

MARCH 2014

ISSUE 3/14



CHALLENGE
*CHESTERFIELD ADVANCED MOTORISTS
AND MOTORCYCLISTS*
GROUP NEWSLETTER



AUCTION NIGHT 20 FEBRUARY 2014

facebook



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GROUP CONTACT: BOB STONE 01246 568894

GROUP WEB SITE: www.chesterfield-iam.org.uk

COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CONTACTS

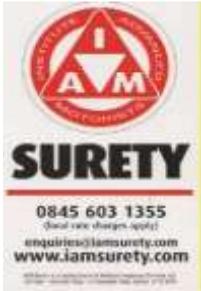
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DATA PROTECTION ACT

PLEASE NOTE - Details that members have supplied to the group are held a database for Groups use. If you object to your details being held this way, please inform the Secretary in writing.



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ASSOCIATE MEMBERS –

PLEASE attend the forthcoming Sunday &/or Saturday guidance sessions at the **SAINSBURYS CAR PARK** as listed in 'What's On'.

If this causes any difficulty, please contact **Ray Parker** on **01246 206959** so that other arrangements can be made. New joiners are welcome to come along at anytime during the morning for a free assessment drive, or you can phone Ray to arrange a drive at any suitable time.

It is a fundamental part of your on-going training that you attend at least one, if not both of the guidance sessions each month. So please try to attend.

WE THANK THE MANAGEMENT OF SAINSBURY'S SUPERMARKET FOR ALLOWING US TO USE THEIR CAR PARK FOR OUR GUIDANCE SESSIONS

+++++

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Michelle Amor Cadet-Rose. Her observer is Clare Palmer
Leon England. His observer is Ray Parker

**Gone to pot.....we used to drive on the left of the road,
- now we drive on what's left of the road!!!**

**From the
President.**

OK, it's a long title but it really makes you question why we pay what used to be called "Road fund Tax", now all of the yearly SIX BILLION POUNDS collected from the "tax disc" disappears into the general fund and this figure does not include all the revenue generated every time we buy a car or fuel it, or make a repair, or have it serviced etc,etc.

How are the roads around you? Here in Dronfield there are many, mainly at junctions, that are so deep, they MUST be avoided at all costs as some are four or five inches (100 – 125mm, for the younger ones) deep and two feet (600mm) long....the main problem is that the sides of the hole are vertical, so dropping into one will either damage the tyre/ alloy wheel, or knock out the tracking. Heaven knows what would happen if a cyclist or biker failed to avoid, and with the recent rains, they can be full of water so the depth is a total unknown.

With no snow to move (at the moment) why can't the workforce be diverted to redressing (if you will excuse the pun) this urgent problem, or is this too simple an idea.

What are your views?

Report on the February auction evening.....I offer my thanks to the small band of faithful supporters who generously donated and bought at the auction. On the night, £80 was raised and with previous sales I made, the total to send to my charity is £120. Once again, thank you.

As the evening obviously does not hold the attraction it once did, as attendance indicates, the time has come to....call it a day/hang up the gavel/sail into the sunset.....It seems a pity, but perhaps the format has had its day and something different could be devised for next year. Any suggestions?

Stay safe and happy

Mike.

From the Chairman – Dom Booth

January and February have been busy months for me, with lots to do at work with appointments, meetings, and other more general computer repairs. Also in January I was preparing to take my Rospa training, of which I'll write more about another time.

It has also been a busy time for the group too, with a meeting on Integrated Groups, and the AGM. The committees from our group, along with Matlock and Mansfield met up with David Stringer, Dave Shenton, and the newly appointed Regional Operations Manager Toby Shaw met up to discuss aspects of Integrating 2 or 3 groups into one main committee, then 'satellites' off that to do local observer training and socials. Although for struggling groups it sounds great, I don't think it's for us at the moment.

The day after that meeting was the AGM, this is where we as a committee stand for re-election. The results of which follow:

Chairman: Dom Booth
Vice Chairman: Ray Parker
Treasurer: Jeff Snape
Secretary: Bob Stone
Training Officer: Jan Creswell
Guidance Officer: Ray Parker
Assistant Guidance: John North
Public Relations: Jan Creswell
Webmaster: Dom Booth

Membership Secretary:
Maynard Stephens
Social Secretary: Chris Lake
Newsletter Editor: Yvonne
Stone
Associate Liason: Clare Palmer
Motorcycle Rep: Paul Leicester

Others without specific portfolio:
Stuart Yeowart, Barbara
Shillaker

To finish, a little bit about me: I'm 20 and my main passions in life are Computers, Geocaching, Italian cars, and Advanced Driving (wouldn't have guessed would you!).



Photo taken at Autotalia
Stanford Hall 2013

PS. Just to test something, I'd like to know how many people actually read this magazine, if you read this please either email me at chairman@chesterfield-iam.org.uk or text/call me on 07821 464483.

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**A few biking memories ..... From the Editor**

When I first met Bob he had a Suzuki. I had never been on a motorbike before – my older brother had a motorbike and side-car but my Mum never allowed me to go out on it, or in it. She was a bit anti-bikes because she thought they were dangerous.

However, despite my parents concerns, Bob introduced me to the experience of road trials, wherein my job as pillion passenger consisted of giving directions to Bob, following 'tulip diagrams'. If you have never come across tulip diagrams you don't know what you have missed. We spent many a wet, rainy evening riding around counties in the south east, starting off from Middlesex, not knowing where we were headed but usually ending up in Surrey, or sometimes Hampshire having found our way to the final destination via tulips and other instructions. I held the map under a plastic cover to try to keep it dry, marking instructions off as we went in between shouting the next couple of instructions to Bob. The event would usually take a couple of hours, and perhaps end up at some roadside café where we could get a welcome hot drink and compare notes with other similar rain-soaked individuals.

I don't think we ever won but as they say "It's the taking part that counts". Yeah, right. Try telling me that when I was cold and frozen on a dark night and had the journey home to 'look forward to'.

In 1976, much to the dismay of my parents, we travelled down to the Provence area on the bike – then a Honda – camping on the way. The journey started off badly with me getting sea-sick on the ferry and then we had a slow puncture which took a while to sort out. I think we spent 3 days travelling down staying at campsites at Abbeville (well that was more of a field behind a bar), Lyons and Grenobles. Because of lack of storage space on the bike, we only took one sleeping bag which we shared (I was a lot thinner in 1976). However, at the end of our journey was a stay in a lovely villa owned by French friends Pierre and Germaine – with proper beds and proper showers.

Previous to this trip, in 1974 we went to 'The Island' as it is known to bikers – the Isle of Man to most non-bikers. Whilst there we purchased a Manx kitten who we named Kayt which is the Manx word for cat. On the ferry back to Liverpool we took her out of the cardboard box and she attracted a lot of attention. On arriving at Liverpool I clung on to the box - with Kayt inside - for dear life, but Kayt promptly fell asleep and woke up on our arrival back to Osterley.

I did have a few biking lessons but never had much confidence so gave it up as a bad job. I fell off twice – once when a bee flew into my helmet and buzz around my ear – panic set in – and another time when I tried to ride Bob's trials bike at some local woods, but it was just too big for me and I lost control, but thankfully came out of both efforts unscathed, apart from dented pride.

Bob was a regular trials rider and I spent many a Sunday following him around on foot at trials sites in Surrey and Hampshire, often on Army ground. Bob was on the motorcycle clubs' committee and I acted as Editor of the magazine for a while – so what goes around comes around!

# Diary Dates

## MARCH 2014

|                           |                                                                                        |                                |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>    | Guidance                                                                               | 9.30 AM Sainsbury's Car Park   |
| Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Guidance                                                                               | 9.30 AM Sainsbury's Car Park   |
| Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> | Social – Bob Farish will give a talk on Organ Transplants – an Ambulance drivers' view | Club Chesterfield<br>7.30 p.m. |

## FUTURE DATES:

### April:

Guidance  
Guidance  
Social

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>  
**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>**