This is a 3 day riding weekend (staying 2 nights in the same hotel), taking in some of the best roads that the Cotswolds and South Wales has to offer. It is also a great opportunity to meet other Associates, Observers and Ride Leaders.

This years tour is being lead by Ride Leaders Dan McQuoid, Paul Lake, Sean Sweeney and Richard Malloy, with John Presland, Stephanie Evans and Rob Beasley as TECs.

All existing and new Associates should have received an invite to this weekend. If you haven't and you would still like to attend please email Associatetour2018@gmail.com

GBH Wales Trip

Planning for the GBH weekend ride to Wales is well underway.



We leave Super Sausage on the A5 near Towcester on Friday 13th July at around 9am with a two night stay in Llandrindod Wells. Saturday ride takes us north through Snowdonia National Park while Sunday heads south crossing the Brecon Beacons twice before the home stretch.

The reserved hotel rooms are almost all allocated with only 1 double still available, deposit is required to confirm room.

Further details can be found on the member forum and facebook.

Dave Edge

BIKERS... WE NEED **YOU**



♥ WE DELIVER BLOOD

♥ OUT OF HOURS

♥ FREE OF CHARGE

♥ IT MAY BE FOR SOMEONE
YOU KNOW

♥ WILL YOU HELP?

TheBloodRunners

HERTS AND BEDS

CHARITY NO. 286488



SERVICE BY EMERGENCY
RIDER VOLUNTEERS

John Wigglesworth

07738862078

or

www.servhertsbeds.org.uk

UPDATE

Disclaimer

The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Editor, Group or Institute. Articles / letters which are published are done so in good faith, and whilst every effort is made to ensure accuracy of content, the Editor, Group or IAM accepts no responsibility whatsoever for any statement of error or omission (or anything else) in any part of this magazine. The Editor reserves the right to apply the 'old blue pencil' at his discretion if necessary.

Copyright

Articles may be freely quoted provided that acknowledgement is given to the original author and the Herts and Beds Advanced Motorcyclists Group.

